Thursday, 27 August 2026]

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OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly

1. Membership of Committees 2

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment..... 3

National Assembly

1. Speaker 4

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. Correctional Services 5
2. Police 13
3. Police 36
4. Public Accounts 88
5. Auditor-General 141

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly

The Speaker

1. Membership of Committees

(1) The following committee membership changes have been made by uMkhonto weSizwe Party:

(a) **Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs**

Appointed: Ngobese, Mr WQ [Alternate]

(b) **Portfolio Committee on Petroleum and Mineral Resources**

Discharged: Nchabeleng, Mr A
Appointed: Mlotshwa, Mr SN [Alternate]

(c) **Portfolio Committee on Transport**

Discharged: Gama, Mr SI
Appointed: Mlotshwa, Mr SN

(d) **Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies**

Discharged: Shongwe, Mr CV
Discharged: Mokoena-Zondi, Mrs SMN [Alternate]

Appointed: Ngobese, Mr WW

(e) **Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development**

Discharged: Nomvalo, Mr S
Appointed: Mogale, Mr IS

(f) **Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure**

Discharged: Mkhize, Ms P

Appointed: Skosana, Mr DM
Appointed: Mkhize, Ms P [Alternate]

(g) **Portfolio Committee on Tourism**

Discharged: Mokoena-Zondi, Mrs SMN [Alternate]

(h) **Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour**

Discharged : Mokoena-Zondi, Mrs SMN [Alternate]

(i) **Portfolio Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation**

Discharged: Mokoena-Zondi, Mrs SMN [Alternate]

(j) **Portfolio Committee on Electricity and Energy**

Discharged: Mokoena-Zondi, Mrs SMN [Alternate]

(k) **Joint Standing Committee on Financial Management of Parliament**

Discharged: Mokoena-Zondi, Mrs SMN
Appointed: Mkhize, Ms P

(l) **Joint Constitutional Review Committee**

Appointed: Manyi, Mr M [Alternate]

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

(a) Government Notice No. 7699, published *in Government Gazette* No. 54998, dated 17 July 2026: Consultation on the intention to declare certain properties situated in the Eastern Cape Province to be part of the existing Addo Elephant National Park, in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003).

National Assembly

1. The Speaker

(a) Petition from Women Waging War on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, Abuse, Inequality and Poverty, on behalf of 67 women and girls of the Kimberley and Sol Plaatje Municipality, calling for urgent and measurable intervention to address a crisis facing women and girls in their communities.

Referred to the **Executive Undertakings and Petitions Committee** for consideration and report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. Oversight Report of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services to Brandvlei Correctional Centre, dated 18 August 2026.

The Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services undertook its oversight visit to Brandvlei Correctional Centre in the Western Cape Province on 11 August 2026 and reports as follows:

1. **Introduction**

1.1 The Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services (the Committee) undertook an oversight visit to Brandvlei Correctional Centre on 11 August 2026.

1.2. The focus area for the oversight visit was on Self-Sufficiency, Rehabilitation and Skills development for sentenced offenders as well as infrastructure.

1.3. The following Members and Support Staff were part of the oversight visit:

- Hon KA Ramolobeng
- Hon M Sokopo
- Hon EA Cloete
- Hon E Hendricks
- Hon MS Moela
- Hon J Engelbrecht
- Hon K Kgobisa-Ngcaba
- Hon MM Gasa
- Hon C Niehaus
- Hon N Nolutshungu.

Staff members

- Mr S Mthonjeni
- Mr M Mathabathe
- Ms S Ndlela
- Mr M Lukani
- Ms S Sowazi.

PART I

2. **Brandvlei Correctional Centre**

2.1 Brandvlei Management Area comprises of 04 Correctional Centres housing only male offenders. The Centres are Brandvlei Medium; Brandvlei Maximum; Brandvlei Medium A; and Brandvlei Youth Correctional Centres.

2.2 The approved bed space for all the centres in the management area is 1 605 while there are 1 696 translating to overcrowding rate of 104.42%.

