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“Together let’s fight crime”



Mpumalanga Provincial
Government



Department of Safety,
Security and Liaison

H LAY I S E K A N I N E W S

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2010

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 11

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**MEC Shongwe is new
Mpumalanga crime buster!**

“Izigebengu azitshela ezinye ukuthi sekubhedile”



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Hlayisekani News is a quarterly newsletter of Mpumalanga Department of 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 Safety, Security and Liaison. The directorate will however always strive to report news that is factual, fair and accurate. Although the newsletter is a government corporate publication, the use of any information should be credited to *Hlayisekani News* or Mpumalanga Department of Safety, Security and Liaison.

The ink barrel continues to communicate...

The third quarter has been hectic in the department due to programmes that have been implemented by various sections.

This is because there were many planned activities aimed at enhancing the fight against crime and improving the lives of ordinary people, those who stay within the province and those who come as tourists.



Mr. Joseph Mabuza

The launch and rollout of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is one project that kept the department running up and down to ensure its successful implementation.

Besides the activities of the campaign, the department also introduced the Overall Friday Campaign with the aim of encouraging government officials to do some physical work and assist community members.

This project was conceived by the Communication Section of the department in order for officials to work outside of their offices on Fridays and Saturdays.

It encourages officials, HOD and the MEC to visit and give needy families donated food parcels, assist police stations and the victim support centres with donated paints and blankets.

This is done to motivate the victims of crime that they should feel accepted by government and community members.

Through this campaign the department, working together with SAPS coordinated several operations including tavern raids, roadblocks and other activities aimed at crime prevention. During these operations, the department also worked with the Community Police Forums, which are key in the community policing concept.

All these projects had worked wonders for the department and the province because they had a positive effect on the reduction of crime especially during the third quarter.

The arrival of MEC Vusi Shongwe as the new icon for the department enhanced all the work the department has been doing.

As a "hands-on" person, he assisted the department to be more visible in the province and nationally, hence the impact created by the implementation of departmental projects.

The MEC promised that all the projects of the department would continue at a faster pace and also increase the number of public participation activities.

Most of the projects mentioned above and others have been profiled in this publication for Hlayisekani readers to be enriched. Hlayisekani is an eye opening read, continue reading all the articles in this issue, you will be empowered and have a better understanding of our department.



LEBOMBO BORDER



OPENING CEREMONY FOR 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



CLOSING CEREMONY FOR 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM





TAVERNS RAIDS



PRESTIGE AWARDS



OVERALL FRIDAY CAMPAIGN



“Ayihlome ihlasele izigebengu!” kusho uShongwe



Lesi sithombe sathathwa mhla uMnyango wamaphoyisa uvula ngokusemthethweni umkhankaso owaziwa ngeDuty Call obuhlelelwe isikhathi samaholide. Amaphoyisa ayefanekisa ukuthi azimisele kangakanani nokuthi izigebengu zizosala enkundleni. Osesithombeni akafike, bekulingiswa.

Kungakapheli zinsuku ezitheni eqokwe njengoMphathiswa wezokuPhepha, ukuVikela nokuXhumanisa umphakathi eMpumalanga enyangeni kaLwezi [November] uVusi Shongwe akachithanga sikhathi, uvele wayiphaka impi wathi “ayihlome ihlasele” izigebengu.

Ekhuluma kwabemithombo yezindaba ehlukehukene, uMphathiswa uShongwe wakubeka ngokusobala ukuthi ufuna isifundazwe saseMpumalanga sibe esingenabugebengu.

Wathi iMpumalanga inamagugu amaningi athandwa izivakashi zaphesheya, futhi inamathuba amaningi kubatshali zimali, ngakho-ke ayisoze yabuswa izigebengu ezimbalwa. Waqhubeka wathi, nomphakathi waseMpumalanga obalelwa ezigidini ezintathu nesithupha [3.6 million] kumele uhlale ngokuthula, ungesabi futhi ungabuswa izigebengu ezimbalwa.

“Izigebengu zonke mazithwale konke okungokwazo ziphume ziphele lapha eMpumalanga. Izigebengu azinandawo lapha ngaphandle kwasemajele. Azitshelwe nezinye ukuthi sekubhedile, uShongwe ufikile futhi akadlali.

