



community safety & liaison

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Community Safety and Liaison
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MEDIA ALERT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 02 December 2013
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC MCHUNU WELCOMES THE SWOOP ON GILLITTS DRUG LABORATORY BY POLICE.

KWAZULU-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willie Mchunu, has applauded the job well done to the arrest of 19 suspects in a “drug laboratory” at Gillitts, west of Durban, at the weekend.

In a National Crime Intelligence driven operation, the SAPS Counter Narcotics team uncovered a major drug lab in Alexander Drive, in Gillitts, KwaZulu-Natal Saturday evening, November 30, 2013.

The team followed up on intelligence of the manufacture of heroin straws which led them to an elite house in the Gillitts area, just outside Pinetown.

The nineteen men arrested are all foreign nationals of ages between 18 and 37 years. They are likely to face charges of possession and dealing in drugs. The entire operation has an estimated street value of over R41 million which consists of R21.4 million worth of heroin straws, R4.1 million of mandrax tablets, R15 millions of heroin powder and equipment.

The detection of this lab has come just days after the same team uncovered a major drug distribution centre in Kempton Park which was worth R75 million.

MEC Mchunu today congratulated the teams involved in this massive bust, saying the arrest would send a clear message to drug traffickers that the long arm of law would catch up with them wherever they were.

“This arrest by specialised units of SAPS shows what could be achieved when we all work together to remove those who corrupt our people, especially, the youth.

“We have targeted drugs and drug-pushers because their illicit products have corrupted our society, resulting in decline in morals. There is no doubt that drugs are key drivers of crimes in our province,” said MEC Mchunu, urging communities to work with police to remove those who corrupt communities from their midst.

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