

**Democratic Alliance Johannesburg Media Statement  
Shadow Member of Mayoral Committee for Public Safety: DA Cllr Michael Sun**



**MEDIA RELEASE: Thursday, 22 October 2015**

**Crime Horror in Joburg needs to be tackled on the streets not in boardrooms**

“Whilst officials and politicians are discussing crime in air conditioned boardrooms and window dressing issues, violent criminals are ruling the city,” says Shadow Member of the Mayoral Committee for Public Safety Democratic Alliance Councillor Michael Sun.

He says that since the horrific news that broke regarding the heinous murders that took place at Rhodes Park this weekend, the city has a real obligation to protect residents.

“It is with sadness to note that many city residents fear to go to parks, even in daylight as people fear for their safety.”

Councillor Sun says that when Mayor Parks Tau, (ironic of the name) announced the Joburg 10 Plus Programme in 2012, he said this programme would involve 10 and more of the municipal owned entities and stakeholders to make the city safer.

“The programme is a theoretical marvel and would have made us all safer, had it worked in real life.”

City parks is one of the 10 Plus partners in this programme, “I am disappointed to read that City Park has brushed away its responsibility in the Joburg 10 Plus Programme. On the contrary, City Parks must together with all the other stakeholders be the eyes and ears in contributing to safety in each of the city’s wards,” says Cllr Sun.

In addition he says that the intended 10 Plus partnership isn’t successful as departments continue blaming each other and shifting responsibilities.

Councillor Sun says that the problem with the Joburg 10 Plus Programme and Joburg’s Department of Public Safety is that there is too much boardroom talk and very little action.

He says that in order for the ward based policing efforts to materialise, the city's role players must focus on ward relevant challenges and issues.

He furthermore stresses the point that this can be achieved through visible and effective policing which will tackle crime and law infringements in all forms. In addition, he believes that the involvements of the residents to fight crime are equally important.

"We should never allow our government and ourselves to stoop to a level where a lesser crime committed against a victim would be blessing."

"We need to roll up our sleeves and fight crime, not in workshops or boardrooms but where crime is happening," he concludes.

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