
Media Release

10 November 2019

MEC Shabalala encourages Daggakraal communities to work with the police in preventing crime

MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Ms Gabisile Shabalala has called on the communities in Daggakraal to work with the police in preventing and solving crime in the area.

MEC Shabalala was speaking during a Public Participation Programme. (Imbizo) that was held in the area yesterday.

She says perception of crime level to the outside world could affect the country negatively and it could also scare potential investors away.

She explained that the country needs investors in order to create more jobs that will benefit impoverished communities such as Daggakraal and surrounding areas.

"Participating in crime prevention does not mean communities should take the law into their own hands, " said the MEC.

Shabalala warned those who attack the police or law enforcement officers saying that they will be harshly dealt with.

She insisted that the police represent the state and any person attacking the police is attacking the state.

She encouraged the community to work with the police to end criminality through structures such as the CPF.

Shabalala urged the residents to refrain from accepting or even buying stolen goods and she says failure to report family members involved who are involved in criminal activities should not be allowed.

Shabalala has welcomed the official opening of the Mpumalanga High Court by President Cyril Ramaphosa on Friday saying that the development was auguring well for the province.

She added that residents will no longer travel long distances to have cases heard in Gauteng's high courts.

The MEC also told the community that gender based violence reached highest proportions this year and therefore such cases must be reported so that perpetrators are brought to book.

She has called on those who have relationship challenges to seek help and even leave such relationships rather than to kill or injure their loved ones.

She has called on unemployed young people not to involve themselves in drugs or criminal activities.

She encouraged them to live their lives as positively as possible so that when opportunities arise they are able to take full advantage of such opportunities.

"Do not do wrong things because you are not working. Being unemployed is not a permanent thing.

"Those who are into drugs should seek help before it is too late, " said the MEC.

She added that drugs were destroying the nation particularly young people and those who know who the drug peddlers should report them to the police.

On the other hand, most of the residents complained about livestock theft with some complimenting local police for assisting them with swift recovery of their stolen cattle.

Others complained that police were taking too long to respond to their cases and they alleged that some police officers were in cahoots with criminals.

Another resident praised the police saying they would arrest crime suspects but the suspects would later be freed.

Daggakraal is among the top 30 police stations in the province that has recorded most increases in contact and serious crimes as per the Crime Statistics for the financial year 2018/2019.

Yesterday's programme was among others supported by local traditional leadership, SAPS, Departments of Justice, Correctional Services, Social Development and Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality.

Ends..

ISSUED BY THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON

Media enquiries Moeti Mmusi

Contacts: 084 411 3372