



community safety & liaison

Department :
Community Safety and Liaison
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Private Bag X9143, Pietermaritzburg, 3200
179 Jabu Ndlovu, Pietermaritzburg, 3201
Tel: (033) 341 9300 (Switchboard) Fax: (033) 342 6345

MEDIA ALERT

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ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

MEC MCHUNU CALLS ON COMMUNITIES TO FIGHT CRIME, REJECT AND STOP ATTACKS ON FOREIGN NATIONALS

THE KWAZULU-NATAL MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Willies Mchunu, has urged communities to be more active in the fight against crime and reject and cease all attacks on foreign nationals in the country, saying the attacks and crime could be defeated through peace and community participation.

Mchunu was speaking during a crime summit, today, in kwaDambuza, near Pietermaritzburg, to horn out measures to fight and work towards eradicating crime in the area. The summit was the first of its kind for the community and would be rolled out to other districts across the province soon.

Mchunu spoke about a variety issues, including the recent attacks on foreign nationals around the province. He commended the kwaDambuza community for not attacking foreign nationals in the area during a time when nationals were recently attacked and their shops looted in eThekweni.

He strongly denounced the attacks on foreign nationals and looting of their business premises, describing these acts as pure criminality and warned that perpetrators would be arrested and prosecuted.

“Attacking and assaulting foreign nationals and looting their shops will not be condoned,” said Mchunu, reminding delegates that South Africans had sought solace in other African countries during apartheid.

“The attacks on foreign nationals and looting of their shops are a pure disgrace. The name of the province and country is being dealt a severe blow with these attacks on foreign nationals. As Government, we once again call for an immediate end to these attacks.”

He urged the community not to participate in the attacks of foreign owned shops or looting of their shops, instead, report the perpetrators to the police immediately.

Mchunu said if there were differences between foreigners and locals, talks aimed at finding peaceful solutions to the concerns is the route.

“If there are any differences, I urge you to approach Government and we can initiate talks. We will also deal legally with those that conduct illegal activities. We also call on you, as the community, to report companies that are hiring foreign nationals and pay cheap labour.”

He once again, urged community leaders to assist reintegrate the displaced foreign nationals back to their communities and live in peace together.

The summit provided a platform for dialogue on how to develop and sustain a community and Province that is resilient to crime.

“We need these summits in order to fight and eradicate crime. We must not wait for government and the police because they cannot do it alone. Crime can only be defeated if the police and the community work together but this statement is always said,” Mchunu told the delegates.

“Until you, as the community define your role in fighting crime, until the community take steps to fight crime then this (crime can only be defeated if the police and the community work together) will just be a statement.”

However, Mchunu said a majority had responded to government’s call to fighting crime by working with the police, forming their own safety structures, reporting crime to the police but other communities had not responded to the call.

“Communities know who the criminals are in their communities. Let us put an end to protecting these criminals. Government has created a framework and platforms such as this summit to work with you.”

Mayors, the SAPS, Traditional Leaders, KZN Community Police Forum, KZN Community Crime Prevention Association, legal minds, The KZN Liquor Authority, The National Prosecuting Authority, Youth Sector ,Non-Governmental Organizations and Government Departments such as Home Affairs, Health, Justice, Social Development, Economic Development and Tourism and Correctional Services formed part of the delegates.

The summit continues tomorrow (Tuesday 22 April 2015).

Enquiries:

Sipho Khumalo 082-682-6437 Sipho.Khumalo@comsafety.gov.za

Kwanele Ncalane 072 803 1462/079 699 5755 Kwanele.Ncalane@kzntransport.gov.za