



POLICY SPEECH 2021/2



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
SAFETY & LIAISON



DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND LIAISON
POLICY SPEECH 2021/22 ADDRESS



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EASTERN CAPE
SAFETY & LIAISON

**Department of Safety and Liaison
Policy Speech 2021/22**

Address

**Honourable MEC Weziwe Tikana-Gxothiwe
Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
Bhisho**

25 March 2021



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Honourable Speaker

Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier

Members of the Executive Council

Chairpersons of Portfolio Committees

Honourable Members

House of the Traditional Leaders

Head of Department and Officials from the Department of Safety and Liaison

South African Police Service (SAPS) Provincial Commissioner

Regional Commissioner – Correctional Services

Regional Manager of the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID)

Regional Head of the Department of Priority Crimes Investigation

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

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!

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Introduction

Honourable Speaker, The National Development Plan (NDP 2030) states that; “safety should be measured by the extent to which the most vulnerable in society feel and are safe from all forms of crime, (and violence) as well as the conditions that breed them.”

In its 109th Birthday Statement, the governing party, recognises that “throughout the country, communities are still confronted by high levels of crime and violence”, and that “the lack of safety threatens and undermines their sense of well-being and hampers social and economic development.” It identifies violence against women and children as the second pandemic in our country, and as the most blatant affront to the common humanity.

The governing party has reiterated its historic mission to secure communities and guarantee the rights of every South African woman, man and child. Collectively and individually, citizens must live in a safe environment, free from crime and violence as a prerequisite for inclusive economic and social development. Accordingly, we affirm that we shall strive together sparing neither strength nor courage, until the communities we all live in are and feel safe.

Today we stand here collectively, presenting the policy directives of the Department of Safety and Liaison (DSL), cognisant and mindful of the first year of the sixth Democratic Administration to firm up the primary foundation upon which to build a Safer Eastern Cape.

Honourable Speaker, during the presentation of our policy priorities last year, we assured the House and the people of the Eastern Cape, that, notwithstanding the advent of the Corona Virus in our shores, we shall advance our offensive against crime and violence.

Today, we shall derive our strategic direction moving from that background.



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DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITIES FOR 2021/2022

Both the State of the Nation (SONA) and the State of the Province (SOPA) Addresses, confirmed that crime and violence undermines people's sense of safety and security as well as social cohesion.

Despite the good work done in the battle against crime and violence as suggested by the 2020/21 Third Quarter statistics; Murder, Stock theft and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) continue to plague our province, and erode social cohesion and safe communities.

Honourable Speaker, the dangerous network of criminals has grown in sophistication. These include robbery and murder of women, the elderly and youth. Livestock armed robbery particularly the forceful and gruesome treatment of women livestock owners is a new and growing rural scourge. Violent contact crimes that result in the loss of life and many other forms of abuse of the most vulnerable persist. Mob Justice and murdering of South African Police Service (SAPS) is on the rise in our communities.

Honourable Speaker, last year, we said, "we need a radical review and overhaul of our current approaches in dealing with the scourge" (of crime and violence).

As we take stock of the "new normal" and the huge challenges confronting us we must consolidate our organisational resource and strategic capacities. We must move with determination, to reset our agenda from Community Policing to Community Safety.

Underpinning our resetting agenda, is the commitment to developing a coalition with a broad partnership from public and private sectors, NGO, CBO and the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) embedded in local communities and driven by common democratic values and the observation of human rights. Without any shadow of doubt, we are convinced that human security is a solid building block for any successful, and truly democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society.

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Accordingly, cooperation with Community Police Fora (CPF), collaboration of all State Institutions, creation of community based platforms through Community Safety Fora (CSF), advocating and mobilisation for Active Public and Community Participation have to be priority as we advance our fight against crime and violence.

Honourable Speaker, to realise purposeful and effective collaboration, cooperation and integration of all efforts in the battle against crime and violence; this year we shall graduate the established provincial Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster into a strategic and programme driven platform. This platform shall find practical expression at the coalface of service delivery, at the district level.

As part of collective approach to our work, we have clearly elaborated our role in the District Development Model across all the eight districts of our province . Our District Managers have been assigned the responsibility to ensure that all work done through the DDM model, has community safety as a transversal and critical element.

