

Address by Mayor Zandile Gumede during the Metro Police Day held at Moses Mabhida Stadium - 13 December 2017

- Programme Directors – Martin Xaba and Winnie Zama,
- MEC of Community Safety and Liaison - Hon Mxolisi Kaunda,
- Deputy Mayor – Cllr Fawzia Peer,
- City Manager – Mr Siphon Nzuza,
- Members of the Executive Committee,
- Acting Head of Metro Police – Steve Middleton,
- Councillors,
- Amakhosi,
- Abefundisi,
- Members of the Metro Police,
- Umphakathi waseThekwini nezivakashi zethu,
- Sanibonani,

We would like to take this opportunity and thank you for coming here to witness the first ever Metro Police Day. This Day is made to honour our Metro Police officers for their good work and also encourage them to do even better.

We are very proud of our women and men in uniform and we are confident that they will continue to make us proud. We are also delighted to be the first Metro to establish the Metro Police in the country. We formed this Unit on the 1st of July 2000 as a consequence of SAPS Amendment Act of 1998, which replaced the previous Durban City Police.

The functions of a municipal police service are stipulated as follows:

1) traffic policing, subject to any legislation relating to road traffic;

2) the policing of municipal by-laws and regulations which are the responsibility of the municipality in question; and

3) the prevention of crime.

We have a clear constitutional mandate as the Metro Police which goes beyond issuing of tickets. This is one of the reasons we have built Metro Police stations in townships. We will continue to increase the capacity of Metro Police everywhere because they are not just City Police but they are the People Police. You have a bigger role to play in our fight against crime and criminals and I believe that you are capable.

You are capable of rescuing our people from hijackers. Protecting our women and children from violence. We have a capable force and a trusted team of men and women. The new leadership of the Metro Police is made up of people who are passionate about being police. These are experienced COPS. I call on all of you to respect one another.

I also call on the people of eThekweni to show respect to the metro police. Let us respect them and cooperate with them. The best respect you must give is to respect the laws and our bylaws.

Don't drink and drive, they will definitely arrest you. You must obey the bylaws, if you drink in public we will definitely act. Respect the rules and our Police will respect you. Police are the friends of our people and enemies of criminals. This is why we have People's Metro Police. Metro Police are people, they have friends, families; our duty is to love them and show them respect. Metro Police will ensure that you enjoy this Festive Season. Our theme is simple – Jabula Uphephe!

I have put together eThekweni Municipality team that have drawn a comprehensive integrated summer season programme. This team is made up of people from various Units within the City form what is known as the Festive Season Management Committee (FESMAC) which is responsible for the smooth operations and running of the City during this period.

We have special measures in place to ensure that local people and visitors enjoy a safe and hassle free stay in our beautiful City. The plans are also to ensure that law and order is upheld during this period. Today, we are here to reassure you that you will have fun but we also encourage the public to be more responsible as they approach this season.

Jabula uphephe! We need everyone to work with us so that we ensure that we have smooth holidays.

Our duty is to encourage the public to have fun within the limits of law without infringing on the rights of other people. The safety of our visitors and residents is our priority.

We have procured wrist bands, which all children will have to wear when coming into the beachfront area. These wristbands contain the details of their guardians.

We have employed child-minders to look after lost children until such time that they are reunited. But we encourage parents to look after children not just in our beaches, this includes taking care of children at home.

We will be having our beach buddies that will be situated at various beaches around our City and will be on hand to offer any type of assistance to the visitors. Seasonal lifeguards will be deployed at various beaches and swimming pools across the city. We will also close the Beach at 6PM every day, this is done to prevent you from drowning. It is not easier to save you when it is already dark – sithi Jabula Uphephe!

The Durban Solid Waste Unit has appointed additional staff litter pickers and more additional litter bins will be placed around the city. Siyacela

abantu bangalahli phansi futhi basebenzise amaPlastic ukufaka udoti. It is important that we keep our city clean.

Law Enforcement Officers will also be out in full force. Metro Police Officer, South African Police Service, security personnel and Beach Law Enforcement Officers will conduct regular patrols around the City, mainly at the beaches. We also have our disaster team ready to respond to any situation. We will be working closer with our province and other government service in responding to situations.

Several road safety campaigns have been planned to ensure that use of un-roadworthy vehicles, drunken driving and irresponsible conduct on the road is curbed. We encourage that you must have one sober person in the car to drive you home, we will not allow reckless drivers to destroy themselves and others on our roads.

To control traffic on the beachfront during peak days, a traffic plan to eliminate traffic congestions is in place and some of the roads will be closed while others will be boom-gate controlled.

When designated parking is full, boom gates will be closed, and beachgoers will be ferried from Centrum site parking through a park and ride system to the beach.

In closing, before I call on the MEC to address – let me take this opportunity and remember those men and women who were part of the Metro Police who died this year. Sithi emndenini yabo, alehlenga lungehlanga

(SILENT)

Kaunda is not new in eThekweni, he served as Councillor from being a ward Councillor to a PR Councillor. He was the portfolio chairperson at the Provincial Legislature.

He is an activist who led the revival of COSAS. He has served as a provincial chairperson and provincial secretary of the ANCYL. He is now a PEC member of the ANC – chairing an important committee on Economic Transformation.

Let us welcome Hon Mxolisi Thomas Kaunda.