2.3 The post establishment of Brandvlei Management Area is 720 while only 641 positions are filled resulting in a vacancy rate of 15.65%.

2.4 There are 361 lifers of which 5 falls under Van Wyk Judgement, 4 under Phaahla Judgement and 352 are those who were sentenced under Correctional Services Act, 111 of 1998.

2.5 There is only 1 high profile remand detainee incarcerated in the Maximum Centre.

2.6 There are 50 sentenced foreign nationals in the management area and majority are from Namibia (13), followed by Zimbabwe (12) and Lesotho (6). The most prevalent crimes committed by foreign nationals includes Robbery, Theft, Murder, rape and kidnapping amongst others.

2.7 In terms of security incidents, the reports states that there were no Sexual assaults, no escapes and no unnatural deaths in the past three financial years.

2.8 The following Contraband were highlighted as the most prevalent and were confiscated in the management area:

- Dagga (2536,67)
- Money (R752,29)

- Cellphone (106)
- Cellphone batteries (21)
- Cellphone chargers (7)
- Mandrax (143)
- Tik (42,5)
- Sim cards (7)
- Knifes (4).

2.9 The following long skills programmes are provided to offenders:

- Bricklaying
- Paving
- Sewing
- Radio Broadcasting
- Carpentry
- Sewing, and
- Business Entrepreneurial.

2.10 The following short skills programmes are provided to offenders:

- Banking
- ABCD Training
- Smiling One, and
- Computer Literacy.

2.11 The following educational programmes are also provided:

- Engineering N3 and N4
- BusM N3 and N4
- AET Level 1-4
- National Senior Certificate
- High Education and Training (UNSIA).

2.12 The following Self-Sufficiency & Sustainability Projects were identified:

- Vegetable gardens contribute 560 000kg of vegetables annually and supply to Brandvlei and Pollsmoor Management Areas

- Dairy contribute 470 000 litres of milk annually and supply to Brandvlei and Breede River Management Area
- Orchards contribute 30 000kg of fruits annually
- Beef and small stock contribute 36 000kg of red meat annually
- Bakery currently bakes 2 100 loaves of bread per day and supply to Brandvlei and Worcester Management Areas.

2.13 The following challenges and proposed recommendations were highlighted:

- Need for additional equipment and capabilities to curb smuggling of contraband such as X-ray machines and mobile phone jamming – Alignment of departmental budget at the management area to enable operationalisation of security, rehabilitation and reintegration endeavours of the Department of Correctional Services.
- Unreliable electricity supply from Eskom – Initiate a Business Model on Risk Investment with Private Sector for renewable energy generation, supply and distribution to overcome challenges of Public Private Partnership experience by the South African government.
- Challenges of aging and poor design of water reticulation infrastructure – Investing on a reliable water reticulation infrastructure.
- Reengineering of education – Enhance offender rehabilitation through partnership with Sector Education and Training Authorities and TVET Colleges in the Western Cape.

2.14 The following achievements were also noted:

- The management area managed the finances prudently for the past financial years without wasteful and fruitless expenditure.
- Containing escapes for the last 20 years at Zero
- The last unnatural death which was recorded by this management area was on 01/11/2021, a suicide case of a maximum offender.
- Assaults have been managed to a minimum/ not exceeding the set target for the APP

- The first Grade 12 students from the re-engineering curriculum, ultimately led to a 100% pass rate
- The Management Area successfully implemented a crime prevention strategy through a community outreach project for unemployed youth and people with disability from the community in partnership with NorthLink and Construction SETA.

PART II

3 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Committee took a walk-about in the following areas of the Correctional Centre:

- Kitchen
- Hospital
- Youth Centre
- Radio Station
- Maximum Centre
- Bakery
- Medium Centre.

3.2 **Kitchen**: The Committee was concerned that the only kitchen that services all four correctional centres had 3 pots that were not functioning. The Committee believes that the only kitchen that serves a large population of this management area cannot afford to have equipment that are non-functional at any given point. The management of the centre is urged to prioritise fixing of these pots before others become non-functional and result in a disaster.

