

SPEAKING NOTES FOR KZN PREMIER SENZO MCHUNU
EVENT: LAUNCH OF THE KZN COUNCIL ON CRIME & LAUNCH OF FESTIVE
SEASON CRIME PREVENTION PLAN
VENUE: KWAMASHU – L SECTION
DATE: 11 DECEMBER 2014

Master of ceremonies;
His Worship, The Mayor of eThekweni
Minister of Police, Nathi Nhleko
MEC for Community Safety, Mr Willies Mchunu;
Acting HOD of the Department of Community Safety and Liaison;
KwaZulu Natal Police Commissioner, Mamunye Ngobeni;
Representatives of the Metro Police and the South African Police Service;
Municipal representatives;
Traditional Leaders
Religious Leaders
Big business
Organized Labour
Youth formations
Members of the KZN Community Crime Prevention Associations
Members of Community Policing Forums;
Honoured Guests

Good Day

First, let me take this opportunity to welcome everyone present.

At the beginning of this term of office of this current government, the President of the Republic His Excellency Mr J.G Zuma described crime as a top priority for government.

It is for this reason that today we are gathered here to launch the KZN Council on Crime.

We have drawn members of the public and leaders of society to be part of this council. This forms part of efforts aimed at ensuring that we unite the people of this province to begin to move away from the usual attitude of often blaming the police.

The Council on Crime will ensure that our communities working with law enforcement agencies, we will be empowered to refine our multi-pronged strategy on fighting crime and associated social ills in our communities and our Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

As government, we have always stated that fighting crime is a collective responsibility that requires all members of society to partner with government in its efforts to provide security and safety to its citizens. The attitude of blaming the police as if fighting crime is only their exclusive responsibility that does not require cooperation with communities, tends to conceal the major role that each and every one of us should be playing in crime prevention.

We are encouraged by the positive response from the members of the public that we have been interacting with this morning at KwaMashu Hostel and in L-Section. They have offered to work with us and the police to prevent the killing of innocent people and to eradicate crime in general.

This is a clear demonstration that the people of KwaZulu-Natal want to leave in a free and democratic state where there is no housebreaking, no drug trafficking, no stock theft, no hijackings and no rape of women, especially children and elderly women.

Crime occurs within our communities, and in most cases criminals are known to us as they are either our neighbours, our fathers, our brothers and our uncles who are known to all of us.

Some of those involved in crime are being glorified for their flashy lifestyles earned through crime and proceeds of crime. Most disturbingly, they are seen as role models by young people in our communities where we live.

Critically, young people are recruited by these masterminds for housebreakings, shoplifting, armed robberies and car hijackings of luxury motor vehicles and trucks, which are sold to buyers and car dealerships in other provinces and neighbouring countries.

Many desperate young people from tertiary institutions are recruited – given fraudulent IDs, Payslips and credit cards to hire vehicles from legitimate rental companies and end up not returning them. If not dismantled in chop shops, these vehicles are often sold to other provinces and neighbouring countries.

Some of these skilled young people now work as insurance brokers, transporters and specialized artisans who change chassis numbers and other defining features of the vehicle.

Instead of using their skills to grow the economy of the country, the desperate and educated young stars are growing businesses of these “Kingpins”.

As government we are also dealing with criminal syndicates who are crippling our hospitals by stealing medication destined for needy patients.

Organized syndicates are supplying pharmaceutical companies including government institutions with counterfeit, expired and non-regulated drugs. The syndicates run unregistered clinics and pharmacies and are also involved in exports and imports.

Here in KZN there are bogus doctors, pharmacists and healers who put the lives of vulnerable people at risk.

In 2008, it is reported that half of the 191 stores selling medicines that were raided by police, were trading in fake anti-malaria, cardiac, anti-fungal, multivitamin, hormonal and skin medicines.

The music recording industry, the movie industry and the whole entertainment sector have also been severely affected by counterfeit and cross border crime.

Pirated digital DVD and CDs are sold across the province by street vendors and small shop owners. There is a highly organized syndicate which is involved in this racket. A typical network would include producers of the DVDs and CDs in South Africa, smugglers who transport the goods from South Africa to other countries. There are facilitators at the borders posts and suppliers and marketers in destined countries.

Live-stock theft is one of the issues that we are also dealing with in this province. There are both small-scale as well as organized, syndicated cross-border networks in operation that target livestock.

I have often stated that rural communities already under a huge yoke of poverty often have to bear the brunt of stock theft, which wipes away any possible reserves they have as the livestock is part of the economy of rural people.

While we sit here, we must acknowledge that these criminal acts are committed by our own children and relatives. If there is violent murder and stolen property, most people in the community know exactly who the first suspicious individuals in the area are. These criminals are a tiny minority but

they have created so much fear in our communities such that we all feel helpless and neglected by the police.

Amaphoyisa ngokwawo, angeke akwazi ukulwa nobugebengu ngaphandle kokubambisana nomphakathi. Siyoyinqoba impi yobugebengu ngokubambisana namaphoyisa. Sesadlula isikhathi lapho sibuka khona amaphoyisa njengezitha. Umbutho wamaphoyisa, ungowombuso wentando yeningi.

Today I want to appreciate the commitment of all members of the KZN Council on Crime. We thank you for coming forward to pledge your support to work with government to fight all forms of crime from our communities.

The members of the council are drawn from the following sectors of our community:-

1. **KZN Traditional Leaders:**
2. **KZN Business:**
3. **KZN Youth:**
4. **KZN Private Security Industry:**
5. **KZN Organised labour:**
6. **KZN Military Veterans Associations:**
7. **KZN Transport Sector:**
8. **KZN Religious Leaders:**
9. **KZN Provincial Community Police Board:**
10. **KZN Community Crime Prevention Association:**

Their role will be advise government on how to best work with communities to create a crime KwaZulu-Natal Province.

As members of the Council, I believe that you have an important role to play, not only in terms of fighting crime, but in promoting the culture of the promotion and protection of human rights in the community where we live.

Crime results in the deprivation of the rights and dignity of citizens. It poses a threat to their rightful participation in the reconstruction and redevelopment of this province. The rights and freedoms, which the Constitution entrenches, are threatened every time each citizen becomes a victim of crime.

We all want to see a prosperous and better South Africa. This will start with the contribution we make in fighting crime and committing ourselves to building a crime free society.

I have often stated that some of those who get involved in crime are people who never received any sense of love and warmth when they were brought up. They grew up in an environment where there is alcohol abuse, domestic violence, hatred and a lack of supervision of children.

Therefore we need to work together, as partners, to deal with the whole aspect of building the spirituality of all our people in the neighborhood.

We must create an environment of peaceful co-existence and acceptance of human beings by one another. We must show compassion, love and always help the next person during difficult times.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize that we want KwaZulu-Natal to be at the forefront of the fight against crime. We want to create an environment where the police are able to carry out their responsibilities working with the community.

During this festive season there will be zero tolerance against any form of crime.

We call upon civil society to participate in the Fight Against Crime campaign! This means localizing this campaign to our spaces of existence like, Churches against crime, Business against crime, Street committees and neighborhood watch groups to work together with government to fight crime.

At this stage programme director,

I now want to take this opportunity to introduce the Police Minister Nathi Nhleko, who leads the campaign to build a safe South Africa.