



community safety &
liaison

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MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA
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ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC MCHUNU CONDEMNS THE MURDER OF IXOPO FARM AND WELCOMES THE SWIFT ARREST OF SUSPECTS BY POLICE

THE KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu, has condemned with strongest possible terms the killing of a farmer in Ixopo, but noted with appreciation the swift arrest of six suspects.

Mchunu says the swift arrests of the suspects by law enforcement agencies, including SAPS and private security companies, sends a loud and clear message to criminals that police will always catch up with criminals.

Yesterday, 7 February 2016 at about 04:00, the Ixopo police were called to a scene where a farmer, Anton Phillip Verwey (67) was brutally murdered.

Through the intensive investigation by the members of the Ixopo detectives, Kokstad K9 unit and Magma Security, six suspects aged between 14 and 24 were apprehended.

They were found in possession of the victim's two bicycles, Plasma TV, computer, laptop, cellphones and other belongings. Charges of murder and house robbery are

being investigated by Ixopo SAPS. They will appear in the Ixopo Magistrates' Court soon

Today, 08 March 2016, Mchunu condemned this barbaric killing and also commended the swift arrest of the suspects.

“We find this act of criminality disgusting, inhuman and abhorring. We, are however, encouraged by the swift arrest of the suspects and hope this would send a clear message to criminals that our law enforcement agencies will always ensure that criminals face the full might of the law,” he said.

He urged for a stronger relationship between the farmers and the farm workers, saying the safety of farmers and farm workers was critical for the province's food security.

Mchunu also sent his heartfelt condolences to the family of Verwey.

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