“Sifuna umphakathi uhlale ngokukhululeka emakhaya, uma abantu befuna ukulala bevule amawindi, bakwenze ngokukhululeka lokho bengesabi muntu, bangamane bazisabele omiyane, hhayi izigebengu,” kusho uMhlonishwa uShongwe.

Kusenzalo umnumzane uShongwe wazethula kuziphathimandla zamaphoyisa, wabachazela indlela akafuna ukusebenza ngayo. Akabafihlelanga ukuthi uzogijima namaphoyisa lapho egijimisa izigebengu.

“Amaphoyisa angabantu njengathi sonke. Anegazi futhi ayabuzwa ubuhlungu uma eshiswa yilanga noma enethwa izimvula.

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Shongwe assists police arrest a rape suspect

A success for the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children

What a better way of contributing positively towards the campaign that which fights for the mistreated, by arresting a rape suspect who had been on the run for months and months.

Barely two days after the launch of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children in 2010, MEC Vusi Shongwe's raids at the taverns assisted in bringing to book a rape victim who had been on the run for a long time. The suspect was arrested when MEC Shongwe had visited Mzinoni Township outside Bethal.

When MEC and the police arrived at a local tavern to interact with the community, many people ran away and the suspect tried to hide thinking that they could not recognise him. The police quickly arrested and sent him to Mzinoni Police Station.

"The police are happy with this arrest; they say they have done a two-month work in two hours. The arrest is a success in terms of the campaign of no violence against women and children. We are sending a strong message that criminals have no place in Mpumalanga.

"This suspect has been abusing its victims mentally because he had been on the run. With his arrest we want the victims to have a peace of mind knowing that he is behind bars.

"We are serious when we say we want our people to fear no human beings but the mosquitoes," said MEC Shongwe.

The MEC has appealed on women not to allow strangers to manipulate their vulnerabilities. He said they must be vigilant at all times and avoid walking alone in unfamiliar places which might predispose them such incidences.

Besides the arrest of the rape suspect, the stop and search operations conducted the day before the day of the arrest at Bethal managed to find a deserted gun after the owner also ran away upon the arrival of the police.

Three huge bags of dagga were also found in one of the vehicles searched by the police.

A drunk-woman was chased away by the police after she was found at a tavern with an eight-year old child. She claimed the child was 'taking care' of her at the tavern as she showed her the way back home when she is drunk.

The MEC said such women did not do justice to other women who wanted respect from abusive men.

Both the woman and her child are in danger of being abused when they go home. It does not make sense why she is so careless about her life," said MEC Shongwe.

Continued from page 3

"Ngizobe nginawo ngaso sonke isikhathi ukuze akhuthale futhi awusebenzele ngothando umphakathi.

"Lawo maphoyisa anesikhathi sokudlala ngomsebenzi, nalawo enza inkohlakalo, nalawo azibandakanya ebugebengwini, nalawo adlala ngezimoto zombuso, ngithi kuphelile ngawo. Awaphume aphele esiphoyiseni singaze siwakhipe thina," kusho uShongwe.

Iziphathimandla zamaphoyisa zabe sezimupha ijakhethi ecwebezelayo ebhalwe ukuthi "POLICE" uMphathiswa ayigqoka lapho ephlezela amaphoyisa uma enza izivimbamgwaqo [roadblocks], esesha abantu ezitaladini nasemathaveni. Umphathiswa uShongwe usezakhele ugazi emiphakathini eminingi ekujabulelayo lokhu akwenzayo ikakhulukazi osomabhizinisi.

"Sifuna umphakathi uwathembe amaphoyisa ngoba aletha ukuphepha. Kuyadingeka-ke ukuthi amaphoyisa

awenze ngokwethembeka umsebenzi wawo ukuze abuyise isithunzi sawo.

"Ngokunjalo nomphakathi awuhlale uxhumana njalo namaphoyisa lapho kunezigameko zobugebengu. Siyazi sonke ukuthi amaphoyisa awamaningi ngaleyondlela, okusho ukuthi angeze aba khona kuyo yonke imigwaqo, kudingeka-ke umphakathi uwazise ngobugebengu obenzakalayo, ukuze agijimele khona," kusho uShongwe.

