



community safety,  
security & liaison  
**MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Departement van  
Gemeenskapsveiligheid,  
Sekuriteit en Skakeling

## Media Statement

16 January 2020

### Communities encouraged to surrender firearms during amnesty period

Communities are encouraged to take advantage of the window period for the National Firearm Amnesty as declared by the Minister of Police Bheki Cele to hand in all unwanted and illegal firearms and ammunition. Communities can hand in those firearms and ammunition to any police station without any fear of being arrested unless those firearms were used in committing crime.

The Amnesty is part of government's plan to deal with illegal and unwanted firearms in communities. It started in December 2019 and will be closed at the end of May this year. Mpumalanga communities have so far surrendered 173 firearms at different police stations across the province.

Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC, Gabisile Shabalala has applauded the individuals who have so far come forward to surrender their unwanted firearms.

She says that removing firearms in communities will assist in ensuring that crime is reduced because it has been established that most of the crimes are committed by criminals using firearms.

"Reduction of firearms in circulation will go a long way towards the creation of safer communities. Crimes such as cash-in-transit robbery, murder, attempted murder, car and truck hijacking all types of robbery, sexual offences and others are committed by people mostly in possession of firearms," she says.

Shabalala also makes a clarion call to those who have not surrendered their firearms to use this period to do the right thing.

The MEC added that after the amnesty period has lapsed, those who will be found in possession of unwanted firearms will face the full consequences of the law.

Therefore, the MEC insisted, communities should make full use of the amnesty period to free themselves of unwanted firearms and ammunition.

Ends...

**Issued by Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison**

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