

UNREVISED HANSARD

MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 19 MAY 2026

**VOTE NO 28 - POLICE, INCLUDING VOTE NO 24 - INDEPENDENT POLICE
INVESTIGATIVE DIRECTORATE AND VOTE NO 21 - CIVILIAN
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MINI PLENARIES

Members of the mini-plenary session met at Committee Room M46 at 16:45.

The House Chairperson Ms Z Majozi took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote No 28, 24 and 21 - Police, including Independent Police Investigative Directorate and Civilian Secretariat for Police Service put:

The MINISTER OF POLICE: Hon Chairperson, Cabinet colleagues, Deputy Ministers of Police, Mr Cassel Mathale and Dr Polly

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Boshielo, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police, Mr Ian Cameron, Acting National Commissioner of the SA Police Service, Lt General Puleng Dimphe and heads of entities, hon members of all parties, I rise to present the 2026-27 Budget Vote for the Ministry of Police at a defining moment for policing in South Africa.

This budget supports the government agenda to build the capabilities of our law enforcement agencies and to improve safety in our country. The Acting National Commissioner and I are committed to a bold police reset agenda to strengthen the fight against organised and violent crime by building a modern, professional and trusted police service that places the safety of our people first.

South Africans want to be safe and to feel safe. They want to feel safe in the streets, in their homes, in our schools, while using public transport and in our places of work. Our people want a police service that is visible, responsive, disciplined and effective. Above all, they want a police service they can trust.

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As the largest institution in the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster, the SA Police Service has been allocated R127,072 billion for the 2026-27 financial year, increasing to R135,8 billion by 2028-29. It is important to understand that the police 'reset agenda' is not a one-year project finalised in an annual budget cycle; it requires a multi-year turnaround strategy that is consistently implemented.

The actions we take in this financial year should contribute to the foundations upon which a strengthened SA Police Service can be built. We won't promise miracles or short-term fixes. What matters is that the direction we are taking is clear and the goals are firm. This budget backs our longer-term strategy focusing on the integrity of the SA Police Service, its intelligence and investigative capabilities in order to improve community safety.

Hon members, the SA Police Service is one of the most important institutions of our democracy. Every day, many tens of thousands of dedicated and committed police officers serve this country with integrity, courage and professionalism. They

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work under difficult and dangerous conditions, making personal sacrifices to protect our communities and uphold the rule of law.

The media frequently carries stories of violent criminals engaging in gun battles with the police, drug busts, many arrests for serious crime or corruption of well-known high-flyers, some posing as so-called 'business people' now facing criminal charges in court. The SA Police Service members responsible for these actions represent the backbone of the South African Police Service. The government appreciates and supports them unreservedly.

At the same time, we acknowledge that the SA Police Service, like other public institutions, particularly in its procurement systems, is bedevilled by systemic corruption. Those involved, must and are being held accountable. It is important to recognise that most of the recent arrests and criminal charges against senior police officers is the result of investigations that predate the Madlanga Commission.

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However, the important work of the Madlanga Commission is assisting our endeavours to improve accountability in policing. The SA Police Service has established a dedicated task team to investigate referrals arising out of the Madlanga Commission. The task team is making progress. Arrests will continue, as we recently saw with Brown Mogotsi. While we wait for the final recommendations of the Madlanga Commission, we will be taking action to implement systemic reforms.

Strengthening crime intelligence must be a key priority. Effective crime intelligence is necessary to fight organised crime; it must identify threats early, infiltrate organised criminal networks, prevent violent crime and guide operational deployments through credible information and analysis. Over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, we will implement a turn-around strategy developed by the SA Police Service, to effectively strengthen our crime intelligence capabilities. Deputy Minister Mathale will provide additional details.

We are also determined to strengthen the Detective Service and improve the quality of criminal investigations. Given the

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challenges facing this division, this is not a short-term endeavour but must be a priority. Communities do not measure safety by the number of arrests alone; they measure safety by whether dangerous criminals are removed from their streets, whether cases are properly investigated and whether justice is successfully secured in a court of law.

To retain expertise, the Detective Critical Skills Allowance of R1000, introduced in October 2025 will continue to support both the SA Police Service and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, DPCI. The challenges facing the forensic services must be addressed as a priority including DNA analysis, ballistics, digital forensics, chemistry and cybercrime investigation capabilities. I have also taken note of the recent statement from Popcru with regard to the working condition of their members in this environment.

A professional police service cannot function effectively if corruption undermines procurement systems and operational preparedness. The Acting National Commissioner is therefore implementing a far-reaching overhaul of SA Police Service

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procurement and supply chain management systems in partnership with the Government Technical Advisory Centre, GTAC, in the National Treasury. This reform process will modernise procurement systems, strengthen oversight, improve transparency and ensure that police officers receive the vehicles, technology, protective equipment and operational resources that they need.

Discipline and accountability are fundamental to rebuilding public confidence in policing. The SA Police Service is reviewing the disciplinary regulations to improve effectiveness of this function. The disciplinary system must be seen to be consistent, fair and efficient by police members and the public. Our objective is to build a disciplined, professional and ethical police service that commands public confidence and supports honest police officers in carrying out their duties effectively.

My view is that where members are facing serious criminal charges, they should be removed from operational policing duties while due process unfolds. Those convicted of offences

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involving dishonesty, corruption or violent crime, including rape, must face mandatory dismissal from the organisation.

Whistleblower mechanisms should also be strengthened to encourage the reporting of corruption and criminality within SAPS. Measures are therefore being taken to strengthen internal disciplinary and investigative capacities.

Organised crime continues to threaten our economy, communities and democratic institutions. Criminal syndicates are becoming increasingly sophisticated and violent. We are still in the middle of violent gang wars, in the Western Cape particularly, despite ongoing efforts to restore safety and security. Government is responding with equal determination.

A new Organised Crime Strategy has been developed to strengthen intelligence-led policing, improve interdepartmental co-ordination, intensify financial investigations and enhance partnerships with the private sector and international law enforcement agencies. Substantial resources have been allocated from Cara funds and the MTEF budget.

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The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, DPCI, will continue strengthening cross-border co-operation and intelligence-sharing to target criminal networks operating across the region and beyond. Illegal firearms continue to fuel violent crime across our country. To strengthen regulation and enforcement under the Firearms Control Act, an additional R18 million has been allocated over and above the baseline allocation for licensing and compliance activities.

Furthermore, more than R200 million will be invested in the development of an enhanced digital Firearms Control Management System to improve firearm tracking, compliance monitoring and operational efficiency. Success has to be measured by criminal syndicates dismantled, convictions secured, illicit assets seized, and a reduction in organised criminal activity.

Crime is concentrated in specific communities and police precincts. We are therefore introducing a renewed focus on the 50 highest-crime precincts in the country. Detailed assessments will be conducted to evaluate leadership, staffing

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levels, operational readiness, detective performance and infrastructure requirements at these stations.

A strengthened monitoring system will assess whether resources are directed strategically towards crime hotspots and offenders who cause the most harm to their communities. The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service will be playing a key role here.

We will continue investing in police stations, mobile Community Service Centres and station maintenance to improve service delivery and police visibility. The Police Modernisation Project aims digitalise administrative systems and improve operational efficiency, allowing more police officers to focus on frontline policing and community safety.

We are planning to roll this out throughout the country over time. This project will continue to be rolled out at high-crime stations and is part of the public-private sector partnership - the so-called Joint Initiative Against Crime and Corruption, being led by the President.

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Hon members, policing alone cannot solve crime. Crime is driven by deep social and economic challenges that require a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response. This is why the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy remains central to our approach. Preventing crime requires stronger families, safer schools, youth development, substance abuse prevention, better urban planning, stronger community partnerships and intergovernmental co-operation.

Government remains firmly committed therefore to tackling Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. R1,6 billion has been set aside for activities related to the fight against GBVF and that and additional R50 million is allocated additionally to provincial baselines. Deputy Minister Polly Boshielo is driving an initiative to improve our response to GBV. I might mention that she is not here today because she suffered a bereavement; her brother-in-law passed away yesterday.

Community partnership remains one of the strongest foundations of effective policing. Across the country, Community Policing

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Forums, neighbourhood structures, faith-based organisations and community volunteers continue to play an important role.

In the year ahead, we will work with provinces and municipalities to implement a structured national community patroller programme - to be implemented by provinces - to improve visibility and community-based prevention in high-crime areas. These patrollers will not do police work, and will be properly regulated, community-centred and implemented under the supervision of the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, with appropriate vetting, training and oversight mechanisms.

