

**REPORT ON NOVEMBER SAFETY MONTH PROGRAMME AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS  
TABLED BY THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON, HON.  
TW MCHUNU, IN THE KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE**

**PIETERMARITZBURG**

**TUESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2014**

**1. PURPOSE**

This report seeks to apprise the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature of the Safety Month 2014 programme, as well as other developments in the Community Safety and Liaison Portfolio.

**2. NOVEMBER SAFETY MONTH 2014 PROGRAMME**

Madame Speaker, we have completed what is arguably one of the most intensive safety months, touching almost all corners of the province.

The "One Million Voices Against Crime and Police Killings" programme, which is continuing into the month of December, offered us an opportunity to reflect on what we are doing as the people of KwaZulu-Natal to "Unite and Together Act Against Crime" (see Annexure A).

The programme seeks to raise our grave concerns at the high levels of crime and the murder of police officers - our guardians in the battle against crime. The campaign is led by all the community safety structures of the province, namely CPFs, CCPAs, Volunteers, Ward Safety Teams and communities in general.

At the time of the launch of the programme, available figures indicated that the murder of police in KwaZulu-Natal was reaching crisis proportions. In the past eight years, from 2006 to 2013, a total of 145 police had been killed in KwaZulu-Natal alone. Most of these were killed in the line of duty while some of them were killed while off duty. Our own figures show that, at least, four police officers were killed in October this year.

In the light of this disturbing trend, the programme seeks to urge communities to –

- ✓ reject the murder of police;
- ✓ to embrace and protect police;
- ✓ appreciate the work of police mostly done under very stressful and dangerous conditions;
- ✓ improve the relations between communities and police;
- ✓ broadcast the commitment of communities in the fight against crime; and
- ✓ launch joint efforts focusing on the fight against crime and the killing of police.

In the process, we engaged the community crime fighting structures we had launched in the past five years to review progress made in the mobilization of society to fight crime. Satisfied that a bigger movement against crime and criminality was gaining ground, we extended these initiatives to outstanding areas.

Guided by our theme of "United and Together Acting Against Crime" we worked tirelessly to raise the levels of consciousness of our people to appreciate that crime can only be defeated when all of us - communities and police - work together to close the space for criminals.

### **3. SCOPE OF SAFETY MONTH**

Since the beginning of the month, a total of 44 activities were conducted in five regions and 13 districts, attracting well over 50,000 people and beamed to an audience of over five million through the print and electronic media platforms, pamphlets, posters and loud-hailing. Briefly these activities focused on the following:

- ✓ launches and training of community safety structures;
- ✓ Crime Awareness Campaigns;
- ✓ Community Crime Summits;
- ✓ School Safety Programmes;
- ✓ CPF AGMs;
- ✓ 16 Days of Activism Campaigns For No Violence Against Women and Children;
- ✓ Anti-stock theft Campaigns;
- ✓ Communities-in-Dialogue Programmes; and
- ✓ Anti-Drugs and Anti-Gangsterism Campaigns.

A training module on the legal framework for all community safety structures (CPFs, CSFs, voting district safety teams, street committees and community crime prevention associations) was developed and training conducted at Newcastle, Hluhluwe, Ntuzuma, Inanda, Hillcrest, Pongola, Mandeni, Stanger, Tongaat, Hibberdene, Nkandla, KwaDweshula, Nhlazuka, KwaSlahla, Ladysmith and Umzimkhulu. The training deals with how each structure must be established and function, the Criminal Justice System, Bail, Arrest, taking statements, private defence, managing crime scenes and public demonstrations.

### **4. JUSTICE, CRIME PREVENTION & SECURITY CLUSTER**

The KwaZulu-Natal Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS), which I chair, was the driving force behind Safety Month. It dealt with the following aspects:

#### **4.1. Border Management**

The cluster looked at and received reports on what was being done to tighten security on the borders of the province - that is KwaZulu-Natal / Mozambique, KwaZulu-Natal / Swaziland and KwaZulu-Natal / Lesotho borders, including its ports and airports (see Annexure B).

Major successes have been scored by the country's security agencies in dealing with the border crime in the past six months (April 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014) with them recovering illegal items, including drugs and firearms, to the value of well over R90 million in the period under review.

The highlights of the seizure included the detention at the Durban harbour of 42 containers that were being illegally shipped into the country at the value of R53.3 million and seizure of 95 kg of cocaine worth R28.8 million.

