



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COMMUNITY SAFETY

POLICY SPEECH

.....

2025-2026



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COMMUNITY SAFETY

POLICY SPEECH

2025-2026



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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
NPA Director of Public Prosecutions
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
Heads of Departments
Members of the JCPS Cluster
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.

OPENING REMARKS

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, I rise before this august House to present the Budget Policy Speech for the financial year 2025/26 under Vote 15, pertaining to the Department of Community Safety.

This year's Budget Policy Speech is presented against the backdrop of increasingly complex crime patterns that are steadily emerging and posing a threat to the stability of our province and the country at large. Madam Speaker, despite various prevention initiatives co-ordinated by the Justice and Crime Prevention Cluster (JCPS), the Eastern Cape continues to face a complex array of safety challenges, including persistently high rates of violent crime, stubbornly elevated murder rates in Nelson Mandela Bay, widespread gender-based violence, and endemic stock theft in rural districts.

These challenges arise within a broader context of socioeconomic vulnerability, high levels of population outmigration, and declining public trust in the police. Crime directly constrains economic development by eroding investor confidence, enabling extortion in the construction sector, raising safety concerns in tourism, facilitating infrastructure vandalism, causing agricultural losses due to stock theft, and subjecting small businesses to victimisation/extortion-thus perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality across our urban-rural divide.

In response to this complex set of challenges, Madam Speaker and Honorable Members, the Department of Community Safety will implement a comprehensive strategy guided by four critical pathways for transformation. First, we will strengthen police oversight and accountability through station monitoring, the Court Watching Brief Programme, and DVA compliance evaluation to ensure professional, responsive policing services for our people in the Eastern Cape.

Second, we will enhance community participation by expanding and strengthening CPFs and CSFs, implementing our safety ambassador

programme, and revitalizing village and street committees under the mobilizing philosophy of “**Musa Ukuthula Kusunakala**”. This will drive an “**all-of-government and-all-of society**” movement against crime and social vulnerability.

Third, we will coordinate an integrated criminal justice system approach through the JCPS Cluster driven by the Provincial Safety Strategy (PSS) and Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS) to ensure coordinated responses to crime, particularly targeting extortion, stock theft, and gender-based violence.

Finally, we will strengthen evidence-based policy development through research on policing needs and emerging crime trends to ensure our interventions effectively address the root causes of crime and vulnerability in our province, ultimately working toward a safer Eastern Cape with active and cohesive communities.

Madam Speaker as I present this Policy Speech, I am aware of the critical need to turn a tide against the high levels of crime in our society, hence I am presenting this speech under the theme “**Musa Ukuthula Kusunakala**”. This theme is an important call to all people of Eastern Cape to rise and take a stand against crime. It is also informed by our firm belief that only when we are united as a people – we can make a meaningful dent in ending crime and other societal hazards.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, both the President of the Republic of South Africa and the Premier of our Province have on numerous occasions, emphasised the need to mobilise communities as an integral mechanism of government in building safer communities and strengthening crime and violence prevention efforts. Various research studies have confirmed that police alone can never be able to successfully fight crime and violence. When we say **Musa Ukuthula Kusunakala**, we want to stimulate that spirit of working together to address the root causes of crime, implement community based, proactive, and integrated crime prevention strategies and strengthen crime combating efforts.



BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

Madam Speaker Ibrahim Traore from Burkina Faso suggests “Our traditional systems of community protection and conflict resolution must be integrated into our modern security approach. Our ancestors knew how to maintain peace in their communities.”

The arena of community safety is a complex, fluid and dynamic environment. Several factors which contribute to safety (or lack thereof) are largely outside the control of the department, and outside the control of government as a whole. Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, the main approach to building safer communities is the mobilisation of all role-players to work together in an integrated and coordinated manner to address all contributing factors to crime and violence as envisaged in the NDP and facilitated by the White Paper on Safety and Security of 2016. The above also emphasizes the Department’s implementation of Pillar 6 of the Provincial Safety Strategy, which is – **Active public and community participation**.

In the past year, Madam Speaker we have dedicated efforts to capacitate and ensure sustenance of established community structures. Community Police Forums at police station level were capacitated to enhance relations between the police and the communities they serve and the Community Safety Forums at municipality level were capacitated for better coordination of safety programmes. All District CPFs have been resourced and capacitated by the SAPS with vehicles and promotional material.

