



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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MEC KHOZA AND MEC NKONYENI TO MEET BEREAVED FAMILIES TO ROLL OUT GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS

This afternoon Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, MEC, Ms Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni, her Social Development counterpart MEC, Mrs Nonhlanhla Khoza and interfaith leaders, met with the grieving families of Zwelisha, Inanda, Amawoti, Bambayi and Phoenix to introduce a team of the social workers expected to provide survivors with psychosocial support, Social Relief of Distress and other government interventions.

Families applauded government for its swift intervention as some people still struggle to come to terms with their loss. At least 32 cases of murder are under investigation by the team of specialised detectives set up by Police Minister, General Bheki Cele last week.

The preliminary report shows that 40 bodies have been found scattered in Phoenix and surrounding areas since last week. Reports suggest that there could more bodies as now 28 families have been able to identify their loved ones.

MEC Nkonyeni made a passionate plea to the families and survivors of the unrest to make contact with the police.

"We strongly believe that there are more people who are still unidentified. We are therefore calling upon families to report their missing members and to assist police with information which will lead to more arrests and convictions," she said.

MEC Nkonyeni said government is still shocked that people were murdered in broad daylight while walking or driving on the public roads. She added that the provincial government has committed itself to working with the bereaved families to heal the wounds.

"We call on the communities to remain calm while the police are continuing with investigations. The arrest of 10 people linked to these murders should bring confidence to the public that our government is not sitting on its laurels, but working around the clock to ensure those involved in these brutal murders pay for their sins," said MEC Nkonyeni.

MEC Khoza added that it is important for government to change how the Phoenix killings is categorised.

"We have seen a number of people who have died in this incident. We should call this a massacre. It is very hard to swallow what we have heard and seen, people being murdered in cold blood. We met with the bereaved families and as the Department of Social Development, we have a lot to do, especially providing psychosocial support to the affected families," said MEC Khoza.

She added that a team of Social Workers would continue to help the affected families to come to terms with their ordeal.

"There are children who witnessed how their parents were killed and that will live with them for life. Therefore, it is important that we work with them to accept what happened, hence the social workers will remain until these families are able to stand on their own."

She further said social workers would also profile all affected families and continue providing assistance. "There are breadwinners lost in this massacre and we need to intervene continuously as directed by our Premier, Mr Sihle Zikalala."

ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON TOGETHER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT