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MPUMALANGA SAFETY AND SECURITY BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE  
YEAR 2003/2004 BY MEC TSP MAKWETLA, 5 June 2003

Speaker

Honourable Premier of the Province

Fellow Members

Freedom is democracy and democracy is development, consequently, there is no genuine freedom without development. Furthermore in theory and in practice, there can be no development without peace, stability and safety. Our own national experience teaches us this. It is therefore with an immense sense of responsibility that I present to this august house what is, in all likelihood, the last safety and security budget of Mpumalanga's second government, since the first democratic elections of 1994, a budget which denotes where safety and security is, in Mpumalanga at the end of the first decade of our freedom.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to dedicate this budget speech to the memory of a phenomenal son of this province and South Africa at large, a colleague and a colourful former member of this legislature who recently died in a car accident. Honourable Member Ephraim 'Phumuga' Mogale, Phorogohlo Mashishinya.

His exceptional revolutionary optimism, his contempt for frustration in the face of hardships of struggle, his ability to deal with and laugh at even the worst of problems; his passionate concern and grasp of the plight of the rural poor and the ravages of crime, will be missed by all of us who had the privilege to work with him. Like a mature revolutionary he bore an unwavering belief that victory is certain.

Honourable members like all other departments of government, the safety and security department succeeded since 1994 to unify and integrate policing in the province by amalgamating the various police entities which existed before into a single service. Furthermore, courageous decisions were taken to advance representivity and affirmative action to address the racially skewed representivity in the high echelons of the service. Novel strategies were introduced to transform service delivery such as

sector policing which promotes movement away from 'repressive policing' to proactive policing, and the introduction of crime intelligence gatherers at station level in order to ensure that our combating of crime is at all times intelligence driven.

Still and all, Honourable members, challenges are abound in this sector of government. As we forge ahead, we need to pay special attention to matters such as the need to consolidate integration by consciously promoting efficiency and same levels of professionalism throughout all our stations, including those that were the backyards of policies of segregation before.

In spite of progress made, SAPS, like other departments of government, must still address the challenge that the critical mass of its controlling middle management remains predominately white. Needless to say, gender equity and the employment of people with disabilities, in particular those who incurred injuries in the line of duty, must be aggressively promoted.

Honourable members, we need to do more institutionally to build and manage SAPS. Key to this endeavour is the need to consciously engineer a change of the organisational culture of the South African Police Service, its practices and ethos such that it can optimally realise its mission and vision.

The SAPS is also challenged by the need to adhere to Batho Pele principles, like other sectors of our public service. To transform service delivery, SAPS management has promoted these virtues, and it must aggressively stay with them.

Honourable Speaker, whereas SAPS control techniques and performance monitors are scientific and competitive, we can further enhance accountability by incorporating inspection procedures that track outcomes rather than outputs.

This will assist in managing the quantity and quality of personnel and equipment assigned to various locations and functions, for maximum efficiency.

In this regard, a recent paper by Ted Leggett, a policy analyst with the Institute for Security Studies argues that while all public servants complain about the lack of resources, a close scrutiny of the SAPS suggests that current resource's levels should be sufficient for the task at hand, by international standards. Even with the recognition of the fact that the role of the police varies between countries, thus making international comparisons

difficult, South African Police Service's total personnel number in the excess of 125,000, or about 312 members for every 100,000 people, is more than are found in the USA (300 to every 100,000), Australia (275:100,000) or in Canada (249:100,000). According to Ted Leggett, "South Africa has one police member for every 320 people. A ratio of one per every 400 is considered good, while one per every 600 is considered bad". This reinforces the impression that our police are not presently challenged for numbers. These and other matters are issues our civilian secretariat must have views on.

Lastly, (capacity building through) human resource development and the promotion of a professional service are elementary challenges of transformation of our civil service, which must still be pursued with vigour within SAPS. This entails among other things the need to train SAPS members in the new values of our constitution similar to the civic education programme facilitated within the SANDF. We must cultivate professionalism within SAPS in order to minimize corrupt practices and acts of criminality.

Honourable Speaker, fellow members I have made these extensive remarks on these matters because for us to take policing a level higher, these are the challenges we still have to confront. In their very nature these issues are at the core of the monitoring mandate of our civilian secretariat for safety and security. For us to succeed the civilian secretariat must add value to policing by advising on these matters.

