



**transport**

Department:  
Transport  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



**community safety & liaison**

Department:  
Community Safety and Liaison  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



**Mr. T.W. Mchunu**

## 2011/12 BUDGET SPEECH SUPPLEMENT

### ‘This is the year of Activism against Road Carnages and Transgressions’ – MEC Mchunu



*MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu having a light moment with his female law enforcement officers during a road block as the Head of the KZN Transport Department Chris Hlabisa looks on. Mchunu has told the legislature that engaging the provincial leadership of the taxi industry has helped to heal the rift caused by greedy taxi operators.*

**T**HE MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu, has presented the KwaZulu-Natal Transport Department budget speech for the 2011/2012 financial year, under the theme “Activism against Road Carnage and Transgression”.

In line with the world-wide endeavor to curb road deaths drastically between 2011 and 2020, MEC Mchunu’s budget speech prioritized and highlighted the challenge of fighting against road carnage on our roads.

Tabling his Department’s over R6 billion budget for the current financial year at the KZN legislature recently, Mchunu outlined challenges and opportunities that government, the private sector and society are exploring to fight against lawlessness and unnecessary deaths on the road.



Infrastructure job creation projects improving lives of rural communities  
**See Page 3**



Tribute to women and men in blue  
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Local election peace pledge  
**See Page 8**

**Don’t drink then drive**

**Speed kills**

**Ungashayeli uphuzile**



# Mchunu leads fight against crime in KZN



Pinetown residents in an anti-crime march which marked the official launch of the provincial roll-out of Operation Hlasela recently.



Operation Hlasela is one of the programmes that the KZN Department of Community Safety & Liaison uses to strengthen provincial government's fight against crime in KwaZulu-Natal, MEC for Community Safety & Liaison Mr Willies Mchunu told the legislature yesterday.

Mchunu thanked the honourable Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize who graced the launch of Operation Hlasela. He also declared 2011 a "Year of people's action against crime".

He said, "Operation Hlasela seeks to rally communities behind the broader provincial anti-crime strategy dubbed, "Building a

United Front Against Crime".

"It is through this strategy that the Department is engaging in a holistic and integrated approach in the fight against crime. Through Operation Hlasela, the strategy has been to create 'pockets of excellence' where communities, civil society formations and government can work closely together to speed up the improvements of their areas in respect of crime, safety and the general well-being of the community," said Mchunu.

Mchunu said, "We are already seeing the results of the "Building a United Front Against Crime" programme. Operation Hlasela is impacting positively

on the Criminal Justice System in that through mass community mobilisation, greater confidence is being built between the police and community resulting in communities being more willing to give critical crime-related information to the police, much of which has led to the swift arrest of criminals. Furthermore, we are committed to hosting District Symposia on the "Building a United Front Against Crime" programme so that all District role-players can

*Above: Members of uMlazi community during an Operation Hlasela event at the King Goodwill Zwelithini Stadium in uMlazi recently.*

*Left: KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willes Mchunu inspects a guard of honour of the eThekweni Metro police who are part of the government's broader initiative to rid the city and community streets of crime.*

participate in designing their own crime prevention model relevant to their immediate challenges," said Mchunu.

To date the department has held the District symposia

for Operation Hlasela in the following areas: Uthukela (Estcourt), Umgungundlovu (Mooi River), eThekweni (Kwa Mashu, Pinetown and Umlazi) and Umkhanyakude (Esiyembeni).



## Infrastructure job-creation projects improving lives of rural

**J**OB-CREATION through road infrastructure development and maintenance work which improves the quality of life of rural communities is the key aspect of the KZN Department of Transport's budget speech this current financial year.

KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu presented his pro-human development budget speech at the provincial legislature recently.

A major chunk of the Department's budget is going towards road infrastructure as it remains top priority for provincial government to improve infrastructure development and maintenance in rural communities.

