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MEDIA STATEMENT
ATTENTION: ALL MEDIA

MEC NKONYENI CONDEMS THE NQUTHU BLOODBATH AND TASKS SAPS TO BRING PEPETRATORS TO BOOK

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni has strongly condemned the brutal murder of seven people at Ekhuphe area, Nquthu under uMzinyathi District Municipality on Tuesday evening, (19 April 2022) by unknown gunmen.

According to preliminary police reports, an elderly woman was accosted by three gun-wielding men who asked her for the whereabouts of a certain male family member. Shortly after gun shots were fired and the elderly women, Eunice Buthelezi and Manqoba Buthelezi were fatally wounded. These unidentified gunmen proceeded to another house where they shot and killed four more people, Mboniseni Buthelezi (59), Ntombezingi Gumbi (59), Siyabonga Khoza (29) and Sinenhlanhla Khoza also aged 29. Ntombezingi Gumbi aged 59 was taken to hospital with gun-shot-wounds where she later succumbed.

There are allegations that this could be a revenge killing because the gentlemen that the assailants were looking for is believed to be a known hitman.

Police have opened a case of murder and attempted murder and a manhunt has begun. MEC Nkonyeni has tasked law enforcement to treat this investigation as a high priority. To this end, the police have activated a 72 hour-action plan to find these perpetrators.

“We cannot allow such acts of inhumane cruelty and criminality to go unpunished. We must exert the full might of the law; we must close ranks and act decisively against this barbaric act. I have tasked law enforcement to investigate the heinous crime against innocent citizens diligently and efficiently. What kind of a person shoots a four-year-old in cold blood? These thugs must be removed from society before they inflict more pain and misery on our people,” said MEC Nkonyeni.

MEC Nkonyeni also expressed her heartfelt condolences to all the families of the deceased and wished those who are in hospital a speedy and full recovery.

For more details and interview requests media is advised to contact: Thuba Vilane on 082 889 6570

