

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

Gert Sibande Region

Physical Address:

No: 1 Steenkamp Street
Secunda
2302

Telephone Number: +27 17 624 2248

Fax Number: + 27 17 624 2332

Nkangala Region

Physical Address:

Building no: 2
KwaMhlanga Government Complex
KwaMhlanga
1022

Telephone Number: +27 13 947 3049

Fax Number: + 27 13 947 3591

Ehlanzeni Region

Physical Address:

No: 25 Rood Street
Nelspruit
1200

Telephone Number: +27 13 755 3692

Fax Number: + 27 13 752 6159

www.mpumalanga.gov.za/safetysecurity

“Together let’s fight crime”



Mpumalanga Provincial
Government



Department of Community
Safety, Security and Liaison

HLAYISEKANI NEWS

OCTOBER -DECEMBER 2009

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

Border security intensified for 2010



Border patrol police officers brief the DCSSL MEC Sibongile Manana, Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa and Police Commissioner Bheki Cele about SAPS operations planned for the festive season. The Minister and Commissioner emphasized that police should shoot when their lives are in danger. Following challenges faced by border patrol police, Cabinet approved the return of SANDF back to the borders. Full story page 3

INSIDE...

MEC Shongwe sends a strong message to women - 4

Meet Mpumalanga SAPS Commissioner Ntobela - 5

CPF's message for 2010 - 17

HLAYISEKANI TEAM

Strategic Editor: Joseph Mabuza

Managing Editor: Zibonele Mncwango

Articles: Moeti Mmusi

Zandile Mandlazi

Sipho Ndhlovu

Graphic Designers:

Sam Sibiti & Celiwe Mthethwa

Photography: Hlayisekani Team

Views & Comments:

Tel: (013) 766 4018

Fax: (013) 766 4615

E-mail: zmncwango@mpg.gov.za

Physical Address:

Building 4, 2nd Floor

Riverside Park

Nelspruit, 1200.

Hlayisekani News is a quarterly newsletter of 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. Although the newsletter is a government corporate publication, the use of any information should be credited to *Hlayisekani News* or Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison.

The past three months has been very hectic for the department due to the various projects and campaigns that the department embarked on.

To top it all, the third quarter accommodates among others, the festive season, borderline awareness campaigns and the other usual or known campaigns conducted throughout the year such as the sports against crime and illegal mining awareness campaigns.



The department managed to pull all the stops in order to assist the South African Police Service (SAPS) to keep the people of the province safe through the coordination of these activities. People must remember that the main purpose of all these activities is to reduce crime in the province.

It should be noted that it is not only the department and SAPS that will end criminality but the involvement of everybody, will assist a great deal towards the fight against crime.

So, the fight against crime should also be enhanced here at our work place where we do not become spectators when government equipment such as laptops are stolen.

It should continue to our neighbourhoods where people participates in street committees and structures such as Community Police Forums (CPF's) and Sector Forums. These forums assist in encouraging people to know each other and to share ideas in solving common crimes such as robbery and housebreaking.

These structures should be assisting since they are fully supported by SAPS through deployment of relevant officers such as the sector managers to make sure that the communities are assisted when help is needed.

However, these forums will yield better results if SAPS members, particular those at lower ranks understand the concepts of community policing and sector policing.

We hope that the newly appointed Provincial Commissioner, Thulani Ntobela has already given clear orders regarding these concepts because they will assist towards the formation of street committees in Mpumalanga.

Actually, to label him as "newly appointed", Hlayisekani would be baby-sitting the commissioner because he has already acquainted himself with the policing challenges of the province and he now knows which buttons to press to make things happen in order to achieve crime related priorities of the government of the day.

Before converting this write-up into a news item, let me allow you an opportunity to enjoy the stories covered by the Hlayisekani team. Among others, you will read about the 10111 call centre, borderline policing, and the MEC's visits to police stations.

Together Let's Fight Crime.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON

VISION

A safe, secure and crime free Mpumalanga Province

MISSION

To improve the safety of communities through mass participation, oversee the performance of the police and the provision of security services.

