SWIFT RESPONSE TO WADEYE VIOLENCE

October 25th, 2012

Chief Minister, Terry Mills, says Government will continue to liaise with police, agencies and the community to resolve serious law and order issues in Wadeye.

Speaking in Parliament today, Mr Mills praised the police for containing violence in the Community and said Government will continue to do all it can to reach a resolution between feuding families.

Police have arrested 12 people today, nine of those on outstanding warrants, two in relation to Monday’s assault at the Community Store and one for taking part in a riot, riotous behaviour in a public place and being armed with an offensive weapon.

This is in addition to the 15 people who were apprehended in the community on Wednesday.

“There were no reported incidents of property or violent crime in Wadeye during the past 24 hours,” Mr Mills said.

“Police will continue to keep a high profile presence in the community and maintain services that allow a timely and efficient response to any future incidents.

“As well as additional police, regular briefings are taking place involving the CEOs of the departments of Correctional Services, Regional Development and Indigenous Advancement, Chief Ministers, Education and Children’s Services, Housing, Attorney-General and Justice and the Office of Children and Families.

“Department of Housing staff from the Big Rivers Region have relocated back to Wadeye to oversee various tenancy issues such as house swapping and the threat of damage to vacant dwellings.

“A Darwin lawyer with connections to the feuding families has agreed to undertake mediation to try and resolve some of the issues that have contributed to the violence over recent weeks. It is hoped mediation will commence within the next few days.

“The personal toll on those people directly caught up in the violence is bad enough, but I’m told school attendance is also down in Wadeye as a direct result of the tension.

“An Education Taskforce has been established to talk to families and get children back to school.”

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