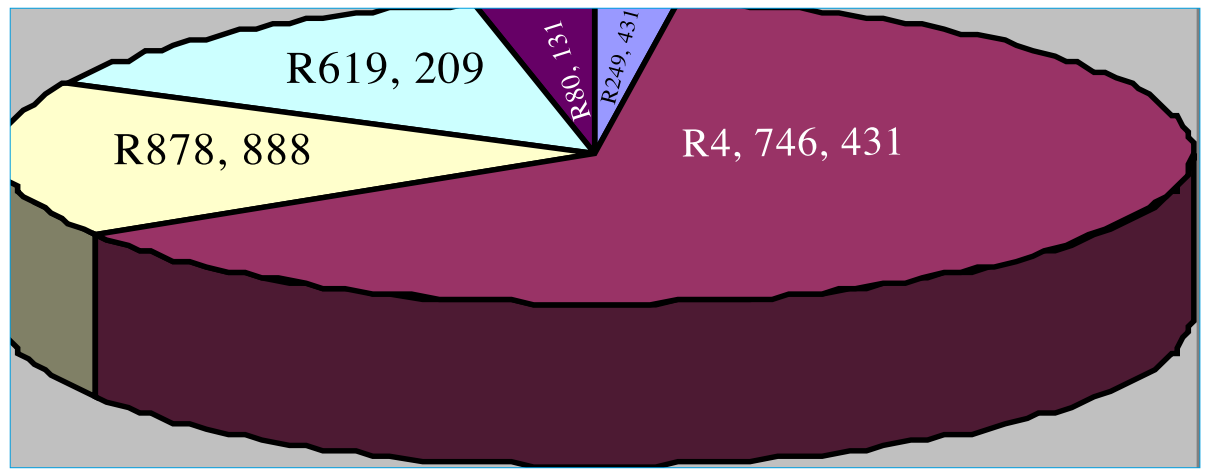
MEC Mchunu told the legislature that of the total budget of R6.5 billion for the KZN Department

of Transport the MEC tabled at the provincial legislature for the current financial year, some R4.2 billion has been awarded for road infrastructure development.

He said that from this infrastructure budget, R1.98 billion is allocated to construction projects and R2.2 billion to maintenance.

"The construction investment is made of new gravel and blacktop roads and upgrading of gravel roads to blacktop. Maintenance consists of routine maintenance, re-gravelling, blacktop patching, rehabilitation, reseals, blading, safety and special maintenance.

"In order to prioritize access to public transport facilities such as schools, clinics and other social amenities, the department seeks to strike a balance in the construction of new roads and maintenance of existing roads," Mchunu said.



Administration

: R249, 070



Transport Infrastructure

: R4, 746, 431



Transport Operations

: R878, 888



Transport Regulation

: R619, 209



Community Base Programme

: R80, 131



**MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu, with Caro Smit who is the founder of a non-governmental organisation known as South Africans Against Drink Driving (SADD) during a media briefing to launch the Name and Shame campaign.**



**A road traffic officer arresting a woman who was caught driving under the influence of alcohol above the legal limit.**

**T**HE MEC has committed his Department to "galvanize communities to actively participate in curbing carnage on the road because the responsibility for road safety rests with each and every individual".

Mchunu has always registered his disappointment with motorists

whom he believes care more about not being arrested or fined for committing road offenses than the innocent road users they maim and kill on the roads daily.

He said, "In an effort to maintain safety on the roads, law enforcement is vital in achieving safety on all South African roads.

"Having forged public-private

## Mchunu rallies media, courts, private sector and NGOs behind DOT road safety drive

partnerships with South African Breweries (SAB), the Department has successfully opened three Alcohol Evidence Centers at Braid Street RTI in Pietermaritzburg, Umdloti RTI and Port Shepstone RTI. Over the next financial year, two more centers will be opened in Durban Metro Pinetown and Empangeni," he said.

