



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

*Asiguqule ezolimo zibe isikompilo lethu*

02 February 2017

### **The Ministry Office will attend the Court Appearance of the 35 donkey killers in Twin Springs, KZN and Lesotho border**

The Department has been following the shocking cruel slaughtering and skinning of more than 35 donkeys whilst alive in the provincial border between KwaZulu-Natal and Lesotho at Twin Springs. It is alleged that more than 100 donkeys have disappeared in the nearest communities and are suspected to have been stolen for this slaughtering. There is a sudden rise of hunting and slaughtering of donkeys for purposes of its skin acquisitions. Skin is being used for medicinal markets in some parts of the world.

The Department congratulates our law enforcement agencies for the swift apprehension of the suspects and congratulate the Court for denying them bail.

The suspects are appearing once again in Court on the 06<sup>th</sup> of February 2017. KZN DARD Ministry will attend the Court side by side with the National Council of SPCA which has laid charges in terms of the provisions of the Animals Protection Act.

“I am extremely appalled by this gruesome cruelty to animals. As government we have an inescapable responsibility to protect our animals whether its rhinos against poaching and donkeys against their skin hunt by people who are so intent to enrich themselves through illegal and cruel means. I have directed my office to show keen interest in this case working with all the players interested in the welfare of our animals in the province” said MEC Themba Mthembu.

The Department, working with interested parties, is going to put measures in place to protect our animals from any form of poaching as in the case of the donkeys by forming partnerships with the communities that owned these animals.

Thank you.

Issued by KZN DARD Ministry:

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