



agriculture & rural development

Department:
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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



News

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The MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal, Cyril Xaba, left, visited Ruth Green yesterday. Green's husband, Malcolm, was murdered on their farm near Estcourt on Monday.

PICTURE: MBUYISELO NDLOVU

We'll hunt down farm killers, says MEC

Mercury Reporter

THERE would be an all-out pursuit of farmer Malcolm 'Stick' Green's murderers, KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture MEC Cyril Xaba promised his widow, Ruth, yesterday.

Xaba and the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Bheki Cele, visited the widow to convey their condolences.

Green was murdered at his farm near Estcourt on Monday,

Xaba condemned the killing and said the death of a single farmer was a death too many.

The 69-year-old farmer was at home alone when four men entered his house, shot him and made off with his vehicle, cellphone and laptop.

The vehicle was recovered in Ladysmith.

After being shot, Green was able to make a call to his wife to raise the alarm, before bleeding to death.

He was pronounced dead when paramedics arrived at the scene.

Xaba assured Green's wife he would work closely with the KZN MEC for Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu, in "mounting an unprecedented search for the perpetrators of this callous deed".

"Farm attacks undermine all our efforts to grow the agricultural sector and create much-needed jobs.

"We need extraordinary

measures to confront this scourge in our society," said Xaba.

He noted that there had been five farm murders and 28 other farm attacks in the province last year and that although this was unacceptably high, he was grateful that there had been arrests and convictions in the case of all five murders.

"This, however, is cold comfort as lives have still been lost," Xaba said.