The Head of Department (HOD) is opening up new vistas of opportunity and collaboration by driving a strategic dialogue with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA). This will strengthen local government's role in mobilising communities against crime and violence – something we have not been able to get right in the past. In the end every municipality must embrace Community Safety Forums (CSFs) as the critical platform for driving a local level safety agenda.

Honourable Speaker, We have actively participated in the development of the new national six pillared Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS). We must urgently subject it to a diagnostic process in order to ensure that it addresses the complex set of safety challenges of the Eastern Cape. Amongst others this must include a renewed focus on developing effective programmes in the rural areas where there is a concerning rise in violent and gender based violent crimes.



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Our Provincial Safety Strategy (PSS) due for review this year, must be a reflection this diagnostic and evidence based approach. Our reviewed PSS must include a provincial perspective based on a real assessment of our material conditions.

Through our strengthened oversight function over the police service in the province, we must guarantee the citizens a professional, reliable, accountable and effective police service.

Honourable Speaker, this year, we will be rolling-out our automated monitoring tools. These tools are designed such that we conduct our oversight function in a Specific, Measurable, Attainable and Time-Bound (SMART) criteria. As the implementation of these tools realise efficiencies in the Department this will allow us to expand the oversight agenda even further and safeguard the department against the current austerity challenges associated with the Covid-19 crisis.

Honourable Speaker, in an ever changing socio-economic environment we need a constant source of new evidence to drive our decision making. Accordingly, we plan to increase our internal research and analysis capacity by sustaining and taking advantage of the recently contracted graduates and post graduates as Interns for the research unit. The departmental research and policy unit has recently conducted a two day training session on knowledge management firmly placing knowledge management firmly on the departmental agenda.

We are certain that a knowledge based and driven organisation is the best mechanism through which to drive the battle against crime and violence.

To this end, and as we begin the 2021/22 financial season, we shall ensure that our decisions and actions are informed by the Research Implementation Plan. The Policy and Research unit will also provide the evidence base for policing needs and priorities of our most desperately poor and crime ridden rural areas in the OR Tambo and Alfred Nzo districts. This will enable these district to lobby for an equalisation of policing resources within their areas.

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Honourable Speaker, crime statistics as well as the recorded incidents of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, such as, the recent brutal murder of three elderly women and one elderly man in Lady Frere directs us to do more in cleaning our communities of criminals.

In early March, in the Peddie area, two girls aged 12 and 15 were taken from their home and later found in the bush brutally murdered. Whilst the Singqotho family was attending to this evil and barbaric incident, another similar murder was recorded at Ndwayana in the same municipal area.

Through the Court Watching Brief (CWB) programme that will be rolled out to all the districts we shall continue to coordinate collaborative efforts within the JCPS cluster and ensure that cases of GBV and Femicide are thoroughly investigated, prosecuted, and that the perpetrators face the full might of the law. The pilot of this programme has confirmed the need to expand it and further create a hotline, systems and mechanisms for victims of GBV to report directly to the authorities.

We will continue participating in the implementation of the Safer Cities Programme. To this end, we shall endeavour, working with all partners, and ensure that any blockages are resolved.

Our rural safety intervention will be consolidated with the deployment of another Police Community Service Centre at the Amampondomise Kingdom. Consultations with the relevant stakeholders are at an advanced stage.

During the 2021/22 financial year, we will intensify our School Safety programme by deploying 54 Safety Patroller to 27 schools across the province.

Domestic violence continues to characterise our communities. We shall continue with our programme of monitoring the SAPS compliance with the DVA Act. We are also encouraging citizen to be vigilant and report all domestic violence acts. Neighbours must be on the lookout for these criminal actions and report them to the police immediately.



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Honourable Speaker, our direct community engagement sessions shall be conducted, where possible, physically and where impossible due to Covid-19, we shall make use of alternative platforms such as Community Radio Stations.

In order to focus the department on the regular engagements with communities, we have adopted an additional Outcome talking to Increased Social Cohesion and Safer Communities. We firmly believe that through community driven efforts, the creation of safe communities is possible and will result in greater levels of social cohesion.