Through a partnership with SASSETA, 150 members from CPF structures in five (5) districts, namely: Amathole; Chris Hani; Joe Gqabi; OR Tambo and Nelson Mandela Bay have completed an accredited training in Community Policing and will be awarded their certificates of achievement in April. The learning standards of this programme equipped the trainees with basic principles of community policing, security management and first aid amongst others. This, therefore, over and above equipping these CPF members with the key knowledge and skills also increases their chances of employability within the security industry.

By the end of December 2024, Honourable Speaker Community Safety Forums have been established in all six (6) District Municipalities and in the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. Nelson Mandela Bay Metro has also kickstarted the process to establish the CSF, following the consultation and capacitation sessions having taken place with all key stakeholders. Community Safety Forums (CSF) are one of the most powerful means of engagement and participation with local communities and stakeholders as they provide an essential coordinating mechanism to bring together local government, other key government departments (particularly in the social cluster), community leaders and stakeholders such as schools, community groups and faith-based organisations in promotion of crime free and violence free communities.

Honourable Speaker, to further strengthen safer communities and recognition of a community-centred approach to crime prevention, we shall intensify the implementation of the Wall-to-Wall approach. This entails reviving and establishing village and street committees to intensify crime prevention and awareness efforts. We must make it our primary objective to protect our families against thugs and criminals. Our people, working closely with law enforcement must take the lead in crime detection in their respective areas. The Department aims to approach the capacitation of community safety structures (CPFs and CSFs) in a more holistic manner, focusing on aspects such as training and capacity-building; assessment of functionality of existing structures; and advocating for resources.

In the past year, we committed to ensuring that, together with SAPS, we shall ensure that a Provincial CPF Constitution is finalised and adopted. This has indeed been achieved and will assist greatly in the governance and management of elections of the CPF going forward. We continued with the process of engaging District and Local municipalities to strengthen the functioning of the Community Safety Forums. The following municipalities were capacitated on the development of Municipal Safety Plans: NMB, BCM, Ingquza Hill LM, Port St Johns LM, Senqu LM, and Chris Hani DM.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

This entailed assisting these municipalities with conducting safety audits in order to identify community safety needs and develop area specific community safety plans. The department continues to support the functionality of CSF in municipalities.

This programme will be extended to more municipalities, especially those confronted with high rates of stock theft and gender-based violence. The aim is to develop area based integrated interventions that seek to address root causes of crime and violence at local level. As we begin the seventh administration, the focus will be on election of new CPF committees and sub-structures. We will continue to strengthen the CPFs and provide support in the management of CPF elections and strengthen sector policing. Capacity building of newly elected CPF's will be conducted to empower them on key principles of the community policing philosophy.

To further strengthen community involvement in building safer communities, we have continued with the implementation of our Community Safety Patrol Programme, which has resulted in the deployment of 149 Community Safety Ambassadors to targeted areas within our hot spots' districts, i.e. Nelson Mandela Bay Metro and OR Tambo District as from November 2023. We committed to expanding this programme to cover Buffalo City Metro, and despite limited funding, we achieved this by deploying 100 patrollers to the BCM area. The collaboration between the Ambassadors and the police is commendable, as they serve as the eyes and ears of law enforcement within the community. Their efforts have strengthened ties between community members and the police, contributing to greater stability.

As we have witnessed some positive shift in crime patterns where the Ambassadors are deployed, it is our intention to further expand the programme to more areas. Our main challenge currently is funding for the project however, we are engaging various stakeholders to explore possible partnerships. We shall also fast track the process of policy development to ensure proper regulation of the Ambassadors.

Since 2019 the SAPS started a pilot project within six (6) Kingdoms in the Eastern Cape with the intention of implementing the traditional policing model. These are Nqadu, Mngqesha, Bumbane, Nyandeni, Qamata and AmaMpondomise Great Places. The principle of traditional policing is to ensure greater rural community involvement in policing and for the Kingdom to be a critical and central partner in policing in rural communities. Satellite police stations have been established as Front Line Service Delivery centers in these 6 Kingdoms.

This year, Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, we will continue to monitor the effectiveness of traditional policing. In collaboration with the SAPS, we will revive Front Line Service Delivery centers in Kingdoms that are not effectively functioning and set plans in motion to establish one at Qawukeni Traditional Kingdom which was never launched. We will also continue with our community outreach and public participation programmes in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders including churches, school, community and traditional authorities. This will provide a platform for dialogue specific priority areas such as gender-based violence (GBV), substance abuse, moral regeneration, and crime prevention.

