



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

To: All Media Houses

Attention: Editors and Senior Reporters

Date: 02 October 2017

Re: Statement on the attacks to the Acting HOD by Assailants on Friday

The Ministry in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, learned with shock of the news on the attempts to take the life of the Department's Acting Head of Department, Mr Jerry Mfusi and his family, on the evening of the 29th of September 2017 at his house.

The report from the family of the Acting HOD stated that unknown attackers attempted to force their way inside his property. They were however, met with forceful resistance from the security guards situated in the house and the attackers opened fire on them.

One of the bodyguards is in a critical condition in hospital. This attack on Mr Mfusi comes after a sustained period, since April this year, after receiving countless life threatening SMS texts.

Last month, he opened a case at the Hilton Police station in Pietermaritzburg. It is saddening that until today, no single move from the police has been made in investigating such a case but instead, Mr Mfusi is receiving more threatening calls and SMS texts about the details and the content of his statement which is with the SAPS.

Apparently, these are in all probability highly connected individuals.

In a province where senseless killings of leaders and senior officials has become rife, it is deeply concerning that there is visually no sense of urgency from law enforcement agencies who are entrusted with a key responsibility to investigate and swiftly apprehend the perpetrators.

Even more worrying, is the fact that these threats came just at the time when the Acting HOD is in the process of implementing the new Departmental focus, as led and directed by the MEC, which amongst other things is fighting corruption and closing the leaking taps in the Department.

Thank you

Issued by KZN DARD Ministry

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