



Press Release

To: All Media
Attention: News editors, Reporters and PR wire
Date: 23 May 2008

Major International Youth Summit on Crime to be held in Durban-17-20 **June 2008**

“Youth and children championing community safety for a better world”

The KZN Department of Community Safety and Liaison under the leadership of MEC Bheki Cele and the UN-Habitat is pleased to announce a summit on **International Youth Crime Prevention & Cities** that will bring together young people from all over the world. At least 500 delegates will gather at the ICC Durban from the 17th to the 21st of June. The delegates include young people from all over the world, Heads of states, Politicians, NGO's, CBOs and various other stakeholders.

This conference is significant for a number of reasons:

Global dimensions

*The summit comes at a time when crime is stretching its tentacles globally and its networks are getting more sophisticated in crossing borders and escaping detection.

*Youth are increasingly drawn into criminal syndicates at younger ages while simultaneously becoming victims

*Creating awareness and sharing experiences will help to provide a platform for thinking and acting against crime while training a new generation of crime fighters for the battles ahead.

*An opportunity to draw on international experiences of rehabilitation of youth who were involved in crime

Local Dimensions

*The summit comes in the month that recognises June 16th-, the national Youth Day. This creates a platform to draw on the history of the 'liberation youth' and to encourage them to channel the same energy used to topple apartheid in the fight against crime.

*It allows the local Departments to learn from international best practices

*It is a platform to showcases locally designed innovative programmes like VSCPP

*It creates networks for youth provincial, nationally and internationally who are interested in joining the fight against crime

*It will consolidate working relationships with the United Nations Habitat so as to facilitate the sharing of information on the international trends in youth crime and strategies to challenge and defeat them

The Honourable KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr Bheki Cele said "the timing of the conference is extremely appropriate particularly in addressing challenges facing youth in the province and beyond in as far as crime is concerned but furthermore the conference will also be utilised to showcase governments goals an initiatives of best practices in collectively fighting crime."

This sentiment is echoed by Juma Assiango, Urban Safety & Youth Expert Safer Cities Programme from the UN Habitat who said “Youth and children championing community safety for a better world!” is a vision for us all and will do everything in our power to attain in as a collective. The Mexico resolutions will be used as a guide in charting a way forward in Durban – South Africa going forward.

Attendance is per invitation.

Ends

Media contact: Nonkululeko Mbatha 083 645 6252