



MEDIA STATEMENT

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NKOSI MATANZIMA REJECTS REPORTS OF EXTORTION IN THE NELSON MANDELA BAY METRO

The Chairperson of the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC) Nkosi Gwazinamba Matanzima rejects the media reports about extortion in traditional Initiation schools in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro.

He said they are satisfied with the report from the Metro Initiation Forum and the SAPS on the allegations of criminality in the form of extortion.

"These allegations have no basis in fact. No case has been opened against anyone. Also, no one has come forward to confirm having paid some money to anyone," said Nkosi Matanzima.

He added that while the government appreciates the support from media, journalists must at all times practice their craft in a responsible manner and save the custom further ridicule.

"We encourage journalists to always respect the sacred nature of the custom by following the necessary visiting protocol and get guidance when taking pictures," he said.

Nkosi Matanzima decried the shortage of traditional nurses in the visited sites, which translates to insufficient care given to the initiates.

He called on key stakeholders to join hands with the Metro Forum to guarantee the safe passage of the children to adulthood. "Let us work together to close the gaps towards a death and injury free season. Some parents seem to forget their responsibilities when the boys are in the bush, hence the need to jerk up their acts."

Nkosi Matanzima concluded his two day monitoring visit in the Metro yesterday as part of the summer traditional initiation season. More than 2000 initiates were seen in Kariega, Greenbushes, and kwaMagxaki sites. Some got medical attention on the spot.

Last week, the media reported acts of criminality in the form of extortion in traditional initiation schools in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro. /the end/

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