This Budget is not a silver bullet, but it is an important step towards a more capable, more honest and more focused police service. The Police Reset Agenda is about restoring hope to the people of South Africa. To the dedicated members of Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation who continue to serve with honour and courage: This government stands with you, and it is my honour to be your Minister.

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To the people of South Africa, we say: The work of rebuilding trust is continuing. Through disciplined leadership, measurable action and unwavering commitment, we will build a safer South Africa and a stronger, more trusted SA Police Service together. We must all remain optimistic, resilient and focused on the task at hand. I have the pleasure of presenting this 2026-27 Budget Vote for the SA Police Service to the House. Thank you all. Thank you.

Ms J L MOKOENA: Chairperson, Minister and Deputy Ministers, members of the Portfolio Committee on Police, hon members, SA Police, SAPS, delegation, I stand before this House in support of the 2026/27 Police budget Vote and the Annual Performance Plans of the South African Police Services, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate and the Civilian Secretariat for Police Services.

As we deliberate on the R127,72 billion allocated to Vote 28, we must recognise that this budget is a fiscal commitment to safety, dignity, and security of every South African. This

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budget is stable at a time when government is pressured from planning to implementation.

As President Cyril Ramaphosa stated during the 2026 State of the Nation Address, the talking is over and the era of urgent delivery has begun. Today, we support a budget that seeks to build safer communities through integrated governance, stronger community partnership, and legislative reform. The ANC has consistently maintained that policing alone cannot solve crime because crime emerges from various social fragmentation rooted in unemployment, poverty, substance abuse, and exclusion from social support system. Therefore, our response must be broader than law enforcement. This understanding underpins the integrated crime and violence prevention strategy, which advances a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach to safety. The Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy, ICVPS, rests on six critical pillars.

An effective criminal justice system, early intervention, victim support, environmental design, active community

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participation, and integrated state responses. Through this budget, safety becomes the responsibility of the entire state. Through the leadership of the civilian secretaries, real departments ranging from social development to human settlement are increasingly required to integrate safety outcome into their planning and implementation framework.

Schools must become centres of prevention. Social development must identify vulnerable households. Municipalities must improve lighting, urban design, and public spaces. Economic programmes must reduce vulnerability and empower communities. We are moving beyond fragmented interventions towards integrated response that disrupt the entire criminal ecosystem. This approach is already being advanced through multidisciplinary intervention under Operation Shanela II where state institutions coordinate resources against organised crime networks and violence support.

The greatest moral challenge facing our nation remains the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide. The classification of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, GBVF, as

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a national disaster underscores that it is a national emergency requiring an urgent response. We therefore welcome the prioritisation of GBVF interventions in the 2026/27 APP.

We note that success introduces a bold target to achieve a 25% reduction in contact crimes against women and children. To support this objective, R1,165 victim-friendly facilities remain operational across the country.

A resolute GBVF desk has been established at police station to improve survivor support and ensure dignity and empathy in service delivery. The family violence, child protection and sexual offences units continue to be strengthened with investigators placed on 24-hour standby to respond rapidly to cases.

We also welcome the strategic role of IPID in combating police misconduct. We note its ambitious target of completing 120 GBVF-related investigations that result in convictions, reflecting the seriousness with which these matters are being addressed. We further welcome the allocation to resource

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Community Policing Forums, CPFs, and wish to emphasise that, if communities are expected to play an active role in crime prevention, these structures cannot rely on voluntarism alone.

We also note the APP target to conduct self-assessment ratings for 200 CPFs to improve functionality, governance and support mechanisms. This process should lay the foundation for stronger resourcing, training, administrative support and integration into local safety planning. We also welcome progress towards establishing national and provincial community-based patroller programmes, recognising that community participation remains central to violence prevention.

We have noted with much anticipation the move towards partnership. We welcome the continued co-operation between Saps and the private sector through the Saps-Business Against Crime South Africa, BACSA, partnership. That aims at supporting the modernisation of police stations and improving investigative capacity. We further welcome co-operation agreements signed with health metros, including Cape Town,

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Johannesburg, and Ethekwini enabling a co-ordinated response against organised crime syndicates, extortion networks, and violent criminal economies. This is especially important in provinces such as the Western Cape, where extortion economics continue targeting township, business, informal traders, and transport sectors.

A modern police service requires a modern legislative. We therefore welcome the legislative work undertaken by the Civilian Secretariat for Police Services. The legislative reform programme represents an important opportunity to modernise policing governance, strengthen accountability and improve community participation. We support progress towards the Saps Amendment Bill. Reforms related to firearm control and border policy work aim at strengthening safety. These reforms are essential as government advances the national objective of silencing the gun.

We support measures aimed at strengthening firearm regulation, improving recovery of illegal firearms and ensuring effective oversight mechanism. Important is the implementation of the

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Ipid Amendment Act, which strengthens independent oversight and reinforces accountability mechanism within policing. The Civilian Secretariat must continue leading policy innovation that aligns policing with constitutional values and integrated safety approach.

Public trust remains the foundation of effective policing, yet public confidence in policing institutions remains under pressure. This budget therefore prioritises modernisation and professionalisation.

We welcome investment towards the rollout of the integrated person management system to 150 sites, creating a unified view of individuals against the criminal justice regime. The implementation of this incident management solution across all Saps 10111 Centre, improving the system and response time, modernisation of ICT infrastructure to support technological advancement and fourth industrial revolution capabilities. Expanded lifestyle audit and review investigation targeting senior management to strengthen integrity and combat crime.

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Therefore, these reforms are necessary to rebuild public trust and improve operational effectiveness. In conclusion, I am pleased to present the budget Vote 2018. Thank you.

Mr M MANYI: House Chair, we rise today as a government-in-waiting, despite the fallout from the disputed 2024 election. We do so to confront a painful reality: South Africans are under siege. Communities are plagued by violent crime. Women and children are not safe. Police stations remain under-resourced. Corruption has seeped into the criminal justice system, and public confidence in policing institutions continues to decline. These three budget Votes are not mere line items; they will determine whether citizens live in fear or in safety.

Let me start with South African Police Service, Saps. The crisis in Saps is no longer merely operational. It is structural. It is political. And increasingly, it is a crisis of legitimacy. Even the portfolio committee acknowledges persistent concerns regarding Saps' ability to deliver on its commitments despite repeated reform promises.

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The truth is simple. South Africans do not feel safe. Gang violence, cash-in-transit hikes continue. Construction mafias continue. Kidnappings continue. Illegal firearms continue flooding communities. Yet, year after year, we receive glossy annual performance plans filled with indicators, frameworks, and technical language, while communities bury loved ones every day.

The MK Party believes policing must return to fundamentals: visible policing, intelligence-led crime prevention, specialised units, border security, disciplined command structures, and strict consequence management. A police service cannot succeed when detectives are overwhelmed, forensic backlogs persist, stations lack vehicles, and morale collapses.

The Saps budget must prioritise operational capability, not bureaucratic expansion. Ipid is supposed to be the firewall between the people and police abuse. If Ipid were effective, the police officers who killed unarmed people in Cato Manor would not be roaming the streets freely today, but they do.

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They even receive millions from the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA. Increasingly, South Africans are asking: who investigates political power when political power itself may be implicated?

The recent declassified Ipid report relating to the president, his protection unit, and Ntaba Nyoni Estates Cc has left many South Africans with the disturbing impression that the report functioned less as an accountability instrument and more as a political get-out-of-jail-free card for number one.

Major-General Wally Rhooode acted under instruction. The President received regular reports in his Hyde Park Palace. Go and read the section 89 report. It is all in there. The President is the sole member of Ntaba Nyoni Estates Cc, the entity involved in the transactions. Chairperson, go and read the PRECCA Act. You will find there that PRECCA Act pierces through the veil of the Ntaba Nyoni Estates Cc and attributes accountability directly to the person. In this case, the sole member of Ntaba Nyoni is the President, not the manager.

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Yet, despite these realities, the report says absolutely nothing meaningful about political accountability at the highest level. Nothing. No serious interrogation of executive responsibility. No meaningful scrutiny on the chain of command. No attempt to resolve glaring contradictions before the South African public. And what deepens public concern is not only what the report says, but what the report is deliberately avoiding confronting.

The report sidesteps critical constitutional questions. One, why were state security resources mobilised around what was initially presented as a private matter? On what legal basis were the intelligence and policing structures activated? If all was above board, how come the 2020/21 Saps' Annual Report is silent about these shenanigans?

