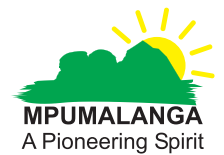




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**“SEKWANELE, BOPHA!”**





# Editorial

## HLAYISEKANI TEAM

**Strategic Editor:** Joseph Mabuza  
**Content Editor:** Moeti Mmusi  
**Production Editor:** Phindile Ranalana  
**Articles:** Zandile Mandlazi  
 Thandeka Mavuso  
 Nonkululeko Nkosi

**Chief Graphic Designer:** Sam Sibiti

**Senior Graphic Designers:**

Celiwe Mthethwa

Zinhle Ngwenyama

**Photography:** Hlayisekani Team

**Views & Comments:**

Tel: (013) 766 4055

Fax: (013) 766 4615

e-mail: emabuza@mpg.gov.za

**Physical Address:**

Building 4, 2nd Floor

Riverside Park

Nelspruit, 1200

*Hlayisekani News* is a quarterly newsletter of the Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison. It is compiled by the Communication Directorate. The views expressed in the publication are neither of the directorate nor the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison. The directorate will however always strive to report news that is factual, fair and accurate.

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New developments are keeping the department afloat and continue to enhance the image of this department within the Mpumalanga Provincial Government.

Recently, the MEC, Honourable Vusi Shongwe launched the Traffic Intervention Unit (TIU) in the province which has already started to make a

difference on the roads. The same day, the department announced its new name, which is now the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison. As if this was not enough, the MEC also announced that after the province used the Sivuth' Umlilo slogan for several years, "Sekwanele, Bopha" will now replace the former slogan.

The slogan will complement the work of the department in both traffic law enforcement and in the fight against crime in the province. It comes from both the soft and aggressive approach of delivering the mandate of the department.

Through the department's road safety wing, safety messages will be disseminated to all road users encouraging them to be cautious and follow all road regulations, including the "don't drink and drive campaign. This is where the department will call upon motorists to stop (Bopha) whatever bad behavior they are practicing on the roads. Those who will not heed the road safety call will then have to face the province's law enforcement team who will be tough on them (Bopha).

Besides the launch of these initiatives, the department was recently inundated with media enquiries about the issue involving speed cameras. Without deliberating on the technicalities of this matter, the concern from the department is that the so called concerned people only focus their attention on the installation and the positioning of the devices, however, they do not dispute the fact that they were speeding when the cameras recorded their movements.

In fact, if a motorist drives according to the stipulated speed limits, the cameras are harmless and they only record those who clock more than the speed limit. I think it will be understandable if a person complains that he or she was driving below the speed limit but he or she received a speeding fine.

As we are approaching the Festive Season, I hope there will be more cooperation on the road because it is clear that both MEC Shongwe and the HOD of the Department Mr Thulani Sibuyi are serious about the fight against crime and road carnages. Do not be surprised to see them on the road during our Overall Friday campaigns leading traffic officers, including the Traffic Intervention Unit in a quest to clear our roads of all the "moving coffins" and irresponsible drivers. Please enjoy this publication of *Hlayisekani*.



**Mr. Joseph Mabuza**

# Sekwanele, Bopha!

**M**pumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC, Vusi Shongwe has launched a new traffic intervention unit in Emalahleni recently.

The purpose of the unit is to assist in curbing lawlessness and road carnages on the roads.

The unit will focus on roads such as N4, R573, N12, N17, R40, N11, R23, N2 and other identified roads and it is also expected to assist in the implementation of the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) initiative.

It will also focus on drunken driving, overtaking on barrier lines and usage of cell phones while driving as well as driver behavior. He explained that the new unit will work more similar to SAPS' Tactical Response Team (TRT) and it will pay more attention to the roads that have contributed to high number of road accidents in the province.

"We are not bringing division amongst the traffic officers; instead we want the new team to spend its energies on the reduction of road carnages," The MEC explained. He added that the unit will be equipped with technological devices that would enable them to detect roadworthiness of vehicles, overloading, and whether the vehicles are having outstanding fines for traffic violations.

The MEC also said that the unit will be more of an elite traffic unit that will even arrest other traffic officers who are involved in corrupt activities. They will be highly trained in terms of physical and mental fitness.

