



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
SAFETY & LIAISON

Department of Safety and Liaison Policy Speech 2020/21
Address by Honourable MEC Weziwe Tikana-Gxothiwe
Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
Bhisho

Honourable Speaker

Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier

Members of the Executive Council

Chairpersons of Portfolio Committees

Honourable Members

Traditional Leaders

Acting Head of Department

South African Police Service (SAPS) Provincial Commissioner

Regional Commissioner – Correctional Services

Chief of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro Police

Chairperson of the Community Police Board

Chairpersons of the Community Police Fora (CPF)

Safety Patrollers, Street and Village Committees

Officials from the Department of Safety and Liaison

Special guests

Government Officials

Distinguished guests and members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

Peace Loving Citizens of the Eastern Cape Province

Good day to you all!

Honourable Speaker, on the occasion of the State of the Province Address (SOPA), the Honourable Premier correctly asserted that ***“community safety is our responsibility and all of us must work together with the police to ensure safety of the people in the community, particularly the vulnerable groups”***.

I am pleased to present to this house and indeed to the people of the Eastern Cape as a whole, a plan that will contribute to the Provincial Program of Action on reduction of crime from our communities. Through this plan, government and non-governmental institutions, business sector, religious and traditional institutions, institutions of learning and teaching, organs of civil society, youth, women, the elderly, people living with disabilities and indeed all citizens, shall be mobilised in action to create a **“Safer Eastern Cape with reliable, accountable and effective policing”**.

As a matter of necessity and in response to the confidence displayed by the people of the Eastern Cape in the African National Congress (ANC) on 9 May 2019, we are certain that the strategic plan that we are tabling here today, with commitment, will indeed take the province to a higher level with regard to the fight against crimes, in particular crime against women and children and the most vulnerable of society.

Honourable Speaker, you would certainly agree with us, that, as we celebrate the centenary of another stalwart of our struggle and the founding father of our provincial democratic government, Isithwalandwe, u Tata uRaymond ‘Oom Ray’ Mhlaba, we must do everything possible to make the Eastern Cape a safe province.

Oom Ray stood for an abiding commitment to serve the people without expecting anything in return. He made sacrifices so that we could all be free and be safe where we live. In this regard, we have no opinion, but to honour and praise his sacrifice, sterling leadership style and wisdom by advancing the values that he stood for.

Oom Ray would despise the abuse, rape and murder of women and children and would fight for change of attitudes so that they too, can be seen and treated as equal human beings who are no less than others.

His unifying personality must rally us all, behind the call made by the Premier on 25th of February 2020, when he said “...**safety is our collective responsibility and all of us must work together ...**”

On the 26th of February, the Premier launched the **GENDER BASED VIOLENCE & FEMICIDE RAPID RESPONSE INITIATIVE in OR Tambo**. As a member of the Provincial Interim Steering Committee Meeting, I wasted no time in advancing one of the pillars that is “**safer schools and families**”. Thirty-eight (38) schools in Lusikisiki and Flagstaff were brought together to empower learners on how to blow the whistle on sexual offenders and how to deal with perpetrators that are meant to protect them.

Honourable Speaker, the last five years of the democratic government has witnessed interesting policy development and experimentation. The White Paper on Safety and Security, 2016, and the Provincial Safety Strategy are some of the good developments that took place during the 5th administration.

Despite these policy interventions and strategies, our province is still confronted by high levels of violent crimes. At the same time, we continue to see a scary rise in Gender-Based Violence and Femicide and murder, especially in the rural parts of the province. The women, elderly and children are on the receiving end of this inhumanity. Our institutions of higher learning are also becoming a hive of GBV and Femicide.

It is in this context that the sixth administration has vowed that we cannot continue with this same insanity, in the words of Einstein – “**Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results**”. We need a radical review and overhaul of our current approaches in dealing with the scourge.

We cannot continue to pretend that community police relations, community police forums and sector policing are working, particularly in rural areas without regular checks and balances. The establishment of street and village committees remain an area of focus as an extended arm of visible community policing.

The people of the Eastern Cape and their government, are responding, and without exception confirm that the realities of a crucial need for social cohesion and unity in the fight against crime, dominates the thinking and motivates those who have best interests of their communities at heart.

Accordingly, we shall over the next Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), guided by our Strategic Plan 2020/25, mobilise all of our communities around key fundamentals that are aimed at making the Eastern Cape a province where people are and feel safe.

The department is already aligning its targets with the allocated budget whilst overstressing its capacity to monitor all police stations for absolute compliance with the relevant policing prescripts, with specific focus on Domestic Violence.