"The Department has also forged a new partnership with a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) known as South Africans against Drunk Driving (SADD) as well as Independent Newspapers in order to launch the Name and Shame campaign, which seeks to expose and humiliate drivers who drive under the influence, drunk or drinking and their names are being published in newspapers like Isolezwe and The Daily News.

The campaign enjoys the support of the independent media. Government emphasizes the fact that the fight against drinking and driving is a collective responsibility and not the role of government alone.

It is of major concern to the Department of Transport in the province that drunken drivers seem to be more worried about getting caught speeding or driving under the influence of alcohol than the harsh consequences they could face for committing these crimes. The Department has made it a priority to continue forcing road users to worry about breaking traffic laws and facing its consequences.

Mchunu said, "It is also a call on Magistrates to issue harsh sentences on those who drink

### "Name & Shame"

NAME	AGE	PLACE:	BLOOD		FINE:	LICENCE	COMMUNITY
			(g)	(mg)	Rands	SUSPENSION	SERVICE
Neel Rajaram		Howick	OLL		R 6000.00		
Khelha Hlongwane		Howick	OLL		R 6000.00		
Nkosinathi Ndlela		Howick	OLL		R 6000.00		
Viren Sankar		Howick	OLL		R 6000.00		
Aman Adam		Howick	OLL		R 4000.00		
Jonathan Simons		Howick	OLL		R 4000.00		
Rodney S Ngu-bane		Howick	OLL		R 4000.00		
Clinton E Murgan	21	Nottingham Road		0.49 mg	R 4000.00		
Duncan M Fletcher	29	Nottingham Road		0.99 mg	R 16000.00	Yes - 6 months	
Rumanganathan Govender	46	Pietermaritzburg	0.26 g		R 12000.00		
Thishen Govender	24	Richmond	0.25 g		R 9000.00		
Michael S Zulu	39	Pietermaritzburg	0.20 g		R 6000.00		
Vijen Maharaj	37	Durban	0.20 g		R 3000.00		
Mdumiseni I Hadebe	29	Pietermaritzburg	0.07 g		R 500.00		
Nkululeka P Zuma	22	Pietermaritzburg		0.47 mg	R 14 000.00		
Nkosilathi Moyo	22	Pietermaritzburg		0.51 mg	R 9000.00		
		OLL = Over the legal limit					
		DUI = Driving under the influence of alcohol					

Understanding Drink Driving Charges			1 Unit comes to 0.02g in your Blood or 0.10mg in your Breath	
No. of Units	Blood Alcohol Content	Breath Alcohol Content	Legal Limit = < 0.05g Blood / < 0.24mg Breath	
3	0.06g	0.3mg	Professional Drivers Limit = < 0.02g Blood/ < 0.10mg Breath	
4	0.08g	0.4mg	IT TAKES 1 HOUR OR MORE TO GET RID OF 1 UNIT (Only time eliminates alcohol)	
5	0.10g	0.5mg	SOUTH AFRICANS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING SADD www.sadd.org.za	
6	0.12g	0.6mg		
7	0.14g	0.7mg		
8	0.16g	0.8mg		
9	0.18g	0.9mg		
10	0.20g	1.0mg		
11	0.22g	1.1mg		
12	0.24g	1.2mg		

and drive because they cost the economy about R56 billion every year".

The Department has welcomed the support from some of the courts within the Justice Department in imposing huge fines against traffic offenders, coupled with the suspension or cancellation of driving licences for a period of time.

"We appeal to the Department of Justice to encourage this type of sentencing in court rooms within the province. During the last financial year, the Department has administratively suspended 116 and cancelled some driving licences after receiving recommendations from the courts upon conviction," said Mchunu.



# Road Safety Summit marks year of 'Activism against Road accidents and transgressions'



*The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr TW Mchunu, Road Accident Fund's Executive :Marketing & Communications, Mr Mandla Mvelase, Councillor Nomvuzo Shabalala and Dr Piet Venter from Global Road Safety Partnership Co-ordinator for Africa during the Road Safety Summit held recently at the ICC, Durban*

THE KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu, led a two-day Road Safety Summit in the province under the theme, "Activism against Road accidents and transgressions."

