



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
COMMUNITY SAFETY

POLICY  
SPEECH

**2023/24**



**Department of Community Safety**  
**POLICY SPEECH 2023/24**

**Honourable MEC Xolile Nqatha**  
**Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature**  
**Bhisho**  
**28 March 2023**

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

# POLICY SPEECH

**Honourable Speaker**, this policy speech marks the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the 6<sup>th</sup> term of the ANC led Democratic Administration of Government. On 6 April 2021, the department changed its name from the Department of Safety and Liaison to the Department of Community Safety through the Government Gazette No 44416, Vol 670. The name change is in line with priority 6 of the Mid-Term Strategic Framework (2019-2024) and the **National Development Plan Vision 2030 (NDP)** which envisions a South Africa where people are and feel safe and have no fear of crime. Amongst other actions to realise this vision are: Safety audits to be conducted in all communities focusing on crime and safety conditions of the most vulnerable; Increased community mobilisation and participation in crime prevention and safety initiatives; and mobilisation of youth for inner city safety to secure safe places and spaces for young people. The January 08<sup>th</sup> statement of the ruling party also laid a strong emphasis on the creation of conditions of peace and stability, as well as guaranteeing safety and security to the people as one of the central pillars of the National Democratic Society.

Fundamentally, the name change influences the way in which the department operates compatible with the additional mandate, which strengthens and expands the mandate to fulfil all expectations as enshrined in the **Civilian Secretariat for Police Act 2 of 2011 Chapter 4(17)**. The Act mandates the department to Monitor and Evaluate the implementation of policing policy in the province, Evaluate and Monitor police conduct in the province, Develop and Evaluate Safety Models and Monitoring Tools, Assist the Civilian Secretariat with any monitoring and evaluation projects, Promote Community-Police Relations, Establish and Promote Partnerships; and manage the enhancement of community safety structures within the province.

Congruent with the name change, there is a desperate need for additional human resource to take on and execute the extended mandate of the department. In response to these changes, the department has revised the service delivery model and reviewed the organisational structure to operate optimally. Through the revision of the organisational structure, a Chief Directorate, which is made up of Community Policing and Partnerships, has been established to focus largely on the expanded mandate to promote partnerships and strengthen community structures.

**Honourable Speaker,** there is an approved Human Resource Plan, which is aligned to the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF 2019-2024). The department is also embarking on the E-leave system which will be implemented in the following year. Additionally, the department has also reconfigured itself to establish the Buffalo City District.

In this regard, the department has revised its provincial safety strategy to play a leading role in the coordination of the Justice Crime Prevention Cluster. The extended mandate and the change in the service delivery model informs the review of the organisational structure.

The currently approved organisational structure of the department has 305 positions. Out of 305 positions only 148 positions were funded at the beginning of 2021, however, the province effected a budget cut and top-sliced the budget. The outcome of this was a reduction in the COE budget and the number of positions were reduced to 134. From the 134 funded positions, only 128 are filled. The reduction of the COE budget has a negative impact on the workload of each employee which results in low staff morale and burnout.

**Honourable Speaker,** we regret to inform you that the department cannot reach out to all communities to fulfil its mandate and cannot establish partnerships with various key stakeholders in the fight against crime. This is because of the segregation of duties, which cannot be exercised due to

huge staff shortages and budget cuts. The department has the following relevant and strategic stakeholders in the fight against crime and the achievement of its outcomes:

## South African Police Service

**Honourable Members**, the department will continue to provide its oversight role to the Police Service in the fight against crime and Gender-based Violence and Femicide. It is through this effort that in return, the SAPS is expected to implement all recommendations arising from the departmental oversight findings.

In support of our mandate and in response to the fight against crime, Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, the department will continue to coordinate crime fighting structures such as: CPFs, Street and Village Committees, Neighborhood Watch, NGOs, NPOs, Faith-Based Organisations, Local Government, all Government Departments, Traditional Leaders, Institutions of Higher Learning and the JCPS Cluster.

**Honourable Speaker**, it is through this collaborative effort that our vision of a Safer Eastern Cape with reliable, accountable, and effective policing will be realised. These are also platforms where communities can dialogue, participate, and cooperate with police. These platforms play a crucial role in the provision of oversight to the police service.

# STRENGTHENING THE ORGANS OF PEOPLE'S POWER

## The Provincial Safety Strategy (PSS)

**Madame Speaker**, the Provincial Safety Strategy (PSS) has been launched under the slogan – “MUSA UKUTHULA KUSONAKALA”. The PSS is synchronised within the Integrated Crime, Violence and Prevention Security Strategy (ICVPS), which is a National Strategy and inclusive of the Anti-Gang Strategy, Drug Master Plan, Rural Safety Strategy and Campus Safety Strategy.

