

# Another brutal farm murder

## Karkloof farmer stabbed multiple times during robbery

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The family of Karkloof farmer, Trevor Murphy, have been left devastated by his murder in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Sources told *Weekend Witness* that he died en route to the hospital after being stabbed multiple times.

**There is a total disregard for law and order, and more must be done by government, politicians and leaders to address the crime that is taking place in our rural areas. A collective effort is required to address the increasing crime levels in rural areas in the province.**

A spokesperson for the family said they were all devastated by Murphy's death, but did not want to make any further comments.

Captain Ngobile Gwala, spokesperson for the SAPS in KwaZulu-Natal, confirmed that three armed men broke into the 50-year-old's home at around 2 am.

A female employee, who lives on the property, was tied up by the robbers after she interrupted them. Gwala said the woman told officers she was woken by a noise and went to investigate.

Gwala said the employee saw a man stabbing Murphy while others were busy ransacking the house. Gwala said the men spotted her, covered her face, tied her arms and legs, and locked her in another room.

After some time, she managed to free herself and called for help.

### EIGHT ARRESTED FOR MOOI RIVER FARM ATTACK

Prompt action by Magma Security and Investigation and Pietermaritzburg's K9 Unit has led to the arrest of eight men in connection with a farm attack in Mooi River yesterday.

Five men held up two farmers and their labourers at gunpoint on Lammermoor Farm, which is on the Middelrus Road, near Mooi River, at 9.30 am.

No one was harmed, and the robbers, who fled with cash, weapons, electronic devices and jewellery, were later spotted on the N3 in a white Toyota Corolla with NJ plates.

Shaheen Suleiman, from Magma Security, said his staff spotted the vehicle, forcing it to stop

near Ashburton. Five men were arrested.

Based on information provided by them, Suleiman's team and the SAPS K9 officers went to a house in KwaMashu, near Durban, where another three people were arrested.

Seven firearms were also recovered. Chief executive officer of the KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Union (Kwanalu), Sandy La Marque, said the quick response was encouraging and would hopefully act as a deterrent to other criminals. "Appreciation must be extended to all stakeholders involved in the swift arrests."

— Weekend Witness Reporter.  
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Murphy's attackers made off with two cell-phones, a tablet, three laptops, a flat screen TV, a hi-fi, and the farmer's white Ford Ranger (NR32220).

It's believed the men cut through a fence on Wendover Farm, which is on the Karkloof Road, just past the Amber retirement villages and behind the Sappi plantations, to get into the house.

Knight Security Services was called to the 50 hectare timber farm by members of Murphy's family, who told them he needed urgent medical assistance. Sadly, he succumbed to his injuries.

Chief executive officer of the KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Union (Kwanalu), Sandy La Marque, said there had been nine attacks on farmers since the beginning of the year. Three were murdered.

La Marque said farmers needed "less politics and theatrics and more genuine action" to ensure that they, their families and staff could feel safe.

"There is a total disregard for law and order, and more must be done by government, politicians and leaders to address the crime that is taking place in our rural areas," she added. "A collective effort is required to address the increasing crime levels in rural areas in the province."

"Kwanalu, and its members, are doing everything possible to make a difference, namely being involved in all relevant structures and proactively addressing land and other issues which affect our members.

"Our members are spending millions on safety and security but they cannot do this alone, we need sufficient budget allocation, resources, commitment from all the relevant stakeholders, including government, the justice department, SAPS, etc. to see a difference.

"As in any case that takes place in our province we wish for swift, competent investigation, arrests and the matter being heard in court with a stiff sentence being handed down. Lawlessness cannot be tolerated and strong action must be taken against perpetrators," she added.

Murphy's murder was also condemned by Chris Pappas, head of the Democratic Alliance Mooi-uMgeni Constituency. "Mr Murphy was a well-known farmer in the Karkloof area of the KZN Midlands," he said. "The DA extends our sincere condolences to the Murphy family and the broader Karkloof/Hovick community."

Pappas said the Karkloof attack is the second incident in the area in the past few months.

"It is clear that SAPS must look into this area as a potential hot spot for farm-related crimes and deploy the necessary resources to protect our farmers and farm workers," he added.

"To date, the provincial government has paid lip service to the safety of rural and farming communities. Little to nothing has been done to actively fight against crime in rural areas."  
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