



POLICE MINISTRY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

19 APRIL 2015

ADDRESS BY POLICE MINISTER NATHI NHLEKO AT THE
LAUNCH OF *WE ARE ONE HUMANITY* CAMPAIGN
AGAINST XENOPHOBIA

INTRODUCTION:

- South Africans of all hues have come out strongly against attacks on foreigners and foreign nationals.
- Now that the situation is stabilizing, the Government is turning its attention to a long-term, sustainable intervention that will address the underlying mindsets that motivate these attacks in the first place.
- It is imperative that the root cause be addressed, and for mindsets to be transformed for long-term peace and stability to be ensured.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- We are condemning, confronting and combating Xenophobia
- We are promoting acceptance of diversity and embracing differences and a peaceful coexistence.
- We are creating a generation of citizens – particularly a younger generation - free from prejudice, and are enabling them to challenge Xenophobic tendencies in society.

- We are using the successful heritage of ‘protest art’ and the power of creativity to capture people’s imaginations and encourage them to celebrate diversity, rather than fearing it.
- We are developing empathy and compassion within our communities.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

- The recent events of violence against foreigners and foreign nationals have raised concern about the state of unity amongst our people.
- The attacks both in Gauteng and KZN continue to paint a negative picture on the relationship between citizens and foreign nationals
- This is also an act of criminality whereby certain groups or individuals hide their criminal acts behind xenophobic motives, and this must be dealt with in a resolute and effective manner.
- We strongly believe that this violent confrontation is partially motivated by self-hatred. Foreigners and foreign nationals – particularly of African descent – continue to be at the receiving end of this violence.
- These Xenophobic incidents highlight the lingering destructive colonial legacy that we continue to confront on a daily basis. This unacceptable situation compromises unity and cohesion that this country so desperately needs
- It is with this motive that we have come up with this campaign, emphasising ***WE ARE ONE HUMANITY***.
- We are positively confident that this campaign will not only address the current situation, but imprint a lasting impression and legacy on the social cohesion of this country and how we relate to foreigners and foreign nationals.

HOW ARE WE DOING IT?

The ‘***WE ARE ONE HUMANITY***’ Campaign will take various forms that will roll out between now and October 2015 and with the intention that the impact will last beyond this period.

1. OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS AGAINST XENOPHOBIC ATTACKS IN DIFFERENT PROVINCES

- To immediately condemn the senseless attacks on foreigners and foreign nationals
- To emphasize the importance of unity and tolerance amongst all in our communities
- To create social, economic and cultural cohesion within all communities and Africans in particular
- To create a platform for constructive discussions and seek practical solutions addressing intolerance and social instability within our society
- To give government, stakeholders and civil society a platform to clarify their policy positions and engage with the issues within foreign relations
- To launch and popularise “***WE ARE ONE HUMANITY CAMPAIGN***”

2. “WE ARE ONE HUMANITY” MASS EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

- To further interrogate and deal with the root causes and future prevention of Xenophobia
- To maximise the reach of the anti-Xenophobia message
- To stimulate a behavioural change to a positive identity
- To adopt a bottom-up approach which maximises the voice and participation of grassroots communities

3. TO ENGAGE THE AFRICAN CONTINENT ON THE XENOPHOBIC DIALOGUE, SHOWCASE CULTURAL DIVERSITY & CELEBRATE ONENESS IN HUMANITY

- AFRICA IN DIALOGUE – It will be used as a barometer where representatives from the African continent engage with each other with the intention to assess the impact of the “We are One Humanity” campaign initiatives

- AFRICA CELEBRATION – Using a festival and carnival to bring together various cultures in showcasing diversity and the richness thereof and celebrate unity in humanity
4. THUMBS UP – One Humanity, One Fingerprint
- Through this ‘Thumbs up or Sharp!’ sign we will have a symbol marked on thumbs
 - This shows a commitment to a Xenophobic free lifestyle.
 - It also demonstrates commitment to legal settlement and to getting registered if foreign

CONCLUSION:

- We call on all people to participate fully in the campaign to fight and eradicate Xenophobia and all other forms of prejudice in our communities.
- We appeal particularly to the media to help us propagate this message.
- It is everyone’s responsibility to work towards ensuring that all people are and feel safe in South Africa