



Warning of a Gruesome photo attached:

It seems as if baboons are receiving preferential treatment

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Senzo Mchunu has expressed his utmost disgust following the brutal attack of a six-year old boy, Seluleko Xaba by a baboon in his house at Progress Farm in Richmond, Pietermaritzburg.

It's been brought to the attention of the Office of the Premier that the attack took place after the farm owner had warned that his baboons should not be hurt. This after the family had alerted him about a troop of baboons that were roaming on the farm and chasing children.

"A team of health professionals has been assigned to ensure the provision of quality healthcare to Seluleko who remains in a critical but stable condition at Edendale Hospital. He was admitted with deep lacerations on the back and thigh. He has been sent to theatre for debridement, washout and closure of the wounds. He is on strong pain control and IV antibiotics. He has also been given anti rabies vaccine."

"It is unfortunate that we are ending the human rights month with such a gruesome incident involving an innocent child. This is a sad reminder of ongoing violation of human rights of farm workers and farm dwellers."

"Following this incident, we have uncovered untold sufferings of families living on farms in Richmond. Families have complained bitterly that for years they have been fending off sustained attacks from a troop of baboons owned by the owner of the farm."

"For years, family crops have been destroyed by these baboons exposing the families to food insecurity and abject poverty. Sadly, repeated pleas to the farm owner have been ignored. This is a clear indication that the welfare of baboons is the priority."

"It is for this reason that I have assigned officials attached to the human rights unit and office of the Status of Women and Children located in the Premier's Office to liaise with the South African Human Rights Commission. We want an urgent investigation into the violation of human rights of many families living on this farm and surrounding areas."

"We will also be approaching the Provincial Land Claims Commissioner to request him to assess progress regarding the land claim lodged by the affected families living on the farm."

"Farm workers and their families remain physically, socially and economically isolated from many opportunities. As government we are speeding up programmes aimed at ensuring that these families have access to government services such as schools, healthcare facilities, decent housing and others."

"We will continue with our efforts aimed at ensuring co-existence of farmers and farmer workers including surrounding communities. While we make this commitment, we want to issue a stern warning that violation of human rights on farms will not be tolerated."

"An integrated approach has been adopted to ensure that we save the life of this child and to provide counselling to the traumatized children living on the farm. This intervention involves the Department of Social Development, Department of Health, Department of Community Safety and Liaison and the South African Police Services."

Ends



premier

Office Of The Premier
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Issued by the Office of the Premier
Enquiries
Ndabezinhle Sibiyi: Spokesperson for the Premier
082 3754742