Kuningi asekuzezile uMphathiswa kusukela engene kulesi sikhundla. Endaweni yaseTonga wasiza amaphoyisa abamba utshwala obebudayiswa ngokumthetho. E-Bushbuckridge wasiza amaphoyisa athola imoto ebintshontshiwe.

Kwabanjwa abantu abaningi abasheyela bedle amanzi amponjwana futhi bephuza emigwaqeni. Kwabanjwa nabantu abaningi abakuleli abangenamaphephamvume okuba eSouth Africa.

Political parties should not interfere with police operations

Political parties should not threaten the police or they should not mobilize communities to prevent the police from doing their work. This could lead to instability when communities clash against the law protectors.

Mpumalanga Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe is appealing to political parties not to prevent police from doing their work especially in the townships.

Shongwe said this after accompanying the police to Carolina near Ermelo to raid some troublesome taverns.

He was briefed at the police station that some leaders of certain political parties were perpetrating the threat not to allow the police to conduct operation in the taverns.

He was also told that the tension had been sparked by the earlier SAPS operation where it was alleged that the police stole patron's wallets and cellular phones.

It was said afterwards that a certain group of people threatened to switch off the electricity supply in the area and subsequently attack the police.

They also threatened to burn the houses of the police officers if they continue conducting operations in the area. "The police are there to protect the Constitution of the Republic. This includes the Bill of Rights and they cannot be stopped by anyone from doing their work.

"Crime affects everyone, whether you are a member of a political party or not. The police should confiscate all dangerous weapons in the townships in order for our communities to live peacefully without fearing criminals.

"People appreciate what we are doing when we increase police visibility in their areas especially at night, they say they feel safe and we should continue conducting these raids," said MEC Shongwe.

The MEC said he was aware that the same was happening at Leandra where a political party was denied access to the township to do its door-to-door campaign by few individuals.

He said the government would not fail the people of South Africa as it will ensure that the police protect everyone. He further urged religious leaders, traditional leaders, and organized labour to support the police in conducting the raids.



Police women busy at a roadblock. The MEC has appealed to the political parties not to interfere with the operations conducted by the police especially in the townships when they do stop and search operations.

Shongwe calls for police not to leak information to public

Mpumalanga Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe has warned police not to leak information to the public on planned operations.

Shongwe was speaking during a police parade before a law enforcement operation that took place in December in Ermelo and Breyten respectively.

The operation was part of the department's project called Overall Friday which is aimed at increasing the visibility of police and also to enhance the crime prevention objective of the police.

The activities of the project includes conducting of road blocks, raiding of shebeens and liquor outlets to check if they do comply with their licence, and handing over of food parcels and furniture to victim support centres and poor families.

In his comments, Shongwe said that information about operations is confidential, and the public should not know about planned activities of the police. He said that police officers should always be responsible for safeguarding the information about operations to make sure that it is not leaked to the public.

Shongwe added that such habits tempers with the work of police in eliminating dangerous weapons and people who pose danger to the community. "This project will continue until crime is completely eradicated, we will make sure that we do not leave any stone unturned.

By leaking critical information police are actually sabotaging their own operation and that must surely come to an end," warned the MEC.

During these operations in Ermelo and Breyten, 24 liquor outlets were raided and one shebeen was closed and seven taverns were fined for violating the conditions of the operating licence. In the process, two

firearms were confiscated and a most wanted robbery suspect was arrested.

Shongwe commended the police for working very hard, however, he mentioned that if information did not leaked to the public, more dangerous weapons, drugs could have been confiscated and wanted suspects arrested.

Meanwhile, the MEC told the police that he had written letters to Mayors in Mpumalanga to activate their bylaws to assist in the fight against crime. These bylaws will enable the police to enforce the law for offences such as drinking in recreational areas such as parks.



MEC Shongwe checks if the police officer is writing the correct information



MEC Shongwe is appealing to the police not to leak information to the communities about their operations.

"Give me only nine months" appeals Shongwe



MEC Shongwe promises to turn things around in Mpumalanga after nine months. He says his success will only be possible with the help of communities when they work hand-in-hand with the police.

MEC Vusi Shongwe has undertaken to turn Mpumalanga province into a safe haven and he wants the public to give him at least only nine months to achieve his ambition.

Speaking at the Prestige Awards ceremony in recently, MEC Shongwe publicly told SAPS National Deputy Commissioners who had attended the event that after nine months, Mpumalanga would be one of the safest provinces in South Africa.

