



transport

Department:
Transport
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

MEDIA ADVISORY

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MEC KAUNDA HEAPS PRAISES ON FALLEN COPS

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has expressed his deepest condolences to the families of two police officers who died during a shootout with cash in transit robbers in Hlabisa, northern KwaZulu-Natal yesterday.

Police reports indicate that members of the South African Police Service's Special Task Force (STF) and Crime Intelligence (CI) were following up on intelligence that a cash-in-transit (CIT) vehicle was going to be attacked. At about 7pm last night a group of heavily armed suspects attacked the security vehicle and used explosives to access the cash along Hlabisa road.

However, members from the SAPS teams, the STF and CI responded speedily which resulted in a shootout between them and the robbers. Seven suspects, a member from CI and the STF member were killed during the skirmish. A female member who was shot in the leg is currently receiving medical treatment.

Police have recovered four AK-47 assault rifles thus far. A BMW which was used by the suspects was reportedly used during other robberies including one recently at the Nongoma shell garage robbery.

"We are deeply saddened that we have lost two dedicated members of the SAPS who were trying to foil a robbery at the hands of criminals. As the provincial government, we would like to commend the police for their sterling work and members of the community who shared this critical information with the police," said Kaunda.

He said that the people of KwaZulu-Natal and the provincial government are proud of the bravery displayed by the police in tackling such hardened criminals head-on. "In memory of these fallen heroes, police and members of the community must continue to close ranks and create a crime-free province," said Kaunda.

On behalf of the provincial government, Kaunda conveyed his heart-felt condolences to the families of the deceased and wished the injured police officer a speedy recovery.

Ends.

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