Why were parallel structures, why were parallel channels used outside ordinary investigative procedures? And how does a President who receives continuous updates suddenly becomes a passive bystander with no accountability obligations

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whatsoever? In any constitutional democracy, accountability flows upwards, especially to the highest office in the land.

The President cannot simultaneously receive reports, direct, or authorise responses through subordinates, benefit from institutional protection, and then be treated as entirely detached from responsibility. This proposition is neither politically credible nor constitutionally sustainable.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Manyi, may you please hold?

Ms D R DIREKO: House Chair, is hon Manyi prepared to take a question?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): No, hon member. You do not have to ask the question. I will ask on your behalf. Do not ask the question before I confirm with the member that he is prepared to take a question. Mr M Manyi, are you prepared to take a question?

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Mr M MANYI: She is wasting my time.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Okay.

Mr M MANYI: Oversight institutions lose legitimacy when ordinary citizens are pursued aggressively while political elites are insulated from scrutiny. That is dangerous for constitutional democracy. The MK Party warns that selective accountability destroys public trust not only to Ipid but in the entire criminal justice system.

The constitutional principle is simple. Proximity to power cannot become immunity from scrutiny. That is why Ipid must be strengthened institutionally, financially, and operationally, but protected from political interference. We argue as MK Party that the Ipid must report directly to Parliament, not to the minister.

I will conclude with the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service. Even here, the committee report itself raises concerns. The Secretariat lacks the necessary teeth to ensure

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implementation of its recommendation. That is at the heart of the problem. Oversight without enforcement becomes administrative decoration.

The committee further highlights recurring failures regarding gender-based violence and femicide responses, domestic violence compliance, victim support failures, weak consequence management, and lack of measurable outcomes. The MK Party maintains that civilian oversight must not become detached from relatives on the ground. Communities do not care about the number of assessments conducted. They care about the following: whether police respond, whether dockets are processed, whether criminals are arrested, whether victims are protected, and whether justice is delivered. Oversight institutions must therefore be empowered to compel implementation to track compliance and ensure a contribution across policing environment.

In conclusion, for South Africans, the measure is not all these glossy reports. It is whether they can walk safely, sleep peacefully, run their businesses securely, and trust the

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police again. At present, millions cannot, and that is the indictment before this House. As I sit down, when the MK Party takes over, it will ensure a professional service, fearless oversight of institutions, and a criminal justice system that serves the people, not political elites. South Africans, make it happen - vote for the MK Party. Thank you.

Mr I CAMERON: House Chair, today, we are meant to debate a Police budget of more than R127 billion, and it is probably one of the largest allocations in the country's budget. But I think it is important that every failure in the SAPS cannot be explained away by giving the reason that we supposedly do not have enough money. The deeper problem is the management of the money that is allocated. Before coming here, I ran back after wanting to make this Budget Vote a bit more practical, as I quickly popped into the Western Cape Organized Crime Unit just across the road from Parliament. At the moment, in the province, the Narcotics Unit has only three out of 10 vehicles working. All of them have over 300 000 kilometres on them. For the entire province, for organized crime specifically, only 17 operational vehicles for the whole of the Western Cape. That

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is not even mentioning the rest of the country. We see the failure in the use of resources in the maintenance of vehicles, where the rape kits are available, where the detectives have the tools to build proper dockets, and whether IT systems work at the station level, and whether supply chain management serves victims or insiders.

Over the past week, we did a few surprise oversight visits to some of the stations and units just close to Parliament. And it is interesting what we found. At Emfuleni SAPS yesterday, after 11 murders in less than a week, police told us that the population has nearly tripled in about five years. The resources have not followed the people. The station still faces a staffing crisis, and over the past weekend, their IT system was once again off; they could not scan just over 120 dockets for the weekend. Emfuleni fleet, 15 out of 24 frontline vehicles are down at the moment, some for over six months. In Philippi East, only three out of 26 operational vehicles are currently available for police to use and serve the public. Eight visible policing vehicles currently serve 250,000 people in that community, just because we intervened

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on Thursday. The Nyanga Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences, FCS, unit has only three out of 12 operational vehicles. Across all those sites that I have just mentioned, and I know it is a bit of a simplification, but 70% of frontline vehicles and FCS vehicles did not work. The Nyanga FCS unit, severely undercapacitated, only 20% staffed, with minimal vehicles, and had no rape kits when we got there. Stellenbosch and Mitchells Plain FCS also had no rape kits when we got there.

If gender-based violence and femicide are truly treated as the national disaster that the President declared them to be, how do specialized units like this end up without rape kits? This is why SAPS' supply chain management is a frontline issue. It is likely the biggest corruption issue in the SAPS as well. When procurement fails, the victims end up paying the price. And when vehicles are not repaired, then communities again pay. When rape kits are unavailable, victims pay. And when IT systems fail, investigations suffer. And that brings us to integrity management.

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The recent suspension of Lieutenant General Molefe Fani, the SAPS Divisional Commissioner of Supply Chain Management, is welcome. But suspension is not accountability alone. You see, this person was linked to allegations made by the Special Investigating Unit, SIU, as far back as 2021, but was still appointed as the head of supply chain management in the SA Police Service. Five years later, he is finally suspended due to the intervention of not only the Acting Minister, but also the Acting National Commissioner, which is welcome, but now we need further steps. No one in the SAPS, or the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, DPCI, or any other structure should be considered above the law, no matter how high the rank.

On the 17th of March, I wrote to the Provincial Commissioner of the SA Police Service in the Western Cape because of the list of members, including stations like Laingsburg, Swellendam, Lingeletu West, Stellenbosch, Pinelands, Hermanus, Milnerton, Mbekweni, Calitzdorp, Provincial Vehicle Crime Investigation Unit, Samora Machel detectives, and the anti-gang unit, who all have stakes in the taxi industry, it

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is now two months later, after five follow-ups, we still do not have a response because of delays in the Western Cape provincial SAPS management. And from what we have seen, the provincial SAPS office has obviously not treated it with the necessary urgency.

Lifestyle audits cannot be a paper exercise, and vetting cannot be selective. Outside remunerative work, controls cannot be ignored, and disciplinary processes cannot drag on until the public forgets. It is therefore that this budget must be judged by what the SAPS does with it. Will the SAPS correctly distribute resources to match population growth and violence in those communities that I have used as examples? Because they are asking when the police will arrive or whether they will arrive at all. Whether detectives will come back to them, whether evidence will be collected, and whether the case will end up in court. Whether the gangsters, rapists, extortionists, and corrupt officials will finally face the consequences. In this province, the unit responsible for extortion only has five operational members for the entire

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province. That means the previous budget was not used properly.

As we continue to fight for optimal resources, I want to use my closing as an opportunity to thank two sets of people. The one being the brave men and women who, despite these challenges, show up regardless of the challenges that they face. They show up, and they try to serve. And the brave men and women in the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, IPID, who, clearly, especially over the last few months, have stepped up their game in the fight against cops who should not be in that uniform. I thank you.

Mr M KHOZA: Chair, I want to take this opportunity to firstly greet the commander-in-chief and president of the EFF, president Julius Malema, commissars, fighters, and ground forces members. Firstly, it is regrettable that the Minister came here in front of us to read his speech word by word, showing facial disorientation and confusion about what the SAPS is expected to do. It shows that he does not understand where the SAPS come from, what the SAPS is confronted with,

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and what the future is expected to be for our people. We are dealing with a bloated Ministry here, with four Ministers, and one who is at home drinking coffee, doing nothing at the expense of our people, who are paying him for doing nothing. We have two Deputy Ministers who are also not given any meaningful responsibilities. Acting Minister Cachalia, I think it is high time you do an honourable thing and step down because it shows that you do not know what you are dealing with. You have shown this through the speech that you were reading, that you do not understand the frustration the blue badge is dealing with. It has been almost a year now since you were appointed. Have you ever even taken time to go to the police station, taken time to be on the ground in operations to deal with the material conditions on the ground? Unfortunately, you are not interested because you are enjoying air conditioning in your offices. You are enjoying ...

[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Order. Do not speak with emotions and anger.
Order ...

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Mr M KHOZA: We are aware of that.

