

JCPS Meeting : 26 February 2013

Allocated Time :30 Minutes

Mbombela Stadium

Provincial Commissioner, Leutenant
General, T Ntobela

Head of the Department, Mr. Thulani Sibuyi
CPF Board, Cavin Pillay

All JCPS Members present

Other sister Departments present

Ladies and gentlemen

Some of you may remember the call from the President of the republic that we need to also focus mainly on the issues of women and children abuse. The brutal gang rape and murder of Anene Booysen and other women and girls in recent times has brought into sharp focus the need for

unity in action to eradicate this scourge, this was said by the President of the Republic in his SoNA. This calls for everyone to take part and it also says we have a huge responsibility each and everytime and now is the time to come up with plans to mitigate these perennial challenges we face.

Yesterday I received a memorandum from a group of women and men called themselves Brothers for Life in Lekwa Municipality requesting our government to act swiftly on all matters of sexual offences, that there should be harsh sentences for sexual related offences, further requesting that we capacitate our Human resources on issues relating to investigations of sexual offences and ultimately to fund all designated centers for victims of abuse.

I fully advocate the call and these are some of the issues that needs our urgent attention.

The President further said , I quote “The brutality and cruelty meted out to defenseless women is unacceptable and has no place in our country ” Close quote .And that We urge this coordinating structure to make the campaign of fighting violence against women an everyday campaign. The law enforcement agencies should treat these cases with the utmost urgency and importance.

The President further said, I quote “Masisebenze sonke, silwe nalenkinga esibhekene nayo yabantu abadlwengula omame nezingane, ngisho nezalukazi imbala. Ihlazo nobunswelaboya obesabekayo lokhu abakwenzayo.

Izigilamkhuba kufanele zibikwe emaphoyiseni ziboshwe.” close quote.

Government is adding other mechanisms to protect women, such as the Protection from Harassment Bill. While the Domestic Violence Act also provides protection, it only applies to persons who are in a domestic relationship.

The issue of Human traffic as we live next to the two neighboring states , thus poses a threat to us as a Province. We need to focus on what could be the best possible ways in addressing it, strengthening our border crossings between Swaziland and Mozambique.

We need to continue with our operations focusing on illegal firearms, stolen and robbed vehicles, liquor and drugs which are

regarded as main generators in order to reduce crime drastically.

We therefore call on our people to exercise their rights to protest in a peaceful and orderly manner. It is unacceptable when people's rights are violated by perpetrators of violent actions, such as actions that lead to injury and death of persons, damage to property and the destruction of valuable public infrastructure. We are duty bound to uphold, defend and respect the Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic. We will spare no effort in doing so.

The President of the Republic further said he has instructed the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster to put measures in place, with immediate effect, to ensure that any incidents of violent protest are acted upon, investigated

and prosecuted. And that Courts will be allocated to deal with such cases on a prioritized roll. The law must be enforced and it must be seen to be enforced - fairly, effectively and expeditiously.

He reiterated the fact that, The JCPS Cluster has therefore put measures in place at national, provincial and local level to deal with such incidents effectively and that government departments at all levels must work closely with communities and ensure that all concerns are attended to before they escalate. That responsibility remains. We are a caring government and these relates to the Bushbuckridge issue.

There is a hue and cry from local farmers where livestock theft is rife in some villages with special attention to Dingledale, Edinburg, and white City and this requires all of us to combine our resources and try to assist the affected communities by providing frequent patrols and security. The perpetrators should be arrested and this acts should be stopped instantly.

We are meeting today for the first time after the Festive season period and as we are meeting again we need to have a collective practical plan towards the Easter holidays to ensure crime levels and accidents are reduced drastically. The close out reports to be presented here will assist us to identify the gaps and deviations emerged during our operations.

Thereafter we need to come up with a clear plan that will address those common challenges affecting our performance .

My view is that we need to improve on our human & financial resource capacity during the Festive and the Easter holidays. This covers everyone of in here. I know for sure that there were concerns from the traffic unit that some of their traveling were scaled down and overtime is also reduced and these challenges may inhibits our target to reduce crime and road carnages. It is my plea to all of us to start realizing that without sufficient resources we would not be able to fight crime. I believe this meeting would be able to help on how best can we do to attend to this issues.

One of the many primary issues we are struggling to accomplish is the issue of poverty, unemployment and inequality. We cannot address poverty, and unemployment, if we do not create jobs and opportunities for our people especially our young people.

Our current Government is striving to ensure that our youth is given a priority in all aspects since they form the majority of our people in the Country. As Mpumalanga Government we thought it would be judicious to afford this golden opportunity and consider our young women and men 110 of them to enrol for the Basic Traffic Officers Diploma. Some of these learners have been sent to Limpopo and Gauteng Traffic College.

This programme targets Unemployed youth within the regions of our Province. Mainly, young unemployed South African matriculates. I hope this will assist us to improve our work to road reduce accidents

Recently we visited Barberton Juvenile Prison as part of the school safety prison visit project. I should think it would be prudent to firstly commend the work done by the Department of Education, Correctional service and the Department of Community safety and security towards the coordination of such. Young people were given a platform to interact with the Inmates and are able to learn the challenges facing their peers and this would assist them to take correct decisions.

These are the programs we need to continue to run as most young people are vulnerable to all sorts of criminal activities.

The President said in his State of the Nations Address on the 14th of February 2013 . I quote” No single force acting individually can achieve the objectives we have set for ourselves” Close quote., thus we need continue to put our heads together and strive for the improvement of the lives of all ordinary South Africans.

It is evident that there is a marginal increase in the public’s appreciation of how government is doing in reducing crime levels when compared to some few years ago.

This is evident through the recent the Orange African Cup Of nations (AFCON) Games from the 19th of January to the 10th of February 2013.

Let me commend the sterling work displayed by all members of the cluster and the cooperation displayed by the community as a whole. *Lets give ourselves a round of applause.*

We may all agree that efforts to improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system received a major boost recently. In terms of the case finalisation rate, various high level interactions with all relevant role players as we envisaged may improve performance in this regard,

thus our collective efforts and support at all levels is expected to manage our work effectively.

As a Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster we have to be constant in strengthening our systems and interventions to ensure that all people in South Africa in particular Mpumalanga are and feel safe and it is our call.

The continued good interaction between the role players in the Cluster and improved coordination efforts shall yield the results we are we envisaging.

The strategic reports on progress with regard to targeted outcome shall indicate the strengthening of delivery in terms of cross-cutting criminal justice system issues.

The Cluster will continue to monitor progress in terms of the various outputs of all outcomes targeted and will also continue to align implementation with the refined Delivery Agreement.

“We expect you to pick the spear and run; we have a responsibility of staying together and work passionately for our people. Let us overcome the obstacles and attend to the challenges we have, these were the words said by the Hon. Premier recently thus lets continue to do the best we can in our work as we are approaching the Easter holidays and beyond.

I thank you