3.3 **Bakery**: The Committee commends the management area for the bakery and the efforts to expand it in order to serve other management areas and save costs for the Department. The Committee requests the Department to consider having bakeries in each management areas.

3.4 **Vacancies:** The Committee noted a total of 119 vacancies in the management area and was particularly concerned about high vacancies under security (69). The management is urged to ensure that all funded vacancies are filled within a reasonable period of time.

3.5 **Ratio of officials to inmates:** The Committee was concerned about the ratio of officials to offenders especially at the maximum centre. This has the potential to compromise security of the centre and put the lives of officials and offenders at risk.

3.6 **Safety and Security:** The Committee commended the management area for zero escapes for the past 20 years and encourages the continuation of this positive trend. The Committee further urges the management area to ensure vigorously implementation of all safety and security strategies to drastically reduce incidents of assaults as well as suicides.

3.7 **Skills and education programmes**: The management area was applauded for the provision of education and the performance of offenders in educational programmes. In addition, the management area was commended for the accreditation of some skills development programmes.

3.8 **Infrastructure and state of the facility**: The Committee commended the management area for maintaining the infrastructure in a good state and having the centre clean. The Department is encouraged to ensure that regular planned maintenance is carried out so that the facility remains in a good condition.

3.9 **Zinc structure:** The Committee was concerned about the zinc structure which could pose a security risk of escapes by offenders. The Department of Correctional Services should work together with the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure to come up with plans to replace the zinc structure including how offender labour with be used for such purpose.

3.10 **Perimeter fence**: The Committee was concerned about the lack of perimeter fence in the management area as this has the potential to pose security risk for escapes.

The Department is requested to prioritise budget for installation of the perimeter fence.

3.11 **Contraband:** The Committee noted that the most prevalent contraband were dagga, money, cell-phones, mandrax, cell-phone batteries and chargers. The management of the centre was encouraged to put measures in place that will prevent contraband from coming into the centre. Management was further encouraged to register criminal cases for all those responsible for bringing contraband.

3.12 **Disciplinary sanctions:** The Committee was seriously concerned about sanctions for smuggling in the management area which included verbal warnings and suspensions without pay. The Committee believes that sanctions should send a strong message and also serve as a strong deterrence. The management should ensure that regular training is provided for initiators and chairpersons of disciplinary cases.

3.13 **Radio station**: The Committee was impressed with the radio station as part of skills development especially for juvenile offenders in the management area.

3.14 **Integrated Security System:** The Committee observed that the Intergrated Security System was not functional. This is a security risk especially in a centre that houses maximum security offenders some serving life sentences. The Department is requested to expedite addressing the integrated security system in the centre.

3.15 **Intimidation of inmates**: The Committee noted that inmates were reluctant to speak with Members about the conditions of their incarceration. The Committee calls upon the management of the centre to ensure that inmates are not intimidated in anyway as this hampers the oversight role of the Committee.

3.16 **Offender uniform**: The Committee observed a number of juvenile offender wearing private shoes. The management of the facility reported that orders for shoes have been placed and are being manufactured at Witbank Correctional

Centre. The Committee requests an update as soon as the orders have been received.

Report to be considered.

2. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE ON THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO STATUTORY RAPE DATED 26 AUGUST 2026

The Portfolio Committee on Police, having considered the policing response to the parliamentary inquiry into statutory rape, reports as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This report constitutes the contribution of the Portfolio Committee on Police to the parliamentary Joint Inquiry into the Statutory Rape of Young Girls.

On 27 August 2024, the National Assembly directed the Portfolio Committees on Social Development, Basic Education, Health, Justice and Constitutional Development, and Police to inquire into statutory rape of young girls. The Committees were initially required to report to the House by 31 March 2025. Although preparatory work commenced, the hearings could not be completed within that period.

