



POLICY SPEECH 2022/23



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COMMUNITY SAFETY



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY
POLICY SPEECH 2022/23 ADDRESS



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EASTERN CAPE
COMMUNITY SAFETY

Honourable MEC Weziwe Tikana-Gxothiwe
Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
Bhisho

15 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 representatives

Head of Department and Officials from the Department of
Community Safety

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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This policy speech marks the mid-point of the term of the sixth Democratic Provincial Administration. It is also the first for the renamed Department of Community Safety, and the now fully functional Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster.

Based on this name change from the Department of Community Safety to the Department of Community Safety, it is clear that the department and the Province must go back to the drawing board and seek to honestly and truthfully review the extent to which the department is traversing the newly defined path as determined by the sixth democratic administration.

The 2019 Manifesto of the governing party makes a bold commitment to create **Safe Communities**, to ensure that “**people are, and feel safe**”. Amongst the commitments made, is to rid our communities of all forms of crime.

To achieve this noble goal, the Manifesto identifies nine interventions. The most relevant and important for the Department of Community Safety is the strengthening of Community Safety Platforms and fostering direct community and public participation in the fight against crime.

The **National Development Plan** (NDP) envisions a South Africa where “**people are, and feel safe**”, and have no fear of crime. Amongst other actions to realize this vision are:

- Safety audits to be conducted in all communities focusing on crime and safety conditions of the most vulnerable.
- Increased community mobilization and participation in crime prevention and safety initiatives.
- Mobilization of youth as safety ambassadors to secure safe places and spaces for young people and vulnerable groups.

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The **Provincial Development Plan** calls for increased community participation in crime prevention and community safety initiatives by strengthening and expanding a variety of community safety platforms. It further calls for combating of crimes and violence against women and children through active civic campaigns.

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 on our shores, we shall advance our offensive against crime and violence.

The January 8th Statement has also set out clear priorities for 2022 and those must be translated and customized into a program for the ANC and its government, and such can be realized by implementation of priorities as contained by the January 8th Statement. Amongst those priorities, the Department shall:

- Defend our democratic gains against attempts to undermine our Constitutional order and destabilise our democracy.

Honourable Speaker, The Department congratulates Lt. General Mene on her appointment as the Provincial Commissioner of SAPS in the Eastern Cape Province. Her appointment continues to prove the capacity of women to lead society. ***Malibongwe igama lamaKhosikazi.***

She is leading a department that has patriarchal orientation. Whilst we celebrate her appointment, we also want women to lead the Detective Services. This section continues to be stubborn towards transformation.

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Our PEC Lekgotla has identified areas that the Department of Community Safety must focus on. These areas include:

- **Developing Campus Safety Strategy and Plan,**

Honourable speaker, the Campus Safety plan has been approved by the National Commissioner and is ready for implementation. This will be launched at the Walter Sisulu University, Mthatha campus and rolled out in the year through to the rest of the other institutions of higher learning.

- **Oversee the establishment of the DNA testing laboratory in the province.**

The building plan for the DNA lab in Gqeberha was completed and submitted in July last year for approval. Construction started in October 2021 and currently the project is on course. As per the project plan, we expect that installation, commission and project hand over will take place in June this year. We shall then start with the validation and training in July 2021 and expect the lab to be fully functional in February 2023.

- **Piloting the Court Watching Brief (CWB),**

The Court Watching Brief was piloted in Elliot, Engcobo, Cacadu, Lusikisiki and Mbizana and has proven to be a very useful program in the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV), Femicide and Domestic Violence. It seeks to assist SAPS that no bail is granted to perpetrators of this scourge and further seeks to assist in Prosecutor lead investigations, thus reducing the number of cases that are struck off the roll due to poor investigations and or reluctance of victims to testify. It has also assisted the Department in the reopening of cases that were previously struck off the roll for one reason or the other.

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- **Increase conviction rate in Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Cases,**

Through the court watching brief program, the Department has identified 200 cases that have been struck off court roll and succeeded in having at least 182 of these cases brought back into the court roll. Thus far, of the concluded cases two life sentences, 15- and 8-year sentences have been sanctioned to different perpetrators.

Our community and accountability engagements are yielding good results in educating people about issues of Gender Based Violence and Femicide for the vulnerable groups, in doing that we are making sure that the involvement of our security cluster departments is prioritised for the benefits of our communities.

Accelerated efforts in terms of implementation of special and transformational programmes – YOUTH DEVELOPMENT,

Through our partnership with the NYDA, the department has afforded training on Entrepreneurship and Emotional Intelligence programs to unemployed youth in the Province.

We continue to assist girl child with sanitary towels and education on violence and crime prevention through adopting schools in Mdantsane, Sweetwater and eQuzini. The Department is committed in organising and providing educational programmes against domestic violence and crime prevention to children at schools and our communities through our safety patrollers and our district offices.