The unit will target all public transport and freight vehicles such as the busses, trucks, tractors and taxis. Public transport carries many people at a go and when involved in accidents many people become casualties.

Shongwe said the coal transporting trucks will also be targeted as some



**MEC Vusi Shongwe speaking during the launching of the Traffic Intervention Unit**

truck owners push their drivers to work for long hours without rest and fatigue in truck drivers has led to many fatalities.

He has urged the owners not to put money before the lives of other road users and as such, the MEC said drivers must be allowed to relax sufficiently especially when driving long distances. Townships will also be targeted because that is where some of the accidents happen mainly because of absence of traffic officers.

"In townships that is where you find people driving at high speed, drinking and driving, driving vehicles that are not roadworthy and even without valid driver's licences," said Shongwe.

The unit, which began working immediately after the launch on 30 September 2011, was presented with 30 brand new Volkswagen GTIs to enable it to function optimally and enhance their response time to various road situations.

He said it was regrettable that the department recorded 10 955 road

accidents in the financial year 2010/2011 that resulted in over 2000 deaths and over 800 serious injuries.

He said this robs many families of bread winners and loved ones and it is causing the country millions of rands annually.

He added that what was bad about those accidents was that the highest numbers of the victims were passengers, followed by drivers and pedestrians. Meanwhile the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) Acting Chief Executive Officer, Collins Letsoalo has supported the department's initiative and he said that he wished other provinces could establish similar units to curb road accidents.

The department's initiative was supported by stakeholders such as SAPS, RTMC, National Department of Transport and municipalities. At the same function the department unveiled its new operation slogan for road safety which is "Sekwanele, Bopha! replacing, "Sivuth' umlilo".



# Crime declines in Mpumalanga



MEC Vusi Shongwe (left), Mpumalanga SAPS Commissioner Thulani Ntobela (Middle) and National Community Forum Board Chairperson, Mr. Mandla Mphuti during the media briefing on Mpumalanga crime statistics recently.

**M**pumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison, MEC Vusi Shongwe has attributed the decline in crime to increased police visibility, hard working police and the sterling leadership of Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Thulani Ntobela.

Shongwe was speaking during the release of the crime statistics for the 2010/2011 financial year. He added that although the numbers were still high because any crime is a concern, it was somewhat encouraging that the province was indeed on its way to becoming one of the safest places in the country.

Shongwe added that the continued decline of crime in general could also be attributed to among others to increased police visibility that came with the establishment of Tactical Response Team (TRT), community participation in crime prevention, commitment of SAPS management and the existence of political will to clamp down criminality.

"We will indeed squeeze crime and criminals to zero if we continue improving on these notable successes," the MEC said.

During 2010/2011, a total of 121 493 serious crime cases were registered in the province and all seven categories of contact crime have shown a decrease. This includes murder, attempted murder, and assault with intent to inflict grievous

bodily harm, common assault, robbery with aggravating circumstances and common robbery. Notably, the murder rate has decreased by 17.7%. Attempted murder went down by 33.2 %; robbery with aggravating circumstances and common robbery have decreased by 16.3% and 10.9% respectively.

Other crime types in this category that have not decreased significantly are sexual offences which have only gone down by 3.8 % and it means that more work still needs to be done to intensify the war against this type of crimes as it mainly affects women and children.

Arson has gone down by 29.6% and malicious damage to property has also decreased by 12.5%. Burglary at non residential premises has also gone down by 5.8% while burglary at residential properties has decreased by 6.7%. Theft out of or from motor vehicles has increased by 3.9% while stock theft has decreased by 12.9%. There has been a decrease on the illegal possession of firearms and ammunitions by 12.8%.

Shongwe added that patrols and other police operations needed to be intensified in order to declare all our areas in the province as illegal firearm-free zones. Drug related crimes have increased by 55.1 % while incidences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs have increased by 26.9%.

Other serious crimes that included all theft

not mentioned elsewhere have increased by 1.3% while commercial crime and shoplifting have decreased by 1.8% and 8.5% respectively.