These broad reflections are change-drivers behind the decision by the civilian secretariat to re-organise itself with regard to its structure and human resource utilisation. We need a better formation and a meaningful 'matching and placing' of people in order to fight fit. In this regard I wish to congratulate the management of the civilian secretariat and the HOD, Dr Gulam Karim, for their innovative spirit and determination to develop the capacity to match the tasks before us.

Honourable members, the safety and security department is entering a period of heightened policy activity. The 1998 White Paper on Safety and Security is coming under review in 2004. Meanwhile the process of drafting a new Safety and Security Act to replace the current principal Act, the South African Police Service Act, has also commenced.

Among other issues the new Act is intended to address are the following: -

- \* The present institutional arrangement pertaining to safety and security, at national level and in the provinces
- \* Competencies of provinces vis-à-vis policing
- \* The relationship between the MECs in the provinces and the Independent Complaints Directorate (ICD)
- \* CPFs, their role, functions and funding etc.

Clearly, these two processes are going to require proper management because they are not streamlined. Conventionally, the White Paper review should precede the drafting of the New Principal Act. It must also be said that the White Paper review may be bogged down by difficulties because, in some respects it is a policy that was partially implemented for reasons that not everybody is familiar with. Whatever happens, these undertakings must serve to resolve some of the vexing questions of design in and around safety and security, informed by the experience of the last nine years.

Fellow members, the last twelve months to the end of March this year, witnessed dramatic developments in and around security in the province. Tourism safety in the province was being compromised by a series of high profile attacks on non domestic tourists. This tempted people to believe that a trend of regular attacks on tourists was emerging in Mpumalanga. Rightwing terror activities suggested that our province was among the most invested with networks and cells of right-wingers; our national roads in the province were increasingly appearing to be happy hunting grounds for criminals following a spate of attacks on Swazi nationals.

As I speak today, the house will pardon me if I sound like I am now relating history. Thanks to the sterling job done by dedicated men and women who are unwavering in their commitment to make our people live a better life under the leadership of Provincial Commissioner Eric Nkabinde. I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the Legislature, to express our appreciation to all those members of SAPS in this province, who continue to occupy the forward trenches in the battle against crime for their selflessness in rebuilding our province and our country. In this context, I wish to send once again our word of sympathy to all families of members of SAPS who were killed for the noble work they were doing.

Let me also take this opportunity to send our condolences to the family of Insp. Tinus Tereblanche of the Task Force Headquarters

in their hour of grief. The thoughts of the million peace loving South Africans are with you.

Recently, the Department of Safety and Security held a one-day National Summit to start the national campaign to mobilise against police killings. The deep resentment for police killers is borne by the understanding that "police are not just any public servants. They represent the right of the collective to use force against the individual in pursuit of the common good." Speaker, the war against crime is a challenge to us all. Allow me to isolate for special mention distinguished members of this Legislature, in the name of Honourable member Thoko Mabena, Hon. Gelane Sindane, Hon. Pogisho Phasha and MP Tsheko Thabe who have done remarkable work to mobilize communities, and in particular women, in order to close the space for criminals in the province at a crucial hour. Their example must be emulated by all of us, because it is indeed the only lasting solution to this problem, to educate and turn people around.

The positive response by members of the public in assisting police investigators with valuable information in the cases they were able to crack, is commendable. This sense of civic duty and community spirit must be cultivated everywhere in our province. Special mention must also go to my colleague, the MEC for Finance & Economic Affairs Hon. Israel Mabena, for coming in at a vital moment with the funds to deploy the youth monitors. This project was a resounding success for others to emulate.

The picture I briefly sketched above, around our successes in crime combating is evidence that our capacity to deal with organised crime and serious and violent crime, is healthy. However, there are two areas, which remain a major challenge to policing. These are; firstly, the need to improve basic service delivery to communities and secondly, the building of capital projects. All grievances that generate emotional feelings towards the police belong to this area of policing. They include among others, lack of visible policing; lack of trust in the police; deficiencies identified with the criminal justice system e.g. corruption at magistrate's courts; lack of observance of Batho Pele principles, etc. Capital projects are not rolling out as expected. During the course of this financial year, five capital projects will be completed. Of the five, three are in previously white areas. Two are add-ons to already existing stations in former black areas. Undoubtedly, there is a need for us to aggressively take policing infrastructure to areas where it was previously not available, and

I am happy to report that to this end we have the commitment of the National Commissioner of SAPS.