On the border between KwaZulu-Natal and Mozambique, 19 stolen vehicles to the value of R2.5 million were seized by security agencies. Further, unidentified stolen property to the value of R500,000 was also seized by the police.

On the border between KwaZulu-Natal and Swaziland, the following items were seized: 36 bags of dagga worth R50,000, seven vehicles worth R870,000 and seizure of two contraband containers worth R161,000.

Also, security agencies recovered the following items on the border of KZN and Lesotho: 3210 kg of dagga at the value of R4.4 million and 72 livestock at the value of R280,000.

Two vehicles, at the value of R200,000, were recovered at the King Shaka International Airport.

Reports were also received on what was being done to tighten the borders and an overview of illegal immigrants into the province.

On November 27, 2014, we held a Belgrade/uPhongolo Crime Summit, which among others, discussed and proposed solutions on the crime taking place between Swaziland, northern KZN towns and Mpumalanga Province.

The summit involved representatives from Swaziland, the Department of Home Affairs, the SAPS, SARS, Customs, Farmers Associations, KWANALU, the Department of Agriculture, Amakhosi and their communities – and other government departments.

Resolutions of the Summit are currently being studied and would soon be translated into a programme of action.

Further engagements were on the cards to deal with the cross border crime between KwaZulu-Natal and Lesotho. However, due to the politically unstable situation in Lesotho, the Cross Border Crime Summit was postponed to February next year.

We have also held other community crime summits in uMzimkhulu and Wentworth, in Durban, Recently we have addressed a mass meeting in Reservoir Hills on crime. This is all part of mobilizing communities to act against crime. The programme continues.

## **4.2. Interprovincial crime**

Honourable members, this month we have had our first interprovincial integrated law enforcement operation between KZN and Free State Provinces which was held at the Van Reenen Pass KZN Border. The operation was a success because most of the objectives as outlined by the Interprovincial Ministerial Task Team were achieved as follows:

- ✓ 32 vehicles were impounded in two hours;

- ✓ one greyhound Bus (1);
- ✓ two Intercity Busses (2); and
- ✓ Minibuses (29).

Out of the 29 minibuses arrested and impounded 26 are from Gauteng and 3 are from KZN.

This operation was in pursuance of an interprovincial intergovernmental relations protocol between the provinces aimed at curbing interprovincial crime.

### **4.3 Social stability**

An assessment by the Intelligence Coordinating Committee on the social stability in KwaZulu-Natal indicates that there have been worrying acts of instability during the period between April to September 2014.

The most prominent issues are the high number of violent community protests, instability in the taxi industry (arising from disputes over operating licenses, routes, ranks, tensions between former and newly appointed executive committees, illegal taxis, change in route allocation and mobilisation against the implementation of integrated public transport planning), localised political tensions (positioning in view of internal election processes), instability in the education sector, labour and land issues.

The violent nature of protests continues and in turn leading to damage to infrastructure, blockading of strategically positioned roads. The province is expected to experience this instability in the short- to medium term. The following issues remain cause for concern and require ongoing attention:

- political tensions in specific areas, which are expected to increase towards the 2016 Local Government Elections and scheduled by-elections;
- inter-/intra-party political tensions in localised areas within the province;
- resumption of mobilising in view of service delivery, housing and electricity issues;
- tension in the taxi industry due to various issues and the mobilisation against the implementation of integrated public transport planning;
- ongoing frustration over the slow pace of land claims;
- labour action; and
- education instability arising from National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

The Government, the police and the people of KwaZulu-Natal, including all the parties represented in this House, therefore have a lot of work to do to ensure that the Province becomes stable. Let us not fall short of our duty.

### **4.4 Crime statistics**

The SAPS presented the Provincial Crime Statistics for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 to the KZN JCPS Cluster on 31 October 2014.

Overall provincially, there was a decrease of 2.8% in the total number of community reported crimes as compared to the previous release period. Property crime saw more

significant decreases than contact crimes. An analysis of Murders as a ratio of population figures of each Province reveals that KZN comes in at 4th place with 34.7 Murders per 100 000 people. In respect of Sexual Offences, KZN comes in at 7th place with 113.6 sexual offences per 100 000 people. This is no cause for joy, one death is one too many.

