

MEC VR SHONGWE SPEECH DURING THE VISIT AT THE  
ELSHADAI TERBANACLE CHURCH:

10 FEBRUARY 2013

TIME ALLOCATED: 20 MINUTES

Programme Director

The Head of the church, Bishop VP Mdaka

Officials from the Depart of Community Safety,  
Security and Liaison

All members of the congregation present

Manene nani manenekazi, recently we gathered in Mpuluzi(Mayflower) as religious leaders and their congregations from various religious faiths, who came together to pray for divine intervention in our efforts to reduce deaths on our roads especially during the festive season.

As a Department ,We shall continue to host series of educational awareness programs to embark on educating our people on issues of safety.

There should be no debate on whether government's top job is to protect its citizens from harm or not. Whether at the national level, the state level or the local level, government's goal must be to prevent people who would do us harm from carrying out their plans, punish them when they are caught and help their victims recover. Government must also protect citizens from disasters, both large and small, and from illness and accidents.

No matter what one's personal political beliefs are, nearly everyone agrees with the proposition that by combining public resources including money, equipment and Personnel we can do a better job of providing for our safety and well-being than if we work to do the same thing as individuals. Also, few, if any, would disagree with the proposition that protecting ourselves from harm is a worthy endeavor.

Government alone cannot achieve the fight against crime and other interests. Providing for our collective well-being requires a multifaceted approach that includes using the expertise of public safety.

As a government, we should be concentrating on bringing basic services to our people; regrettably we all have to pause in a form of this meetings and campaigns to educate those who are vulnerable to this immoral perennial challenges facing our communities such as gender-based violence to speak out.

Our government believes that violence against women and children, in all its different appearances, it is incompatible with dignity and worth of human person, and efforts to eliminate them should be the responsibility of everyone.

As we are gathered here, all of us, we have a common responsibility towards the success of these campaigns.

Police stations should be a place of safety for abused women and children. By doing this, police officers would contribute greatly in ensuring that abused women and children speak out all the time.

This will make women to appreciate police stations and that they would always report such crimes. I am also appealing to abused women and children to come out and report abusive husbands and other family members.

To all the women, please, do not withdraw cases of abuse. Whether you have been beaten by your husband or he has forced himself sexually on you, please report such men to the police.

Otherwise you will not benefit from the justice system because the state will never ever know about your plight as such cases happen within the bedrooms, where there are no witnesses at all.

Again, abused women and children should not erode evidence of abuse. It may be difficult for them, but as a government, we want to ensure that perpetrators are brought to book.

As a department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, we are pleading to everyone including yourselves, other Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster sister departments, that let us all aim for triumph by the victims.

Personally, ladies and gentlemen, I am very much concerned about advertisements on abortion which we see on the lamp posts and newspapers. Women are flooded with messages which promote abortion.

It may be legal ladies and gentlemen, but what type of women do we have, who would carry children for months in their wombs, and after giving birth flush them on toilets?

I am appealing to responsible parents, to please take care of their children. When we conduct these raids, we find very young teenage girls. I often ask myself, do parents sleep peacefully without knowing where their children are. These young girls are exposed to diseases and abuse.

Mfundisi, our common aim today, is also to pray to our Heavely father , whether we call him Buddha, Allah, Krishna and various other names, Mvelincangi, to help us in our efforts to fight crimes, to exorcise all this unforeseen evils happening in our roads and pleading peace in our own homes, churches, schools, work and the whole nation. Our collective efforts, is very salient in all aspects of life. Together we shall do more and more.

As a Province we have made several attempts with all stakeholders to look at some of the perennial challenges facing our people at large. As we speak today, 13 schools within Ehlanzeni Region are invited on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February to attend a project called school safety project/Prison visit in Barberton and this is done in partnership with the Department of education .This project is one of the educational awareness programme wherein we identify schools which are mostly problematic

in terms of crime. These crimes which happen in most schools are bullying, gansterism, carrying of illegal weapons, subsistence and drug abuse, sexual harassment(rape) as well as teenage pregnancy which affect most learners. We have an operation which is called “Overall Friday” Operations, it was initiated in 2010 and is conducted in different cluster areas, areas seem to be contributing significantly to crime and road carnages.

This kind of an activity seeks to intensify the fight against crime and road carnages by strengthening already existing partnerships between the Department, the Police, the Community, and other partners within the Joint Crime Prevention.

Ladies and gentlemen let me commend the exertions displayed by our stakeholders ranging from the community at large, the Police, the traffic officers and liquoir Board

including our sister Departments who are part of the Justice Crime prevention Cluster for their sterling work in support of government to achieve and in reducing crime and road accidents. Mpumalanga is one of the top three in the whole country for reduction of crime and we need to commend ourselves including yourselves seated herein by contributing to the course.

Despite all the aforementioned issues, the Department will continue to engage various media houses to including yourselves in many forms to ensure that we maximize our publicity so that our people in the Province are aware and are able to do good.

We have one message and we are clear, crime has no place in our communities primarily in this province . We cannot afford to have crime-ridden communities. I know that some of you have experienced an incident of crime

in your personal capacities, while for others the experience is multiple.

Some of you have had your homes broken into, while others have been victims of an armed robbery in your own homes or elsewhere.

Some of you have experienced street violence, petty theft and muggings . It is you and your families, friends and loved once that has witnessed rapes, killings or had been victims in one of these or other type of crime.

We all agree that crime is painful and must be stopped. The truth is Police alone cannot do it hence we have come to engage with you about challenges, ideas and opportunities that we have in the fight against crime. We need to protect our police officers.

We cannot afford to loose our police officers who are our own brothers and sisters from our neighborhood and who are there to help us to live in peace and harmony and we need to assist them to do their work effectively and this could be done through your Community Policing Forums

In conclusion, I thank you all for inviting me to the house of the Lord and for praying for our people and for taking part in assisting with all the resources you have to contribute to fight against crime, road carnages, women and children abuse. Today I'm blessed as I'm in and I shall be blessed as I'm going out through your prayers. May the almighty be with you all in your endeavors as we continue with the year.

Thank you

