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## **MEDIA ALERT**

TO : ALL MEDIA

DATE : 06 September 2013

ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

## MEC MCHUNU WELCOMES THE ARREST ON AN ALLEGED SERIAL RAPIST IN VRYHEID

KWAZULU-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu, has welcomed the arrest of an alleged serial rapist at Bhekuzulu township in Vryheid, Northern KZN, praising the police for the work well done in apprehending the suspect.

It is alleged that the suspect, whose name could not be revealed until he has appeared in court, had been responsible for a series of rapes and robbery of women at the Bhekuzulu new location.

More than 10 women have come forward to open cases of rape with the Vryheid Police.

Apart from these victims, it is also alleged that many young women attending Mthashana FET College had allegedly fallen victims to this rapist.

Apart from allegedly raping them, he mugged them of cellphones, cash and assaulted them with a garden fork, knife or lasher.

It is also alleged that he is not operating alone in these crimes and some of his accomplices are still at large but police are working around the clock to arrest them.

Mchunu welcomed this arrest, saying the space was gradually closing down for rapists and abusers of women and children as the police were on the look-out for them.

The arrest comes during the week in which police had made spectacular successes against rapists. This week three rape suspects were arrested in eNquthu.

Also, eShowe Regional this week sentenced Sifiso Nyandeni, 24, to twenty-two years imprisonment for house robbery and rape which happened at Sandpaper Road, Mandeni.

"The heat is on against those who abuse and rape women and children. We appreciate the work done by the police in this regard."

"May I, once and again warn that, our men and women in blue uniform have doubled their efforts to bring to justice those responsible for these shocking crimes.

"I am convinced that this will send a clear message to those behind these scandalous deeds that their time is out and they would never escape the long arm of law," said Mchunu.

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