



Publication: Witness, The - Main
Title: `WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FIGHT CRIME` SAYS COMMUNITY SAFETY MEC
Publish date: 07 Mar 2023
Page: 3

Reach: 11641
AVE: R 40181.13
Author: NTOMBIZETHU NGCOBO

'WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FIGHT CRIME' SAYS COMMUNITY SAFETY MEC



uMgungundlovu district mayor Mzi Zuma, MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Siphso Hlomuka and KwaMpumzuza chief Khethokuhle Zondi during the Operation Siyahlola initiative, held at Siyanda Sports grounds in Sweetwaters. **PHOTOS: SUPPLIED**



NTOMBIZETHU NGCOBO

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Siphso Hlomuka, has told residents that it is not only the police that must fight crime.

Hlomuka said this during the roll-out of Operation Siyahlola (Let us check) as part of assessing infrastructure projects and the launch of community partnerships against crime in Sweetwaters, in Pietermaritzburg, yesterday.

Part of the visit included announcing interventions on local roads following the recent torrential rains.

Speaking on the issue of crime Hlomuka said they have already developed a community safety plan.

"We are working with community leaders that is why we are here at Mpumzuza tribal court. Let us work together to fight crime. People who commit crime are from within the area. We need to make sure that we isolate those who are conducting criminal activities within the area.

"We want to deal with all criminals. There are police around; it is just that there are limited resources. We are trying to engage the Minister for Police Bheki Cele," he said.

Hlomuka added that part of the issues that they have raised already with the minister is the shortage of police officers.

"We are aware that in December 2022, there are 1 000 police officers that were allocated for KwaZulu Natal. Even though it is a small number, it will make an impact. There are a

number of vehicles that have also been procured by the department and deployed in various police stations. We are also trying to engage the minister and the Department of Public Works to build police stations in rural areas including here in Vulindlela, even if they are mobile offices," Hlomuka added.

Hlomuka said they have allocated R40 million, to fix Mabane Road (P-2398).

"This road is a gravel road and we want to put in concrete," he added.

uMgungundlovu district commander Major-General Nozipho Madondo said there are a lot of crime-contributing factors especially issues related to alcohol.

"Alcohol is a huge problem hence we see contact crimes increase in the area. We have programmes to visit liquor outlets, even legal ones, with the aim of checking compliance. We expect liquor outlets to have their own security guards. We also work closely with the community as we are aware that police cannot fight crime alone. We appreciate the gesture of working with the Mpumzuza tribal council as we have achieved a lot in terms of dealing with crime especially gender-based violence," she said.

KwaMpumzuza chief Khethokuhle Zondi, said drug usage in the area is very high.

"We have a problem as people have become cowards. Before if someone was doing something wrong in the area they would be evicted," he said.