Speaker, 42% of South Africa's high potential arable land and 16% of its medium potential arable land lies in the province of Mpumalanga. This astonishing reality under scores the significance of our farming industry to both our provincial and national economies. Considering that our province comprises only of 6,7% of South Africa's total surface area, the arability of our province makes it South Africa's bread basket.

It is therefore in the national interest that farming in our province remains stable, and security on our farms is key in this regard. The new initiative to reorganise rural safety by phasing out the 'commando units' is important. Essentially the phasing out of commandos is intended to address two deficiencies, firstly, commando unit structures, in spite of the fact that many people associate them with the combating of crime they are military structures which constitute an integral part of the force design of the SANDF. They are a component of the landward force of our defence establishment and budget. What this means is that in every respect, commandos are governed by the constitutional mandate and other legal provisions, which bind the SANDF. Of critical importance is the legal framework governing the internal deployment of the SANDF and its conduct in instances where it is deployed in support of crime combating activities of the SAPS.

Firstly, the constitution says the primary objective of the Defence Force is to defend and protect the Republic and its territorial integrity. Arising out of this constitutional dictate, the White Paper of Defence establishes further clarity by identifying primary and secondary mandates of the defence function. The combating of crime in support of SAPS is a secondary mandate.

The regulations stipulate that in instances where the SANDF/commandos deploy in support of the police, they shall first have been approached and requested to do so by SAPS and secondly when the SANDF/Commandos deploy they must come under the control authority of SAPS. On several occasions, Commandos have failed to follow this procedure, because they would deploy rapidly following an attack on an adjacent farm, without the presence of the police, which is a clear infringement of the law. Clearly, if such structures are to continue existing they must be unfettered to deal with crime combating more efficiently under the authority of the police.

Secondly, there are instances where racial conflict on some of the farms becomes sharp and leads to the usage of commando unit resources to mete out punishment on farm labourers. This only serves to fan hostilities that result in the commission of further crimes, thus undermining overall security on our farms. In the broader military context, the continued existence of the commandos presents other problems, which for purpose of this debate I prefer not to comment upon. I am happy to announce that with the help of the commander of Group 33, Col Visser and the Provincial Commissioner of SAPS, I will soon convene a discussion forum of all farmers in our province to deliberate on the way forward around security on our farms.

The White Paper and the National Crime Prevention Strategy warn of the dire consequences of neglecting social crime prevention in our fight against crime. Crime prevention is one of the core business of the civilian secretariat of Safety and Security. Over the last twelve months, we have managed to co-ordinate several programmes and projects to promote social crime prevention. These include among others, community mobilisation anti crime rallies, MAM structures, CPFs, Anti-stolen-goods campaign, combating gender based violence, etc.

The challenge we face as a province and as South Africans is to bring home the message that the eradication of crime is central to the attainment of a better life; there can be no better life under conditions of fear. Secondly, our communities must move beyond the denial phase, and begin to see our make up for what it is, a people who because of deprivation, and being destitute half the time, are used to compete in beating the law, to display their prowess. Our culture embodies a subculture of survival which entails a total disregard for the next person. The communal spirit of African culture, 'Ubuntu', has been turned inside out. Whether the end result of a mugging is death, the perpetrator does not burden himself with that outcome.

In its fullness this matter is evidently not a police problem, it goes beyond. Our communities must be aware of the need to remake ourselves. Anything short of a moral regeneration will not see a significant reduction of the high crime levels in our communities; many people are still stuck in the old mode of self-destruction they were thrust into, by conditions of the past.

Based on the evaluation of the previous year and crime trends, SAPS in Mpumalanga has identified the following five operational

priorities for 2003-2004 in line and in support of SAPS National Strategic Plan.

\* Organised Crime

This is to address organised crime by focusing on criminal organisations involved in crimes relating to drugs, firearms and vehicles, with specific focus on the identification and investigation of the following issues:

- \* Armed robbery
- \* Theft of Motor Vehicles
- \* Theft out of Motor Vehicles
- \* Housebreaking
- \* Stock Theft
- \* Drug related crimes
- \* Copper Theft, and
- \* Precious metals and stones related crime
- \* Corruption in the SAPS
- \* Corruption and Commercial crimes in Government and in Public Institutions.
- \* Serious and Violent Crime

The focus will be on the proliferation of firearms and its impact on incidents of murder, armed robberies, farm attacks, heists and hijacking.