VALUES AND SERVICE STANDARDS

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

- ✍ Inlusiveness, Accountability and Transparency
- ✍ Diligent, Efficiency and Effectiveness
- ✍ Caring, Responsive and Approachable
- ✍ Integrity and Honesty
- ✍ Fair and Reasonable



the DCSSL

Department: Community Safety,
Security and Liaison
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



“Awulethe Umshini Wakho” - MEC Manana

The Firearm Amnesty window period is still open.

Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Sibongile Manana calls on citizens in our beautiful province to hand over illegal, unwanted licensed firearms and ammunition to any police station during this period.

The Firearm Amnesty window period will only close on 11 April 2010 and people should take advantage of this opportunity.

Choose to be given amnesty or be arrested.

Act Now, Awulethe Umshini Wakho – [Surrender Your Firearm]



“Together let’s fight crime”

No more illegal crossings to SA

Authorities suspect that human trafficking is rife at borderline illegal crossings. Corpses, counterfeit products, stolen vehicles will no longer cross to the neighbouring countries as the borderline will now be manned by SANDF.



In its effort to intensify border security, Government has decided to redeploy the SANDF back to the borders to render borderline control and protection service.

This follows an outcry about illegal crossings by foreigners into the country where they use borderline instead of ports of entries to enter the country.

There have also been concerns that illegal, counterfeits and stolen goods either crossed to or from South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique in the Mpumalanga international borderline.

People also crossed to these neighbouring countries with corpses thereby creating a serious threat of diseases. Crime such as human trafficking was also rife along the borderline.

In November, Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Sibongile Manana visited the 500km-long Mpumalanga borderline to assess the challenges faced by border police.

To her surprise, some places at the borderline were used as if they were “designated official” ports of entries.

Many people crossed to South Africa while she stood there, some came even to access social grants and jobs.

A concerned Manana said although the police could not stop the movement of people between South Africa and other countries, illegal crossings however made it difficult for the police to do their work.

Her other concerns were that the illegal crossings placed a huge burden on government's resources because some foreign nationals illegally accessed social grants meant for South Africans.

Most of the illegal foreigners were sometimes used by criminals to commit crime in the country. Manana promised to take the matter with the Minister for the Department of Police Mr Nathi Mthethwa in an effort to convince the Cabinet to bring back the SANDF at the borders.

In November, the Cabinet approved the request to bring back the SANDF to the borders.

Making the announcement at a media briefing, Government Spokesperson Mr Themba Maseko said the deployment of the SANDF would be incorporated into the border control strategy which was being finalized by the Justice, Crime Prevention Security Cluster (JCPS).

" Do not withdraw cases of abuse" - MEC Shongwe



Warning: Mpumalanga Culture, Sports and Recreation MEC Vusi Shongwe warned women not to withdraw cases of abuse. Shongwe was the Acting MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison during the launch of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children.

Mpumalanga Culture, Sports and Recreation MEC Vusi Shongwe says it is important for women not to withdraw cases of abuse against them.

The withdrawal of cases especially by the victims of abuse, impacts negatively on government's resources that is why women in particular should not withdraw cases opened at police stations.

Shongwe said this during the opening of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign held at Mangweni in the Nkomazi Municipality.

He was the Acting MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison as Ms Sibongile Manana was overseas on a political mission. Shongwe said people needed to utilise government resources prudently by being at the forefront in the fight against crime.

"Our mothers and sisters who come to the police stations to open cases relating to abuse, should work with the police in ensuring that reported cases are successfully concluded.

"You are not helping us when you open a case today and tomorrow you come back and withdraw the same case. This is waste of resources and it is not encouraged.

"When we talk about being frontal in the fight against crime, we refer to a solidified partnership with the victims too," said Shongwe.

He explained that government had made the fight against crime and corruption its priority and was aware that it could not win the war alone. He said government needed participation of all stakeholders in order to succeed in the fight against crime.

