

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR DURING DISTRICT SAFETY AND SECURITY SUMMIT:

31 MARCH 2010

WEESGERUS, MODIMOLLE

*Programme Director,
Mayors Present,
Chief whips, Speakers and Councillors
The HOD for Department of Safety, Security and Liaison,
Traditional Leaders,
Municipal Managers,
Senior Managers,
SAPS Cluster Commanders
NGO's,
Community Based Organisations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Good Morning

It is a great pleasure indeed to be afforded this opportunity to welcome you to this august event. We want to appreciate and thank the Waterberg District Municipality in conjunction with the Department of Safety, Security and Liaison for initiating such an important gathering, which is a build up to the Provincial Summit to take place in April 2010.

Programme Director, in the new democratic order, South Africans demand and deserve accountable, effective and service oriented Safety and Security. The rights enshrined in the Constitution, enacted in 1996, aim to ensure safety by protecting citizens who come into contact with the law, and by obliging the state to provide adequate, security from those who perpetrate crime.

In the past, the majority of citizens were concerned about abuse by state agencies. With the advent of democracy, the public now also demand the effective provision of safety. This means that policing in a democracy requires professional law enforcement which does not infringe upon human rights. It also requires a concerted effort by government, in partnership with civil society, to prevent crime before it occurs.

Ladies and gentlemen, fundamental to the development of appropriate safety and security in our country has been a shift from an inheritance of authoritarian law and order responses, to a broader concept of safety and security for all citizens. This was the vision spelt out by the National Crime Prevention Strategy and Security- a new change in emphasis from an include crime prevention.

This summit came at a time where we are preparing ourselves for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The Minister of Tourism suggests that there will be approximately 1,3 million visitors coming for the world cup. It is envisaged that most visitors will also spend longer time after the world cup to tour and experience South Africa's immeasurable experience.

There is already an indication by most of our tourist establishments with the district to host most of the visitors.

We must therefore through this summit today, create a conducive and safe environment for these tourists. I'm happy that a presentation by the Department of Roads and Transport on traffic safety is reflecting on our programmes. I hope the presenter will then elaborate on mechanism in place to maintain safety on our roads during this coming Easter weekend and proceeding to the whole duration of the 2010 Tournament.

Programme Director, another important element of safety and security in the democratic South Africa is the necessity to enhance the spirit of volunteerism in our communities. There are many important partners in the fight against crime. This include, among others, organisations of civil society, particularly business and community organisations, citizens who volunteer for service as Police Reservists as well as the private security industry which performs a useful role.

The role of such players is in principle, one of the partnerships with government. For this reason greater attention should be paid to their role in the safety and security environment in future policy processes.

Ladies and gentlemen, reducing crime is one of the leading challenges of our district. Some successes have been achieved in this regard with most categories of recorded crime stabilizing.

Appropriate law enforcement and social crime prevention interventions are required to reduce crime from the current level.

Recorded crime statistics, which they do not always reflect the true extent of crime in society, are still useful in presenting broad crime trends.

The Waterberg District, according to the statistics presented lately, has been listed amongst the ones topping the list in terms of crime rates. The types of the most common crimes ranges from, house breaking, breaking into business, rape, assault, murder and theft.

The causes are amongst others:

- *Poor lightning in certain areas that contribute to the commission of this crimes*
- *Poverty and unemployment*
- *Inaccessible roads in rural areas*
- *Street kids that roam the streets during the night are also exposed to the danger of falling victims to crime.*
- *The escalating number of illegal operation of shebeens and unlicensed liquor outlets that sell liquor to children less than the age of 18 years.*

In conclusion, Programme Director, to rely on law enforcement alone will incur huge costs associated with investigations, prosecution and imprisonment. Therefore, without an adequate focus on crime prevention, the justice system will remain overburdened.

International experience suggests that it is more cost effective in the medium to long term to invest in projects which prevent crime, than in simply spending more on the institutions of policing, courts and corrections. We are also aware that crime, especially in rural communities can often be traced to socio-economic circumstances which cannot be addressed by the police acting alone.

I therefore officially declare this summit open, welcome and wish you fruitful deliberations during the proceedings.

“Fighting crime together everyone achieves more”

Thank you!!