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"TOGETHER LET'S FIGHT CRIME"



MEC FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY, TAKING A SALUTE BEFORE PRESENTING HER POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH

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WC visitors will be safe - says MEC 12

SPECIAL FOCUS ON SAFETY, SECURITY & LIAISON

The MEC for Safety, Security and Community Liaison presented her 2010/11 Policy and Budget Speech at the Provincial Legislature, in what was arguably the most spectacular of all the policy and budget speeches that have been presented to the Provincial Legislature thus far.

The occasion was marked by beautiful displays of the department's red flags, parades by the members of

the South African Police Services (SAPS) and other colourful displays of the symbols of the SAPS.

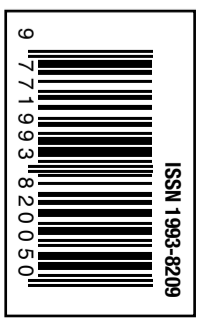
In this Special Edition of Ziwaphi, we highlight some of the important pronouncements that MEC Sibongile Manana made. The full text of the policy and budget speech is available at: www.mpumalanga.gov.za/safety_and_security.



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JZ



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MEC FOCUSES ON BORDER SECURITY IN BUDGET SPEECH

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT

Mpumalanga's Department of Safety, Security and Liaison is implementing an anticorruption strategy at ports of entry to ensure that police officers do not partake in illegal activities.

"This initiative will continue to be the focus during the 2010/2011 financial year to ensure effective service delivery and the improved integrity of our officials at the ports of entry, through coordinated law enforcement. Our mandate is to fight crime and, as we do that, we do not expect law enforcers to be found wanting. Should that happen, we are not going to hesitate in arresting them and ensuring that we hand them the orange uniform. Therefore, all our officials at borders have been vetted and screened," said MEC Sibongile Manana during her budget speech on Friday.

She also announced that infrastructural facilities at ports have been improved and that the Lebombo border post, which links South Africa with Mozambique, would soon boast a new pedestrian facility and by-pass freight routes with canopies.

"This project is already 60% complete. The main objective for this overhaul is to ensure that our infrastructure responds to the challenges faced by port officials. We hope the canopies will improve the



MEC for Safety, Security and Liaison, Sibongile Manana leading a procession, minutes before presenting her policy and budget speech for the 2010/ 11 financial year

working conditions at this particular port of entry."

Manana said police officers deployed at Mpumalanga's borders with Mozambique and Swaziland had confiscated 11 illegal firearms, recovered 35 stolen vehicles, seized 243kg of dagga and confiscated 10 900 various illegal articles, including cigarettes, cattle and copper cables during the previous financial year. In total, the police had made 1 030 arrests at borders, she said.

Manana further announced that the SANDF had already started taking control of border safety in

the province, as was announced in parliament late last year, and would focus on mobile operations conducted at night.

"It became evident that the deployment of the SAPS to look after the border lines was not yielding the desired results and Operation Corona, as the deployment of the soldiers is called, is now taking place. About 200 SANDF members have been deployed to operate the border lines in the province and the handover of the Macadamia base, phase one of the operation, was done from May 9 to 12. Both the advance

team and main force have reported for duty."

Troops stationed at the Macadamia base will be responsible for the border area from Mbuzini to the Crocodile River, those deployed during phase two will police the Sand River in the Kruger National Park, while phase three will involve troops who will focus on the country's border with Swaziland.

"We hope this new development will go a long way in ensuring adequate security on our borders. Meanwhile, the SAPS will continue to operate the ports of entry," Manana said.

More police, more resources

During the 2009/10 financial year, the South African Police Service recruited 659 officers and procured 391 new vehicles, 382 vehicles were delivered in the same financial year and the rest are going to be delivered in the 2010/11 financial year.

Manana said that this intervention was part of the government's objectives to transform the criminal justice system.

"We are convinced that by continuously allocating additional resources to the SAPS, more positive impact will be realised in Visible Policing, Detectives and Crime Intelligence," said Manana.

In addition, the safety MEC announced the appointment of key officials within the police establishment, including the Provincial Commissioner of Police and the Deputy Police Commissioner.

"I am happy to formally inform the House that in November 2009, Lieutenant General Ntobela was appointed as the new Provincial Commissioner for SAPS Mpumalanga."

"Part of our objectives for transforming the criminal justice system is to ensure gender parity in the top echelons of SAPS. Consequently we have appointed Major General Hadebe as Deputy Provincial Commissioner responsible for Support Services. She is a woman. Over and above this, a total number of 4 female Cluster Commanders were appointed. We currently have 25 female Station Commanders in the Province. We are committed to gender equality and we will not rest until parity is achieved," Manana said.

More police stations in 2010



The Department of Safety, Security and Liaison will be opening the following new police stations during the 2010/11 Financial Year:

<input type="checkbox"/> SAPS	Hazyview
<input type="checkbox"/> SAPS	Mbuzini
<input type="checkbox"/> SAPS	Twefontein
<input type="checkbox"/> SAPS	Pienaar

The Department will be building the following new stations will be built during 2010 - 2014 MTEF period:

<input type="checkbox"/> SAPS	Bushbuckridge
<input type="checkbox"/> SAPS	Mmamethlake
<input type="checkbox"/> SAPS	Balfour
<input type="checkbox"/> SAPS	Grootvlei
<input type="checkbox"/> SAPS	Masoyi

JACOB ZUMA TURNS RALLY INTO A "BIGGEST POLITICAL SCHOOL"

BY PIONEER MAQHAWA

The African National Congress could not have chosen an ideal location for the launch its Imvuselelo Campaign than Mpumalanga Province.

The origins of Imvuselelo Campaign can be traced back to the organisation's 2005 National General Council resolution to rebuild and revive the branches of the organisation and its subsidiaries, the ANC Youth League and the ANC Women's League by cultivating leadership qualities and ideological depth and improve basic organisational skills of branch activists so that they can sustain the political vibrancy, values and political culture of the organisation.

The ANC in Mpumalanga Province and elsewhere has in recent times been bedeviled by internecine power struggle that has, more than ever before, threatened the unity of this oldest liberation movement on the African continent.

Held under the theme, Building and Consolidating the Unity of the Movement towards 2012, the launch was addressed by the organisation's President, Jacob Zuma and attended by members of the organisation's National Executive Committee (NEC), including Secretary General Gwede Mantashe as well as ANCYL President, Julius Malema.

