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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

The Council met at 14:00.

The Chairperson took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

The Chairperson announced that the hybrid sitting constituted a sitting of the National Council of Provinces.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon delegates, before I proceed, may I take this opportunity to welcome the Minister, the Deputy Ministers in our midst, the Premier of Gauteng who has joined in through the virtual platform, the MECs, special delegates and permanent delegates and Salga representatives.

I have been informed that there will be no notices of motion or motion without notice. We now proceed to the first, second and the third orders, which will be dealt with jointly, which is the Policy Debate on Budget Vote 28: Police, Policy Debate

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on Budget Vote 24: The Independent Police Investigative Directorate, and lastly, the Policy Debate on Budget Vote 21: which is also the Independent Police Investigative Directorate Appropriation Bill. I now call upon the Acting Minister of Police to open the debate for us.

APPROPRIATION BILL

(Policy debate)

Vote No 28 - Police, Vote No 24 - Independent Police Investigative Directorate and Vote No 21 - Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service:

The ACTING MINISTER OF POLICE (Prof F Cachalia): Hon Chairperson of the NCOP, hon chairperson of the select committee, hon members of the National Council of Provinces, Deputy Ministers, MECs responsible for community safety, the Acting National Commissioner of the SA Police Service who hasn't yet arrived, the leadership of the SA Police Service and the heads of entities, it is my honour to present the 2026-27 budget to account to the National Council of Provinces for the work we are doing together to build safer communities across our country.

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There is a lot going on in our country at the moment. I would like to address a few important matters before I deal with the financial and budgetary issues. I want to reiterate what the President said about the rising anger against illegal immigration. The government agrees that illegal immigration is unacceptable and that strong measures are required to strengthen border control and enforce our immigration laws.

Our country's sovereignty and the rule of law is not negotiable. However, I must make myself clear also that we condemn violent protest action targeting people from other countries. We are part of a continental and global economic system. When images of people being harassed and threatened in our streets goes viral across the region, our continent and the world, it harms our reputation and our national interests. It undermines our chances to grow our economy and create jobs.

We need to co-operate and build trust in our region to address organised criminal networks and those who bring drugs into our country and that traffic people across our borders. Only the police and the border management agency are allowed to arrest people for immigration offences. You cannot build a country that effectively implements the rule of law by breaking those laws. As much as the police are directed to enforce the law

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against those who are in our country illegally, a point on which I also want to be emphatic, they are directed to do the same against anyone who acts violently or attacks people during protest action.

The police are already overstretched and the task of tackling crime and adding to their workload makes us all worse off. The police already work under difficult and often dangerous conditions. Most of you are aware that numerous SA police generals and brigadiers have been suspended or dismissed.

Holding people to account is part of our police reset agenda that I recently explained before the National Assembly. The most recent suspensions announced by the acting national commissioner are pursuant to an internal forensic investigation within the SA Police Service.

The acting national commissioner and I are fully aligned in pursuing consequence management within the SA Police Service consistently. We must bear in mind, however, that most police members are focused on the job at hand, whether it's confronting dangerous criminals who threaten our communities or by providing their assistance to our people wherever they are in need. Their contribution, I must say, to the members of

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the SA Police Service, is highly appreciated by us all and we all stand with you.

I also want to take a moment to recognise and show appreciation to those police members who have been killed or injured in the line of duty. For example, on 30 April this year, Captain Louis Nel and Sergeant Mandla Khuzwayo, attached to crime intelligence in KwaZulu-Natal, were attacked by armed men while on duty in Verulam. Captain Nel died immediately and Sergeant Khuzwayo succumbed to his injuries 25 days later.

Many of you will also be aware that at 2:00 am on Monday morning, a SA Police constable was attacked with an axe and seriously injured while standing outside the police station in Delft. These attacks are unacceptable because these are the people who hold us and keep us safe. Now on to the topic that is more uplifting.

I also want to extend our best wishes to our national football team, Bafana Bafana, as they wait to participate in the FIFA World Cup. We are but one of 48 countries taking part in the 2026 World Cup starting on Thursday. Many of you will remember our own World Cup. The first game was also against Mexico

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City. I hope that we will get a better result this time. On that occasion we drew.

Hon members, the police budget is not only about rands and cents, it's about whether a child in Lusikisiki can walk to school safely, whether a woman in Thohoyandou can return home from work without fear and whether a businessman in eThekweni or Ekurhuleni can invest and create jobs with confidence that they will be protected. As my speech in the National Assembly on 19 May focused primarily on our reset agenda, I will not repeat this topic today.

Rather, I will briefly reflect on the latest provincial crimes statistics and emphasise the central role of the Minmecs. I also want to highlight the importance of the integrated crime and violence prevention strategy, where the provincial governments and local governments have a critical role, brief the House on the development of our organised crime and strategy and current efforts to tackle organised crime and highlight the importance of community participation in our efforts to deal with crime and violence.

In the 2025-26 quarter statistics which I released last month, can confirm three things. First, the downward trend in most

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major contact and property crimes has largely been sustained over the last two years. In many provinces, murder and attempted murder have indeed decreased. We continue to see reductions in burglaries and all categories of aggravated robbery.

Secondly, the picture, however, remains uneven. Some districts and stations, especially in dense urban nodes and some rural corridors, are still experiencing unacceptably high levels of violent crimes. Thirdly, we must understand that crime statistics are not a scientific measure of the crime burden we face. I'm aware that decreases in most categories of crime have triggered a lot of debate.

I am also aware that seldomly is there a single reason for changes of such magnitude. Most crime takes place at local level and the factors driving crime up and down can differ from place to place. However, there seems to be consensus that we are indeed seeing a national decrease in violent crime, which has been sustained over the last two years.

I am of the view that better targeted policing operations, along with many ongoing community efforts to improve safety, are possibly having a positive effect. I, therefore, welcome

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the debate that we are beginning to have in the country as to, why crime is decreasing for the first time in decades. I also look forward to the results of studies that provide us with more detailed insights as to why this is indeed the case.

Nationally, the total number of violent crimes reported to the police decreased by 4,6%. The number of murders fell by 9,5% and a significant 20% decrease over the last two years.

This was driven by declines in eight provinces, but particularly Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape and the Eastern Cape, that collectively recorded 81% of all murders. The North West province was a major outlier with murder cases increasing by 18,9% from 228 to 271. As soon as I am able, together with the Deputy Ministers, I am planning to visit the North West province.

The critical point is this, the crime situation is improving in some important respects, but the levels of crime and violence are still very high. From a policing point of view, we will keep focusing to further build on these gains.

However, it will take more than policing alone to ensure that we achieve the levels of safety that will enable our people to feel safe and our country to grow economically. I'll now touch

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on some of what we need to do to achieve the vision that we have and to sustain this trend of improvement.

The National Council of Provinces appreciates that achieving community safety is not only a national function. It must be an objective that is co-governed across provinces, including local government. Our police Minmecs, therefore, brings together the Minister of Police, the Deputy Ministers of Police, premiers, the MECs responsible for community safety, and the SA Police Service leadership on the central platform to achieve intergovernmental alignment. We held an important meeting in February this year at which we adopted clear terms of reference for future Minmecs and agreed to hold at least three meetings this year to track our progress.

We also agreed that there must be greater alignment with local government. We are looking at how to achieve this. Our goal is that no province should be working in isolation and no national initiative should arrive at a province in surprise.

We, therefore, discussed our objectives to make measurable difference in the 50 high priority precincts across the country. From the side of the Ministry and the SA Police Service, we will be closely monitoring the resourcing and

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performance of the police stations that serve as these precincts. Nevertheless, we also need to address the factors that contribute to high crime in these precincts.

If we only react to crime after it happens, we will never win. That is why we have adopted the integrated crime and violence prevention strategy, a whole of government and whole society framework that addresses the social and economic factors. The integrated crime and violence prevention strategy that recognises that violence is fuelled by poverty, inequality, alcohol and substance abuse, unsafe environments, weak and early childhood development, broken schooling, a culture of patriarchy and impunity.

Prevention, therefore, requires the combined efforts of the police, social development, education, health and human settlements, transport, local government and community participation. At national level, we are co-ordinating policy norms and funding frameworks, but the real implementation power lies in the provinces and municipalities.

Our democracy faces a serious threat from organised crime. Gangs, extortion mafias, drug syndicates, illegal mining networks, trafficking rings and corruption cartels are

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undermining the state, the economy and the rule of law. In response, the President highlighted the importance of tackling organised crime, given that it has become an existential threat to our country. Already, the SA Police Service has developed Operation Ukubusa to focus on gang violence, illegal mining and other forms of organised crime, with the support of the SA National Defence Force and other agencies.

Furthermore, we will present a comprehensive organised crime strategy to the Cabinet this year, fully funded through the Criminal Assets Recovery Account, CARA, fund. This will enable better co-ordination and information sharing across government departments, the private sector and civil society to address this threat. We cannot make adequate headway against crime without active support and assistance from our communities.

It is on the ground that people know where the main safety risks are and who is the most responsible for committing crime in their communities. I want, therefore, to commend the many community-based safety initiatives taking place across the country. However, these initiatives against crime and lawlessness, including immigration-related offenses. Community policing forums have a role, but they must respect the

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distinction between the role of the police and the role of the community.

A good example here in Cape Town, is the work undertaken by the Cape crime crisis coalition, C4, undertaking to address gang violence. This is a community-based alliance of community-based organisations. This network of community activists and academics are working with the police in the gang-affected areas to create local safety initiatives.

One of the most visible ways in which citizens experience safety is the presence of the eyes and ears on the ground. For this reason, we are working to develop a national and provincial patroller programme. To achieve this, the Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service are working on national norms and training curricula for patrollers as a national programme to be implemented in the provinces.

The provinces have been asked to consider options for providing stipends, equipment and training for patrollers in high risk districts, hopefully with national co-financing and technical support. This is a programme I'm fully committed to, hon members. Just think about having a national programme across the country implemented by provinces to create a

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vehicle for community participation and urgency. This will help ...

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Minister, if you may pause a bit. Hon members on the virtual platform, can you kindly, mute yourself as you are disrupting the sitting. Please, mute yourself. Sorry about that, prof. You may proceed.

The ACTIING MINISTER OF POLICE (Prof F Cachalia): Thank you, Chairperson, with much appreciation. This will help to improve school safety, transport interchanges and business districts, support visible policing in high crime places and strengthen early warning by reporting suspicious activity and emerging risks. We will use the Minmecs and the NCOP as the House of Provinces to ensure that this programme is not a temporary project but a sustainable pillar of our community-centred approach.

The SA Police Service 2026-27 Budget aims to invest further in improving community safety across the country. However, budgets and strategies alone will not make South Africa safe. Although the question on how we allocate our resources to achieve our objectives and how we measure that performance is critical, what will make a difference together is whether we

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can effectively use platforms like the Minmecs and the National Council of Provinces to drive joint action.

Provinces must take ownership of crime prevention programmes through the implementation of the integrated crime and violence prevention strategy and we must match enforcement by the police with prevention and statistics with the lived experience of our people.

The quarter four statistics for 2025-26 show that we can bend the curve of crime and violence. We are not powerless in addressing issues of safety and security. The task before us now is to lock in the gains that we've achieved over the last two years, confront the stubborn challenges that continue to bedevil our communities and ensure that every province, every district and every community feels the impact of our collective efforts.

I look forward to working with this House, with the MECs and with our partners in communities to ensure that this budget becomes a concrete manifestation of our commitment to improve community safety in all provinces and in all communities across our country. I thank you all.

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Ms J S MANANISO: Hon Chairperson, hon members and members on the call, good afternoon, I would like to extend my greetings to SA Police Service, SAPS, Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid and Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service, CSPS leadership. We meet today to consider the budget of SAPS, CSPS, and Ipid, departments which play a critical role in ensuring the safety of our citizens, as well as advancing the mandates of ensuring accountability, integrity, and rooting out corruption.

This Vote is being considered at a defining moment for policing in South Africa. The findings of the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry and the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee have laid bare deep-rooted challenges within our policing institutions. These findings have highlighted weaknesses in accountability, governance, operational effectiveness and integrity, while exposing the extent to which corruption and poor consequence management have eroded public confidence in law enforcement agencies.

Minister, the task before us is therefore not simply to allocate resources to the policing sector, it is to ensure that these resources support a programme of reform that restores professionalism, strengthens accountability, and

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rebuilds public trust between the police and the committees they serve. Central to this reform programme is the implementation of the recommendations arising from both the Madlanga Commission and the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee. The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service has acknowledged that the commissions of inquiry have exposed serious operational inefficiencies and systemic weaknesses that have negatively affected public confidence in the SAPS.

The Secretariat has committed itself to monitoring the implementation of this recommendation as part of a broader policing reform agenda. Hon Chairperson and fellow South Africans, similarly, SAPS has identified the implementation of these recommendations as a strategic priority over the medium term. The committee welcomes these commitments and further welcomes the decision by the Acting Minister to establish a dedicated task team to investigate referrals arising from the Madlanga Commission.

We are encouraged by the progress being made and we will continue to exercise oversight over investigations and arrests flowing from this process. However, effective reform inquires robust monitoring, measurable outcomes, and clear accountability. For these reasons, the committee recommends

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that both the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service and Ipids strengthen their monitoring of recommendations arising from the Madlanga Commission and the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee and produces regular reports on implementation progress to the committee.

One of the strongest themes emerging from our oversight work is the urgent need to strengthen accountability and consequence management within SAPS. The SA Police Service has informed the committee that it is reviewing SAPS Discipline Regulations of 2016 and broader disciplinary systems to strengthen professional conduct, discipline, and accountability throughout the organisation. SAPS has also committed to introducing measures that will strengthen accountability among senior management and improve consequence management across all levels of the services.

The policing reform agenda includes measures aimed at identifying and removing members involved in corruption, criminal activity, and serious misconduct. To support this effort, SAPS has committed to strengthening vetting processes, integrity testing, and lifestyle audits. The committee welcomes these initiatives but knows that public confidence will only be restored when communities see tangible

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consequences for wrongdoing. Minister, we are welcoming the community-centric approach.

The committee therefore recommends comprehensive reporting and vetting outcomes, lifestyle audits, and disciplinary action taken against officials implicated in misconduct or corruption. The committee emphasised the need to revive regular updates to understand the trends and outcomes of the lifestyle audits. Professionalisation remains one of the most important pillars of policing reform.

SAPS has committed itself to strengthening ethical leadership, organisational integrity, accountability, and discipline. These commitments are supported by recruitment initiatives, digital policing reforms, the roll-out of body-worn cameras, and the introduction of digital case and docket management systems. These interventions have the potential to modernise policing, improve transparency, and enhance operations effectiveness.

At the same time, the committee remains concerned about high vacancy rates, shortages on specialised personnel and operational capacity constraints that continue to affect service delivery. We therefore recommend the accelerated

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filling of critical vacancies, the implementation of comprehensive workforce capacitation strategy, the fast-tracking of body-worn cameras and digital case management system, and strong support for community police forums, as you have alluded, Minister.

Professionalisation must also extend to the institutions responsible for oversight and accountability. In this regard, Ipid has informed the committee that combating corruption remains a strategic priority over the 2026 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period. The directorate has aligned its work with the Independent Police Investigative Directorate Amendment Act of 2024, strengthening its focus on investigating corruption and serious offenses involving members of SAPS and municipal police services.

To support this mandate, Ipid is strengthening investigation quality assurance processes, introducing specialised training and on procurement and corruption investigations and establishing a dedicated forensic investigating unit. The directorate has set a target of making 15 corruption investigations decision ready within 90 days during the 2026-27 financial year, contributing a medium-term target of 45

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corruption investigations over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF period.

In addition, Ipid has committed to reducing investigation backlogs, improving investigative quality, strengthening forensic capabilities, and advancing digital transformation initiatives. The committee welcomes these commitments and the progress already made in reducing backlog. We therefore recommend a comprehensive backlog reduction strategy, hon Minister, strengthened specialised investigative capacity, improved victim support services, enhanced resources mobilisation, and stronger oversight arrangement between Ipid and SAPS.

To ensure stability in leadership, the committee recommended the following: The Ministry of Police should, within 90 days, finalise and conclude the recruitment and appointment process for the permanent Executive Director of Ipid, to ensure institutional stability and strengthening leadership accountability. Effective policing requires effective oversight. The CSPS plays a critical role in ensuring that policing institutions remain accountable to the public they serve.

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The Secretariat has committed itself to monitoring police conduct and integrity, overseeing the implementation of Ipid recommendations, monitoring compliance with the Domestic Violence Act of 1998, strengthening complaints management system, and tracking the implementation of the recommendation arising from the Madlanga Commission. Hon members, I want to urge you because most of the people don't know the role of the CSPS. After we pass this budget, it's upon you to invite them to come and do outreach programmes in your areas.

