



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN KWANONGOMA CONFLICT

TWO most sought suspects, linked to the killings in eMatheni, KwaNongoma, today appeared in Nongoma Court charged with being in possession of illegal firearms.

The most sought suspects, Makhimba Buthelezi and Makho Buthelezi, were arrested at the weekend in Benoni, Gauteng East Rand, by a team of crack detectives probing the eMatheni killings.

The team of especially assembled detective, acting on information, ventured into Gauteng and pounced on the two suspects.

They were found in possession of illegal firearms. These included four (04) 9mm pistols and one Z38 and 37 rounds of live ammunition.

After a brief interrogation, the suspects led the detectives to Osuthu village, in KwaNongoma, where the detectives arrested another suspect who was found in possession of illegal firearms, known as LM5.

This suspect, Thabani Mdladla, was arrested and appeared in Nongoma Court and was reminded in custody until September 2, 2013, for bail application.

The two Buthelezi's appeared today in Nongoma Court on charges of being in possession of illegal firearms and ammunition. They were reminded in custody until September 6, 2013, when they will appear for formal bail application.

The arrests is linked to the ongoing conflict, which initially involved two families (Sibiya and Buthelezi) but has since engulfed the whole eMatheni Traditional Community with the locals being forced to choose sides between the two warring groups.

At least more than 20 people have been killed in this conflict with others being shot dead in Gauteng.

KwaZulu-Natal Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC, Mr Willies Mchunu, has welcomed the latest arrest by police, saying it would send clear message that the Government and police meant serious business in their bid to end violence in the area.

“Indeed, these are important developments in our quest to find peace in eMatheni. While we accept that those arrested at the weekend remain just suspects, it will, however, send a clear message that the police now mean serious business and that the culture of impunity in eMatheni has come to an end once and for all,” said Mchunu.

MEC Mchunu urged the locals to remain calm and allow police to do their best in bringing those behind these killings to law.

“This is the time for the community of eMatheni to work with the police to isolate criminals who are clearly behind this violence so that a lasting peace should return to the area,” urged Mchunu.

Media contacts: Mr Kwanele Ncalane: 0796995755

Or Sipho Khumalo: 082-682-6437

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