

**REMARKS BY THE MEC FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON
MEC PAT NGOMANE ON THE CLOSING OF THE SAFETY AND SECURITY
SUMMIT ON TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2016 AT INGWENYAMA RESORT IN
MBOMBELA**

Programme Directors General Manager, Sibandiso Nkuna, Minister of State Security, our very own David Mahlobo, Minister Mahlobo we are glad that you did make time to be with us here today.

I further thank MEC Dr. Mpho Motlhabane from North West province. I am grateful that he was able to take time to be part of this summit and we appreciate the inputs that he has made so far with his great presentation yesterday.

We further acknowledge Chief Whip Johan Mkhathshwa, Deputy Speaker, Ms. Violet Siwela, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee and other honourable members of the Legislature who are in our midst here today.

I would also like to extend my sincerest appreciation to Ehlanzeni District Municipality Mayor, Clr J Sidell, councillors from various municipalities, SAPS Provincial Commissioner, General Mondli Zuma and his team, Provincial CPF Board Chairperson, Mr. Kevin Pillay, Head for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr. William Mthombothi, invited guests, members of the media, and all officials present here today

Ladies and gentlemen Sanibonani

Before continuing, I must also appreciate the two programme directors for displaying such diligence in presiding over the summit over the last two days. They steered the ship exceptionally well and was it not for them we would not have made such great progress. Let us all give them a big round of applause.

Ladies and gentlemen as we conclude the business here today, I am very optimistic that we will indeed realize the objectives and intentions of the summit. I strongly believe that we all realize the urgency of the issues at hand.

I am deeply encouraged that the summit did not only provide us with an opportunity to evaluate existing crime prevention strategies. But it will also assist with enhancing co-ordination of programmes. With increased partnerships and improved co-ordination of our activities the desired impact will be achieved and our people will benefit.

Ladies and gentlemen, our people want answers and solutions from us now and the time is now. Yes we should move with great speed as we work towards addressing challenges that are facing us with regard to crime in our communities.

I must highlight that the two days of the summit was fruitful because I have been briefed about the presentations that have been made by various commissions. I am also pleased to note that they have taken into account various presentations that were made yesterday.

I am also aware that there was robustness and greater degree of frankness that characterised discussions in the commissions yesterday. I am very positive Minister that we will achieve what we intended with this summit.

I believe that the resolutions will not just decorate our offices; we should all work hard as stakeholders, departments and municipalities to give life to these resolutions. I will need quarterly reports on the implementation of the resolutions. This will assist in monitoring the progress.

Failure by us to implement these resolutions will create the impression that government does not care about many people who have become victims of crime. We will be letting down majority of the people who have voted us into power.

Let us ensure that we incorporate the resolutions of the summit into our plans so that we give hope to victims and survivors of crime across the province that we have heard their cries and that their pain is our pain.

Think about the children who are orphans because their parents have been taken away from them by criminals. Think about a labourer who goes home one fortnight only to have all his earnings taken away by crooks that are hell-bent on terrorizing our communities. That is indeed is very painful because it is not only him who suffers but the entire family and everyone who is dependent on him.

That pain can only get worse if they think that government does not care about crime and safety of the people. The message that this government cares about its people will only be believed if we act on what we promise our people.

Yesterday during my address, I highlighted the lack of action on the part of municipalities to implement municipality safety plans that the department developed some years ago. The department together with municipalities should urgently come together also as part of today's resolutions, to review municipality safety plans.

We will further convene public safety councillors on quarterly basis as part of ensuring that municipalities do play their roles effectively in safety and security matters.

It is important that crime prevention initiatives are prioritised and catered in municipalities' budgets, IDPS and local economic development plans. I am also glad that the matter received attention in the commissions.

Programme directors, I have heard the concerns that were raised by Provincial CPF Board Chairperson, Mr. Kevin Pillay on the resourcing of the CPFs. Our department will work closely with your office so that we find ways of assisting the structures where we can while matters relating to location of the structures and legislative and policy amendments are still receiving attention.

CPF structures as I have indicated yesterday are an important vehicle that we should continue to optimally utilize in order to mobilise communities in the fight against crime.

With optimum utilization of the CPFs, ladies and gentlemen, we will be able to close all the gaps that criminals use in order to terrorise communities, thus solidifying the partnerships between the law enforcement agencies and the communities.

Mass mobilization is the way to go, HOD, let us work with the CPF board so that we are able to make our people safe.

While we want our communities to stay mobilised against crime, we need to educate them about the dangers of mob justice. South Africa is not a banana republic; no one should take law into their own hands. The matter should find expressions in our awareness campaigns and during the departmental Izimbizo programmes.

It was further highlighted yesterday that alcohol; abuse among young people have devastating consequences for crime prevention initiatives. More and more young people perpetuate crime around these establishments. They also become victims while they are on their way home coming from these taverns.

The abuse of alcohol, ladies and gentlemen as most of are aware, is one of clear indications of a society whose values are generally on the decline. We cannot continue to have young people consuming alcohol at the rate at which they are doing. Some of these young people are still going to school.

Last week, Programme director, four young learners who were coming from a matric dance instead of going home after the function opted to go and have their own function. They later became involved in a fatal accident that claimed the lives of the four of those learners. One can only feel for their families.

With this summit we and all other programmes that we have we need to address such a decline of good values in our society. We need to address the challenges posed by excessive alcohol abuse and the scourge of drugs in our province as a matter of urgency.

I am glad that the matter further received attention in the commissions yesterday. We will on the other hand continue with Overall Friday operations to target identified areas even in the current financial year.

Also as part of the way forward, we will also work with all role players on liquor trading arena in the province to ensure compliance with conditions of their licenses. We are therefore warning those who are not complying that their days are numbered, we are surely coming after them.

Ladies and gentlemen I have also noted the comments that were raised by Minister Mahlobo regarding security of our borders and some of the challenges that are posed by border security.

We are aware about the magnitude of those challenges and the impact that they continue to have on the work of the security cluster which is why there was a commission dedicated to border security.

As I conclude ladies and gentlemen, I would like to commit myself in front of you that my department will work around the clock to realize the objectives of the summit. We

all have individual and collective responsibility to ensure all the good ideas that have been presented here become practical.

I am however mindful that some of the issues falls within the ambit of my portfolio but as a wayforward I will interact with my counterparts so that we work together even for mobilization of resources to ensure that we realize the summit's noble intentions.

Other issues that have been raised here will also receive attention in JCPS, MUNIMEC and MINIMEC meetings. What has become crystal clear to us here is that there is nothing we can do without collaborations and community participation.

I thank you.