

SPEECH NOTES FOR KZN TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY & LIAISON MEC WILLIES MCHUNU AT THE ZULULAND BUSINESS AGAINST CRIME BREAKFAST SESSION ON FRIDAY 20TH AUGUST IN RICHARDS BAY.

Programme Director;

BAC Chairman, Mr Joey Kunji-Behari;

BAC SA CEO Dr Wright;

Distinguished guests;

Protocol observed;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning all.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Zululand Business Against Crime (BAC) for inviting me to be part of this breakfast. It is always encouraging to see people who are committed and willing to ensure that our country and particularly the province of KwaZulu-Natal is safer and prosperous.

The Provincial Government is on a course of *Building a United Front Against Crime*. You will remember that this provincial initiative was launched on the 21st of January this year in Durban by none other than our own Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize. The Premier highlighted the need to tackle the challenge of crime that has seen many people in our areas ending up leading miserable lives as victims of violent crimes

Subsequent to that, the Department of Community safety and Liaison which I am privileged to lead, has introduced a programme called '*Operation Hlasela*.' Operation Hlasela is about embarking on a concerted drive to streamline and integrate programmes which will lead to targeted and sustained interventions in areas where there are serious safety challenges.

The role of Business in all this includes:

- Promoting ethical behaviour;
- Being socially responsible;
- Aligning the work of the private security industry with the South African Police Service;
- Supporting crime prevention initiatives; and
- Creating a foundation to fund-raise.

This is how we say as Government, community leaders from different structures and as members of business community, we have to take a stand, work together side by side in finding solutions to the safety challenges we have which are threatening the wellbeing of our people.

We are profoundly aware that this can only be done if we combine our energy and resources, and therefore, we need to harness our collective wisdom and agree on the roles that each of us can play in making our citizens and visitors enjoy safe zones for all, young and old, men, women and children.

In the light of what we saw during the 2010 FIFA World Cup, we say this is doable. It is now history that during the world soccer tournament we were able to show the world that we have what it takes to compete with the best, united in our diversity. This was despite doomsayers who were warning football fans to avoid coming to South Africa. The world had been told to expect high levels of crime among other things.

Our security establishment proved to the world that we mean business when it comes to maintaining law and order. In fact, bringing this event to the country compelled us to fast-track certain aspects of the country's security establishment. As Government, we are therefore pleased by the fact that this proven ability and capacity to live up to expectation will enable us to deal with the ongoing priorities relating to crime prevention.

The impact of the multi-agency interactions of Business Against Crime, its efforts to align industry crime combating initiatives, the projects to address violent and organised crime and the deployment of its resources to enhance the performance of the Criminal Justice System, to name but a few, was expensive. I therefore express my heartfelt appreciation to the Board of Directors, management and staff of Business Against Crime KwaZulu-Natal for this indispensable partnership.

At the recent KwaZulu-Natal Cabinet Lekgotla, the KZN JCPS Cluster, of which Business Against Crime is a member, presented substantial progress and refined plans to achieve the outcome of the people of KwaZulu-Natal feeling and being safe.

These include interventions to stamp out taxi violence, address cyber crime, reduce hijackings, business robberies and house robberies, reduce wildlife poaching, eradicate corruption, limit stock theft and improve responses to identify theft and fraud.

In conclusion, we are happy to realize that at long last the political environment of our province has moved away from the politics of confrontation, conflict and violence to the politics of mutual understanding, respect and cooperation. We are very much encouraged by the desire of the President of the country and the President of the IFP to find a long lasting solution for peaceful coexistence in our province. This can be seen in the context of debates that take place in parliament nowadays.

Our President Jacob Zuma has urged all of us to work faster, smarter and harder to ensure that government achieves its mandate of a better life for all. I hope therefore that you as the business community will help nurture a culture of working faster, smarter and harder to ensure that you achieve your obligations, i.e. to take the development of our province to new heights.

Finally, by focusing our priorities and giving expression to our shared vision through Building a United Front Against Crime and Operation Hlasela, we will not only improve KwaZulu-Natal's Criminal Justice System, but we will also succeed to inculcate a culture of respect for the human rights of other people.

I thank you.