



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**GROWING
KWAZULU-NATAL
TOGETHER**

Premier Ntuli inspects shops and engages informal traders in Nyezane



KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli, continued his efforts to combat crime and foster economic development by leading a series of shop inspections and trader engagements in the Nyezane area, situated within the Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality in the uThukela District.

These activities formed part of the ongoing Crime Combating Imbizo, an initiative aimed at addressing crime holistically while promoting lawful business practices and supporting informal traders.

Promoting Compliance Among Shop Owners

During the inspections, Premier Ntuli, accompanied by officials and law enforcement agencies, scrutinising several retail outlets to ensure compliance with business laws. The inspections focused on critical areas such as valid licensing, hygiene standards, and adherence to legal

employment practices.

"As we continue our fight against crime, we must also ensure that businesses operate legally. It is pointless to address crime issues without ensuring compliance in the business sector," Premier Ntuli said.

The Premier highlighted the importance of maintaining hygiene standards, particularly in establishments selling food and other perishables, noting that public health must not be compromised for profit.

Engaging Informal Traders

In addition to shop inspections, Premier Ntuli interacted with informal traders to better understand their challenges. Many traders expressed concerns over access to infrastructure, security, and support for their businesses.

"Informal traders are one of the pillars of

our economy. We must provide them with the support they need to operate successfully," said the Premier.

The Premier assured traders that the provincial government is committed to creating an environment that encourages entrepreneurship while ensuring fairness and safety for all.

Law Enforcement Support

The inspections were conducted with the support of law enforcement agencies, who reinforced the importance of complying with business regulations and cracking down on illicit activities such as selling expired goods or employing undocumented workers.

Premier Ntuli urged the community to work closely with authorities, noting that collaborative efforts between the public and law enforcement are crucial in addressing challenges such as crime, illegal trading, and exploitation.

"Fighting crime requires many hands. Police, government, and the community must work together to create peace and order," he concluded.

Building Safer and Thriving Communities

Through initiatives like the Crime Combating Imbizo, the provincial government is striving to ensure that both formal and informal economic activities are conducted in a lawful and supportive environment.

The Premier's proactive approach sends a clear message that businesses and individuals must comply with the law to build safer and thriving communities across KwaZulu-Natal.

Premier condemns community's support for criminal activities



KwaZulu-Natal Premier Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli has voiced strong criticism of certain community members who, instead of assisting law enforcement, actively support criminal activities. Speaking during his recent engagements, the Premier warned that such behaviour not only emboldens criminals but undermines efforts to build safer communities.

"I urge the community not to align themselves with criminals. If you choose to block the police or protect criminals, it means you are part of the problem," said Premier Ntuli.

Rooting Out Criminal Networks

The Premier highlighted recent incidents where community members shielded known criminals or prevented police operations. Such actions, he noted, create an environment where crime thrives, and justice is delayed.

"It is deeply troubling that in some of our communities, there are places where criminals are protected by residents. This is unacceptable and must stop immediately," Premier asserted.

Building Trust with Law Enforcement

Premier Ntuli called on community members to rebuild trust with law enforcement agencies. He reminded citizens of the critical role they play in supporting the police, sharing information, and holding criminals accountable.

"We want to build a strong relationship between the police and the community. But this will only work if the community is committed to reporting any criminal activity," said the Premier.

Ending the Culture of Silence

The Premier condemned the culture of silence that enables criminality to flourish. He stressed that those who buy stolen goods, harbour fugitives, or prevent police operations are equally guilty in the fight against crime.

"Buying stolen goods or harbouring criminals in your homes is a hindrance to our fight against crime. This must end!" Premier Ntuli urged.

A Call for Unity Against Crime

Premier Ntuli reiterated his administration's commitment to eradicating crime in KwaZulu-Natal but stressed that the government and law enforcement cannot do it alone.

As the Premier concluded, he said: "The police cannot fight crime alone. We need to work together as a community to build a safe and thriving environment for everyone."

As KwaZulu-Natal continues its efforts to clamp down on criminal activity, Premier Ntuli's message serves as a stark reminder of the critical role community members play in fostering safety and security. Only through unity and cooperation can the province achieve its goal of a crime-free future.



KZN launches 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children



The KwaZulu-Natal Government of Provincial Unity officially launched the 2024 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign on 25 November 2024. Running from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day), this United Nations-endorsed campaign is a vital call to action against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

This year's theme, "30 Years of Advancing Collective Action to End Violence Against Women and Children," is bolstered by a sub-theme: "Harnessing Technology and Innovation to Combat GBVF and Accelerate a Gender-Inclusive Digital Economy." The sub-theme underscores the transformative role of technology and innovation in addressing these deeply rooted social challenges.

Addressing KwaZulu-Natal's GBVF Crisis

KwaZulu-Natal continues to face alarmingly high rates of GBVF. The latest statistics, released by the Police Minister for Quarter 2 of 2024, reveal:

1. Inanda Police Station leads the nation with the highest number of reported rape cases, followed by Umlazi Police Station.
2. The province ranks fourth in the nation with a rape ratio of 17.3 per 100,000 people.
3. Reported GBVF-related crimes include:
 - 46 murders
 - 112 attempted murders
 - 175 rapes
 - 23 sexual assaults
 - 1,272 cases of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (domestic violence-related).
4. Rape incidents at educational institutions:

- 1 at crèches
- 13 at schools
- 4 at tertiary institutions

While these statistics are deeply concerning, they only reflect reported cases, and the actual numbers are likely higher due to underreporting. Encouragingly, the province has seen a slight decline in sexual offenses, down by 2.0%, and rape cases decreased by 3.8%.

