



community safety &
liaison

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Community Safety and Liaison
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MEDIA ALERT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 11 September 2013
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC MCHUNU CALLS FOR CALM AND RESTRAINT IN RICHMOND

KWAZULU-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu, who this morning visited Richmond Municipality to assess security situation and damage caused to the offices housing councilors in this town which caught fire early this morning, has urged people to observe restraint and allow police to conduct a full investigation into the causes of the fire.

MEC Mchunu this morning had to delay his attendance at the meeting of provincial executive (cabinet) in Pietermaritzburg to attend to Richmond matter where offices caught fire this morning which destroyed furniture.

MEC Mchunu, who made an inspection-in-loco at the burnt-out prefabricated municipal offices, was also briefed by the SAPS management in Richmond and members of the security establishment about the state of security in the area.

He was also briefed by the councilors, including the mayor, councilor Andrew Ragavaloo and the Speaker, councilor Thulani Shabalala.

Initial investigation reveals that the fire might have been caused by an electrical fault.

However, MEC Mchunu appealed to locals to allow police to conduct a full investigation into this matter and establish the cause of the fire.

"Let us not apportion any blame and let us accept that they may be many causes of the fire. Let the police and all relevant agencies investigate the cause of the fire.

"We must not allow any baseless information to fuel the tension that already exists in Richmond," said Mchunu.

Ragavaloo and local members of the KZN legislature thanked MEC Mchunu for his prompt visit to the town to assess the situation.

Ends

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