



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA LIAISON AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 19 January 2015
ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors & PR Wires

MEC MCHUNU DISGUSTED AT THE KILLING OF A ONE YEAR OLD CHILD DURING TAXI-RELATED ATTACK IN KWAMAPHUMULO

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Willies Mchunu, has described the latest attacks and killing of a one year old boy in what is believed to be a taxi related shooting in KwaMaphumulo, as senseless and showing lack of uBuntu.

Mchunu, who is angered by the on-going killings in KwaMaphumulo and KwaDukuza, has expressed grave concerns after receiving reports that on Friday (16 January 2015) a one year old baby was murdered and a 12 year old left injured, in what is suspected to have been a plotted attack on Mr Mthobisi Hlongwa, a rank manager in KwaMaphumulo.

The incident is alleged to have taken place at Mr Hlongwa's home in Mbitane while he was out attending a night vigil.

The attackers allegedly poured petrol at the door of Mr Hlongwa's home, which prompted his partner to move the children out of the house. She gave the infant to the 12 year old while she went back to rescue other children who were allegedly still in the house. The gunmen then fired shots at the 12 year old and the infant, leaving the infant dead on the scene.

This is the second incident in two weeks where individuals linked to the taxi industry have been attacked in the area. Last week in Stanger Manor, a group of armed men opened fire on the convoy of security guards escorting a KwaMaphumulo taxi operator. One suspect and a taxi operator died following the exchange of gun-fire.

Last week, MEC Mchunu convened an urgent meeting with the provincial police management to discuss interventions to curb incidents of taxi violence in the area. In a briefing it emerged that one suspect has been arrested and police deployment has intensified in the area.

Commenting on the latest incident, MEC Mchunu, described the killing of a one year old as a serious decline of morality and senseless.

“For years now we have been advocating for peace in the KwaDukuza-Maphumulo area, but are disgusted that killings continue unabated. How, for instance, can one explain the shooting - and subsequent murder - of an infant? Only an animal would do such a horrific crime. I am pleading to everyone with information to work with the police to ensure that suspects on this case are captured and that their fate be sealed when they rot in jail. In the meantime, we believe that the increased presence of the SAPS - and the Hawks - will assist in the arrest of suspects with speed. Those who break the law and terrorise communities will face the long arm of the law. To be certain, nothing will stop us from achieving sustainable peace and stability in the KwaDukuza and Maphumulo area,” said Mchunu.

Mchunu has noted concerns by parents and community members on the safety of scholars as the province is preparing for the reopening of schools. He has assured the safety of all commuters and operators in the area as police have been deployed in the area to safeguard all operations.

Ends.

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