



GAUTENG PROVINCE

COMMUNITY SAFETY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS

DATE: 20 APRIL 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Statement by MEC Sizakele-Nkosi Malobane

COMMUNITY READY TO WORK WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

20 April 2015: The Gauteng government is concerned of the continued escalation of violence towards foreign nationals. It is worrying that just over the weekend, sporadic attacks spread to areas such as Alexandra where a foreign national was reportedly stabbed, and other incidents were reported in Soweto and in Jeppestown respectively. 'I want to applaud the swift action by the South African Police Services in the arrest of the perpetrators, said MEC Nkosi- Malobane.

The community of Gauteng has demonstrated patronage by assisting police to arrest the instigators of these horrendous acts. In other areas they even further protected property belonging to their foreign brothers. This clearly demonstrates that communities are now mobilised in taking charge of their own safety and there is a closer working relation with law enforcement agencies. We urge all residents to further report any attacks or planned attacks on foreign nationals to the police.

Let me also commend the commitment made by Izindunas from different hostels following my meeting with them last Friday. Some immediate action will include;

- Enforcement of by-laws with respect to hijacking of buildings allegedly used by criminals to run their businesses.
- Engage with South African Police to refrain from using live ammunition to deal with attacks.
- Izindunas to have regular meetings with the hostel community to plead for tolerance. These meetings are to rollout with Tokoza as the first and subsequently Jeppestown, culminating into Premier engagement with all Provincial leadership.

Critical to this community action is the reaffirmation of the government' stance that it is purely acts of criminality by some quarters of the community. One cannot equate xenophobia with the looting of foreign owned shops, threats of raping women who are dating foreign nationals. Let me assure the people of Gauteng that law enforcement agencies are ready to deal with any eventuality.

Let me reiterate the point of government;

No amount of frustration or anger can justify xenophobic violence and looting of shops.

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Community Safety. For media enquiries contact Thapelo Moilola on 084 805 2247 alternatively e-mail: thapelo.moilola@gauteng.gov.za. Visit our website www.gautsafety.gpg.gov.za.