Crime and violence prevention requires comprehensive integrated responses by the department, acting together with other departments in the Provincial Government, with local Government and social partners, as well as coordinated action by all law enforcement agencies. To realise the above Madam Speaker, the Minister of Police launched the Agreement of Cooperation by all Law Enforcement Agencies in Nelson Mandela Bay Metro in September 2024. Through this agreement an integrated approach that includes SAPS, Metro Police, Provincial Traffic Police and Private Security conducting and collaborating on joint operations and utilisation of resources has been realised.

Through this integrated approach, the police have been able to access CCTV Network footage from the private security and business sector. This has in turn enhanced identification of potential criminals and swift response

to criminal activities in action. Honourable Members, the quarter 3 crime statistics have confirmed the good work of this cooperation as NMB Metro managed to reduce 14 of the 17 community most reported crimes, which translates to a 13.5% decrease. Despite the murder rate remaining stubborn in the Metro, the stats have presented a 19.8% reduction in Trio Crimes and 19.3% reduction in Carjacking.

The implementation of this collaborative approach will be extended to all municipalities in the province with OR Tambo and Buffalo City Metro being targeted for implementation in 2025/26 financial year.

The partnership with the German State of Lower Saxony on the Communities That Care (CTC) project has been cemented through the hosting of the German Delegation during the 2024/25 financial year. The project has now expanded to include sharing of best practices on implementation of GBVF programmes and the Court Watching Brief Programme.

In terms of implementation of the CTC Project, working closely with the Buffalo City Metro as the implementing site for the project, the department is in discussion with German counterparts to advance relations between the sister municipalities to promote the implementation of interventions at a municipal level. The State of Lower Saxony has invited a delegation from the Department to visit Germany during this financial year. The funding for the visit will be provided for by Germany.

OVERSIGHT ON SAPS AND METRO POLICE

Madam Speaker, the department is responsible for oversight of the police in the province in line with the Constitution. In exercising the mandate, we monitor performance of the police in relation to - compliance with relevant legislation; efficiency and effectiveness of service delivered to communities; and ability to respond to service delivery complaints against its members.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

Based on the findings from the above processes, recommendations to improve performance are made to the police.

These recommendations are communicated to SAPS management through the working group and the provincial management forum. In the past year the department made a total of 1241 recommendations relating to SAPS performance on the 199 police stations monitored. The process of implementing these is on course with 150 fully implemented currently; 176 partially implemented and 157 identified as not implementable as the scope goes beyond the capacity of SAPS in the province. Some of the recommendations implemented resulted in key changes within police stations and those included the following amongst others:

- Installation of CCTV cameras
- Provision of electricity at Katkop police station which has always been a concern by the communities
- Provision of back-up generators
- Additional personnel deployed and
- Additional vehicles deployed

On the assessment of Metro Police for the current financial year (2024/25), there were ten (10) recommendations formulated by the end of quarter 2 of which, four (4) have been successfully implemented, four (4) have been partially implemented with two (2) were not yet implemented.

Honourable Members, in the new year the Department will pay particular attention to overseeing the planning and execution of strategies (by the SAPS and MPDs) to reduce serious crime in Eastern Cape.

The Office of the MEC and Department receive complaints from the public, and from the Legislature or other government departments, about the quality of police services in the province. To ensure communities receive the desired service, these complaints are scrutinised to determine whether appropriate steps were taken by the police and ensure that complainants receive satisfactory feedback from the police agency (SAPS and Metro police) concerned.

In doing this work Madam Speaker, the Department will continue to build co-operative working relationships with the SAPS, the Metro Police and the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) in the province.

One of the innovations introduced a few years ago is the Court Watching Brief Programme. With the programme, officials from the department attend courts and identify cases which were closed as a result of inefficiencies on the part of the police during the statement taking stages and compilation of dockets, with specific focus on gender-based violence related cases. In the past year, this programme resulted in 55 cases being brought back to the court roll and some serious convictions being secured on those cases with some notable achievements being: 21 years (3 cases); 20 years (7 cases); and a number of other convictions ranging from 5 – 8 years imprisonment.

Having observed the success of the programme in the GBV cases Madam Speaker, we have resolved to expand it to also cover stock theft cases that may have been struck off the roll due to police inefficiencies. Due to the high rate of murders related to stock theft, Mhlontlo policing area has been prioritised for the initial phase of this expansion which will then be rolled out in all districts affected by stock theft.