Madam Speaker, for these commitments to be realised, we certainly need to reposition our department such that it is responsive to the current demands and challenges. The advent of Covid-19 has introduced us to new ways of doing our work. The department has introduced another target in its APP, where consistent and regular monitoring and reporting on the effects of this pandemic on the employees.

We are committed in making sure that the quality of our staff working life is consistently improved. A culture of team work, high level of quality performance and paying attention to the work at hand will drive our implementation of the APP.

We will be reviewing whilst implementing our communication plan. Regular update of the website, creation and sustenance of the social media platforms are some of the key focus areas for our communication unit. We have already begun with aggressive engagements with the people on the ground through Community Radio sessions, where participation is extended to our District Managers. We want to place the department at the disposal of the people as a partner in the battle against crime and violence.

Through our Information Communication Technology (ICT) unit, the department will improve the organisations ICT efficiency .

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To ensure that we reach out to each and every community across the province, from the beginning of the 2021/22 financial year, the Buffalo City District will be separated from Amathole District, and will operate as a distinct district with its staff establishment. We have taken advantage of the meagre human capital at our disposal and reconfigured our operation. Through this exercise, we were able to allocate some of the staff members to operate in this district. However, we still need more resources to complete the staff establishment. We are concluding the revision of our organisational make up and the Service Delivery Model (SDM). We will be ready to make the necessary submission to the relevant bodies during the first quarter of the financial year, 2021/22.

Honourable Speaker, the safety of our employees and their working environment is part of our agenda. We shall always comply with all the relevant prescripts that governs the security management at work place.

Our commitment to local economic development will see the department sustaining the payment of creditors within 30 days of receipt of invoices. We shall set aside no less than 17% of our little Goods and Service budget for services to be delivered by the designated groups. Buying local remains our commitment.

Focus on the designated groups is our priority. To this end, our Special Programmes Unit will jealously ensure that a minimum of 10 departmental and partnership programmes are deliberately targeting, the youth, women, the elderly and people with disabilities including children.

Notwithstanding the excellent record of six (6) successive clean audit opinions from the Auditor General South Africa (AGSA), the department will consistently evaluate the effectiveness of governance processes including risk management controls, fraud prevention and ethics management.



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Honourable Speaker, as we have always done, we shall not deviate from delivering on the commitments we make in this House. This includes submission of all the reports required by the legislature.

ACCOUNTING ON THE 2020/21 PRONOUNCEMENTS

Honourable 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.

We are happy to report that as mandated by the EXCO Makgotla of 2020, the concept document on the resuscitation of the JCPS was approved with clearly defined Terms of Reference. We have said that the next step going forward will be the development and implementation of the strategy and plan. All the criminal justice and social transformation partners are part of the JCPS which will operate with Sub-Committees such as the Provincial Joints, Provincial Safety Steering Committee, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Metro Police, Independent Police Investigating Directorate (IPID), the Department of Correctional Service (DCS) and many others .

Honourable Speaker, as part of strengthening the fight against the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is being piloted in the OR Tambo district. Currently the province is in a process of adapting the National GBV Strategic Plan with collaboration with the Office of the Presidency.

The draft Provincial Campus Safety Framework has been developed, and immediately the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) are back to normality, they will be engaged to make inputs into this framework. Consolidation of all the inputs will Produce a provincial position to the national processes.

The process of renaming the department from Safety and Liaison has gone through the Governance and Administration Cluster, sent to the

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Executive Council and endorsed for implementation. The State Law Advisors are current charged with the task of helping to conclude this processes following all the regulated processes.

The department developed and adopted its Communication Strategy, Policy and Plan. The Annual Communication Plan is a subject of annual review and implementation. Guided by the communication plan, the department has begun with regular and direct contact with the communities using virtual methods. Once the name change is concluded, a more aggressive approach towards marketing and branding the department will be rolled out.

Honourable Speaker, the envisaged Provincial Oversight Committee and its function has since been integrated as part of the Provincial Consultative Forum. This approach was a product of engagement between the relevant role players.

Our district officials are continuing with regular visits to monitor the work of the Frontline Service Delivery Points in the Kingdoms where they are established, using the unannounced monitoring tool. Findings and recommendations to improve the service are forwarded to SAPS for action.