Cash in transit has decreased significantly by 63.2% in the category of robbery with aggravated circumstances. Also cases of bank robbery has taken a major nose-dive by 80.0%, meaning that there is a major blow on bank robbery.

Truck hijacking and carjacking have also decreased by 17.3% and 39.8% respectively. In the same category, robbery at residential premises has decreased by 19.6% while robbery at non residential premises has increased by 13.0%.

The top police precincts that recorded the highest incidences of crime on different aggravated robbery are Witbank (street and business robbery), KaNyamazane (car-jacking and house robbery), and Delmas (truck-jacking).

Shongwe also said that alcohol misuse is a major generator for at least 10% of sexual offences. He has called for more action directed at liquor outlets to ensure that liquor traders among others close at specified time, alcohol is not sold to minors, the owners possess the required documentation and that patrons do not visit the liquor establishments while armed.



# Community Liaison is the key to police's success - Lieut. Col. Mdaka

**M**alelane Police Station Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Velisiwe Mdaka says the success of a police station comes from the good relationship between police and community.

She says police stations should be encouraged to have a good relationship with the community as community members are the ones who can provide crime information and testify against perpetrators of crime.

Malelane Police Station has been named the best performing station on the Captain to Lieutenant Colonel level and the best female station commander in the province during the MEC's Excellence Awards of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison held recently. The Community Police Forum based in the Malelane Police Station had also been awarded as one of the best in the province.

The eighth annual MEC's Excellence Awards were held in Secunda in September where best performing stations and police individuals in the province were awarded. The awards ceremony are held annually to acknowledge the stations that are doing well and identify those that are not doing well so that they can be assisted to enhance police service delivery in the province. Lt Col Mdaka says dedication and team work is what best describes her station. She says that her station is involved

in various programmes like domestic violence campaign; adopt a cop and neighborhood watch.

"These campaigns assist us as police to interact with our communities and educate them about crime prevention. In this way, the relationship between the police and our community is strengthened," said Mdaka. Speaking at the MEC's Excellence Awards ceremony, Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC, Vusi Shongwe thanked the men and women in blue for ensuring that crime statistics were reduced.

"It is encouraging to note that regardless of the challenges faced by our police officers, there are men and women who are dedicated to serving and protecting our communities.

"Police officers do not only provide police related services, but they also give hope to our people. I will continue to support them," said Shongwe.

Other Police Stations that were awarded were Schoemansdal Police Station which was the runner up for the best performing station in the whole province. Calcutta was named the best station in the province on Colonel and Higher level, while Acornhoek was the runner up. Acornhoek, Calcutta, Malelane, Schoemansdal and Piet Retief police stations were named the best based CPF in the province.



MEC Vusi Shongwe (left) and Provincial Commissioner, Thulani Ntobela (right) congratulates Malelane Station Commander, Ms. Velisiwe Mdaka for her station being named the best performing station in the province.



# Shongwe awards TRT



Some of the Tactical Response Team members who received special award during the MEC's Excellence Awards.

**M**pumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe has recognised the now famous SAPS' Tactical Response Team (TRT) with the MEC's Special Excellence Award, saying the unit contributed greatly in the reduction of crime in the province.

The MEC awarded the unit for good performance with a trophy and certificates during award-giving ceremony in September in Secunda. The MEC's Excellence Awards ceremony is organised annually by the department to award good performing police officers and stations in Mpumalanga province.

Shongwe reiterated his statement that he would always support the TRT regardless of complaints from some individuals about the alleged "brutality" when executing their duties. He said that since the unit's visibility has played a major role in reducing crime in the province.

"I am once more pledging my full support to them as they continue to assist in the fight against crime. People who engage themselves in criminal activities would not be spared any mercy but will face the full might of the law," the MEC said.

Recently in an award-giving ceremony for best performing police officers in the province, Shongwe said that he would support the police as long as they do their work.

He said that the people who complained about police were those who were always on the wrong side of the law. "We will continue to strive and fight for a better and crime free province. The police's service delivery is nothing other than to arrest the wrong doers," he said.

He praised the police in the province adding that they did not only provide police related service, but also brought hope to the people of the province. "Through our Overall Friday campaign, we made numerous successes when we conducted operations such as stop and search, road blocks and raiding of taverns.