RESEARCH AGENDA

Madam Speaker, evidence-based policy and practice form a critical pathway in our strategy to address the Eastern Cape's complex safety challenges. Research plays a vital role in strengthening the department's capacity to advise the provincial executive on evolving policing needs and priorities, particularly as we confront the "polycrisis" affecting our province. Through rigorous research, we gain deeper insights into crime patterns across urban-rural divides, from Nelson Mandela Bay's organized crime to stock theft in OR Tambo and Joe Gqabi districts.

Honourable members, over the past year the department's research unit has already made meaningful contributions to the National Policing Policy, currently in its final development stages, has evaluated the effectiveness

of oversight implementation, has supported local government community safety planning initiatives and assessed policing resources in Sarah Baartman District amongst other initiatives.

As community safety challenges grow increasingly complex—with declining public trust, changing crime typologies, and emerging threats like cybercrime and extortion—we must strengthen our knowledge infrastructure to remain responsive. We need to develop a thirst for and receptivity to knowledge and ideas by resourcing and implementing our knowledge management strategy, incorporating our research into strategic planning processes and continuing to engage policy and research agencies including higher education. Only such a culture will enable us to enter the upcoming national social dialogue on our safer futures.

For the year ahead, our research agenda will focus on evaluating the implementation of the PSS/ICVPS in the Eastern Cape, assessing the challenges associated with community safety structures and exploring community perceptions of policing performance.

EFFECTIVE POLICING AND CRIME COMBATING

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, it is important to note that our Provincial Commissioner, Lt Gen Mene has gone into retirement and the recruitment process for a new Provincial Commissioner is underway. To ensure stability and continuity, Major General Dladla, who is the Deputy Provincial Commissioner for Detective Services is currently Acting PC.

Honourable Speaker, the province is confronted by the evolving complexity of crime and vulnerability which gives rise to high levels of gender-based violence and femicide as well as the emergence of a whole range of new crimes including economic crimes.

Despite all the above, we have a committed police service that continuously strives to rise above these circumstances. The crime trends from the past

three quarters of 2024/25 financial year suggest that there is a steady decline in the most serious crimes affecting the Eastern Cape. During this period the province recorded a 5.6% decrease in the 17 Community reported crimes with decreases in 12 of the 17 reported crimes. Amongst the key crimes decreases were on Murder (-3.9%), Rape (-6.7%), Robbery Aggravating (7.2%).

The police are also making some headways in crimes relating non-ferrous metals, with 408 arrests having been made in quarter 3 and an additional 103 arrest on the vandalism to cellphone towers across the province. As the JCPS Cluster we implore upon Government to continue with the ban on the export of non-ferrous metals as one of the means to curb crimes relating to infrastructure damages.

Honourable Members, the police continue to record some successful breakthroughs in a number of murder cases including arrests for the Lusikisiki mass murder where perpetrators which have been linked to other violent crimes are going through the court processes. The efforts to tackle serious and violent crimes are also gaining momentum, Honourable Members. The number of police stations in the province have increased from 199 to 200 with Majola being recognised as a fully fledged police station. The resourcing of Majola police station and numerous efforts of community mobilization have brought about relative peace and stability in the area.

Organised Crime task team was established in order to investigate all extortion cases reported and this multi-disciplinary approach which includes Crime Intelligence and Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI) has been adopted, to ensure comprehensive investigation of these crimes. Additionally, the extortion hotline has been launched and is manned by experienced detectives. There are some inroads being made already in relation to investigation of some cases reported through the hotline with a total of 60 breakthroughs made in 41 cases reported.

To strengthen the provincial resources national deployments from Tactical Response Team (TRT), National Intervention Unit (NIU) and Public Order

Police (POP) have been made, mainly targeting the top 30 crime hotspot police stations in order to stabilise crime in those areas. Stock theft units are also deployed in all districts across the province.

Honourable Members, to eliminate proliferation of illegal firearms in our streets, during quarter 3 of 2024/25 a total of 390 firearms were seized and 5 184 ammunition seized. There were 25 240 arrests made, out of which 10 209 were arrests for contact crimes.

