



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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MEDIA STATEMENT

TO ALL MEDIA

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KZN DARD MEC CYRIL XABA CONDEMNS THE CALLOUS KILLING OF FARMERS IN KWAZULU-NATAL

MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal Mr. Cyril Xaba, would like to send his deepest condolences to the family of Krishnadhaven Govender, 50, who was gunned down at his farm Killarney Isles near Camperdown.

MEC Xaba is once again outraged by the senseless killing of yet another farmer in the Province within a short space of time. Just about a week ago the MEC learnt about the murder of farm manager Mngoma Mbanjwa, 51, of Lockwood sugarcane farm on the South Coast of KZN. These acts have saddened the MEC severely and he said, "It hurts me deeply when such incidents happen to the very people ensuring food security in the Province. I have said this before and I continue to say, that the development of the sector lies within the people actively participating in it and without them, there is no future for the sector" he said.

Krishnadhaven Govender is said to have been murdered by a gang of robbers who are believed to have gained access to the farm through cutting an electric fence and breaking into the house via a kitchen window. It is said that the robbers ransacked the Govender house and made way only with items to the value of R300. MEC Xaba then said "is a farmer's life worth that much, is any life worth any monetary value? I urge the people of the Province to be very vigilant around their farms and their homes, but most of all for them not to take matters into their own hands but rather let the law take its course" he said.

The Department strongly encourages people to get involved in agriculture and has vowed not to allow the negative advances of vagabondism to negate hard work by the Department to make the sector vibrant and progressive. Ineluctably, the Department will be able to address such

through the formation of initiatives such as the partnership the Department is building with its stakeholders. Currently, the Department is looking into a tripartite agreement with KZNDARD, KwaNalu and the Department of Community Safety and Liaison to address amongst others, the issues of farm security in the Province.

Once again, MEC Xaba is deeply concerned by the recent spate of these farm killings and encourages all the people of the Province especially the youth to participate in agriculture to secure food availability and unlocking the participation on the agricultural economy.

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