Conspicuous by their absence were the national leadership of the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the Young Communist League of South Africa (YCLSA).

Before the 2009 General elections, the South African Communist Party held a massive rally in support of the ANC at the same venue, while the YCLSA also held various activities in support of the ANC's election campaign.

COSATU, through its Secretary General, Zwelinzima Vavi, was recently the only formation of the Tripartite Alliance that has criticised the Zuma administration for its silence on the developments in Mpumalanga Province, when he addressed the Central Committee of the National Union of Mineworkers in Boksburg recently.

"The government, which on Sunday celebrated its 1st anniversary in office, has not inspired confidence in the battle against crass materialism and corruption. Some Ministers themselves are driving around with cars worth over R1million, allowed by the handbook they are moving too slowly to change."

"Regrettably soon those who are now six feet underground for attempted whistle blowing will not join us in the fight against corruption and greed.



Jacob Zuma backed by musician Solly Moholo and his band, chanting the liberation anthem "Umshini Wami". The song which was sung by MK cadres in camps became Zuma's rallying cry after he was fired by former President Thabo Mbeki

Those who read these reports may be intimidated into silence. And those who have seen how those who have raised alarm bells about corruption have been hounded and slandered in the media will think twice before supporting a call for lifestyle audits," Vavi said.

Zuma told the thousands of crowds who gathered at KaMhlushwa Stadium in Nkomazi Municipality that the organisation aims to recruit more than one million members by 2012, when the ANC celebrates its 100 years of existence.

"The ANC is different from other organisations. There is no organisation as representative as the ANC. When it was formed in 1912, there were leaders from all parts of our country representing people who had lost their land and rights to govern their own country."

"Among those who were part of the establishment of this powerful organisation were kings, religious leaders and the African intelligentsia," Zuma said.

Presenting his speech in IsiZulu and English, Zuma clearly demonstrated once more his ability to connect with the ordinary masses. He clarified in simple IsiZulu, the ANC's Strategy and Tactics, the organisation's roadmap in waging its struggles.

The organisation's most decisive Strategy and Tactics was adopted in Morogoro in Tanzania in 1969. Among others, that strategy and tactics opened the membership and leadership of the

ANC to other races.

The campaign is likely going to be the organisation's biggest operation since its unbanning, leading up to its Centenary celebrations in 2012.

The only obstacle to the organisation achieving its target would be the Regional Executive Committees and offices whose continued existence is dependent on weak structures and members who lack political education.

The most puzzling statement on the day was made by Malema when he openly declared his support for Zuma's second term as the President at the 2012 National Conference.

Malema's antics will, undoubtedly be a serious poser for the ANC, given that his conduct constitutes misconduct in terms of the organisation's guidelines on lobbying.

Malema has recently been found guilty of putting the organisation into disrepute and fined R10 000, and it is unlikely that the organisation will haul him before the Disciplinary Committee any time soon.

This statement caught almost everyone by surprise, particularly because he did not say anything about other leaders of the organisation.

Malema's announcement was a slap in the face of Gwede Mantashe who is also Chairperson of the SACP. Mantashe was reportedly the person who initiated the charges against Malema, and has become a target of the youth leader's wrath.

Both national and provincial spokespeople of the ANC were not available for comment.

The ANCYL and Julius Malema in particular, have recently swung the league's ideological orientation towards anti-communism, after delegates to the SACP's 2nd Special Congress booed him (Malema) for disrespecting the party's leadership

Ever since, the youth league has been lobbying for Fikile Mbalula vowed not to re-elect Mantashe at the organisation's 2012 Conference, but instead would support its former President, Fikile Mbalula to become the next Secretary General of the ANC.

Notwithstanding the political side-shows, the occasion was undoubtedly a big success, judging by the thousands of people that filled the stadium's grand stand and pitch to capacity.

The winners, however, were the new members who joined the ANC because they were exposed to the first-hand ABC of the ANC politics.

One activist described the occasion as the biggest political school. He was, however, concerned if the province will also have the ability and the will to take the project forward, or it will return to its politics of rumour - mongering, character assassination and vote-buying.



MZALA



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WHAT IS CORRUPTION

The word corruption, as it is known in South Africa today, is commonly used to describe financial wrongdoing only.

This is probably the reason why our province and our country are finding it difficult to overcome the widespread corruption that is destructively devouring our movement.

Some of us usually ask the question why our leaders who were incorruptible before we attained power are suddenly corruptible after we attained state power.

The question that some of us will continue asking, is whether corruption is inherent within a capitalist system, and whether things would be different under a socialist system.

Over the weekend I was listening to the Provincial Secretary of the South African Communist Party speaking about corruption, and compared this to the manner in which our provincial government talks about the same subject, I observed that there was a distinct understanding of corruption between the two.

The SACP leader, Bonakele Majuba said it was the *highest form* (my own emphasis) of corruption when a service provider gets a government contract to supply mineral water to government where he buys a bottle of water for R6 from a supermarket and sell it for R35 to government.

Under a capitalist system, which is the current economic system that we inherited from apartheid but are taking time to destroy.

Under capitalism, there is competition to accumulate as much personal riches as one can by depriving the majority of the people. Those who are able to accumulate more wealth than others are accorded more status and privileges.

Personal enrichment, without regard to the interests of the whole society is both acceptable and admired. Some within our government believe that when people are protesting against councillors who are accumulating wealth for themselves are being agitated by people who want to be councillors, MECs and Premiers.

That is why our own comrades hate communists, because under socialism the system is more concerned about the advancement of the whole society.

More and more communities are beginning to realise that their leaders are only concerned about personal riches, it came as no surprise when in many areas of the province they are destroying the properties of those councillors who have been accumulating personal wealth and giving the people last grade roads.

Some of us became part of the liberation struggle because we intended to improve the living conditions of our people.

We have, however, also observed the mistakes that were committed by socialist regimes in Eastern Europe. Unfortunately we are beginning to see those mistakes being committed in our own country by our liberation movement.

Our president always reminds us that the ANC will be in power until the return of Jesus Christ from heaven. We have, however, own experiences to learn from.

The question we should be asking is why the opposition is becoming stronger in areas and provinces such as the Western Cape?

We can only ignore the historical experiences of those socialist regimes that crumbled in 1989 and our failure to capture Western Cape at our own peril.

It is time for communists in Mpumalanga to intervene before it is too late. They must mobilise the community to develop an environment that is hostile to the accumulation of personal riches.