All operations of the department are now aligned to the six pillars such as:

**Pillar 1:** Effective Criminal Justice System

**Pillar 2:** Early Intervention to Prevent Crime and Violence, and Promote Safety

**Pillar 3:** Victim Support

**Pillar 4:** Effective and Integrated Service Delivery

**Pillar 5:** Safety Through Environmental Design

**Pillar 6:** Active Public and Community Participation

With regards to Pillar 6 of the PSS: **Active Public and Community Participation**. The following interventions have been realised and through our partnership with the Department of Social Development, about 14 496 people were reached through Social Crime Prevention and Awareness campaigns in all districts. **Madame Speaker**, we are pleased to announce that, 16 Community Safety Forums are functional. Interventions were also made in high profile cases, which I supported, for an example Operations at Lusikisiki, Flagstaff, Willowvale and Alice. Furthermore, the departmental Safety Month was implemented in all Districts. Through these

interventions, the Nelson Mandela Metro Safer City Concept document was approved by the MEC, and subsequently an Integrated Action Plan was developed.

## Strengthening of the Criminal Justice System

**Honourable Speaker**, to strengthen the provision of our oversight to the SAPS, in the past three quarters of 2022/23 financial year, the department conducted 60 unannounced visits at various police stations across the province. Thirty nine (39) Policing Accountability Engagement Programmes with communities took place. The department monitored 161 service delivery complaints, of which 98 were finalised and 63 are still in progress. Vigorous oversight to SAPS also includes the monitoring of IPID recommendations against the SAPS.

A total of 95 recommendations were received from IPID, of which 31 were negative and 64 were positive recommendations. In terms of positive recommendations this refers to the SAPS members that did not contravene the Criminal Procedure Act. The conviction rate for Femicide is sitting at 96%; Intimate Partner Femicide is at 92% and sexual offences is at 83%. These cases are monitored and prioritised by Chief Prosecutors.

As part of reducing the levels of fraud and corruption in the private and public sectors, 85% conviction rate was achieved for complex commercial crimes; two (2) government officials were convicted for serious corruption in the public sector and three (3) persons convicted for corruption in the private sector. **Madame Speaker**, it is further significant to mention that our prisons are more than 300% full, with more than 52 000 incarcerations only in first three quarters of the previous financial year. These inmates have not just marched into our correctional service` facilities, however this is as a result of intensive detective work, prosecution by NPA and convictions by the Judiciary- which had all gone the meticulous work of our criminal justice system.

# Crime & Gender Based Violence & Femicide

In 2023, State of the Province Address, the province has made a bold statement towards Safer Communities. Amongst the commitments made, is to rid our communities of all forms of crime and violence. We commend all stakeholders including communities for working together towards improving the conviction rate in femicide cases, which now stands above 90%. These gains would not have been possible without the collaboration between Government and Civil Society. **Madame Speaker and Honourable Members**, we are pleased to announce that the Forensic Laboratory, based in Gqeberha is now operational and this will improve our ability to resolve cases of GBVF. With respect to this development, we commend the leadership demonstrated by the Honourable Premier and the responsiveness of our criminal justice system as seen in the heavy sentences meted against GBVF perpetrators in the province.

As we continue to challenge ourselves, working with the community and the South African Police Service, to intensify our campaign against any form of crime, including murder and Gender-Based Violence. Our districts have been exploring the following interventions with specific bias to young people who, usually are either victims or perpetrators: Awareness campaigns on crime, drug, substance abuse through educational campaigns amongst others (Sports against crime/Physical), School talks and debates on community safety (road safety), Establishment of School safety desks through the Department of Education and Municipalities, Motivational talks on GBVF, Road shows on safety, Child-protection awareness programs and Police Accountability Engagements. At the center of these interventions is the need to develop and implement a provincial specific tool to pick up service delivery challenges that may harbor elements of criminality.

**Honourable Speaker**, in the following financial year, the department will conduct a Provincial census in all 199 police stations across the province. This is to assess all police stations, and to gather the overall performance of the province. The department will also monitor and assess the implementation of recommendations of the previous financial years of the sixth administration. **Madame Speaker**, the department is committed to the fight against crime and Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. We are playing a leading role towards the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster. This is to ensure a collaborative effort in the fight against crime.