Importantly, the Secretariat has also indicated that legislative reforms may be required to strengthen the enforceability of its recommendation. The committee agrees that strong oversight institutions require an appropriate legislative framework. The committee therefore supports the efforts to strengthen the oversight mandate of the Secretariat and to enhance its ability to monitor implementation across the policing sector.

The Secretariat has also informed the committee that it is strengthening civilian oversight through enhanced monitoring and evaluation of police stations' performance, service delivery, operational effectiveness and compliance with legislation and police. As part of this effort, 140 priority

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police stations have been identified to focus on monitoring and oversight interventions. The committee welcomes this initiative but emphasised that improvement must ultimately be reflected in the quality of services experienced by our communities.

We therefore recommend that police stations be adequately equipped to support investigations, particularly those relating to gender-based violence and femicide and sexual offenses, while also addressing forensic and investigations backlog that continues to delay justice for victims. Procurement reform has emerged as another critical component of policing reform. Many of the concerns raised in the Madlanga Commission and the ad hoc committee relate directly to procurement failures, weak control and corruption risk within the supply chain management system.

In response, SAPS has committed to reviewing procurement and supply chain management processes to improve accountability, strengthen integrity, and reduce opportunities for corruption. The Acting National Commissioner is implementing a far-reaching overhaul of procurement system in partnership with the Government Technical Advisory Centre within National Treasury. This reform process seeks to modernise procurement

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systems, improve transparency, strengthen oversight, and ensure that operational resources reach those who need them most.

This work is particularly important because effective policing depends on the properly equipped police officers. The department has prioritised investment in police vehicles, mobile police stations, bullet-resistant vests, uniforms, and operational equipment. However, the committee remains concerned about the persistent vehicle repair delays, and this one is always advocated by hon Mokae based on the experience that Northern Cape is experiencing with regards to the delay of the vehicles, shortages of specialised personnel and inadequate operational resources that continue to undermine service delivery.

Due to our oversight visit and engagement in the provinces, the issue of reliable vehicles has come up quite strongly and the committee therefore recommends that SAPS should implement a decentralised vehicle maintenance and repair system. Hon Minister, even today I got an SMS from one of the police officers about issues of vehicles. So we must move with speed in ensuring that there's order and procurement there.

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In conclusion, the challenges confronting the policing sector are significant, but they are not beyond our ability to address. The commitment made by SAPS, the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service and Ipid provide an important foundation for reform. However, success will ultimately be measured not by plans and strategies, but by implementation, accountability, and results.

The committee recommendation seeks to strengthen governance, integrity, professionalisation, oversight, and service delivery across the policing sector. If implemented effectively, they will contribute to building public trust, restoring confidence in law enforcement institutions, and ensuring that our policing system can protect communities and uphold the rule of law.

While I'm having one minute, I think it is important just to share that this process is important hon Zulu, and hon Gericke, because without budget and annual performance plans, we cannot measure the work that we want those who have executive authority to do. I thank you, Chairperson.

Mr O J MOKAE: Hon Chairperson, hon Acting Minister, hon Deputy Ministers, Boshielo and Mathale, hon members, and fellow South

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Africans, good day, a few days ago, our Deputy Chief Whip hon Baxolile Nodada described the terror he felt when he was robbed at knifepoint. It is a fear that is far too familiar to South Africans, who are the everyday victims of extraordinarily violent levels of crime in our beloved country.

The most recent crime statistics confirm that, in just three months, 5 181 people were murdered and 9 782 rapes were reported. While organised and violent crime continues to tighten its grip through carjackings, kidnappings, extortion and commercial crime. For me as a man of faith, it is particularly horrifying to note the sexual crimes reported on religious premises. Do we really have no safe space in this country any more?

When crime happens, you need a properly resourced and professional police service to protect your rights, to catch the criminals, and to secure their convictions. Cleaning up our communities, and keeping our streets safe, requires a holistic and whole-of-society approach. It's simple, Acting Minister - catch, convict and clean up.

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We appreciate the steps being taken to achieve this whole-of-society approach, particularly the inclusion of new indicators for the Civilian Secretariat for Police Services, which aims to strengthen the implementation of the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy and to secure a professionalised, transformed SA Police Service.

Of course, the inclusion of new indicators must be backed by effective, efficient, and enthusiastic implementation. It is not enough to read it on paper or to debate it here. Our constituents must feel it in their communities. Our mothers and sisters must feel safer in their homes. Our children must feel safer in their schools. This is how you improve community policing relations, and we note the enhanced partnership through the Community in Blue initiative. I think, hon Minister, you spend a lot of time detailing it and your commitment to this initiative.

However, hon Acting Minister, the funding and resourcing of the Community Policing Forum is something that should receive more urgent attention and budget than it is. Therefore, eagerly awaiting the October 31st deadline for the SAPS to finalise a framework on CPF stipends and resource allocation. This is something that also comes a lot in our committee

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engagements on oversight that the CPF must be thoroughly resourced and strengthened.

We must also acknowledge the dedication of those police officers who are devoted to achieving this sense of safety. Testimony at the Madlanga Commission highlights the extreme conditions under which ordinary officers work to catch criminals and to secure their convictions so that our communities can be cleaned up. Our country's appreciation can be seen in the support for warrant officer Karl Sander, with more than half a million raised within the space of a week to replace his much-discussed coffee machine. That's a lot of coffee! Clearly, it's not about the coffee machine, it's about the nation rallying behind an honest cop.

From the oversight visits, including to my home province of the Northern Cape, I can attest to the fact that there are many diligent men and women in blue. If not for their tireless commitment and willingness to sacrifice their bodies, their mental health, and their wellbeing for the safety of our communities, our crime statistics would be a lot worse.

Unfortunately, the DA remains deeply concerned about the rotten apples in the SAPS. It is thus important that lifestyle

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audits on all senior officers and those identified are expedited. With the revelations coming out of the Madlanga Commission, this process must be given the necessary attention it deserves.

Further to this, there are cases where ordinary citizens are let down by the same police service meant to protect them. This is where the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, is meant to step up and prevent further violence or harm from befalling victims of crime.

I understand that resource allocation for the Ipid, must meet specific criteria around case intake, the size of the province and distances travelled, the number of investigators, the nature of cases under investigation, and any backlog that may exist.

However, I am not convinced that these criteria are ideally structured to meet the needs of rural and impoverished communities, particularly those in the Northern Cape who do not have digital access and who cannot afford to travel great distances. I therefore welcome the opening of an additional office in Upington, which will make Ipid far more accessible

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to residents of the region without diminishing the importance of this office.

I must emphasise that this means that there are now only two offices serving the province, which covers a third of the country. I am glad hon Mananiso, our Chair, also made a reflection about the demographics of the Northern Cape. It may seem reasonable and fiscally prudent to claim that the number of cases or the size of the backlog does not support additional resource allocations to the Northern Cape. But how can we rest assured that the number of cases and the backlog are a real, true reflection of communities' experiences with the police, if the Ipid is not readily accessible to everyone in every corner of the country?

Yes, the Northern Cape has the smallest provincial population. Does that make our residents any less worthy of protection and of service? Of course not! However, I am proud to say that the party I represent the DA has the strongest strategies for catching criminals, securing their convictions, and cleaning up our communities, which is done when SAPS secures convictions through accurate processing and adherence to processes, protocols, laws, and regulations. This will result in setting up slam dunk cases for prosecutors. That is how we

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make South Africans feel safer when we catch, convict, and clean up. I thank you.

Mr J MAMABOLO (Gauteng): Hon House Chairperson, I do not know if you can see and hear me.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: We can hear and see you hon Mamabolo. You may proceed. Thank you.

Mr J MAMABOLO (Gauteng): With your permission hon Chairperson can I close the camera to optimize the quality. Thank you very much.

Now hon Chairperson, let me start by greeting you and all the hon members in the House. Special greetings to the Acting Minister, Prof, to all the MECs, premiers and the entire leadership of the call and in the House, the people of our province and the country.

Firstly, I want to start by conveying the sincere apologies of our hon Premier Panyaza Lesufi and hope that the House will accept the apology.

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It is indeed a great honor to present the National Council of Provinces, NCOP, Community Safety Budget Vote to this honorable House. This Budget Vote is taking place during the historically significant month of June 2026 marking the 50 years anniversary of the Youth Month. This is the month during which our nation stops and reflects on the enduring historical symbolism of the cataclysmic events of June 1976. This was a key moment in our nation's history. This was the moment which shook the very foundations of the apartheid state. It was the moment during which the youth of our rose to the challenge of their day. In doing so the youth of 1976 responded to the proposition of Frantz Fanon that and I open quote:

Its generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it, or betray it.

Today history has noted that the generation of June 1976 has fulfilled its mission. Therefore, during this 50th anniversary celebration of this pivotal turning point in our nation's history we are called upon to strengthen our resolve to make a difference in the lives of the youth of our country. History calls upon us to redouble our efforts in ensuring that the doors of learning and culture are flung wide open. That there

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are jobs for all, and there is safety and security for all amongst others.

Hon members, the mission of the Gauteng Community Safety is to improve public safety in the province. Crime remains the most pressing social crises in Gauteng, threatening public safety, economic stability and investor confidence. Within the context of our provincial plans the Department of Community Safety is committed to making the safety and security of the residents of Gauteng a palpable reality.

I am pleased to report on the key achievements in the 2025-26 financial year. The department achieved 91% of the planned targets for the year under review. The department's strategic focus in response to the provincial priorities included the following: The deployment of law-enforcement in the Central Business Districts, CBDs, towards the revitalisation of the CBDs into vibrant economic hubs. Implementing school safety programmes with emphasis on identified high risk schools. Improving policing and community policing efforts which included monitoring police conduct, strengthening policing and visibility through the deployment of Gauteng traffic wardens as force multipliers across the province. Investing in modern technologies and advancing social crime prevention programmes.

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Strengthening the implementation of the six pillars of strategic plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, GBVF. Improving road safety towards the reduction of road crashes and fatalities.

Hon members, with regards to deploying law-enforcement in the CBDs towards the revitalisation of the CBDs into vibrant economic hubs, we would like to say, that the provincial government has revitalised Central Business Districts definitely into centres for economic activities. We have deployed law-enforcement officers throughout the province to enhance police visibility in these areas. Officers were stationed at Charlotte Maxeke Hospital to safeguard state-owned infrastructure to prevent motor vehicle theft, to protect patience and health care professionals in alignment with the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Standpoint Strategy.

In addition, the Gauteng traffic wardens under the supervision of the SA Police Service, SAPS, and the Gauteng Traffic Police, have been assigned to Park Station precinct as part of joined initiatives with Passenger Rail Agency of SA, Prasa. The department subscribes to the notion that schools and

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institutions of learning must be safe spaces that promote social responsibility and constitutional values.

To this end the department continues to implement safety interventions at schools. We conducted 522 Schools Safety Interventions, and 11 interventions were conducted at institutions of higher learning. We have also conducted 8 947 crime prevention operations at identified high risk schools.

Through the Provincial Secretariat community safety is mandated to conduct oversight over law-enforcement agencies within the province. These includes focusing on monitoring, police actions and ensuring they adhere to legal and ethical standards.

Furthermore, the oversight Police performance is aimed at improving policing as a contribution to the fight against crime and lawlessness. In pursuance of this mandate, the department carried 185 unannounced and 804 announced visits at police stations. These visits involved thorough assessments of the performance of both the SAPS and the Metro Police Departments across our metros. The recommendations emanating from these visits were discussed with the leadership and the respective police stations while others are escalated to the

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Provincial Commissioner as well as discussed at Minmec. The department advance Police accountability through Gauteng information on Police performance systems sessions, engaging management themes for priority police stations identified as contributors to high crime rates within the province.

The department has also ensured improved policing especially on intensified police efforts resulting in a decline in policeable crimes. We have convened compliance forums namely; Independent Police Investigative Directorate recommendation meetings and domestic violence at compliance forum meetings monthly to promote and maintain police efficiency and integrity. The department ensured that the service delivery compliance received against SAPS were recorded and addressed.

To this end, 100% service delivery complaints received against SAPS were finalised within the stipulated time frames and the actual number here is 132 and all of them were addressed.

The designation of the Gauteng Traffic Wardens as peace officers of Justice and Constitutional Development was a notable milestone in our fight against crime. This designation establishes a clear parameter for deploying Gauteng traffic Wardens. The department will collaborate with relevant

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authorities including the Road Traffic Management Corporation, RTMC and SAPS to finalise the certification process which is expected to be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2026-27 financial year. The Gauteng traffic wardens under the supervision of the Gauteng Traffic Police and SAPS, working jointly with other law-enforcement agencies and private security companies conducted crime prevention operations thus assisting in the arrests of suspects and recoveries of items such as stolen motor vehicles, hijacked motor vehicles and narcotics.

The increase in Police visibility yielded intended outcomes. This is clearly reflected in the 2025-26 quarter three crime statistics which shows a decline in various reported serious crimes. Similarly, property related crimes recorded a 7,8% year-on-year decrease. Of course, this sustained reduction represents one of the most stable areas of improvement and contributes materially to the overall decline in serious crimes. To strengthen the battle against crime and increase police visibility the department deployed helicopters across the province. A total of 904 crime prevention operations were conducted by the airwing. The airwing or helicopter support recorded success such as foiling armed robberies. [Time expired.]

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Mr X NQATHA (Eastern Cape): Hon Chairperson, greetings to you, hon Chair of the NCOP and the hon members of the NCOP. Hon Acting Minister, the Deputy Ministers, hon MECs, the Acting National Commissioner and all SA Police Service, SAPS, Management, Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, all government and parliamentary officials, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. It is both an honour and a privilege to participate in this important debate today representing the Eastern Cape government in this esteemed House. Hon Chairperson, the Eastern Cape province supports this budget as we believe it will go a long way in addressing the challenges facing the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security, JCPS, cluster across the country.

Hon members, we are gathered here today in this esteemed Parliament as the JCPS cluster is under the spotlight following the alarming revelations from the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry and the Parliament's Ad hoc Committee. The outcomes of the Ad hoc Committee and Madlanga Commission of Inquiry necessitated the introduction of the recent agenda by the Acting Minister of Police and the Acting National Commissioner. These reforms focusing on the overhaul of governance and supply chain management processes and the

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strengthening of capacity to fight organised crime are critical interventions towards the professionalisation of SAPS and the Ministry as a whole.

The Acting Minister stated that he will take action to implement systemic reforms while awaiting the final recommendation of the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry. We, as the Eastern Cape province, fully support these reforms as they will help prevent further reputational damage to the institution and restore integrity of SAPS. We fully concur with the Minister regarding the enhancement of crime intelligence. Effective crime intelligence will assist in combating organised crime and help prevent planned crimes before they occur. This underlines the urgency of filling vacancies in heads of crime intelligence like in our province.

These reforms will undoubtedly benefit our province, especially since we are facing serious crime challenges in Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality and O R Tambo District Municipality as our crime hotspots. In the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, despite our dedicated efforts to combat crime, we are still grappling with the following issues: high murder

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rate, high levels of violent crimes, gender-based violence, stock theft, extortion, construction mafia and taxi violence.

However, we remain resolute in preventing crime, strengthening collaboration with all our stakeholders, particularly our communities. Additionally, hon Chair, the province has established strong collaboration with our crime fighting structures such as community safety forums and patrollers. However, our community police fora, CPF, members are currently not receiving stipends as per the resolution of the national government that provinces are responsible for compensating the CPFs. The province is actively engaging with all the relevant stakeholders, including provincial treasury, to secure funding, which we have not succeeded yet.

Hon members, it is important to engage more vigorously in current legislative review processes, especially the review of Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act 2 of 2011 and the regulations as promulgated in 2015. In terms of the implementation of the Act and regulations, we have learned that the lack of standardisation across provinces has presented some challenges to realise the full potential of oversight trajectory of SAPS and law enforcement in the province.

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In our assessment, the Act has not provided the Secretariat with enough powers to oversight the SAPS and law enforcement agencies effectively. This has now been echoed by the Parliament's Ad Hoc Committee. Hon Chair, we are therefore hoping that the review process will properly interface with the introduction of the new reforms and the legislative review tragedies in the police and Ministry to ensure that the oversight mechanisms are strengthened and that checks and balances are intact.

It is also critical to align with the inputs by the Deputy Minister of Police, hon Cassel Mathale, on the budget votes debate in 2026/27, 19 May 2026 in the NA, highlighting the shortfalls of the Ministry of about R792 million against the proposed R181 million to implement the mandate of Civilian Secretariat. Similarly, the Eastern Cape has received a mere R146 million for the current financial year which is a decrease of R7,6 million compared to 2025/26 financial year.

We must therefore agitate the NCOP that the underfunding of security cluster departments poses a serious threat to our constitutional democracy as a self-inflicted crisis which undermines the development of our country. We must further point out that the limitations of the Act and the underfunding

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of the mandate have not enabled the realisation of empowered regime of organs of people's power, as we are currently unable to fund community policing forums, albeit that we have virtually knocked on all doors without success.