SAPS is fully committed to improving the crime situation in the province, as such more boots will be added on the ground against natural attrition, resignation, and deaths of our police officials. An additional 1 160 new Constables will be placed under workplace exposure as part of the national project 10 000. Additionally, a total of 503 members will be allocated to specialised units (including FCS, stock theft unit, 10111) and this will give us a total of 1 663 members that will be allocated to the province. We are also working hard to improve our crime intelligence & detection services.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Elimination of gender-based violence and femicide, Honourable Speaker is one of the key priorities of our government. Through effective coordination with relevant stakeholders, as the department we have also put this at the apex of our priorities. Over and above monitoring and reporting on implementation of GBV&F activities in our Programme of Action, we have put it as a standing agenda item in our JCPS Cluster meetings. On quarterly basis, all our districts carry out social crime prevention and awareness programmes focusing on GBV&F.

During the 3rd quarter of 2024/25 we saw a decrease of 7% in reported rape cases and through good collaboration between the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) unit of SAPS and the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) unit of NPA a conviction rate of 74% for Femicide cases and 70% for sexual offences was achieved. Out of the 23 Femicide convictions during this period, there were seven (7) that received

sentences of 10 years and above and out of 192 for sexual offences, there were 16 that received sentences of 10 years and above.

The department is committed to ensuring a victim centred approach to criminal justice. Currently a total of 162 police stations have victim friendly rooms and 36 police stations have ensured provision of an alternative space for interviewing victims. SAPS committed to the establishment of new VFRs in Tsomo and Tsolo during this financial year and this was achieved.

To further enhance response and support to victims of GBV&F, we shall continue our integrated operations with social partners that include Civil Society Organisations. As Constitutionally obligated, we will continue with our oversight work to monitor performance and conduct of the police, which also entails monitoring implementation of the Domestic Violence and the Sexual Offences legislations by the police.

JCPS CLUSTER COORDINATION

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, much of the Department of Community Safety's work is done in partnership with other provincial departments and that is why we have a functioning JCPS Cluster to facilitate and coordinate collaborations to ensure effectiveness of the criminal justice sector. To put emphasis on the importance of safety and security in the province, the Premier took a decision to elevate the JCPS Cluster to a Sub-Cabinet Committee level chaired by the MEC and supported by other MEC's in the Cluster.

Through the engagements of the Provincial Safety Steering Committee and the JCPS Cluster, the department is consistently working towards improved communication and coordination amongst key players in the Criminal Justice System. This has resulted in all Cluster departments attending Community Engagement sessions and limbizo where they directly account to communities. This has profoundly contributed to improving the trust of communities in government. To ensure a functional and responsive JCPS Cluster, implementation of the JCPS Programme of Action (POA) is executed

on quarterly basis in close collaboration with the OTP and indicator holders in the Provincial Steering Committee and all its workstreams.

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, it has come to attention that some of the most violent and serious crime in the province is orchestrated from the prisons. Working with the Department of Correctional Services, the police are conducting regular operations in correctional centres which has resulted in the discovery and confiscation of several contrabands. The police are working to link these in criminal activities happening outside the prison. Additionally, the Department of Correctional Services is utilising cell phone detection devices with the aim to eradicate cell phone ownership by detainees.

We will continue with the JCPS Cluster operations, and I would like to acknowledge the good cooperation and support of all Heads of Departments in the JCPS Cluster, trusting that they will, in the coming year, continue to show the commitment and dedication towards building a safer Eastern Cape. Through implementation of the POA, we shall continue to monitor and report on implementation of commitments and activities by all Cluster Departments. Having observed that Parolees have been involved in commission of crime, the Department of Correctional Services is in the process of reviewing the parole system.

MONITORING BORDER MANAGEMENT

Madame Speaker we hosted a cross-border crimes summit in Matatiele in 2023 and some resolutions emanated from this gathering. The Department together with SAPS, SANDF, Border Management Authority, NPA, Local Municipalities, Traditional Leaders and Civil Society Organisations in the EC/Lesotho borderline have been hard at work to implement these resolutions. The Border Management Task-Team comprised of the above-mentioned stakeholders has been established and has provided leadership in implementation of the Summit Resolutions. As part of this process,

regular engagements are taking place between EC and Lesotho with joint operations by police from both countries being planned.

As we begin the new term Madam Speaker, the task team will strengthen and formalise the joint operational plans to ensure full support on implementation from both countries. The communication systems at police stations, municipality and provincial levels will be revived and strengthened for efficient coordination between the two countries.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

Madame Speaker, as the Department of Community Safety we begin the 7th term of administration with a renewed vigour and commitment to build safer communities. As testament to this we have revised our vision and mission to reflect our desired end state which is “communities are and feel safe”. For the Department to achieve its vision and mission, a professional workforce and informed management practices are required. The aim is to create a department that is regarded by the public and by stakeholders as an example of integrity, effectiveness, and managerial excellence. We are well ahead in the review of our organisational structure, with the process awaiting adoption by the Department of Public Service and Administration. This will assist in adding the much-needed human resources as well as finalising the establishment of the community safety partnerships directorate which will be at the core of community mobilisation and building partnerships for community safety and crime prevention in line with the budget approved by Provincial Treasury.

