



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COMMUNITY SAFETY



POLICY SPEECH

2024-2025



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Honourable MEC Xolile Nqatha
Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
Bhisho
July 2024

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

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

OPENING REMARKS

Honourable Speaker, this policy speech marks the end of the 6th term of the ANC led Democratic Administration of Government, the 30-year review on the impact of government with regards to delivering services to the people since the dawn of democracy, while it also marks the beginning of the 7th term of Administration under the Government of National Unity (GNU). While we are concluding the 6th term of Administration, on key milestones and achievements, we are also looking forward and planning towards the 7th term of Administration of Government.

Honourable Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege to deliver this policy speech under these remarkable and unique circumstances. The existence and mandate of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service is derived from Sections 206(3) and 208 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (RSA), 1996 as well as the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act 2 of 2011. 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.

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 additional mandate strengthens and expands the mandate to fulfil all expectations as enshrined in the **Civilian Secretariat for Police Act 2 of 2011 Chapter 4(17) and in the Provincial Safety Strategy**. The name change has placed the department at the heart of communities, focusing on crime and violence prevention strategies.

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 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.

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 revised the service delivery model and reviewed the organisational structure to operate optimally. Through the revision of the organisational structure, a business case was presented to the Provincial Treasury as a result, the department received R16 080 million to establish a third programme that will mainly focus on the expanded mandate which is to promote partnerships and strengthen community structures.

This process will be finalised in the 24/25 financial year. While progress has been made in this regard, the department continues to operate on a stringent budget and staff shortages. This is due to the reduction on COE budget and the top slicing which was effected in 2021. This has a negative impact on the workload of each employee which results in low staff morale and burnout. Segregation of duties cannot be exercised due to huge staff shortages and budget cuts, which continue to affect the department.

SYSTEM MIGRATION

Honourable Speaker, there is an approved Human Resource Plan, which is aligned to the **Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF: 2019-2024)**. The department has embarked on the E-leave system for the enhancement of the leave management within the department. Moreover, we have migrated and upgraded from the manual Performance Management System to the electronic system (E-PMDS). Trainings have been conducted on both occasions for the full implementation during the current financial year. 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 oversee the Police Service in the fight against crime and Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. SAPS is expected to implement all recommendations arising from the departmental oversight

findings. During the 2023/24 financial year, the department successfully implemented the census project whereby data was collected from all 199 police stations, across the province. The aim of this project was to measure the overall performance of police stations and come up with a report that will detail the comprehensive state of policing in the province. In the 2024/25 financial year, the SAPS will implement the recommendations from the census project.

Honourable Speaker, in the past financial year, the department conducted 126 unannounced visits at various police stations across the province, Fifty-four (54) Policing Accountability Engagement Programmes with communities, 70 service delivery complaints were monitored, of which 57 were finalised and 13 are still in progress. Vigorous oversight to SAPS also includes the monitoring of IPID recommendations against the SAPS as a result, 181 recommendations were received from IPID, of which 115 were negative and 66 were positive recommendations. Positive recommendations refers to the SAPS members that did not contravene the Criminal Procedure Act.

Honourable Speaker, during this year, the department will monitor the implementation of National Monitoring Tool (NMT) and Domestic Violence Act (98) by SAPS in 123 police stations across the province. This is to monitor and assess the implementation of recommendations which emanated from the census project. **Furthermore**, the department will continue to conduct research for the better utilisation of resources and recommend on policing needs and priorities.

Honourable members, we are happy to pronounce that, 1 597 new Constables and an additional 563 members will be allocated to specialised units (including FCS, stock theft unit, 10111) which will sum up to 2 160 members allocated to the province.

COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION

The department launched the Provincial Safety Strategy under the theme “**Musa ukuthula kusonakala**”, a theme that resonates well with our communities as we interact with them. It is aligned to the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS) which was adopted by the President in March 2022. The Provincial Safety Strategy is based on 6 Pillars, namely: 1) An effective criminal justice system; 2) Early Intervention to prevent crime and violence and promote safety; 3) Victim support; 4) Effective and integrated service delivery for community and the prevention of crime and violence; 5) Safety through environmental design and 6) Active public and community participation.

With regards to Pillar 6 of the PSS: **Active Public and Community Participation**. The following interventions have been made and through our partnership with the Department of Social Development; sixty-three (63) Social Crime Prevention and Awareness campaigns were conducted in all districts. Interventions were also made in high profile cases, which were supported by me and policing accountability sessions were held at Bityi, Sulenkama, Stutterheim, Kliplaat, Matatiele and Willowvale.

To strengthen community participation and community police relations in policing, the Community Police Forum (CPF) structures have been established in 198 police stations across the province. The only outstanding is Khubusie Drift, (a farm police station with few members of the community) however they are implementing a rural safety programme in collaboration with the community. To address the challenges that impact on sustaining these structures which includes resourcing; a commitment was made by the national Minister of Police to allocate R6.7m in this current financial year to the Eastern Cape police for resourcing of CPFs. Through this funding all eight (8) District CPFs have been provided with vehicles and the process of procuring other tools of trade is underway. I must further inform the House that the Community Police Forum (CPF) provincial board is functional and capacitated. Its purpose is to strengthen the community representation at a provincial level in the fight against crime.