We shall consolidate the partnership with institutions of Traditional Leadership and complete the establishment of Frontline Service Delivery Points at the Kingdoms. This will be complemented by a consistent and purposeful monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of this intervention, which seeks to bring policing service closer to the rural poor. We have witnessed the rise of the Gender-Based Violence, Murder, Gangsterism and Stock theft in these areas.

During this MTSF period, we shall firm-up and strengthen our cooperation, collaboration and integration of efforts with all our stakeholders in an effort to mobilise our communities in the fight against crime.

The Department shall enter into binding agreements with our sister departments, at both Provincial and National levels, non-governmental organisations and other spheres of government on specific areas of service delivery.

We are already engaging with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) towards ensuring that each and every municipality has adopted and resourced a Community Safety Plan that will be driven and located at a ward level through Community Safety Forums (CSF). All relevant stakeholders shall be consulted and encouraged to join hands and respond to the call made by citizens of the province when they said, **WE WANT TO BE, AND FEEL SAFE WHERE WE LIVE.**

We are going to strengthen and consolidate our collaborative efforts with Community Police Forums (CPF) in the province. As a province, we shall ensure that we contribute significantly in all outstanding and future discussions about the positioning and resourcing of this function with a clear view, that community participation is to be maximised if we are to succeed in defeating crime and its causal factors and effects.

Honourable Speaker, the Premier has directed that we resuscitate the Justice Crime and Prevention Security Cluster as a standalone for more effective integrated approach to service delivery. I confirm that this is high in our priorities and as such is already receiving requisite attention. We need to ensure that our courts are victim friendly and GBV sensitive.

Honourable members, we have seen a disturbing situation where some of the criminal cases in particular Gender-Based and Domestic Violence cases are struck out of the court roll for one reason or the other. During this term, we shall rollout the Court Watching Brief programme prioritising Gender-Based cases. This intervention seeks to provide information on and reasons for the withdrawal, dismissal and striking off the court roll of criminal cases. This requires partnerships with institutions of Higher learning with Law Faculties.

This initiative will allow for effective oversight over the police's role in ensuring court-ready case dockets are handled properly, but most importantly, this will result in the identification of systemic problems to be addressed by the Provincial SAPS management, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and others within the justice system, thus enabling an improved turn around in these cases .

Honourable Speaker, we shall oversee the establishment of the Provincial DNA testing laboratory. Work in this regard is at an advanced stage. This development will ensure speedy finalisation of criminal cases without relying on other provinces for this critical service.

As we strengthen and move with speed in formalisation of the establishment of the Eastern Cape Provincial Secretariat for Police Service, we shall also revise our monitoring tools so that they are responsive to province specific challenges. Our research results shall be used to ensure that our decisions are based on empirical evidence found on the coalface of service delivery.

As we begin the sixth administration, we shall re-position the department such that it is at the centre of anti-crime activism. Consistent with the public pronouncements by the Honourable Premier, we have already engaged with the DPSSA with a view to rename the department into the Department of Community Safety with relevant capacity building.

Honourable Speaker, together with the Gauteng province, we have been selected by the Presidency to pilot the implementation of the National Emergency Response Plan to Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. **We dare not fail in this important task.**

All of these strategic interventions are aimed, amongst others, in placing the citizens of the province as development champions and agents of change for a crime free province. Our strategy serves as a roadmap towards the implementation of the political mandate of the governing party, the ANC.

ACCOUNTING ON THE 2019/20 PRONOUNCEMENTS

Madame Speaker, the department continues in its efforts to ensure compliance with its mandate as enshrined in the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act no 2 of 2011. Although this mandate remains partially funded, commitments made to this house and the citizens of the Eastern Cape are being fulfilled.

To date, out of the one hundred and thirty-seven (137) unannounced visits, we had promised to conduct, we have conducted ninety-nine (99) and out of the fifty six (56) announced visits we conducted thirty nine (39). During these visits it became clear that we need to capacitate our police stations and members on accessibility and resources in order to service our people with dignity, especially the victims of gender-based violence.

The department to date has conducted thirty-nine (39) **Policing Accountability Engagements**, where the public perception of SAPS showed a lack of trust due to bail received by alleged perpetrators especially on **domestic violence cases**. We shall continue to engage the National Prosecuting Authority through the JCPS cluster to make the conditions for bail application difficult, or with stringent conditions when granted, and strict enforcement thereof.

The department successfully conducted assessments of the implementation of the **SAPS Rural Safety strategy** at Tamara, Cookhouse, Matatiele, Cradock, Cala, Barkly East, Mzamba, Bizana, Mt Frere, Qumbu, Addo and Makhanda. As we enter the 6th administration, it is clear that our Provincial Safety Strategy must be revisited and updated. This was clearly visible during the assessment of police stations in the rural areas through the Rural Safety Strategy.