Shongwe added that the provincial government was concerned with the 2008/2009 financial year crime statistics. Mpumalanga province recorded over 4 500 cases of sexual abuse. He said in partnership with communities, government needed to uncompromisingly confront sexual abuse.

"Despite having a world-renowned Constitution and a legislative overhaul that safeguard women's rights, we still have among our communities high level of violence against women and children," said Shongwe.

Our guest columnist, Legal Services Director Ms. Lindeni Nkosi talks about the Protected Disclosure Act



responsible manner by providing a comprehensive statutory guidelines for the disclosure of such information and protection against any reprisal as a result of such disclosure and to promote the eradication of criminal and other irregular conduct in organs of state and private bodies.

In encouraging employees to make a disclosure, the Act regards an employment contract void if it discourages an employee from making a protected disclosure and further prohibits any occupational detriment against any employee by his or her employer on account of having made a protected disclosure.

According to the Act, a *Protected Disclosure* is a disclosure made to:

- ? Legal adviser or Legal practitioner with the aim of obtaining legal advice;
- ? an employer, in good faith following the prescribed procedure;
- ? a Member of Cabinet or of the Executive Council;
- ? certain persons or bodies such as the Public Protector, the Auditor General; and
- ? the Media.

Irregular conduct or criminal activities in organs of state are detrimental to good, effective, accountable and transparent governance. Employees and members of communities become aware of these activities and are scared to come out and disclose such activities due to fear of reprisals or other consequences.

The Code of Conduct for public service employees places a duty on employees to report to the appropriate authorities, fraud, corruption, nepotism, mal-administration and any other acts which constitutes an offence or which is prejudicial to the public interest. The responsibility of every employer and employee to disclose criminal and any other irregular conduct in the workplace also underpins the Protected Disclosures Act, 2000.

The Protected Disclosures Act, Act No.26 of 2000 was introduced in an attempt to, *inter alia*, create a culture which will facilitate the disclosure of information by employees relating to criminal and other irregular conduct in the workplace in a

Safety, Security and Liaison has a policy on Protected Disclosures (Whistle Blowing Policy) which also seeks to provide means by which employees and clients of the Department are able to raise concerns with the appropriate line management or specific appointed persons within the Department, where they have reasonable grounds to believe that there is fraud or corruption taking place.

The policy further reassures employees and other persons that they will be protected from punishment or unfair treatment for disclosing concerns in *good faith* and in accordance with this policy.

The policy seeks to address reported concerns, which are in the public interest and which include:

- ? an unlawful criminal or civil activities;
- ? failure to comply with statutory obligations/requirements;
- ? financial or non-financial mismanagement, fraud and corruption, including bribery;
- ? a risk, including a potential risk to the health and safety of any individual;
- ? improper conduct or unethical behaviour; or
- ? attempts to conceal or suppress information relating to the above.

A general protected disclosure can also be made in good faith by an employee who reasonably believes that the information disclosed and any allegation contained therein is substantially true and not for personal gain, hence the requirement that the person must "*reasonably believe*" and act in good faith.

The Act provides for remedies for persons subjected to occupational detriment as a result of a disclosure such as approaching a competent court, including the Labour Court and pursue any other process prescribed by law.

In keeping in line with the intentions of this Act, the Department of Community

In assisting the Department to achieve good corporate governance, efficiency and effectiveness and ensuring that the objectives of the Act are attained, you are encouraged to familiarise yourself with the provisions of the Act and the specific procedures and guidelines provided for in the Act (*Protected Disclosures Act, Act No. 26 of 2000*) and the *Departmental Policy on Whistle Blowing* which can be obtained from the Risk Manager or Legal Services.

"Till then, make a difference, stay legal and exercise your rights!

Mphuthi's message for CPF

By now most members of the police and the community are aware about Community Police Forum [CPF] structures and their existence within communities.

In the past year, 2009, Provincial and National structures of CPFs were hard at work in establishing cluster CPF structures and activating local CPFs.