He said with the assistance of the people, criminals would run away and if they wanted to fight with the police they would have to fight him first as he would be in the forefront.

"Give me nine months; the province will change for the better. I want communities to sleep outside their homes if they wish so.

"The police will be more respected. Criminals will rather prefer to be in the police vans instead of coming face-to-face with the police "said MEC Shongwe.

"The bullet will have to hit me first before killing innocent people who would be protected by SAPS members," said Shongwe to the excitement of guests.

He said corrupt and lazy police officers should leave the service because their lives would be difficult as he intended to "leave no stone unturned" in the fight against crime and corruption.

MEC Shongwe explained that crime was a social problem that destabilized communities and it also affected the province's economy as government ended up dedicating more resources on fighting crime.

He told guests that in the first nine days he had been in the office, he had received calls from people commending him for increasing police visibility. He further urged the community to assist the police by giving tip-offs saying he would be in the centre to promote the good relationship.

"It is also a fact that the fight against crime and corruption can never be a sole responsibility of government, everyone should do something because crime does not discriminate as it affects the poor, rich, educated, business people and politicians," said MEC Shongwe.

Talking about the awards, Shongwe said he was convinced that SAPS had committed women in the fight against crime. He said women officers demonstrated the good relationship between the communities and the police because of the community projects they have embarked on.

According to the MEC, women were naturally giving and selfless. He was happy that police recognized exceptional women because the awards developed an assertive cadre of women leaders capable of independent thinking, thereby contributing to quality service delivery.

Abesifazane mababike izenzo zokuhlukunyezwa ngokwezocansi

Umphathiswa wezokuPhepha, ukuVikela nokuXhumana eMpumalanga uVusi Shongwe uthi abesifazane mababike izenzo zokuhlukunyezwa ngokwezocansi emaphoyiseni.

Ngokusho kukaMphathiswa, abesifazane banokusetshenziswa ngokwezocansi ngoba bethembele kwabesilisa ngokwezimali nangokondliwa.

Lokhu kudala inkinga ngoba bagcina sebesetshenziselwa izinto ezingafanele.

“Kusukela kudala abesifazane bebehlela behlukumezekile ukudlula abesilisa. Bebeholelwa imali encane kodwa benza umsebenzi ofanayo nowabesilisa.

Kuthi noma sebesemakhaya babuye benze imisebenzi yamakhosikazi,” kusho uMphathiswa.

Abesifazane abaningi bayaphoqelelwa ukuthi baye ocansini ngisho bengathandi, ngenxa yokuthi nje baganile. Lokho kungukuhlukumeza okumele kuyobikwa eziteshini

zamaphoyisa.

Abantu besifazane bagcina sebenziwa izigqila socansi, futhi kube abantu abangaqhubekeli phambili ezimpilweni zabo. Kugcina kungabantu abaphilela ukuthola abantwana benze imisebenzi yasendlini kuphela.

Umphathiswa usezwakalise ukukhathazeka ngokuthi nganhlanye uHulumeni wenza konke okusema ndleni ukuqwashisa ngokuhlukunyezwa kwa abesifazane kodwa futhi imiphakathi ingenzi lutho ngalokho.

Uthi kuyamkhathaza ukuthi bangawasebenzisi amathuba avezwe uHulumeni ekusizeni labo abahluku mezekile. “Ukuhlukunyezwa kwabantwana, ukubulawa kwabantu bese kesetshenziswa izitho zabo, ukudlengulwa, ukuthengiswa kwabantu into esaqhubeka nokwenzeka emphakathini esiphila kuyo.

“Abantu abaningi sebeze bayesaba ngisho nokuyovula amacala emaphoyiseni ngoba bazitshela ukuthi abukho ubulungiswa uma uhlukumezekile. Ngicela amaphoyisa nabo bonke ababhekelene

nezobulungiswa ukuthi banake labo abahlukunyezwe ukuze bakholwe ukuthi umthetho ungowethu sonke,” kusho uShongwe.

Umphathiswa ube esecela nabaholi bendabuko ukuthi baqinisekise izimilo nokulwa nokuhlukunyezwa kwabesifazane nabantwana emphakathini.

