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MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
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ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/ EDITORS AND PR WIRES

MEC MCHUNU APPLAUDS THE ARRESTS OF STOCK-THEFT SUSPECTS IN VRYHEID

KWAZULU-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu, has applauded the members of Glencoe Stock-Theft Unit, near Vryheid, for arresting nine suspects for stock-theft in Kingsley, outside Vryheid.

Twenty-one (21) members from the Glencoe Stock Theft Unit assisted by Hattingspruit police members arrested nine (9) suspects aged between 46 and 18 for stock theft in the Kingsley area near Vryheid.

The members had received information of a place in Kingsley where stolen cows were kept and later sold to buyers.

It was alleged that stock thieves would steal cattle in the Nyanyadu area and transport them to this particular place where they would sell them to buyers.

The members started by arresting one suspect in the Nyanyadu area near Dannhauser and proceeded to the place where stolen cows were being sold.

They recovered thirty five (35) cattle which the community of Nyanyadu positively identified as their stolen stock. After the cattle had been positively identified the police arrested four (4) more suspects on the scene.

While the members were busy in Kingsley other members of Glencoe Stock Theft Unit spotted a bakkie loaded with five cows on Nquthu Road.

The members stopped the bakkie and upon requesting proper papers for the cattle none was forthcoming from the suspects. Four occupants of the bakkie were detained. Members continued with their investigation and discovered that the five cows were stolen from a farm in Dundee.

The suspects were charged for stock theft and appeared in the Dundee Magistrate Court on Friday, 23 August 2013, where they were remanded in custody for further investigations.

The other five suspects appeared today, 26 August 2013 in the Dundee Magistrate Court.

In welcoming the arrests, MEC Mchunu warned that stock constituted a very important and emotional asset to the rural people of KwaZulu-Natal.

“The stealing of stock, therefore, has a potential to plunge the province into a nasty conflict. The reality is that it has done so before and care should be taken that stock-theft is dealt with effectively in order to avoid this potential conflict,” said Mchunu.

MEC also commended the unit members for the work well done.

“This is a commendable piece of work and it will certainly send a clear message to stock thieves that it is no longer going to be business as usual for them as they will face the full might of the law,” said Mchunu.

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