

Joint media statement by MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu and the Provincial House of Traditional leaders:

MEC MCHUNU HOLDS GROUND-BREAKING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE KZN HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

THE KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu met with the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial House of Traditional Leaders in Margate, South Coast.

The meeting was held to discuss issues of common interest given that Amakhosi are charged with taking care of traditional communities in the province while the MEC, and his two Departments, were tasked to work with them to develop and ensure that communities were protected and lived in an environment that is free of crime.

Both MEC Mchunu, on behalf of Government and Department of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison and Inkosi Phathisizwe Chiliza, Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, welcomed the opportunity for the meeting, underlining its importance in the delivery of seamless services to all communities.

MEC Mchunu was given an opportunity to do a comprehensive presentations on his portfolio- firstly Transport and, secondly, Community Safety and Liaison.

Briefly, MEC Mchunu touched on issues of road infrastructure development, stability in the Taxi industry, role of communities and the broader transportation sector and matters of safety and security on the Province.

After a solid presentation presented by MEC Mchunu on the work of his two departments, the meeting agreed in forming partnership to advance development and security in the Province.

Among issues that dominated the discussions was the utilization of quarry in traditional communities in the process of construction and maintenance of road infrastructure. It emerged during the engagements that there was a need for more clarity on the use of quarry and on whether the traditional communities should be paid for the use of this mineral resources during the construction and maintenance of roads in traditional areas.

On this issue, it was resolved that a special committee should be formed- make out of the representatives from the House and relevant officials from the department- to work out possible solutions.

Addressing the meeting MEC Mchunu emphasized a need for the partnership between the traditional leaders and government departments in championing service delivery.

"This meeting will give us a fresh start on how we should work together towards improving the lives of our people. We view the role of Amakhosi as very central in our interaction with communities. We are of the view that a uniform approach in addressing the quarry issue needs to be formulated. We also appreciate the commitment by Amakhosi to work with the government in achieving stability in the taxi industry. The unambiguous support by Amakhosi of our holistic community crime fighting framework bears testimony that achieving a crime free province is possible", said Mchunu.

Speaking after MEC Mchunu, the Chairperson of the Provincial House, Inkosi Chiliza, hugely welcomed the opportunity for this interaction.

"As Amakhosi we view it important that we interact with MEC Mchunu on issues of community development and safety of our communities. The House has a committee on safety and security. We would like that the Portfolio Committees on Transport and Community Safety and Liaison should hold joint meetings with our relevant structures to enhance working relations," urged Inkosi Chiliza.

After this productive engagement, both parties underlined the need for further engagements on specific issues such as the use of quarry and other related matters.

The MEC made an extensive presentation on the holistic safety plan and the structures that have been established to drive all the efforts against crime.

This structures include ward safety committee, voting districts structures and the voluntary community crime prevention associations, such as the KwaZulu-Natal Community Crime Prevention Association.

Amakhosi were also briefed on the revival and transformation of the CPF, furthermore they were urged to participate in the crime fighting structures at all levels.

The meeting ended on a positive note with both parties agreeing to meet on a more regular basis.
Ends.

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