Some of the communities in Mpumalanga have already shown that with or without leadership, they are beginning to be hostile towards personal wealth accumulation at their expense.

Those who think that the advent of Polokwane was to replace people who were concerned about accumulating personal riches with people who are also concerned about the same will not enjoy this five-year term.

Their claim that there are people who are conspiring against them will lose its potency as soon as the community realise that their sorry state of affairs is a direct result of legitimised corruption of tenders and contracts.

Mzala

2010 will kill small businesses

Instead of celebrating with the rest of the country, owners of small businesses are furious about the failure of government institutions to pay them on time.

Upon his appointment as the Premier of Mpumalanga Province last year, David Mabuza prioritised the payment of small business because he noted that government department's failure to pay was killing the small business.

Some of the small business that Ziwaphi spoke to are complaining that their payments have been

outstanding for longer than three months.

"On the Friday I went to one government institution, after I had attempted to get paid for over four weeks, and I was told that the person who was supposed to prepare the paper work had gone to the hair saloon to do her hair in preparation for the Bafana-Bafana match against Thailand," he said.

"What bothered me most was that the match was only playing on Sunday and she could have done her hair on Saturday instead of going there during

office hours," he said.

"There is no sense of duty from some of these officials, and their actions can only mean one thing, that is our business will suffer serious cash flow problems if things persist this way."

"Instead of worrying that we will not have a Bafana game in Mbombela, we are more glad and hope that they don't like any of the tem."

The names of the business people have been withheld for fear of victimisation.



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Mpumalanga reveals details of Grade 12 intervention plan

BY SYDNEY MASINGA

NELSPRUIT

The Mpumalanga Department of Education says it is ready to implement its Grade 12 intervention programme intended to enhance learner performance and prevent last year's matric results fiasco.

Mpumalanga's Grade 12 pass rate dropped to 47.9% last year, down from 51.8% in 2008, and marked the worst performance by any of the country's nine provinces.

Department of Education spokesperson Jasper Zwane said the intervention plan focused on three priority areas, namely the mentoring of principals of underperforming schools, direct learner support and the resourcing of schools.

"We are going to mentor the principals of the 66 schools that had pass rates of less than 20% last year. Each principal will be allocated a mentor, which is intended to help them manage their schools effectively to produce better results in 2010."

He said the mentors would come from the department's senior management team, retired principals, principals from well-performing schools and "other professionals".

"The mentors have not been identified yet, but we are using this opportunity



MEC for Education, Reginah Muhaule

to ask them to volunteer their services in providing coaching sessions to these principals on a regular basis. The closing date for applications is June 10 for interested parties," said Zwane.

He added that a stipend would be provided to the mentors, depending on their agreement with the department.

Zwane also said schools should provide extra tuition to pupils during school

holidays, weekends and after school hours.

"For the schools with pass rates of less than 30% last year, it will be compulsory to provide extra tuition. We have already had meetings with the principals of the underperforming schools and we made it clear to them that steps will be taken against them if they fail to provide the extra

tuition during the holidays. All the underperforming schools will be monitored," he said, adding that their pupils would also be expected to attend mandatory winter classes.

"These winter classes will run from June 21 to July 9 in 115 centres. Only teachers who performed at 70% and above in their respective subjects will be considered for teaching in the winter school classes. They will be paid a stipend agreed upon between them and the department."

Zwane said the department had already identified specialists who were willing to volunteer their services for the dial-a-tutor programme, which is aimed at supporting pupils with their studies and will be operational during the holidays.

"Learners can dial the toll-free number, 0800 203 116, between 8am and 8pm to contact selected subject specialists who will be able to give them support there and then. We will also provide electronic media support (DVD) materials. These can be a useful resource during the extra tuition or exam preparation time."

Zwane said the department was also planning to acquire mobile laboratories which would be provided to schools without these facilities to enable pupils to conduct practical work in relevant subjects.

Mpumalanga sheds 29 000 jobs in first quarter

BY SYDNEY MASINGA

NELSPRUIT,

Mpumalanga's economy has shed 29 000 jobs in the first quarter of this year, contributing a 17% share to the national job losses in the same period.

Tabling the Department of Finance's R232-million budget in Nelspruit last week, MEC Pinky Phosa said the province's total job losses between January 1 and March 31 amounted to 82 000.

"Our province registered the second-highest unemployment rate of the nine provinces since January 2009 to March this year. Our unemployment rate is standing at 43.3% and it is a great concern that there were 353 000 unemployed people plus 164 000 discouraged workers (people who have lost interest in looking for jobs) in the province by 31 March this year."

Phosa said the job losses had been a "direct result" of the economic recession last year.

"The local government intervened by holding a provincial economic summit last year where, among other things, it was agreed that we needed to fast-track financial support to small, medium



MEC for Finance, Pinky Phosa

and micro enterprises affected by the economic downturn," she added.

But provincial secretary of Cosatu Fidel Mlombo said none of the summit's resolutions had been implemented.

"During the summit last year, we came up with short-, mid- and long-term resolutions to protect us against the

recession, but none of those resolutions were implemented by the government. We must expect more job losses in the province," said Mlombo on Friday.

He said a permanent structure that involved the government, labour, civil society and business should be established specifically to implement the resolutions.

Premier David Mabuza's spokesperson, Mabutho Sithole, said the government had established "numerous" consultative forums with business and labour to strengthen relations and prevent job losses.

"The forums are of critical importance in creating a platform to unblock funding, infrastructure and labour dispute bottlenecks. Through these forums we have managed to assist small local businesses," he said.

He said jobs would also be created by businesses that have pledged "billions of rands in investments" in the province, including the Kusile power station, Sasol Secunda Growth Project, Xstrata Goedgevonden, Anglo Coal Zondagsfontein and the BHP Billiton Douglas Middelburg Optimisation Project.

"The government's partnership with

businesses will help us with continued support of business development initiatives that contribute significantly towards economic growth, which leads to development and job creation," Sithole said.

Despite the gloomy job-loss statistics, Phosa thought the people of Mpumalanga had reason to feel optimistic because the provincial economy was recovering - if ever so slightly.

"Inflation appears to be contained for the time being and the provincial finances are gradually being reigned in. A provincial economic growth rate of 3% is expected this year. In all probability, the leading economic sectors will be construction, mining, agriculture and manufacturing. We are confident that jobs will be created for our people in these sectors," she said.