Madam Speaker, the department has seen a high staff turnover at 13.8% in the past year and this has mainly been due to officials getting promotions in other departments and internally which meant as posts were filled, more remained vacant. Despite the insufficient funding and resources, we forge ahead and make the most with the little we have. Our comprehensive Human Resource Plan informs the selection, recruitment and retention of all staff. In implementing this plan, the Department makes use of performance

management systems and effective financial management systems to ensure that accountability and good governance principles apply equally to all staff. The HOD of the Department has been appointed and the process of filling SMS vacancies is underway.

As we live in an ever-changing environment, the Department in its endeavour to keep up with the 4th IR is consistently striving to upgrade its ICT infrastructure despite limited financial resources. The Storage Area Network (SAN) has been procured and installed on the Disaster Recovery Site. We have successfully migrated from the manual PMDS to utilisation of e-PMDS despite some teething problems being encountered.

As the Department, we believe in supporting all government programmes focused on care and support for the most vulnerable groups of our society. Though our partnership with NYDA a total of 162-unemployed youth were trained on the “Start Your Own Business” training with the aim of motivating youth to consider the idea of starting their own businesses and becoming employment creators. During these sessions, learners are encouraged to use the Grant Funding from NYDA to start their own businesses. Through our partnership with Buddas Light International Association, we were also able to provide to wheelchairs to the elderly people in Centane. We shall continue working with our various partners to provide services aimed at improving human development and human safety.

We are committed to capacitating our officials, and in the new year Honourable Speaker, the Department will embark on re-orientation of eighty-seven (87) employees who have completed five years (5) within public service in response to DPSA directive on compulsory training programmes. Furthermore, we will provide induction programme for thirty-four (34) interns and work integrated learners on Breaking Barriers to Entry programme. The Department will continue to provide bursaries to our officials to improve our capacity on human resources in the everchanging world of human development.

For the 2025/26 financial year, the Department has introduced provision of

external bursaries to deserving students that have passed matric, and for this year five (5) students have been awarded to study at the TVET colleges in the province. Additionally, SASSETTA has granted the Department a Discretionary Grant to the value of R1 600 000 (R1.6 million) to provide bursaries to students that are registered in tertiary institutions and do not have any source of funding. With this funding, we are hoping to assist at least 20 students.

The department will continue to consider Local Economic Development (LED) and designated groups in the procurement process. In support of LED, the department is committed in spending 50 per cent of goods and services budget by procuring from SMMEs owned by designated groups.

GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

Honourable Speaker, the Department's governance structures have been put in place and operating optimally with the Risk and Ethics Management Committee as well as the Audit Committee being fully functional, providing support and guidance to the department. This has resulted in the Department being awarded by the Auditor General South Africa for achieving the 10th consecutive clean audit, a performance that we aim to uphold over the coming years.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

For the year 2025/26, the Department has been allocated a total of R153,975 million which is broken down as follows:

Compensation of Employees	R110,132 million
Goods and services	R39,229 million
Capital Assets	R4,614 million

As I conclude Madame Speaker, it is fitting to reflect on the words of Madiba: ***“Safety and security don’t just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear.”*** For the Department to navigate and realise its efforts towards a safe, secure and violence free Eastern Cape, effective and consistent community participation is essential.

Emphasising the philosophy of ***“Musa Ukuthula Kusunakala”***, -let the communities rise and speak out against crime and violence-because we are stronger together.

Honourable Speaker, as per rules of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, and on behalf of the Department of Community Safety, I table the 2025/26 Budget Policy Speech; 2025-2030 Strategic Plan; 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan; and 2025/26 Annual Operational Plan.

I THANK YOU.



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COMMUNITY SAFETY

CONTACT DETAILS

Physical Address: 5000 Corner Independence
Avenue & Circular Drive
Bhisho, Republic of South Africa

Postal Address: Private Bag X 0057, Bhisho, 5605

Website: www.safetyec.gov.za

E-mail: Zukile.Kani@safetyec.gov.za
Ayanda.Xongwana@safetyec.gov.za