

MEC VR Shongwe Opening Remarks in the Joint Management Meeting held at PC's Board Room on the 11th of July 2012

The Head of Department Mr Thulani Sibuyi,
The Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Thulani Ntobela,
The Deputy Provincial Commissioner Major General Phahla,
The Chair of the CPF Board, Mr Cavin Pillay,
The Management of SAPS,
The Management of DCSSL,
Officials,

Good morning,

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge and welcome both the management of SAPS in the Province as led by Lt. General Thulani Ntobela and that of DCSSL as led by Mr Thulani Sibuyi as well as the CPF Board under the leadership of Mr Cavin Pillay.

Our meeting sits at the time when we are faced with the escape of eleven awaiting trial suspects in Hazyview. I have noted and was happy that one of the ring leaders was recaptured on the same day of the escape and this gives me hope that they will all be rearrested soon.

We will support SAPS and urge communities to help police rearrest the suspects. I am sure that the CPF will also make it their baby as well to inform communities never to hide and harbor these criminals but immediately report them to authorities upon seeing them.

Our meeting is the first meeting since the new National Police Commissioner, General Mangwashi Phiyega was pronounced by the President. The Minister introduced the new Commissioner to us in the last Minmec meeting held in Durban and all Provinces committed and pledge support to her.

It was in that meeting General Ntobela that as some of my colleagues from other Provinces were privately mourning to me about their frustrations on the working relationship with their Provincial Commissioners that I realized that indeed I was lucky to have worked with you in the Province.

This was further confirmed by Minister Nathi Mthethwa, when he stated in no uncertain terms, that I was working with a very dynamic person in you and I really appreciate this good working relationship we have.

I have also been informed by my office that whenever there are Parliamentary questions sent to your office, responses are always prompt and the working relationship between the two offices is at its best. I appreciate that and I must say we must do everything in our power to keep it this way.

As we come close to school reopening, I would like us to take the School Safety Campaigns into action and this point is on the Agenda. We must deliberate and find the most effective ways to record maximum success on the Campaign.

I know that I run the risk of going into Agenda items but I must again single out Rural Safety because I would like us to give renewed efforts and put the concept of Rural Safety into action.

As we engage, I would like us to find ways to give meaning to Rural Safety.

The increase in service delivery protests remains an area that we must look into very closely because they turn defocus Police from fighting crime in the Province to monitoring of the violent protests. We must find creative ways to help the police through strengthening our community awareness campaigns jointly with SAPS to educate our people about do's and don'ts during protests.

We must not assume that everyone who gets involved in the kinds of behavior is fully aware of its consequences. This matter I think should be sharply raised at JCPS so that those who normally get caught by police are successfully prosecuted. We must do this in order to identify where there are bottlenecks in the execution of Justice so that they can be attended to.

In closing, General Phiyega said "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much; this is however, a responsibility we should take with both hands, soldiering on and in delivering on the mandate South Africans have entrusted upon us".

It is on that spirit that I would like us to approach our meeting today, understanding that our combined efforts can make us achieve more.

Chairperson, we have a lengthy Agenda to exhaust and I think I should pause here and allow the meeting to start.



Thank you.