For the first time there was a common CPF Constitution designed and adopted to suit all CPFs in the country. As South Africans and the people of Africa it is time for us to celebrate and rejoice for the wonderful year, 2010.

Next year brings along a long awaited 2010 FIFA World Cup. We will be welcoming players, spectators, supporters and officials from all over the globe.

As a country, we have never been this ready to host this event deemed to be a once in a life time event in this continent.

Our infrastructural developments, roads and communication networks, safety, security and hospitality services are up and ready for use.

We will mobilize our communities to participate in street committee initiatives and sector policing.

We will encourage communities to hand over their legal and illegal weapons and ammunition to the police stations.

This period of the year coincides with our Police Day, this is the day where we commemorate and remember those men and women in blue whom we lost whilst protecting us.

Next year we will have a major campaign, FireArm Amnesty 2010, this is the campaign of collecting and submitting both our legal, illegal guns and weapons for destruction.

We do this by declaring our country to be a peaceful, loving and caring place to live and/or work in.

We also give support to those still on duty and remind them that, we, as the community love them and appreciate the services rendered by them to us.

We say to them when duty calls they should respond promptly and we will be there to support them.

We urge all our communities to be vigilant on crime and join Community Police Forum structures.



CPF Provincial Chairperson: Mandla Mphuthi

The Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison has donated bicycles to eMbalenhle CPF for use by Street Committees during their patrols, we have also discouraged youth from being involved in crimes, drugs and alcohol consumption by buying soccer and netball kits to keep them fit and strong.

We will be finalizing policies relevant to our support in fulfilling our objectives of community policing like street committees, fundraising, resource management and others.

We urge our political principals to support CPF structures.



Welcome Commissioner Ntobela



Above: MEC Sibongile Manana [left] Deputy Commissioner Rex Machabi [far right] welcome new Mpumalanga SAPS Commissioner Thulani Ntobela. The Commissioner was introduced to the JCPS Cluster in November.

Below: Commissioner Ntobela and Machabi share information about SAPS operations in Mpumalanga.



Mpumalanga welcomes the new SAPS Commissioner Mr Thulani Ntobela to the province.

Commissioner Ntobela was announced by National SAPS Commissioner Bheki Cele as Mpumalanga Commissioner in Pretoria in November.

Commissioner Ntobela hails from the hills of Emkhomazi, south of Durban in KwaZulu-Natal.

Prior to joining Mpumalanga, he was the Deputy Commissioner for Policing in the Western Cape.

In a short period he has been in the province, Commissioner Ntobela has filled in two top management positions.

In his first public appearance which was at the Opening Ceremony of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children at Mangweni, Commissioner Ntobela said he was here to give people hope.

He urged communities to participate in sector policing so that they would alert the police when they witnessed crime as police officers would not be in every corner.

He added that barely few months in the office, he was however disturbed with information he received about Nkomazi Municipal area that sexual abuse was rife.

He explained that 24 percent cases of sexual abuse happened to people who were between 1 to 20 years old and those between 13 to 17 years made up 32 percent.

However, those from 18 years old upwards were the real victims.

MEC Sibongile Manana and the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison wish the Commissioner well on his new job.

More tourist monitors for the World Cup



The Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison has decided to increase the number of tourism safety monitors to 400 to assist the police during the World Cup. The monitors are not police officers, but they alert them when crime occurs.

In ensuring a crime-free FIFA World Cup Tournament in Mpumalanga, the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison has decided to increase the number of tourist monitors.

The numbers will be increased from 250 to 400 in an effort to assist the police in ensuring the safety of the country's visitors during the world event which is expected to draw thousands to Mpumalanga.

The extra 150 tourist monitors will be deployed at Ehlanzeni Region because it has the host city and is expected that more tourists will flock for the matches at Mbombela Stadium.

The Community Policing Senior Manager from the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr Moeketsi Sempe explains that tourist monitors are not police officers, but they work with the police as they alert them of possible crime.

"Monitors are not police officers but will work closely with SAPS and other state agencies to enhance safety, security and comfort to tourists in 2010," says Sempe.

