

**SPEECH NOTES FOR THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY
AND LIAISON AT THE PROVINCIAL CROSS BORDER CRIME SUMMIT
HELD ON THE 16TH – 17TH OF AUGUST 2012 AT THE DURBAN ICC.**

Thank you Programme Directors;
Honourable Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Zweli Mkhize;
Members of the Executive Council in attendance;
Ethekwini Metro Mayor, Cllr James Nxumalo;
Delegates from neighbouring countries – Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique;
Provincial Police Commissioner, General BM Ngobeni;
Head of Departments in attendance;
Members of the JCPS Cluster;
All representatives of government departments;
Different Community structures;
Members of the Media;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

We take this opportunity to welcome all delegates and thank you for having honoured our invitation to this important gathering. I wish to place on record my appreciation for such an excellent turnout. This shows that indeed there are many sectors at different levels of society affected by crimes occurring across borders.

It is our wish therefore that our being here today will be worthwhile in the future of the province of KwaZulu-Natal and beyond its borders in terms of safety.

Over the next two days we will collectively and in different commissions deliberate, share experiences, achievements and ideas with the purpose of emerging with the best solutions leading us to a point where crimes occurring across borders of this province, and subsequently our country, are curbed.

This must be to the benefit of all our communities, especially those closer to the province's and country's exit and entry points, who have experienced and witnessed at first-hand what we are here to deliberate on.

Let me briefly explain the mandate of the Department of Community Safety and Liaison. While law enforcement is the preserve of the Police, this Department has a civilian oversight mandate entrenched in the Constitution and defined in national legislation to, among other things:

- Monitor police conduct;
- Oversee the effectiveness and efficiency of the police service including receiving reports on the quality of the police service;
- Promote good relations between the police and the community;
- Assess the effectiveness of visible policing.

In line with this mandate, the mission of the Department is to be the lead agency in driving the integration of community safety initiatives, towards a crime-free KwaZulu-Natal. This can only be done if we combine our energy and resources to build a united front against crime.

As such I need to mention as a reminder that in January 2010 the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal led by the Honourable Premier, Dr ZL Mkhize embarked on a concerted drive to streamline and integrate programmes which will lead to targeted and sustained interventions in the fight against crime in problem areas. This programme of action is called Building a United Front Against Crime.

In practice, this entails identifying problem areas and facilitating relevant interventions involving all stakeholders. This would be done by implementing programmes and remain in the area for as long as necessary to monitor resolutions and ensure that solutions are implemented.

This would most importantly be successful if communities and all structures of government and civil society were first galvanised to get actively involved in the fight against crime.

The tool or vehicle used to ensure mass mobilisation of all these different structures and members of the community is called Operation Hlasela through which the department has been able to intervene in areas where there were outcries calling for immediate, decisive, concerted and integrated interventions.

As part of the KZN Provincial Government's programme to deal with crime, the renewed emphasis is being placed on the relevance of a united, multi-pronged approach in responding to crime. Such an approach combines aspects of crime prevention, crime combating, improving socio-economic conditions and strengthening of human solidarity among citizens.

It is also worth mentioning at this juncture that when we launched that programme of action we mentioned the crime challenges and trends that have been known to affect certain areas, and the province as a whole. Crimes such as stock theft, human trafficking, drug trafficking and substance abuse, car hijacking, are just some of those.

I mention those specifically because most of the challenges we face in as far as cross border crimes are concerned.

We also emerged from that launch with an idea of which structures, whether civil society, community or even from the different spheres of government, needed to be roped in to play their roles in the united front against crime, especially to address some of the crime challenges that have been identified.

Perhaps I also need to mention that since we launched the build a united front against crime programme of action, we have taken it to all the districts of the province using *Operation Hlasela*. It is there in those community engagements that we have continued to hear of the many forms of crime challenges affecting them.

As you would imagine, some areas have a huge outcry about the impact of cross border crimes where our people are concerned, and understandably so, about things such as stock theft and hijackings - their possessions get stolen and somehow make their way across the province's and sometimes the country's borders.

I must also mention that this problem is not just unique to the province of KwaZulu-Natal. As such, Heads of Departments for the Eastern Cape, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal were invited by the National Secretariat to discuss, and share best practices to resolve stock-theft cases along the South African Borders.

This meeting came up with a resolution that the affected Provinces should prepare for the staging of the National Cross-Border Summit. The Provinces were also requested to stage Provincial Cross-Border Summits in preparation for the National Summit.

The Summit concept was then endorsed by the KwaZulu-Natal Cabinet, on presentation by the Head of Department for Community Safety & Liaison, KwaZulu-Natal. This, ladies and gentlemen, brings me to the reason we are here over the next two days.

I needed to give that background so that for those who have just embarked on this journey with us, or those who are contemplating it, by virtue of their presence here, you have now been officially been roped in.

So now I present to you the matters that we are going to be deliberating on, and by the end of tomorrow, we will have pondered as a collective and in commissions, and agreed upon resolutions and programme of action that will be implemented in a bid to find solutions to crimes occurring across borders.

As I indicated before, the results of this summit will be KwaZulu-Natal's contribution towards a similar, but National meeting.