"Together with the police, we were able to arrest wanted rape suspects who were on the run for a very long time, we were able to arrest highly dangerous wanted suspects, we were able to recover stolen vehicles and confiscated dangerous weapons," added Shongwe.

Shongwe has also thanked the Provincial Commissioner, saying the performance of the police in the province has improved compared to the other years. He said that the communities outside should be warned that the police will not rest until the killing of other police officers have ended.

Shongwe added that community members must protect police as they are also community members with families to provide for. Meanwhile, Mpumalanga SAPS Provincial Commissioner Thulani Ntobela appreciated Shongwe's efforts of boosting the police officers' morale.

"Through your assistance, it has been possible for the police to bring down crime tremendously. We are looking forward to continue improve the situation in the province with your support," Ntobela told Shongwe.

Ntobela added that corruption by police officers will not be tolerated in the force. He mentioned that there were 200 cases of corruption already reported in the province, and that shows the seriousness of the crime.



## Computerized driver testing system reliable - Shongwe

**M**pumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC, Vusi Shongwe says computerized driver training system is reliable and traffic authorities in the province have been urged to utilize it when testing driving licence applicants.

Shongwe called on officials to educate communities about the advantages of system adding that the system's reliability would assist in curbing corruption at testing stations.

According to Shongwe the systems follows lack of interest by most driving license applicants who preferred using vehicles from driving schools.

Shongwe added that the system has a number of benefits as the vehicles for testing are freely available to appli-

cants and the system also reduces chances of fraudulent issuing of driver licences. Shongwe wants the systems to be implemented throughout the province's testing stations in order to ensure that all testing stations function optimally.

"Such technology will go a long way in ensuring that our province produces competent drivers and this in turn should drastically reduce road carnages.

"This is one of our initiatives to fight corruption, we have no place for corrupt officers in our province," said MEC Shongwe.

He has urged the communities to expose corrupt officers so that they could be taken out of the system as employees of government.



HOD Thulani Sibuyi trying out one of the computerized learner driver testing trucks at Mbombela testing ground during one of the site visits by the MEC and his management.



# Shongwe awards truck drivers

## At the same time he wants road safety prioritised

**M**pumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe has urged truck owners and drivers to play their part in reducing road fatalities in the province by exercising more caution on the roads and not violate traffic regulations.

Shongwe said that some truck drivers are believed not to be cautious enough when driving because they know that when they are involved in accidents with smaller cars, their chances of sustaining serious injuries are very slim.

Speaking during the Provincial Driver of the year (DOTY) Awards Ceremony held at Graceland Hotel in Secunda recently, MEC Shongwe called on truck owners not to push their drivers to work long hours without rest as fatigue in truck drivers has led to many accidents.

He urged the owners not to put money before the lives of other road users and as such, the MEC said, drivers must be allowed to relax sufficiently especially when driving long distances.

DOTY is an annual competition that seeks to enhance safe driving by heavy motor vehicle drivers. The competition first took place in various regions of the province and the winners then competed in the provincial competition that took place in Secunda.

The total prize money for the competition was R210 000

and the winners in all categories received R15 000 each while second runners and first runners walked away with R10 000 each in all categories.

The overall winners in combined categories won R10 000 each. The prize money was sponsored by companies such as Standard Bank, Nedbank, Midbank, Midvaal Bus Company, Putco, Buscor and others.

The winners for the competition are as follows:

1. Best Female Driver: SN Nhlapo (Megabus)
2. Best Male Bus Driver: Mr. S Motsepe (Putco)
3. Rigid Category: Mr. ME Mosia (Freight Dynamics)
4. Articulated Category: Mr. L Mthimunye (EMS Evander)
5. 3, 5 Ton Delivery: Mr. DT Mahlangu (EMS-Evander)
6. Rigid with 4 wheels trailer: Mr. ME Shirinda (SAB)

Combined Overall categories winners:

1. Articulated and Rigid with 4 wheel trailer: Mr. L Mthimunye
2. Rigid and 3, 5 Ton Delivery Vehicle: Mr. DT Mahlangu
3. Overall Best Bus Driver: Mr. S Motsepe.



