



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

DATE: 18 JUNE 2008

TO: ALL MEDIA

MEDIA STATEMENT : INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION AND CITIES SUMMIT

The International Youth Crime Prevention and Cities Summit has served as a platform for a global conversation for proactive strategic planning against criminal activities that are committed by the youth through out the world.

The overall objective of the Conference is to develop an international framework for involving youth across the world to be active partners in community safety and crime prevention within the context of sustainable development.

Transversal matters and some issues like the causes of crime and violence throughout the world were highlighted. Poverty, unemployment, the growing gap between the richest and the poorest members of society, the transition towards political democratization and the speed of urbanization have all contributed to the increase of crime rates across the world.

Sports and recreation has been highlighted as one of the ways of engaging the youth in non-criminal activities. This is one of the strategies that is currently being implemented in Mexico called "Rescue of public spaces". This program involves the appropriation of public spaces and developed into venues of recreation by and for the youth. The key element in the success of the program is youth and community active participation in the form of designing their own ideal and unique public spaces.

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Present at the Summit is the KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Sbu Ndebele. The Premier emphasized that “enough is enough and these are not empty words. Gathering here is sending out a message to criminals that you are ready to take them on”. The Premier also touched base on issues on having safer cities and communities as well as challenges faced by the youth. The Premier continued elaborated on that we as a country must find a place for the youth in our FIFA 2010 World Cup Programme and ensure that opportunities associated with such an event are real accessible.

Addressing the delegates Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC Bheki Cele said “My ideal world would be one that a young lady walks from a club at 2am in the morning to her residence with no fear of being raped or attacked.

The youth of today are not only perpetrators of crime however they are also victims of crime.

Ends

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