



premier

Office Of The Premier
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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CABINET STATEMENT

DATE : 2 FEBRUARY 2012
TO : ALL MEDIA
EMBARGO : NONE

CABINET CALLS FOR HALT TO WITCH-HUNT MURDERS

The Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal has urged communities to refrain from using suspicion of witchcraft as an excuse to commit murder.

Meeting in Pietermaritzburg on Wednesday, the Executive Council condemned the brutal murder of a woman and two grandchildren of the Mhlongo family in Mbitane, KwaMaphumulo, who were burnt to death early in the week.

Of particular concern to the Executive Council was a report that they could have been killed following suspicion that they were involved in witchcraft.

Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize said: We call on our people never to use suspicion of witchcraft as an excuse to commit murder. Any attack is not acceptable. We take comfort in the knowledge that the police are dealing with the matter. Transport, Safety and Community Liaison MEC Mr Willies Mchunu will give whatever necessary support to ensure that allegations of witchcraft do not lead to more murders in the Province."

The Executive Council noted that this week's death of Masisi Mhlongo (50), Fanelesibonge Ntuli (6) and Amahle Nxumalo (5) (in kwaMaphumulo) followed the recent killing of an elderly couple Rafael Zikhulu and Elsa Dubazane in. The pair from Lindelani, north of Durban, was also suspected of witchcraft. Several members of the community have since been arrested.

Issued by Cyril Madlala
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