



**DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON
KWAZULU-NATAL**

"Defending the weak"

**MEDIA STATEMENT BY MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT
A MEDIA BRIEFING HELD AT ELANGENI HOTEL IN
DURBAN ON WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2009 AT 8H00 AM
ADDRESSING A CHALLENGE FACING UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND.**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media, I address this meeting this morning with great shock and discontent on the state of affairs within which the University of Zululand operates. However we strongly believe that our intervention as government will yield good results in addressing solemn matters in this institution of higher learning which has turned into a war zone because of alleged political intolerance, which we believe it borders on pure criminality.

It is regrettable that while we are addressing these issues of student safety and security, nine students are lying on hospital beds with broken limbs and stabbed wounds. This

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follows acts of intimidation and violence which erupted from the University premises which have been ongoing for a period of time. It is on this score that the government's intervention was crucial in addressing this matter.

There are serious allegations levelled against some student leaders through commission, the management of the institution and the SAPS through omission. Our intervention is not aimed at attacking other structures of government nor to take a defensive approach on these matters however our approach is intended at finding a solution that will address student safety regardless of any political affiliation.

Yesterday I addressed the student leadership at the University of Zululand as the MEC responsible for community safety in the province. The level of intolerance within the institution is appalling and sordid; the members of SADESMO and the entire SRC could not avail themselves for this particular meeting although I have personally invited them and they confirmed their attendance.

We believe their attendance would have contributed positively towards solutions within this besieged institution of higher learning. At this juncture I would like to pause and make a profound plea to the leadership of the IFP,

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SADESMO and SRC to avail themselves to be part of the solution.

As government we believe that an institution of higher learning should be a terrain of ideals and ideology contentions without constraints, and this institution should never be converted into war zones as it is currently happening at Mangosuthu University of Technology and the University of Zululand. Decisive actions are paramount to government particularly if we strongly believe that the norms and principles are compromised and the safety of students is undermined.

It is on that score that we will be pursuing further steps to ensure that law and order and conducive conditions of learning are restored in this institution. These steps are:

- Request the University to devise and provide a strong security plan within the campus in a shortest possible time
- Deploy both the investigation and visible units of the SAPS
- Isolate and deal decisively with all criminal elements that are source of instability in this institution

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- Follow up on all cases reported at the SAPS and their current status
- Put on facilitation and mediation mechanism for all conflicting grouping within the institution

In conclusion members of the media our mandate as government is to promote safer communities and furthermore build effective and efficient partnerships aimed at promoting peace and stability in our communities hence we say working together we can do more to fight crime.

ENDS

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