MEC Vusi Shongwe has called for freight and public transport drivers to assist in reducing road accidents in the province.



## Road Safety Ambassadors make it to the semi-final



Mpumalanga Road Safety Ambassadors who represented the province at National Road Safety Debates held in Durban recently.

**M**pumalanga Road Safety Ambassadors have made it to the semi-final in the National Road Safety debate in KwaZulu Natal. Representing the Mpumalanga Province, at least six learners from different regions of the province and schools carried the flag of the province to compete with other learners from other provinces.

The Road Safety Debates learners are drawn from various schools in the province and they compete against each other in municipalities and regions. The six learners who win at provincial then represent the province at national finals.

The debates were initiated in 2004 after statistics showed that most fatalities were involving young people aged between 18-25 years. They are aimed at educating learners about road safety through an interactive and academic approach.

The campaign targets learners from secondary schools. Topics vary from pedestrian safety, traffic law enforcement, effectiveness of traffic regulations, effectiveness of road safety, Administration Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences [AARTO] and other road safety related ideas. Mpumalanga had since scooped national competitions in 2007 and 2010.

Speaking in the provincial debates competition that was held in Standerton recently, Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe said that most road deaths are as a result of lack of knowledge about road safety from young people.

He said that such initiatives will teach learners about road safety through an interactive and participatory approach. He further urged educators to prioritise road safety when teaching learners at schools. He said that schools were a better place for learners to learn about road safety.

Shongwe added that teachers and parents must also lead by example. "As parents and teachers, we have a responsibility to be good examples to the children.

Road Safety must begin with us. We should not drink and drive. We should not drive recklessly. We should not drink in public and we should at all time respect traffic regulations," Shongwe concluded.

Mcebo Ndashi, Tihologelo Mashego, Knowledge Mokoe-na, Prudence Nkosi, Lucia Nyembe and Maida Masilela worked hand in hand in the National debates and beat Northern Cape in the first round. They were then defeated by the Gauteng Province in the semi-final.



# PROJECTS

## EXCELLENCE AWARDS



## DRIVER OF THE YEAR GALA DINNER





# IN ACTION



## IMBIZO IN MANGWENI





# Shongwe adopts Sizofunda Primary School



MEC Vusi Shongwe and Sizofunda Primary Principal, Mr. AZ Mtsweni with some of the learners who received food parcels and blankets.

**M**pumalanga Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe has adopted Sizofunda Primary School in Victor Khanye Municipality recently.

While visiting the school, Shongwe handed over food parcels and blankets to the needy learners to the value of over R75 000. The learners were identified by departmental officials in collaboration with the local CPF, the police and school management.

Speaking during his visit, the MEC said, "It pains that there are children who go to bed on empty stomachs because they do not have necessary documentation to enable them to access child supports grants."

He urged government officials to ensure that they assisted farm dwellers to access government services such as social grants and also assist the farmer to clear the bush that has been identified as a haven for criminals. Meanwhile a local farmer, Mr. Danie Van Wyk was appreciated by the MEC for renting out a piece of land to government to erect a school building. Van Wyk told the MEC that he wished his

workers could be assisted in getting government subsidized houses.

"It is very difficult for farm workers to get government houses. I am even willing to sell a portion of my land so that these people can live comfortably and peacefully even if new management takes over the farm," Van Wyk told the MEC.

He also mentioned that a bush around his farm is being used by criminals for their heinous activities. He requested the MEC to liaise with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to assist with the clearing of the bush.

The MEC appreciated Van Wyk's rapport with the government calling on the workers to protect him and his farm. "You must always support Mr. Van Wyk because he gave a piece of land for your children's education and your children will therefore have a better future," said Shongwe.

The MEC proceeded to KwaMhlanga to hand over food parcels to the Mthethwa family.



## Junior Traffic Training Centers to reduce accidents

**M**pumalanga Community Safety Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe says the Junior Traffic Training Centers (JTTC) that were handed over to schools in the Gert Sibande Region will assist in reducing road carnages if effectively utilized by teachers and learners.

Shongwe was speaking during the handover of the centers in Amersfoort Combined and Vukuzenzele Schools in Gert Sibande Region in August. The initiative is run by the department in partnership with Eskom.

