

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEC Nkosi-Malobane challenges law enforcement agencies to deal decisively with cash in transit heists in the province

The Gauteng MEC for Community Safety, Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane has urged Law Enforcement Agencies to work around the clock to prevent the re-occurrence of cash in transit heists in the province.

The MEC yesterday held a meeting with the various law enforcement agencies in the province to discuss a strategy aimed at preventing further cash in transit heists. This follows a series of reported cash in transit heists that have occurred regularly in the province.

To date, a total number 96 cash in transit cases have been reported, while 44 armored vehicles were attacked with 52 of them taking place on cross pavement. Very few suspects were arrested, there are only 11 cases where arrests were made while 85 suspects are still at large. The actual number of suspects arrested to date amounts to 26 in total.

There were notable firearms recovery in the process, $8 \times AK47$ were recovered, $1 \times R5$, $1 \times R4$, $1 \times BM$, 4, $11 \times 9mm$. A total of 16 vehicles were recovered from some of the suspects including two police radios, two military bullet proof vest. Warrants of arrest to be executed amounts to two and a total cash of R95 million was recovered from the scene and suspects.

"Criminals are proving to be sophisticated lately, therefore a collective approach to deal with cash in transit heist is critical. It is important that we commit all our resources and engage all the Law Enforcement Agencies in the province to deal with this challenge. We cannot allow these criminals to walk our streets and instill fear amongst ordinary citizens.

I have instructed the crime intelligence team to work around the clock to ensure that all suspects linked with the cash in transit heists are arrested and ensure maximum sentenced imposed on them. All law enforcement agencies specialized units must work together to deal with the scourge of cash in transit heists.

There is also an urgent need to collaborate with private security in the fight against the syndicates who continue to supply explosives commonly used to bomb cash in transit

vehicles. I call upon members of the community who might have information on some of these suspects to report them to the authorities," said MEC Nkosi-Malobane.

END

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Community Safety. For media enquiries contact Ofentse Morwane on 066 476 0777. For media releases, speeches and news visit the website: www.gauteng.gov.za