According to Statistics South Africa's Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 171 000 jobs were shed nationally in the first quarter of this year. Total job losses in the last financial year were standing at 1 046 million.

One in four people in South Africa's labour force of 12.8 million is without a job.

Premier does not rule by fear

The Editor

Your comment "Rule by Fear, dated 14 May 2010" can not be left unchallenged and, to correct intentional factual errors, the editor choosing to expose his selective amnesia and ignorant on the subject matter and the distortion of the reasons why our office called for a press conference. It is a pity that many respected newspapers in our country have been turned into a useless tabloid and a circus stage by the unscrupulous journalism in their quest to discredit the provincial administration and Premier Mabuza. In other words, you are very much unfair not only to the Premier but to the people of Mpumalanga, to say, the Premier rules with fear if he exercises his constitutional rights by seeking the interventions of the courts when there is a deliberate campaign to defame his character by the newspapers.

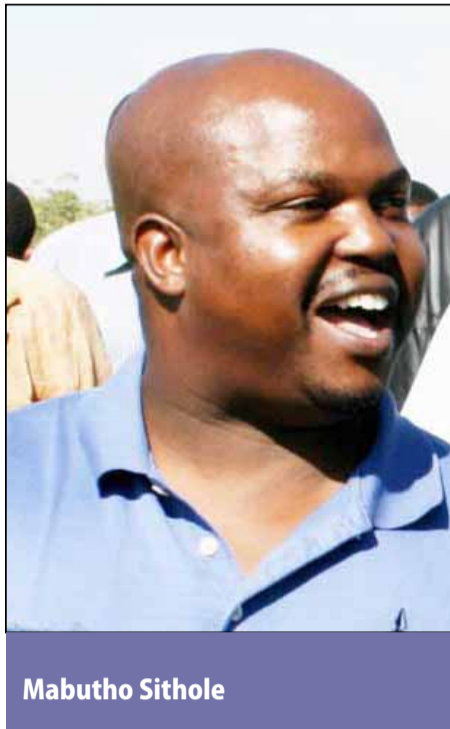
You must remember that this has been done by using many professional liars, as sources of the existence of "Josh and the now the "Raid in the Premier's House". In as much as journalists have a right to write without fear but they do not have a right to prejudice, defame the character of an individual, Premier Mabuza included.

Premier Mabuza and the Provincial Government fully subscribe to media freedom. In other words, Premier Mabuza believes that it is the duty of the media to inform the public about the good, the successes, the shortcomings and or the bad of the government when discharging its duties.

The Premier does not believe in playing the man not the ball, as it has happened since July 2009 by some newspapers, journalists and media houses. The Constitution of the Country says every one is equal before law, it does not make any reference that once you become a Premier you loose your rights to freedom, equality, justice and fairness.

Probably, Mzala does not know that to be called a shady character, a killer and unscrupulous person, is very painful, not only to you but to the people you lead, the family and friends, as you know that many journalists both local and national have portrayed the Premier and his administration in their articles. In the courts of law, it is where a truth nothing but the truth is being stated and pronounced. All the information is tested and the so called sources are to be revealed and known since it has become a fashion to peddle lies about somebody and hide behind the so called "sources".

Probably Mzala is afraid that his name as a journalist or a source might be revealed, that is why he playing the man not the ball. Please play the ball. Premier Mabuza, moves from the premise and the belief that the media will always be fair, accurate and responsible when reporting. It is not the duty of the media, journalists and editors to participate in the relentless campaign to discredit and to defame



Mabutho Sithole

the character and take a lead in the total onslaught against any person in the society, be either the man on the street or a leader. In other words the media is not expected to fight political battles by crafting lies and in the creation of perception against any person.

Let me remind you Mzala, (since you have a selected amnesia), since the start of these innuendos and gossip mongering, the media has always said Premier Mabuza is quiet. Contrary, we have always said, "Killing of an innocent person is a crime, let the law enforcement agencies investigate and apprehend all those who are behind the senseless killing, so that the bad image that is created about our province will be cleared." Please check our 7 February 2010 media statement.

In his State of the province address in February 2010 Premier Mabuza said, "With regard to crime, Honourable Speaker, we pointed out that the Province intend reducing the levels of crime and corruption. We are all aware that crime hinders social development and constraints prospects of investment in the provincial economy. It also undermines the respect for human freedoms and denies communities their right to safety and security."

The Media must please tell the Nation what Agenda is being pushed, who is

the funder and for what good reasons, that have made many newspapers to be turned into a platform of gossips, character assassination, peddlers of lies, deceit and innuendos.

As you might remember newspapers have said the following, "For the past five years, several ANC politicians have been assassinated in Mpumalanga while others have either been poisoned or received death threats in what reads like a horror movie script in this once peaceful province."

I do not know which doctors or institutions have confirmed the assertions that there are people who have been poisoned in our province. As far as I know, Mr Alfred Monareng which was supposedly poisoned told me the following, "I have never been an ANC regional leader, I do not know many journalists and I was never poisoned because if I was poisoned I shall have died by now."

A simple journalism ethics states that you attribute your assertions to a respected institution and or a respected individual like a doctor. Do you remember that Mzala.

As I said before and I am saying now, the last national and provincial elections were in April 2009 therefore Premier Mabuza is hardly a year in office. In other words the silence and other innuendos levelled against the Premier shall be attributed to someone else.

Let me hasten to say this, Mr January Masilela died on a car accident in 2008 and Mr Jimmy Mohlala was killed in January 2009, Premier Mabuza was MEC for Agriculture and land Administration in January 2009, and a back bencher in the provincial legislature in 2008, please attribute the silence to someone else not to Premier Mabuza.

My statement wants to remind you that Premier Mabuza as a leader of the province is part of government. In government there are law enforcement agencies that are capable, paid and trained to investigate and apprehend the law breakers.

I want to put this on records, as the Provincial government we have never

attempted to mock and discredit any attempts to find any person or a group who are hell bent to discredit our province and our leaders by killing innocent people.

There is a long held view that many journalists and media house are pushing a political agenda, because nobody can hide a killer for more than 8 months without telling the police.

Why the killer went to the Politian instead of reporting the wrong doing to the police who are capable of investigating and apprehend.

On the matter of corruption, the position of the Premier is very clear. He is totally against any type or form of corruption. This was made clear during his State of the Province Address last month and his maiden State of Province Address last year. Among other things, Premier Mabuza stated that corruption and fraud destroy the moral fibre of our society.

