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#### **LATEST ON ESCAPED LIONS IN HLUHLUWE MFOLOZI**

Provincial EXCO received a report from Ezemvelo Wildlife on the escape of lions from Hluhluwe-Mfolozi Park. The report stated that 13 lions had escaped through a damaged fence around the reserve. Nineteen cows and five donkeys had already been killed by the lions in the area. The good news is that 12 lions have now been put down, while one is still being sought by game rangers.

The community is warned to be on the look-out for the remaining lion, and to alert the nearest police or Wildlife Authority should the lion be sighted.

#### **RECENT STRIKE IN ETHEKWINI METRO**

Provincial EXCO received a report on the recent strikes workers of the EThekweni Municipality. Provincial EXCO recommended further, ongoing and honest negotiations by all the parties concerned in order to ensure peace and stability and to resolve all disputes with minimal disruption to service delivery.

#### **UPDATE ON THE OIL SPILL IN MSUNDUZI**

The Executive Council was also updated on the management of a spillage incident which occurred at Willowton Oils in Msunduzi Municipality.

#### **CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGY**

The Executive Council received a report on Carbon Capture and Storage Technology in South Africa and the proposal of a Pilot CO2 Storage Project in the Umkhanyakude District Municipality. The practice involves the storage of CO2 in specified areas underground.

The Executive Council recommended further engagement on the issue with the Department of Mineral Resources and stakeholders such as Amakhosi regarding the practice.

#### **TAKEOVER OF SILOAH HEALTH SERVICES BY GOVERNMENT**

The Executive Council was informed of a takeover by the KZN Health Department of the Siloah Health Services from Siloah Hospital. The health facility is situated at the Dlomodlomo area in Zululand District Municipality and has now been turned into a primary health care clinic.

The Executive Council welcomed this takeover which will ensure continued provision of health services to the community of the Zululand District Municipality.

#### **UPDATE ON CRIME PREVENTION PLAN BY NEW PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER Lt-Gen. KE JULA**

With the recent departure of Lt-Gen Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, the Executive Council welcomed the newly appointed Provincial Commissioner of Police Lt-Gen KE Julia who was introduced officially during EXCO. On behalf of EXCO, Premier Zikalala welcomed the appointment of Lt-Gen Julia and expressed the hope this move will improve policing and create a safe province.

Executive Council received a report on the Crime Overview which covers areas of contact crime, property crime and crime dependent on police action for detection.

The Executive Council called on the South African Police Services to design a clear turnaround strategy against crime in the province.

According to the report there is an increase in contact crime in the province with murder rising by 16.1 per cent since 2018. It also points out that sexual offences have sharply increased by 15.2 percent. The hotspots for murder include Umlazi, Inanda, Plessislaer, KwaMashu, KwaDukuza and Cato Manor.

One of the strategies to be adopted to address this spike in crime will be the adoption of the "customer is king" principle - equipping police officials to be service-oriented.

"While we welcome the report, police should look at issues that undermine policing and make recommendations on what needs to be done. We have identified four non-functional police stations in the province - Ntabamhlophe, KwaDukuza, Plessislaer and Mondlo. We need a clear turnaround implementation strategy and plan to address this," Premier Zikalala said.

*Issued on behalf of the Director-General Dr Nonhlanhla O. Mkhize*

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