

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

MEDIA ALERT

TO : ALL MEDIA DATE : 30 July 2013

ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

KZN MEC FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON WELCOMES THE ARREST OF TWO SUSPECTS IN KWAMASHU.

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu, has applauded police for swiftly arresting two suspects linked to the recent murder of five people in KwaMashu Hostel, outside Durban

Five people were killed in KwaMashu hostel over the weekend in various blocks.

These include a 16- year- old male, Zamani Lushozi, who was shot and killed at Jabula Road, near iSulabasha Settlement

It is alleged that the deceased was coming from a shop when gunshots were heard. Mzomuhle Sishi, who is a neighbour, went out to investigate and he was also shot and sustained gunshot wound on his right thigh.

On Saturday (27 July 2013), three people were shot in KwaMashu. On the first incident, at about 14:00pm, a 36-year old woman, Tozane Vamisile Biyela), was shot and killed. Several spent cartridges were recovered at the scene.

On the second incident, at 16:40, an African male was shot and killed by unknown men as he was coming out of his place of residence at Moyamnandi Road, in KwaMashu.

On the third one, at 19:45 in Qhakaza Road within the hostel, an African male, Skhumbuzo Nxumalo, was shot and killed by unknown assailants.

It is alleged that Nxumalo was accompanying his friend Sthembile Bhengu, who was also shot but she sustained multiple injuries and was transferred to King Edward VIII Hospital.

Two people have been arrested in connection with the above killings. However, police are still conducting further investigations.

Mchunu, who is disturbed at these killings, today condemned those behind these brutal killings but commended the police for effecting arrests immediately after this incident.

While the motive of these killings is unknown, Mchunu expressed concerns that these had an effect of undermining peace initiatives being driven by his Department between various political players at the hostel.

"Of the biggest concern to me and the Department is the proliferation of illegal firearms which are the key drivers of these killings at this hostel.

"I urge people in this area to observe restraint and let the police to attend to this situation.

"Police have started to work flat out on this matter and we have noted some of the arrests that have been made. As the Government, we are going to continue engaging all role-players with a view of finding a lasting solution to put this to an end," said Mchunu.

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Media Contact : Kwanele Ncalane

: 072 803 1462/079 6995755

: Kwanele.ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

or

Sipho Khumalo @082-682-6437

Sipho.khumalo@comsafety.gov.za