The debate, therefore, comes at a time when there is immense pressure on law enforcement agencies to respond to emerging challenges. Hon Chair, the Ipid also requires an adequate budget to function effectively and address capacity challenges, ensuring that all investigations are completed successfully and our province faces challenges similar to those encountered by the Ipid at national level. We believe that a sufficient budget will help us address capacity building initiatives, allowing us to effectively manage the influx of complaints we received each year.

As the Eastern Cape, we are committed to ensuring that all Ipid offices are fully operational and adequately staffed to handle complaints efficiently and effectively. There is wide recognition that Ipid is an important oversight mechanism established to keep criminality within the ranks of our policing agencies in check. In the past years, the need for heightened oversight over SAPS has been underscored by

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numerous cases of corruption that have been uncovered by Ipid investigations.

SA Police Service, SAPS, is one of the most important institutions of our democracy with several dedicated and loyal members who work hard to uphold the rule of law. It should, however, be acknowledged that like any other public institution, SAPS find itself confronted by these systemic challenges and police members being perpetrators of crime and sometimes police using brutal force against criminals in an effort to enforce the rule of law. And through the work of Ipid, the accountability and integrity of SAPS members can be restored.

On 31 July 2024, The President of the Republic, President Ramaposa, signed into law legislation affirming the institutional and operational independence of Ipid and empowering Ipid to investigate serious alleged offenses committed by police officers, whether they were off duty or not. For this crucial institution to fulfil its obligation, we must continue to provide unwavering support to Ipid so that it plays its pivotal role without impediments.

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To conclude, hon Chairperson, I want to emphasize that the Eastern Cape government will continue to provide steadfast support to this Ministry as we firmly believe that its efforts align beautifully with our country's ongoing journey of renewal. The JCPS cluster, which includes Ipid, plays a pivotal role in rebuilding public confidence and trust. Thank you, hon Chair.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Dr S P Boshielo): House Chairperson, hon Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mme Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, Acting Minister of Police, Prof Firoz Cachalia, Deputy Minister of Police, hon Cassel Charlie Mathale and the chairperson of the Select Committee on Security and Justice, Mme Jane Mananiso, hon members of the NCOP, hon premiers and member of executive council, MECs present, SA Police Service, SAPS management, national heads of entities, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen ...

Sesotho:

... dumelang.

English:

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It is an honour to rise before this House today to table Budget Vote 24 for an essential institution whose responsibility is to maintain the credibility, accountability and integrity of policing in a democratic South Africa, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid. I know others call it Ipad and then others are saying it's IPID. So, you can just call it whatever.

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate remains a critical oversight institution in safeguarding the constitutional right of the people of South Africa while advancing their professionalisation, accountability and integrity of the Police Service.

At a time when public trust in law enforcement must be strengthened, the work of Ipid is more important than ever. At a time when our nation continues to confront serious challenges relating to crime, corruption and public trust in policing, the work of Ipid becomes even more critical.

The directorate continues to execute its mandate independently, without fear, favour or prejudice, while ensuring that police misconduct and criminality are decisively addressed. And the Madlanga Commission can attest to that.

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As a labour-intensive institution, approximately 69% of the directorate's budget over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, period is allocated to compensation of employees. This investment is essential to sustain the specialised investigative capacity required to execute the directorate's constitutional obligations effectively.

In responding to the operational demands and recommendations emerging from the Madlanga Commission and possible Ad Hoc Committee recommendations, Ipid will continue reviewing and aligning its organisational structure with service delivery requirements.

The directorate is also mindful of the growing security risks faced by investigators, particularly in high-profile and corrupt-related investigations, which require additional protection measures and resources.

In order to deliver effectively on Ipid's mandate, the budget is projected to increase from R428,6 million in 2025-26 to R479,9 million in 2028-29, despite baseline reductions over the medium term. This demonstrates government's continued commitment to strengthening oversight and accountability within policing institutions.

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Over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period, the directorate's strategic focus will be on five key priorities. The first one is reducing the backlog of cases, particularly corruption-related matters, enhancing investigative and quality assurance capacity, improving operational efficiency through technology and systems modernisation, strengthening stakeholder and community relations, and prioritising gender-based violence and femicide cases.

A major strategic priority remains the reduction of the investigation backlog. Over the next three years, Ipid aims to reduce the backlog of 13 500 cases through the implementation of a dedicated backlog reduction strategy, including the recruitment of 25 experienced investigators on contract to strengthen the existing investigative capacity.

At the same time, the directorate is intensifying its anti-corruption efforts within the Police Service, even when it is difficult and puts their lives at risk. Over the medium term, Ipid aims to finalise 45 corruption cases within 90 days of registration, reinforcing the principle that corruption within law enforcement structures will not be tolerated.

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This intervention is essential in restoring integrity within law enforcement institutions and reinforcing public confidence. To improve prosecution outcome and strengthen the quality of investigation, Ipid will continue enhancing its quality assurance mechanisms. The directorate plans to conduct quality assurance of at least 30% of dockets annually to improve case readiness and legal compliance.

To further improve investigative excellence, the directorate is establishing an in-house forensic investigation capability. This includes the recruitment of financial data analysts, cyber forensic experts, and crime analysts, as well as the procurement of forensic electronic systems to strengthen the handling of complex investigations.

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate also remains committed to continuous skills development through partnerships with institutions such as the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the Special Investigating Unit, and Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority, Sassetta.

These collaborations are strengthening competencies in fraud investigation, cyber forensic, procurement corruption, and

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internal investigations. Technology modernisation is another strategic pillar. Through the continued implementation of the information, communication and technology, ICT plans, Ipid is enhancing its case management system to integrate with broader justice cluster system, including the integrated justice system.

This modernisation will improve case tracing, coordination, efficiency, and accountability. Investment in server upgrades and operational system will further support institutional agility and responsiveness. In improving accessibility and responsiveness, the call centre launched in August 2025, continues to strengthen citizens' engagement by providing a centralised platform for complaints, inquiries, and stakeholder communication.

Stakeholder engagement and public confidence also remain central to the directorate corporate communication strategy. Over the MTEF period, Ipid will conduct media engagements and community outreach initiatives, including the Northern Cape, to strengthen awareness of its mandate provisions of the Independent Police Investigation Directorate Amendment Act of 2024.

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These initiatives are aimed at improving transparency, accessibility and public trust. Gender-based violence and femicide remains among the gravest challenges confronting our country. The Independent Police Investigation Directorate continues to prioritise these matters through specialised investigative training and enhanced monitoring systems.

During the 2025-26 financial year, Ipid finalised 132 rape investigations which resulted in 9 criminal convictions and 19 departmental convictions. In addition, 17 criminal convictions and 27 departmental convictions were secured for other gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, related cases. There are an additional 97 rape cases still on the court roll. A total of 21 investigators will receive specialised training in sexual offenses investigation in the current financial year.

The Independent Police Investigation Directorate remains resolute in its commitment to accountability, ethical policing and justice for all South Africans. The directorate will continue strengthening its capacity, protecting the rights of citizens and contributing to a professional and trusted Police Service.

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Allow me to extend appreciation for the Acting Executive Director, Dr Hlengani Bila and the entire staff of Ipid, the stakeholders and those who continue to support the important work of the directorate in advancing accountability and constitutional governance in South Africa.

Colleagues, as you may know, it's not easy to get information, especially from the inside. You can even see what is happening at the Madlanga Commission. Those who come forward to give us information are sometimes threatened and killed along with their families.

It very important that we need to strengthen Ipid but also ensure that we are able to protect their life because they are doing an exceptional job. Technology will assist in terms of making sure that personal temptations and people who want to do things that they are not supposed to do are caught earlier.

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate should not be seen as impeding the work of the Police Service. For us, Ipid should be assisting the police in doing their work. In other spaces, we hear people saying that the SAPS is unable to do their work because of Ipid. That is not true. The Independent Police Investigative Directorate is just making sure that SAPS

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follows the correct procedures and are able to hear the complaints from our people about Ipid.

I appeal to this hon House to stand with us as we are going through this cleansing process. We are not doing it for the sake of doing it but to make sure that we gain your trust as well as people's trust. Chair, as you assist us in ensuring that we get the budget, especially the technology which doesn't come cheap, it will assist us in being preventative rather than coming out at the last minute.

We are also hoping that the recommendations from Madlanga Commission and the Ad Hoc Committee will also assist in resetting the budget and making sure that whoever did wrong comes out to answer for what they did.

As we do that, other people are saying we don't need Ipid. I will not repeat that we need to have this directorate and resource it very well. I can tell you that we will have lesser cases than we have now.

As the Ministry, we are worried that 129 members were involved in GBVF and 127 were killed in the process. This is very serious. It means that either the case load or the stress is

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too much. We have raised it in terms of our own wellness that our workers need to be well taken care of and make sure that they are available and fit to do the job.

Yes, some people are saying our police are not doing anything. They are working at half the capacity that they should, but if you look at the statistics, it tells you that they are hard at work even when it is very tough. Hon members, it is very sad to receive a message that one of our members is no more. It is just heartbreaking to see the children, families and loved ones left behind.

Not all police are corrupt. Some are hard at work, and we need to be able to encourage and support them and that is what Ipid is trying to do. Not necessarily to make our police not work, but to support our police so that they can do their work well.

With the support as the NCOP, I think we'll go far because I know how passionate you are in terms of making sure that the Ipid does their work well. We still bank on their support. We will come back and give you a report on how far we are, where we could not go right, and where we could not get it right, so that you are able to assist us.

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Thank you very much, Chair.

Mr S A ZULU: House Chairperson, greetings to your good self and all the hon members, all protocols observed. Before I proceed, I rise to honour the late hon Muzikayise Ntshingila, a servant of the people, gone but not forgotten. May his soul rest in perfect peace. I salute.

The MK Party rises to reject Votes 28, 24 and 21 collectively. These Votes represent more than R127 billion, entrusted to the policing environment at a time when South Africans are facing a crisis of violent crime, organised crime, extortion, corruption, gang violence and declining public confidence in law enforcement institutions. The largest allocation before this House is Vote 28. The SAPS receives approximately R127 billion in the 2026-27 financial year, and this allocation is projected to continue increasing over the medium term.

The government presents this as evidence of commitment to public safety. However, South Africans do not measure safety by budget allocations. They measure safety by whether they can walk to school, operate a business, travel home from work and sleep safely at night. The question before us is simple: Are

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South Africans receiving value for the billions allocated to policing? For millions of our people, the answer is no. The Auditor-General continues to identify recurring weaknesses in procurement controls, contract management, consequence management, irregular expenditure, investigations and accountability systems.

Year after year, the findings are repeated. Year after year, action plans are developed. Year after year, Parliament is asked to approve larger budgets. Yet the same weaknesses remain. The Auditor-General has highlighted new irregular expenditure, estimated at approximately R650 million, while historical irregular expenditure remains unresolved. The financial allocations reveal significant contradictions. Visible Policing receives over R66 billion, while Detective Services receive nearly R25 billion. Crime Intelligence is allocated more than R5 billion. Administration alone accounts for almost R24 billion.

Yet despite these enormous allocations, communities continue to complain about detective shortages, poor investigation quality, weak intelligence gathering, forensic delays and DNA backlogs. The problem is no longer simply how much money is being allocated. The problem is whether that money is

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producing measurable results. The Western Cape remains one of the clearest examples of the failure of government's policing strategy. Between January 1 and March 31, 2026, the Western Cape recorded 983 murders, averaging 11 deaths a day. Despite intervention programmes and support from the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, the violence persists with ongoing gang shootings and funerals.

The deployment of the military itself is an admission that the SAPS was unable to stabilise these communities on its own. Yet, even with military support, the violence continues. Just yesterday morning at around 2 a.m., a police constable on duty at the Delft Police Station in Cape Town was struck on the head ...

IsiZulu:

... ngembazo ...

English:

... outside the community service centre. Police stations no longer hold the integrity they deserve. This House must, therefore, ask whether the current policing model is delivering value for the billions appropriated by Parliament. The crisis facing the SAPS is no longer merely a resource

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crisis. It is a crisis of leadership. It is a crisis of governance. It is a crisis of accountability. Recent developments arising from the Madlanga Commission and parliamentary investigations have exposed allegations of corruption, abuse of office, procurement irregularities, criminal collusion, and interference in policing structures.

These are not allegations involving junior officials. These are allegations involving senior leadership structures entrusted with enforcing the law. That should concern every member of this House. Because when corruption reaches the command structures of policing, it ceases to be an administrative problem. It becomes a threat to national security. Perhaps the most disturbing example before us is the Medicare 24 tender scandal. In 2024, this Parliament approved the SAPS budget. Members voted for that budget because those funds were intended to strengthen policing, improve investigation, support police officers, and make communities safer. Yet from that same budget emerged the Medicare 24 tender scandal contract worth approximately R360 million. Today, that contract sits at the centre of allegations involving corruption, fraud, collusion, and criminal syndicates. We must ask ourselves then, how does R360 million leave a budget approved by Parliament and become the subject

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of a criminal investigation? How does R360 million leave a budget while communities remain trapped in fear? They paid for those taxes so that criminals could be arrested. They paid for those taxes so that murderers could be investigated. They paid for those taxes so that communities could be protected. This House cannot concern itself only with how much money is appropriated. We must concern ourselves with what ultimately happens to that money.

As Members of Parliament, we cannot become part of a system that simply approves budgets and then looks away when those budgets are looted. We cannot be part and parcel of approving appropriations that ultimately enrich criminal syndicates instead of protecting South Africans. Vote 24 funds the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid. The Independent Police Investigative Directorate is supposed to investigate deaths in police custody, deaths resulting from police actions, torture, assault and corruption involving police officials. As the MK Party, we reject Votes 28, 24 and 21. [Time expired.] [Interjections.]

Ms M C FRAZER (KwaZulu-Natal): Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, Deputy Ministers, hon members and fellow South Africans, today we converge in this august House during a month of profound

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historical significance to our nation. June is the month in which the people of South Africa, united across racial, class and geographic divides, gathered in Kliptown in 1955 to adopt the Freedom Charter – a revolutionary vision that continues to guide our democratic journey.

The Freedom Charter proclaimed a simple yet powerful truth that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity, and that the people shall govern. At the heart of that vision was the promise of human dignity, justice, peace and security. The architects of the Freedom Charter understood that freedom cannot flourish where fear reigns. They understood that democracy cannot thrive where communities are terrorised by violence, women and children live in fear, criminals operate with impunity and ordinary citizens are denied the right to live, work and raise their families in safety. It is fitting, therefore, that as we commemorate the enduring legacy of the Freedom Charter, we gather to deliberate on the 2026-27 Police Budget Vote.

This debate goes beyond mere financial allocations and expenditure projections. It is about the capacity of the democratic state to uphold the constitutional rights of our people. It is about strengthening the institution entrusted

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with the protection of our communities. It is about advancing the vision of South Africa in which every person, regardless of where they live, can enjoy freedom from fear and violence.

Hon Chairperson, our liberation movement has consistently maintained that crime undermines investment, weakens social cohesion, destroys livelihoods and disproportionately affects the poor and the working class, who often have the fewest resources available to protect themselves from these devastating consequences. For many South Africans, particularly those living in vulnerable communities, crime is not an abstract statistic. It is a daily reality that affects their ability to work, learn, travel and live with dignity.

The people of KwaZulu-Natal understand these realities all too well. Our province continues to confront serious challenges associated with violent crimes, organised criminal syndicates, extortion records, stock theft, drug trafficking, gender-based violence, GBV, and infrastructure vandalism. It is for this reason that we welcome the allocation of more than R127 billion to the SA Police Service, SAPS, during the 2026-27 financial year.

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This investment demonstrates government's commitment to strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies to combat crime, protect communities and uphold the rule of law. We further welcome the ongoing efforts to modernise policing, strengthen intelligence capabilities, improve investigative capacity and enhance visible policing across the country.

Hon Chair, the ANC's 2024 election manifesto committed the government into intensifying the fight against crime and corruption, strengthening law enforcement institutions, protecting women and children, and building safer communities. This budget gives practical expression to those commitments. It reflects the recognition that a capable, professional and trusted police service is essential for the achievement of our broader developmental goals. However, hon Chairperson, the ANC has always understood that crime cannot be addressed with policing alone. Criminality often thrives in conditions characterised by poverty, unemployment, inequality, substance abuse and social dislocation.

The struggle against crime, therefore, must be linked to the broader struggle to transform society, create economic opportunities and improve the living conditions of our people. This understanding finds expression in the Freedom Charter

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itself, which recognised that political freedom must be accompanied by social and economic justice.

