

MEDIA STATEMENT  
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## PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA LED OPERATION SHANELA II TO INTENSIFY THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME IN LIMPOPO

Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba today was joined by the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Ms Violet Mathye and the Acting Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service in Limpopo, Major General Jan Scheepers, conducting Operation Shanela II at Greenside in Seshego, Polokwane.

The operation forms part of government's ongoing commitment to strengthening law enforcement and creating safer communities through intelligence-driven crime prevention initiatives across the province.

The multidisciplinary operation focused on combating serious and violent crime by targeting illegal drugs, illegal firearms, dangerous weapons, wanted suspects, undocumented foreign nationals and other criminal activities that undermine the safety and well-being of communities.

The operation brought together various law enforcement and government agencies, including the South African Police Service, Public Order Policing, Visible Policing, the K9 Unit, Operational Coordination, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks), the Department of Home Affairs, Emergency Medical Services and the Department of Social Development.

The operation produced significant results. A total of 478 individuals were searched, while 148 vehicles were stopped and searched. Law enforcement officials also inspected 34 spaza shops to verify compliance with applicable legislation and to safeguard consumers.

During the operation, 339 undocumented foreign nationals, Zimbabwean and Malawain nationals, were identified and will be processed in accordance with the Immigration Act by the relevant authorities.

In addition, one suspect linked to a murder and robbery case was arrested, while two suspects were apprehended for the illegal sale of illicit cigarettes.

"The success of Operation Shanela II sends a strong and unequivocal message that criminality has no place in Limpopo. We will continue to intensify intelligence-led operations to remove dangerous criminals from our communities, address illegal immigration in accordance with the laws of our country and ensure that anyone who breaks the law is brought to justice. Every person living in our province has a responsibility to respect and uphold the laws of the Republic of South Africa," said Premier Dr Ramathuba.

The Limpopo Provincial Government remains committed to working closely with law enforcement agencies and all stakeholders to strengthen crime prevention efforts and ensure that the province remains a safe and secure place for all who live in and visit Limpopo.

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