

## **MEC KAUNDA ALLAYS FEARS FOR SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has lauded the role played by the Social Crime Prevention Volunteers in the fight against crime in the province. Kaunda was speaking at a meeting with team leaders of the volunteers in Durban yesterday, following a decision by the Department to align the programme with the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Code of Good Practice for employment conditions for employees in the

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). One of the provisions for the Code of Good Practice is that the employment of the EPWP volunteers should not exceed a period of two years. Due to budgetary constraints and the fact that the law stipulates that the contract of EPWPs should not exceed the period of two years, the Department has started negotiations with volunteers who have been part of the programme for more than two years to find an amicable way to exit the programme by the end of March next year. "KZN declaring war against crime"

Kaunda also outlined an exit strategy the Department has developed which will enable 720 volunteers to undergo a 12-month learnership programme with Safety and Security Sector Education and training Authority (SASSETA) and a private security company. Upon completing the programme, the company will provide full-time employment for the volunteers. The learner ship programme is expected to start in July this year. "However, for volunteers who feel that the skills they have amassed through the programme over the years can enable them to find better opportunities, will be allowed to remain within the EPWP programme until March next year. We are a caring government and it is for this reason that we have developed a programme for our volunteers to find permanent employment and those who choose not to be part of the learner ship programme, will be given a nine-month notice to plan their future," said Kaunda.

Since budgetary constraints was among the issues that compelled the department to review the programme, Kaunda has instructed the senior management of the Department to present a plan to him on Tuesday next week on how the programme will be implemented and funded until March next year. For the Department to be able to sustain the programme until March next year, it requires R48 million. Community Safety and Liaison is the least funded department in the province with a total budget of R235 million. Kaunda said that the provincial government remains committed in creating a conducive environment for economic growth and employment. "Therefore, let us all make a concerted effort in stabilising the province and promote peaceful coexistence. This will contribute immensely in positioning KwaZulu-Natal as a globally competitive province that is able to attract investment opportunities," said Kaunda.

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda, convened an urgent stakeholders meeting with the aim of developing effective strategies to end the ongoing bloody faction fighting that has ravaged the communities of Nhlawe and kwaMadondo in Weenen. In an effort of stabilising all areas ravaged by crime in the province, MEC Kaunda also met with the Community of IMbali Township in Pietermaritzburg. The meeting was triggered by an increase in the number of reported cases of car-jacking and murder.

## **NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK**

The campaign began in 1997 and it aims to mobilise all sectors of society to ensure that children and cared for and protected. While the Minister of Social Development leads the initiative, it is every citizen's duty to a role in protecting children and creating a safe and secure environment for them.

In its 22nd year, the campaign will be observed under the theme: "Let us Protect All Children to Move South Africa Forward".

It is commemorated in the country annually to raise awareness of the rights of children as articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and Children's Act (Act No. 38 of 2005).

Children in South Africa live in a society with a Constitution that has the highest regard for their rights and for the equality and dignity of everyone. Protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse is not only a basic value, but also an obligation clearly set out in Article 28 of the South African Constitution. Get help the toll free number to call is 0800 428 428 (0800 GBV GBV) to speak to a social worker for assistance and counselling.

You can also get help at Childline South Africa: 0800 055 555

Child Welfare South Africa: 0861 4 CHILD (24453) / 011 452-4110 / e-mail:

info@childwelfare.org.za

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### **MEN'S HEALTH WEEK 2019**

On the 10th-16th June, the world celebrates Men's Health Week. This is a time to bring awareness to health issues that affect men disproportionately and focuses on getting men to become aware of problems they may have or could develop, and gain the courage to do something about it. Last year the focus was on Diabetes in men. This is a disease that becomes present in men much more than women, and can develop complications in male bodies at a higher rate than in females. This means men are more likely to have to have amputations and in the worst cases, die in higher numbers than women. While much work has been done in the diagnosis and fight against Diabetes, awareness is the most important thing. The more people are aware of it, the more likely they are to make healthy changes and stop or delay the onset of diabetes.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

#### **JUNE**

May your birthday be the start of a year filled with good luck, good health and much happiness? Wishing you much happiness on your special day. ... Wishing you, a day full of laughter and happiness and a year that brings you much success. "May all life's blessings be yours, on your birthday and always?"

Happy Birthday!

Ndlovu FH 06 June

Mbanjwa SB 09 June

Mthembu KS 14 June

Dlamini JJ 16 June

Diko X 17 June

Gumbi CB 18 June