As a representative of Kwazulu-Natal, we are particularly encouraged by the growing emphasis on community-based approaches to crime prevention. The Department of Community Safety and Liaison in our province has prioritised the strengthening of community policing structures, partnership with traditional leaders, faith-based organisations, civil society formations and local communities. This approach recognises a simple but important truth – sustainable safety cannot be achieved by the police acting alone. It requires active collaboration between communities and the state.

Hon Chairperson, no discussion on safety and security can ignore the ongoing crisis of gender-based violence and femicide. The continued prevalence of GBV remains one of the greatest threats to human dignity and social justice in our society. It undermines the constitutional promise of equality and freedom for all. We, therefore, welcome the continued prioritisation of programmes aimed at strengthening victim support services, improving the investigation of sexual offences and enhancing co-ordination across government departments and law enforcement agencies. The safety of women

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and children must remain central to our efforts to build a safer South Africa.

We also support efforts aimed at strengthening accountability and integrity within the SAPS. Public trust in law enforcement institutions is essential for effective policing. While we acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of the overwhelming majority of police officers who serve our country with distinction, we must remain resolute in rooting out corruption, misconduct and criminality wherever it occurs. Our accountability strengthens institutions and reinforces public confidence in the democratic state.

Hon Chair, as we support this Budget Vote, we also emphasise the importance of implementation, monitoring and measurable outcomes. The people of South Africa expect more than commitments on paper. They expect tangible improvements in their daily lives. They expect safer communities, responsive police stations, effective investigations and visible policing. They expect criminals to be apprehended and brought to justice. They expect government institutions to work together in defense of the public interest.

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As we commemorate the anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter this month, we are reminded that the struggle for freedom did not end in 1994. The responsibility to build a society based on justice, equality, dignity and security remains ours. The generation that gathered in Kliptown understood that freedom would be incomplete if people continued to live in fear and insecurity. Their vision remains relevant even today.

Hon Chairperson, as we conclude, the people of Kwazulu-Natal, like millions of South Africans, want to live in communities where children can walk to school safely, where women can move freely without fear, where businesses can invest and create jobs without intimidation and where communities can enjoy peace and stability. They want a police service that is visible, professional, accountable and trusted. This Budget Vote provides an important foundation for advancing these objectives. Thank you very much, hon Chairperson.

Afrikaans:

Mnr V GERICKE: Voorsitter, goeiemiddag. Goeiemiddag aan almal.

Net voordat ek begin met my toespraak wil ek net sê ek sal nie tyd mors met die feit dat die waarnemende Minister van Polisie

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nie my geskrewe vrae beantwoord het nie. Ons gaan dit los vir 'n ander dag op 'n ander platform waar ons ons handskoene gaan afhaal om te baklei oor u assosiasie en waar u kant gekies het ten opsigte van President Cyril Ramaphosa.

English:

Chairperson, I stand on the protocol that has already been established but allow me to say a special good afternoon to Comrade Deputy Minister Cassel Mathale. It is always a pleasure to see him in the House because of his inviting spirit.

The EFF rejects the Budget Votes of the SA Police Service, SAPS, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, and the Civilian Secretariat. The budget before us is one of the main priorities in terms of the budget cycle for national government in executing its constitutional obligations in upholding the rule of law. Since our country is plagued by the escalation of crime and the existence of criminal syndicates, gangsterism, and violent crime, it is imperative that this budget must enable the police to perform its functions to the fullest in terms of section 205 of the Constitution. This is to prevent, combat, and investigate crime, as well as protect the property of citizens. The proposed national appropriation

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of R127 billion therefore represents gross underfunding to realise the constitutional objective to fight crime in South Africa. It is a meagre, minimal increase of 5,1% in comparison with 2024 and 2025.

We also reject the budget of departments that have been criminally infiltrated. From the executive police echelons to intelligence structures and the judiciary, this department has been systematically infiltrated by sophisticated criminal networks. This department has thousands of upright, dedicated men and women in blue who risk their lives daily to uphold the law, yet whose sacrificial work is being systematically erased, undermined, and weaponised by deeply embedded rogue elements.

Nowhere is the devastation felt more than on the Cape Flats here in the Western Cape where extortion syndicates continue to bleed communities dry. These gangs thrive because corrupt networks within the police actively shield them from being dismantled. For years, communities across townships like Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha, Nyanga, Langa, Gugulethu, and Philippi have been subjected to a reign of terror by extortion gangs that demand monthly cash payments from everyone, ranging from multi-million rand construction companies and corporate

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retail chains to informal spaza shops and roadside vegetable sellers. Even local clinics are forced to pay or face violent retribution. Those that refuse to pay are met with ruthless violence where businesses are torched or infrastructure development is stopped.

On the surface, the failure to do away with these syndicates is often blamed on a lack of police personnel or inadequate intelligence gathering. However, we now know that the persistence of extortion on the Cape Flats is not an issue of tactical paralysis or a lack of police capacity but from an active illicit symbiosis. Had rogue SAPS elements not provided a deeply protective shield, those criminal networks would have been eradicated long ago.

Allow me to touch on the issue of immigration and illegal foreigners, which is a critical point to the EFF, and I want you to take note of this, Mr Acting Minister. Whilst the policy position of the EFF is often deliberately distorted and taken out of context, the EFF, on the contrary, subscribes to the rule of law.

We have repeatedly called for stricter border control and to avoid illegal access to South Africa. Our call has been

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undermined by the ruling ANC and its Government of National Unity partners. This campaign was fuelled by Mr Gayton McKenzie when he and some uninformed supporters chased migrants around with handguns at the Limpopo River. It was further incited when the very same Mr McKenzie issued public statements that illegal migrants should be denied health care and education. His call to remove medical support equipment from migrants in hospitals and to remove the children of migrants from schools has had an impact on the campaign. This is a cruel, cowardly, and violent call and a direct insult to our country's culture of respect for the rule of law and for human dignity.

This is what the struggle has been about, and this is why we have been in the trenches for the protection of human dignity and the rule of law. Yet he instigated this culture. Now that he enjoys protection, he is calling on people not to apply violence. He is going public now to say, "Don't attack", and now it seems they do baiza now.

Afrikaans:

Hulle het mos gesê hulle baiza nie ...

English:

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... but they baiza now.

Yet he instigated this culture. Now that he enjoys the blue lights and the security, he is silent on the issue, but he used it as a recruitment strategy for his party to the detriment of our country and its citizens. This is utter hypocrisy and bigotry.

The EFF condemns any attacks on foreign nationals in the strongest possible terms and rejects these attacks with the contempt they deserve. The EFF says that it is the work of the law enforcement agencies of South Africa to stop, search, evict, and deal with illegal immigrants in our country and not the work of individuals. The EFF calls on the police to investigate these foolish and insensitive statements and bring the Minister before the courts of our country. He cannot serve as a Minister if he does not account for his contribution, his reckless contribution, to this campaign.

The EFF also calls for visible policing, which is of critical importance. We need more boots on the ground to do foot patrols in areas difficult to drive in, the establishment of satellite or mobile police stations in communities to reduce reaction times, and a dedicated sector to deal with gang-

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related violence. This alone will assist greatly in reducing crime immediately. Comrade Jane Mananiso, you are naughty.

As Detective Services in the SAPS is treated almost as a stepchild, individual detectives at some stations are carrying hundreds of dockets to investigate, with very little logistical support and resources. It cannot be expected of detectives to achieve a high conviction rate if they are not fully equipped to execute their duties. As the EFF, we are particularly concerned about the high number of cases that are unattended to and falling through the cracks. [Interjections.] Wait your turn; it will come. This is an injustice to the community and a denial of their constitutional right to protection.

The President, in his state of the nation speech earlier this year, outlined critical focus areas in the policing sector. These include organised crime and illicit goods, stabilisation of high-violence areas, firearm control, anticorruption, and gender-based violence. The subsequent breakdown of the main appropriation already indicates the shortcomings for the next financial year. It means that, with this budget, the same trend will persist in the next financial year.

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On average, the budget increases for Visible Policing, Detective Services, and Crime Intelligence range between 3% and 5%. With inflation and the increase in consumer goods, this budget will not make a difference in the fight against crime. It effectively means that our country will suffer the same fate as in previous years. You do not need a rocket scientist to understand this.

Another extremely worrying factor for the EFF is the huge budget allocated for Protection and Security Services. The amount for Protection and Security Services is a whopping R4,52 billion, with an increase of 4,02% compared to last year. This is money that could be used and utilised for service delivery for those who do not have houses and social grants. We have repeatedly requested a full and comprehensive breakdown of this allocation to see who gets what and who is burdening the taxpayer with expensive bodyguards and security for their homes. Up until today, this list is dealt with in secrecy and evading us, yet it is the right of the public to know.

Chairperson, importantly, the SA Police Service must invest in restoring public trust and confidence. It is a given that the South African public has lost confidence in how the Police

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Service deals with crime. The system is eroding rapidly, and the morale of men and women in blue is at its lowest. For this reason, the police must build a strategic, co-operative relationship with citizens, recognising that officers are not the enemy. Corruption and bribery in the Police Service are evils that need to be uprooted urgently. This phenomenon is crippling service delivery and will inevitably lead to the collapse of the criminal justice system.

Therefore, Crime Intelligence must be reconfigured to purge corrupt members. Specialised units must be established to fight gender-based violence, GBV. GBV has become a massive problem in our country, and the statistics speaks for itself. For the investigation of GBV, the police must employ experts to assist women thoroughly. It cannot be dealt with by inexperienced officers at the counter of a police station or service centre. The budget for GBV must rapidly change to help our female counterparts escape the plight of gender-based violence and expedite the healing process.

We are also seriously concerned about the high amounts paid out to people for civil claims. It cannot be that billions of rand are being paid out for civil claims. This speaks of a fundamental failure by the police to adequately train officers

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on the very important subject of the protection of human rights and the right to dignity of every citizen, regardless of race, colour, gender, and ethnicity. The time has come that, when police officers are found to be abusing their power, they be held accountable for damages incurred.

We do, however, welcome the proposed interaction with the Civilian Secretariat on the proposed payment of stipends to members of community police forums, CPFs, and neighbourhood watches to assist in combating crime. These members of CPFs and neighbourhood watches are sacrificing a great deal to patrol their neighbourhoods and streets at night to guarantee safety and security for citizens. The EFF has championed the proposal for quite some time and expresses the hope that the process will be expedited in order to realise this objective. This will assist community-based policing and counter the escalation of crime. By the same token, the EFF expresses sincere gratitude to the chairperson, the hon Mananiso, and colleagues of this committee for assisting in reaching this point.

However, Chairperson, the provincial allocation of budgets raises serious concerns about the disposition of SAPS to eliminate crime in disadvantaged communities. The proposed

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allocation for the Western Cape is a mere R967,025 million, and this is a province riddled with gangsterism, violence, and murders. It must therefore be resourced to empower SAPS to deal with these crimes and social challenges in communities. This allocation will not be enough to cover these areas.

The province of Limpopo is a strategic partner in fighting illegal border crossings. Limpopo is critical, as it is a gateway through some borders, and policing is much needed to cover these areas. The proposed budget of R622 million will not be very helpful to assist the police in doing so.

The Civilian Secretariat is a major point of concern, and it would appear that this department is province based in cities and larger towns. This creates a disconnect in serving people in rural areas, and the situation needs serious intervention to take the services of the Secretariat to all people across South Africa without putting a liability on poor people to travel and stay overnight.

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate must urgently be supported to appoint more investigators and be furnished with proper logistics and resources. Capable and expert investigators are needed to keep up with the increase in

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offenders within the Police Service. This is evident from the results of the Madlanga Commission.

In closing, the EFF expresses appreciation for the work done by the Madlanga Commission. This commission is yielding results and turning the tide for South Africa to break the chain of syndicates and organised crime. The work done by the commission is actually what the police should be doing to investigate crime. Unfortunately, there was a deliberate effort by politicians and officers to collapse the Police Service. The rebuilding process of the Police Service can be assisted by allocating bigger budgets. Thank you, Chairperson.
[Time expired.]

Ms O D MEDUPE: Hon Chair, let me also stand on the protocol that has already been established. Today I rise to declare that the ANC supports budget 28, 24, 21 for SAPS, Independent Police Investigative Directorate, IPID and Civilian Secretariat for Police Service. This we do mainly because we are serious about fighting crime and we are ensuring that our communities are safe. For this to happen, the SA Police, IPID and Civilian Secretariat need to be resourced and capacitated to fulfil their respective mandate.

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Hon Chair, I've been listening to my fellow colleagues that they are rejecting this budget. How do you say you don't support a budget and still expect police to catch criminals?

Setswana:

Le e dira yang bagaetsho?

English:

You expect police to exercise their duties, but you are denying them resources to exercise that. To me, I find it to be very unfair, and a statement that has been made by hon Zulu and hon Gericke, honestly, it doesn't speak good because one; clearly it undermines the integrity of this House. Our responsibility as Members of Parliament is to hold department accountable and to make sure that they account to each and every cent that we have appropriated to them. So it means clearly, as Members of Parliament, we are just giving them budget, but we don't hold them accountable. And it bounce back to you. It means as a Member of Parliament you are unable to exercise your duties.

A modern, capable, and accountable police service is not luxury. It is the foundation of freedom of what our people fought for. In this regard, the National Development Plan is

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very instructive and “modernise, in an integrated and holistic way, all aspects of systems and equipment”. This would improve frustrating the implementation of current project and modernization initiatives. Technology should be used to increase efficiency across the board and particularly to eliminate bottlenecks in criminal justice system.

The ANC through our Makgotla and 55th National Conference resolution has been very clear, consistent and intentional and said we must build a professional and well-resourced and technologically enabled Police Service that restore public confidence and make communities safer. This budget gives us the tool to do so exactly.

As you would have figured by now, my speech today is focusing on modernisation and operational capacity of Police Service to fight crime. Minister, we cannot fight the 21st century crime with 20th century tools and method. The modernization and digitization of SAPS and administrative system must be fast-tracked. We cannot accept and be comfortable that police stations, IPID offices, provincial and national offices are still using manual system in the age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Paper documents easily get lost or stolen. Manual

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system creates backlogs while digital system creates footprint and accountability of those who are involved.

We welcome the allocation towards an enhancement of digital firearm control management system and the rollout of the integrated person management system across multiple sites. When a firearm is used in a crime in Mafikeng, the system must be able to tell us of its history in real time, not in months. When a suspect is arrested in Madikwe, their record must be accessible to every station in the province and across the country.

DNA, ballistics and digital forensic backlogs are crippling the criminal justice system. It makes it difficult for the National Prosecution Authority to successfully prosecute crimes. In most situations, the victims wait years while the alleged perpetrators walk free. We support the budget's focus on reducing this backlog. Forensic evidence is the voice of victims who can no longer speak. In the North West stock theft, gender-based violence, GBV, armed robbery, cases that stalls exhibits, sits in labs. Modern labs and trained analysts are non-negotiable.

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Hon Minister, crime intelligence is our eyes and ears. We are well aware of the weaknesses and revelations that emerged from Madlanga Commission relating to the division of the SA Police Service. We must strengthen its capabilities to detect, prevent and disrupt criminal networks before they act. The Civilian Secretariat must ensure policy oversight is sharp and the sub-strategies respond to real community threats.

The Independence Police Investigative Directorate needs our special attention. As the ANC, we have long been saying that in-house forensic capabilities within IPID must be a priority. IPID, cannot investigate police misconduct and still queue in SAPS labs for evidence to be processed and analysed. There must be total independence, hon members. We also note the increased support for Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation. The Hawks must have the resources they need to tackle corruption, cash-in-transit and organised crime.

Let me bring all this home to the North West. We celebrate the recent successes by SA Police Service in the province.

Multidisciplinary operations in Rustenburg and Mafikeng have led to arrests of syndicates involved in mining-related crimes and vehicle theft. Community Policing Forum in Dr Kenneth Kaunda are working with stations to reduce the house

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robberies. These wins prove that when we resource our members, they deliver.

I must specifically appreciate the recent police work in Swartraggens, that's my hometown where I come from. On Wednesday, 13 May, SAPS members acted on intelligence and dismantled a massive drug laboratory on a farm outside Swartraggens. Eleven suspects were arrested, including five Mexican nationals, and they appeared before Swartraggens Magistrate Court on Friday, the 15th.

Hon members, this past expose how international drug syndicates are targeting our rural farms. Nearly 500 kilograms of methamphetamine and chemical worth over 1 billion were seized. We sincerely thank the community members who alerted the police and provided valuable information for operations to be a success. This is exactly why Budget Vote 28 must prioritise crime intelligence capabilities, digital forensic and rapid forensic response.