He says monitors are also expected to assist in providing assistance to local and international visitors with information to enhance their safety during the World Cup.

They are expected to alert the police on crime likely to affect tourists such as car hijacking, theft of motor vehicles, rape, common robbery and burglary.

Of the 250 currently deployed throughout the province, at least 74 are in Gert Sibande, 61 in Nkangala and 110 at Ehlanzeni regions.

Monitors currently receive a stipend of R1 800 per month per person, which is inclusive of uniform and training.

They are not trained as police reservists since they provide customer care, communication and reporting mechanism to the police and have basic knowledge of how the criminal justice work.

They are expected to assist in creating a safe and conducive environment for tourists who visit the province; they will also help with increased community awareness on economic benefits of tourism.

Women officers scoop Prestige Awards

The 2009 Prestige Award Overall Winner is none other than Captain Ronel Van Lingen from Witbank Management Information Centre.

Captain Van Lingen scooped the award because of her passion for what she does and her positive attitude in doing it.

She conducted a work study on the moral of SAPS members at her Witbank Police Station, collecting data through questionnaire and random interviews.

Her study found that the majority of the members were of the opinion that the community and business do not recognize and respect police officials because they pay their salaries.

In contrast to that statement, the majority of the police members indicated that being a police officer is a calling rather than a duty.

Emanating from her study, she drafted a proposal for a Service Excellence Awards with the aim to provide recognition for members who have performed exceptionally.

She secured 39 sponsorships from Witbank business community.

As a result she implemented the following projects; Drug fight campaign, she facilitated training for Vehicle Accident Unit for the station.

She also implemented Adopt A Cop campaign, she initiated a SAPS Mascot, she co-ordinated exhibitions for the station and initiated Computer Skills Development for SAPS members.

She collected up to R10 000 from her colleagues and bought food parcels for those children. She has positively marketed SAPS by caring for the needy as business community recognize her projects.

Other winners were Dimpho Nkosi, Dorothea Grobler, Maletsholo Komane and Stella Mkansi.

Prestige Awards recognizes police women who have performed exceptionally in community projects and showed passion for the needy outside police work.



From left: Senior Administration Clerk Dorethea Grobler, Student Constable Maletsholo Komane, Captain Ronel Van Lingen, Senior Administration Clerk Dimpho Nkosi and Constable Stella Mkansi



Captain Ronel Van Lingen receives her award from MEC Manana and Commissioner Machabi



Left: Dimpho Nkosi receives a certificate from Commissioner Rex Machabi. Right: 2008 Overall Prestige Award winner Constable E. Magoa

CPF gets resources

An outcry for resources by Community Police Forum [CPF] has now been attended to by government when the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison donated bicycles, reflectors and whistles.

Government made the donation to the Embalenhle CPF, outside Secunda. Embalenhle CPF was the first to access government resources and it is expected that others will benefit soon.

Speaking at the Handing over Ceremony, the Head of Department Mr. Isaiah Khoza said government expected a positive impact on the operations of the CPF.

"It is very critical for CPF to utilize these resources in a good manner by helping the police in the fight against crime.

"They should identify criminals and report them to the police.

They should be the eyes and ears of the police, and educate people to report crime," said Khoza.

The HOD further warned members of CPF not to misuse the resources especially the reflector jackets..



This, he said would tarnish the image of the CPF and government. He added that the project would be monitored to ensure its impact.

Khoza called for a good relationship between the police and CPF saying that SAPS senior and middle management officers needed to capacitate the police members at junior levels about the importance and the role of CPF through workshops.

Speaking at the same event, Mpumalanga SAPS Commissioner, Thulani Ntobela said police members were compelled to work with CPF in order to make their communities safer.

He explained that those police officers who disregarded the CPF would be forced to resign.

He also pleaded with the business community to support the police in fighting crime.

Meanwhile, local CPF Chairperson, Mr. Ace Vilakazi said the resources would improve their operations following concerns that government did not attend to their needs.