Through the JTTC, children are given the opportunity to combine their motor skills, while handling miniature vehicles to bring about awareness of what they might experience in reality.

“Our communities need such initiatives to keep our roads accident free. It must be the responsible of every individual to make sure that these centers are not vandalized,” said Shongwe.

Shongwe added that safety should begin in young children as they were the most victims of pedestrian accidents.

He also thanked Eskom for the continued support they are giving to government in delivering services to the people and making sure that the province becomes safe. Shongwe went on to thank the police and traffic officers for the operations conducted in the province to ensure that drivers are abiding with the laws of the country.

He said that his department will not tolerate corrupt officers who accept bribes from motorists. He added that steps are taken against those officers who are found on the wrong side of the law.

Speaking at the same event was Eskom Primary Energy Divisional Executive, Ms Kiren Maharaj who said that the high volume of trucks within the coal haulage network presents safety hazards to pedestrians in the district and in particular Coal Haul Towns.

She also said that children became very vulnerable when walking to schools, hence the project will assist in addressing the issue. “It is not only electricity that Eskom is providing to our communities, but we also strive to give back to our communities to make sure that our country is accident free and a safe one,” concluded Maharaj.



Some of the learners who participated during the launch of JTTC in Gert Sibande Region.



## MEC Shongwe calls for strengthening of borders

**S**trengthening of border security will assist in reducing crime especially illegal transportation of counterfeit goods, human trafficking and this will benefit villages along the border and the whole country.

Therefore the community of Mananga has instead being called to assist the government in securing the borders in Mananga and not be part of the criminals who cross borders illegally. The community had called on the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison to allow them to use illegal border crossings during a Border Security Awareness Campaign at Mananga in Nkomazi Municipality.

The border security campaign is part of the department's programmes to educate communities and encourage them to participate in the fight against crime. The purpose of the campaign is to educate communities living next to border lines not to cross the border through illegal crossings and to be aware of dangerous people who use the border line to smuggle stolen goods and drugs.

Responding on the call, was Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC, Vusi Shongwe who called for strengthening of borders as this would have an impact in reducing crime in the province and the country. He has also called on the police and defence force to work together in ensuring that all illegal crossings are closed especially around Mananga border area.

Shongwe has also encouraged community members around the border lines to use legal ports of entries and refrain from illegal crossings. He said they do not have to first become the victims of crimes such as human trafficking and stock-theft to realize how dangerous illegal crossings are.

During the campaign, the Mananga residents told the representatives that they cannot afford to apply for passports; hence illegal crossing seems to be the solution.

They complained that passports were too expensive for them, since most of them were unemployed. Some of them said their relatives lived in Swaziland while others complained about the fees they need to pay SARS when they have brought something from the neighbouring countries.

One community member said it was a waste of time for him to go to the gate while the illegal crossing was closer

to where he stays. They pleaded with the department to assist them to get free passports or to be allowed to continue using the illegal crossings.

Speaking at the same event was project manager, Mr Robert Mkhwanazi who alerted the community about the dangers of using the border lines. He said that people were killed and women were robbed and raped in those areas. He also told the community not to allow strangers or foreigners in their homes and should alert the police if they suspect something from a stranger.

MEC Shongwe said it was a crime to use illegal crossings and people would be arrested if found crossing the border line. Shongwe also added that the South African National Defence Force will continue to guard the border line and will arrest those who break the law, including corrupt officials working at the border.

He said illegal crossings would not be allowed instead the police and the defence force must intensify patrolling those borders in order to reduce transnational crime. He added that the same people who now want to illegally travel between this country and Swaziland are the ones who would later blame the government when their livestock is stolen and taken out of the country or when their families become victims of human trafficking.

So far, the department has conducted three border security campaigns in Mananga, Komatipoort in Ehlanzeni region and in Waverly which is in Gert Sibande region.



MEC Vusi Shongwe during one of his visits to Lebombo port of entry outside Komatipoort earlier this year.



# Women must report cases of abuse - Shongwe



MEC Vusi Shongwe opening one of the wendy house that was donated by the department in partnership with GRIP.