The EFF rejects this Budget Vote because the SAPS, IPID and the Civilian Secretariat have failed the poor, failed justice, and failed the people of South Africa. The media briefing on 6 July 2025 by Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi opened a Pandora's box for the SA Police and exposed that while there are many men and women who are dedicated on the ground, in the police service, their work is eroded or erased by the deeply embedded criminal elements within the SAPS. The SAPS is increasingly protecting politicians, connected elites, and corrupt networks while brutalising the working class, protesters, and the unemployed. In townships and villages, police are absent when crime strikes but are heavily militarised when communities and students protest against living conditions, poverty, and unemployment. It is unfortunate that this debate on policing takes place under the cloud of the Phala Phala judgment by the Constitutional Court of South Africa, which has once again exposed the selective application of justice in South Africa. When the powerful are implicated, the state moves with secrecy and protection. But when the ordinary people face murder,

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rape, and violent crimes, they are abandoned by the collapsing police service. The Phala Phala matter involving Mr Cyril Ramaphosa has deepened public distrust in SA Police Service because it confirms the growing belief that there is one law for the political elites and another for the poor.

Criminality within the SA Police Service is so deeply embedded that without the SAPS' involvement, the extortion gangs ravaging the Cape Flats would have been dismantled a long time ago. It is members of SAPS who are actively working with these extortion gangs to wreak havoc on the lives of our people in the Cape Flats. Billions are allocated to the SAPS, yet women are murdered, children disappear, gangs terrorize communities, and dockets vanish without accountability. Equally, we must ensure that the practice of using the IPID to fight internal battles within the SAPS comes to an end. We are aware of these concocted internal fights that are being used or spearheaded by IPID for political scoring and political gains. We are aware, and it must come to an end. The IPID must be both functionally and operationally independent and ensure that the police perform their functions within the ambit of the law.

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The Civilian Secretariat has become bureaucratic, disconnected from communities, and ineffective in transforming policing culture. The Civilian Secretariat for Police continues to move on like a headless chicken. The entity is used for cheap tenders of the ANC comrades and does nothing to assist in bringing the police and the people together.

If we vote to pass this budget without a clear plan for holding the SA Police to account, we will be voting to give millions to criminals. We reject this Vote as the EFF, and we are saying today, Minister, can this serve as your last address? You have the Deputy Minister next to you, hon Cassel Mathale. We think that if you can just save the taxpayers' money by going home, he is a capable man. He can take us through and sow some confidence in these crimes and these gangs that are happening out there. You are here telling us absolutely nothing. Your speech has been the same thing for the past five years. There is no change; it is just a rephrased speech with no action. As the EFF, we are saying to you that do the right thing and resign, and the person next to you, the Deputy Minister, must take over. Thank you very much.

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IsiZulu:

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: Sihlalo, ngiyalithokozela ithuba, mhlonishwa Ngqongqoshe namaSekela akho womabili, amalungu ahloniphekile ale Ndlu, uHulumeni kazwelonke umbuleke izinge laphe embuthweni wamaphoyisa kaHulumeni kazwelonke kanjalo nakoHulumeni basemakhaya kuvela okukhulu okonakala okwenziwa amaphoyisa nokungethembeki kwawo.

Kuletha ungabazana ukubika emaphoyiseni ngobugebengu bomakhelwane ngoba wona kanye ayingxenyekuleleleleni kwinkohlakalo ezigebengwini. Okumqoka ukukhushulelwa ezikhundleni ngobungani okwenza labo abanengalo neketanga ezikhulwini eziphezulu baphakanyiselwe ezikhundleni khona bezohlomula ngokwezikhundla zabo abesuke sebezinikeziwe.

English:

South Africans cannot feel safe, protected and confident in SAPS unless policing is professional, accountable and properly resourced. The IFP has noted the work of the ad hoc committee of Parliament and the Madlanga Commission, which have highlighted witnesses in the police system.

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Therefore, these Budget Votes must be judged on whether the improved safety restore trust for communities living in fear of violent crime, gender-based violence and corruption. The IFP is concerned that the police service still faces a personal shortfall.

This means that the country remains undercapacitated in the very areas that matter most for ordinary people - visible patrols, investigations, crime intelligence and the ability to respond quickly and credibly when a crisis is reported.

The IFP supports the Directorate's focus on more serious and priority offences, as well as on strengthening case management, forensic support and digital case tracking.

Increasing public trust in policing depends not only on arrest but also on holding the police accountable for abuse of police power.

The IFP welcomes the increased emphasis on strategic partnership and community outreach. This supports a crime prevention approach rooted in communities. The IFP therefore

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supports these three Budget Votes because they realise the goals of the Medium-Term Development Plan. We support these Budget Votes because of the direct benefits that lower crime rates have for the quality of life of all South Africans. I thank you.

Mr E HENDRICKS: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, DMS, chair of the portfolio committee, committee members, hon members and all departments present, ...

Afrikaans:

... vandag staan die PA op met 'n simple [eenvoudige] maar harde waarheid. Ons mense vanaf die Cape Flats [Kaapse Vlakte] tot Westbury, van Eldorado Park tot elke klein dorpie wat die staat vergeet het, is moeg vir vrees, moeg vir misdaad, moeg vir beloftes wat nooit waar word nie. Ons mense soek net veiligheid, nie meer speeches [toesprake] nie, nie excuses [verskonings] nie, net veiligheid.

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Today, we debate Budget Votes 28, SAPS; Budget Vote 24, Ipid; and Budget Vote 21, the Civilian Secretariate for Police. These are the three pillars that should guarantee accountability, professionalism and public trust. However, the truth is that the system is cracking and our people are paying the price in blood.

SAPS detective capacity has collapsed from 26 000 a decade ago to barely 17 000 today. Firearm control backlogs stretch into the hundreds of thousands. Police stations on the Cape Flats, in Westbury, Eldorado Park and rural townships are drowning with no support. Violent crimes continue to rise.

Let us be honest, there is nothing manageable about 80 murders a day. There is nothing manageable about children dodging bullets on their way to school. Yet, SAPS leadership behaves as if the crisis is under control.

We cannot fix policing while corruption sits comfortably at the top. In recent years, multiple SAPS generals have been arrested for procurement fraud, firearm licence corruption,

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defeating the ends of justice and even collusion with organised crime. When generals, the very people entrusted to lead the fight against crime appear in court, what message does that send to the constables on the ground?

The PA says that a fish rots from the head. We demand a full review of security clearance for all generals and senior offices, annual lifestyle audits, a public register of disciplinary outcomes and immediate suspension, not redeployment of any general under investigation. You cannot fight crime with compromised commanders.

Ipid Budget Vote 24 is supposed to be the watchdog that bites, instead it is the watchdog that barks softly and starves quietly. Ipid is underfunded, structurally dependent on SAPS and routinely ignored by SAPS leadership. This is not oversight; this is a theatre.

The PA demands binding power for Ipid, ring-fenced funding and public dashboard of Ipid cases, so that communities can see who is being protected by the system.

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The Civilian Secretariate Budget Vote 21 produces good research and good policy, but SAPS simply ignores what it does not like. They simply ignore it. A brain without muscle cannot move a body. We call for a statutory mechanism for CSPPS to implement Secretariat recommendation, proper monitoring of community policing forums and a complete overhaul of the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

Afrikaans:

Kom ons praat straight [reguit] oor gansterism [bendebedrywighede]. Dis die oorlog wat ons communities [gemeenskappe] alleen moet fight [veg]. Ons mense leef in war zone [oorlogsones] vanaf die Cape Flats [Kaapse Vlakte] tot Westbury, vanaf Eldorado Park tot Wentworth. Kinders slaap op die vloer as gevolg van stray bullets [dwaalkoeëls]. Businesses [besighede] betaal vir extortions [afpersings], net om oop te maak. Families begrawe hul kinders voor hulle 18 word. Genoeg is genoeg. Ons mense kan nie nog 'n generasie aanbendes verloor nie.

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The PA demands a national antigang strategy with real funding, a specialised anti-extortion unit deployment of experienced detectives to gang cases, a community-driven intelligent model and a zero-tolerance approach to corrupt offices who leaks information to gangs. [Time expired.] The PA will support the Budget Votes. Thank you.

Afrikaans:

Mnr W W WESSELS: Agb Huisvoorsitter, meeste Suid-Afrikaners, veral die mees weerloses in ons gemeenskappe, weet al vir baie lank, vir dekades wat sekere politici nou vir die eerste keer deur die ad hoc-komitee en die Madlanga-kommissie met 'n skok besef het. Dit is dat die SAPD wat veronderstel is om ons gemeenskappe te beveilig, in baie gevalle die misdadigers bystaan en in ander gevalle, self die gewraakte misdade pleeg. Dit is dat baie van die generaals en die topbestuur van die SAPD self misdadigers is. Dit is dat die SAPD meer luitenant-generaals kentekens het as gesonde verstand. Dit is dat daar 'n groot hoeveelheid vrot in die polisie diens is.

