

To: All Media/ News Editors

MEDIA ADVISORY

25 May 2023

LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS TO UNPACK BOLD CRIME-FIGHTING INITIATIVES IN MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY

In a bid to bolster crime-fighting interventions in Msunduzi Local Municipality, under the uMgungundlovu District, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and leader of government business, Siboniso Duma will lead a crime-fighting Imbizo at Imbali township on Saturday, 27 May 2023.

The provincial government has pronounced crime as the number one enemy affecting the livelihood of the people of this province. To this end, the Premier, Nomusa Dube-Ncube has tasked the executive council to champion an intensified war against all criminality.

In recent weeks, Msunduzi Municipality has witnessed mass killings resulting in more than 20 lives being lost because of violent crimes. Last Month, ten people were mercilessly gunned down at the Memela home in unit 14, Imbali. Subsequently, law enforcement with assistance from law-abiding citizens quick reaction managed to apprehend those responsible for the mass shooting.

Just last week, another ten people were burnt to death after an unknown group of men entered a house, they were gathered at in Taylors Halt, Pietermaritzburg. A provincial task team has been deployed to investigate this matter.

The key focus of this crime-fighting Imbizo will be unveiling key interventions to decrease the unprecedented rise in trio crime such as murder, rape, and the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The mushrooming of the trade in narcotics and the number of illegal liquor outlets in Imbali will also be tackled.

Commenting before the Imbizo MEC Duma, said it is important to also mobilize community crime-fighting structures like the Community Policing Forum (CPF), private security companies and businesses against crime to augment the work of the police and other law enforcement agencies.

As part of the crime-fighting interventions, MEC Duma will embark on a consumer awareness campaign aimed at raising awareness about consumer rights and needs while enforcing business compliance.

Duma said his department had decided to change the way it enforced compliance and from now onwards, they would not hesitate to take stern actions against businesses that cause suffering to people by flouting their consumer rights. Direct in-loco inspections in the form of unannounced blitzes would feature prominently in the new modus operandi to thwart the escalation of consumer rights abuses by greedy and heartless traders.

The Crime Fighting Imbizo has been scheduled as follows:

Date: Saturday, 27 May 2023

Venue: Imbali Sports Ground, Ward 19 (Opposite Sukuma High School)

Time: 08h00

Members of the media are invited to attend and over the event.

ENDS

ISSUED JOINTLY BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON.

For enquiries, contact: Angel "Mkhethie" Sibisi (Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Spokesperson) | 067 415 8402 and Morgan Ndaba (Department of Community Safety and Liaison) | 071 301 6553