



community safety &
liaison

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Community Safety and Liaison
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UMBILO COMMUNITY INTENSIFIES THE BATTLE AGAINST CRIME

Blowing a Whistle Against Crime

The community of Greater Umbilo, which has recently seen an upsurge of criminal incidents, including murder and muggings, will this weekend host a one day Crime Summit to mobilise of all key stakeholders to join the battle against crime.

Hosted by jointly by Umbilo Community Police Forum and KwaZulu-Natal Community Safety and Liaison Department, this one day indaba seeks to mobilise the community, local business, religious organisations and other key stakeholders to be active participants in defending the community from criminals.

The Summit will be officially opened by the Head of Community Safety and Liaison Department, Mr Ronnie Bhengu, who will deliver a keynote address.

Held under the theme “Mpimpa Izigebengu/Blow the Whistle Against Crime Campaign” the Summit will see locals, including senior management of KwaZulu-Natal Community Safety and Liaison, private security companies and ward

committees working together to produce plans to safeguard their areas against criminals and crime.

Chiefly, the Summit seeks to:

- * Encourage our communities not to allow themselves to be victims of criminals, meaning they need to isolate criminals in their areas.

- *Blow the whistle “mpimpa izigebegu”, report criminals and not allow them to operate freely in their areas

- *Start participating in neighbourhood initiatives to safeguard the areas in which they live, work and play.

- *Attend Police community briefings to start understanding which crimes are the most common their own area.

- *Get all community members registered on our CPF database so that they can be part of SmsNaybers programme which alerts residents of crime happening in the area.

This, an initiative of Umbilo Community Policing Forum Interim Committee, comes at the times when the people of Greater Umbilo have organized themselves against criminals who have been active in the area for sometimes now.

This Umbilo initiative speaks and responds directly to the call made by KwaZulu-Natal Transport, Community Safety and Liaison MEC, Willies Mchunu, in urging communities to form a United Front Against Crime.

MEC Mchunu has recently warned that crime had a potential to divide the communities along racial, gender and demographic lines.

“The biggest danger, for our fledgling democracy, in the current wave of crime is that it has a potential of dividing our society, bringing with it a temptation for racial profiling and to undermine our efforts to build social cohesion.

“My call to all communities is that we should not allow crime to divide us.

“Instead it should mobilise us towards forming a united front against crime,”
said Mchunu.

Interim Chairperson of Umbilo Community Policing Forum, Ben Madokwe, says the aim of this historic Community Crime Summit is to turn it into a pilot project that could be replicated throughout the province as a vehicle to fight crime.

“We believe in community’s own initiative to fight crime. These home -grown crime fighting strategies, that we expect to emerge from the Summit, are likely to be more sustainable and lasting in isolating wrong-doers and claiming back our areas from rampaging and heartless criminals,” said Madokwe.

After the Summit, stakeholders in the battle against crime will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing themselves to working together to fight crime in their communities.

The full details of the summit are as following:

Date: Saturday, 29 June 2013

Venue: Nelson Mandela Medical School (Next to King Edward VIII Hospital: Umbilo

Time: 9am to 2.30pm

For more information, please contact **Mr Ben Madokwe**: Chairperson: Umbilo Community Policing Forum @**073 395 3257**

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