He said we must work very hard to uproot it both in government and the private sector. To demonstrate his seriousness about this challenge, soon after taking the reigns of power, the Premier established Commissions of Inquiry to investigate alleged irregularities on the Scholar Transport, and the construction of the Provincial Archive building and the Disaster Management Centre." The establishment of those Commissions of Inquiry was never covered or reported by your newspaper.

Mr. Editor is against this backdrop that we appeal to all, that as the Provincial Government we still have confidence in the law enforcement agencies to do the job satisfactory. We also do not want to entertain matters that are before courts.

Innuendos, gossip mongering, bedroom arrangements, character assassinations, media speculations, brown envelope journalism has no place in our society.

We still further state emphatically that Premier DD Mabuza was duly appointed to lead Mpumalanga Province and the new administration. The ANC pulled over 85 per cent of votes in the Province because of Premier Mabuza's leadership. Again, people of Mpumalanga province came from all walks of life to witness this beloved son of the soil taking up the leadership of the province in KaNyamazane stadium. Mr Editor, let the Premier exercise his rights without being intimidated by journalists and Mzala in particular, as journalists would like to do their job without being intimidated.

Mabutho Sithole, Spokesperson of the Premier.

See Ziwaphi's response n the next page.

Premier is chasing the lizards

Dear Editor

Your article "Premier sues media" deserves to be commented on. I believe that the Premier is entitled to sue anyone for defamation of character, but why does the Premier not say anything about the people who have been saying the negative things about him.

We all know that the Premier [David "DD" Mabuza] contested with Lassy Chiwayo and Charles Makola. If he says that he is getting negative media publicity because he won against Lassy and Makola, why is he not suing them.

He is making the media his scapegoats.

Mzwakhe Mbuli once said "why give chase to lizards when crocodiles are against you." I think our Premier is chasing lizards because he is afraid of the other crocodiles like him.

Sandile Maloka

Nelspruit

Phone-tapping restricts free press

First, I'd like to thank Mabutho Sithole for taking time to respond to our editorial, Rule by Fear, in our edition Vol 4 No 9. While we acknowledge his criticism, we are concerned about his vitriolic attack on the Ziwaphi collective, however, in the spirit of comradely criticism, we will turn a blind eye to his "skop and donner" approach to debates and personal attacks on the authors of our editorial.

Another difficulty that we had was to appropriately locate Sithole's input. We will also not be able to consider his input in detail, because it is repetitive in many instances.

There are six distinct parts of Sithole's input. (1) That Ziwaphi distorted the reasons for the press conference, (2) It is unfair for Ziwaphi to allege that the Premier rules by fear as he has the right to go to court when defamed by the media, (3) The Premier subscribes to the principles of media freedom, (4) Mzala is playing the man and not the ball (5) Editors and journalists are part of a campaign to defame and discredit the Premier; (6) Ziwaphi accuses the Premier of being "quiet".

Allegation (1): Sithole's invitation to the media read as follows:

"The news editor/ editor – Pls note that Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza will be holding a press conference to clarify about the so-called his house raid on 11 May 2010..."

In the words of the Premier's himself:

"All the matters, all the articles that you came here today, probably wanting to hear my version, I though it appropriate for us not to take this domain, the media domain, to say this and refute that, I want someone who has got the authority to adjudicate, to pursue, whether one is lying and whether one is saying the truth."

Yes, the Premier eventually responded to some of the questions which related to the subject matter, however, there was nothing new that had not already been said by the police and the ANC. His response also confirmed this, when a journalist asked him about the raid.

"Do you want to believe that [there was no raid] or you don't believe it? Are you set to hear your own voices – to believe in your own dreams? How many times, how should I convey this message? You don't believe the police. The police have conveyed this message. You don't believe them. Who do you want to believe? If you want you can come and stay with me at home."

Allegation (2): The Premier's lawyer has admitted that the Premier will be suing media houses for millions of rands for publishing articles that he believes defamed him.

I have yet to hear of a person who rejoices after receiving summons to appear in court to defend a lawsuit worth millions.

As Ziwaphi we agree that any citizen, including the Premier, has the right to approach the courts to adjudicate on matters that they feel aggrieved about.

If what our Premier wants is fair reporting, then there are appropriate institutions, and we proposed the South African Media Council and the Press Ombudsman.

If a newspaper has published an unbalanced article, they are forced to retract.

Going to court instills fear, and very often, it fails to achieve the results, but can only propel journalists to dig even more dirt about their subject.

If it is money that the Premier is interested in, then it's another story. We can only be glad that he will be using his own money to sue the media

Allegation (3) If our Premier fully subscribes to media freedom, then he should be knowing that there are self-regulatory mechanisms and structures that have been established to handle complaints against bias reporting in the media, instead of the courts.

As Ziwaphi, we believe that it is only regimes that are intolerant that resort to phone-tapping of journalists of critics of government.

Anywhere and they will tell you that the assertion by the Premier that he

has access to information that has been acquired through the phone-tapping of ordinary citizens and journalists is a serious threat to press freedom.

If our Premier subscribes to media freedom, he should start by ordering the "law enforcement agencies to stop tapping the phones of journalists."

Allegation 4: Sithole does not provide any evidence of Mzala playing the man and not the ball, so we can't help Sithole in his fishing expedition.

Our reporting on the many allegations against the Premier and his acquaintances are there for public scrutiny.

The Office of the Premier should know that media houses receive many allegations about all sorts of people, but they (media) do not publish anything that they get until they are sure of the facts.

Sithole's allegation that Mzala is playing the man is not only unfounded, but it is mischievous.

If anything, Ziwaphi was the only newspaper which gave Mabuza a voice, when certain characters within the ANC's Ehlanzeni Regional Executive Committee were misusing his name to create an impression that he (Mabuza) was against the dismissal of former Mbombela Municipal Manager, Jacob Dladla.

Sithole's allegation that Mzala is afraid is laughable.

Mzala did not emerge with the establishment nor will he end with the demise of Ziwaphi.

Mzala was there under apartheid, waging the movement's propaganda war against apartheid. Mzala's re-emergence was stimulated by those who have and continue to distort our National Democratic Revolution.

Allegation (5)

It is very interesting to note that while Sithole complains of "innuendos, gossip mongering, bedroom arrangements, character assassinations, media speculations," he is in fact, guilty of the

same offence when he talks of, among others, "brown envelope journalism".

