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MEDIA ALERT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 24 June 2013
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MCHUNU CONDEMNS VIOLENT PROTESTS IN GLEBE HOSTEL

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu, has strongly condemned the violent protests and the burning down of Government's property by a section of Glebe hostel residents in uMlazi, Durban.

Yesterday MEC Mchunu received reports that a community hall and a councillor's office were burnt down, allegedly by the protesting hostel residents.

This act of criminality resulted in the destruction of the properties and important documents contained therein.

Reports indicate that the vandalism of these important government assets was allegedly done by a group of hostel dwellers who are revolting against the local councillor.

MEC Mchunu, who immediately visited the area upon being informed to assess the situation (Sunday, June 23, 2013), has expressed anger and disappointment at this mayhem and the burning down of government property.

Mchunu met with the leadership of eThekweni and the leadership of the hostel. The MEC was also briefed by the police, who confirmed that a case of public violence and arson had been opened.

"We cannot tolerate anarchy. What is happening at Glebe seriously undermines the rule of law and it is a clear act of criminality. People have a right to protest within the parameters of the law but vandalising and burning properties is not acceptable," said Mchunu.

MEC Mchunu also expressed satisfaction regarding the security plan which was presented by the police in dealing with the situation.

“Police have shared with me a clear plan to address the situation in the area. The burning of the offices seems premeditated and those who are behind this must face the music,” said Mchunu.

On allegations levelled against the councillor, Mchunu said this would be taken up by the municipality and the ruling party.

Today the MEC convened an urgent meeting with the leadership of eThekweni municipality led by the Mayor, James Nxumalo, MEC for Human Settlements, Mr Ravi Pillay, the ANC eThekweni Region and the leadership of Glebe hostel.

Ends

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