All one hundred and ninety-seven (197) police stations in the province have **Community Police Forums** with twenty-one (21) clusters and one provincial board respectively. During the year, twenty-eight (28) CPFs we assessed for functionality and it was found that some were fully functional, partial functional and others non-functional.

Our biggest challenge remains with the establishment of Community Safety Fora within the municipalities as most of them are non-functional and/or partially functional. We have assessed seven (7) CSF's and found that some municipalities do not have even designated Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for safety and security and some are without safety plans.

The department still faces a challenge on the neighbourhood watch policy as it must still be endorsed at National Level.

Our community mobilisation programme has seen us engaging with seventy-one (71) communities to create awareness as well as garner support for programmes of both the department and the police service. Our social crime prevention programmes always ensure the strengthening of partnership with other departments within the social transformation cluster including the Departments of Social Development and Education.

Through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the department deployed Safety Patrollers at 43 schools in the province, that is, eighty-six (86) and two (02) Data Capturers thus creating eighty-eight (88) work opportunities.

To ensure compliance with the Domestic Violence Act (DVA), twenty-one police stations have been assessed for compliance with the Act and its National Instructions. An improvement has been noted in the implementation of the Act; however the administration thereof remains a challenge.

Negotiations with Institutions of Higher Learning on the Campus Safety Strategy are at an advanced stage and it should not be difficult for this administration to launch and roll out this strategy. Great interest has been shown by the Universities of Fort Hare, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Rhodes.

The absence of municipal by-laws for both liquor and retail trade poses a threat on the enforcement of compliance by law-enforcing agencies. SALGA will be brought on board to assist in this regard.

The peace agreement signed between the warring Taxi Alliances in OR Tambo still remains valid. This agreement has prevented further fatalities due to taxi violence. As we monitor the situation on a regular basis, a reminder is sent to these alliances that should such repeat itself, the ranks will be shut down again.

Ladies and gentlemen, once again the department has achieved Clean Audit Outcomes. This is for the fifth year in a row. Our gratitude goes to the staff for this commitment.

We shall continue to strengthen the governance structures to ensure continuity in this regard. We shall further strive in supporting SMME's and LED's by procuring through our local suppliers and pay them within fifty days of invoicing.

The department has supported two hundred and fifty-three **(253)** SMME's to the value of **R13 million**. Our employment practices remain focused on people with disabilities, youth and females, especially at management level.

Honourable Speaker, despite the above achievements, the Department still has an acting accounting officer for the fourth consecutive year. The processes towards closing this vacancy are at an advanced stage.

DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITIES FOR 2020/2021

Honourable Speaker, notwithstanding the good work that continues to be done by this department and the South African Police Service (SAPS), the 2018/19 Provincial Crime Statistics tell us how stubborn crime can be.

During the period under review, contact crimes increased by 4.6%, sexual crimes increased by 7.9%, some subcategory of aggravated robbery increased by 5.9%, property related crimes increased by 0.7% and other serious crimes increased by 3.7% with crimes detected as a result of police action declined by 16.5%. This is a sufficient proof that we need to do more and do it together.

These statistics confirm our immediate priorities for the ensuing financial year, 2020/21. We shall sharpen our oversight role over the SAPS and other law enforcement agencies. Working with the Minister of Police and through the MinMEC resolutions, we shall begin with formalisation and capacitation of the Provincial Secretariat for Police Service. A strengthened oversight function over the Police Service, will ensure that police perform their duties in a helpful, professional and loyal manner as servants of the people, and in particular the vulnerable groups.

As we roll-out our community-based programmes, in particular those focusing on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, we shall pay the requisite attention to women, elderly, youth and persons with disabilities. Our oversight and monitoring tools will be revised to ensure that vulnerable groups are occupying the centre stage of our work.

We will establish the Provincial Oversight Committee to ensure consistent accountability to citizens, effective and efficient coordination of plans and activities, the tracking of oversight recommendations submitted to SAPS as well as reports on the implementation thereof. In this regard, we want to hold no less than four (4) oversight engagements with the SAPS during the ensuing financial year.

This coming financial year, the department will increase the number of police stations monitored on service delivery from 56 to 93.

The re-establishment of the Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster will be initiated and concluded during the course of the 2020/21 financial year. We must bring back to life, a proper and effective integration of programmes intended to significantly contribute towards the creation of a crime free and safer province. The first pilot of the Court Watching Brief (CWB) will be done during the financial year 2020/21. Once again and of necessity, we will prioritise Gender-Based and Domestic Violence cases. The Department shall produce one report per quarter.

During this period, we shall vigorously improve our relationship and cooperation with municipalities and where necessary, we shall enter into mutual agreements that are intended to strengthen community safety as pronounced by the Premier. Working with the local sphere of government, including the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), as well as, South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the department will revive Community Safety Forums' functionality and contribute to the 60% MTSF target.

