

MEDIA STATEMENT

13 October 2009

EXTRA POLICE DEPLOYMENT FOR MBABAZANE BY-ELECTION

The South African Police Service has confirmed that, “a contingent of extra police have been deployed in Mbabazane ahead of the much anticipated by-election in eNtabamhlophe (Ward 03) in the Midlands”, MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison Willies Mchunu has said.

Mchunu has asked the police teams deployed in Mbabazane to be, “on high alert.”

He said: “Democracy requires to be nurtured and protected, and that is what we expect from every member of the SAPS deployed in Mbabazane. Police ought to be ruthless in dealing with those who may find joy in standing in the way of people who want to exercise their democratic right to vote.”

The first by-election was held on March 4 2009, wherein the ANC & IFP were the only parties contesting the ward. The IFP won the by-election. But, the ANC lodged a complaint with the Electoral Court alleging that its members were intimidated by the IFP supporters. As a result, the ANC argued before the Electoral Court that its members did not participate in their numbers. In the landmark judgment, the Electoral Court ruled in favour of the ANC, hence tomorrow's by-election.

“People's right to vote in a free and democratic election is a singular right that defines a working democracy. I urge all parties to respect this right, and if necessary, to defend it,” Mchunu said.

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

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