



**economic development
& tourism**

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mpumalanga
TOURISM AND PARKS AGENCY

An Entity of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism

MEDIA STATEMENT

Date: Tuesday, 04 October 2022

Attention: Journalists, News Editors and Executive Producers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MKHATSHWA DENOUNCE THE BRUTAL ATTACK AND SENSELESS KILLING OF A GERMAN TOURIST

Mbombela – Mpumalanga MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Prince Vusumuzi Mkhathshwa, says the brutal attack of German tourists and the subsequent fatal shooting of one of them, on the Numbi Road near White River, is senseless, barbaric and should be denounced in the strongest possible terms. This follows the attack of four (4) international tourists from Germany by armed criminals yesterday (Monday, 03 October 2022). According to police reports, the victims were travelling in a minibus along the Numbi Road enroute to Mdluli Safari Lodge, when they were accosted by criminals.

“We condemn in the strongest possible terms, the brutal attack of the four (4) German tourists by the criminals. This act is senseless and barbaric; it cannot happen when our tourism industry is beginning to re-open. We call on the law enforcement agencies to track and arrest them, so that they can face the full might of the law. They must receive the harshest possible punishment ever; in fact, they must rot in jail.

“Such barbaric behaviour paints our Province in a negative way internationally, and we cannot allow this to continue. No right-thinking person will decide to visit our Province, if they know they might be attacked and possibly killed. Our economy requires tourists to grow, and such acts have the potential to affect us negatively”, exclaimed a livid Mr. Mkhathshwa.

MEC Mkhathshwa has also conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, and committed that those who were travelling with the deceased will receive victim aftercare support.

“We convey our heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased, and apologise for the barbaric act which has taken the precious life of their loved one. These animals – because this is how best they could be described – will surely be caught, as our police are right on their tracks. Our Province’s Tourism Safety team from the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) has already engaged the surviving members of the family and friends by providing the necessary counselling and aftercare support, and we have already reported the unfortunate incident to the German Embassy in Pretoria. May the soul of the departed rest in eternal peace”, concluded the MEC.



The Province is working together with the SAPS and the Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism (KLCBT) to come up with ways to ensure that tourists are safe when visiting the Province, as they get ready for the festive season. The KLCBT has already issued a R50 000.00 reward to anyone who may come up with information that will lead to the arrest of the perpetrators.

-ENDS-

Issued jointly by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism & Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency

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