

## **MEDIA STATEMENT ON GREYTOWN PEACE PROCESS**

DATE: 21 AUGUST 2009

### **Background and summary**

In respect of the political violence in the area of Greytown, Honourable Premier on behalf of the Cabinet appointed a Cabinet Task Team on 17 June 2009 to meet with the Municipality in Umvoti in order to assist them in managing the situation. The Task team consisted of the then MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele and MEC for Local government and Traditional Affairs Mr. Willies Mchunu.

As a first step a meeting on 3 July 2009 was held with the SAPS management. Agreements were reached on the deployment of the police and the army to stabilise the area. On 3 August 2009 Peace meeting between the IFP and ANC members was convened. The purpose of the meeting was to achieve everlasting peace in eMvoti. Also to ensure that the bi-elections of 12 August 2009 are free and fair. MEC Mchunu outlined an approach to peace making as follows:

- All parties must agree that they want peace.
- All parties must agree to co- exist in a democracy.

### **Process**

The first meeting led by the Premiers' Task Team (2009/08/03) concluded as follows:

- Two co-chairpersons were elected, one from ANC- Rev James Mthethwa and one from IFP- Mr. Sbu Nkwanyana.
- It was agreed that all discussions will be housed in the guiding principles agreed upon at the meeting.
- Political representation to be informed by the guiding principles.

- The role of traditional leadership to be discussed and defined together with them.
- Policing to be informed by intelligence.
- Communities to come on board on these matters.
- Do away with no go areas.
- Defining the process of conflict resolution without disturbing the laws governing this country such as the criminal justice system.

## **GREYTOWN PEACE PROCESS REACHES A MILESTONE**

At a meeting held on (2009/08/20) facilitated by the Premiers' Task Team, between the local leadership of the Inkatha Freedom party (IFP) and, African National Congress (ANC) in the Greytown area (uMvoti) a solution has been found.

At a meeting held yesterday convened by the facilitation team, the parties agreed to smoke the peace pipe, and to work together to prevent any further loss of innocent lives.

The local political leaders, Philani Mavundla (ANC) and Petros Ngubane (IFP) agreed on behalf of their respective parties as follows:

1. To work together in promoting peace, and political co-existence of both the IFP and ANC in Greytown (uMvoti) area.
2. To make a public apology on behalf of their respective parties in the greater Greytown area, especially families who lost their loved ones and the people of South Africa for a legitimate municipal tension that spilled over into the community and led to the loss of lives.
3. To desist from making inflammatory political rhetoric that incites violence and promotes political intolerance, but, rather they will promote peace.
4. To begin a process of bilateral talks to identify matters that caused differences and to iron them out.

5. They will also lead a process in which their parties communicate with respective members to encourage them to do their best to avoid any resurgence of political violence.
6. To hold a workshop convened by the Department of Community Safety & Liaison to map out a framework for a positive working relationship of their parties within uMvoti Municipality. The programme will also encompass the two leaders seen together in strategic public platforms.

### **Remarks by the MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison (as a Chairperson of the Premier's Task Team on Greytown Political Peace Process)**

"Today is the beginning, not an end. We must accept that starting a war is but an easy part. However, bringing peace is an arduous task. We must be clear in our minds that we have no desire to return to the abyss of a political conflict. In a free and democratic South Africa, there is no just war. I want to caution the police officers deployed here not to lower their guards. Achieving long lasting peace is hard work. We are pleased to say – we are in this together. Never again shall it be that any member of the greater community of Greytown loses his/her life as a result of any lapses of our local leadership. We must be bold, and lead our people into achieving a better life for all – in peace, mutual respect and political co-existence. I particularly want to commend both Mr. Ngubane & Mr. Mavundla for having shown at this hour that they both value the sanctity of life, and are willing to work hard for it. I want to thank the South African Police Service for their diligence and professionalism within which they have handled this volatile political situation. Just don't lower your guards as the peace process requires to be nurtured.

Last, but not least, my heartfelt congratulation goes to the local facilitation team of the Reverend Mthethwa and Mr. Nkwanyana for having taken the plunge of bringing the two leaders and their parties to the negotiating table. It is only through negotiation that most solutions in the world are found. I know no other solution in my political life except through talks. I also want to commend the local church leadership for their practical support to this process”.

### **Remarks by the IFP leader and member of the Premier’s Task Team on Greytown Political Peace Process, Mr. Blessed Gwala**

“As leadership of the IFP, we are very pleased with the newly found spirit of cooperation between our respective parties. We commend the police for sterling performance in effecting necessary arrests, and effective policing. I particularly want to thank Mr. Mavundla, Mr. Ngubane, the Reverend James Mthethwa, and Mr. Sbu Nkwanyana for their dedication in bringing peace to uMvoti. As a matter of principle, war talk shall cease. **MEDIA STATEMENT: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICES,**

**KWAZULU-NATAL**

DATE: August 21, 2009

SUBJECT: **POLICE SUCCESSES IN THE GREYTOWN AREA**

The dedicated Provincial Task Team assigned with investigating incidents of violence in the Greytown area has made a significant number of breakthroughs in their investigations. During May and June 2009 there have been seven (07) attacks on prominent political figures and other persons in the Greytown area.

These attacks resulted in nine (09) murders and two (02) attempted murders. These cases were handed over to the Task Team for investigation. As a result of these investigations a number of suspects were arrested in five of these cases. Investigations in some of these cases are continuing and we are confident there will be further arrests.

We still have a deployment of Public Order Policing unit members as well as members of the National Intervention Unit in the area. Although the area is relatively calm, we are continuously assessing the situation and our intelligence on the ground will enable us to be proactive. We are confident that the area will return to normality due to our increased presence and on going talks by leadership in the area.

We wish to once again urge members of the community to come forward with any information they have that can assist in the investigation.

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