



## community safety & liaison

Department :  
Community Safety and Liaison  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Private Bag X9143, Pietermaritzburg, 3200  
179 Jabu Ndlovu, Pietermaritzburg, 3201  
Tel: (033) 341 9300 (Switchboard) Fax: (033) 342 6345

### MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA  
DATE : 28 OCTOBER 2013  
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

---

**AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN EMBONGOLWANE MASSACRE:  
SUSPECTS TO APPEAR IN COURT FOR MURDER, ATTEMPTED MURDER,  
MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY AND ARSON COURT APPEARANCE:  
ENKANYEZI COURT: ESHOWE**

**DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2013**

**EMBONGOLWANE FACT-FILE: FOR MEDIA IN PREPERATION FOR THE COURT  
APPEARANCE OF SUSPECTS IN THE EMBONGOLWANE MURDER ON TUESDAY,  
OCTOBER 29, 2013 IN ESHOWE.**

### **BACKGROUND:**

29 Jul 2013

On Saturday, 27 July 2013 at approximately 20h00 a woman, Thulisile Mnyango (50) and her four children, Cebile Mnyango (21), Lungelo Mnyango (17), Mlamuli Mnyango (10), and Qiniso (2) were at their homestead at Mbongolwane area when they were attacked by group of unknown people. It is alleged that the suspects set alight four houses and the five family members who were in one of the houses were burnt to death.

It was suspected that a petrol bomb was used during the attack. The motive of the killing was unknown at the time and the Mbongolwane police opened five counts of murder cases. Through investigation the police made a breakthrough when they arrested five suspects believed to be involved in the attack.

The number of the arrests later increased to 22 but five suspects were released as there was a lack of evidence linking them to the case.

### **DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSES**

MEC Mchunu and his team immediately visited eMbongolwane, inspecting the scene and later conducting a consultation with the local community with a view of defusing the tension and working towards peace and stability.

The Department teams also spent a lot of time in the area conducting community interactions under the Communities-in-Dialogue programme. They also assisted the victims to resettle and re-establish their lives.

## **COURT APPEARANCES**

**July 30, 2013**

Twenty-two suspects that had been arrested appeared in eShowe Court to face murder charges. However, five of them were released as there was no evidence linking them to the case. But they continue to be of assistance to the police as they provide some critical information.

The 17 were kept in custody as they failed to get to get bail.

## **NEXT COURT APPEARANCE: TUESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2013: ENKANYEZINI COURT, ESHOWE.**

The 17 suspects will appear at the above court.

They are facing the following charges:

\*Five counts of murder

\*Four counts of attempted murder

\*One count of malicious damage to property

\*One count of arson

Ends

Media Contact : Kwanele Ncalane  
: 072 803 1462/079 6995755  
: [Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za](mailto:Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za)  
or  
Sipho Khumalo  
082-682-6437  
[Sipho.Khumalo@comsafety.gov.za](mailto:Sipho.Khumalo@comsafety.gov.za)