He is suggesting that journalists are being bought, without substantiating the claim. We suggest that he heeds to his own advice.

Allegation (6)

It's still a mystery why Sithole still denies that the Premier was "quiet", whereas the Premier himself admitted during the press conference that it was his style to keep quiet. To quote his exact words:

"Why taking so long [to respond to the allegations], that's my style. I don't just react until I see the total picture of what is before me. I keep quiet. I think you have observed that over sometime. I don't just talk, because I feel I carry this responsibility to lead the province to lead the people with dignity.

"Whatever I say it must be a well calculated well thought something. That has been my style. You will never see me initiating anything, talking. I avoid with all whatever possible not to say things in the media that are not intended to be said. So it is my style of leadership.

Ziwaphi was the only newspaper that praised Sithole for issuing what was clearly a sober and matured response to the Josh story, but we now realize that our praises were either premature or he was not the author of that statement, because it is impossible for anyone to degenerate within such a short space of time by resorting to the use of outdated "skop en donder" terminology instead of brain power.

The "skop en donder" approach was only suitable when the media was exclusively in the hands of racist media which was hostile to the liberation movement and against our country's transformation agenda.

Not that the media ownership terrain has changed significantly, but any failure to distinguish between an objective and progressive voice and a blatantly hostile force is self-destructing.

By the Ziwaphi Editorial Collective

STILL WAITING FOR THE 3010 WORLD CUP?



Between May and July, the public broadcaster (SABC) will be playing 70% South African and African music. When the visitors are gone, then they will play foreign music again.

Ziwaphi is 100% local and African and will remain so until the return of Jesus.

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R531m for land reform support in Mpumalanga

BY SIPHIWE NYATHI

NELSPRUIT

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration in Mpumalanga has allocated R351-million to support emerging farmers and help land reform farms to become sustainable in the new financial year.

Tabling his department's R737.9-million budget speech on Friday, MEC Meshack Malinga said people had voiced their concern about the failing land reform programme and the need for the government to support emerging farmers.

"Through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the newly introduced Recapitalisation and Development Programme from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, my department will continue revitalising irrigation schemes in Spoons 8, Magudu and Sibange in



MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration

support of the sustainable development of the sugarcane industry in the Nkomazi area," said Malinga. He said

Coromandel farm in Dullstroom and Champaigne in Bushbuckridge, both land-reform farms, would be revitalised

this financial year.

"The Mbuzini area will also be afforded an opportunity to store and process their maize locally through the establishment of a maize silo and mill. Through a partnership with the private sector, the department will be implementing an integrated poultry project whereby Amersfoort in Ermelo will be a processing point for production from Pixley ka Seme, Mkhondo, Lekwa and Msugalikwa municipalities," he added.

Malinga said considering the magnitude of the Fifa World Cup, which will bring many international visitors to South African shores, the department would be particularly vigilant and conduct numerous surveys, investigations and inspections to ensure that no new and emerging animal diseases inadvertently entered the country.

COMMENT/ OPINION

Grief, greed and anger cannot sustain democracy and rule of law

I would be surprised if creative minds have not started a movie reminiscent on the birth of COPE. The fanfare, drama and headlines that occupied every media space when the divorce papers were served are but too much to forget. Academics, political commentators and editors; all sang the same song- south African landscape will never be the same for it was argued Cope formation will bring back sanity in our body politic.

The thrust of this mantra, fed on us by opinion makers, was that the birth of cope is fundamental to the protection of our constitution and rule of law, which by implication were at threat by the continued domination of the African National Congress. The striking feature of this development was that for the first time we were likely to see the real alternative to the ANC, because many people had always argued that real opposition will come from within the ANC. Any student of African Politics will bear testimony to this assertion.

We therefore have to ask a question; has our constitution ever been under threat? The answer to this important



Mpho Gabashane

question is varied, and unfortunately will always be underpinned by socio-economic situation of each individual. For the propertied class-who by all means would want to maintain and protect their social status, domination of one party will always spell threat to democracy, especially if the policy orientation is re-distributive in nature.

We should also note that these are loudest voice in society because they own not only means of production, but also of media. They have unlimited access to courts, media and finance.

On the other side, democracy and rule of law for the majority, who with a lot of irritation continue to support the ANC, means dislocation of oppressive system which for many years has denied them of their human dignity. It means eradication of poverty, disease, illiteracy, fear and want. It means access to economic opportunities, creation of decent work and a chance to live with dignity in their own country.

The formation of COPE was never about these ideals, but mainly grounded in deep anger, frustration and failure to accept democracy at play. The sole reason they were hailed by the propertied class, given unlimited media space and funding, was not because they provided a guarantee to the rule of law and constitution, but because they had a potential to weaken the ANC, which because of its policy orientation is bias to the majority poor.

If there is any lesson we can learn out of the cope episode and contrary

to popular sentiment, is that the real threat to the stability of the country is the propertied class, because they will always use their dominance in society to continuously consign the majority to squalor, poverty and degradation, and any resistance will always be construed as threat to democracy and rule of law.

Cope was never going to succeed. In many situations where people have resentment with the ANC, they chose to abstain rather than vote the alternative.

ANC is much aware of this, hence a constant call to its structures never to take for granted the patience and confidence of the people. The loud silence by these fortune tellers who hailed the birth of cope is not surprising. They are left with eggs on their faces. The shikota marriage is threading on a thin line. The victory here is democracy. Resentment of democracy does not bring about progress or success.

Mpho Gabashane

Nelspruit

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Four nations join hands for Africa Day in Mpumalanga

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT

Delegates from Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland joined the Mpumalanga government in Matsulu on Tuesday to celebrate Africa Day, which commemorates the launch of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963.

Maputo province premier Maria Elias Jonas said the Mozambican nation was honoured and proud of having had the historical opportunity to participate in the founding of the OAU under the leadership of visionary men such as Tanzania's Julius Nyerere, Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah, Guinea's Sekou Touré, Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser and Ben Bella from Algeria.

"They succeeded because they assumed the spirit of unity, political and military coordination, diplomatic action and mutual support as a key factor for victory. The transformation of the OAU into the African Union (AU), signed on July 11 2000 by 53 heads of African states at Lomé in Togo, with the objective of strengthening the development of Africa, eradicating poverty and encouraging African integration into the global economy, came at the right time," she said.



