

**SPEECH OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE, HONOURABLE CASSEL MATHALE, AT THE OCCATION OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PATROL LAUNCH**

**DAN VILLAGE, TZANEN, LIMPOPO**

**17 AUGUST 2019**

**Honourable MECs present;**

**Deputy National Commissioner -**

**Heads of entities**

**Distinguished guests**

**VIPs (Patrollers)**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**Xewani Avuxeni,**

Allow me to honour our VIPs today, the Community Patrollers, without whom, we would not be here today. These are ordinary members of the community who recognised that the prevention and combating of crime cannot be the responsibility of Police officers alone, who recognised that *'Rintiho rin'we a ri nusi hove'*. These are progressive members of the community who stood up and responded to the President's clarion call of Thuma Mina. We salute you all!!!

Let me also take this opportunity to say thank you to all our stakeholders who contributed to ensuring that our patrollers are given the recognition they deserve through the hosting of this memorable event:

- Jupiter Security Solutions (security boots, security reflector jackets, Night torches, boxing punch bags, gym kits and two-way radios)
- Mamayila trading enterprises (security reflector jackets)

- The Greater Tzaneen Municipality
- The Safety and Security MEC
- The Police Service
- The Civilian Secretariat for Police
- The Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA)

We have also approached various business people to assist with the construction of the Victim Empowerment Centre amongst other community needs, and I must say we have been receiving positive responses. I must thank Mr Sydney Mhlarhi of Tamela Holdings and Mr Given Mkhari, amongst others, for their facilitation of business involvement in the development of our communities.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have found this community patrollers initiative to be in line with our community policing and community in blue programme, hence when I became aware of it, I immediately thought we need to work very closely with the patrollers. We are considering various initiatives to enhance the programme, including the provision of reflector jackets and boots that we are handing over today. We are also considering other initiatives to further assist where we can.

It our belief that whilst our police are doing their level best, they can't win this war against crime without the support of our communities and sister departments. The issue of environmental design (which was raised by the traditional leadership as well) needs to be addressed very urgently, this speak to challenges of no street lighting in some of the areas, no roads, no parks and sports facilities for our youth etc.

The National Community Policing Strategy will be operationalised through the development, implementation and monitoring of individual Provincial Community Policing Strategies.

The Community in Blue Programme, which is an integral part of the Community Policing Strategy, further emphasises the importance of involving the community in safety and policing-related matters, through the assistance of community patrollers.

Ladies and Gentlemen, many of you will recall that in collaboration with various government departments, we met with the community on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 here at Dan Village, where they raised several issues which included police resource constraints, ratio of police members to population, vehicles and police stations. It is therefore with great pleasure and privilege that I stand before you this afternoon to provide feedback, on the progress made to date.

We can proudly say that our police made follow ups with all the complaints laid with aim of resolving them.

- Satellite Police Station – the traditional leadership has donated land to SAPS for the construction hereof, we are still finalising matters of transfer of ownership.
- 25 Members were promised for the whole Tzaneen cluster and 9 have been deployed to Ritavi.
- A mobile station was delivered in Lephephene.
- We will be delivering a further 2 mobile police stations in Dzumeri and surrounding villages.

We will gradually be responding to all other matters raised in due course.

In conclusion we further commit to work with all our people to realize the objectives of the National Development Plan to make South Africans to feel safe.