The aim of the summit was to engage all Departmental stakeholders in chalking-out a broad strategy to curb road crashes in the form of a working document that has been crafted as a standard frame of reference to be used in tackling deaths and injuries on the road.

Addressing the summit, MEC Mchunu said, "I am pleased with the turn out of the summit. It is evident that the summit was long over-due and this is an indication that everyone is very concerned about safety on the roads."

He said, "This summit should start invoking dialogue into how best we can all combat this monster. After this summit, we expect all attending to be better road users and practice caution when driving."

The Summit saw four commissions discussing the various

factors around the issue of safety on the road, including road user behavior, road engineering and infrastructure, public participation in road safety and transport compliance.

Some of the resolutions that emerged from the summit were as follows:

- The need to maintain partnerships in fighting road carnage;
- This summit should anchor interventions against accidents because accidents do not just

happen they are caused;

- The youth must become champions of driver-behavior;
- Laws and enforcement strategies need to be harsh because perpetrators get light penalties;
- Government needs to lobby for the creation of traffic courts so that road offenders are dealt with amicably;
- The Department to design roads and bridges with safety in mind. For example, necessary signage, markings, speed humps, fence etc.;
- Intensify road safety education and campaigns around road safety within communities;
- There has to be synergy in the implementation of programs within all tiers of

government;

- Monitor implementation of traffic laws;
- Recognition and training of traffic personnel;
- Develop anti-corruption strategy within the transport industry;
- Regulate and standardize driving and learning centers;
- Come up with vigorous pedestrian safety strategy.

MEC Mchunu said, "The people have spoken. It is up to us as a Department to ensure that these resolutions are turned into a provincial Road Safety strategy. These resolutions are a starting point where the Department needs to expand more and find ways to use them effectively."



*The Road Summit Delegates took part in a soccer tournament with PSL Soccer Legends and the winner was awarded with a trophy by the MEC for Transport, Mr TW Mchunu*



*Above: Members of the EPWP's Zibambele road maintenance poverty alleviation programme during the launch of the programme in Ladysmith recently.*

THE KZN Department of Transport's flagship programme that feeds the poor as they maintain the roads, known as the

Zibambele poverty alleviation road maintenance programme, is poised for a significant boost.

As provincial government addresses backlogs that were

created during the previous year's budget cuts, Zibambele, together with the Department's Vukuzakhe Emerging Contractor Programme which has seen people from previously disadvantaged backgrounds spearheading big and small road construction and maintenance projects, are expected to benefit significantly from this year's budget allocation.

Speaking during the launch of the EPWP's Zibambele outlet in Ladysmith which was facilitated by a local municipality recently, MEC Mchunu said, "It was only a month ago when the State President Jacob Zuma told South Africans on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February in his State of the Nation address that his pro-poor government is rolling out the

Zibambele programme throughout the country this year."

Mchunu said, "As the province of KwaZulu-Natal, we are proud of being an example to the nation when it comes to EPWP work since the Department of Public Works has repeatedly awarded KwaZulu-Natal in its national Kamoso Awards because of the Zibambele programme."

He said the key focus areas for the 2011/2012 financial year will be to address the challenges of the backlog and the budget cuts from the 2009/2010 financial year.

Also, the Department will continue with its corridor projects such as the African Renaissance Road Upgrading Programme (ARRUP) which seeks to improve

access to the rural areas and support tourism by creating jobs and decent work opportunities through the utilisation of Vukuzakhe contractors also supports the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), including the exemplary Zibambele road maintenance poverty alleviation programme.

MEC Mchunu said, "Infrastructure development has been identified as the core piece in the creation of jobs across South Africa. For instance, the new economic growth programme in South Africa highly regards investments in five key physical and social infrastructure areas, namely energy, transport, communication, water and housing, as being a critical factor in growing the economy of the country."