## Victim Support

**Madame Speaker**, with regards to victim support, about 35 595 victims of crime and violence have accessed support services through the Thuthuzela Care Centres and service centres. These service centres are inclusive of Trauma containment services, from these services; 287 victims/ survivors of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) were provided with sheltering services. Also, 234 610 persons were reached through GBVF Prevention & Awareness Programmes. These integrated services from various departments, including the Department of Community Safety, Social Development and the National Prosecuting Authority, play a fundamental role in responding to and addressing violence against women and children.

With respect to **School Safety Programme**, there are 47 schools with ninety-four (94) safety patrollers and two (2) data capturers benefiting from the Safety Patrollers Project funded through the Expanded Public Works Programme (Conditional Grant). From the Equitable Share, 29 schools are benefiting, and fifty-eight (58) safety patrollers have been deployed. Paramount to this, 14 Community crime prevention campaigns were conducted in all districts. These campaigns focused on school safety; male initiation; GBVF; stock theft; substance abuse and so on and so forth.

I must further inform the House that the Community Police Forum (CPF) provincial board has now been elected, and upon finalisation of the vetting process, the board will function with effect from 01 April 2023. This will further strengthen the community representation at Provincial Level in the fight against crime. The department will intensify this programme by ensuring that there are reciprocal partnerships between members of the CPFs and those of the SGBs.

## Anti-Stock Theft Criminal Justice Forum

The department has conducted an intervention in the OR Tambo district, working with key stakeholders such as the NPA, SAPS and Community Based Structures. The following interventions have been made: SAPS OR Tambo District deployed a special task team to deal with stock theft. Action plans for intervention are completed, while these efforts are made, there are multiple killings which undermine our efforts. The teams are redeployed in hot spot areas like Bityi in Mthatha, Sulenkama and Willowvale. This programme will continue until we restore the morale fibre of our communities.

## Court Watching Brief Programme

**Madame Speaker**, it is important to register the fact that the Court Watching Brief Programme has yielded positive results and proven to be very useful in the fight against GBVF and domestic violence. The department recommended 467 cases for re-enrolment in 2022/23 financial year, however only 124 cases were re-enrolled by the NPA. To date the status is as follows; 69 cases are finalised and 55 cases are pending. It is therefore not surprising **Honourable Members** that this project has won the Premier's Award of being the "**Best Implemented Project**" during the Provincial Performance Awards Ceremony recently held at Hemmingways

in East London. The department will continue to rollout this colossal programme to ensure that cases are not struck off the roll for one reason or the other.

## Road Freight and Logistics Industry Task Team.

The democratic government introduced democratic policing, and this was a deliberate shift from a draconian policing system that recognised state as a referent of security. This is a period of law and order and the views of the people in policing were not considered. This government of Nelson Mandela changed the narrative, and today we can proudly declare, **Honourable Speaker**, that the Eastern Cape has an active and fully functioning Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPSC) and this can be fully attributed to the commitment of our Executive Council led by the Commander of the forces, **Honourable Oscar Mabuyane**. The JCPS has 14 workstreams and they are fully functional.

In responding to road freight crimes, our Provincial Government has put together a task team to monitor crimes that are related to road freight and logistics industry. The idea came into being as a result of looting and torching of trucks in KwaZulu-Natal. These incidents started erupting around April 2018 and they were focused along N2 and R103 routes and when it started it masqueraded as community protests. As incidents were escalating, the President assembled a ministerial task team led by the Minister of Police. In the Eastern Cape Province, the Political Task Team is led by the Hon Premier and the Technical Task Team is led by the Director-General. The purpose of the task team is mainly to provide a platform for engagements between government, drivers forums and truck operators (Employer organisations). The task team has planned Integrated Multi-Disciplinary Joint Operations, which were conducted at the road freight and logistics industry companies.

# Implementation of The MTSF and P-MTSF (2019-2024)

**Madame Speaker and Honorable Members**, the department has designed and rolled-out programmes responsive to specific challenges confronting the vulnerable groups. Their participation is an integral part of discharging our mandate and in response to the National and Provincial Priorities as stipulated in the **MTSF (2019-2024) and P-MTSF**.

These priorities define and elaborate on seven key priorities outlined in the Electoral Mandate, which include the following Cross Cutting Focus Areas such as Military Veterans, Women, Youth, Elderly, Children and Persons with Disabilities. In terms of the employment equity targets, the department is sitting at 46,1% of women at SMS level, 2,1% of Persons with Disabilities and 17.9 % of Youth in the Department. In support of local economic development, we pride ourselves in paying all our creditors within 30 days of receipt of valid invoices. The department will continue to design and roll-out programmes responsive to specific challenges confronting the vulnerable groups.