“Kusenabantu abakholelwa ukuthatha amakhosikazi ngenkani, bawashade ngale kwemvume yawo. Abanye baphoqelela izingane ezincane zamantombazane ukuba zibe amakhosikazi egameni lokuthi kuyisiko. “Lokhu uHulumeni kumele akusukumele ngoba okunye akukuhle lapho seku phazamisa amalungelo abanye abantu,” kusho uShongwe.

Ekhuluma emcimbini ofanayo, uSiHlalo woMkhandlu wabaHoli beNdabuko eMpumalanga iNkosi uSipho uMahlangu wathi amasiko enzele ukuthi kube khona ukuphilisana okuhle phakathi kwabesilisa nabesifazane, hhayi ukucindezelana.

Waqhubeka wathi ukholelwa ekubambisaneni kweNational Prosecution Authority nabaholi bendabuko ekuqwashisaneni ngezinto ezifana nodlame lwezocansi olubhekiswe kwabesifazane nasebantwaneni, kungasiza kakhulu ekwehliseni ubugebengu



Umphathiswa uShongwe ubonakala ephelezelwa uMphathiswa wezeMfundo uRegina Mhale [kwesokunxele] ngenkathi kuvulwa ngokusemthethweni umkhankaso wokulwa nokuhlukunyezwa kwabesifazane nabantwana. Kwesokudla ikhansela laseBushbuckridge.

Ehlanzeni business pledge support in the fight against crime



These are some business people from different companies who have pledged support to the department's crime prevention initiatives

Ehlanzeni business community has pledged support towards government's strategies in the fight against crime.

The pledge would support the initiative by the department to motivate the police do their work effectively.

Various business people representing several companies in Ehlanzeni region pledged support such as motor bikes and vehicle tyres to assist the police on their work.

The commitment was made at a business breakfast meeting in Nelspruit where the business sector voiced excitement over MEC Vusi Shongwe's strategy of raiding taverns, conducting road blocks and doing stop and search operations.

The purpose of the meeting was for the MEC to interact with the business sector in an effort to establish mutual understanding regarding crime prevention initiatives.

The MEC's activities are part of the department's Overall Friday concept which encourages officials including Shongwe to wear overalls and do something in the communities outside their job descriptions.

The Overall Friday initiative seeks to drive managers within the department and SAPS to be always outside their offices, work in crime-infested areas within the province.

The campaign also assists the police to increase their visibility in communities through the road blocks, raiding

of taverns and supporting the needy families with food parcels.

The business sector pleaded with the MEC to sustain police visibility especially in the business areas adding that it should not be a once off exercise.

Some business people complained about white collar crime saying that it prevented them from providing services to government.

Meanwhile, MEC Vusi Shongwe urged the business community to continue ensuring that the province hosted incident-free and successful events.

He told them that it was not the responsibility of government alone to fight crime but should play a crucial role as crime also affected them.

Shongwe added that there were businesses who were already donating to government to assist the police and community policing structures to perform their duties.

He warned them not to allow criminals to use or rent buildings to people who sell stolen and illegal goods. Shongwe also appealed to the taxi industry to ensure that taxis were not used for transportation of illegal and stolen goods or as get-away vehicles for wanted crime suspects.

He said that those who assist criminals would face the law and his department would ensure that criminals receive maximum sentences.

MEC Shongwe assists police seize an unlicensed taxi driver

Wearing his police reflector jacket, moving up and down assisting police to search vehicles for licenses and whether the vehicles are not carrying illegal goods and dangerous weapons, MEC Vusi Shongwe seemed to be interested in a white taxi full of women.

The women came from Bushbuckridge where they had attended an Opening Ceremony for the No Violence Against Women and Children. The same event officiated by Shongwe.

After asking the people where they were coming from and where they were going, he subsequently asked the driver to show his licence. To his surprise the, the driver was transporting 15 passengers without a driver's license.

MEC Shongwe immediately asked the police to arrest the driver and impounded the vehicle. Before the driver was taken to Mkhuhlu Police Station, he asked for help from the passing empty taxis to assist take the passengers to their destination.

A concerned Shongwe was seen grumbling to the other police officers that it was such "irresponsible drivers" who kill innocent people on the roads. "This is not right, this driver has no driving license and the brakes of his taxi are not working. He is putting the lives of 15 people in danger and this could affect many families.