*Social Crime Prevention Volunteers are prepared to go all out in the spirit of Batho Pele, as demonstrated by their willingness to avail and explain their services to members of the community.*

## Social crime volunteers ready to support SAPS in local elections

The Volunteers of the Social Crime Prevention Programme (VSCPP) have been deployed in all Districts in the Province mainly in and around schools and hot-spot areas in cities and towns. They have become a common sight across the Province.

This project is now giving us unexpected returns in terms of crime prevention and access to employment. Managers of many shopping malls in the Province, as well as businesses in hotspot areas, have commended the volunteers on their visibility, effort and cooperation towards crime prevention.

Addressing the provincial legislature, MEC for Community

Safety & Liaison Mr Willies Mchunu said, "Our volunteers played an integral part during the successful hosting of the 2010 Soccer World Cup; they have assisted in the Honourable Premier's *War on Poverty Programme* forming part of teams conducting Household Profiling and they have been an integral part of the Women's Safety Audit teams."

He said, "The Volunteers will play a major role in the monitoring of the upcoming Local Government Elections. They will work closely with the SAPS and other relevant crime prevention role-players prior, during and after the Elections in monitoring hot spot areas and ensuring peaceful elections."

As the KZN Department of Community Safety & Liaison implements its peace-building missions, it is having to contend with Community Policing Forums which are not functioning effectively.

Addressing the KZN legislature during his budget speech, KZN MEC for Community Safety & Liaison, Mr Willies Mchunu said, "Although over the years, these structures have been the beneficiaries of much training and support from our Department, they continue to have a high turnover in membership, to be manipulated by interest groups with no strong motivation for community safety and to be very disorganised in their methods of operation and administration.

"We are embarking on a drive to reconstitute CPFs and training them to perform their functions optimally through our Thathulwazi programme."

## Thathulwazi programme empowering Community Policing Forums (CPF) with crime-fighting skills



*ABOVE: KZN MEC for Community Safety & Liaison Willies Mchunu with graduates from his Department's Thathulwazi programme which seeks to empower Community Policing Forums (CPF) with skills to perform their functions within their communities.*



# Tribute to women and men in blue



*The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr TW Mchunu and the HOD for the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, Ms Yasmin Bacus congratulates Lt. Colonel T.P. Mbhele from Ntuzuma Police Station as the Best Police Women of the Year.*



*The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr TW Mchunu and the HOD for the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, Ms Yasmin Bacus congratulates Warrant Officer F.T. Mabuyakhulu from Newcastle Public Order Police, as the Best Policeman of the Year.*



*Constable Thokozani Sokhulu (co-founder of the youth rehabilitation structure known as Whoonga Free) is ready to take on some drug addicts.*



## ‘Going beyond the call of duty’

CONSTABLE Thokozani Sokhulu (27) from a community police station in KwaDabeka is an ordinary law enforcement officer with extraordinary talents.

Over and above his normal everyday duties as a police officer, he still has time to lend a hand in the fight against idleness, drug addiction, poverty and unemployment.

In an exclusive interview, the SAPF member who is the co-founder of a youth rehabilitation structure known as Whoonga Free, Sokhulu (pictured) spoke freely about the challenges and mission of this social agency that seeks to touch the lives of drug addicts in a positive way.

Sokhulu said, “Our organization has been in existence for just over a year now and it has over eighty members comprising mainly young and old men and women that have been victims of drug addiction.

He added, “We have little or no

resources to carry out our mission of doing anti-drug addiction awareness work in society. We are also trying to rehabilitate those who are hooked on whoonga, through skills development training and job-creation initiatives.”

Sokhulu asserted, “If you consider the magnitude of the problem of unemployment, youth idleness which encourages drug addiction and criminality, the work that we are trying to do cannot be enough to respond to the enormous challenge facing society today. But we cannot afford to fold our hands and say the problem is too big for us to attempt to tackle.”

He explained, “Hence, through educational and job-creation initiatives our organization is trying to break the cycle of people being arrested and then they are released later to continue with their old crimes.”

