



CABINET STATEMENT

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KZN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPOINTS ANTI-RHINO POACHING TASK TEAM

Pietermaritzburg, 22 September 2016: The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Executive Council, has appointed an anti-rhino poaching task team that will conduct a full assessment of the current measures and capacities of the anti-rhino poaching initiatives in the province.

The appointment of this task team follows an alarming escalation in the numbers of rhinos poached annually in this province. In this year alone 107 rhinos have been poached in KZN with the highest numbers being from the Hluhluwe and Imfolozi Game Reserve.

The task team will include:-

- A representative from KZN Ezemvelo Wildlife;
- A representative from the South African Police Services;
- A representative from the Premier's office;
- An international policing expert; and;
- A legal expert from the Ian Player foundation

This task team terms of reference will also include, conducting an assessment of the criminal justice processes in relation to the poaching incidents at all levels and also evaluate if the current provincial human and logistical resources are sufficient to turn the tide against rhino poaching.

The task team will have to provide a report with recommendations to the Provincial Executive Council within six months. Commenting on the establishment of the task team Premier Willies Mchunu said the team must ensure that it developed innovative ways to curb rhino poaching as syndicates were becoming sophisticated in their methods of poaching rhinos.



“We need to ensure that we turn the tide and conserve our animals and wildlife. The extinction of these rhinos will have a devastating impact in our tourism industry. We are known as the country and province where you find the big five with the rhino being one of the most treasured of that group. This team must look at all possible ways in which we can strengthen our anti-poaching campaigns and strengthen the resources of our law enforcement agencies,” said Mchunu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

uMkhosi WeLembe

The KZN Provincial Government will on Saturday, 24 September 2016 join His Majesty the King and the entire citizens of KwaZulu-Natal in the celebrations of uMkhosi WeLembe at the Moses Mabhida Stadium.

This year’s celebration of uMkhosi weLembe will also be used to celebrate 200 years of the unification of the Zulu-Nation.

Premier Mchunu said: ***“This is a huge milestone for the Zulu-nation and we only hope that this celebration will seek to strengthen the unity of this nation and all KZN citizens so that we can all work together to move our province forward. We also celebrate 45 years of His Majesty being in the throne. We thank him for his wise leadership and will always continue to seek his guidance as we continuing serving the citizens of KwaZulu-Natal. As the Provincial Executive we call upon all citizens of KZN to come out in their numbers to Moses Mabhida to witness this historic day”.***

Operation Sukuma Sakhe

The Provincial Executive Council will on 28th September 2016 host Operation Sukuma Sakhe at the newly formed Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Municipality under the Harry Gwala District. The visit will target 15 wards of the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Municipality.

The Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Municipality is a newly established municipality after the amalgamation of the former Ingwe and KwaSani Municipalities. Members of the Executive Council, the District Mayor and Local Mayor, Councillors and Officials will visit schools to determine their preparedness for matric examinations.



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“We are less than 30 days away from the commencement of matric exams. It is for this reasons that our OSS outreach programmes are focusing on education in order to enable us to assess our state of readiness for exams as we are seeking to improve the pass rate of our matriculants,” said Premier Mchunu.

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