



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
agriculture  
& rural development  
**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

#### **DARD CONDEMNS THE SENSELESS FARM MURDERS IN THE PROVINCE**

MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Mr. Cyril Xaba, has expressed outrage at yet more news of farm killings in the Province.

MEC Xaba conveyed his condolences to the Hlophe and Johnson families who lost their loved ones due to farm murders. The Hlophe family of Potshini, Ward 12 in Bergville, lost their 17 year old son in a nearby farm on Saturday 30 May 2015. It is alleged that the group of young men were in the nearby farm hunting, when the 17 year old was shot in the back by the Security Manager of a security company which was guarding and patrolling the farm.

The Johnson brothers are alleged to have been gunned down by five unknown suspects in the area of Nyoni in Mandeni. It is said that Peter and Ian Johnson were Sugarcane growers in the area of Nyoni and their family had over 100 years of farming in that area. MEC Xaba has condemned these senseless killings with great intent and said "Farming is our future, we need to see the youth of the Province and the country excited about farming, it (farming) is the key driver of the South African economy and without farmers, there is no food security in the Province and the country as a whole."

The MEC is urging all farming communities not to take the law into their own hands but rather let the law enforcement agencies take their course and follow due processes.

"We want the people of the Province, more especially the youth, to roll up their sleeves and take up farming and we shall not let such incidents frustrate our efforts" he added.

**For more information, please contact Lelethu Manentsa (KZN DARD) on 071 492 5716 or lelethu01@gmail.com**