



CABINET STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
EMBARGO : IMMEDIATE

KWAZULU-NATAL CABINET TAKES A STAND AGAINST CRIME

Pietermaritzburg, 16 October 2013: THE Cabinet of KwaZulu-Natal today praised the police for the swift action taken in the apprehension of a suspect in the murder of 88-year-old Mrs Margaret Lembede in the Umbumbulu area.

Community Safety and Liaison MEC Willies Mchunu reported to Cabinet that the suspect has already appeared in court.

KZN Premier Mr Senzo Mchunu tasked both the MEC for Community Safety (Mchunu) and MEC for Social Development Ms Weziwe Thusi to look into the possibility of establishing a profile of the spate of crimes that have been committed by young people.

“These crimes have taken the shape of extreme brutality and in most cases they are committed by young people,” said Mchunu, adding that perhaps something can be learnt from such a profile which might help to prevent future incidents.

CROSS BORDER CRIMES:

Community Safety MEC Mchunu also reported to Cabinet about an initiative to stamp out crime committed across provincial borders.

“We have established that violent crimes committed, especially in rural areas like Msinga and Nongoma, are perpetrated by people who would then run in hide in hostels in other provinces like Gauteng.

“We have held discussions with our counterparts in Gauteng, Free State and Mpumalanga and we are about to sign a protocol of agreement to combat this trafficking in crime,” said Mchunu.

REED DANCE BUS ACCIDENT:

Arts and Culture MEC Ntombikayise Sibhidla-Saphetha reported to Cabinet that only one victim of the horror bus crash where 10 maidens returning from Umkhosi woMhlanga is still being kept in hospital.

The accident, in Nkwalini, took place in September this year when maidens from the South Coast were returning from the annual ceremony hosted by Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu.

Cabinet also sent its condolences to the family of maiden Ntokozo Sithole, who succumbed to injuries sustained during the accident.



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Sibhidla-Saphetha explained that Sithole was among patients who were taken to Ngwelezane Hospital, but was later transferred to Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital due to the gravity of her condition. She succumbed to her injuries on October 3, and was laid to rest last week.

All survivors of the crash are receiving psychological support from various government institutions.

Issued by the Office of the Premier on behalf of Cabinet

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