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Department:  
Community Safety & Transport Management  
North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **DIRECTORATE: MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION**

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### **MEC DR MPHOTO MOTLHABANE VISITS THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF RAKGWADI VILLAGE**

The MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Mpho Motlhabane visited the bereaved families of the Khumalo, Ndondo, Malikhethla and Hossain after Tumelo Tau murdered their loved ones on Thursday, 02 June 2016 at Rakgwadi village near Atamelang.

The MEC was accompanied by Kgosi Molete of Bakolobeng, Tswaing Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Mogatusi, Provincial CPF Chairperson Mr Ngamlane and other Tribal Councillors to express their heartfelt condolences to the families during their difficult time.

The visit came after the Tumelo Tau burned Omphemetse Ndodo, 13, Reotshepile Malikhathle, 9, and Imram Hossain to death. It is alleged that Tau who was the Kgosi's shepherd started misbehaving on Wednesday, 01 June 2016 by fighting with the other shepherd from Lesotho. The information was brought to the attention of the Kgosi however, Kgosi did not manage to talk to him as he could not be found and that he was last seen in and around an area referred to as the Plantasie (big trees) not far from the village.

On Thursday, 03 June 2016 Tau attacked an 84 year-old granny with a knob-Kerrie and left her injured in the forehead. He then went to different community houses and started breaking the windows. This made the community angry and they chased him until he ran into a Bangladesh National's Tuck-Shop where he found the owner with his father and four kids, he then locked himself with them inside the shop. He started assaulting them with a panga and poured paraffin inside the shop and lit it. The suspect, father of the business owner who was slightly burned and two children, one unharmed and the other one assaulted by the suspect with a panga in his right arm managed to escape. The other two children and the business owner were trapped inside and burned to death. When Tau saw the angry community he tried to run away and he fell into a hole near the shop. The community members attacked him with stones and buried him alive.

On Friday, 04 June 2016 a naked body of a 22 year-old Keabetswe Khumalo burned beyond recognition was found at the plantasie. It is alleged that on Thursday afternoon Tumelo attacked the young girl and her boyfriend who managed to run away.

After the families' visits the MEC attended the Memorial Service of three, Ndodo, Malikhathle and Hossaim at Rakgwadi Lutheran Church where hundreds of community members attended.



**“Together moving Bokone Bophirima forward”**



MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane was saddened by the gruesome ordeal which is so inhuman and foreign in our culture. "As government we are saddened by this anger, unthinkable acts which is not usual and acceptable for people to die like this. We are hurt by this cruelty especially the departure of the children, as parents we take children to schools to encourage and teach them the right ways and to look up to them. We are touched and emotionally affected by this. As government we offer the necessary support to the families and ask the community as well to show "Ubuntu", said Motlhabane.

The MEC also thanked Kgosi for showing leadership by attending to the situation and pleaded with the community not to take law into their own hands.

"We plead with our communities not to take law into their hands and allow all processes of the law to take place and unfold unhindered", concluded Motlhabane.

Community members are are advised to report any crime by calling the departmental toll free number: **0800 204 992**.

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