

transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
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ATTENTION: Editors and News Editors

MEC MCHUNU WELCOMES ARREST OF 81-YEAR OLD SUSPECT FOR POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL FIRE-ARM

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has commended the efforts of the police in uncovering illegal firearms in the Greater uMsinga precinct following the arrest of an 81 year old suspect.

Yesterday, the SAPS taxi task team arrested two suspects found in possession of illegal fire-arms and more than 83 rounds of live ammunitions. Police received a tip-off on the first suspect (81 year old male) who was arrested in Pomeroy and a second suspect was arrested in Utrecht.

On 13 October 2015 at midnight police went to KwaBhaza, Pomeroy, and conducted a search and recovered two unlicensed firearms, a 9mm pistol and a shotgun, with a total of 83 live rounds of ammunition. The suspect was charged for possession of unlicensed firearm and ammunition.

After this arrest the police then proceeded to Utrecht area outside Newcastle following up on a second lead about another man in possession of firearms. While there, the police stopped and searched vehicles, one in which they found two 9mm pistols with 21 live rounds of ammunition. These two firearms are licensed to the driver (50). He was arrested in terms of the Firearm and Ammunition Act for failing to safeguard the firearms.

MEC Mchunu commended the good work done by the police, saying the instability in the taxi industry and the high levels of crime in society are mainly caused by illegal weapons in the hands of the civilians.

"We applaud the good work by the police. Since the deployments in Newcastle and in areas around Pomeroy, massive recoveries of firearms have been made. The

high number of fire arms in the hands of civilians is another contributing factor to the high murder rate in KwaZulu-Natal. The level of commitment from our police working with our communities are a clear indication that criminals have no place to hide. It is shocking that an 81 year old pensioner be found in possession of unlicensed fire arms and so many live rounds of ammunition. These firearms are mostly used in perpetuating violence in the taxi industry and are behind most brutal contact crimes,” said Mchunu.

Ends.

Media contacts:

Kwanele Ncalane: 072- 8031462/ 079- 6995755/ Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za

Nathi Sukazi 081 018 0518/ Nathi.Sukazi@kzntransport.gov.za

Website: www.kzntransport.gov.za

Twitter: @KZNTransport

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kzntransport