



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture & rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

03 March 2020

To all media houses

AGRICULTURE MEC WELCOMES ARRESTS OF VEHICLE THEFT SYNDICATE

KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mrs Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi has expressed gratitude to the members of the South African Police Services for the recovery of a stolen government vehicle.

On Tuesday this week, police officers from the Plessislaer Vehicle Tracking and Investigation Unit acted on intelligence about a possible chop shop operating in the Mbutshane area under the Plessislaer policing precinct.

They proceeded to the said location and a search was conducted. Police officers found an Isuzu bakkie on the premises and further investigation established that the vehicle was stolen at Ndwedwe. The vehicle was one of eight government owned vehicles that were stolen at Ndwedwe during a robbery at the offices of the Department of Agriculture on 10 February 2020.

“We are confident that the SAPS will crack the syndicate that is hijacking and stealing government vehicles, we hope that this is one of many arrests to come,” said MEC Sithole-Moloi.

During the robbery, eight armed men allegedly entered the Ndwedwe Department of Agriculture offices and held up the two security guards who were on duty. They then gained entry into an administration office and obtained the keys for the vehicles which were locked in a safe. Eight state vehicles were taken from the premises.

“We call upon law enforcement agencies to leave no stone unturned in apprehending all the suspects. The theft of government vehicles set us back as we strive to fast track service delivery to our people,” said MEC Sithole-Moloi.

For more information, kindly contact Media Liaison Officer Mack Makhathini on 071 360 9017 or Vusi Zuma on 082 419 2887 or Buyani Mkhulise On 082 782 8847.