Cases like this live and die on DNA, ballistic and digital evidence. When the Hawks and SAPS' crime intelligence can act swiftly and process evidence in-house, we win. But we cannot ignore ... hon Minister, I also agree with you on your

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decision to visit the North West. I fully agree with you and I support that initiative. But I implore your collective, hon Minister, that you visit Sun City station. Sun City station remains in need of an urgent intervention. The station serves a high tourist, high traffic area, but faces challenges with infrastructure, staffing, forensic response time. Tourists and local residents deserve the same safety as your Sandton or Cape Town. This budget must prioritise infrastructure upgrades, vehicles and dedicated forensic support for Sun City.

A modern police station is the first sign to criminals that state is present. Rural stations, hon Minister, across the Ngaka Modiri Molema still struggle with connectivity for digital systems. Modernisation must reach the last mile, not just urban centres.

In conclusion, this budget is about building a police service that is feared by criminals and trusted by communities.

Modernisation is not about replacing people with machines.

It's about giving our men and women in blue the tools to do their jobs and come home safely.

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As the ANC, we support Votes 28, 24, 21. Let us fund them fully, oversee them properly and deliver the safety our people voted for.

Hon Chairperson, again, I am Onica Medupe, member of the ANC. I should not be mistaken for another party that rejects this budget. Thank you very much.

Mr H J VAN DEN BERG: Hon Chairperson, members, Acting and Deputy Ministers and of course citizens of the land, today in this Budget Vote the FF Plus stands firm in our commitment to the safety and security of all South Africans, particularly our vulnerable rural communities.

The new budget reflects continuity of operations, with added emphasis through extra funding on organised crime investigations, also, a police reset narrative under the new Minister.

However, structural issues like forensic capacity and funding per station is still diluted. One year ago, we highlighted – to name but a few issues – underresourced stations, failing rural safety, rampant violent crime and a Police Service

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hampered by mismanagement and cadre deployment. We warned that without decisive action, the spiral would continue.

What has changed in the past year? Official statistics show some decline in certain contact crimes, which we acknowledge. However, the broader picture still remains dire. Violent crime, farm attacks and viral images of murders have shocked the country. Public satisfaction remains slow, vacancy rates high, officers unavailable for duty and systemic issues undermine the effectiveness of the force.

The revelations from ongoing commissions paint an even starker picture. The Madlanga Commission of inquiry has exposed alleged drug cartel infiltration, massive theft from police safes and deep-rooted misconduct at senior levels.

The ad hoc committee has heard testimony pointing to an institutional crisis, with some suspensions and investigations underway. These processes have exposed structural weaknesses, a breakdown in co-ordination, unclear lines of authority, a failure in accountability and above all, political interference. While the commissions bring some transparency, we have to ask if there is light at the end of the tunnel.

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However, the commissions confirm the deepness of the rot rather than signalling a rapid turnaround. Real reform requires far more than inquiries. It demands decisive consequences for criminality.

The police reset agenda sounds promising on paper, but implementation reveals the same old problems. Rural communities, especially farmers and farm workers, continue to bear the brunt of poor policing.

The FF Plus has long called for specialised rural safety units, better reservist systems and genuine prioritisation, not just reports and rhetoric.

Persistent structural failures waste taxpayers' money and endanger lives. Expensive rentals and inflated costs of repairs for police buildings drain budgets. That should go to front line services.

Digital transformation efforts falter because new software systems are installed, but information and communications technology, ICT, networks and old hardware cannot handle the bandwidth. This leads to slow and incompatible systems. All this hampers the criminal justice value chain, delays

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investigations and frustrates detectives. Vehicle shortages and poor upkeep remain chronic, limiting visible policing, rapid response and also rural patrols.

The Civilian Secretariat remains largely advisory, with limited enforcement power.

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, battles massive backlogs, capacity constraints and low uptake of its recommendations.

The Private Security ... Authority is plagued by severe governance instability, with its council dissolved and with major material irregularities. This amidst the controversial new firearm regulations, adding risk and potentially harming the private security sector.

We will support allocations that deliver safety, but we cannot endorse departments doing business as usual. We urge this House to demand better outcomes. Let us build a safer South Africa through decisive practical actions. We want to see a blue light at the end of the tunnel.

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Ms A MARAIS (Western Cape): Hon Chairperson, hon delegates, Acting Minister of Police, Deputy Ministers of Police, members of the National Council of Provinces, for the people of the Western Cape, this debate is particularly important. We have just reflected on the latest quarterly crime statistics for the fourth quarter of the 2025-26 financial year.

While there has been an encouraging reduction in murders and certain categories of violent crime, the reality remains stark. Between January and March this year, 983 people were murdered in the Western Cape ... 983 lives lost in just three months ... 983 families shattered.

Gangsterism, organised crime, extortion, illegal firearms and drug trafficking continue to devastate communities across the Cape Flats and beyond.

Against this backdrop, one would reasonably expect a province facing some of the highest levels of violent crime in the country to have a Police Service that is fully capacitated, properly resourced and equipped with every available tool to confront these criminal networks. Unfortunately, that is not the reality.

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The truth is that the current situation is the result of years of underinvestment, underresourcing and institutional neglect by national government. The status quo we face today did not arise overnight. It is the consequence of more than a decade of declining detective capacity, instability within crime intelligence, a shortage of personnel, insufficient specialised resources and a failure to adequately capacitate police stations serving some of the most dangerous communities in South Africa.

Today, the SAPS is being forced to play catch up, and while the ordinary men and women in blue continue to work under exceptionally difficult circumstances, they are being asked to fight sophisticated criminal organisations with inadequate support and insufficient resources.

The Western Cape government reached a point where we could no longer stand by and simply hope that the situation would improve. We were compelled to step into a space that constitutionally falls within the mandate of national government. That is why we established the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan, better known as Leap. At a time when communities were crying out for greater law enforcement visibility and support, we acted.

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Today, more than 1 200 additional law enforcement officers have been deployed to support crime-fighting efforts in high-risk communities across the province. The evidence increasingly shows that these deployments are making a difference.

Recent crime statistics indicate that combined Leap deployments ... areas recorded a reduction in murders. Areas such as Delft, Mitchells Plain, Nyanga and Philippi East have recorded encouraging decreases.

However, let us be absolutely clear. Leap was never intended to replace the SAPS. Leap was designed to support the SAPS. Leap exists because the SAPS did not have sufficient capacity to adequately respond to the scale of violent crime confronting our communities. And, while we are proud of the impact that Leap has made, it remains deeply concerning that the provincial government has had to spend hundreds of millions of rand over recent years to perform a visible policing function that constitutionally belongs to national government.

For the current financial year alone, the Western Cape government will spend approximately 360 million through our

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Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety in support of policing interventions and law enforcement partnerships aimed at strengthening safety. We have stepped forward because our communities need us to act.

We are helping the SAPS. We are supporting the SAPS. However, the SAPS must now help us to help them. The first and immediate help would be the expansion of investigative and intelligence power to municipalities having capacity.

The City of Cape Town has made significant investments in expanding its Metropolitan Police Department. Hon Acting Minister, they are ready to assist. It will immediately take the pressure off detectives having an average of more than 200 case dockets to attend to.

This does not require any financial obligations from the SAPS, but only the mere stroke of a pen allowing it. I have repeatedly stated that if we are serious about reducing gang murders, preventing extortion and dismantling organised criminal networks, then intelligence-led policing must be restored.

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We cannot continue fighting 21st century organised crime with 20th century intelligence capabilities. You cannot prevent killings if you cannot anticipate them. You cannot dismantle crime syndicates if you do not understand how they operate. You cannot stop gang shootings if you cannot identify who is planning them and where they are likely to occur.

Yet, the Western Cape continues to experience instability within crime intelligence structures. Today, I once again call on the acting National Commissioner and the SAPS leadership to urgently appoint a permanent head of crime intelligence for the Western Cape. This appointment cannot be delayed any longer.

However, the appointment alone is not enough. Crime intelligence must also be properly capacitated. It must be properly staffed. It must be properly funded. It must be properly equipped to gather, analyse and operationalise intelligence against gang networks, extortion syndicates, drug traffickers and illegal firearm suppliers, because, quite frankly we are not yet making a meaningful dent in the operational capabilities of many organised criminal groups.

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Too often, these gangs continue to recruit, intimidate, extort and murder with alarming confidence. And why? It's because we remain intelligence starved and because critical specialised units still do not have the strength and support they require. This is particularly true for the antigang unit. The antigang unit plays a vital role in confronting some of the most dangerous criminal organisations operating in South Africa. Yet, year after year we hear concerns regarding capacity constraints, personnel shortage and resource limitations.

If government is serious about reducing gang violence, then crime intelligence and the antigang unit must become national priorities. The gangs are laughing at us, not because our police officers lack courage or lack commitment, but because criminal organisations understand where the weaknesses exist within the system, and they exploit those weaknesses every single day.

The second area requiring urgent intervention is detective services. If intelligence helps us identify criminals, detectives help us secure convictions. This is where another major challenge exists. Far too many detectives continue working under unacceptable conditions. Across many police stations, detectives face overwhelming caseloads while

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simultaneously lacking the most basic tools necessary to conduct effective investigations.

If the SAPS is serious about improving conviction rates and disrupting the cycle of violence, then it must urgently invest in detective support. I'm not speaking about the modus or taking provision of these resources. I'm speaking about meaningful investment.

The reality is that in some environments, more than 10 detectives share a single outdated computer with unstable internet connectivity and limited functionality. How can we expect successful prosecutions when investigators are forced to spend valuable time overcoming basic administrative obstacles?

The SAPS must be far more serious in this regard, and detective services are the backbone of successful prosecutions. Without investigations there are no convictions, without convictions there are no deterrents and without deterrents the cycle of violence continues.

The recent proceedings of the Madlanga Commission and the ad hoc committee have painted a deeply troubling picture

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regarding certain elements within the policing environment, and these allegations strike at the heart of policing legitimacy. If residents lose confidence in law enforcement, information dries up, witnesses become reluctant and communities disengage. That is why cleaning up the rot within the SAPS must be a priority.

We must root out corruption wherever it exists, we must hold compromised officials accountable and we must ensure that criminal elements do not infiltrate institutions meant to combat crime.

Most importantly, we must support and protect the overwhelming majority of honest, hardworking police officers who continue serving with integrity despite these challenges, because they deserve better and they deserve a government that prioritises their successes.

The Western Cape government remains committed to working collaboratively with the SAPS. We recognise the dedication of thousands of officers who continue serving under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. We recognise the dangers they face, but recognising alone is not enough.

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The budget must translate into real improvements on the ground. It must strengthen crime intelligence, it must expand and support the antigang unit, it must improve detective capacity, it must provide modern investigative tools, it must ensure that high-crime provinces receive resources proportional to the threats they face, and it must demonstrate that national government understands the urgency of the crisis confronting communities across the Western Cape.

Let us finally give the honest men and women in blue the tools they need to win this fight; tools that will hold offenders accountable and root out the rot. Thank you so much.

Mr N GOTSELL: Hon Chairperson, hon Acting Minister, hon Deputy Ministers, hon members, and fellow South Africans, good afternoon. Today, we debate a Police budget of more than R127 billion that is meant to give effect to a police service that is properly resourced and capacitated, which South Africa desperately needs after decades of ANC policy pollution.

Through cadre deployment, corruption and sketchy procurement policies, all of which we are currently seeing unfold in front of the Madlanga Commission, the ANC has hollowed out SAPS to the point where gangs now terrorise communities, while the

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majority in Parliament deploy the army in an electioneering ploy to manage a policing crisis of their own making.

This ANC electioneering ploy has led to an increase in crime on the Cape Flats. Between 1 and 7 June 2026, the Cape Flats had 51 gang-related murders; and 43 gang-related attempted murders.

Soldiers cannot compensate for decades of failed policing policy; they cannot replace detectives; they cannot replace intelligence-led policing, and they cannot replace the operational capacity that has been weakened through years of ANC governance, cronyism and cadre deployment - the Selebi's, the Phiyega's, the Cele's and the Mchunu's.

ANC cadre deployment and cronyism is what happens when political loyalty becomes more important than competence; honest police officers struggle on a daily basis as a result of collapsing operational resources. Nowhere has this cronyism been more brutal than under Lt-Gen Patekile's leadership right here in the Western Cape. Let us see how quickly the ANC now jumps up to prove my point on cadre deployment.

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The government repeatedly tells South Africans that gender-based violence is a national disaster. The President himself has declared it a crisis. Hon Mananiso referred in the report to our oversight duty and that is exactly what I did. During my oversight visits to various police stations, initially in December, at the end of the 16 days of activism, and then again, a string of them on one day, Friday, 15 May, I found the one station and the one FCS unit after the other operating without rape kits. No child rape kits in Mitchells Plain. No rape kits or child rape kits in Nyanga. No child rape kits in Bellville. No child rape kits in Delft. No rape kits in the entire Overberg.

Afrikaans:

Die Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Kommissaris - en dis ook die ANC beleid - het al hierdie stasis, al die lede wat daar diens doen, en al die slagoffers van verkragting en kinderverkragting in die steek gelaat.

English:

Last week, hon Fienies and hon Sibande, as part of another ANC election ploy, focused so hard on using race and references to apartheid in every second sentence of their Social Cluster budget speeches, that they forgot to speak about the scourge

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of senseless rape and child rape in this country. Talk about social conscience.

Child rape. Corrective rape. The violent gang rape of young women as part of gang initiation. These barbaric acts, hon Fienies and hon Sibande, do not know race. Not having a rape kit when a rape victim arrives at a police station or FCS unit means you cannot collect evidence from that victim in the critical, short period of time after the rape. It means you cannot link the rape to the rapist. It means you cannot arrest and convict the rapist. And, if you cannot do that, you cannot address this ugly scourge our men and women in blue are dealing with every day.

Minister, I wrote to your office and the provincial commissioner's office three weeks ago about this rape kits supply chain fiasco, and I am yet to receive a response. Perhaps, you can use your five minutes at the end of this debate to tell this House why there were no rape kits when I visited all those stations, despite the fact that the SAPS's budget provides or demands, in fact, for the procurement thereof.

Afrikaans:

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Maar, ten spyte van die feit dat die provinsiale kommissaris en die Minister my noodkrete oor toetstoestelle vir verkrachtings ignoreer, het die lede van die Ceres FCS-teenheid se passie en toewyding nie verkrachtingslagoffers gefaal nie.

Net verlede week het hierdie lede van die FCS in Ceres, onder leiding van Adjudant-Offisier A J Van Rooy en staatsaanklaer, Adv Renee Uys, die hedendaagse monster, Leano Vergotine, vir 78 jaar agter tralies gesit vir die verkrachting en seksuele uitbuiting van menige minderjarige seuns en meisies. Baie dankie.

English:

And it's not only rape kits, when I visited Mitchells Plain on the first day of the Operation Prosper deployment, it was notable that a simple force multiplier like K9 police dogs were not employed as part of the ANC electioneering ploy.

Afrikaans:

Nou vra die ma's van Manenberg en die aunties [tannies] van Atlantis, wat volgende week die 15-jarige Nikita Finch moet begrawe, hoekom ons kinders sterf. Die polisie het die afgelope vyf jaar nie narcotics [snuffelhonde] of geen ander honde aangekoop nie. Weet u hoekom nie? Die ANC se BEE [SEB-

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beleid]. Die mense wat die honde teel is nie BEE-compliant [SEB-voldoende] nie. 'n Mens kan hierdie bog nie opmaak nie, agb Pienaar! Hierdie honde is nie luukshede nie.

Op die Kaapse Vlakte, van Mfuleni, deur Manenberg, Nyanga, Phillipi-Oos en tot in Mitchells Plain is hierdie honde force multipliers [kragvermenigvuldigers]. Hulle spoor onwettige vuurwapens op, hulle spoor dwelms op, en hulle spoor verdagtes op. Hulle vermenigvuldig letterlik polisiëringskapasiteit. Maar dit is die praktiese gevolg van ANC-beleid. Gemeenskappe betaal die prys in bloed, terwyl politically-connected [polities-verbonde] insiders [ingewydes] voordeel trek uit die ANC se supply chain [voorsieningskettings-] kinkels.

English:

ANC policies are not only killing our economy. It is killing our people right here on the Cape Flats. A gangster in Nyanga does not care about procurement scorecards. A drug dealer in Hanover Park does not care about BEE compliance targets. But they absolutely benefit, hon Mananiso, when SAPS cannot procure enough trained dogs to detect firearms and narcotics.

Afrikaans:

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Minister, die gangsters [bendeledede] tart die polisie, want hulle weet die polisie het nie die resources [hulpbronne] nie. En wat dink jy doen dit aan ons polisieledede se moraal?

English:

But, my fellow South Africans, at the same time, billions continue to flow into expanding Presidential VIP protection, instead of expanding policing powers to capable governments. We saw this hypocrisy clearly during the recent by-election campaign in Dunoon. This community has, for months, asked that a SAPS mobile truck be stationed closer to where they reside. On the very day that the ANC Minister of Employment and Labour campaigned in that community, a brand-new mobile police truck suddenly appeared outside the community centre where she was campaigning, but, the very next day, the truck disappeared.

