



Cele applauds police for swift arrests

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National Police Commissioner Bheki Cele on Wednesday applauded the police for arresting several people for murder, attempted murder, kidnapping and armed robberies.

"It is through sheer dedication and willingness by our police officers to eradicate criminality in our country that these suspects were arrested in such quick succession in all of these cases. These officers must be applauded for this," he said in Durban.

A 21-year-old man had been arrested in connection with the murder of six friends in Ntuzuma outside Durban.

"We have arrested one person and we will soon arrest more. The man is co-operating with us."

Ntombikayise Ngwane, 24, Mtuseni Gumede-Mlanduli, 24, Njabulo Dlamini, 24, Mxolisi Sangweni, 25, S'mangaliso Nkosi, 24, and Neli Magwaza were killed and three others injured on Christmas night when three men armed with R-5 and AK-47 rifles entered a house and opened fire.

Cele said the arrested man had been linked to a murder in Kranskop and was wanted for a hijacking in Eshowe.

He would appear in the Verulam Magistrate's Court on Thursday.

In the North West, five people were arrested for killing businesswoman Miriam Khoza, her two teenage sons and another two relatives in Lethabong outside Rustenburg. Their bodies were found on Christmas Day.

All five appeared in the Rustenburg Magistrate's Court on Tuesday and would reappear in court on January 5.

Two people were arrested for the murder of three-year-old Nono Galada in the Free State. She was reported missing on Christmas Day. Her badly mutilated body was found the next day. The alleged killers appeared briefly in the Welkom Magistrate's Court and would appear again on January 19.

On Tuesday four men - three Mozambicans and one Angolan - were arrested for attempting to rob Magogo's Wholesalers in central Johannesburg. They allegedly shot and wounded a security guard who returned fire, killing one of them.

"It prides me to announce that our police officers are quick to respond when duty calls, and at times, putting their lives on the line, sacrificing quality time with their families to search for and bring thugs to book," Cele said. – Sapa