#### **4.5 Festive season safety plan**

The Cluster also received a report on the Integrated Festive Season Law Enforcement Plan. The plan involves a massive deployment of security personnel, including crime intelligence and tactical response teams backed up by the air wing. It started by providing security to those writing matric examinations in the province and it will run until the reopening of schools in January 2015.

It is informed by the inevitability of the influx of thousands of tourists, visitors and returning workers as well as high traffic volumes into our province.

Among others, the plan will see the manning of road blocks, cordon and search operations, seizure of stolen property, as well as recovery of illegal firearms and drugs.

The plan contains many measures to respond to a variety of crimes such as murder, attempted murder, cash in transit robberies, ATM bombings, rural safety, and crimes that are directed at farmers and stock theft.

The Festive Season Safety Plan will be formally launched by Premier Mchunu during the official launch of the KwaZulu-Natal Council Against Crime in KwaMashu this week.

### **5 KWAZULU-NATAL COUNCIL AGAINST CRIME**

The KwaZulu-Natal Council Against Crime launch is a culmination of a process which began in 2010 when the flagship programme of 'Building a United Front Against Crime' was introduced as the province's response to the challenges presented by crime (see Annexure C).

In order to formalise the implementation of the programme, the Executive Council of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal approved a holistic framework for community participation on 4 December 2012. The framework was designed to accommodate liaison with communities and stakeholders from a voting district level to a provincial level and at the same time, promote synergy between the role-players and structures operating within the criminal justice system. The Council Against Crime takes the reigns at the provincial level and it comprises all sectors of the community to work on policies and strategies to fight crime in KwaZulu-Natal. The official launch of the KwaZulu-Natal Council Against Crime will be officiated by the Premier in KwaMashu on Thursday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2014.

### **6 AREAS OF CONCERN**

Honourable members, we wish to share with you our deepest concern regarding the latest spate of murders in greater Ladysmith, especially in eZakheni township, KwaMashu hostel and KwaNdengezi, west of Durban.

### **6.1 Ezakheni**

Two unfortunate incidents happened in Ezakheni on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2014, resulting in the death of 15 people. A Special Investigating Team comprising the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI) and the National Investigating Unit (NIU) was appointed to investigate the incidents.

The investigation by this team unearthed at least eight other criminal cases (some dating back to 2009) indirectly linked to the murders in eZakheni / Ladysmith on 11 October 2014. In most of these cases the dockets are being re-constructed due to inadequate investigation by the initial investigating officers.

The investigation has already revealed that many police officers have been obstructing the course of justice and participating in corrupt activities in relation to these cases.

The situation in Ezakheni is still tense due to dangerous suspects from both families still operational and moving around Ladysmith, Pretoria and Johannesburg. It is further apparent that the extent of the criminality in the area necessitates extensive, independent and specialist investigations in order to adequately restore the rule of law. The task team appointed are, however, up to the task as they have identified the culprits and are pursuing them with vigour.

### **6.2 KwaMashu**

The recent killing of four people in KwaMashu hostel after a long time of peace caught us by surprise. A wide range of measures are being put in place to secure this hostel, including the deployment of more police and raids for firearms. A task team, put together to investigate this matter, has recovered illegal firearms and identified the suspects to be pursued.

As part of drumming up our message of political tolerance, peaceful co-existence, particularly in hostels and in rural areas of the province, we have organised a crime awareness campaign to be led by Maskandi artists. These artists have agreed to host a crime awareness event at Princess Magogo KwaMashu Stadium on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2014, where they will be promoting messages of peace and tolerance.

### **6.3 KwaNdengezi**

Recently in KwaNdengezi people have been up in arms. The municipal office and vehicles were burnt and one community leader was also murdered. The concerns relate to service delivery issues and the quality of service by the local police station.

## **7 CONCLUSION**

The Department, together with the Premier, has recently taken up the concerns of the community in regard to KwaNdengezi, Ezakheni, KwaMashu and few others with the Minister of Police in order to probe the efficiency and effectiveness of the police in these areas.

Madam Speaker, Honourable members, we wish to declare that we are satisfied that all efforts have been made to ensure that the people of KwaZulu-Natal and our visitors have a safe and incident free festive season.

We, however, call on every honourable member to remain vigilant, and co-operate with security agencies by actively and timeously reporting any suspicious incidents to the police.

The reality is that safety on the road and safety in our communities is our collective responsibility.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Thank you.