\* Crime against Women and Children

In order to reduce gender based violence (crime levels) the following priority crimes will be focused on:

- \* Rape, including attempted rape
- \* Domestic Violence
- \* Assault
- \* Indecent Assault, and
- \* Child Abuse

\* Improve Basic Service Delivery to all Communities

This is to enhance the provision of basic policing services in identified problem areas, with specific focus on the following issues:

- \* Visible Policing



- \* Development and upgrading of identified problematic stations, including interventions
- \* Establishment of trust in the SAPS, and
- \* Establishment of infrastructures to report and address crime
  
- \* Human Resource Management

In order to optimise personnel utilisation, SAPS will focus on the following:

- \* Development and Implementation of a Human Resource Management Plan
- \* Distribution and redistribution of human resources according to identified organisational needs
- \* Effective enlistment, promotion and placement of personnel
- \* Restructuring and Transformation in terms of Resolution of the Public Service Bargaining Council

#### PRIORITIES OF THE CIVILIAN SECRETARIAT OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Secretariat reviewed its 2002-03 Operational Plans and considered the following priorities in order to improve our focus more effectively on our core mandate to monitor and evaluate the South African Police Services, to raise public awareness and facilitate public education on safety and security matters and activities.

These priorities will support and augment the strategic efforts of the SAPS.

1. Facilitate and support the establishment of twelve (12) Multi Agency Mechanism (MAM) structures.

In order to address the socio-economic interventions that can reduce social crimes, it is imperative to co-ordinate and involve a broad range of provincial government functions and role players, such as Health, Education, Social Services and Social Development, Public Works, Roads and Transport, Housing and Local Government.

Local Municipalities, in particular, which are closest to the citizenry, are uniquely placed to participate in social crime prevention initiatives and to redirect the provision of services to promote crime prevention.

Community Police Forums should co-operate with local municipalities by jointly identifying crime prevention priorities and agreeing on strategies to ensure their implementation.

In 2002/03 Multi Agency Mechanism structures were established at the three district municipalities, at Vosman, Nkomazi, Thaba Chweu, Mbombela and Embalenhle.

In 2003/04 local MAM structures will be established at the following municipalities; Dr. Moroka, Thembisile, Highlands, Greater Middelburg, Greater Groblersdal, Mkhondo, Msukalikwa, Lekwa, Dipaliseng, Delmas and Albert Luthuli.

2. To improve the relationship between all stakeholders in the farming community.

In 2002/03 paralegal workshops were held at Wakkerstroom, Roosenekal and Schagen to educate farm workers and farm tenants about their rights and responsibilities with regard to land rights, land tenancy and the implementation of the minimum wage.

This process assisted in cultivating an environment for the farming community to collectively combat crime and criminality in their respective areas. In addition farming community meetings were held at Buffelspruit, Schoemansdal, Kaalrug, Tonga and Wakkerstroom dealing with specific problems ranging from stock theft, employment of illegal immigrants and community safety.

This process will be enhanced by ensuring that all the relevant stakeholders participate in a joint effort to create a stable socio-economic environment in the farming communities.

3. Anti-crime campaigns and rallies

In the previous financial year anti-crime rallies were held at Piet Retief, Zwelisha, Waterval Boven, Seabe, Kwa-Mhlanga and Standerton to highlight challenges around the purchasing of stolen goods, violence around women and children, illegal weapons, rape, and drugs. Primarily all interventions are focused towards the moral re-generation of our communities and in rebuilding communities that are socially and culturally vibrant, embodying high levels of moral and social values.

In addition a concerted effort was initiated in addressing the consequences associated with the operation of illegal shebeens.

Shebeen owners have been encouraged to register their enterprises and ensure that they abide by the relevant legislations, especially in ensuring that alcohol is not sold to minors.

In 2003/04 the department will be implementing campaigns relating to the following crime prevention themes.