He said there was a good relationship with the local police station, but they needed vehicles to transport them and more regular visits from government.



HOD Khoza [second from right] sitting with SAPS management and CPF representative at the handover ceremony

MEC Manana and other senior government officials inspect documents at Ermelo Police Station. She has urged the police to stop encouraging crime victims to solve problems with perpetrators instead of opening cases. She says the law should take its course on any cases reported.



Manana urges police not to decide on cases

There has been concerns that some police officers use their discretion and encourage victims not to open cases but rather to talk it out with perpetrators.

This kind of behaviour usually happens with cases of abuse especially within families.

Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Sibongile Manana said it was disturbing that police officers would decide on such critical issues of abuse.

Manana was speaking at the Closing Ceremony of 16 Days of activism for No Violence Against Women and Children held at Driefontein outside Piet Retief in December.

Manana said this kind of behaviour by police officers negatively affected the judicial system.

She said such behaviour also impacted negatively on the victims who had to negotiate with the perpetrators.

Subsequently, she said, government ended up losing the war against gender-based crime.

"I am appealing to the police officers to stop encouraging people to solve problems on their own, especially when the law is there to protect the victims," she said.

The MEC further called on the people not to withdraw cases of abuse.

"When people withdraw cases, the state's resources are utilised fruitlessly.

"The police use the resources such as papers to record cases, telephones for investigation, fuel for vehicles and time to do their work.

"When cases are withdrawn, it becomes a fruitless expenditure," said Manana.

She explained that cases of abuse were perpetuated by people who were known to the public, but they could not report them.

"Many cases of abuse usually occur in places where women and children think they are safe.

"It happens in their homes which are supposed to be the places of safety.

"In many instances women and children who are victims of abuse know the perpetrators, we urge them to come and report," said Manana.

"We have a responsibility to transform social behaviors towards respect for women and children.

"Parents must be real parents, our children must be raised in an environment that teaches them respect for human dignity," she concluded.

"The law is there to protect the victims," - MEC Manana

10111 Call Centre revamped



When she took over the reigns in May, Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC, Sibongile Manana prioritized the resuscitation of the Call Centres in the regions.

In partnership with SAPS, MEC Manana did not waste time, early in October the first of the three Call Centres was launched at Ehlanzeni Region, in White River outside Nelspruit.

At least 15 police stations are linked to the Call Centre which provides communities with prompt reaction from the police when incidents of crime are reported.

Speaking at the launch, MEC Manana said the re-establishment of the Call Centre was as a result of a call from communities for improved service delivery by the police.

Te then Acting Provincial SAPS Commissioner Rex Machabi said the Call Centre services had been centralised.

"The system will prevent police stations from tampering with the response time as all calls are recorded, before dispatching the call to the relevant station,"said Commissioner Machabi.

The 15 Police Stations are:

- ✓Kaapmuiden
- ✓Komatipoort
- ✓Low's Creek
- ✓Malelane
- ✓Matsulu
- ✓Mbuzini
- ✓Schoemansdal
- ✓Tonga
- ✓BarbertonNelspruit
- ✓Ngodwana
- ✓Kabokweni
- ✓Ka Nyamazane
- ✓Masoyi
- ✓White River



1. The MEC, HOD Isaiah Khoza, Commissioner Machabi and Mpumalanga CPF Secretary General Zweli Hlatshwayo were the first to sign the visitors' registry book.
2. MEC Manana taking calls from the people who reported crime to the Call Centre.

" Report and have case numbers" - MEC Manana

Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Sibongile Manana says it is about time communities are taught and encouraged to report cases by opening cases and be allocated case numbers.

This follows an incident which took place at Matsulu Township late in October where local people alleged that they were shot at and assaulted by the police.

They later demanded that the MEC intervene over that alleged police brutality.

Manana referred the matter to the Independence Complaints Directorate [ICD], the people did not report those police officers as there were no case numbers.

At least 47 people were admitted at Rob Ferreira Hospital following that incident.

