

**CROSS BORDER CRIME SUMMIT: DEEPENING ACTIVISM AGAINST
CROSS BORDER CRIME– MAPPING THE WAY FORWARD AND
CLOSING REMARKS BY MR T W MCHUNU, MEC FOR TRANSPORT,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON KWAZULU-NATAL ON 17 AUGUST
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INTRODUCTION

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to express my gratitude for your contributions to the success of this summit. The presentations made were relevant and in fact laid the foundation for areas of intervention which are much needed in the fight against cross border crimes. Looking at the contributions made by the respective commissions, I am certain we were correct in hosting this summit to deliberate on this important matter.

This summit would recall that our intended outcomes with regards to this summit were shared with you yesterday. The main objective of the summit was to emerge with solutions that will assist us in dealing decisively with this crime plaguing our continent. Our approach in doing so was through collective wisdom of this summit, particularly so since our view is that the fight against crime is a shared responsibility by all of us.

Our expectations as we came into this Summit were as follows:

- Development of an integrated Cross-Border Crime Strategy;
- Development of an ideal Cross-Border infrastructure for the police, SANDF, Department of Home Affairs, Customs, etc.;
- Strategies to enhance communication between role-players;
- Safety and Security plan (that includes an integrated law enforcement plan);
- Community mobilization and participation in action plans;
- Strengthening Border Control enforcement units (Stock Theft Units, Customs, etc.);

- Strengthening relations between authorities in South Africa and neighbouring States of Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique;
- Strengthening of CSFs and CPF structures along the borders;
- Improve the branding of stock and the establishment of pounds;
- Integration, improvement and supporting of existing cross-border crime initiatives;
- Support the strategy for the redeployment of SANDF to the border areas;
- Managing social grants along the borders to prevent exploitation by illegal immigrants;
- Monitoring of the transportation of stock and goods, including through participation by RTI;
- Support JCPS Cluster activities along the borders;
- Promote the KZN Flagship Programs of Sukuma Sakhe and Building a United Front against Crime / Operation Hlasela along our borders;
- Border security must be intelligence-driven with strong coordination and partnerships.

As we rise today, we wanted to emerge with resolutions that would serve as building blocks for a shared Cross Border Crime Safety Strategy. We wanted to emerge with partnerships that will benefit our endeavors to fight this scourge. We advanced the view that the issue of roles that individuals and or respective bodies need to play was therefore central to the realization of our intended outcomes.

SUMMIT REVELATIONS

The presentations yesterday were very revealing and gave much food for thought, so too has been the feedback from the commissions. They gave pointers to areas that we need to zoom into for our interventions. It seems clear that there are weaknesses in our systems which affect the work of Home Affairs. This has implications in that besides distorting our own register through fraudulent actions, it also distorts the actual citizenship of the country.

Furthermore, having hosted the provincial summit, the lessons learnt over the two day period indicate without doubt that the provincial summit has been a necessity but the national cross border crime summit is imperative. It became apparent from presentations by various stakeholders that cross border crime matters affect us as a Province and as a Country just as it affects our neighbouring Provinces and the countries of the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Kingdom of Swaziland and Mozambique.

Solutions

It is clear that solutions are possible and within our grasp. It will depend on what we do and how we do it. Namely the war against crime on our borders cannot be won by any one of us if we work in silos.

It is therefore imperative that we all embrace the principle of embarking in an integrated strategy to fight crime on our borders.

We also need to consider seriously the notion of identifying one lead Department in order to clarify the issue of responsibility.

It emerged that modern technology may also assist in this enormous task.

Our people close to the border line can either be accomplices to border crime or solution against it. However, it remains our responsibility to conscientise and mobilize border communities to be actively involved in the fight against cross border crime.

WAY FORWARD

Ladies and Gentleman, moving forward, we call upon the Minister of Police to urgently convene a National summit that would include all the necessary roleplayers and stakeholders in this matter.

The Government of KwaZuluNatal, without waiting for the national summit, must consider creating a permanent platform of ongoing engagement with our neighbours. The objective of such a platform must be to continue sharing information on this vexing matter and to continually explore actions that may be necessary to ensure that our respective Governments and their relevant Departments finally achieve a lasting resolution to this problem.

This Summit therefore adopts the proposed resolutions and recommends them for the adoption by the Summit. It recommends the resolutions be adopted by the Government of KwaZulu-Natal. It further mandates the Government of KwaZulu-Natal to submit these resolutions for debate at the national summit and to any other platform at which the matter of crime on our borders is debated.

CONCLUSION

Delegates, as we close this summit today, I am assured that the decision to host this summit was a correct one. The resolutions taken at this summit will serve as building blocks for Cross Border Strategy at national level. We do have in place the committee responsible for putting together this summit, under the chairpersonship of Mr Makhathini. It is imperative that its task is not complete yet without the finalization of all the resolutions taken at this gathering and putting them into a programme of action. The resolutions will be shared with all participants and relevant stakeholders and will serve as a basis for the envisaged Co-ordinated Cross Border Strategy. We commit to the implementation of these resolutions in the interest of the people of Africa. The team that we have put in place is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the implementation thereof.

Allow me to thank each and everyone of you for your invaluable contributions. This is not the end but the beginning of a journey in finding solutions for Cross Border Crime. As individuals and as a collective let us play our roles in

fighting this scourge. As we end this summit today, all of us present here declare that

“ The Partnership Against Cross Border Crime ” has today been officially launched in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. On this note, the summit is now closed.

I THANK YOU!!!