- **Intensification of the School Safety Programme,**

The Department has intensified its safer schools and families

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program by placing 54 safety patrollers at 27 schools in the Province through the EPWP grant. It has further ensured that there are sound partnerships between members of the CPF and those of the SGB's. Sports against crime continues to be an effective tool in keeping school going youth otherwise engaged through the donation of Soccer, Rugby and Netball kits to schools.

- **Police oversight to ensure improved accountability and reduction of corruption and Improve Police Visibility in Rural and Farming areas**

Through our revised rural safety strategy, with the Provincial Safety Strategy that is in the process of review, the intensification of Village Committees, Street Committees is a critical milestone.

The launch of the traditional policing program in the Province has also proven to be a critical factor in community mobilisation in the fight against crime. Our rural safety intervention has been consolidated with the deployment of another Police Community Service Centre at the Amampondomise Kingdom.

Our partnership with the Moral Regeneration Movement has not only ensured public participation in the program but also the redirecting of our moral compass.

Honourable Speaker, the Death of Chief Ngangomhlaba Matanzima has dealt this program a serious blow and a great loss in the fight against crime and violence prevention.

Safety Assessments were conducted at Storms River; Bityi and Alice police stations. The Matatiele Stock Theft Unit was also assessed. Bityi was assessed to monitor and evaluate the

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interventions which were made in the 2020/21 financial year as this was one of the police stations in the top 30 national police stations for stock theft. I am proud to announce that a special court for stock theft has been established in Bityi with dedicated prosecutors.

With the establishment of the Anti-Gang unit in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, we have seen a reduction in murder and attempted murder in Bethelsdorp and Gelvandale. I must however state that Algoa Park, Motherwell, KwaNobuhle and New Brighton remain stubborn in murder and attempted murder as they are on the rise. We shall strengthen our efforts in all areas by increasing the capacity of this unit. I must state that the community must play a very pivotal role in assisting law enforcement to curb these crimes.

Service delivery protests by our communities remain a sore thumb in the stability of the Province. These protests are violent and at times disrupt government services to continue unhindered. Protests also affect schooling and, on some occasions, forces healthcare workers including doctors and nurses to flee for safety. This has seen Public Order Police being deployed to these areas to restore law and order.

Honourable Speaker, we must note that the services required by our communities cannot be delivered by the SAPS. SAPS should be the last face of Government during these protests and that the responsible Departments and Local Government must be in the coal face of addressing these protests. The multi government approach and use of the District Development Model must be enhanced as this can lead to a reduction of these protests.

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.

Despite the good work done in the battle against crime and violence as suggested by the 2021/22 Third Quarter statistics; **Murder, Stock theft and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** continue to plague our province and erode social cohesion and safe communities. The Bityi, Qumbu and Sulenkama areas remain stubborn in the fight against stock theft and Lusikisiki in the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide crime category.

A coalition with a broad partnership from public and private sector, NGOs, CBOs, and the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) shall be established. Walter Sisulu University is currently leading in this partnership.

We have established a collaboration by driving a strategic dialogue with the **Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)** through the Governance and Administration transformation Cluster and the House of Traditional Leaders. We continue to engage on issues relating to deaths in circumcision.

Community engagements on male circumcision and unlawful initiation schools have already started in the Chris Hani District and we are planning to extend it to all districts as part of bringing proactive initiatives in reducing the high rate of deaths from

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initiation schools and also eliminating unlawful initiation schools in our province.

The Department has partnered with the NPA for dedicated prosecutors that will deal with the cases relating to deaths in circumcisions as well as injuries. SAPS has provided special detectives for these cases, and Colonel Slara has been appointed as the Provincial Coordinator. These cases will now be owned by the state and no complainant nor accused may influence the direction of the case by withdrawing the charges.

In the intensification of the programme of monitoring the **SAPS compliance with the Domestic Violence Act**, 82 police stations have been monitored. There has been improvement thereto, but SAPS remains plagued by the shortage of resources both Human and Capital.

We have still not yet achieved full compliance on victim friendly rooms. Although protection orders are served, the turn around time thereto requires serious improvement. I must however take this opportunity **Honourable Speaker**, to congratulate KwaNobuhle police station as being the first and only station to achieve 100% compliance on DVA.

We are actively participating 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 to ensure that it addresses the complex set of safety challenges of the Eastern Cape.

We shall increase our internal research and analysis capacity by sustaining and taking advantage of the contracted graduates and post graduates as Interns for the research unit.

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Informed by the Research Implementation Plan, the Policy and Research unit will also provide the evidence based advice on policing needs and priorities of our most desperately poor and crime ridden rural areas in the OR Tambo and Alfred Nzo districts.

Our partnership with VODACOM has assisted in rolling-out our automated monitoring tools. These tools are designed such that we conduct our oversight function in a Specific, Measurable, Attainable and Timebound (SMART) criteria in real time.