**M**pumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC, Vusi Shongwe calls on women to report cases of abuse.

Shongwe says that some women have a tendency of not exposing perpetrators of abuse because they financially depend on them. "This must come to an end as it encourages perpetrators to continue their evil deeds. I have been told that Nkomazi is one of the areas in the province that contributed to the high rate of abuse cases.

"The provincial crime statistics for the 2010/2011 financial year shows that cases of abuse have gone down by 3,8 % and it means that more work still needs to be done to intensify the war against this type of crimes as it mainly affects women and children," explained Shongwe.

During a hand over of a Wendy House ceremony at the Schoemansdal Police Station near Malelane recently, the MEC appealed to communities to report gender based violence so that perpetrators could be brought to book.

The Wendy House was donated by the department in partnership with Greater

Nelspruit Rape Intervention Programme (GRIP), and will be used as a Victim Empowerment Centre to assist victims of crime, especially those who were victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Shongwe said that the communities must make use of Victims Friendly facilities which are available at various police stations to assist them to cope with psychological and emotional effects of abuse.

"It is unfortunate that this facility will only be used by helpless women. Really no one should be staying at the police stations except the suspects. No one deserves to stay here," said MEC.

He added that the society would not need such facilities if women were staying comfortably and peacefully with their families at their homes. He said women should be nurturing and taking care of their children.

The MEC also explained that for a very long time government had greatly concentrated on criminals rather than victims, and such facilities are expected to assist the vulnerable members of society.

The facility is equipped with furniture, including a microwave, refrigerator, coffee

tables and bedding material to the value of R30 000.

Shongwe also made a call to business community to support the facility with donations such as toiletry packs. Meanwhile, Mpumalanga Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Thulani Ntobela has called for speedy prosecution of perpetrators as the continued delay in finalizing these cases subjected victims to further victimization.

Ntobela said that it became "useless" if police made arrests and cases were not speedily finalized, this he said, angered the community because they then complained that police were not doing their work. The Gert Sibande regional office of the department had recently inducted volunteers and posted them in various Victim Friendly Facilities.

Ms. Busisiwe Monini, Gert Sibande manager responsible for Social Crime Prevention says the region is currently conducting an outreach programme in schools and community halls where they introduce the volunteers and educate the community on the importance of reporting cases of abuse.



# Department brings hope on poor families



Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe with Head of Department Thulani Sibuyi and Isaac Mlotshwa of Happy Sounds handing over food to some of the needy families in Lothair.

In commemorating the Mandela day, the Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe donated 70 food parcels to poor families in July 2011.

Accompanied by the police, the MEC has urged the community of Lothair to embrace the police and work with them in order to win the war against crime.

“We must expose criminals and not become the enemies of the police. We must also cooperate with the police in order to realize the good work that our police are doing,” said Shongwe.

Shongwe added that as government promised that it will take good care of the citizens, the department is keeping those promises.

He said that corrupt officials or police have no place in government and his department will make sure that

whoever abuses state resources to enrich themselves will rot in jail. “Let us not embrace criminals and not worship those who have acquired wealth out of crime as that is not what Madiba stood for,” added Shongwe.

Shongwe urged the community to become informers of crime to the police. He said this will strengthen the relationship between the police and the community.

He also added that crime was not a fight that is meant for government only; the community should also become active and join community policing structures to fight the scourge of crime.

Shongwe said if drivers can stop paying bribes to traffic officers and report those who request bribes, corruption can be eradicated.

This activity was part of the departmental Overall Friday campaign in a bid to fight poverty in our community.



# Hire competent drivers - Shongwe

**F**reight and transport in the province have been called upon to hire competent drivers in an effort to minimize road carnages.

Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Mr. Vusi Shongwe pleaded with the delegates who attended a meeting between the department and Transport and Freight Stakeholders in Nelspruit recently.

He urged the companies not to only be concerned about the roadworthiness of their vehicles but should also place emphasis on the drivers' actual ability to drive.

"It is useless to have a roadworthy vehicle if drivers are not competent enough because most accidents are not caused by vehicles which are not roadworthy but it is usually human error by non-competent drivers.

"Drivers must be fit and should be able concentrate when driving until they reach their destinations," said Shongwe.