**Honourable Speaker**, as envisaged by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa; 1996, the current National Youth Policy and Provincial Youth Strategy made provision for the departments to implement youth developmental programmes. In the 2022/23 FY, the department established a Youth Forum to champion youth development programmes both internally and externally. The department has built partnerships with various key stakeholders such as the **NYDA, *Let Us Find Them*** etc, to conduct youth development programmes in rural areas. This is to encourage youth to develop and nurture their own businesses.

To this effect, the department through the assistance of the **NYDA** has implemented the Start Your Own Business and Life Skills Training

Programmes in the following areas: Bityi Location, Jeffreys Bay, Bethelsdorp, Algoa Park, Walmer Township and Fort Beaufort.

With “***Let Us Find Them***”, the department implemented the following programmes: GBV in Gqeberha for 25 unemployed youth, Psych-Social Training for 30 CPF Members in Buffalo City District and a further 30- CPF Members in Somerset East. We will continue to roll out this programme in the next financial year. Furthermore, the implementation of the Ministerial Determination of EPWP, has yielded positive results. Work opportunities were created for safety patrollers which composed of 55% females and 45% males. At Head office two (2) female data capturers were also appointed on contractual basis. From this programme, 50 % of employees is youth.

**Honourable Speaker**, in realising our mandate and ensuring achievement of our strategic outcomes, the department consistently evaluate its performance through the effectiveness and efficiency of governance processes, internal controls, fraud prevention and ethical management. It is through this effort that we have maintained a clean audit opinion for the past seven years from the Auditor General South Africa (AGSA). We will continue to strive and maintain this opinion. Additionally, our role towards Community Safety has been strengthened through our partnerships and the coordination of the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster to intensify our fight against crime and violence.

Our role in the District Development Model (DDM) across all eight districts in our province is significantly improving. District Managers have been assigned to ensure that the work is done through the DDM. The department is participating in municipal IDP Representative Forums. The OR Tambo is leading the Department with specific focus on Ingquza Hill and Port St Johns municipalities in the scourge of sexual offences.

## Conduct Research on Policing needs and Priorities.

**Madame Speaker**, the department will continue to conduct research for the better utilisation of resources and recommend on policing needs and priorities. Research will also equip the department with knowledge management and database.

**Honourable Speaker**, as previously stated in the introduction, we triple our efforts with the little that we have which is “*to do more with less*”. In doing so, we are convinced that our budget baseline should be increased to allow us to be more responsive to the tasks and the challenges at hand. This is further motivated by the expanded mandate on crime prevention. It is crucial that we take service delivery in an effective and efficient way to the people in our communities.

We should draw lessons from other provinces such as the Gauteng Province, which revamped the base line of the Department of Community Safety budget from **R700m** to **R5 billion** solely from the Equitable Share, buying 400 vehicles, drones, employing 6000 patrollers, installing CCTV cameras etc and please note this **Hon MEC for Treasury** – this comes from the Provincial Equitable Share. This is how deliberate and intentional we should be about crime considering the rampant mass killings in our Province. It is evident that criminals want to take over this country, make a mockery of this democracy, and if nothing gets done – we will end up with nothing, and history will judge us harshly.

**Honourable Speaker**, the Department only receives 0,1% of the Provincial Budget from the Provincial Equity Share.

For the 2023/24 financial year, the department’s final allocation is R115 179 million, allocated as follows:

Description	Amount R'000
Compensation of employees	85 786
Goods and services	26 535
Payment for capital assets	2 858
<b>Total</b>	<b>R115 179</b>

The department received R8.2 million as an additional allocation specifically for mobilisation of communities against crime in hotspot areas across the province. The 8.2 million additional budget could not be entirely allocated for the crime hotspot areas, because the department does not have budget for other operations. Against the budget of R26.535 million for goods and services, R18.476 million or 70 per cent is for contractual obligations. Thus, resulting in R8 million allocated for other service delivery imperatives and administrative operations.

**Honourable Speaker**, as per the rules of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, and on behalf of the Department of Community Safety, I table the 2023/24 Budget Policy Speech, Revised Five- Year Strategic Plan, 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan, 2023/24 Annual Operational Plan and 2023/24 Service Delivery Improvement Plan for vote 15.

***“MUSA UKUTHULA KUSONAKALA”***

**I THANK YOU.**







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