Strategic Plan to Combat GBVF

KwaZulu-Natal's Provincial Unity Government has implemented a Strategic Implementation Plan under six pillars, starting with Accountability, Co-ordination, and Leadership. This plan emphasizes leadership at every level, ensuring a coordinated and effective response to GBVF.

Key Progress in Districts:

- Seven districts have fully functional GBVF coordination structures.
- Efforts are underway to revive structures in two districts while addressing challenges in others.
- eThekweni Metro, uMgungundlovu, and King Cetshwayo remain high-risk areas, with additional resources allocated to mitigate GBVF's impact.

Economic Empowerment as a Solution

To address one of the root causes of GBVF – the economic disempowerment of women – the provincial government has launched a Women Empowerment Fund with an allocation of R200 million. This initiative focuses on creating opportunities through:

- Access to government and private procurement, employment, and housing.
- Land access and financial support for women entrepreneurs.

Over 45,000 women have been empowered

through economic programs, and poverty reduction initiatives have supported vulnerable groups, enabling them to live with dignity and independence.

Rapid Response and Community Engagement

The province has formed Rapid Response Teams in over 300 wards to address GBVF with a survivor-centered, multi-sectoral approach. These teams focus on:

- Swift action at the ward level.
- Proactive community engagement and evidence-based interventions.
- Providing timely and comprehensive support to survivors.

Value of Partnerships

Collaboration remains at the heart of KZN's GBVF strategy. Key partnerships include:

- Department of Correctional Services, Legal Aid, and Office of the Public Prosecutor: Renovated 30 victim-friendly rooms at police stations across the province.
- Spar Partnership: Rolling out a GBVF app for tertiary institutions, psychosocial support, dignity packs, and a state-of-the-art Thuthuzela Centre in Jozini.
- South African Breweries: Implementing the "No Excuse" campaign to combat toxic masculinity.
- United Nations Agencies: Supporting traditional leaders' forums, engaging over 2,000 men to raise awareness and provide policy guidance.
- Rand Merchant Bank: Establishing a Thuthuzela Centre in Amajuba District.

Premier Ntuli's crime fighting interventions yield fruitful results



KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli, led a Crime Fighting Imbizo at Osizweni, Ward 11, Newcastle Local Municipality, which was aimed at intensifying the war against crime in the area and the District of Amajuba.

The Premier, collaborating with the Justice Crime Prevention and security (JCPS) cluster, Police and other Law-Enforcement Agencies conducted an un-announced raid at Emabhodini industrial area in Newcastle.

The raid led to 220 illegal foreigners being processed and the arrest of factory owners. "Such extra ordinary operations will be our daily meals in the province until we end the scourge of undocumented foreign nationals and create jobs for our citizens," said Premier Ntuli.

Osizweni and parts of Madadeni, Utrecht and Dannhauser are terrorised by gangsterism, rampant use of drugs and substance abuse and violent crimes. The department of Community Safety and Liaison, voluntary crime fighting structures and law enforcement have worked tirelessly to eradicate the scourge of crime in these areas and to create safer living conditions for all community members.

During the Imbizo, Premier Ntuli outlined key strategies to intensify crime-fighting efforts, including conducting regular, unannounced raids in crime hotspots, strengthening collaboration between law enforcement agencies and community structures, increasing the visibility of law enforcement in high-crime areas, providing support to community-based crime prevention initiatives and addressing socio-economic issues that fuel criminal activities, including youth unemployment.

The Premier urged community members to collaborate with law enforcement by reporting criminal activities and participating in crime prevention structures. "This government remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of all our citizens. Together, we will build safer, crime-free communities," concluded Premier Ntuli.

KWAZULU-NATAL STRENGTHEN BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP



The Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Protection, led by Reverend Musa Zondi, organized a day to strengthen business ties with India, completing the KZN-India Business Day Engagement, under the slogan "developing trade, technology, infrastructure and investment in tourism" and the event was held at the Hilton Hotel in Durban, under the Municipality of Durban on 25 October 2024).

By strengthening the relationship between KwaZulu-Natal and India, this discussion has the spark and hope that it will create growth in the province's economy and development and also create job opportunities.

The MEC's speech reaffirmed his commitment to the relationship between the KZN government and India by saying "As we look to the future, we do not intend to create business opportunities only but also to promote deep connections between people, especially through tourism and cultural programs, and education. The government of KwaZulu-Natal is committed to creating a favorable environment that encourages business relations and supports sustainable investment", said MEC.

The event was hosted by various dignitaries including Minister Reverend Mus Zondi, the Consul General of India, Dr. Thelma John David based in Durban and various dignitaries and businessmen who would exchange information on how to strengthen business relations between the province of KwaZulu and India. It will be remembered that both of these countries belong to a well-known

MEC ROGERS WARNS ON RECKLESS SPENDING



organization as BRICS and is expected to play a major role in strengthening that Business relationships become successful.

The KwaZulu-Natal Finance Minister, Mr. Francois Rodgers, warned that those found wasting taxpayers' money in the state will be licked dry.

Mrs. Rodgers said the state government will not tolerate the waste of government funds in the state because that is a violation of the law and interferes with plans to provide development to the community.

"Those who are found to be using government money recklessly, and those who commit corruption will be taken disciplinary action because this partnership government in the province is determined to build an honest government and provide services to the people.

"We will not allow anything that will hinder the government's plans to allocate money to fight poverty, lack of job opportunities, inequality, and improve the provision of public services,"

He further urged all government departments to reduce spending on unnecessary things in order to focus on what will improve people's lives.

Mrs. Rodgers emphasized that "expenses to pay for business trips, travel to foreign countries, car rentals, events and food should not be reduced, so that we can focus on where there are major needs such as the provision of public services, health, security, and education."

He clarified that the government's cost reduction program is mandatory for all departments. "The Prime Minister's Council has decided that the Department of Heritage Conservation will