One stakeholder from the Driving Schools Association, Mr. Stanzo Tshikobele told the MEC that the driving schools did not get enough attention from government.

Tshikobele said as an association, they wanted to be involved on government's road safety campaigns because they were solely responsible for transferring driving skills.

He added that driving schools needed to have regulations which they would all follow in ensuring that they produced good drivers.

"We always encourage people not to buy drivers' licenses but to get legal documents from the testing stations through our driving schools," he said.



MEC Shongwe believes that hiring of thoroughly trained and competent drivers will reduce road fatalities in the province.



## Police should protect themselves - Chikunga

National Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police, Ms Sindi Chikunga has told Mangweni community that police have the right to protect themselves to avoid the rise of police killings that are common in the country.

Chikunga was speaking during an Imbizo that was held in Mangweni Stadium in Nkomazi Municipality organised by the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison in Mpu-malanga in September 2011.

After a number of complaints raised by the community against police, Chikunga told the community that they should always respect the processes or the way police operate because criminals or suspects may act against police and kill them.

"There is no way a police officer will not use force when arresting a suspect or criminal who has a weapon. It is the right of police officers to arm and protect themselves and other community members when dealing with criminals.

We cannot relax while our police officers are being killed on a daily basis. Police officers are also community members who have got families and we must protect them," said Chikunga.

Raising complaints during the Imbizo was a Community Police

Forum member who said that the CPF in Mangweni and around Tonga will prefer to work with the Tactical Response Team (TRT).

The member stated that the reason why they will prefer to work with the TRT is that they want to remove all the corrupt police officers in the police stations.

He complained that when they tried to arrest police officers who are corrupt, the police will in return arrest them and promise to kill them.

Responding to some of the complaints that the community raised, Chikunga requested the department and SAPS to provide her with a report on all the complaints raised by the community.

Speaking at the same event was Head of Department (HOD) of the department, Mr Thulani Sibuyi encouraged the community to report crime and testify in courts so that all perpetrators of crime are convicted.

Sibuyi encouraged community members not to withdraw cases because criminals should be prosecuted. Provincial SAPS, Community Policing Forum members, Nkomazi Municipality, Department of Justice and Department of Education also attended the Imbizo.



Chikunga has called for police to protect themselves when their lives are in danger.



## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON**

### **VISION**

**“A safe, secure, crime and road accident free  
Mpumalanga Province ”**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**To improve community and road traffic safety through mass mobilization, oversee the performance of the police and provision of security services.**

### **VALUES AND SERVICE STANDARDS**

The Department strives to pursue excellence and professionalism through the following:

- Inclusiveness
- Accountability and Transparency
- Diligent Responsive and Approachable
- Integrity and honesty
- Fair and Reasonable



# *Speak to us:*

## Head Office

### Physical Address:

No. 7 Government Boulevard

Building 4, 2nd Floor

Riverside Park, Nelspruit

Telephone Number: + 27 13 766 4062

Fax Number: + 27 13 766 4615

### Postal Address:

Private Bag x11269

Nelspruit

1200

## Nkangala Region

### Physical Address:

Building no: 2

KwaMhlanga Government Complex

KwaMhlanga

1022

Telephone Number: +27 13 947 3049

Fax Number: + 27 13 947 3591

## Civilian Oversight

25 Rood Street

Nelspruit

1200

Telephone Number: +27 13 755 4384

Fax Number: +27 13 755 1398

## Gert Sibande Region

### Physical Address:

Corner Kerk and De Clerq Street

ABSA Building

Ermelo

2351

Telephone Number: +27 17 624 2248

Fax Number: +27 17 624 2332

## Ehlanzeni Region

### Physical Address:

No: 20 Henshall Street

Nelspruit

1200

Telephone Number: +27 13 755 3692

Fax Number: + 27 13 752 6159

## Traffic Management

44 Murray Street

Nelspruit

1200

Telephone: +27 13 756 6310

Fax Number: +27 13 755 1086

[www.mpumalanga.gov.za/safety\\_and\\_security](http://www.mpumalanga.gov.za/safety_and_security)

***“Together let’s fight crime and road carnages”***