The department has facilitated the establishment of Community Safety Forums in all six (6) District Municipalities and in the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, with only Nelson Mandela Bay Metro outstanding. Community Safety Forums (CSFs) are utilised as platforms of engagement with local communities and stakeholders. The objective is to provide an essential coordinating mechanism that brings together local government, other key government departments in the social cluster, community leaders and relevant stakeholders in promoting crime and violence free communities.

In November 2023, the department launched the Community Safety Brigades programme, with 50 Community Safety Brigades

deployed in Bityi policing precinct and 99 deployed in the Nelson Mandela Bay with 33 in New Brighton, 33 in KwaDwesi and 33 in KwaZakhele and more recently 98 Brigades deployed in Buffalo City Metro.

With respect to **School Safety Programme**, eighty (80) safety patrollers have been deployed in selected schools across province and two (2) data capturers are benefiting from the Safety Patrollers Project funded through the Expanded Public Works Programme (Conditional Grant). The engagements with the Department of Education are underway to maximise the resources and allocate resources in hot spot areas.

During the current financial year, the department will continue with the capacitation of CPF members, and currently, 150 members are undergoing training through the SASSETA funded Community Policing Programme in the following areas, Queenstown, Aliwal North, Mthatha, Fort Beaufort and Gqeberha. This programme is for a duration of four (4) months and learners will receive an accredited training and a monthly stipend of R2500 per learner.

To ensure a standardised operation and sustenance of CPF, the Provincial CPF constitution will be finalised and adopted. The department will establish the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro CSF to ensure that there is proper coordination of safety issues in the Metro. All municipalities that have established CSF will be assisted in conducting safety audits and developing Community Safety Plans that will find expression in the IDPs. The department will implement the “Communities That Care” project at BCM in collaboration with the State of Lower Saxony in Germany. Resources will be coordinated with various

partners to expand and institutionalise the Community Safety Brigades programme with 500 Brigades targeted for recruitment before the end of this financial year. In the following year, the department will revive and support Front Line Service Delivery centres in the six (6) Kingdoms to ensure effective functioning of traditional policing system.

STRENGTHENING OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster was re-established during 2021 with a particular focus on being the interface between the Criminal Justice System Partners and the different spheres of government. The JCPS Cluster led by the department is responsible to coordinate all activities relating to the Criminal Justice System and community safety within the province to strengthen safety and security. The JCPS cluster is fully functional, and this has strengthened reporting through an integrated Programme of Action by all Cluster departments. The JCPS Cluster has 13 work streams that meet on a regular basis, and these include amongst others: Anti-gang steering committee; School safety committee; Provincial Road and freight committee; Provincial GBVF Forum; Borders, ports, land and air management. Through effective cooperation of stakeholders in the Cluster, there has been an increase in the conviction rates for stock theft; femicide crimes and crimes relating to non-ferrous metals.

The JCPS cluster has a Provincial Safety Steering Committee (PSSC) as a central coordinating point for the cluster. Its role is to ensure that all Sub-Committees meet as and when required,

submit reports to the Provincial Safety Steering Committee; coordinate the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Action, and promote partnerships with all stakeholders that contribute to a safe and secure Eastern Cape. The successes of the JCPS cluster include the following: conviction rate for Femicide is sitting at 89.3%; Intimate Partner Femicide is at 80.3% and sexual offences is at 83%. As part of reducing the levels of fraud and corruption in the private and public sectors, 98,2% conviction rate was achieved for both serious fraud and corruption in the private and serious fraud and corruption in the public sector was achieved. The detection rate for women 18 years and above was 72.3% whilst the detection rate for children below 18 years were 61.8%. A conviction rate of 83% was obtained for cable theft.

Madam Speaker, it is important to note that as of 1 July 2024 our correctional facilities were overcrowded by 172%. For the period 2023/24 the approved bed space was 12 205; unlock was 21 727 and the overcrowding was 176,3% for the province. During the first quarter of 2024 a total of 21 011 offenders have been incarcerated. 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.

The department has developed a Programme of Action for the 2024/25 financial year and will monitor its implementation. This is to enhance efficient coordination of safety and crime prevention initiatives in the province. For effective and efficient service delivery to our communities, the department will ensure that

all JCPS Cluster Departments are represented at the Izimbizos and Accountability sessions. This approach has proven to be useful in promoting meaningful engagement with communities by providing immediate response and commitment for follow up on matters to be resolved. This with further strengthen the perception of government and improve trust by communities. The department will develop a master plan for the 2024 – 2029 MTSF period to reconfigure and streamline safety and security in the province. The goal of the master plan is to ensure that the vision of building safer communities and crime prevention is effectively and centrally coordinated for maximum impact.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE & FEMICIDE

In support of our mandate and in response to the fight against crime, Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, the department will intensify its efforts and 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. The President, on his State of the Nation Address confirmed the strengthening of GBV-F and signed the National Council on Gender Based Violence and Femicide Bill into law on 24 May 2024. In 2024, 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.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, we are pleased to announce that the Forensic Laboratory, based in Gqeberha is operational and this improves our ability to resolve cases of GBV-F. 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.