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The South African Police Service has a leadership crisis. It has become a top-heavy organisation with high earning generals, whilst the actual crime fighters are left under resourced and demoralised.

Crime Intelligence and Ipid have become structures that are abused and misused in a factional SAPS leadership battle, while communities are left vulnerable and unsafe, due to a lack of effective crime intelligence.

The systemic reforms that are needed, Minister, cannot be miniscule. A complete overhaul of the senior top structure is needed. An operation cleanup with real consequences and a reconfiguration of the South African Police Service architecture is needed.

Afrikaans:

Hierdie taak wat genoodsaak is, is massief, maar daar is baie goeie toegewyde lede van die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie diens.

Daar is polisiemans- en vrouens wat toegewyd is tot die diens en hul roeping. Gebruik hulle, koester hulle en raak ontslae

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van die hele spul blink generaals, wat slegs daar is vir hul
eie gewin, terwyl gemeenskappe lei, terwyl mense onveilig is.
Genoeg is lankal genoeg. Ek dank u.

Ms D E JAMES: Hon Speaker, Minister, Deputy Minister, ...

Afrikaans:

... alles in SAPS [SAPD] is missing [verlore].

English:

Drugs go missing, firearms go missing, a couch is missing.

Afrikaans:

Waar is die couch [rusbank]?

English:

Yesterday the investigating officer went missing in the
Sibanyoni case. Dockets go missing.

Afrikaans:

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Alles is missing [verlore]. So kan dit nie aangaan nie,
Minister.

English:

Hon House Chairperson, the Votes before this House today relating to the South African Police Service, SAPS, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, IPID, and the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service, CSPS, speak directly to the question of whether our state is capable of ensuring safety, accountability and justice for all South Africans.

This is, however, much to be desired in this budget and in an environment in which the institutions are expected to operate. We continue to face instability in leadership, with acting appointments persisting at both ministerial and senior administrative levels. This lack of permanent leadership weakens accountability and disrupts contin ...

Afrikaans:

Ja, daardie woord, ...

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English:

... continuity. We heard you earlier on saying, we are introducing, and we keep on hearing you saying, we have appointed a new task team. When will we hear about results?

This undermines the ability of these institutions to execute their constitutional mandate effectively. At the same time, serious allegations of corruption and maladministration have been exposed through the work of the parliamentary ad hoc committee, whose report is currently being finalised.

These revelations further erode public trust in institutions that are meant to protect and serve our communities. The findings of the ad hoc committee are disgraceful.

The South African Police Service remains under immense pressure. Our communities continue to live with daily realities of violent crime, organised criminal networks and resource constraints that hamper effective policing. Frontline officers are left without adequate support, training and equipment to do their jobs effectively.

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Communities must be served while we root out and expose the rot in our system. Vehicles must be procured and provided so that resources are directed towards policing and not brown envelopes. Detectives must be given tools of trade while we confront the alarming reports of firearms, like I said earlier on, going missing and drugs going missing at forensic storage places.

Rape kits must be available so that justice is not denied or delayed. Task teams must be properly supported to ensure that organised crime is dismantled, not enabled like we have heard. Proper forensic and scanning equipment ... never again must we hear there is only one scanner in this country. Proper forensic and scanning equipment must be provided so that evidence is secured and not compromised.

The IPID which is meant to serve as an independent watchdog over police conduct, remains critically important to the integrity of our justice system, yet concerns persist regarding its capacity, its independence and ability to investigate serious allegation without delay or interference.

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Recommendation after recommendation with zero enforcement. The Civilian Secretariat for Police – Civilian Secretariat for whom I’ve only heard of when I came to Parliament – also plays a vital role in ensuring democratic oversight and policy development, yet its impact is often limited by structural weaknesses and insufficient implementation capacity.

The stability of this entire security cluster is far from where it needs to be. The gaps are real and the consequences are felt most accurately in our communities. Action SA therefore calls for greater stability, accountability, and decisive leadership going forward ... [Time expired.] ...
Thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Mr C Mathale): Hon House Chairperson, thank you for the opportunity to participate in the debate. Acting Minister Cachalia and Deputy Minister Dr Polly Boshielo in absentia, hon Ministers and Deputy Ministers, the chairperson of the portfolio committee hon Ian Cameron, members of the committee and Members of Parliament, the Civilian Secretariat Mr Sobuyi and the Acting executive

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director of IPID, Dr Bila, the acting National Commissioner Lieutenant General Dimphe and Ministry staff, it is an honour to rise before this House today to participate in the Budget Votes 28, 24 and 21 of SAPS and the two institutions, the Civilian Secretariat and IPID, essential to maintaining the credibility, accountability, and integrity of policing in a democratic South Africa. These are the Independent Police Investigative Directorate and the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service.

The importance of the work of both the IPID and the CSPS has never been questioned but has become even more important in recent times with the advent of the Madlanga Commission, the ad hoc committee of Parliament and other investigative bodies. The revelations playing out therefrom are concerning and are pointing to a deeper demand for rooting out corruption and for public trust in law enforcement to be strengthened, with more vigour and determination than ever before. It is therefore with this in mind that through this budget we are focusing on strengthening accountability, professionalisation and rooting out corruption within the South African Police Service.

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To this effect, the IPID continues to execute its mandate independently without fear, favour, or prejudice, while ensuring that police misconduct and criminality are decisively addressed. 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 operational demands and recommendations emerging from the Madlanga Commission and the ad hoc committee, 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 corruption related investigations, which require additional protective measures and resources.

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As I mentioned, a major concern and strategic priority for IPID remains the reduction of the investigation backlog. Over the next three years, IPID aims to reduce the backlog by 13 500 cases through the implementation of a dedicated backlog reduction strategy, and 25 experienced investigators will be recruited on contract to strengthen the existing investigative capacity.

At the same time, the directorate is intensifying its anti-corruption efforts within the police service. The 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. This intervention is essential in restoring integrity within law enforcement institutions and reinforcing public confidence.

To improve prosecution outcomes and strengthen the quality of investigations, IPID will continue enhancing its quality assurance mechanisms. The directorate plans to conduct quality assurance on at least 30% of dockets annually to improve case readiness and legal compliance.

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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 cases.

The IPID accepts and understand the resources constraints that they have, but they will try to do the best with what is available. During the 2025-26 financial year, IPID finalised 132 rape investigations, which resulted in nine criminal convictions and 19 departmental convictions around gender-based violence, GBV, cases.

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 offences investigations in the current financial year. This is done in

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order to strengthen the capacity of the investigations within IPID to deal specifically with GBV related cases.

In order to deliver effectively on the mandate of the IPID, the budget is projected to increase from R426 million in 2025-26 to R479 million in 2028-29, despite baseline reductions over the medium-term.

The Civilian Secretariat for Police, in exercising its constitutional mandate, remains committed to using evidence-based research to develop safety and policing policies as well as to continue to provide monitoring and evaluation reports to improve overall police performance and service delivery.

The department has elevated the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy, ICVPS, as key intervention in the 2024-29 Medium-Term Development Plan to advocate for the whole of government and whole of civil society approach to address drivers of crime and violence.

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As reported last year, a National Working Committee, NWC, that meets on a regular basis to facilitate and monitor the implementation of this strategy outlines key achievements and challenges in addressing safety, crime and violence concerns in the country.

Thus far, the findings emanating from the NWC demonstrates that departments have sound policies and programmes addressing the root causes of crime and violence, but the impact is not felt. Issues of social cohesion, poor parenting, and break in family values, as well as poor service delivery at municipal level is hampering progress and must be addressed.

The Department of Social Development in particular must address the psychological and social issues, and in this regard, more social workers must be employed and utilised at family level. Importantly, as the ICVPS is a whole of government approach, joint planning and budgeting is critical to negate the silo approach of government implementation of programmes.

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We believe an integrated approach will assist government and the whole of government approach will assist us in our fight against crime because crime is not necessarily a police responsibility; it is everybody's responsibility and every political organisation represented in Parliament to play its role.

The CSPS continues to execute its mandate as best as they can. However, for the CSPS to fully realise its mandate as promulgated in the Constitution, the department recently submitted its budget requirements to the value of about R973 million against the current proposed budget of R181 million, which is a shortfall of approximately R792 million. Indeed, this shortcoming impacts negatively on the ability of the Civilian Secretariat to perform its responsibility.