- a) gender-based violence
- b) anti-stolen goods campaign
- c) partnership against crime
- d) moral regeneration

Each one of these themes complement another. However, it will be critical to isolate these themes, so that a clear strategy can be worked out at the local level in addressing specific contributory causes and how to deal with possible solutions in the affected community. The emphasis on moral regeneration as a constant golden thread is to encourage in all relevant stakeholders, especially the Non-Governmental Organisations, Community Based Organisations and the Faith Based Organisations, the nurturing of a better social fabric. The road ahead is challenging, but not insurmountable.

In addition, six major anti-crime rallies will be held at Greater Middelburg, Thembisile, Greater Witbank, Govan Mbeki, Thaba Chweu and Mbombela.

Each one of these municipalities have been targeted as there are flash-point police stations with above average levels of crime. We hope to cement a partnership between all the role players so that a Community Safety Plan can be developed in reducing crime and criminality.

4. To increase the awareness in flash-point schools against drugs and substance abuse.

Although to date the department has been visiting many schools to mobilise students against criminal behaviour, our efforts need to be doubled as it appears some schools are caught in ill-discipline which is bordering on criminality.

A recent assessment indicates that the many problems of security at schools are caused by various factors such as the socio-economic environment, lack of physical planning of communities due to rapid urbanisation, peer pressure from matriculant

repeaters, drugs, illegal weapons, easy access to shebeens and a lack of amenities for the youth in general.

Drugs and illegal weapons in these schools are the order of the day. As government we will make a concerted, joint effort with all relevant stakeholders to eradicate this scourge, which threatens our very future.

In addition anti-crime school games will be sponsored as a means of promoting anti-crime messages and providing recreation in those areas without infrastructure. Soccer and netball will be encouraged. This will be a joint effort between ourselves, and the Departments of Education and Sport, Arts and Culture.

The areas targeted for all these activities are those in Thembisile, Greater Witbank, Middelburg, Dr. Moroka, Govan Mbeki, Mkhondo, Msukaligwa, Lekwa, Thaba Chweu, Mjindini, Nkomazi and Mbombela where there are high levels of unemployment and socio-economic dislocation.

5. Train hawkers in tourist flash-point areas on safety and security matters.

In collaboration with South African Police Services, the Department of Finance, Economic Affairs and Tourism and the Mpumalanga Tourism Authority, a tourism safety plan was implemented in December 2002, in order to reduce criminal activity against tourists. This intervention resulted in reduced attacks on tourists. We need to applaud the gallant efforts of the volunteers and the SAPS in this intervention.

In principle this strategy will be sustained by the Department of Finance and Economic Affairs and the other role players as it has both short-term and long-term benefits in protecting and enhancing the tourism industry, which is a key economic sector in Mpumalanga.

In order to augment the above strategy, the department will train twenty-four (24) hawkers primarily from the popular tourist areas, frequented by the many tourists both from abroad and our citizens. The objective is to train hawkers to participate in an integrated and comprehensive approach in preventing crimes against all tourists, so that in the long term it will boost the tourism economy and the hawkers' personal economic sustainability, growth and well-being.

## 6. Border Security

Border Security along the border with Mozambique and Swaziland is a major concern. There is an unacceptable level of movement of illegal drugs, contraband, stolen vehicles, and immigrants. I believe the overall impact, in terms of revenue lost by the South African Revenue Services is a matter of concern. This requires all the state agencies to work together to find an effective strategy in combating Organised Crime syndicates. In 2002/03 the department embarked on various interventions in collaboration with SAPS, SANDF, municipalities and the Department of Home Affairs to increase awareness of the challenges confronting all of us with regard to the security of our borders. Meetings were held with all stakeholders in the Mbuluzi area and a structure was established, to be co-ordinated by the Station Commissioner for Tonga Police Station in order to curb the increase in the levels of stock-theft. This loss of stock, especially by small indigent farmers, threatens the very well-being of these rural communities.

In addition, the SAPS, and its counterparts in KwaZulu-Natal, Swaziland and Mozambique has established a forum to address this very issue.

In addition, Cabinet has agreed in principle to deploy additional troops to this borderline to enhance security.

For 2003/04 the Department will create a greater awareness in communities who are adversely affected in border lying areas, as they can assist the SAPS by participating at the local level in ensuring that they take pro-active steps in minimising this national and international problem.

## 7. To facilitate capacity building and revival of Community Policing Forums (CPF)

We all share the common understanding that CPFs play an important role in creating a better environment of understanding and acceptability of the SAPS by the communities. Communities play a key role in finding local solutions for local challenges.

