



community safety &
liaison

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MEC KAUNDA THANKS PEOPLE OF KWAZULU-NATAL FOR PEACEFUL 2016 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Mxolisi Kaunda, has thanked and applauded the people of KwaZulu-Natal, the law enforcement agencies, political parties and all key stakeholders, including the Independent Electoral Commission, for ensuring that the province delivered peaceful, free and fair elections.

MEC Kaunda - who on elections day visited all the violence flashpoints - said the Government of KwaZulu-Natal had been humbled by the way people carried themselves during the elections day, applauding the cooperation among the law enforcement agencies, the people and the political players.

“This is, indeed, a loud and clear statement that KwaZulu-Natal has turned its back on conflict and violence and is en route to peace, stability and peaceful political co-existence.

“For this, we wish to thank all the people of KwaZulu-Natal. We say to them the way we behaved ourselves has laid a solid foundation for

continued peace, stability and development in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Let us keep it up,” said MEC Kaunda.

MEC Kaunda also thanked the police for their dedication to protecting democratic gains made since the dawn of democracy in 1994.

‘In this regard, we would like to thank our men and women in blue for fulfilling their crucial Constitutional obligation - which is to serve and protect all South Africans. Indeed, you are in the vanguard of protecting our globally-admired Constitution.

“To the IEC, we say despite some challenges associated with delivery of the project of this magnitude, you were able to rise above challenges and delivered with aplomb. The way all sectors of our society partnered in this electoral project, augurs well for our democracy,” said MEC Kaunda.

However, said Kaunda, this would not have been possible without the Government, the people and political parties coming to the game.

These initiatives included the reconvening of the Multi-Party Political Intervention Committee. Through this body- made out of all political parties- we have been able to manage political tensions amicably.

Among others, we successfully intervened when political tensions flared up in different parts of the province ahead of the elections.

“All our efforts – together with the leaders of political parties and SAPS management in KZN- have been directed towards promoting the climate for the holding of free and fair elections in KwaZulu-Natal. We have done this in pursuance of our belief that development and progress could only occur in the atmosphere that is characterize by peaceful political co-existence, the absence of political violence and enhanced social cohesion,” he said.

MEC Kaunda noted the unfortunate incidents of the murder of councilor candidates before the elections, saying this was a blemish and serious undermining of our fledgling democracy.

“To this end, we wish to state it for all to know that even in this hour, our law enforcement agencies are still working around the clock to bring those responsible for this callous deed to book. We wish to state it, once again, that Government of KwaZulu-Natal shall never countenance lawlessness, acts of brutality and barbarism,” said MEC Kaunda.

However, for the relative peace during the elections, the Government wishes to thank all the stakeholders for this work well done.

“We are, therefore, convinced beyond any doubt that the province has been placed on a pedestal towards peace, development and progress. However the Government and all partners for peace and progress, including the law enforcement agencies, will continue to closely monitor the situation until all councils have been fully constituted. Once, again, thank you very much”, said MEC Kaunda.

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