

MEDIA STATEMENT

04th June, 2009

“ZULU RAGE OVER TEEN’S MURDER”- THE KZN LEGISLATURE CALLS FOR EXTREME RESTRAINT

THE KWAZULU-NATAL Legislature has called for extreme restraint in the wake of the murder of a 15-year boy at Embo in Hillcrest suburb over the weekend. The Legislature was responding to media reports of a brewing ethnic tension in the area following the murder of Mfani Sibisi. According to the reports, the boy was stabbed to death on Saturday, allegedly by a Xhosa boy, thus triggering an ethnic tension.

Commenting on this incident, KZN Legislature Deputy Speaker Mr Mtholephi Mthimkhulu urged the community to exercise extreme restraint. “I call upon all the members of this community to exercise calm. We strongly condemn the murder of this young boy and of any person in strongest possible terms. Equally, we are vehemently oppose to people taking law into their own hands”, said Mthimkhulu.

Mthimkhulu further lamented the fact that this incident has reportedly triggered ethnic tensions in the area. “We have noted disturbing reports that this incident has galvanised some sections of this community to wage a low-intensity conflict to drive Xhosa-speaking people out of the area. As Legislature, the highest law-making body in this province, we strongly condemn this development as it goes against the grain of our constitution which promotes, amongst other things, racial and ethnic tolerance and unity, Mthimkhulu added.

He urged the community to work closely with the law-enforcement agencies to contain further escalation of tensions in the area as well as to bring the murderer to book.

Mthimkhulu commended the KZN MEC for Community Safety and Liaison Mr Bheki Cele and the SAPS for moving swiftly in monitoring the situation in Embo.
Ends

Issued by Office of the Speaker