Madam Speaker, 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 585 cases for re-enrolment since 2022/23 financial year. Out of these, 161 cases have been finalised and 424 are still pending for finalisation. 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.

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 and 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 Department of Education and Municipalities, Motivational talks on GBVF, Road shows on safety, Child-protection awareness programs and Police Accountability Engagements.

Madam Speaker, as we continue with the provision of Victim Friendly Rooms (VFR) in all police stations to ensure conducive interviewing space; currently 162 police stations have victim

friendly rooms and 36 police stations have ensured provision of an alternative space for interviewing victims. Through collaborations with other departments in the sector, victim friendly services have been provided to a number of survivors through the eleven (11) Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCC) that are run by the National Prosecuting Authority and currently operating in Bizana, Butterworth, Cradock, Gqeberha, King Williamstown, Libode, Lusikisiki, Matatiele, Mdantsane, Mthatha and Queenstown.

In collaboration with all stakeholders, we will intensify our initiatives towards prevention and response to GBV&F. All eight (8) districts have dedicated awareness and crime prevention campaigns focused on elimination of GBV. The plan is to establish new VFRs in Tsolo, Cala, Dodrecht, Dutywa, Floukraal and Hlababomvu during the current financial year.

ANTI-STOCK THEFT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INTERVENTIONS

Anti-stock theft campaigns were held across the province and the aim was to improve the involvement of traditional leaders in policing, specifically stock theft. Community engagement sessions were held in Bityi, Sulenkama, Majola and Tsolo. Additionally, an integrated summit was convened in December at Matatiele policing precinct to address Cross Border Crimes. The focus was primarily on stock theft between Lesotho and South Africa. A Technical Team was established to implement the Summit Resolutions in line with Rural Safety Strategy. The task team includes the following stakeholders: Border Management Authority, NPA, SAPS and local municipalities. Its

main task is the development of Cross Border Intervention plan to address root causes of cross border crimes. Furthermore, the court watching brief programme will be expanded to include stock theft cases. Crime prevention programmes will be conducted on a quarterly basis.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MTSF AND P-MTSF (2019-2024)

Madam 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 50% of women at SMS level, 2,1% of Persons with Disabilities and 17% 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. The department will ensure that 50% youth are benefiting from the mainstreaming programmes and provide skills, job creation and especially for youth and women.

The targets for the 2024/25 financial year and the next Five years are as follows:

MTSF PRIORITIES	2024/25 FY	FIVE (5) - YEAR TARGET
Women in Senior Management Positions	50%	50%
People with disabilities	2%	2%

P-MTSF Priorities	2024/25 FY	Five (5) - Year Target
Payment of service providers within 30-days	100%	100%
Goods and services procured from SMMEs owned by designated groups (Designated groups include youth, women, people with disabilities and military veterans)	50%	50%

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. The department has built partnerships with various key stakeholders such as the NYDA and the East Cape Midlands College to conduct youth development programmes in rural

areas. During 2023/24 financial year, the department capacitated one official on the International Labour Organizations Business Management Training Programmes. The employee was certified to facilitate the Generate Business Idea and the Start Your Own Business trainings and issuing of certificates on completion of the programme. 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. Two female two (2) female data capturers were also appointed on a contractual basis and this programme comprises of, 50 % youth employment. During the second quarter of 2024/25 financial year, the department will conduct a two-day Youth Seminar to develop a programme of action on mainstreaming of youth programmes as per National Youth Policy.

Honourable Speaker, in realising our mandate and the achievement of strategic outcomes, the department consistently evaluates 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 nine years from the Auditor General South Africa (AGSA). We will continue to strive and maintain this opinion.

Our role in the District Development Model (DDM) across all eight districts in our province is significantly improving and the department is participating in municipal IDP Rep Forums. Amongst the envisaged key interventions for this term, the Department will work very closely with OR Tambo District Municipality, Buffalo City Metro and Nelson Mandela Bay Metro

on implementation of the safer city model. The business case for this work will be contained in the 2024-2029 Master Plan that the department will be developing by the second quarter of this year.

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 on the ground in our communities. 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 2024/25 financial year, the department's final allocation is R144. 840 million, allocated as follows:

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT R'000
Compensation of employees	R101.512m
Goods and services	R37.787m
House Holds	R200 000
Capital assets	R5 341m
EPWP Incentive grants	R1 062m
Total	R115 179m

An additional amount of R17.080 million in 2024/25 financial year is specifically allocated for the creation of Safety Partnership Directorate.

Honourable Speaker, as per the rules of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, and on behalf of the Department of Community Safety, I table the 2024/25 Budget Policy Speech, 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan and 2024/25 Annual Operational Plan for vote 15.

**“MUSA UKUTHULA
KUSONAKALA”
I THANK YOU.**



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