We have developed a Monitoring Tool for the monitoring of the Metro Police and consultation are being concluded.

Honourable Speaker, we are happy to report that the departmental monitoring tools have since been automated and the relevant staff members have been trained and will be rolling out the automated tool in full force from the beginning of the financial year. As part of automating the tools, we have customised the unannounced, CPF and Rural Safety tools.

We are regularly monitoring the nationally driven process of the establishment of the provincial DNA testing laboratory in the Eastern Cape. Due to challenges brought by the Covid-19 some processes related to procurement were delayed. We are working with relevant stakeholders to ensure that this important work is done.



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Honourable Speaker, we launched and piloted the Court Watching Brief with success in Lusikisiki; Elliot; Mbizana and Lady Frere Regional Courts. Each of these District Courts are servicing an average of five Magistrate Courts and approximately eight police stations.

Almost Hundred and Fifty (150) GBV cases were struck of the rolls due to police inefficiencies. The most common reasons for withdrawals are insufficient evidence, unavailability of witnesses and further investigations not being concluded on time.

We have recommended to the NPA for the review and re-instatement of the cases. The NPA is positive to the cause.

The Advent of Covid-19 has slowed down our engagements with relevant stakeholders, and as such, it has been difficult to enter into signed agreements with a variety of stakeholders through Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). A draft that would be focusing on sharing of knowledge and capacity building remains under consideration between the department and the Walter Sisulu University.

The departmental research implementation plan is being finalised for through the departmental research committee which will be rolled out during the course of the financial year.

We are continuing to oversee the election of the CPF and relevant training will be provided. We are also participating positively in the review of the SAPS Act which may result to, amongst others, the location of the CPF within the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service.

Honourable Speaker, our Youth Brigade programme suffered a lack of funding and could not be rolled out. We are investigating other methods of engaging young people through productive work in the safety space. These engagements include possible partnership with the private sector.

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Taking advantage of the saving occasioned by the late re-opening of schools during the academic year 2020, we deployed additional Safety Patrollers to additional schools, creating more job opportunities and safety for many schools.

Honourable Speaker, notwithstanding the lockdown regulations, up to date we conducted 106 oversight visits at various police station across the province using the announced and unannounced tools. We focused on DVA and other compliance matters. Of the 36 DVA docketed perused 23 were mediated and withdrawn as per the request of the complainants.

In response to the fact that Eastern Cape had 10 of its police stations in the top 30 of the national stock theft report, we assessed the capacity of the SAPS's stock theft units. Findings include that stations such as Qumbu which is serving areas such as Sulenkama is under resourced in relation to trained personnel and IT communication. We are in an ongoing engagement with the SAPS to turn around the situation.

We have visited some of the hot spot areas and arrests and recovery of stolen stock were made.

With regard to the implementation of the Integrated Anti-Gang Plan, 70% of programmes were rolled out in the Northern Areas of Nelson Mandela Metro through amongst others:

- Awareness campaigns focusing on children's rights with a reach of 314 people. Substance abuse and moral regeneration which saw the participation of 609 people. Deployment of Safety Patroller to 11 schools.
- Soft skills were provided through the department of education to 1385 learners.

Honourable Speaker, the department has fully complied with all the relevant Covid-19 regulations and directives. We are happy to report that we have not lost a single of our employees due to this pandemic.



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Honourable Speaker, notwithstanding the fact that we are at the bottom end in terms of budget, we are doing the best we can with the little we have. However, we strongly believe that the departmental baseline needs to be relooked so that the figures can be responsive to the amount of work to be done.

The Department of Safety and Liaison will start the 2021/22 financial year with a significantly reduced budget with a total allocation of **R 105. 010 million.**

The allocation is broken down as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| CoE: | R 78. 2 million |
| Goods and Services: | R 23. 4 million |
| Capital: | R 3. 3 million |

The budget has since been cut by R 13. 3 million to R 105 010 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 2021/22 Budget Policy Speech, the 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan, the 2021/22 Annual Operational Plan and the 2021/24 Service Delivery Improvement Plan for vote 15.

I THANK YOU

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