



community safety &  
liaison

Department :  
Community Safety and Liaison  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **MEC KAUNDA ALLAYS FEARS FOR SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME**

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda has lauded the role played by the Social Crime Prevention Volunteers in the fight against crime in the province.

Kaunda was speaking at a meeting with team leaders of the volunteers in Durban yesterday, following a decision by the Department to align the programme with the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Code of Good Practice for employment conditions for employees in the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

One of the provisions for the Code of Good Practice is that the employment of the EPWP volunteers should not exceed a period of two years.

Due to budgetary constraints and the fact that the law stipulates that the contract of EPWPs should not exceed the period of two years, the Department has started negotiations with volunteers who have been part of the programme for more than two years to find an amicable way to exit the programme by the end of March next year.

Kaunda also outlined an exit strategy the Department has developed which will enable 720 volunteers to undergo a 12-month learnership programme with Safety and Security Sector Education and training Authority (SASSETA) and a private security company. Upon completing the programme, the company will provide full-time employment for the volunteers.

The learnership programme is expected to start in July this year. **“However, for volunteers who feel that the skills they have amassed through the programme over the years can enable them to find better opportunities, will be allowed to remain within the EPWP programme until March next year. We are a caring government and it is for this reason that we have developed a programme for our volunteers to find permanent employment and those who choose not to be part of the learnership programme, will be given a nine-month notice to plan their future,”** said Kaunda.

Since budgetary constraints was among the issues that compelled the department to review the programme, Kaunda has instructed the senior management of the Department to present a plan to him on Tuesday next week on how the programme will be implemented and funded until March next year.

For the Department to be able to sustain the programme until March next year, it requires R48 million. Community Safety and Liaison is the least funded department in the province with a total budget of R235 million.

Kaunda said that the provincial government remains committed in creating a conducive environment for economic growth and employment. **“Therefore, let us all make a concerted effort in stabilising the province and promote peaceful coexistence. This will contribute immensely in positioning KwaZulu-Natal as a globally competitive province that is able to attract investment opportunities,”** said Kaunda.

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