

MEDIA STATEMENT
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GLOVES ARE OFF – UNLEASH A PEOPLE’S WAR ON CRIMINALS – MEC

KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Willies Mchunu is a heart-broken man. Mchunu has decried the state of affairs in relation to crime and criminals in our province, calling it, “a hostage situation.”

“We are under siege. We are held hostage by criminals and the fear of crime,” Mchunu said.

He was speaking in Durban (uMkhumbane Community Hall) at the weekend during the Provincial Briefing on Community Safety Forums that are to be part of a new popular front against crime. Community Safety Forums (CSF) are a multi-agency structure that a local government ought to run to ensure the coordination of community safety efforts by government and civil society. The briefing comes barely days after the release of crime statistics that revealed “an unacceptably high level of contact crimes.”

The briefing was attended by SAPS, Correctional Services, Community Policing Forums, National Prosecutions Authority, Municipal Managers’, Ward Committees, Department of Home Affairs; and the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development among others.

Community Safety Forums, once in operation are meant to facilitate the development and implementation of local crime prevention initiatives.

And, to be a coordinating structure that incorporates all relevant stakeholders within a local municipal boundary.

The core function of Community Safety Forums is, to promote access to the criminal justice system, arrange regular feedback to communities by the criminal justice system, and to develop, coordinate, and implement a community safety plan. It is expected that Community Safety Forums at a district level will be launched later this year - by November.

A visibly distressed Mchunu called for a people’s war against criminals. “A people’s war must be unleashed against criminals.

Criminals live in communities with us. In all wards/communities - we must develop a database of all known criminals in our localities, and give it to the police. The Provincial Department of Community Safety & Liaison, including its political head (current MEC) are here to monitor closely if the police arrest these criminals. We are the primary champions of this new people’s war against criminals. ”

He added: “To win a war against crime, we must have a clear target – a list of known criminals in our communities, report all crimes to the police, and in turn, the police must investigate thoroughly and diligently. The police shall report progress to all people who report crime, and to the victims of crime – this we expect and deserve. We need to know the progress of police investigations or lack thereof. As part of our duty, we will ensure a greater monitoring of police work in the province. We urge communities to partner with us. Communities must isolate criminals. Communities must not buy stolen goods. A war against crime is winnable. Evil can never be allowed to triumph over good, we are in this together”.

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

For more information, call MEC’s spokesperson Bhekisisa Mncube, 079 6995755