I think it would be disingenuous of me to sit without talking about the issue of the future government of the MKP. If it was not in South Africa, you will believe what is being said, but the fact of the matter is that the head of this organisation

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was responsible for governing this country. The weaknesses we see in the Civilian Secretariat for Police was upgraded, and during their time, nothing was done. It was only under President Ramaphosa that the Civilian Secretariat for Police was upgraded. Today, standing here, the Civilian Secretariat for Police is led by a director general and not a deputy director general, DDG, ... [Time expired.] ... Thank you very much for the time to comment.

Mr M M SOKOPO: House Chairperson, hon Acting Minister, Deputy Minister, members of the portfolio committee, leadership of the SA Police Service, SAPS, the ANC rises in full support of the budget and annual performance plan tabled for Votes 21, 24 and 28. This Budget Vote comes before this House during a period of intense scrutiny and reflection on policing in our country, in particular, this province.

It comes at a time where serious allegations have emerged regarding the possible capture of policing structures by organised criminal networks in the Western Cape following remarks made by Judge Thulare. It further comes at a time when

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Parliament, through this portfolio committee, is embarking on an antigang inquiry aimed at uncovering the extent of criminal infiltration and strengthening accountability mechanism. This moment demands seriousness from all of us because what it is at stake it is not only credibility of policy institution, but the confidence of communities who continue to live under the daily threats of gangs, extortions, illegal firearms and organised crimes.

In response to the call to intensify the war against crime, SAPS tabled its budget and annual performance plan on 29 April 2026, and outlined several strategic priorities, including, specialised force multipliers operation, strengthening antigang intervention and responding decisively to organised crimes, extortion and illicit firearms. The ANC welcomes this prioritisation because the nature of crime confronting South Africa is evolving. We are no longer dealing only with isolated criminal acts. We are confronting organised criminal economies, gangs, extortion networks, illegal firearms, cross-border syndicates and violent criminal groups that undermine the state authority and community safety.

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We welcome the deployment of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, as a strategic force multiplier in support of police operation in hotspot areas. This intervention comes at an important time. It sends a clear message that the state will not surrender communities to criminals. We cannot accept that our homes, streets and public spaces become territories controlled by gangs and syndicates who deliberately undermine the rule of law. The SA National Defence Force, SANDF, deployment is therefore a necessary complement to the ongoing SAPS operation aimed at combating gang violence, extortions, syndicates and illegal mining activities affecting communities across the country. We appreciate that this intervention has been carefully integrated into our annual performance plan, APP, and aligned to the priorities outlined by the President in the state of the nation address.

We further welcome specialised operations such as the Operation Shanela as well as targeted interventions aimed at dismantling criminal value chains and extortion economy. The Western Cape has been particularly hard hit because extortion increasingly intersects with existing gang activities in the

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province. Communities continue reporting extortion targeting both formal and informal township enterprises, particularly in the Cape Flats, Kayelitsha, Guguletu and Nyanga.

The transport sector is equally under pressure, particularly in relation to taxis, buses and private operators affected by routes, rivalries and intimidation. The crime of extortion must be treated with the seriousness it deserves because extortion is not only a criminal matter, but it undermines economic development, it destabilises township economies and it discourages entrepreneurship. Our people are afraid to even start small spaza shops because they would then be expected to pay extortion to survive and it creates fear and instability within communities.

South Africans are waiting for an intelligence-led response capable of dismantling the extortion network before violence is valid. The ANC therefore welcomes the establishment of a specialised national and provincial toll-free hotline for extortion reporting and the monitoring of dockets for investigative progress and conviction outcome. However, we

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must also acknowledge that the intelligence gathering depends on public confidence. South Africa continues to struggle with a culture of fear and distrust when it comes to whistleblowing and reporting crime. Communities often remain silent because they fear retaliation. Therefore, SAPS, must intensify awareness campaigns, build trust and encourage anonymous reporting mechanism so that communities become partners in fighting crime.

The budget before us demonstrates that organised crime remains a central priority. The Hawks receive R2,76 billion under detective services to strengthen investigation into complex and cross-border crimes. This allocation is important because organised crime increasingly operates across provincial and national boundaries.

We have also noted the crime intelligence receiving R5,24 billion allocation to strengthen intelligence-led policing. Crime intelligence remains critical. We cannot dismantle criminal syndicates if we cannot detect them. We cannot combat extortion if we cannot identify the networks and

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we cannot defeat organised crime without intelligence capabilities.

We therefore welcome the strengthening of leadership and co-ordination mechanism, including the elevation of Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi to lead the priority committees on organised crime within the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure, Natjoints. We also note the ambitious performance targets adopted by SAPS to neutralise 75% of identified organised criminal groups through arrest and to dismantle 90% of identified drug laboratories. These targets indicate a shift from reactive policing towards proactive disruption of criminal networks.

Gang violence remains one of the most devastating realities confronting communities. We therefore welcome the prioritisation of antigang interventions and the allocation directed towards sustaining the antigang unit. This investment becomes particularly important as stabilisation deployments are gradually scaled down and permanent capacity must be

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developed. The fight against gangs requires a long-term institutional capability.

We also welcome allocation made towards specialised intervention, including public order police, tactical response team receiving R653 million, the national intervention unit receiving... [Time expired.]

Rev K R J MESHOE: House Chairperson, the Madlanga Commission exposed grave police corruption. The ACDP commends the specialised task team for concrete action in suspending 18 officers with prosecutions already underway. It is a disgrace to note that community safety and policing in our country is under the jurisdiction and leadership of an Acting Police Minister and an Acting National Commissioner because of allegations of corruption in the police.

The ACDP specifically commends Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi for the courage he showed on 6 July. During his media briefing he exposed serious corruption and rot in the Police Service. Would he not have done that criminality in the

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country would be continuing unabated. We are grateful that he did what he did. Now, hope is being restored that criminality in the Police will finally be rooted out.

We agree with the portfolio committee report noting that there is weakness, weak accountability in SAPS' leadership, severe resource constraint in the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, poor co-ordination between oversight bodies and persistent corruption. These must be addressed by requiring stronger financial controls and transparent reporting to Parliament. The recent Parliamentary ad hoc investigation into Police procurement irregularities revealed systemic failures in contract management with millions wasted on equipment unfit for purpose.

Again, we face findings that demand reform. History warns us that demand for reform does not guarantee delivery. The Zondo and Seriti commissions revealed systemic rot, yet prosecutions remain low. We hope the Madlanga Commission will not join that list. Sentences of the corrupt must not be evaded by

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contrafact illnesses or manufactured mental incapacity.

Justice must be seen to be done at all times.

The Civilian Secretariat has a daunting challenge to accelerate programmes that rebuild trust between communities and police, especially in the face of gender-based violence, youth crime and gangs where trust has been eroded. Without community buy-in, reforms will fail. The ACDP calls not only for adequate funding for Ipid, but strict accountability in SAPS' leadership, genuine community-centred policing and also for a moral reformation within the police. With the rot cut out, we can restore integrity and justice into our law enforcement institutions.

Our communities in the country are longing and praying ...

[Time expired.] ... Thank you.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu ...

IsiZulu:

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... abafana bazobuya nayo e-Mbombela ngoMgqibelo ...

English:

... Minister, the police badge must protect and not betray the people. The first duty of any government is to protect its people before tenders and before infightings. South Africans must feel safe in their homes, the streets and communities. But today criminals are becoming bolder whilst public confidence in the police continues to collapse. The police are fast becoming the mice to the cats. As the police fight for tenders, people are left unsafe.

This Budget Vote cannot just be about allocations and the line items. It must be about restoring the credibility, the discipline and the effectiveness of the SA Police Service. The image of the police badge has been tarnished by men and women who chose to save criminal networks rather than protect the South African people. But this is a man-made problem, and it can be corrected by dedicated, honest and ethical men and women in blue.

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Minister, the police badge must once again be respected by law-abiding citizens and feared by criminals. The best way to clean the badge is through action, is to arrest the criminals, properly investigate cases, build solid dockets for prosecution and improve communication between investigating officers and the complainants. South Africans are tired of opening cases and never hearing from the police again.

I repeat the call that I made last year on 4 July. Every official that is involved in supply chain management must undergo regular lifestyle audits. Those found to be saving criminal syndicates must be removed immediately. Criminals wearing police uniform must not be spared because they carry the badge.

Part of the reform required is to ensure the proper synergy between Ipid and SAPS' disciplinary processes. At the moment there's a dangerous disjuncture. The Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, may find a serious case against an officer, but SAPS' internal disciplinary system

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failed to act decisively. That weakens accountability and destroys public trust.

