

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

08 November, 2009

### **405 ROUNDS ON AMMUNITION - ENOUGH TO START A WAR - RECOVERED IN GREYTOWN**

"THE GREYTOWN Police Task Team has had a resounding success in cracking down on illegal firearms thereby reducing gun-related violence significantly. At least 170 illegal firearms have been recovered since the task team was deployed at the height of politically motivated violence," MEC Willies Mchunu has announced.

Mchunu was speaking at the Greytown Peace Process initiative – dubbed "Prayer for uMvoti" on Sunday (today). At the height of the killings, the KwaZulu-Natal Cabinet appointed a Peace Task Team headed by MEC Willies Mchunu. It included the IFP Member of the Provincial Legislature, Blessed Gwala.

uMvoti has been plagued by political intolerance that resulted in a number of deaths of councillors both from the IFP and ANC. Mchunu told hundreds of people that both the political leadership and Police Task Team have done, "a sterling job".

He revealed that police have recovered 170 illegal firearms, 405 rounds of ammunition, made 100 arrests and recovered 19 stolen vehicles. He said: "The dedication of these police officers is outstanding. Their actions in the defence of democracy and human rights must be emulated by all other officers."

"We are pleased to pronounce the Greytown area as a stable and vibrant community. You must be congratulated for having held two successive by-elections without any hiccups. There have been no reported deaths since the peace pact was signed. This is very good for our democracy," he said.

On nurturing the peace process and achieving political tolerance Mchunu said, "Don't hurl insults at one another. Respect each other even though you may hold different political views. In politics, you must play the ball, not the man. If you respect each other – you will not be diverted from the path of peace, cooperation and the spirit of co-existence."

The Police Task Team remains active in Greytown.

Ends,

MEC's spokesperson Bhekisisa Mncube  
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