The DA supports this budget because we support policing. But we reject the ANC policies that helped create this crisis. Catch, convict, and let us clean up! Thank you.

Ms L A KOLOI (Northern Cape): House Chairperson, let me stand on the protocol that has been established. It is an honour to participate in this important Budget Vote on behalf of the people of the Northern Cape. Today, we debate not only budgets

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and allocations, but the safety, dignity and confidence of our communities. We debate the ability of our people to live without fear of violent crime, gender-based violence, organised criminality, stock theft, drug trafficking and attacks on vulnerable citizens.

The budget before us reflects government's continued commitment towards strengthening policing, improving accountability and rebuilding public confidence in law enforcement institutions. Nationally, the South African Police Service has been allocated approximately R127 billion for the 2026-27 financial year, with strong emphasis placed on visible policing, crime intelligence, specialised investigations and modernisation of policing systems.

As the Northern Cape, we welcome the renewed focus on a professional, ethical and responsive police service. We welcome further the emphasis placed on strengthening anticorruption measures within SAPS, improving procurement systems and enhancing detective and intelligence capabilities.

The Northern Cape continues to face unique policing challenges due to its vast geographic landscape, dispersed communities and long travelling distances between towns and police

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stations. These realities place enormous pressure on police resources, vehicles, personnel and response times.

Despite these challenges, our law enforcement officers continue to serve with dedication under difficult conditions. We acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifices made daily by SAPS members across our province. However, we must also be honest about the concerns raised by communities regarding violent crime, drug-related offences, stock theft, gender-based violence and crimes against children. Communities want a police service that is visible, disciplined, efficient and trusted. The recent national focus on rebuilding public trust in policing is therefore both necessary and urgent.

The role of the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, remains critically important in strengthening accountability and ensuring that misconduct within law enforcement is addressed decisively and without fear or favour.

Ipid serves as an important safeguard within our constitutional democracy. Communities must have confidence that allegations of abuse of power, corruption or brutality involving police

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officials will be investigated independently and professionally.

Equally important is the work of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service in promoting civilian oversight, policy development and community participation in safety matters. Community Policing Forums, CPFs, remain an important bridge between law enforcement and society. We therefore support continued investment towards strengthening CPFs and improving their operational capacity.

The fight against crime cannot be won by government alone. It requires stronger partnerships between communities, law enforcement agencies, municipalities, traditional leaders, religious organisations, civil society and the private sector.

In the Northern Cape, we remain committed to strengthening integrated crime prevention initiatives and community mobilisation programmes aimed at building safer communities. We must also continue prioritising the safety of women, children and vulnerable groups. Gender-based violence and femicide remain a national crisis that demands a united and uncompromising response from all sectors of society.

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As we support this Budget Vote, we also call for continued investment in police infrastructure and rural policing; modern technology and crime intelligence; adequate police vehicles and operational resources; training and professionalisation of officers; antigang and organised crime interventions; victim support services; youth crime prevention programmes; and strengthened accountability mechanisms within law enforcement.

The people of South Africa deserve a police service that protects, acts without corruption and serves with integrity. In conclusion, the Northern Cape supports the Budget Votes for SAPS, Ipid and the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service.

Let us continue to work together to restore public confidence, to strengthen accountability and to ensure safer communities for all our people.

Afrikaans:

As 'n nasie, laat ons hande vat en bid vir ons manne en vroue in blou, want ons veiligheid is in hul hande. Wanneer ons vir hulle begin bid, sal ons vorentoe beweeg om ons land 'n veilige plek te maak. Dankie.

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Ms S V MATHYE (Limpopo): Hon House Chairperson of the House, let me stand on the protocol that has already been established and say good afternoon. I take this opportunity to welcome the Budget Vote presented on the 19 of last month under the theme, "*Recent agenda*". Indeed, this theme is both timely and appropriate as it cannot be business as usual given the multitude of challenges confronting the policing system.

As we embark on this recent journey, we must first acknowledge the critical role of forensic evidence in the administration of justice. For many years, our province has faced significant constraints due to its dependence on the forensic laboratory in Gauteng. This has often resulted in delays that adversely affect case management and the efficient functioning of the criminal justice system.

It is encouraging that a decision has been taken to construct a forensic laboratory in Limpopo. The development bodes well for the expeditious administration of justice and will greatly enhance our province's capacity to process forensic evidence. We are currently engaged in identifying a suitable site for the development of this important facility.

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As we advance the *Recent Agenda*, we must also acknowledge the growing demands for police services to be brought closer to the communities they serve. Many police stations are responsible for vast and densely populated areas which undermine citizens' access to safety and justice. For example, the Thohoyandou police station serves approximately 487 villages, many of which are located a considerable distance from the station. For communities seeking protections and justice, access often comes at a significant cost despite the fact that many residents are economically disadvantaged. We therefore call for the establishment of additional satellite stations and fully fledged police stations across the province.

Our province remains one of the safest places in the country to live and to conduct business. However, we are concerned that this positive standing may have unintentionally resulted in Limpopo being overlooked in the allocation of police resources. The province continues to serve relatively few recruits and if this trend persists, it may compromise our ability to maintain current safety levels and make our communities increasingly vulnerable to crime.

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In addition, there is an urgent need for more operational resources, particularly police vehicles. Many police stations experience shortages of vehicles which negatively affect response times and limit the ability of officers to attend to complaints, emergencies and community concerns quickly. In rural areas where communities are spread across vast distances, the availability of reliable vehicles is not merely a matter of convenience but a critical requirement for effective policy. We therefore call for increased investment in the police vehicle fleet to ensure that SA Police Service members are adequately equipped to respond swiftly to calls for assistance and to maintain a visible policing presence within communities.

Gender-based violence and femicide remains a scourge that continues to plague our society. We note with concern that these crimes continue to affect many families and communities. We therefore call upon all sectors of society, including traditional leaders, faith-based organizations and school governing bodies and all community structures to make it their collective responsibility to eradicate this heinous crime.

We also call for greater sensitivity, compassion and professionalism from members of the SA Police Service when

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dealing with victims and survivors of gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF. There can be no room for informal or family-based resolutions to crimes of this nature as such approaches undermine the administration of justice and often allow perpetrators to invade accountability.

Hon Minister, you have our full support as you embark on the path of rebuilding and restoring a system upon which all citizens depend. Safety and security must never become a luxury reserved only for those who can afford private security services. The state remains the primary custodian and guarantee of safety for all citizens, from children to the elderly, including persons with disabilities. We therefore cannot afford to fail in this critical mandate.

We concur with your emphasis in professionalism and discipline within the SA Police Service. Without these fundamental principles, the recent agenda will struggle to achieve these intended outcomes. Despite the challenges, as Limpopo, we continue to have confidence in the men and women in blue as we provide oversight and guidance. The responsibility rests with them to demonstrate their commitment to protecting all members of the society and to uphold the trust placed in them by the people of South Africa.

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As Limpopo, we support the three Budget Votes that were passed on the 19 May 2026. I thank you, hon House Chairperson.

Mr K J MACIE (Mpumalanga): Hon House Chairperson through you, to the hon Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Deputy Chair, hon Acting Minister, Professor Cachalia, hon Deputy Minister, Dr Polly Boshielo, hon Deputy Minister Cassel Mathale, Chairperson of the Select Committee on Security and Constitutional Development, allow me to rise on the protocol that the House has already established. Allow me, on behalf of the people and government of Mpumalanga, under the leadership of Premier Mandla Ndlovu, to welcome and support the Budget Votes of the SA Police Service, SAPS, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, and the Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service.

At the onset, we commend the presentation of a budget that speaks directly to the realities confronting our communities. The emphasis on strengthening visible policing, capacitating specialised units, combating organised crime, improving detective services, enhancing border security and professionalising the police service is both timely and necessary. For provinces such as Mpumalanga, which occupy a strategic position as a gateway to the Southern African region

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through international borders with Mozambique and Eswatini, these interventions are not merely budgetary allocations, they are investments in public safety, economic growth, social stability and national security.

During the month of May, the Premier of Mpumalanga, Mandla Ndlovu, convened a Provincial School Safety Indaba which brought together government institutions, law enforcement agencies, educators, civil society formations, traditional leaders and various community stakeholders to confront the growing threats facing our schools. A significant outcome of the indaba was the signing of a collective pledge by all stakeholders, including the SA Police Service, committing themselves to a clarion call made by the premier that society must reclaim our schools from drug dealers and criminal elements who seek to destroy the future of our province and the country by targeting our children and youth. The pledge represented a shared commitment that the safety of learners cannot be left to schools alone but requires the active participation of every sector of society.

The involvement of the SA Police Service and its strategic partners in school safety programmes is informed by a clear objective to ensure that there is no space, no corner and no

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loophole large enough for drug dealers and criminal syndicates to operate with impunity. Through co-ordinated search-and-seizure operations, intelligence-driven interventions, awareness campaigns and community mobilisation, we are steadily tightening the net around those who seek to exploit our schools as markets for illicit substances.

As government, we remain resolute in our determination to intensify collaboration between law enforcement agencies, educators, parents, community structures and civil society organisations to uproot drugs and criminality not only from our schools but also from our streets and communities. The safety of our learners is non-negotiable. Every child deserves to learn in an environment free from fear, intimidation, substance abuse and criminal influence. By working together, we can ensure that our schools remain centres of learning, hope and opportunity, producing the future leaders, professionals and nation-builders that South Africa requires.

Hon members, the people of our province continue to demand a police service that is responsive, professional, accountable and capable of confronting increasingly sophisticated criminal networks. We are encouraged by the budget that seeks to strengthen crime intelligence capabilities and provide

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resources to law enforcement agencies to stay ahead of organised criminal syndicates. In Mpumalanga, we have witnessed significant successes by our law enforcement agencies. These achievements demonstrate what can be accomplished when government institutions work together with determination and strategic focus.

In recent months, police operations in the Gert Sibande District have dealt significant blows to drug trafficking syndicates operating within our province. Through intelligence-driven operations and co-ordinated enforcement actions, substantial quantities of illicit drugs have been seized, disrupting criminal networks that prey on our communities and destroy the future of young people. These successes send a clear message that the South African state remains resolute in its fight against drug-related crimes and organised criminal enterprises.

Equally commendable has been the performance of the SAPS Highway Patrol Unit operating along the N4 Maputo Corridor, one of the busiest economic routes in Southern Africa. The Highway Patrol Unit has become a critical line of defence against organised crime syndicates involved in vehicle hijackings, cargo theft, human trafficking, drug smuggling and

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cross-border criminal activities. Their visible presence and co-ordinated operations have resulted in numerous arrests, recovery of stolen vehicles, interception of illicit substances and the disruption of criminal movements across provincial and international borders. The N4 Corridor is not only an economic lifeline for Mpumalanga and South Africa, but also a strategic route targeted by criminal syndicates. We therefore welcome the continued investment in specialised policing capabilities that secure the critical economic route.

Hon members, as we celebrate these successes, we must equally confront the challenges that continue to threaten the safety and security of our communities. One of the most pressing concerns facing Mpumalanga is the escalating challenge of illegal mining. Illegal mining has evolved beyond a law enforcement matter. It has become a sophisticated criminal economy linked to organised crime, environmental destruction, illegal mining, human trafficking, firearms proliferation and violent criminality. Areas such as Pilgrim's Rest, Barberton, Sabie, Mbombela, and several other parts of the province continue to experience illegal mining activities that undermine legitimate economic development and threaten economic safety.

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These criminal networks are often heavily armed, highly organised and capable of mobilising resources that exceed the capacity of ordinary policing interventions. It is for this reason that we respectfully call upon the hon Minister and the national government to seriously consider the deployment of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, in support of law enforcement operations targeting illegal mining hotspots within Mpumalanga. We have recently found out that these illegal miners are now visiting Kruger National Park not to view the beautiful park, but to kill the animals, and not also to poach rhinos. They kill the animals to feed themselves while they are doing the operation.

The successful deployment of the army in other security-related operations has demonstrated the value of a co-ordinated security cluster response when confronting complex criminal threats. The deployment of the SA National Defence Force would significantly strengthen efforts to reclaim affected areas, dismantle criminal networks, protect strategic infrastructure and restore public confidence in the ability of the state to assert its authority. The intervention should not be viewed as militarisation but rather as a necessary national security response to an ongoing criminal threat that continues to grow in scale and sophistication. We further welcome the

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budget allocation to the Independent Police Investigative Directorate ... Thank you. [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Macie, on that note of welcoming the budget, your time has expired. Thank you for your participation. Hon delegates, the next speaker is inside the House, it's hon Farmer from the Western Cape, the Cape of storms.

Mr B J FARMER: Hon House Chairperson, hon Acting Minister and Deputy Ministers and hon members, I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. The question on whether South Africans can trust the institutions responsible for keeping them safe is still to be answered. Crime, unfortunately, remains one of the greatest threats facing our country. It threatens economic growth, investment, families and communities. For many South Africans, crime has become a daily reality rather than an occasional fear. The Patriotic Alliance therefore supports investment in policing because communities deserve visible policing, rapid response times, safer streets and justice. Quite frankly, Minister, our communities deserve better.

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However, House Chairperson, there is a difficult truth we must confront. The fight against crime becomes impossible when corruption enters the very institutions responsible for fighting it. When a police officer accepts a bribe, a criminal gains confidence. When a docket disappears, a victim loses hope. When information is leaked to gangs before an operation, public trust collapses. When police collude with syndicates in organised crime to transport a Member of Parliament in the back of a van for more than 1 600 kilometres, whereas others accused of the same crimes are treated differently. The unfortunate question comes to mind, hon Minister, how far are we really from a police state?

House Chairperson, most police officers serve honourably. They risk their lives every day and deserve our support. However, honest officers are often the biggest victims of corrupt colleagues. Corruption destroys morale and it damages public trust. It undermines investigations and it places honest officers in danger. Therefore, rooting out corruption is not negotiable. Hon members, the Patriotic Alliance further recognises the critical role played by Ipid. No democratic country can function without an independent watchdog. Ipid exists to ensure accountability. Its independence must never be compromised. No politician, no senior official and no

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powerful interest should ever be allowed to interfere in an investigation.

House Chairperson, we must also acknowledge the importance, but often overlooked, role of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service. Without oversight, accountability weakens. Public confidence declines and abuse of power becomes easier. The secretariat's work must continue to be strengthened. Hon members, as a representative from the Western Cape, I cannot speak about policing without speaking about gang violence, extortion or organised crime, and the unashamed involvement of DA politicians. The raiding of DA officers in the city of Cape Town by police is becoming a new normal. It is no wonder that there are on this campaign for delegated powers to investigate themselves.

While entire communities continue to live under the shadow of criminal networks, young people are recruited into gangs, businesses face extortion, families live in fear, and residents are trapped between criminals and violence. South Africans are tired of hearing that government has a plan, they want to see criminal networks dismantled, gang leaders behind bars and communities reclaimed. There is a standard by which success should be measured.

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House Chairperson, at its heart this debate is about trust. Can South Africans trust the police? Can we trust that corruption will be punished, that misconduct will be investigated, and that our families will be protected? These questions matter because trust is the foundation of effective policing.

In closing, the Patriotic Alliance supports this Budget Vote, but we do so with high expectations. We expect professional policing, independent oversight, stronger accountability, action against corruption and safer communities. We expect a policing system that serves the people of South Africa with integrity, courage and professionalism. Because when citizens trust the police, communities become safer. When communities become safer, opportunities grow. Therefore, when many opportunities grow, our nation moves forward. Salute!

Mr W M MORWENG (North West): Chairperson, let me take this opportunity to greet the hon Chairperson, the hon MEC, he is on the platform, the hon Deputy Minister, Dr Polly Boshielo, the hon Deputy Minister, hon Cassel Mathale, and the Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces, all protocols observed in the interest of time. Let me start by saying, the

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Civilian Secretariat for Police Services, CSPS, occupies a unique position within South Africa's safety architecture.

It is the institution responsible for ensuring that policing remains accountable to the people of South Africa; it is the institution responsible for policy development and reform; for strengthening community participation; for driving implementation of integrated crime and violence prevention strategy, and lastly, for ensuring that crime prevention remains at the centre of government's response to crime. We continue expanding responsibilities without strengthening capacity.

Our position as the province puts us in a situation that needs more and continuous monitoring as we find ourselves bordering Botswana. The border is the longest of all our six neighbours. It stretches from the Namibia border in the West to the Zimbabwean border in the East and is approximately 1 969 kilometres. There are 15 official border crossing sites on this border which runs from Limpopo via North West and ends in the Northern Cape. Over 1 000 kilometres of it is in the North West.