But not all is bad in the Police Service. There are brave men and women who risk their lives daily to protect South Africans. The work of the special task force must be supported. Their working conditions improved and efforts made to retain them in the service. We cannot continue to train excellent detectives and special task force members only for them to be pushed by the private sector while communities remain unsafe. They need to be supported by this budget.

The SA Police Service must focus on protecting the South African people and stop the fight within the police.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

Dr M A MAIMANE: Hon House Chairperson, hon Minister of Police, the leadership of the Police and hon members who are here, I think today's Budget Vote needs to be seen against the context

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of where South Africa sits. We are facing between 60 and 70 murders a day. In all reality the probability of convictions for murder now sits at less than 20%, which means communities are living with the very people they have watched and know have murdered people. This isn't just an issue that sits with policing, it speaks to our broader criminal justice system if we are going to restore the strength of the police.

I want to thank the men and women who wake up every day to fight crime in our uniform. I want to say to Minister Firoz Cachalia that now is the time that we finish with all the acting positions. Our crime cannot become another drama with a lot of actors. What we need is permanent appointments in all leadership positions, starting with the Minister of Police and the National Police Commissioner.

If we've converted the police into this sort of military type of labelling with generals, etc, a well command of authority needs to be re-established. I would argue that permanency is important.

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Secondly, I don't think we should deny that the SAPS' establishment was reduced by more than 18 000 employees in five years, literally at the end of the 2016-17 financial year. Our fundamental issue in dealing with crime is the fact that the police are facing a 6 000 men and women deficit. The budget must respond to that question. It must speak to the fact that when detectives are overworked, the fundamental response is that 21 million criminal cases which were opened in South Africa, of those only 61,7% were closed without being resolved. That means 13,2 million victims never saw justice. We have to perhaps think differently about how we do policing. The purpose behind the committee and the work that must happen is about reform.

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, needs to be well funded in order to execute its mandates and recommendations that came from the Farlam Commission.

In this regard, I want to suggest a few rather than playing with gimmicks. I would argue that building a wall on the N2 is not going to help anybody. Furthermore, deploying more and

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more army is only going to give us reprieve to allow police to do their jobs, but it is not a crime solving mechanism.

Let us decentralise police, let us cut the R4 billion that goes to VIP protection and air detectives. Let us professionalise the service. Let us ensure that wearing the uniform of the police is a restoration of dignity in our nation. Our citizens are tired and now is the time to act. I support.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Hon Chairperson ...

Sesotho:

... gotso, Maafrica ...

English:

... these three Votes represent the architecture of policing, enforcement, oversight and policy direction. All of them have failed and the entire policing system has lost its legitimacy. South Africa does not suffer from a shortage of policing budgets. It suffers from leadership and accountability.

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With two Deputy Ministers and two Ministers, South Africa continues to receive the largest budget share, yet communities experience the rising of violent crime, slow response time, poor detective work and collapsing forensic capacity. Stations are under-resourced, officials are demoralised and technologically behind the modern client networks.

Even more worrying is the weakness of oversight. The Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, exists to ensure that when policing fail, abuse power or act unlawfully, there are consequences. Yet Ipid itself is compromised. It is overwhelmed by delays, case backlogs and limited capacity to conduct complex investigations that has political sensitivity or involves senior figures. That was demonstrated through the Phala Phala investigation delays.

The fight against economic crime in South Africa does not require continuous proliferation of specialised fragmented tax teams that operate in silos, but rather than strengthening of permanent, well resourced and integrated unit within the existing law enforcement architecture. Such solid unit should

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be capacitated to deal holistically with the full spectrum of economic crimes, including corruption, fraud, money laundering, hijacked buildings, procurement irregularities, cyber-related financial crimes and state capture related offenses rather than being narrowed confined to isolated mandate that limit co-ordination and impact.

Fragmentation has historically produced duplication of efforts, jurisdiction disputes and weak institutional memory. Consolidated units with clear command structures, forensic capabilities and prosecutorial alignment will enhance efficiency accountability and deterrence. But currently the SAPS, Ipid and the Secretariat lack leadership. With that the UAT rejects Vote 28, 24 and 12.

Xitsonga:

Khanimaba.

Ms L SCHICKERLING: Good afternoon, hon House Chair. South Africans deserve a Police Service that works, oversight institutions that function and a criminal justice system

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capable of protecting communities. Today, as we debate Votes 28, 24 and 21, we must confront a painful truth. Our criminal justice system is failing victims long before the cases even reach court.

South Africans are not asking for miracles from the police, they are asking for basics. A detective who answers a phone; enough working police vehicles to respond to victims and investigate crime efficiently; rape kits available that are processed timeously; a DNA result that comes back before a trial collapses; a justice system that treats women and children with urgency instead of indifference.

The crisis begins with detectives. The portfolio committee's own report recognizes that the SAPS urgently needs to strengthen detective capacity and retain skilled investigators. Detectives are drowning under impossible caseloads, outdated systems and low morale. When detectives are overburdened, justice suffers. Victims wait for months for feedback. Witnesses miraculously disappear. Dockets are poorly

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investigated. Cases collapse even before they reach prosecution.

The betrayal of justice occurs then in the charge office before it even reaches a courtroom. And nowhere is this more devastating than the gender-based violence and femicide cases. South Africa remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for women and children, yet survivors still walk into police stations where victim support services are inconsistent, under-resourced and where Domestic Violence Act compliance remains a concern. That is why the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units, FCS, are so important.

FCS detectives investigate some of the most traumatizing crimes imaginable - rape, child abuse and domestic violence. They are expected to support victims, manage forensic evidence and secure convictions, but may not claim overtime. Yet many of these units remain overstretched and severely under-resourced. In rural communities especially, shortages of personnel, vehicles and specialized resources continue to

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undermine service delivery. A self-made crisis since the disbandment of the SANDF rural commando units.

Government tells us that gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, is a priority, but is it really? The report before us speaks about strengthening specialized units and improving forensic-led investigations. Those commitments are welcome, but they must translate into implementation because a strategy without capacity means very little to a survivor waiting for justice.

A major part of the problem lies with the forensic science laboratories. The committee report confirms that the forensic science laboratories face a significant and growing backlog. Case volumes have increased by more than 45% since the 2021-22, while personnel capacity has declined. This has devastating consequences. It means rape survivors wait endlessly for DNA analysis - delayed prosecutions. It means dangerous criminals remain on the streets, and it means investigators cannot finalize cases because the evidence is still outstanding. The report also confirms that the SAPS

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continues to rely heavily on overtime funding to keep them open.

The DA believes that we need practical reforms to fix the police. Where capable and accredited forensic laboratories already exist in provinces, government should make use of them. Outsourcing portions of forensic processing to established labs would help reduce backlogs, speed up DNA analysis and allow detectives to finalize cases faster. Victims do not care whether DNA is processed by a state lab or by an accredited private laboratory. They just care about justice. That's all.

We must also acknowledge that excessive centralization is failing many communities. Capable provinces should be granted expanded policing powers and greater operational flexibility, particularly in specialized investigations and forensic support. Provinces with the capacity and political will to strengthen policing outcomes should not be held back by bureaucracy and delays from national government.

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The ANC's own Tokyo Sexwale in his farewell address as the Gauteng premier remarked that:

I have sat here incapable of making any impact of crime. I don't have the authority to control police, not even a constable. All the direction comes from the national headquarters. If we could exercise greater authority, we would also be able to be more accountable and work harder to end the problems in our provinces.

House Chair, Votes 24 and 21 also remind us that policing without accountability is dangerous. The Independent Police Investigative Directorate, IPID, continues to face resource pressure while investigating police misconduct and corruption. At the same time, the Civilian Secretariat continues to highlight concerns regarding oversight, domestic violence, compliance and police accountability. These institutions are essential if we want to rebuild trust in the policing.

South Africans can no longer afford institutional collapse, but a budget is not a blank check for business as usual. It

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must translate into stronger units, faster DNA processing and greater policing powers to capable provinces. Every unresolved case that we have weakens public trust in justice itself and harms the efforts of the good men and women that want nothing more but to fix the Police Service and clean up its senior ranks. I thank you.

Mr M S MOELA: House Chairperson, hon Minister Cachalia, Deputy Minister Cassel Mathale, the SAPS leadership and all entities present here, hon members, the ANC rise in full support of the budget and annual performance plan tabled for police Votes 21, 24 and 28. The Vote is tabled during a tumultuous time for the Police Service with two inquiries looking into matters related to the Police Service.