"We are happy that we were quick to detect this because anything could have happened and many people would have been affected. These road blocks will assist greatly in reducing road accidents," said irate MEC Shongwe.

While on the same roadblock, the police also manage to assist a Pinetown driver who was driving a vehicle that was reported stolen to go to the police station to effect status with SAPS that the vehicle had been recovered.

"We want people to enjoy themselves and not worry at all, because criminals have no place in our province," said MEC Shongwe. The MEC's roadblock assisted in arresting people in possession of dangerous weapons, drugs, stolen vehicles and driving under the influence of alcohol.

The MEC's roadblock was part of the Overall Friday implemented by his department where officials wear overalls and work in the communities. The MEC leads in conducting road blocks, raiding of tavern and liquor outlets to check if they do comply with their licence.

He also handed over donated food parcels to the needy people identified by Community Development Workers. The department also handed over furniture to the victim support centres while raising awareness on crime fighting strategies.



MEC Vusi Shongwe assisting police in searching for undocumented foreigners.

Private security urged to assist government



Security guards at the Government Complex conducting stop and search at the exit gate.

Mpumalanga Safety, Security and Liaison MEC, Vusi Shongwe is appealing on private security companies to assist government in the fight against crime.

Addressing the quarterly meeting between the Department and the security companies contracted "I am therefore appealing to you not to allow a handful of criminals within the industry to bring the reputation of private security companies down. to safeguard government property in Witbank, MEC Shongwe said the security companies were a critical stakeholder and the community trusted them to bring stability.

MEC Shongwe said, the security companies should not be involved in criminal activities as they are in the forefront in the fight against crime; therefore they needed to partner with government as stakeholders.

The MEC said the role of the private security industry in the fight against crime was very crucial because they were regarded as the first line of defense for the people.

Shongwe has however called on the companies to do their work with much diligence in carrying out their duties as there has several incidences of theft at

various government buildings.

"I was embarrassed recently when I had to account to the Legislature about theft in government buildings, and also humiliated that when the suspects were arrested, some of them were security guards deployed to safeguard the buildings," said Shongwe.

He said they should not collude with criminals because they were trusted by government on behalf of the people to safeguard public property, its resources and to fight crime and corruption.

"I am therefore appealing to you not to allow a handful of criminals within the industry to bring the reputation of private security companies down.

"With that in mind, those within the private security industry who are involved in criminal activities must expect no mercy from the police. They will be arrested," warned the MEC. He said companies have a responsibility to protect, secure and guard government property and assets.

The purpose of the quarterly meetings is to enable the department to interact with security service providers and other stakeholders to reflect on the developments in the industry that affect their operations.

"I am therefore appealing to you not to allow a handful of criminals within the industry to bring the reputation of private security companies down."

Shongwe targets corrupt police



Roadblocks will also be used to target police officers who are illegally utilising state vehicles.



Women police officers search a combi.

In his move to ensure that corruption in the South African Police Service, Mpumalanga Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe is now targeting those police officers utilising state vehicles unlawfully.

Police officers who will be found misusing state vehicles or driving them without permits will be arrested. He made the announcement during a hand-over ceremony of 79 new police vehicles to police stations.

The MEC said there was "too much corruption" in the police service and simple roadblocks could assist remove corrupt police officers from the system.

Shongwe said he was aware that communities' complaints that lack of police vans at the stations was due to misuse by the officers who utilised vehicles to do their private errands.

"People are raising genuine concerns out there. It is true that some officers are corrupt and misuse police vans by visiting their girlfriends, ferry people or transport illegal goods using these vehicles.

"From now on, police vehicles should be stopped and checked if the occupants do have a permit or are in their right place of operation.

"Anyone who will be found to be on the wrong side of the law should be arrested.

We cannot tolerate corrupt officers; they will all be flushed out of the system. We rather have few good instead of the huge number of ineffective police officers," said MEC Shongwe.

The MEC explained that it was a responsibility for police officers to ensure that they had credibility from the public. He said they needed to treat the vehicles as if they owned them.

"Keep these vehicles new, I do not want to see scratches, these are your working tools, they are yours," he said.

Speaking at the same event, Community Policing Forum Provincial Chairperson, Mandla Mphuti appreciated Mpumalanga SAPS management saying the tools will enhance police visibility in the communities.

