

MEDIA STATEMENT (for immediate release)

24 January 2010

MEC CALLS UPON MADADENI RESIDENTS TO HELP POLICE TRACK DOWN THE KILLER(S) OF A COUNCILLOR

THE KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Willies Mchunu has condemned as despicable the murder of Councillor Thenjiwe Buthelezi (66) - councillor for Ward 12 (Johnstone Farm), Madadeni.

According to the police, Buthelezi was gunned down in her home by unknown assailants. Neighbours told police that at 07:00 in the morning they heard gunshots go off at the councillor's house in Section B, Osizweni. They (neighbours) saw two men fleeing from the house, one of whom was carrying a pistol. Police found four spent 9mm cartridges on the crime scene.

Mchunu said that any murder in this country is dreadful, but, the killing of an elected representative conjures up memories of our sad past – political killings. “We hope Buthelezi’s murder was not politically motivated.” He said one case of murder is being investigated by the Members of the Provincial Political Violence Task Team under the command of Senior Superintendent Simon Madonsela.

Members from the Public Order Policing Unit have been deployed in the area as a precautionary measure. At this stage the motive for the killing remains unknown. “I call for calm in the wake of this despicable act. We call upon our people to give any information they might have to the police as a matter of urgency as part of strengthening the recently launched programme dubbed Build a United Front Against Crime”. Mchunu sends his deepest condolences to the family, and local municipality.

Issued by the Directorate for Media Liaison & Public Relations, on behalf of the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Willies Mchunu