The Nyokeni Women's Club in their Ndebele attire came from KwaNdebele to entertain the crowd

Jonas added that poverty and HIV/Aids were the biggest challenges facing the AU on the continent.

"These scourges constitute a threat to our sense of freedom and human dignity. They challenge our conscience and call on all of us to act. We have to have the same courage, knowledge and vision we had in the past [to deal with

them]. Africa has given indications that it can make its dreams come true. It has shown that we can break the distance between conception and action, and between what we want and what we can," said Jonas.

She also used the opportunity to congratulate South Africa for being a "continental pioneer" in hosting the Fifa

World Cup.

"South Africa deserves the trust of the whole world to host the Fifa World Cup, an event which will move millions of people worldwide. We would like to collaborate with you in all means, especially in the field of culture and arts for the success of the event ... to create an exhibition of an overall cultural mosaic," Jonas added.

Elten Charles Cloete, who led a delegation from Namibian ministry of youth, national service, sport and culture, also touched on the World Cup in his speech.

"We feel at home here in South Africa and this is what all the World Cup soccer fans will get once they arrive in South Africa," he said.

Mkhosi Sikhonzi from the Swaziland Arts and Culture Council also assured South Africa of his country's full support for the soccer tournament.

Mpumalanga MEC for culture, sport and recreation Vusi Shongwe said the day was aimed at instilling a sense of pride in the "African way of doing things" and to encourage fellow Africans to be proud of their rich cultural heritage.

The event also featured a variety of performances by groups from the different countries.

LEGISLATURE SECTOR PARLIAMENTS

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature will host the following Sectoral Parliaments, namely, Workers Parliament, Youth Parliament and Children's Parliament as a way of ensuring involvement of civil society in the sittings of the Legislature. Sectoral parliaments form the integral part of the effective oversight and accountability functions of the Legislature.

Workers Parliament

The Worker's Parliament aims at educating and sharing information with the vulnerable workers, unemployed and entrepreneurs on labour matters such as the condition of farm workers, creation of decent jobs and labour brokerage as an industry in South Africa; facilitating participation of citizens in evaluating progress made in entrenching democratic values within the community.

The Worker's Parliament will be held as follows:

28 MAY 2010
TIME : 10H00
VENUE: MPUMALANGA LEGISLATURE CHAMBER

Youth Parliament

The Youth Parliament objectives are to debate contemporary issues facing the citizens of Mpumalanga, such as, youth and health, youth and unemployment and youth, race and crime; to create

an opportunity for youth to engage with the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Provincial Youth structures and Local government.

The Youth Parliament will be held as follows:

DATE : WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE 2010
TIME : 10
VENUE: MPUMALANGA LEGISLATURE CHAMBER

Childrens Parliament

The Children's Parliament aims at educating and sharing information with vulnerable children and to debate issues that directly affect them such as the children's safety during peak seasons and children's role in safety education.

DATE : SATURDAY, 5 JUNE 2010
TIME : 10
VENUE: MPUMALANGA LEGISLATURE CHAMBER

Mbombela Local Municipality



HOST CITY



FIFA WORLD CUP

PROGRAMME FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF WARD COMMITTEES FOR 2010

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE	WARD
Re-establishment of ward committee	29/05/2010	08:00	Zwelisha Community Hall	02
Re-establishment of ward committee	29/05/2010	08:00	Gedlembane High School	04
Re-establishment of ward committee	30/05/2010	08:00	KaMashigo Centre	22
Re-establishment of ward committee	06/06/2010	08:00	Legogote Primary School	08
Re-establishment of ward committee	06/06/2010	08:00	Shabalala Community Centre	01
Re-establishment of ward committee	30/05/2010	08:00	Gutjwa Traditional Offices	21
Re-establishment of ward committee	06/06/2010	08:00	KaNyamazane Community Hall	19
Re-establishment of ward committee	06/06/2010	08:00	Mdzimba Primary School	05
Re-establishment of ward committee	06/06/2010	08:00	Shishila Primary School	29

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PHOTO JOURNALIST THRILLED BY GERMAN HONOURS

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT

Photo journalist Sam Nzima, who is famous for the picture he took of the fatally injured Hector Pieteron on June 16 1976 during the Soweto uprising, is off to Germany on Tuesday to attend an international exhibition featuring his work.

Nzima, who lives in the Bushbuckridge area in Mpumalanga, says he is thrilled to have received an invitation to attend the event in Berlin as a VIP.

"I feel so excited to be invited. It is great to know there are people in Europe who recognise the work done by journalists during the struggle for freedom in our country. I will also be sharing my experiences about apartheid with other photo journalists in Cologne, where I'll have an interview with one of Germany's leading broadcasters," he says.

Nzima was first honoured for the Pieteron photograph when it was named News Picture of The Year by Shell South Africa in 1976.

"The picture is a symbol of the struggle for freedom in South Africa. Pieteron was the first student to be killed during the Soweto uprising," Nzima explains.

He plans to open a photographic school in Mpumalanga to encourage youngsters to become journalists and



Sam Nzima at the launch of Ziwaphi in 2007. He never parts with his camera. In this picture he is with his wife, Speaker of the Legislature, William Lubisi and ANC National Treasurer, Mathews Phosa. (Right) The picture that Nzima took in 1976 and ended his journalism career when the apartheid police started to harass him.

news photographers.

"Novice photographers should know that one picture can rock the whole world. They should know that through your work you can meet any president in the world," Nzima says, referring to his meeting with former US president

Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, at the Hector Pieteron Museum in Soweto in 1990.

On his trip to Germany, Nzima will be accompanied by other South African journalists who played major roles during the apartheid era.

Mataffin schools are now ready to use - MEC

BY MBEKEZELI MBULI

NELSPRUIT

Dr Clifford Mkasi, the Public Works, Roads and Transport MEC told the Mpumalanga Legislature and journalists during his budget and policy speech and media breakfast that the construction of both Cyril Clarke and John Mdluli Schools have been completed and will be ready for use in due course.

The two schools have been dominating media headlines for all the wrong reasons, since they were demolished from their initial space to accommodate the newly built 'state of the art' Mbombela Stadium.

"The construction of the two schools have been finalised and are ready to use. Our department is now ready to hand over the schools to the client department, which is the Department of Education," said



Mataffin Schools are ready for occupation

Mkasi.

The construction of the two schools started last year in November and December respectively. Mkasi pointed out that the schools were constructed using the new construction design, whereby the long and straight buildings are replaced by the new model designs, which is more like a mall.