Mphuti added that there would be no excuses from the police for not attending to crime scenes.

He emphasised that the officers who will be utilising the vehicles be trained for advanced driving in order for the vehicles to remain in good condition.

alleged human rights violation



The MEC's entourage view the dam where residents allegedly get their water. It is alleged that they share this water with animals.

Shongwe said farm dwellers should not be afraid to report any acts of criminality to the police.

He said once cases had been opened, they should not be withdrawn regardless of how powerful or wealthy the culprits might be.

"Nobody is above the law, It is the responsibility of government to protect all citizens, farm owners and workers alike, black or white," said Shongwe.

He urged the Waaklagte residents to address some of the land related problems through the Department of Land Affairs.



MEC Shongwe tells residents that he would closely follow their case.



The MEC is briefed by the community about the alleged human rights violation



The water alleged to be the farm residents.



These are some of the people who came in support of the alleged victims of farm abuse.

Shongwe intervenes over

Almost 17 years into democracy, concerns over allegation abuse of human rights are still dominating our sphere.

A farm dweller giving birth in a farm in Kinross allegedly lost her baby because the owner would not allow an ambulance to access the farm and assist her. The woman wrote a letter and told Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature about her plight.

Recently, MEC Vusi Shongwe visited the same farm, Waaklagte, and was told by the farm dwellers that they were subjected to gross inhumane treatment by the farm owner.

They claimed that paramedics had to jump over the gate to assist the woman who was giving birth as the gate was locked; however they found the baby already dead. The woman survived though.

They also told the MEC that they were not allowed free access to the farm as the gates were

constantly locked, they did not have access to clean drinking water, they were not even allowed to visit the graves of their loved ones whose remains were buried on the farm.

They also alleged that the farm owner had destroyed some of the graves. According to the farm dwellers, they had been residing on the farm since 1986 and other 12 families had left following the appalling living conditions imposed by the farm owner.

It is understood that the farm owner's behaviour had transgressed a three-year court order he received for violating human rights in the farm.

Responding to the allegations, the MEC assured the dwellers that the department would closely monitor the case in order to ensure that justice prevails. He seconded the regional director of the department to assist the affected families in the farm.



The farm abuse allegations were serious in a way that they attracted the attention of the media.

Over R1 million rand liquor seized from illegal liquor traders.

AMpumalanga Special Task Team set up to evaluate the liquor industry in the province recently seized over R1 million worth of alcohol at liquor outlets around Bethal, Secunda and other areas around the province. The task team took to these areas to audit liquor outlets and the check compliance in terms of liquor license.

The team comprised of the departments of Safety, Security and Liaison; Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs; Corporative Government and Traditional Affairs; the South African Police Services and the Mpumalanga Provincial Liquor Board. At least more than 40 liquor outlets were visited.

The Department of Safety, Security and Liaison [DSSL] Monitoring and Evaluation Senior Manager Mzamani Vuma said while conducting the raids, they found that there were no managers to run the outlets as required by the liquor legislation.

It was also discovered that some licensees operated with other people's licenses and allowed persons under the age of 18 years in their premises. Vuma said the operation came after the task team was mandated by the Executive Council to raid all liquor trading facilities operating near schools, churches and police stations.

One of the operators in Bethal whose facility was closed, Ms Yinying Weng subsequently sued government for confiscating alcohol in her outlet.

The matter was later heard at the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria on the 14th December 2010. Ms Weng's application to have the seized liquor returned to her was dismissed with costs.

The operations by the team resulted in the confiscation of alcohol to the estimated value of over 1 million from liquor traders who have been operating without licenses in all the Regions.

So far the task team has visited and raided well-over 40 liquor outlets in the three Mpumalanga regions and more are still to be visited.

Meanwhile, Mpumalanga Safety, Security and Liaison, MEC Vusi Shongwe is appealing to all liquor traders in the province to comply with conditions of their licences or be prepared to face consequences.

He urged them to consult the Liquor Board or the local police when they are not sure about any provisions of the Act or conditions of their licenses.

He said that as much as the government is concerned about the unemployment rate, communities should not sell alcohol without approval from the Board. Shongwe has also appealed to communities to drink responsibly and report those liquor traders who are not compliant with the law.



Police officials searching taverns during liquor operations.

