



community safety &
liaison

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Community Safety and Liaison
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MEDIA ALERT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 30 SEPTEMBER 2013
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

AN UPDATE ON THE MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN EMATHENI, KWANONGOMA CONFLICT

Dates: Wednesday, October 2, 20013

Thursday, October 3, 20013

Venue: Nongoma Magistrate Court

IN a move that could constitute a major breakthrough in the current conflict in eMatheni, KwaNongoma, four suspects who had been the most sought for alleged killings in this northern KZN village, will this week appear in KwaNongoma Magistrate Court, on murder and position of illegal firearms charges.

Those appearing in court this week were arrested in a swoop by crack team of detectives working on several murder cases that occurred in eMatheni this year.

At least 20 people have been killed in various conflicts in eMatheni from January to July this year.

In one of the major breakthroughs, in Mid-August most sought suspects, believed to be the key movers behind the killings in eMatheni, Makho and Makhimba Buthelezi, were arrested in Gauteng. This move was applauded by MEC Mchunu as a development that should go a long way towards resolving the current conflict.

A team of crack detectives probing eMatheni killings, acting on information, arrested the two suspects in Benoni, Gauteng East Rand.

The two were found in possession of illegal firearms. These included four (04) 9mm pistols and one Z38 and 37 rounds of live ammunition.

After a brief interrogation, the suspects led the detectives to Osuthu village, in KwaNongoma, where the detectives arrested another suspect who was found in possession of illegal firearms, known as LM5.

In September 12, 2013: Nongoma Magistrate Court: Makhimba and Makho Buthelezi appeared in court on murder charges of Mr Bhobho Sibiya and Bhande Khumalo.

Their blood samples have been taken to the forensic science laboratory to be matched against samples taken from the getaway vehicle that was found on the day of murder of Mr Bhobho Sibiya and Bhande Khumalo

NB: The case was remanded for October 3, 2013

ANOTHER COURT APPEARANCE

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

Another most feared alleged assassin and the key mover behind eMatheni killings, Sbhevu Sibiya and Thulani Nyembezi, appeared in court for possession of illegal firearms. These firearms have already been ballistic ally linked to the murder of Mbemba and Mabhiza Buthelezi.

Ballistic reports showed that they (Buthelezi's) were killed by firearms for which these two (Sibhevu and Nyembezi) were charged for illegal possession.

NB: The case was remanded for October 2, 2013, for the bail hearing.

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu, has welcomed the recent developments, saying they should go a long way towards resolving the current conflict.

“Indeed, these are important developments in our quest to find peace in eMatheni. While we accept that those appearing in court remain just suspects, it will, however, send a clear message that the police now mean serious business and that the culture of impunity in eMatheni has come to an end once and for all,” said Mchunu.

Ends

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