

WORDS OF CONDOLENCES BY KZN MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR WILLIES MCHUNU AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAJOR GENERAL BONGANI NTANJANA ON THE 31ST OF AUGUST 2012.

Thank you Programme Director;
Provincial Commissioner;
Management of the SAPS;
Members of the SAPS;
Ntanjana family;
Friends and fellow Citizens;
Protocol Observed.

It is gatherings of this nature that always make us wonder why life is sometimes so cruel. I am sure that this is the question most of us ask ourselves today. I know that the Ntanjana family, the members and the leadership of the SAPS as well as community members who are passionate about safety and security, have all asked this question since the untimely demise of Major General Ntanjana on Sunday.

The provincial government salutes the sacrifices made by Commissioner Ntanjana for all that he endured for us to enjoy democracy and freedom in a safe and secure environment. Without sacrifices made by such people, we would not have been where we are today in terms of fighting crime.

We are all in agreement also that he certainly made his mark in his years of public service. As we mourn his death today, we are therefore fully aware that we are celebrating the life of a diligent man that possessed good leadership skills.

We are indeed proud of the quality of leadership he showed during his time as he championed successes of the police service both during the apartheid and also under our young democratic government.

It is very unfortunate that we lose people like him whose experience we need in the successfully rolling out of programmes like “Building a United Front Against Crime”. We know how Commissioner Ntanjana was instrumental in ensuring that we mobilise our communities in the fight against crime using Operation Hlasela.

With him we held the view that while enforcement on offenders is crucial, it is also true that whatever strategies we use to combat crime, it is important to be proactive. It should be acknowledged that our efforts will not be appreciated until we reach a position where in many instances we can stop crime before it happens.

Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow citizens, it is true that winning the fight against crime and criminals is no easy task; it is a momentous task that cannot be accomplished in a short period of time. Despite relentless efforts to reduce crime in our province through community participation programmes and law enforcement initiatives, the level of crime incidents remains at an unacceptable level. But as we move forward we have to build on the good foundations that people like Commissioner Ntanjana have laid for us.

While we are saddened by the loss of such a great policeman, to those left in the organisation and all law abiding citizens this must be the time to refuse to be discouraged and regain more strength than before and not allow ourselves to be intimidated by any forces of evil.

This is the time for members of the SAPS to be strong and work towards achieving our Government’s mandate of ensuring a safe KwaZulu-Natal. Do that in memory of your colleague Ntanjana and all other fallen heroes and heroines who would have been part of the war.

Maybe as tears roll down our cheeks due to sadness and shock, we also need to allow ourselves to celebrate the life and contribution of Commissioner Ntanjana and say: it is now left to us to pick up the spear and soldier on in the same way as he did when other members fell before him.

Today fellow citizens, we are bidding farewell to one of us who advocated for justice for the vulnerable. The province of KwaZulu-Natal prides itself that within its police ranks, it produced one of the most respected and progressive policeman in Commissioner Ntanjana.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the family of Ntanjana family for allowing us to organize this service in memory of our colleague, brother, friend and leader. We thank you for giving us a dedicated and committed leader who always stood for justice and a better life for all.

I thank you.