Accompanying the MEC was the Mpumalanga SAPS Acting Commissioner, Rex Machabi and Matsulu Station Commander, Capt Sikhumbuzo Mkhandawiri,

Manana addressed the people saying they needed to open cases at the police station. She said the ICD could only investigate matters based on dockets.

She condemned the alleged police brutality, saying police were the custodians of community safety, and that they were supposed to protect rather than to harass the people.

"Police are custodians of human rights and therefore cannot, in the process of executing their duties, be violating those rights," she said.

Some of the victims claimed to have been assaulted by the police while they were not at the taverns.

She added that irrespective of whether the victims were at taverns outside trading hours, under no uncertain terms are police expected to shoot, harass or intimidate community members.

Such behaviour would negatively affect the government's effort to improve the relationship between the police and the community.



1. Matsulu resident shows the MEC where the police officers kicked him.
2. A Phefeni resident shows rubber bullet wounds he sustained during the alleged police brutal operation.
3. A resident reports an unattended case: The MEC encourages people to have case numbers.





Bangizwe Nkosi: Men for Change representative

Men called to act against women and children abuse

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign had so many messages around the issues of gender based violence. It was however encouraging to notice that some were targeted to men to change their morally unacceptable behaviour.

Speaking at the Closing Ceremony of the campaign at Driefontein outside Piet Retief, Mr. Bangizwe Nkosi of Men for Change challenged men not to look away when women are abused but should act against any form of abuse especially on children.

He explained that research had found that three out of ten men were abusers of women and children.

His forum was therefore concerned about the other seven men who keep quiet about incidences of abuse.

He said real men speak out against abuse on women and children.

He called on men to change their behaviour adding that women should be treated as equal partners.

He urged men to start forums in their localities to fight against societal ills such as abuse on women and children.

Meanwhile, Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Social Crime Prevention Director Bawinile Mabuza says men have a role to play on the challenges facing women.

She says gender-based violence is a global challenge which is putting enormous costs on women's health and the country's economy.

Since Mpumalanga Province is committed to addressing issues of gender violence in an effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, her department launched the Men for Change program early this year.

The program is aimed at promoting the respect for women's rights.

"Men for Change should assist in encouraging other men not to be violent and encourage women to speak out so that they can be assisted.

"Men should also take a lead in reaching all levels of society, break the silence of abuse, and seriously contest the view that violence can be regarded as a family matter that does not require the intervention of the law, but a major human rights violation." added Mabuza



Bawinile Mabuza: Social Crime Prevention Director

New recruits should undergo thorough security checks

Government is concerned about the perpetual disappearance of exhibits at police stations, and Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Sibongile Manana now wants SAPS management to do a thorough security check on new recruits.

This follows the disappearance of more than R500 000 at Middelburg Organised Crime Unit's offices in November.

Also in August, illegal drugs worth more than R3, 7 million disappeared from Nelspruit Police Station.

In all incidences, an inside job was suspected.

MEC Manana subsequently called on police management to do thorough screening of police officers before they are recruited into the police service.

She said even the officers who had long been in the police service should also be vetted because it is believed that the police service is highly infiltrated by criminal elements.

"We must subject all future applicants to thorough security checks and not only limit our scope to a mere verification of criminal record so that we could minimise recruiting criminals into our force," said Manana.

She said she was concerned that such acts tarnished the image of the police.

"The little trust the community still have on the police will be taken away by such unacceptable behaviour" said Manana.

"We have to be brutal so that this will come to an end. We have requested an investigation; those found guilty should be expelled from the police service. Corrupt officers are not wanted in the province.

"If we are serious about combating crime, we must rid ourselves of the criminal elements first," concluded Manana.



Security checks: MEC Manana wants all new recruits to the police service to undergo an extensive security checks.



Launch of 10111 Call Centre



Witbank Police Station Awards



Opening Ceremony 16 Days of Activism



MUNIMEC



Schoemansdal Imbizo



Closing Ceremony of 16 Days of Activism



Prestige Awards



Borderline visits

