



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
COMMUNITY SAFETY

**POLICY SPEECH**  
**2026-2027**





Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
COMMUNITY SAFETY

**BUDGET POLICY SPEECH  
VOTE 15**

**2026-2027**



**FINANCIAL YEAR**

Presented to the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature



# 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) Acting Provincial Commissioner,
- NPA Director of Public Prosecutions,
- Regional Commissioner – Correctional Services,
- Regional Manager of the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID),
- 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),
- 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 present the Budget Policy Speech of the 2026/27 financial year for the Department of Community Safety at a defining moment shaped by global turbulence and internal safety challenges in the Eastern Cape. Over the past three years, our work has been guided by “Musa Ukuthula Kusunakala,” focusing on building safer communities amid resource constraints, complex crime, and declining public trust in the police.

As we commemorate Human Rights Month, we reaffirm that human dignity is non-negotiable, as taught by Madiba. The department tables this budget with renewed resolve to address challenges in law enforcement oversight, community mobilisation, and intergovernmental coordination. With a budget of R139.896 million (0.1% of the Provincial Equitable Share), the department has delivered impactful results, including 167 unannounced station visits, 47 social crime prevention campaigns, successful court interventions, policing research, and international partnerships.

In 2026/27, we will strengthen safer communities, accountable policing, and the criminal justice system, while mobilising resources to combat organised crime such as stock theft, building hijackings, and drug cartels. Priorities include strengthening state capacity, building public trust in SAPS, appointing the Provincial Commissioner, and aligning JCPS Cluster programmes.

Stock theft has been prioritised following Executive Council resolutions and a successful Stock Theft Indaba. A coordinated, multi-sectoral approach will be implemented, including an Inter-District Priority Committee. Legislative reforms, including the Criminal Procedure Act review, strengthening anti-corruption mechanisms, whistleblower protections, and institutional reforms within the National Prosecuting Authority, are supported.

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

The department supports SANDF deployment and rejects political opportunism, committing to a coordinated response to gangsterism and crime. Efforts are underway to strengthen security of state buildings, integrate Provincial Traffic Services, and support the establishment of Buffalo City Metro Police.

### Building Safer Communities

The department has implemented new governance models, Community Safety Ambassador programme, and strengthened partnerships, including international cooperation with Lower Saxony, Germany. It has supported CPF elections, improved stakeholder coordination, and led crime prevention campaigns across all districts.

In 2026/27, the Department will expand community mobilisation, implement EPWP programmes (R3.234 million allocated for 85 ambassadors and 3 data capturers), strengthen community-police relations, support CPFs and CSFs, and expand safety planning across municipalities. Partnerships, including the Nelson Mandela Bay cooperation agreement model and the Communities That Care project, will be expanded.

### Oversight Over SAPS and Metro Police:

The department monitored over 1,200 SAPS recommendations and improved policing accountability. The Court Watching Brief Programme monitored 574 cases, resulting in convictions and life sentences. Oversight has led to improved SAPS capacity, including staffing, vehicles, and GBV desks.

Additional oversight activities included station visits, community engagements, complaint resolution, IPID monitoring, and compliance assessments. Continued focus will include docket analysis, policing research, training, and GBV interventions.



## **Strengthening the Criminal Justice System:**

The JCPS Cluster is fully functional, ensuring coordinated governance, integrated planning, and improved community engagement through Imbizos and accountability sessions. Programme of Action indicators will guide implementation and improve reporting and coordination.

## **Gender-Based Violence and Femicide:**

The department continues to implement the provincial GBVF response plan, oversee SAPS compliance, and coordinate multi-sectoral interventions involving communities, institutions, and stakeholders. Targeted programmes focus on youth, awareness, prevention, and community engagement.

## **Administration:**

The department has revised its vision to “communities are and feel safe,” approved a new organisational structure, and is increasing staff capacity from 148 to 167 posts. It has implemented youth development programmes, learnerships, bursaries, and skills training initiatives to support economic development.

For 2026/27, further investments will be made in training, youth programmes, partnerships with SASSETA, employee development, and wellness. The Department commits to timely supplier payments and supporting local economic development, with 50% procurement directed to designated groups.

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MTDP AND P-MTDP (2025-2030)

Honourable Speaker, the Department only receives 0,1% of the Provincial Budget from the Provincial Equity Share. For the 2026/27 financial year, the department's final allocation is R146. 315 million, allocated as follows:

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT R'000
Compensation of employees	111 712
Goods and services	31 127
House Holds	350
Capital assets	5 341
Total	146 315

Despite receiving only 0.1% of the provincial budget, the Department continues to expand its impact across the Eastern Cape through policing oversight, crime prevention, and community engagement.

Honourable Speaker, I hereby table the 2026/27 Budget Policy Speech, Annual Performance Plan, and Annual Operational Plan for Vote 15.

**Thank you.**



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