

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 19 JANUARY 2010
ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS/ REPORTERS

BUILD A UNITED FRONT AGAINST CRIME

Premier Zweli Mkhize to unveil 'Build a United Front Against Crime' as a Programme of the Provincial Government

'Build a United Front Against Crime', is the Programme that the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government will be driving intensively over the next five years, with annual reviews for impact. This Programme will be kicked off on **21 January 2010** with a provincial symposium themed "Build a United Front Against Crime".

Venue: Elangeni Hotel, Durban
Time : 09h00

The time for lamenting is over. Taking responsibility and making a conscious decision to be part of the war against crime is exactly what is needed to make inroads in the fight against crime. The burning question for all that is being put forward by the Provincial Government is 'what role can each individual, organization or structure play in 'Build a United Front Against Crime'.

It is a well known fact that criminals live in homes within communities. They either work or go to school in those very same communities. They go to church or have families that go to church. They do crime within or outside their communities violating businesses, and spreading fear around until all of us are impacted in one way or the other. So why not be part of 'Build a United Front Against Crime' and capitalize on the opportunity to be part of a constructive solution to deal with the crime challenge in our communities within the confines of the law.

The underlying idea for Build A United front Against Crime is to encourage all to take responsibility and not pass the buck when it comes to crime prevention. If you are involved in community development of any sorts, it is also your responsibility to plan around crime challenges that may arise. The call is for those kinds of structures not to end by providing facilities, but also to integrate safety plans that might prevent criminal incidents around those developments.

The call is for ordinary people like you and me not to keep quiet when crime occurs. The call is for the media and any other community engagement structure to report on crime like they have been doing, but also put forward some building views that can be considered when strategies are being developed.

Issued the Directorate for media liaison and public relations on behalf of KwaZulu Natal MEC for Transport , Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Willies Mchunu
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The view that crime is a law enforcement issue is the exact notion the 'Build a United Front Against crime' is trying to dissolve once and for all. There is a lot that business, faith based organizations, organized labour, local government, government departments, other existing community structures, the media and academics can do to promote a culture of zero tolerance against crime.

'Build a United front Against Crime' is a call for the mobilization and involvement of all sectors of society in a concerted and sustained Programme to significantly reduce crime levels in the Province, and government is opening the platform for all sectors through this Programme to take part.

This is a call for a deliberate move away from lamenting but rather helping to come up with workable solutions that can help individual communities, and subsequently the province to live a crime-free life. It is rather, a call to considered, unified and unswerving action, hence the theme "Build a United front Against Crime".

Following the Provincial symposium, similar consultative events will be held in districts across the province. These are the ones that will be taking the process closer to the ordinary people of the province.

Members of the Media are invited to attend and make contributions to the programme

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