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Given the above, this requires continuous collaboration between national, provincial and local government institutions. As the North West province, we emphasise on improved intergovernmental co-ordination, to ensure that we strengthen border management and safeguard rural communities, which suffer, especially, from stock theft. The relationship with Botswana remains cordial, and this reality places pressure on local resources and the required co-ordinated action between immigration authorities, law enforcement agencies, as well as various structures.

Rural and farming communities in the province remain particularly vulnerable, and stock theft, in particular, threatens livelihoods and the agro-economy. Criminal networks often exploit gaps in the co-ordination between law enforcement, border management and different spheres of government to enter the country. This, therefore, shows that we need to strengthen the Integrated Crime Violence Prevention Strategy, ICVPS, which will assist in aligning crime prevention efforts across departments, and improving community safety in border districts.

Provincial Secretariat remains a coalface of implementation. We are expected to oversee policing; to support community

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policing for us; to co-ordinate safety partnership; to monitor service delivery within police stations; to drive community safety intervention; to support police station; also, to facilitate public participation methods, and increasingly, to support innovative approaches to safety through data-driven intervention. All of this requires resources, skilled personnel, and a properly funded establishment.

To enable the above, we need improved information sharing, joint operation and a stronger co-operation between national and provincial authorities to address these challenges. A co-ordinated and integrated approach to border management will ensure safer communities, stronger rural economies and more effective governance in the border areas. Let me emphasise that, as a province, we have limitations as the border management is a national competency. It is, however, important that even within our confinement, the Civilian Secretariat has adequate resources for each province's border demographics.

There is an urgent need to develop certain functions and decentralise them to provinces, to enable Civilian Secretariat to take a lead in some of the interventions. The advantages, therefore, will be expediting decision-making process and improve responsive efficiency. Devolving some responsibilities

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will allow tailor-made formation of policies which will be more relevant to specific contexts of our challenges. One of the greatest challenges confronting South Africa remains the growing vulnerability of communities residing in informal settlement.

These communities often face unique safety risks arising from poor environmental design, inadequate lighting, limited access routes and socio-economic vulnerabilities. The Civilian Secretariat has an important role to play in ensuring that safety planning, crime prevention initiatives and intergovernmental intervention respond directly to these realities. If we are serious about preventing crime, we must be serious about investing in prevention where vulnerability is the greatest.

We must recognise the critical contribution made by community policing forums, community safety patrollers, traditional leaders, faith-based organisations, civil society organisations and many other safety partners who work alongside government every day. These structures strengthen social cohesion; trust between communities and law enforcement; early intervention and crime prevention. I always

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say we cannot use the same method and expect different results.

The future of community safety will increasingly be shaped by technology. Modern crime prevention requires a better information system; data-driven decision-making; an integrated safety platform and innovative tools that improve oversight, monitoring and community engagement. Investment in technology is, therefore, not a luxury but a necessity. If we are to make sure that our community trusts us as leaders who continue to change their lives, we need to build a modern, responsive and effective safety system.

As the North West province, we call for continued investment in strengthening institutional and fiscal capacity of the Civilian Secretariat architect across the country because, when we strengthen the Civilian Secretariat, we strengthen accountability; when we strengthen accountability, we strengthen policing; when we strengthen policing, we strengthen public confidence, and when we strengthen public confidence, we move closer to the safer South Africa that our people deserve.

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If the SA Police Service, SAPS, is the spear in the fight against crime, then the Civilian Secretariat is the institution that ensures that the spear remains accountable, effective, responsive and aligned to the constitutional values of our democracy. In conclusion, as the North West, we support this Budget Vote. Thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, Bokone Bophirima, [North West.] The next speaker is supposed to be hon M M Peter from the province of the legends. I don't know if he is ready for participation because I heard that he went to the doctor. Is hon Peter on the platform? Can we check? Alright, hon Peter is not on the platform. So, the next speaker is inside the Chamber, hon C Mathale. Over to you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Mr C C Mathale): Chairperson hon Radebe, Chairperson of the NCOP in absentia, Manana Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane, Acting Minister of Police, Professor Firoz Cachalia, Deputy Minister, Dr Polly Boshielo, Chairperson of the Select Committee on Security and Justice hon Mananiso and members of the committee, members of the Council, MECs on the platform, heads of entities represented here by the Secretary of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Services, CSPS, Mr Sibuyi and your management, Acting National

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Commissioner, Lieutenant General Puleng Patricia Dimpane,
Acting Executive Director, Dr Bila and management,
distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, afternoon, I rise
today with the intention to remind us of something fundamental
to our society, the need for civilian oversight and the
relationship between those who enforce the law and the public
they are sworn to protect.

In any democratic society, the police are bestowed with the
massive responsibility of ensuring the safety and security of
the citizens they serve. For them to effectively execute this
responsibility, they are granted enormous powers, including
the power to arrest, investigate, detain, and in certain
circumstances, use force within proportionality provided by
the law.

However, with power of this magnitude comes an equal measure
of accountability. Our men and women in blue perform an
incredible, difficult, and dangerous job, and many do so with
honour, bravery, selflessness, and dedication. Many remain
true to their calling and commitment to creating a safe and
secure environment for all people in South Africa. Of course,
there are a few rotten apples, whom we are continuously

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dealing with decisively to ensure we rid the police of these bad elements.

In the execution of this calling, there can never be room for unprofessionalism, corruption, misconduct, or lawlessness of any form within the ranks of the police service. We have noted the embarrassing and unacceptable behaviour of some of our police officers, and we do not accept such behaviour. Police officers who engage in corruption or any form of criminality are criminals. They do not deserve to wear our blue uniform, and they must know that the orange uniform is waiting for them.

It is with the recognition of human rights shortcomings that the architect of our constitutional democracy idealistically created civilian oversight mechanisms, such as the CSPA and the Independent Investigative Directorate, IPID, amongst others, to maintain checks and balances upon those that have been bestowed with power and responsibility.

We had to shift from a culture where the police operated as a law unto themselves to one defined by service delivery and civilian oversight. Civilian oversight is a vital democratic mechanism that ensures law enforcement acts within the law,

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uses resources efficiently, and fulfils its mandate with integrity and honour by promoting accountability, transparency, independent complaint investigations, and community involvement.

Oversight bridges the gap between police agencies and the public they serve, building much-needed trust. Effective oversight is essential for establishing trust between the police and the community. When marginalised or frustrated communities see an impartial, independent entity monitoring performance, guiding police service delivery through policies and legislation, and reviewing grievances and complaints, it reduces dissatisfaction and hostility towards the police.

As part of the Ministry of Police's recent agenda, Minister Firoz Cachalia has emphasised the need to increase or rebuild public trust in the South African Police Service, Saps, and strengthening the CSPA is central to achieving this.

Oversight extends beyond reacting to individual incidents, as demonstrated by the outcomes of the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry and other investigative bodies currently active in the public arena. Oversight should allow for, an example, the auditing of training, management practices, departmental

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policies, identifying root causes of misconduct and corruption before they escalate, and so on.

Oversight should assist us to identify red flags and develop mechanisms to counter such. The CSPS is at the centre thereof. It plays the critical role of monitoring, evaluating and advising on policing policy in general. However, as you are aware, recent parliamentary briefings have highlighted a glaring challenge of massive funding shortfalls that the CSPS faces. We cannot mandate the CSPS to drive policy, oversee compliance, assist in professionalising Saps and enhance community partnership if it does not receive the necessary financial support. Parliament must ensure that the CSPS is sufficiently funded to execute its constitutional mandate efficiently and effectively.

The CSPS continues to maintain a high standard of professional ethics and strive to manage its public funds and resources in an efficient and effective manner as required by the Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act. The CSPS continues to strengthen efforts towards executing its mandate, even within the limited financial resources.

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May I hasten to mention that the CSPS has maintained a clean and accountable administration in the past financial years by achieving five consecutive clean audit outcomes, which confirm that this budget Vote should be supported to enable them to exercise their oversight role consistently and competently. This consistent milestone augurs well for the ecosystem of accountability and is a step in the right direction on the journey of building safer communities and an efficient, accountable police service.

The NCOP must therefore support the CSPS to instil governance reforms that are urgently required in the entire policing landscape. You cannot be spectators or critics or naysayers. You must support this budget and hold the CSPS to account where it is falling. The bottom line is that we are all in it together.

The CSPS leads and co-ordinates the implementation of the Integrated Crime and Violent Prevention Strategy and strategic interventions as part of its efforts towards building a safer, ethical, capable and developmental state.

The Cabinet-approved Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy, ICVPS, for consultation remains our guiding

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principle to address the root causes of crime through a whole-of-government approach. The ICVPS will be critical in guiding our collective action towards enhancing safety for the citizens of South Africa, underscoring the need for all stakeholders to fulfil their roles in a co-ordinated manner in order to address the challenges of crime and violence more holistically. The department continues to work jointly with provinces in conducting research on policing and safety with the aim of improving service delivery and contribute to building safer communities.

During the period of 2025-26, research was undertaken for the analysis of the implementation of safety and violence prevention interventions in selected municipalities, and the findings revealed that across provinces and municipalities, safety is increasingly reflected in strategic planning instruments, such as provincial and municipal safety strategies. More funding of these safety strategies is needed for effective implementation. The scourge of gender-based violence and femicide in the country continues unabated, as the President declared it in late 2025 as a national disaster.

In contribution to the fight against this scourge, the department will continue monitoring of the compliance and

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implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, DVA, in various police stations in significance and partial compliance level to the DVA, focussing on assessing, firstly, the administration of domestic violence at police station level. Secondly, availability and suitability of private interviewing spaces commonly referred to as victim-friendly facilities. Thirdly, the management of noncompliance complaints relating to poor response to GBVF-related cases.

The department will further conduct docket analysis on stations that are reported to have high numbers of domestic violence cases that are closed and unfunded or unresolved. This will be done as a way of ensuring that GBVF victims are given access to justice and are protected from the recurrence of such experiences.

Other notable initiatives to be implemented by the CSPS to address the scourge of GBVF will include the following. Effective implementation of the court-watching briefing programme, which has led to investigation and administrative challenges being addressed and cases re-enrolled and processed in courts. This programme will be accelerated across provinces over the medium term as part of our efforts to address the scourge of GBVF in the country.

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Awareness campaigns to be built in different settlement areas involving various community groupings to educate communities about their right to report GBVF cases and the remedies at their disposal should they become victims. In partnership with organisations like Memeza Shout Crime Prevention and Black Women Caucus, the department conducts awareness campaigns at institutions of higher learning and areas identified with high level of GBVF to empower youth and members of the community with tools such as personal alarms and general education about GBVF. Monitoring SAHPS implementation of the CSPS data base of recommendations remain uppermost in our minds.

Therefore, to address the inflexibility of CSPS recommendation by SAPS, we are reviewing the CPS Act and the SAPS Act, which was enacted by the President, will compel the National Commission of the South African Police to respond to CSPS recommendations within a stipulated time frame.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Minister has outlined specific priorities for the sector aimed at a national research agenda for policing and government reforms, including, among others, the following: improving crime levels with a focus on GBVF, reducing firearm-related crimes, enhancing border security, developing police department entities with strong strategic

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and management capabilities, and increasing public trust in the South African Police Service. These commitments have been made to ensure they are achieved, enabling us to win the fight against crime.

We have noted comments made by some members in the House, which I believe also reflect our understanding of what the Constitution states. I want to emphasise today that the Constitution of the Republic, as it currently stands, outlines the role that the national government must play in the fight against crime, as well as the roles of provinces and local municipalities. There is a misconception that our Constitution does not allow provinces to fulfil their role. Hence MEC Marais stated that the Western Cape province has decided to act against crime.

The Constitution is explicit regarding the role of provinces in the fight against crime and their relationship with the provincial commissioner. The provincial commissioner is accountable to both the provincial legislature and the provincial executive for the performance of his duties and is expected to table a report to the provincial legislature.

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If the provincial legislature is not satisfied with the conduct of the provincial commissioner, they have, Chair, through you, the power and authority to act accordingly. It is a concurrent responsibility that the national government, the province, and municipalities must work together in the fight against crime. This is provided for within the Constitution. We must just apply the constitution as currently it is formulated for us to fight crime. We do not need any special arrangement in this regard [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon delegates, the next speaker on the podium is going to be hon M Billy, the delegate from KwaZulu-Natal. [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

It's not my delegate yet.

Mr M BILLY: Thank you, House Chair, for protecting me. Thank you for protecting me, House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Mabebo, let us not disrupt hon Billy from the province of the rickshaws, please.

Mr M BILLY: Thank you, House Chair. Greetings to the Acting Minister, the Deputy Ministers present and to the fellow South

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Africans. Let me take this opportunity and congratulate the leader of the DA who is currently meeting with His Majesty, King Misuzulu kaZwelithini, today.

Chairperson, as this debate draws to a close, we must ask ourselves a simple question. Will this budget make South Africans safer? A lot has been said about these budgets, plans and targets. Some parties support, while others oppose it. Those who oppose it, if you look carefully, they have convicted criminals amongst themselves. Perhaps they are opposing it to weaken our criminal justice systems. But the fight against crime can never be reduced to politics, hon members. Every one of us has a duty to ensure that the resources we appropriate today translate into safer communities across South Africa, so that we can catch criminals, convict them and clean up.

Chairperson, hon Farmer, I suppose South Africa is a country of second chances. But a second chance is not the same as monopoly on wisdom about policing or crime. In recent weeks, I conducted oversight visits to the SA Police Service, SAPS, stations in KwaZulu-Natal, including Inanda, Phoenix, Durban Central and Plessislaer. What I found should concern every member of this House, especially as Inanda, Durban Central and

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Phoenix are in the top 10 worst crime hotspots in South Africa. Hon Acting Minister, at these stations, detectives are carrying impossible workloads. In some instances, detectives are responsible for between 180 to 400 case dockets each.

In Inanda alone, there are currently approximately 1 300 murder cases under investigation. In Plessislaer, Pietermaritzburg, more than 700 murder cases remain under investigation currently. Chairperson, no matter how dedicated our detectives may be, there's no criminal justice system that can function effectively under such pressure. The consequence is simple. Justice delayed becomes justice denied. Victims and families wait longer, and criminals remain free for longer. The challenge does not end.

During these oversight visits, detectives repeatedly raised concerns about delays in forensic reports, ballistic testing, toxicology results and postmortem reports. We also found severe resource constraints, including detectives without access to the basic equipment needed to perform their duties effectively. One of the most disturbing findings emerged during my visit to Plessislaer in Pietermaritzburg.

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It was revealed, hon Acting Minister, that during an industrial action in 2021 by the workers from the Department of Health in the province, hundreds of post-mortem records for the Pietermaritzburg district were destroyed. More than 100 were linked to Plessislaer investigations alone, while over 500 records across the district were reportedly lost and can never be reconstructed, affecting murder cases being investigated. If confirmed, this is not merely an administrative failure, it is a betrayal of victims and families who deserve justice.

Acting Minister, during my oversight programme, I also paid a courtesy visit to the family of Sergeant Mandla Khuzwayo, a crime intelligence officer who was killed by criminals while serving his country. I sat with his mother and looked into the eyes of a woman carrying unimaginable pain. Her sadness was overwhelming. She spoke not as a politician, not as an official, but as a mother who lost her only son.

Chairperson, when we debate this budget, we must remember that behind every statistic is a human being. Behind every police fatality is a grieving family. Behind every murder docket is a victim whose life mattered. Sergeant Kuzowayo's death is a reminder that our police officers are also victims of crime.

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They cannot fight criminals effectively if they are not supported, equipped and protected.

This is why the continued delay in rolling out police body-worn cameras is deeply concerning, hon Acting Minister. For years, government has promised modern policing, yet police officers continue to operate without technology that can protect them to improve accountability and strengthen evidence collection. Hon Minister, trust is not restored through speeches. Trust is not restored when murder dockets move. Trust is not restored when forensic reports arrive on time. Trust is restored when criminals are convicted. Trust is restored when police officers return home safely.

As the DA, we support a professional, capable and accountable police service. We support stronger detective services. We support modern technology, including the urgent rollout of police body-worn cameras. We'll continue to use every oversight mechanism available to expose failures, demand accountability and ensure that neither victims of crime nor fallen police officers are forgotten. Thank you.

Mr P NOE: House Chairperson, before I present, let me indicate that Im standing here, mourning the passing of my king,

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Makhosonke II, who passed on today, and all Ndebeles are mourning. May his soul rest in peace.

I also want to recognise hon Farmer, every time he stands here, he calls on all the mighty. And I think he does that on behalf of this House, and we must acknowledge that.

The ANC welcomes the 2026-2027, Police Budget allocation across Votes 21, 24 and 28, because it is directly in line with the ANC commitments - to declare war against crime and keep our houses and streets safe, hon Mokae. And we do so while taking into account the outcomes of Madlanga Commission.