“Experience has taught us that law enforcement work alone against social crimes like drug

addiction is not enough - there has to be engineered interventions to empower the victims with the right knowledge and skill so that they can be free from drug addiction,” the Whoonga Free co-founder said.

Sokhulu pointed out that even though his organization had little or no resources to do its work effectively, Whoonga Free as a community youth rehabilitation and job-creation initiative has so far succeeded to facilitate and sustain at least seven employment projects as well as awareness programmes in society.

These projects and programmes include placing its members in schools as security guards. Whoonga Free has placed some of its members in a government Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) agricultural project where they plant vegetables and generate money for Whoonga Free and get monthly stipends.

The organization has a car wash, which employs some its members.

Some run a project of fixing sofas. Whoonga Free also has a community kitchen, which works as a once-a-week feeding scheme for the poor in KwaDabeka.

And there are some who take part in the organization’s filmmaking unit that is run under the supervision of Whoonga Free co-founder, Vumani Gwala. Gwala’s film unit is preparing members to become professional actors and camera operators.

The unit has produced long and short films on anti-drug addiction work in the community. The films are intended to be used as an educational tool during community events and national television.

Sokhulu and Gwala claim that Whoonga Free is succeeding in its mission irrespective of the unavailability of major funding and sponsorships from government and the private sector. The Whoonga Free representatives can be contacted at 0731917056 or 0789003386.

*This 2011/12 Budget Speech Supplement was compiled and designed by the Communications Chief Directorate in the Office of the KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison.*

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## Mafakathini residents calm down after MEC's intervention



*MEC Mchunu has set up a task team comprising senior staff members of the KZN Department of Community Safety & Liaison to facilitate the revival of the area's Community Policing Forum in order to monitor the situation and help bring criminals to book.*

MEC Mchunu visited Mafakathini (near Pietermaritzburg) to hear the grievances of community members who took the law into

their own hands following the discovery of a human head in a refrigerator of someone who is allegedly linked to a traditional

healer who is appearing in court these days, known as Mduduzi Manqela.

Manqela was released on bail

recently and his court appearances continue. Mchunu pleaded with Mafakathini residents to allow the justice process to take

its course. Manqela's properties were burnt by a mob who alleged that he was responsible for muti murders.

## KZN in dialogue to bring peace in communities

**T**he MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willie Mchunu is passionate about peace. Recently

he embarked on a venture to bring peace where there was tension within various communities. Through our commitment to bring about lasting

peace in strife-torn communities and the close partnerships that we have forged with the relevant law enforcement agencies and community

leadership, many peace-building stories have emerged, notably the work done to ease tensions in Greytown, Mshezi and Estcourt. Recently Mchunu

visited Dumbe in Paul Pietersburg following the attack of people by the alleged wild dogs where residents voiced out their concerns about the attack.



*KZN MEC for Community Safety & Liaison, Mr Willie Mchunu is assisted by an SAPF member to attend to a victim of the mystery attacks that have left people dead and some critically injured in Dumbe (Paulpietersburg). It is not known for sure if the attacker is an animal or human being.*



*Above: A community member from Dumbe tells MEC Mchunu that she thinks the attacker who has claimed the lives of innocent people is a 'political animal.'*



## KZN's integrated strategy breakthroughs in tackling taxi violence



*The MEC for the Department of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr TW Mchunu accompanied by the HOD, Mr Chris Hlabisa, Mr Sbu Gumbi and Advocate Simo Chamane from the Public Transport wing together with Ulundi Mayor, Mr Mvuseni Luthuli collaborate with members of the South African Police Force (SAPF), in road blocks in the province.*

**T**HE Provincial government is enjoying the fruits of its wisdom in bringing together two departments namely, Community Safety and Transport, as public transport operations in KwaZulu-Natal are no longer subjected to endless disruptions caused by instability in the taxi industry. In an on-going effort to police often unnecessary disruptions, disturbances and confrontations in public transport, particularly in the taxi industry, provincial government resolved to amalgamate the two portfolios so that it would



*A traffic law enforcement officer at work.*

be easier for the incumbent MEC to tackle such challenges in the industry that is reputed for being owned by predominantly black people and serves an estimated sixty-five percent of the country's population.

The MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr Willies Mchunu has made a significant impact as he uses negotiations coupled with law enforcement interventions to normalise public transport work. Mchunu's joint operations involving policing ventures bring together SAPS and the Department of Transport's traffic law enforcement teams in a sustained effort to help curb taxi wars. The conflict has been mainly due to territorial contests caused by those who operate in other people's areas

or defy operational boundaries. Addressing the Provincial Legislature in his 2011/12 budget speech, MEC Mchunu said, "Such interdepartmental collaborations under my portfolio of Transport, Community Safety & Liaison are improving the capacity of the Department of Transport to deal with public transport challenges." "Some situations have been resolved while others remain outstanding for different reasons," he said. "What is notable, however, is that the prevalence of violence in the public transport industry is showing signs of subsiding as more efforts are made to engage the leadership of the industry at both local association and provincial levels," said Mchunu. "We are successful in containing the number of people who die, get injured and have their property destroyed when such conflicts happen in the taxi industry," he said.

To date, Mchunu's consultative sessions that promote cooperation and peaceful engagement has resulted in the normalisation of taxi operations in areas like uMlazi West MNR Taxi Association and Chesterville/Westville, Mandeni/Sundumbili, Port Shepstone and Mpumalanga.



*KZN MEC for Community Safety & Liaison Mr Willies Mchunu chats to a senior representative of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Dr Patsy Tlakula. Mchunu hosted a multi-party pledge to peaceful local government elections recently.*

**I**N an effort to promote peace, democracy and social cohesion, KZN provincial government headed by the Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize, along with the MEC for Transport Community Safety and Liaison Mr Willies Mchunu, recently staged an important summit that featured political leaders from all political parties in the province.

In partnership with the

Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), as well as traditional and religious leaders, Mchunu hosted the summit with the prime aim of reaffirming the provincial government's commitment to observing the provisions of the Electoral Code of Conduct.

Speaking at the summit KZN Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize said, "We want to commit ourselves to discourage our

members from participating in violence, assault, damage to property or murders. We want to promote political tolerance, unity, peace, freedom of choice, expression, as well as freedom of association, before and during elections. Furthermore we want to discourage our members from using inflammatory language, hate speech, name calling, incitement or intimidation," Mkhize said.

KZN Community Safety &

## KZN government re-commits political parties to ensuring a peaceful local government election

Liaison MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Willies Mchunu said his Department was in full support of the impartial stance of the SAPS in crime prevention, arrests and prosecution of perpetrators of violence without fear or favour.

"We will form a multi-party task team to promote political tolerance and peaceful elections consisting of myself as the MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, heads of these Departments – the IEC, religious leaders, the House of Traditional Leaders, State Security Agents, the KZN Police Commissioner, the Head of National Intelligence Agency, and a maximum of two members per political party," said Mchunu. MEC Mchunu and MEC Nomusa Dube head the political task team that held its first meeting in Estcourt last week and a second meeting yesterday in Ulundi. He also emphasized cooperation among government, the IEC, state

security structures, religious and traditional leaders, as they endeavor to create a climate of free political activities and peaceful elimination of no-go zones.

In a demonstration of unity of purpose in delivering a free and fair local government election in the province, the end of the summit saw the parties represented agreeing that the number of independent observers should be increased, and that an exchange of contact details of local party leaders to facilitate conflict resolution and mediation should happen, and that the SAPS will circulate the contact details of local joint-operational centers and relevant police officers to facilitate crime prevention and saving of lives.

Mchunu said, "As we've done in previous years, the Department will continue to plan around the best safety and peace efforts and lay the foundation for a successful local government election."