Zulu King calls for peace

By Nompilo Mchunu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

King Goodwill Zwelithini has condemned violent attacks against foreign nationals. The King convened an Imbizo to address these attacks at Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban on 20 April. He assured thousands of people at the stadium that peace and stability would be restored in KwaZulu-Natal.

In the wake of accusations that King Zwelithini incited violence during an address in Phongola last month, he called on traditional leaders to protect foreign nationals and ensure proper re-integration of the displaced foreign nationals into the community. “Today I am waging a war, a real war to protect all foreign nationals against violent and criminal acts. Amakhosi love peace. Peace should continue to prevail in our country,” said the King.

The King said he would call another Imbizo. “I will arrange with KwaZulu-Natal Premier Senzo Mchunu to convene a meeting between myself, government, traditional leaders and diplomats from other African countries that have been affected to talk about restoring peace,” he said.

Premier Mchunu told the crowd that the past two weeks of violence have been challenging for the province and the whole country. “We have witnessed barbaric acts of violence against other fellow human beings simply because of their country of origin. Nonetheless, we have gathered here today with a sense of appreciation on the progress we have made in controlling the situation and restoring calm in the province,” he said.
Inkatha Freedom Party leader Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi said everyone must heed the call for peace and unity made by the King. “Our African brothers and sisters are welcome in our home, criminals are not. We as Amakhosi have a responsibility to stop the violence despite what started the flame. Chasing away other nationals will not solve our problems,” he said.

An agreement was reached that government should strengthen immigration and trading laws for foreign nationals. Violence against foreign nationals was condemned but government was also urged to consider the concerns of South Africans.
President Jacob Zuma had a meeting with stakeholders to discuss the country’s migration policy and to promote united action to deal with the current challenges facing South Africa.

The migration policy discussions came in the wake of attacks on foreign nationals in some parts of South Africa.

President Zuma has condemned the violent attacks and called for peace in communities across the country. He has deployed Ministers to deal with the root causes of the attacks.

“Millions of South Africans love peace and have lived with foreign nationals in peace for decades. The minority that has caused mayhem should be isolated and perpetrators of violence should face the full might of the law,” said the President.

Ministers and Deputy Ministers are conducting izimbizo and outreach programmes countrywide to interact with communities on the country’s migration policy and to promote peaceful coexistence with foreign nationals.

The President has met with organisations representing foreign nationals in the country.

President Zuma also convened the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Migration. “The IMC is tasked with ensuring that all aspects of migration are handled efficiently, including the social, economic and security aspects. It will also in the main, address concerns raised by South Africans with regards to migration, while also taking care of the well-being of all immigrants in the country from all continents,” said The Presidency.

The Presidency said President Zuma has expanded the membership of the IMC by including the departments of Small Business Development, Trade and Industry, and Human Settlements. He has also appointed the Minister of Police as deputy chairperson of the IMC.
Ekurhuleni pledges to fight attacks on foreign nationals
By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng

Trade and Industry Deputy Minister Mzwandile Masina, Ekurhuleni Executive Mayor Mondli Gungubele and Gauteng Legislature Deputy Speaker Uhuru Moiloa attended a stakeholder engagement dialogue on 22 April. The objective was to mobilise various stakeholders to condemn and support initiatives aimed at curbing attacks on foreign nationals in the City of Ekurhuleni. A pledge was signed in support of government campaign: “We are One Humanity” which seeks to advance social cohesion, national and international solidarity to end attack on foreign nationals.
Eastern Cape Premier conducts an outreach programme

By Yolisa Blom: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 21 April, Eastern Cape Premier Phumulo Masualle led the Provincial Executive Council on a campaign to tackle attacks on foreign nationals. The move followed a Presidential directive requesting all leaders across the country to engage communities and foster peaceful coexistence between South Africans and foreign nationals.

The Premier was accompanied by MEC for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, Pemmy Majodina; MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Fikile Xasa; Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Municipality, Zukiswa Ncitha; Speaker of Buffalo City Municipality, Luleka Simons and other stakeholders such as representatives of foreign nationals.

The programme started with a road intersection blitz next to Orient Plaza which was followed by an interaction with motorists, taxi drivers and foreign nationals owning shops. The Premier and his delegation continued the outreach programme in the afternoon with a train activation where political principals interacted with commuters from East London to Berlin station. They condemned all acts of violence and mobilised communities to continue living peacefully with foreign nationals.

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