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**SITHOLE-MOLOI SADDENED BY THE BRUTAL MURDER AND INJURY TO FARMING  
RELATIVES OF THE MINORITY FRONT'S LEADING, RAJBANSI FAMILY**

The KZN DARD MEC, Mrs. Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi has learnt with shock, the news of a brutal killing of a son and critical injury to his father who are both relatives of the Rajbansi family, leaders of the Minority Front, which took place yesterday morning in the Tongaat area.

According to reports, the father, Rajesh (67) and his son, Ashveer Sukwa (37) who ran a fruit and vegetable business from their Fairbreeze home premises, were attacked and stabbed by their employee who was in company of three unknown men when they opened their door around 5a.m. yesterday.

During the altercation, the son sustained 35 fatal stab wounds while his father was critically injured before their home was ransacked and safes broken into. Ashveer died on the scene while his father was rushed to hospital where he is recovering.

"We condemn this heinous act in the strongest terms. It derails our efforts at peace and cohesion between farm owners and workers, which we need in order to ensure the economic growth of the province.

This brutal crime is committed during a time when we have recently charged a task force to begin the process of sewing together the divide in social relations of the farmers and their workers province-wide.

The safety and security of our farmers and farm workers in the province remains a concern for us as a Department and Government. This is why we set up a farmers and farm workers engagement forum and a task team to stop the violent hotspots of farm attacks and murders that are erupting in different areas of the province.

We are confident that with this structure of the task team, there will be greater cooperation between the SAPS and communities and more support for local efforts to prevent such crimes.

May treasured memories be the comfort to the family. I offer you my thoughts, prayers and well wishes during this period," Sithole-Moloi said.

**For more information, kindly contact DARD Media Liaison Officer, Mr Mack Makhathini on  
076 965 5870.**