



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

26 JANUARY 2022

MEC NKONYENI APPLAUDS POLICE ON SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS THAT LED TO THE ARREST OF 2064.

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mama Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni, has commended the police on a well-executed intelligence driven operation in different parts of the province, including the Richmond area, which led to the arrest of 2064 suspects in one week, for variety of crimes including 43 murder, 24 attempted murder, 20 robberies, 53 sexual assault and rape, 223 fraud and shoplifting, possession of suspected stolen property, assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm (GBH), 95 for theft and burglary, 467 drug related, possession of illegal firearms and ammunition. Police also seized 52 stolen vehicles, and some involved in crime, 107 illegal fire arms and 503 of various rounds of ammunition. These suspects have appeared in different courts within the province and some remanded in custody for the seriousness of crimes committed.

The MEC called upon community members to come forward with information and expose those police involved in criminal activities because police need information to make arrest, expose them together with those criminals they are involved with.

“If police can manage to arrest so many people and seize so many illegal items in one week, indeed our police are working hard in closing all ranks in the province. It can only confirm that indeed we do have committed Men and Women in Blue and I wish to plead with our communities, that they support them rather than painting all of them with the same brush and call out corrupt criminals. However, I wish to send a strong message to the rotten potatoes, those who pull back our great work and put the lives of others in danger by conniving with criminals, and I say your days are numbered, you will soon change that blue uniform for orange one.” said Nkonyeni.

These operations follow MEC Nkonyeni's plea to Lt. General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi to probe an investigation following brutal killing of 14 people in separate incidents involving Richmond and Inanda a week ago. They also re-emphasize the integrated messages from both the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Sihle Zikala, and the MEC Nkonyeni at the Integrated Festive Season Safety Plan Launch on the 30 November 2021 in Durban, Amphitheatre Beach Front, that "***Police visibility should and must be our everyday life for our communities to feel safe and be safe***".

On another incident, Howick police received a complaint of a murder at a farm and on arrival they were shown a body of a man in his 70's lying outside the house with assault wounds on the face and two (02) stab wounds at the back. On search, it was discovered that three (03) firearms and a laptop were stolen. Charges of murder and robbery were opened at Howick Police Station for investigation.

The MEC is optimistic that among these arrests, criminals involved in the above-mentioned murders will soon be caught and be charged, so that families will find justice.

MEC also pleaded with members of the community to come forward with such firearms whose owner might have passed on and nobody at home can take ownership for various reasons. They should report such firearms to the police and be assisted, rather than waiting for criminals to come and steal them.

People can also report criminal elements amongst the police, in the department of Community Safety and Liaison by using **Department's WhatsApp number: 063 691 9569**.

The end:

For more information, please contact Sindiswa Zikhali on 082 045 8361 OR Thuba Vilane on 0082 889 6570