Honourable Speaker, during the ensuing financial season, we aim to enter into concrete memoranda of understanding with a variety of community safety structures, municipalities and institutions of higher learning. No less than ten (**10**) memoranda are targets for the year 2020/21.

We want to assess no less than eight (**8**) CSFs during the ensuing financial year. This target would stretch us sufficiently to cover all the Eastern Cape Municipalities by the conclusion of the MTSF period.

Honourable Speaker, as part of consolidating and deepening community participation on matters of community safety, the department will continue to oversee the election of Community Police Forums across all police stations. A comprehensive report on the analysis on the oversight of CPF election shall be produced and will be followed by a capacitation programme.

The department will further hold twenty-eight (28) social crime prevention programmes across the province and all complaints received from communities will be referred and followed up with the SAPS for full implementation and reporting.

Honourable Speaker, each of our districts shall implement at least one social crime prevention programme per district, during the 2020/21 financial year.

Our monitoring tools shall be reviewed to meet the objectives of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service and align the sector indicators. Since this is a national competence, as a province we shall be customising and automating our tools for a more efficient and effective oversight function. As a related matter, this coming financial year we will develop relevant tools to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the Metro Police service. Our tools of trade must meet the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

Arising from our internal research findings and recommendations, an annual implementation plan shall be developed to guide the practical implementation of these recommendations.

Our departmental decisions must be based on empirical evidence if we are to be relevant in our interventions. We will continue conducting research on the policing needs and special projects. In this regard, each of these activities shall be reported on during the ensuing financial year.

The department shall participate in the review of the Provincial Safety Strategy (PSS) whilst overseeing the review of the SAPS Rural Safety Strategy (RSS). On the PSS, we shall work to ensure that a PSS action plan is approved. We will also conduct two (02) assessments of the implementation of the SAPS's Rural Safety Strategy. The results of these assessment will equip the department with relevant information on who to best position and implement the strategy going forward.

Honourable Speaker, we have already declared that institutions of teaching and learning shall be given the necessary attention with regard to the emergence of violence in these centres of knowledge. Accordingly, the Schools Safety Patrollers will be increased from **42** to **56** during the 2020/21 financial year. In the same vein, working with the Office of the Deputy Minister of police, we shall coordinate and oversee the roll-out of Campus Safety Framework Implementation plan across the Institutions of Higher Learning in the province.

As part of re-positioning the department to be responsive to the strategic thrust of our five-year plan, the current Service Delivery Model (SDM) shall be reviewed so that it can provide guidance on the development and approval of the new organisational structure.

Currently the department has seven districts out of eight. Accordingly, we shall ensure that the eighth district is established.

Centrally to the work of the department is the coordination and strengthening of its stakeholder engagements. Accordingly, communication with internal and external stakeholders shall receive attention as the department reviews its communication strategy, policy and plan. The departmental communication plan will seek to drastically improve the public profile of the department through radical marketing and re-branding.

Honourable Speaker and members, we remain steadfast committed to the transformation and mainstreaming of the designated groups. During the ensuing financial season, we plan to ensure that at least fourteen (**14**) programmes are designed and implemented in order to achieve this important task. Our people, regardless of their gender, age and abilities must enjoy the same fruits of a free and safe society.

On the economic front, the department is in full support of the Provincial Local Economic Development Strategy, will sustain its commitment to buy goods and services produced locally and pay all service providers within the stipulated 30 days. In fact, the department takes an average of twelve (12) days to pay service providers.

Honourable Speaker, I present this budget policy speech at the backdrop of the global devastating Corona attack to humankind. This contagious virus, if it spread uncontrollable, will undermine all the efforts we are presenting here today. Accordingly, we are joining hands with the Department of Health and the nation, in making sure that as we discharge our mandate, we do that well conversant of this virus.

The department will start internally and equip all the employees with the necessary knowledge and information so that we keep our strong employment force focused and working in support of a healthy citizenry. We shall take all the necessary step as advised by the relevant bodies to ensure that this virus is always suppressed .

We wish recovery for those already infected and strength and resilience for those affected.

The Department of Safety and Liaison will start the new financial year with a total allocation of **R 116'152 million**.

The allocation is broken down as follows:

CoE:	R 83 172 million
Goods and services:	R 29 317 million
Transfers	R 320 thousand
Capital:	R 3 343 million

Honourable Speaker, as per the rules of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, and on behalf of the Department of Safety and Liaison, I table the 2020/2021 Budget Policy Speech, the 2020/25 Strategic Plan, the 2020/21 Annual Performance Plan, the 2020/21 Annual Operational Plan and the 2020/21 Service Delivery Improvement Plan for vote 15.

I THANK YOU