It is important that CPFs are trained to understand their broader role and responsibilities, including jointly setting crime prevention priorities and developing local community safety plans with SAPS and the local municipal elected representatives.

In 2002/03 the department undertook and provided training to the following CPFs:

Masoyi, KaNyamanzane, Piet Retief, Ermelo, Siyabuswa, Moutse and Vosman.

The content of training covered areas such as roles, responsibilities, developing a community safety plan with SAPS, conflict management and management skills in general.

#### 8. MECs Excellence Award for the best Police Stations

With the collapse of the Saambou Bank, the competition for the best police station in the provinces was terminated. In order to create an environment of positive competitiveness and to boost the morale of all police officers, this intervention will inject a sustained effort by all police stations to be the best. Participation will be categorised based on the size of the police stations, and a qualitative assessment tool will be utilised to adjudicate the process. The Civilian Secretariat, the Provincial SAPS and CPFs will oversee the process and the adjudication.

#### BUDGET FOR 2003/2004

The budget allocated for the financial period 2003/2004 to the Department of Safety and Security is forty one million, one hundred and eighty nine thousand Rands (R41, 189,000).

#### PROGRAMME ONE: ADMINISTRATION

Programme One is Administration, and includes the Office of the Member of the Executive Council, the Head of Department and Corporate Services which includes Financial Management, Provisioning and Human Resources.

This programme has been allocated thirteen million, one hundred and fifty seven thousand, six hundred and nine Rand (R13, 157,609).

#### PROGRAMME TWO: OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

This component is responsible for implementing the Social Crime Prevention Programme of the Department.

This unit has been allocated a budget of ten million, eight hundred and thirty five thousand and six hundred and fifty nine Rands (R10, 835,659).

### PROGRAMME THREE: SECURITY SERVICES

This programme has been allocated fifteen million, seven hundred and thirty nine thousand, seven hundred and thirty four Rands (R15, 739,734), which will be utilised to safeguard government property by advising, co-ordinating and supporting other provincial government departments.

The salaries of security personnel transferred to other departments will be transferred on a monthly basis to the respective departments.

### PROGRAMME FOUR: POLICY, PLANNING AND RESEARCH

The Policy, Planning and Research component has been allocated

One million, four hundred and fifty five thousand, nine hundred and ninety eight Rands. (R1, 455,998).

This unit will be responsible to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the police services in Mpumalanga.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore request that this Honourable house approve a budget of R41, 189 m for the Department of Safety and Security for the financial year 2003/2004.

I hereby submit a copy of my budget speech and the Departmental Plans for the Department of Safety and Security.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Premier and the Executive Committee, the Chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee for Safety and Security, and the members of the Legislature for their concern, continued support and understanding.

I would like to thank the Provincial Commissioner Eric Nkabinde and his management, the Head of my Department, Dr. Gulam Karim, his management and staff for their support, commitment and dedication in their daily tasks. The challenges ahead are daunting, but as a team we will forge ahead to build on the gains we have thus far achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the South African Police Services -

- \* for their continued dedication in combating and preventing crime;
- \* for having risked their very lives to protect our communities;
- \* for not being deterred from their noble tasks, despite the resource constraints;
- \* the many reservists and volunteers who are still doing duty need to be applauded for the selfless service they are providing, despite not receiving any remuneration for their dedication and commitment.
- \* we would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and relatives of the many victims of crime in our province

We will not be deterred in our struggle to bring these criminals to face the wrath of the law, so that they are tried and sentenced in accordance with the South African Law.

I would like to thank the mayors and councillors of the various municipalities, for their support and in complementing our collective endeavours in addressing the socio-economic challenges relevant to this problem.

In addition, I would like to thank the members the Provincial and Area Community Policing Boards and the Community Policing Forums in the province and members of the public, for their commitment, time and effort, in preventing and combating crime. Their sacrifice in the interest of building communities is highly appreciated.

To the business community, in particular, Business Against Crime, I wish to acknowledge your commitment and take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in supporting and assisting the training of personnel in the Criminal Justice Cluster.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this august body must send a clear message to our people.

"The time has come that we say enough and no more, and by acting to banish this blight in our society, remake ourselves as the midwives of the African Renaissance."

Thank you.

Issued by Mpumalanga Provincial Government

5 June 2003