



COMMUNICATION SERVICES

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Farmers need more cop patrols

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THE safety of farmers and their families continues to be an issue for the KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Union as reports of farm attacks continue.

Praising the police for their high arrest rate when it came to farm attacks and murders, Koos Marais, representing Kwanalu, said more still needed to be done. "An attack on a farm is an attack on the economy."

"Who would want to live on a farm where their father or husband was shot and killed, and carry on as normal?" Marais asked.

The recent murder of Nyoni sugar cane farmer Peter Johnson, 56, on his brother Ian's farm, two weeks ago, has highlighted the union's call for extra police patrols in farming areas.

Two suspects, a 42-year-old man and a 53-year-old woman were

arrested last week, police spokesperson Col Jay Naicker said.

"This is the crucial breakthrough we have been waiting for and it is a matter of time before the other suspects can be apprehended. Kudos to our dedicated police officers who persevered while the trail was still hot and never gave up," Ngobeni said.

At a monthly meeting recently with the provincial commissioner, Lt-Gen Mmamonye Ngobeni, the agricultural union asked for higher police visibility under the Rural Protection Plan.

"Farms are in secluded areas, making them a target. We have a good working relationship with the police and hopefully our request will come to pass. Out of 35 farm murders in the province 32 have been solved," Marais said.

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