

MEDIA STATEMENT

13 October 2009

“WE WILL NOT TAKE OUR EYES OFF-THE-BALL,” MEC MCHUNU SAYS AS THE KENNEDY ROAD INFORMAL SETTLEMENT GETS ITS OWN CPF SUB-FORUM

THE KENNEDY ROAD Informal Settlement has a new crime fighting structure, the CPF–Sub-Forum, MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison Willie Mchunu has announced.

The Kennedy Road Informal Settlement falls under the policing jurisdiction of the Sydenham Police Station. It emerged in the wake of the weekend criminal attacks, (26th & 27th September, 2009) that Sydenham Police Station’s Community Policing Forum (CPF) had four functioning Sub-Forums excluding the one for the Kennedy Road Informal Settlement, hence the formation of this new structure.

Mchunu said the interim Sub-Forum was formed on Sunday following a community meeting attended by well over 150 community members, under the auspices of the Department of Community Safety & Liaison: Directorate for Community Policing.

The launch comes in the wake of criminal attacks that left two people dead and scores of others injured. A Provincial Police Task Team was appointed immediately after the September weekend attacks. At least 11 suspects have been arrested so far.

The task of the eleven committee member Sub-Forum, according to the MEC, is to develop specific crime prevention strategies for Kennedy Road Informal Settlement, and, to partner with the police in dealing firmly with crime and criminality.

A workshop is also on cards for the interim Sub-Forum so as to apprise the new members of their responsibilities. It is at this workshop, to be held 24 October 2009, wherein the interim Sub-Forum will elect its office bearers including a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Assistant Secretary. It is expected that the interim Sub-Forum will together with the help of the Department of Community Safety & Liaison develop and table a map for making the interim Sub-Forum, “permanent” in terms of the applicable legal framework for the establishment of CPFs. The interim Sub-Forum will report directly to the Executive CPF for Sydenham SAPS.

“It is a sign of things to come that the community of Kennedy Road Informal Settlement are able to organise themselves and establish a formal and legal structure to deal firmly with crime and

criminality. This government will continue to help Kennedy Road Informal Settlement residents to reclaim their democratic space," Mchunu said.

He added: "We will not take our eyes off-the-ball. The Twenty-Four Hour policing remains in place. The hunt for more suspects is on. The Police Task Team is closing the net. Criminals will soon be cornered. We will not dither. We shall, together with the Kennedy Road Informal Settlement residents, defeat crime, and remove the fear that comes with it. It is our duty. We shall neither fail nor falter".

Issued on behalf of the MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, and the Hon. Willies Mchunu.

For further information, kindly contact the MEC's spokesperson, Bhekisisa Mncube on 079 699 5755