



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA

DATE : 26/02/2012

MCHUNU INTERVENES TO END POLITICAL VIOLENCE AT UMLAZI, UNIT-17

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu has intervened to address tensions and violence between IFP and NFP members at uMlazi, unit – 17 hostel.

On Saturday (25/02/2012), Mchunu called an urgent meeting with police top brass, leaders of both the IFP and NFP to resolve tensions and violence at the unit -17.

It is alleged that tensions are rooted between the two parties in the area.

The violence started Friday night when a group of people burnt more than five houses and cars.

Police report confirms that some people were assaulted and one was killed Saturday evening.

Mchunu condemn this embarrassing behavior by residents of the unit-17 and edged political party leaders to take a leading role in normalizing the situation in the area.

He encouraged political party leaders to show maturity and take responsibility instead of instigating violence and tensions.

“We strongly condemn this embarrassing action. It is unacceptable that people can opt to violence just because of political differences. Anyone who knows the history of this province between ANC and IFP, would not resort to violence as a solution in resolving political differences. Instead the only benefits of violence are graves, hatred and destabilized community. Hostels are really giving us problems and something must be done to address this. I also want to thank leaders of both the IFP and the NFP for participating in the meeting. This is an important step moving

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forward because differences can only be resolved through discussion. We condemn the killing that took place,” said Mchunu.

The meeting resolved that police will continue to monitor the area 24 hours, to ensure peace and stability.

An urgent meeting between MEC Mchunu and leaders of both parties at the Unit-17 to be held of Monday to map the way forward and start peace processes.

Ends

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