And every speaker that stood here made reference to Madlanga Commission, and that by itself demonstrates how seriously the President and the executive are taking crime, especially in the SA Police Service, SAPS. Crime in South Africa cannot be understood or effectively addressed without acknowledging the complex socioeconomic conditions that underpin it.

During our provincial engagement, it has become clear that crime is driven by a combination of poverty, unemployment, inequality, social exclusion, substance abuse, gender equality

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and weak social cohesion. These conditions continue to create an environment in which crime and violence thrive.

At the same time, we also see broader social concerns raised in communities, including moral decay of society, the prevalence of single parent households and the weakening of family structures. We believe that the requisite resources should be directed to the restoration of society and the family structure.

Civil society organisations, which are meant to give a voice to the voiceless, are also under financial strain. Instead of an inclusive focus on both victims and perpetrators, perpetrators of crime are often excluded from education and advocacy campaigns. And who are these perpetrators? It is these men who we are part of dominating in this House. And it is upon our responsibility to look at ourselves and reflect as to what have we become as men. And they represent a significant challenge of civil society organisation strategies aimed at reducing crime in community initiatives.

We believe that more needs to be done to educate and raise awareness with those persons who are potentially responsible for the crimes as well. It is therefore imperative that

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sufficient funding is directed towards restoring communities and ensuring that SAPS works collaboratively with the Department of Social Development, communities and civil society organisations to address these underlying issues.

For this reason, we welcome government's continued commitment to the integrated crime and violence prevention strategy. The ICVPS correctly recognises that sustainable reductions in crime, cannot be achieved through law enforcement alone but require a whole government and a whole of society response that addresses both symptoms and the root causes of crime.

We believe that success of this strategy will depend on effective implementation and meaningful collaboration across all spheres of government. Crime prevention cannot be left solely to the police. It requires partnerships with communities, schools, civil society organisations, municipalities, the private sector, and other government departments, including political parties.

It is quite disturbing that often when political parties stand here and contribute to the debate, the South African society has come to accept that there are those who have become delinquents and there are those who have become scavengers.

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These who have become delinquents, they expect government to do more without nothing. They make presentations of what government must do, they make a list and it's MKP and EFF ... he has run away - hon Gericke, but at the end of it they don't support the budget. I don't know how do they expect government to have their annual performance plan and budget but be unable to um implement what they are suggesting here.

And this once who have become scavengers, instead of doing an oversight ... he has run away, hon Gotsell. He goes all around not attending sessions, not attending committee meetings, scavenging mistakes or where he thinks he will put them on the ANC. Instead of telling his own Member of the Executive Council, MEC, sitting right next to her, he is calling upon the ANC about the problems of crime in the Western Cape. And the ANC is not planting each and every crime that has been committed. The ANC has got a programme through the Minister and the department, they are implementing it.

And the Western Cape is not a country it's just but a province within a country. While prevention remains critical, law enforcement continues to play an essential role in stabilising communities affected by levels of crime and violence.

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We note SAP's continued implementation of Operation Shanela 1 and 2, which seeks to address violent crime through intelligence-led multidisciplinary operations in identified hotspot areas. These operations bring together visible policing and what they did ... before I forget, because hon Gotsell is back. He wants to deny that DA is practicing racial discrimination in the Western Cape against black people.

And the highest office to demonstrate it; in Gauteng, they have been having mayors, black people, who failed. Now they are flying the missus, madam, to go and stand as a mayor in Gauteng. That shows how they disrespect us. While indicators provide important insight into operational performance, assist in evaluating impact of interventions such as Operation Shanela, at the same time, we believe that policing effectiveness cannot be measured solely for operational outputs. Greater attention should also be paid to the quality of police leadership.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Gotsell, on what are you standing?

Mr N GOTSELL: House Chair, I would just like to know if the member is prepared to take a question?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Noe, are you prepared to take a question from...?

Mr P NOE: Nothing, nothing...

Mr N GOTSELL: He is too scared to ... [Interjection.]

Mr P NOE: ... I have no time for people to go in and out of the House ... [Interjection.]

Mr N GOTSELL: ... tell us where the dogs are. Tell us where the dogs are.

Mr P NOE: This is where the oversight role of Civilian Secretariat for Police Service becomes particularly important. We observe that the CSPS continues to assess police leadership, management and operational effectiveness through police stations, assessment, compliance inspection, monitoring of community complaints and evaluations of accountability mechanisms.

At station level, attention is given to high police crime stations and areas where persistent weakness have been identified. One of the most pressing challenges facing our

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nation remains gender-based violence and femicide.

Importantly, out of this, we recognise the continued implementation of the GBVF Action Plan, which is aligned to national strategic plan of GBF and focuses on prevention and professionalism.

The Select Committee on Security and Justice recognises that addressing GBF requires coordinated action across government and society. Therefore ... I've got a lot prepared here. I see the time is running out.

The committee notes that most direct allocation towards GBVF intervention is the R1,62 billion allocated to the Family Violence Child Protection and Sexual Offenses units. The FCS units remain a cornerstone of SAPS's response to gender-based violence, sexual offenses, and crimes against children.

These specialised units play a critical role in ensuring that victims receive professional support that perpetrators are brought to justice.

And we would like to make the following recommendations as a committee:

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That SAPS should submit a written turnaround plan to reduce forensic and sexual offence investigation backlogs, including interventions to improve investigation efficiency and Deputy Minister Boishelo addressed this. The CSPS should strengthen monitoring and oversight of SAPS implementation of Domestic Violence Act, including ensuring compliance with legislative obligations, providing mandatory GBVF related training for SAPS members. Submitting a progress report within three months of adoption of the report that the committee is processing.

Finally, the committee also encourages continued support to community policing forums, community safety structures and awareness campaigns that empower communities to become participants in crime prevention.

The ANC supports the budget vote, 28 for SAPS, 21 for CSPS and 24 for Independent Police Investigative Directorate, IPID. I thank you, House Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Pitso Noe for your participation in the debate. Hon delegates, that concludes the debate. No, listen, don't rush there. On the side of the delegates, the lineup, the list is concluded. The Minister was listening carefully to what the nation was saying

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here, in front of us. So, Minister, the people have spoken. You have heard about the challenges and the successes that your department has achieved. But also, on a personal level, I would like to appreciate that you've raised your hand to avail yourself to take up this endless time. So, that is why I will give you a chance to respond to them.

The ACTING MINISTER OF POLICE: Indeed, I have listened very carefully to the contributions of members of all parties and all provinces, which also underline the importance of the NCOP, as a vehicle for dealing with the challenges that we face, with respect to community safety across the country. I believe that the country is in the critical moment, where we can turn this crisis into an opportunity to reset policing on a new path. I think that it's clear from this debate that there's an emerging consensus around the reset and reform agenda. I think Mr Van den Berg was absolutely correct that we have structural problems in the SA Police Service, SAPS, that need to be addressed as part of this reset agenda.

Strengthening detective services, Crime Intelligence, CI, and forensic laboratories. Clearly, this all needs attention. Secondly, the issues that the chairperson of the portfolio committee, member Mamaniso, stressed about

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professionalisation, fighting corruption and consequence management. Nobody, observing what is happening in policing in this country, under the leadership of the ministry, can have failed to recognise that there's an accountability agenda which is unfolding with dramatic implementation over the last few months.

Anybody with any sense of objectivity and honesty, will recognise that the accountability agenda is being implemented. There is also an agreement that as part of the oversight, the reset agenda, the oversight mechanisms, civilian oversight, and the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, IPID, which was part of the original vision of the Constitution, the vision needs to be restored. We must strengthen civilian oversight and we must strengthen IPID, and I believe they are important. This budget reflects the first baby steps in that direction.

Next, I think it's very clear that provincial and local governments have a critical role to play in the fight against crime and to improve community safety. We can have a conversation, member Marais, about what that role should look like, but you know that we've been having this conversation that I've been working with your premier, whose heart is in

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the right place, and with the mayor, who is commitment to working in this collaborative way I have personally no doubts about. Next, I think there has to be a consensus around community policing and what needs to be done.

The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service, CSPA, is working on a set of proposals, including the funding of patrollers, for instance, providing support for Community Policing Forums, CPFs. Provincial governments must contribute funds to this project. They have done it in the Western Cape, in some form, and they have done it in Gauteng, in some form. There is no reason why provincial budgets can't make an allocation for patrollers. I have to say that the model we're working on is some form of matching funding, because there are national programmes that I believe can be utilised for this purpose, and from my point of view, and I want to say that to the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service, CSPA, because I haven't yet received a proposal that clarifies exactly what we're going to do, and I'm impatient. For me, this is a non-negotiable area.

We have to fund community policing as a fundamental pillar of our response to the crisis of safety and security, to restore a sense of community agency and participation of communities

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in shaping their own destiny. It's not an add-on, So, I am waiting for that proposal. On the modernisation project, several members ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Minister, as I've said, I appreciated your raising of the hand to bring that, but on the note of modernisation, your time has expired exactly there. So, your time has expired. Thank you for your participation.

The ACTING MINISTER OF POLICE: Thank you very much. May I say that I was hoping I would have an opportunity – this is not part of my speech, this is a gratuity. If you like, I wanted to – who are you, sir?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Minister.

The ACTING MINISTER OF POLICE: Don't be rude; very rude man.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Minister, your time has expired, please. Hon delegates, that totally concludes the debate. I would like to thank the Acting Minister and the Deputy Ministers of Police for participating in the debate.

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Setswana:

Re a leboga.

IsiZulu:

Siyabonga.

IsiXhosa:

Enkosi.

English:

Hon delegates, we will now go to the fourth, fifth, and sixth orders, and then I would like to call the hon Chairperson of the Select Committee on Security and Justice, hon Mananiso, to present the three reports. Over to you, ma'am.

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CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND
JUSTICE ON THE PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OF MS L
VAKALISA, ADDITIONAL MAGISTRATE AND HEAD OF OFFICE, EZAKHENI,
SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 13(3)(B) AND FOR THE WITHHOLDING
OF REMUNERATION, IN TERMS OF SECTION 13(4A)(B) OF THE
MAGISTRATES ACT, 1993 (ACT NO. 90 OF 1993) AND REFERRED TO THE
COMMITTEE ON 2 FEBRUARY 2026 FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT,
DATED 29 APRIL 2026

AND

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CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND JUSTICE ON THE PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OF MS A BEETON, ADDITIONAL MAGISTRATE, GQEBERHA, SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 13(3) (B) AND FOR THE WITHHOLDING OF REMUNERATION, IN TERMS OF SECTION 13(4A) (B) OF THE MAGISTRATES ACT, 1993 (ACT NO. 90 OF 1993) AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON 2 FEBRUARY 2026 FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT, DATED 29 APRIL 2026

AND

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND JUSTICE ON THE WITHHOLDING OF REMUNERATION OF MS K BODLANI, REGIONAL MAGISTRATE, UMLAZI, SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 13(4A) (B) OF THE MAGISTRATES ACT, 1993 (ACT NO. 90 OF 1993), AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON 2 FEBRUARY 2026 FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT, DATED 29 APRIL 2026

Ms J S MANANISO: Chairperson, let me start by actually appreciating the work of the committee and members of the select committee for always making sure that we follow through the work that we are supposed to be doing.

In terms of the report that we will be reading, members, please note that the report has been Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, ATC, for different magistrates on the basis that it is different misconduct. But for now, we are

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going to read them simultaneously on the basis of that on the Order Paper. We have been lobbied that we must read them simultaneously so that we cannot be taken to court on other matters.

So, with regard to this report, the Select Committee on Security and Justice was briefed on 25 March 2026, on the three magistrates. The Magistrates Commission reported that it had received resignation from Regional Magistrate Bodlani, District Magistrate Vakalisa, District Magistrate Beeton.

The magistrate was charged in 2020 with imposing inappropriate sentencing in sexual offenses matters and misconduct. This one is Magistrate Bodlani. Racial remarks in an email against Acting Regional Court President and derogatory remarks against an accused.

Inappropriate sentences were imposed on accused persons convicted on sexual offenses against children where the prescribed minimum sentence is life imprisonment. Ms. Bodlani imposed sentences where the accused were either cautioned or strongly reprimanded or wholly suspended. Incompetent and incomplete sentences.

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She refused to comply with instructions from the Acting Regional Court President. A progress report dated 30 September 2025, was referred to Parliament on 10 November 2025. Magistrate Bodlani subsequently resigned from office on 31 December 2025.

Fellow South Africans and fellow members, you must follow through the *modus operandi* of what we are dealing with as the committee. District Magistrate Vakalisa, in June 2021, Magistrate Vakalisa was temporarily redeployed to Pietermaritzburg Magistrate Court for health and personal reasons. She was formally instructed in June 2024, to return to Izakheni Magistrate Court with effect from 1 September 2024.

Ms. Vakalisa refused to comply with repeated lawful instructions to return to Izakheni and performed no judicial work from the 1 September 2024 onwards, while continuing to receive full remuneration. In November 2024, the magistrate lodged a formal complaint with the Magistrate Commission regarding Ms. Vakalisa's refusal to return to duty at Izakheni Magistrate Court after a temporary deployment to Pietermaritzburg Magistrate Court. District Magistrate Vakalisa resigned with effect from 23 February 2026.

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District Magistrate Beeton, the Magistrate Commission charged Ms. Beeton with misconduct on 13 June 2023. The charges related to a failure to deliver 11 reserved civil judgments over an extended period. These judgments were outstanding from June 2018 to September 2021.

On 30 July 2025, Ms. Beeton was given specific directive to complete all her outstanding judgment on or before 22 August 2025. On 6 October 2025, the presiding officer noted that this outstanding judgment had not been delivered. He made a finding of serious misconduct.

District Magistrate Beeton resigned with effect from 27 February 2026. The resignation was duly accepted by the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development, and the magistrates are therefore no longer employed by the state. The committee noted the resignation of the three magistrates.

The committee noted its satisfaction with progress made by the Magistrate Commission in respect of the speed with which they are attending to disciplinary matters and reporting to Parliament. The committee noted that magistrates who were facing misconduct charges and the prospect of their remuneration being withheld were now choosing to resign. The

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committee also expressed its dissatisfaction as well with the increase in the number of recommendations to withholding remuneration of magistrates found to be guilty of misconduct charges, and this will decrease the burden to the taxpayers.

The committee looks forward to a review of legislation and to the collaboration approach being implemented by the commission in addressing disciplinary matters. The committee continues to encourage the magistrates to perform their duty with the highest ethical standard and strongly discourages all acts of misconduct within these magistrates. With this report, Chairperson, you can note that some of the cases were reported by the Chief Magistrate.

So, we want to encourage everybody who is within this space that they must liberate ourselves from the abuse of taxpayers by ensuring that they bring everyone who is conducting himself or herself unethical, who is doing the injustice in terms of these particular services to be brought to book. So, we want to thank everybody and members of the select committee for continuously bringing this matter to book.

Hon Gotsell and hon Nonkonyana, based on their previous background of even being on the current judiciary they are

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always lamenting and indicating to us that we must deal with repetitive offenders and make sure that we uphold the standard of the Constitution and what needs to be done by the magistracy in our society.

So, we believe in this matter as well, that when justice is delayed is justice denied, regardless of whether it is in which level or which race.

So, we are the select committee at work that would want to make sure that everybody understands that upholding the Constitution and the Bill of Rights is not a choice, but it is a mandatory obligation that all of us, we must make sure that we have unethical or unquestionable characters as we do this work. So, this is the report that we would want you to consider as the NCOP. I thank you.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND
JUSTICE ON THE PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OF MS L
VAKALISA, ADDITIONAL MAGISTRATE AND HEAD OF OFFICE, EZAKHENI,
SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 13(3) (B) AND FOR THE WITHHOLDING
OF REMUNERATION, IN TERMS OF SECTION 13(4A) (B) OF THE
MAGISTRATES ACT, 1993 (ACT NO. 90 OF 1993) AND REFERRED TO THE**

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Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

In favour: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal,
Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the
Constitution.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND
JUSTICE ON THE PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OF MS A
BEETON, ADDITIONAL MAGISTRATE, GQEBERHA, SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF
SECTION 13(3)(B) AND FOR THE WITHHOLDING OF REMUNERATION, IN
TERMS OF SECTION 13(4A)(B) OF THE MAGISTRATES ACT, 1993 (ACT
NO. 90 OF 1993) AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON 2 FEBRUARY
2026 FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT, DATED 29 APRIL 2026**

Debate concluded.

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IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal,
Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the
Constitution.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND
JUSTICE ON THE WITHHOLDING OF REMUNERATION OF MS K BODLANI,
REGIONAL MAGISTRATE, UMLAZI, SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF SECTION
13(4A) (B) OF THE MAGISTRATES ACT, 1993 (ACT NO. 90 OF 1993),
AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON 2 FEBRUARY 2026 FOR
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Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report adopted in accordance with section 65 of the
Constitution.

The Council adjourned at 18:05.