If you refer to the President's comments during the state of the national address, the President was clear that our democratic journey is undermined by high levels of crime and corruption and that the rule of law depends on police service that is ethical, responsive and rooted in the communities itself. It is within this climate that I deliberate on the

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performance plans of the police and supporting entities in order to highlight and stress the importance of good governance and ethical responsive services.

The police tabled a budget annual performance plan, APP, on 29 April 2026, central to responding to these issues of good governance and building ethical and capable Police Service. The following focus areas have been addressed: capacitating administration to respond to service delivery; rebuilding public trust integrity in the Police Service; and expanding the reach and visibility of policing.

We believe that the department has carefully considered its annual performance plan and aligned to priorities outlined in the state of the nation address by the President of the country in his address. The President committed to the recruitment of 5 500 additional police officers into the police labour force, and this is directly reflected in the APP for 2026-27. However, we are concerned that this recruitment targeted only offsets the natural attrition that the department is confronted with on an annual basis.

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Performance reports have revealed that the department loses close to 6 000 to 7 000 officials every year to the private sector and as it currently stands, the department is operating in almost half of its intended full capacity, which would enable it to execute its mandate fully. As we welcome the budget and performance plan, it is important that we highlight the importance of having a full complement of the police force to maintain law and order in the republic.

We have noted the concern on the ongoing backlog that IPID is confronted with, owing to a lack of constrained investigators. As a result, the directorate has a contract of 25 investigators to assist in resolving a backlog currently confronting the institution. We find this concerning because it highlights the issue of skills building and skills transfer within the Police Service and police ranks. Why has the directorate been confronted with such embarrassing reality of having to contract the skills of retired experts because there is no in-house capacity? These are critical questions that we need to answer as we cannot risk having institutions that are established and tasked to perform particular mandates, only to

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be told that there is a skills shortage within the very core mandate that informs the functioning of those institutions.

We welcome the move by IPID to establish Forensic Investigation Unit. It is a much-needed intervention. However, the comments I've made on skills budgeting capacity remain intact.

Chairperson, note the public confidence has been shaken by appearance and arrest of several SAPS officials in both inquiries process on allegations of corruption and procurement irregularities which has raised difficult questions about accountability and integrity of the police.

Hon members, I would be doing injustice to South Africans if I can leave this podium without clarifying some of the issues that have been raised here by honourables in this House. Hon Manyi stood here and report like an ANN7 reporter and also insinuating on the issue of IPID report on Phala Phala. I think hon Manyi is not aware of the mandate of IPID because the mandate of IPID is clearly to investigate the issues that

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are being done by the wrongdoing of police. It has nothing to do with the President of the country. So your obsession with the President, hon Manyi, leaves much to be desired.

Hon Muzi Khoza, you stood here and you said that the Minister has no capacity. Maybe we should clarify to you, hon Muzi, that acting Minister Cachalia is the professor ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majosi): Hon members, let us not drown the speaker.

Mr M S MOELA: ... with vested knowledge of policy. He is well vested in terms of policy matters. So he's got thorough knowledge in terms of police matters and as the ANC, we support him and we are very much aware of the good work that he is doing.

Hon Muzi Khoza, I think you must also be taught that every individual in South Africa has constitutional right to take any decision or any report to review, as your President has done the same. He has appealed a decision that they have made.

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Also, the President has the right to take any decision or any report under review. As such, you need to have that particular background ...

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Order, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Makhaliipi ...

Ms H O MKHALIPI: He is misleading the House.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Mkhaliipi ...

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Chair, ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): No, hon Mkhaliipi ...

Ms H O MKHALIPI: This member is misleading the House, please.

Mr M S MOELA: Hon members, the ANC stands here to support the report and to ensure that you have full support in the policing matters. We have seen under ...

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Ms H O MKHALIPI: Can you protect me on the platform? That one just ... [Interjections.] ... Hayi! Wait! I am not talking to you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPESRON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Mkhalipi, ...

Ms H O MKHALIPI: That person just opens the mic without being recognised. That Phiri has been a problem for a long time. This person on the podium who is misleading this House.

The House Chairperson (Ms Z Majozi): No, hon Mkhalipi, you are also doing the same thing. We can't then correct two wrongs. Continue, hon member. You are left with ... [Inaudible.] ... seconds

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Are you biased? Are you the Chair?
[Interjections.]

Mr M S MOELA: The ANC has full confidence in the leadership of acting Minister Cachalia and we support this Vote. Thank you very much. [Time expired.] [Interjections.]

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Ms H O MKHALIPI: What about Mchunu ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Mkhalipi, what is wrong with you today? [Interjections.] Hon members, can you please also not engage. We will now allow the Minister of Police to close off the debate. Hon Minister, before you speak ... hon Mkhalipi?

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Chair what's wrong with including yourself? He is not a Minister. He is acting! Acting!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Okay thank you very much, hon Mkhalipi.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: That one must be very clear on record. He is acting.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you.

AN HON MEMBER: But he is a Minister. Whether acting or not.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon member, I did not ...
[Inaudible.]

Ms H O MKHALIPI: That's why you lose votes as the ANC because
you are misleading the whole country. Acting ...
[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members on the
virtual platform, may you please ... [Interjections.] ...

AN HON MEMBER: But he is not a Minister.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): I am going to ask you to
leave the Chamber because what you are doing is wrong.
[Interjections.] Both you and hon MkhaliPI if you continue
again. I will now give an opportunity to the Minister of
Police.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Chair, on a point of order: What is wrong
with including yourself? He is not a Minister, he's acting.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Okay, thank you very much, hon Mkhaliphi.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: That one must be clear on record that he is acting.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you.

AN HON MEMBER: But he's a Minister, whether acting or not, he is a Minister.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): No, hon member. I did not recognise you.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: That is why you lose votes, you as the ANC, because you are misleading the whole country. Acting ...

[Interjections.] ... [Inaudible] ...

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Uzoba-strong, Mkhaliphi. Uzoba-strong.

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English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members on the virtual platform, can you please ... [Interjections.] ...

AN HON MEMBER: Acting with full powers!

AN HON MEMBER: But she is not a Minister.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon member, I'm going to ask you to leave the Chamber because what you are doing is wrong. Both you and hon Mkhalihi, if you continue again. I will now give an opportunity to the Minister of Police.

The ACTING MINISTER OF POLICE: Chairperson, the Madlanga Commission indeed has cast a light on very deep structural problems that have accumulated in policing over at least the last three decades, if the truth be told. This moment requires serious reflection, not rhetoric, not *ad hominem* attacks, not point scoring, on the challenges that we face as a country.

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The political parties represented here, collectively, represent the country as a whole. And collectively, even as you focus on your short-term interests with regard to the coming election, you are going to have to collectively assume responsibility for the reset agenda in policing. I've listened carefully to all of you, and for the most part, I was stimulated by the contributions and interested in what you have to say.

For the most part, I think a consensus is indeed emerging on what I have called a reset agenda. And the question before the House today is whether the elements of that reset agenda, on which we should be building a consensus, are reflected at least as a starting point in this budget. No simple answers, no quick fixes, no empty rhetoric will serve our people. I have heard, quite rightly, that our attention to rebuilding the accountability framework is the focus of this conversation. So, what do we need to do to strengthen the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid? What do we need to do to reestablish the position of the Civilian Oversight Secretariat?

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Because there was a moment in this country when, collectively, that Civilian Secretariat position was undermined. Does this budget reflect at least the beginnings of an effort to strengthen Ipid within its mandate and the Civilian Secretariat, which has a crucial role in exercising oversight? The chairperson of the portfolio committee made very important observations about the efficiency and management of the funds that have been allocated. We need to strengthen the forensic laboratories, we need to strengthen fleet management, and we need to strengthen the performance of service delivery at the station level. How are we going to achieve that massive structural transformation of the SA Police Service? I have not heard in this conversation any fundamental disagreement with the policy direction that is reflected in this budget. Not one, not even from the hon members who have been sharply critical of me in quite personal terms, frankly. But I think our people deserve much better, a much greater sense of the moment, a much greater willingness to address their issues, not yours. Nobody can reasonably say that over the last few months, you have not seen signs of effort to improve accountability, to take action which only a year ago was

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possibly completely unexpected or considered impossible. Thank you, hon Chairperson. I thank all hon members for their contributions to this conversation. Thank you very much.

Debate Concluded

The mini-plenary session rose at 18:38.