



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**KZN MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE CONDEMNS THE
“UNSPORTSMANSHIP BEHAVIOUR” AT HARRY GWALA**

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KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba has condemned the “unsportsmanship behaviour” by the supporters of Umsinga United FC at Harry Gwala Stadium, in Pietermaritzburg on Friday afternoon.

The heated ABC Motsepe play-offs match between Umsinga United, a home side and the visiting Orbit College from North West Province descended into chaos as it drew to an end resulting in gun shots ringing out across the stadium. This led to pandemonium with players, fans, officials and by-standers running for cover. The source of chaos is believed to be as a result of the home team losing a spot in the Motsepe Foundation Championship, a second upper tier league before the Premiership Division.

“From the video clips I have seen, what happened there has no place in our beautiful game of football. I strongly condemn this behaviour which is foreign and totally unacceptable. Our leagues run a professional football operation and it is an expectation that even those that follow the game do not behave in a manner that’s unbecoming,” said Mahlaba. Mahlaba said he would seek a briefing on the incident to determine the next course of action.



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“We are glad no one was injured, but this must be nipped in the bud. Stadiums and sports fields are places where all should feel safe and secured. No weapons, except those of the law enforcement authorities, should be at the stadium. We will not accept this behaviour which soil our good footballing name. Sport is about winning and losing, so we must learn to accept the results as painful as they may be,” he said.

Ends

ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE.

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