Through our Information Communication Technology (ICT) unit, the department has improved the organisations ICT efficiency. We have now busy upgrading our ICT infrastructure and improved on our ICT Disaster recovery plan. This will ensure that once fully launched the office automation does not have abnormal down times.

Through the Court Watching Brief (CWB) programme that we have rolled out to all the districts we continue to coordinate collaborative efforts within the JCPS cluster to ensure that cases of GBV and Femicide are thoroughly investigated, prosecuted, and that the perpetrators face the full might of the law. We have now capacitated our districts to roll out the court watching brief and they have done so at Egcwua, Idutywa, Mdantsane, Whittlesea, Elliot, Tinarha and Bityi.

We continue participating in the implementation of the **Safer Cities Programme** in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Metro Municipality. Our areas of focus include but not limited to:

- Spatial Planning
- Environmental design

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- Infrastructure and Development and
- Law enforcement and education.

Our workstreams on safer cities include Social Services, Economic and Infrastructure Development, Law Enforcement and Disaster Management and Support Services.

We have reviewed our communication strategy and action plan to make use of alternative platforms such as Community Radio Stations in the advent of COVID 19. We have also started rebranding the Department to embrace the name change to the Department of Community Safety.

A culture of teamwork, high level of quality performance driven and paying attention to the work at hand has driven our implementation of the Annual Performance Plan to its fullest. A culture change workshop was conducted for all departmental officials to smoothen the transition in administration and leadership.

We continue in making sure that the quality of our staff working life is consistently improved. COVID 19 Compliance, OHS, remains on top of our list. Lockdown levels may have been reduced but the pandemic remains, and we need to guard against lowering our guard in this regard. The Department continues to procure PPE and sanitisers for staff during this period. The Department of Employment and Labour remains a critical part of our safety committee to ensure full compliance.

In support of local economic development, we pride ourselves in paying all our creditors within 30 days of receipt of respective invoices. We shall continue to strengthen our checks and balances to ensure that we do not regress in this endeavour.

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The Department set aside no less than 17% of our Goods and Service budget for services to be delivered by the designated groups. **Honourable Speaker** the Department has supported these groups with 30% of the budget of goods and services to our provincial economy.

Buying local remains our commitment to the positive contribution towards our local economy.

Our Special Programmes Unit has partnered with the NYDA on youth developmental programmes that are deliberately targeting, the youth, women, and has trained 34 unemployed youth on breaking barriers into entry and life skills. Of these young people, 21 are female. The Dimbaza Society for the visually impaired continues to benefit from the Department. Our partnerships with Vodacom, AVBOB and Old Mutual are assisting in advancing the needs of elderly people and people with disabilities.

The department consistently evaluates the effectiveness of governance processes and structures internally and externally including risk management controls, fraud prevention and ethics management. It is through this initiative that the Department has for 6 years in a row obtained a clean audit opinion from AGSA. 4 during the 5th administration and 2 during the current administration. We now strive towards a clean administration.

The Provincial Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster into a strategic and programme driven platform has now been established and is fully functional.

The National Departments to name but a few are Correctional Services, Home Affairs, NPA and the Department of Employment

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and Labour. The Nelson Mandela and BCM Metros are also on board.

CPF's 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.

Our role in the **District Development Model** across all the eight districts of our province is improving. 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 OR Tambo district is leading the Department with specific focus at the Ingquza Hill and Port St Johns municipalities on the scourge of sexual offences. On other crimes including business robbery, the occupation of state-owned immovable properties, murder and others, the KSD municipality is in the lead.

Honourable speaker, our mandate as a Department continues to change and grow on a regular basis. Despite that, our resources remain the same. We are unable to revise and improve on our organisational structure due to lack of funding. Despite our business case presented to Provincial Treasury and National Civilian Secretariat for Police Service, we are still in the red when it comes to compensation of employees. We do however in the same breadth thank Provincial Treasury for financial assistance with the upgrading our ICT infrastructure, which was over a decade old.

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

Honourable Speaker, the Departmental mandate continues to expand as we strive to make an impact on crime prevention. Our resources do however remain the same despite our further expansion on service delivery to benefit our communities. Of the Provincial Equity share, the Department only receives 0,1 % of the Budget.

The Department of Community Safety will start the 2022/2023 financial year with a significantly reduced budget of:

R 107' 969 million

The allocation is broken down as follows:

CoE: R 78'690 million

Goods and Services: R 26'478 million

Capital: R 2'801 million

The capital budget has since been reduced.

Honourable Speaker, as per the rules of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, and on behalf of the Department of Community Safety, I table the 2022/2023 Budget Policy Speech, the 2022/2023 Annual Performance Plan, the 2022/2023 Annual Operational Plan and the 2021/2024 Service Delivery Improvement Plan for vote 15.

I THANK YOU

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