But first we need to understand the extent and boundaries of the deliberations that will take place here. Today, we will have a plenary setting with very key and informative presentations from the leadership of KwaZulu-Natal represented by the Honourable Premier Dr ZL Mkhize.

We also expect to hear from the neighbouring countries about how they have been affected and how they envisage working together with us as a province and a country in strengthening border security, curbing cross border crimes and eliminating the stolen goods market.

We also will be waiting to hear from the South African Police Service about the statistics in detail regarding cross border crimes, challenges faced in terms of policing borders, achievements and possible solutions where those have been identified.

We also will be getting to hear about the perspective from migration and aviation services.

By the end of today, we hopefully will all be well-equipped with enough information from all possible angles to enable us to engage meaningfully tomorrow when we subsequently move to smaller groups, to discuss in detail on topics linked to this summit.

These discussions will occur in three commissions that will be expected to look at the full scope of the topic handed to them, and to come up with possible workable solutions for each problem describing each of the problem areas involved in cross border crimes.

Before I elaborate on the commissions, it is essential to understand that when we talk about cross border crimes, there are a lot of things involved other than just stock theft, car hijacking and smuggling, human trafficking and the likes. It is on that premise that I am now appealing to all of us to get into all the discussions in plenary and breakaway commissions with our minds as open as possible.

When we deliberate, let us think beyond the obvious, and broaden the scope of our discussions so that the results and resolutions from this summit cover all possible angles of the problem at hand. As you will hear when I go through each commission, there is a lot we need to consider when we deliberate.

We do however have facilitators who will help guide discussions at each commission so that they are structured in such a way that they are not just complaint sessions, but more of expeditions to find solutions.

The three commissions are as follows:

- Commission One

Along the borderline - (*The illegal movement of persons, CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species) related offences, Stock theft, Human smuggling, Smuggling of stolen/hijacked vehicles, Smuggling of firearms, Drug Trafficking, Corruption and fraud, smuggling of contraband/ counterfeit goods*)

Land ports of entry – (*The illegal movement of persons, the illegal movement of goods, CITES related offences, Human smuggling, Smuggling of stolen/hijacked vehicles, Smuggling of firearms, Drug Trafficking, Corruption and fraud, Contraband/ Counterfeit goods smuggling*)

- Commission Two

Rail ports of entry – (*The illegal movement of persons, the illegal movement of goods, CITES related offences, Human smuggling, Smuggling of stolen/hijacked vehicles, Smuggling of firearms, Drug Trafficking, Corruption and fraud, Contraband/ Counterfeit goods smuggling*)

Air ports of entry – (*Corruption and fraud, the illegal movement of persons, the illegal movement of goods (value cargo, precious metals, etc), Baggage pilferage/contamination, CITES-related offences, Human smuggling, Smuggling of firearms, Drug Trafficking, Contraband/ Counterfeit goods smuggling, Terrorism, Dangerous cargo*)

Smaller airfields and uncontrolled landing strips – (*Corruption and fraud, the illegal movement of persons, the illegal movement of goods (value cargo, precious metals, etc), Baggage pilferage/contamination, CITES-related offences, Human smuggling, Smuggling of firearms, Drug Trafficking, Contraband/ Counterfeit goods smuggling, Community liaison/cooperation, Terrorism, Dangerous cargo*)

- Commission Three

Sea ports of entry – (*The illegal movement of persons, the illegal movement of goods (undeclared, non- declaration, value cargo, precious metals, etc), Theft of and out of containers, CITES-related offences, Human smuggling, Smuggling of firearms, Drug Trafficking, Contraband/ Counterfeit goods smuggling, Terrorism,*

Dangerous cargo, Maritime related offences/transgressions (ISPS Code, Pollution, etc), Stowaways)

Uncontrolled slipways and estuaries – *(The illegal movement of persons, the illegal movement of goods, CITES-related offences (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species), Human smuggling, Smuggling of firearms, Drug Trafficking*

Contraband/ Counterfeit goods smuggling, Maritime related offences/transgressions, Piracy, Terrorism)

Coastal border line – *(The illegal movement of persons, CITES-related offences, the illegal movement of goods (undeclared, miss declaration, undervaluation of cargo, precious metals, etc), Smuggling of livestock, Human smuggling, Smuggling of vehicles (incl second –hand imports, theft of vehicles), Smuggling of firearms, Drug Trafficking, Corruption and fraud, Contraband/ Counterfeit goods smuggling, Terrorism, Dangerous cargo, Maritime-related offences / transgressions, Theft of containers, Stowaways, Piracy, Pollution, Salvage right protection, Heritage site pilferage, Incidents at Sea)*

Some of the interventions we propose and expect this summit to deliberate on are 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 Masisukume Sakhe and Building a United Front against Crime / Operation Hlasela along our borders;
- Border security must be intelligence-driven with strong coordination and partnerships.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, may I take this opportunity and thank you in advance all those who will participate in this Summit by submitting their innovations. It is paramount that the suggestions and resolutions that will come out from this gathering need to be turned into action as soon as possible.

And remember, no matter how small you think your idea is, the people of KwaZulu-Natal and beyond its borders are keen to hear that.

I thank you!