"These are classy schools, the classrooms, principal offices and staff rooms are grouped together. They are definitely out of this world," pointed out Mkasi.

These 'out of this World' schools now brags the support facilities such as Laboratory, Computer centre, Library and Sports facilities.

Government increases Taxi scrapping allowance

NELSPRUIT

Taxi operators will be smiling all the way to the bank, after the Public Works, Roads and Transport MEC, Dr Clifford Mkasi announced that government would now increase the initial taxi scrapping allowance of R50 000 to R54 300.

The move to increase the allowance comes shortly after the National Taxi controlling bodies protested that the initial allowance was not enough.

"Government remains focused in the recapitalization of the taxi industry. In the past owners have indicated that the scrapping allowance was not sufficient and urged government to increase allowance and we have

heeded the call," said Mkasi during his R3 330 billion budget and policy speech.

The ever hardworking MEC also announced that the allowance would now be increased annually.

"There will be an annual increase of this allowance in line with the Consumer Price Index," he said.

The taxi recapitalization programme is a national government initiative, which seeks to transform the taxi industry and create a safer environment for all public transport users.

The government aims to have eradicated all dangerous and un-road-worthy taxis by the year 2015.

MEC wants an integrated response to violent service delivery protests

BY MUNTU SIYAYA

MEC for Safety, Security and Liaison, Sibongile Manana believes that the solution to the violent service delivery protests does not lie with the policing, but rather on the solutions of the socio-economic conditions under which the communities live.

Delivering her department's Policy and Budget speech at the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature last week, Manana said that it was important to integrate law enforcement and prosecution with good governance within the municipalities.

Manana reported that the SAPS in Mpumalanga attended to a total of 258 unrest situations in the Province and that 1 027 people were arrested. While condemning the violent nature of the protests, she however, told the Legislature that communities' right to protest was protected by the constitution.

"Whilst the Constitution grants people the right to lawful demonstration, this right comes



FLASHBACK: A police vehicle was torched in Mattafin during violent protests last year. MEC Manana warns that police may limit protests if they believe it may result in damage to property.

with limitations. This means that in some cases the SAPS may find it necessary to place limitations on protests if there is a reasonable belief that the route applied for may result in serious public disorder, serious damage to property and serious disruptions to the life of the community," Manana said.

Manana said that government will always support people's right to democratically express their views on issues they feel strongly about. As well, government will continue to strike a balance between everyone's right, the rights of citizens to protest with the rights of lawful business and its employees to

continue working without unlawful disruption or intimidation and the rights of other members of community to continue their daily lives without excessive disruption.

"Honourable Members our mandate in this regard is to prevent crime and disorder, illegal protests and as a result police officials will always strive to be even handed and proportionate in any response to protest," said Manana.

In March this year, the department held a Safety and Security Summit on Service Delivery Unrest at Badplaas and the resolutions of that summit will form part of the provincial Service Delivery Summit that was held by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

"Resolutions taken during the Summit are going to be integrated to the resolutions taken during the Service Delivery Summit for an integrated response to this challenge," Manana said.

Mpumalanga detectives ranked fifth in fighting crime

Mpumalanga Detectives Services received praises from MEC Manana during the presentation of the policy and budget speech of the Department of Safety, Security and Liaison at the Provincial Legislature on Friday.

This was achieved despite statistics which were released by the National Commissioner which showed an increase in crime in property related crime, with burglary at residential premises and burglary at business premises.

"The Detective Services received an excellent rating of 53.74%, putting them in the fifth place in the country. This is a great achievement considering the fact that they started the financial year with an overall 45%," Manana said.

Manana told the Legislature that the success included confiscation of 22 687 dangerous weapons and 2 929 illegal firearms, 1 125kg of dagga was seized and 1 113 units of mandrax and other drugs and the recovery of 1 422 stolen vehicles and the arrest of 61 073 suspects in all crime categories.

Earlier this year, launched its own project to encourage citizens to surrender illegal weapons and ammunition, after the Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa declared a firearms amnesty between 11



MEC Manana praised Mpumalanga Detective Services for their success in combating crime

January and 11 April 2010.

Manana commended the people who heeded the call in the province and said that the removal of illegal weapons from the society would

contribute to the reduction of violent crime.

"In total 2 503 firearms and 23 183 rounds of ammunition were surrendered in Mpumalanga. I

would like to take this opportunity and appreciate the people of this province for their positive response," said Manana.

World Cup Mpumalanga visitors will be safe and secure

BY ERIC MASHABA

NELSPRUIT

More than 1 400 police officials from Mpumalanga will be deployed at different venues such as the Mbombela Stadium, Fifa Fan Park, Public Viewing Areas, hotels and the base camp of visiting team Chile during the World Cup.

MEC for Safety, Security and Liaison Sibongile Manana said the South African National Defence Force would also be deployed to assist the police.

“Our preparations for the World Cup are well on course. I assure the local communities and visitors that we are ready to ensure their safety and security during the soccer spectacular. A total of 553 bed spaces have been reserved at Nelspruit Correctional Centre for all those who will be found on the wrong side of law, with 505 beds for male offenders and 48 for female offenders,” she said.

All the detention space will be separated according to prescribed categories of incarceration, such as juveniles, females and males, as well as isolation units for special circumstances.

“To create the space, we have transferred sentenced offenders from Nelspruit Correctional Centre to other



A lone Thailand supporter waves his team's flag when Thailand played against Bafana-Bafana recently at Mbombela Stadium. MEC Manana guarantees that visitors will be safe

correctional centres in the province. In terms of ensuring justice is seen to be done and law prevails, a regional 2010 Fifa World Cup committee is in place to deal with the smooth running of dedicated courts that will be operating in Nelspruit,” she said.

Two dedicated World Cup courts have been established at the Magistrate's Court in Nelspruit. They will be operational from two weeks before until two weeks after the event.

“One dedicated court has been established at Nsikazi for this purpose as well, and the Department of Home Affairs is ready to clear all people coming for the soccer tournament,” she added.

Fifa ports of entry in Mpumalanga are the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport and the Lebombo, Mananga, Oshoek, Mahamba, Emahlathini and Jeppes Reef border posts.

“As we witness Bafana Bafana lifting the trophy, the appeal to all our people is to behave and enjoy themselves. Indeed, we are determined that at the end of the games, we will all be the winners,” Manana said.



... **safety in pictures**