



GAUTENG PROVINCE

COMMUNITY SAFETY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement by the MEC Faith Mazibuko on the occasion of the post State of Province Address media briefing, 10 March 2020.

Introduction

Premier David Makhura's State of the Province Address has provided the basis for the Provincial Government's Programme of Action for the 2020/21 financial year. The Gauteng Provincial Government's 6th Administration is aware of the daunting task that lies ahead of us in creating a safe and secure environment. Crime remains one of the top three concerns of the residents of Gauteng, together with unemployment and poverty.

During the sixth administration, the department has outlined the following key priorities:

- Adequate training of police officers
- Increased Police visibility
- Strengthening of Community Police Forums and Community Safety Forums
- Targeting gang violence and drugs
- Implement the National Plan of Action to address issues of Gender Based Violence in the province.

On adequate training of police officers and Increased Police visibility

As per Premier David Makhura's pronouncement during the State of the Province Address, I am delighted to announce that we will employ 400 additional traffic police officers over the next three years, to increase visibility and enhance road safety. We will provide the police with 100 high-performance vehicles fitted with cutting-edge crime-fighting technology, 50

additional patrol cars and 12 mobile police stations for public events to enhance police visibility in crime hotspots, highways and in public spaces on a 24-hour basis.

We will set up a state-of-the-art Provincial Integrated Command Centre where public law enforcement agencies and private security companies will share resources and crime-fighting technological capabilities. This centre will, amongst other initiatives, integrate all cameras installed in malls, CBDs and on the roads to track down criminals. This will integrate the use of drones and other cutting-edge technologies.

Police visibility has been evident in the successes O kae Molao achieved since its inception.

Strengthening of Community Police Forums and Community Safety Forums

Community policing is the first line of defence and a force multiplier in ensuring that our streets and homes are safe at all times. Ladies and gentlemen, if this first line of defence is weak and not properly resourced or capacitated, we won't win the battle against crime.

The Department of Community Safety hosted Safety Summits with the Community Police Forums (CPFs), Women as Safety Promoters (WASP), Men as Safety Promoters (MASP) and the Youth Crime Prevention Desk (YCPD). The summits focused on the induction of the CPFs who have renewed their mandate, outlined the priorities of the Gauteng 6th Administration for crime reduction, and provided creative ways on how to advance the role of safety forums and enhance pro-active public participation in the fight against crime.

We will enhance the deployment of patrollers in wards, schools and other public spaces. We are also assisting communities to set Street Committees, and empowering them to take charge in ensuring that their communities are safe. The department is directing additional resources to support social mobilisation against criminal activities.

Targeting gang violence and drugs

As the Gauteng Provincial Government, we are determined to free our communities of gangsters and drugs. The community of Elsburg, in the Eastern Corridor, will be an example of our commitment to deal decisively with criminal elements threatening the lives of our women and children. We have deployed a joint team of SAPS, Gauteng Traffic Police,

Ekurhuleni Metro Police, CPFs and patrollers to find the known drug dealers before Friday 13 March 2020.

The Provincial Integrated Command Centre, once it is set up, will also play a crucial role in strengthen the fight against gangsterism and drugs.

Implement the National Plan of Action to address issues of Gender-Based Violence in the province.

This previous Sunday we hosted a consultation meeting with various stakeholders on the Gauteng Provincial Gender-Based Violence Response Plan. The plan was announced by the Premier David Makhura at his State of the Province Address on the 25 February 2020, and gives effect to the President's Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The comprehensive plan with consolidated inputs from our stakeholders will be launched by Premier David Makhura on the 27th of April 2020.

Lastly, during his address, the Premier alluded to the fact that oversight over law enforcement agencies will be enhanced. As part of our oversight mandate, the Department of Community Safety will continue to monitor police conduct and oversee the effectiveness and efficiency of the services of the police in the Province, including the implementation of the Deliverology priorities.

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Issued by the Gauteng Department of Community Safety. For media enquiries contact Pinkie Numa on 066 080 7742. For media releases, speeches and news visit the website: www.gauteng.gov.za