On 22 July 2025, the National Assembly revived the mandate, included the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and designated it as the lead committee. The revised process was structured in two phases. Phase 1 comprised provincial and stakeholder engagements, departmental briefings and the preparation of a Joint Interim Report. These engagements were conducted between 31 October and 12 November 2025, and the Joint Interim Report on the Statutory Rape of Young Girls was finalised in November 2025. Phase 2 provided for the relevant Committees to complete their outstanding work during 2026 and the remainder of the Seventh Parliament.

The Portfolio Committee on Police could not participate fully in the first phase because of competing responsibilities arising from the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established to investigate the allegations made by Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi. The Joint Interim Report recorded the Committees' commitment to return to the inquiry and complete their respective contributions during 2026.

The Joint Interim Report concluded that statutory rape and the broader sexual abuse of children constitute a serious and persistent national concern. Although South Africa has an extensive legislative and policy framework, implementation remains inconsistent and the institutional response is fragmented. Significant underreporting continues because of stigma, intimidation, economic dependency, family interference and informal settlements. Compliance with mandatory reporting obligations is uneven, while consequence management for wilful non-reporting remains limited.

The interim report also identified fragmented coordination between Education, Health, Social Development, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA); weak referral and feedback mechanisms; inconsistent and non-comparable information across departments; and the absence of an integrated case-management and data system. Delayed or insensitive services expose children to secondary victimisation, while shortages of social workers, forensic nurses, specialist investigators, psychologists and other child-protection personnel further weaken the response. Access to Thuthuzela Care Centres, forensic services, police services and psychosocial support remains particularly limited in rural and underserved areas.

The interim report proposed a coordinated national response based on effective mandatory reporting, integrated case tracking, child-sensitive services, stronger accountability, properly resourced specialist capacity, continuous training and sustained parliamentary oversight. It further resolved that the scope of the inquiry should be expanded beyond young girls to include boys and other vulnerable children.

As part of Phase 2, the Portfolio Committee on Police submitted detailed questions to SAPS and the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service (CSPS) concerning the prevention, reporting and investigation of statutory rape; FCS and forensic capacity; case withdrawals; victim support; accountability; data management; and interdepartmental coordination. On 3 June 2026, the Committee received briefings from SAPS and the CSPS and interrogated the policing response to the concerns identified in the Joint Interim Report.

This report records the policing-related information presented to the Committee, the matters raised by Members, the Committee’s observations and its proposed recommendations. It does not replace the Joint Interim Report and should be read together with that report. Its purpose is

to provide the policing-sector contribution for consideration by the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and incorporation into the final joint inquiry process.

2. PRESENTATION FROM SAPS

2.1. Strategic and policy response

SAPS stated that statutory rape was addressed through its Gender-based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Action Plan 2024–2029, Strategic Plan 2025–2030 and Annual Performance Plan. Relevant performance areas included the detection of contact crimes against children, the finalisation of GBVF-related service complaints, forensic investigative leads and the effectiveness of GBVF interventions.

The SAPS GBVF Action Plan focused on accountability and coordination, prevention, investigation and victim support, and research and continuous improvement. SAPS also participated in several intersectoral structures, including the National Statutory Rape Task Team, the National Technical Intersectoral Committee for the Management of Sexual Offences Matters, the Intersectoral Committee on Domestic Violence and Femicide and the National Child Care and Protection Forum.

Public awareness and reporting were promoted through community policing forums, faith-based organisations, Community in Blue, GBV brigades, provincial and national izimbizo and other stakeholder engagements. The presentation did not, however, provide information demonstrating the reach or effect of these initiatives on the reporting of statutory rape.

2.2. Reported cases and outcomes

SAPS presented information on 3 232 statutory rape cases recorded nationally during the five-year period from 2020/21 to 2024/25. Of these, 1 853 were recorded as withdrawn and 449 resulted in convictions. This represented a withdrawal rate of approximately 57.3 per cent and a conviction rate of approximately 13.9 per cent when measured against the total number of cases presented.

The provincial figures varied considerably. KwaZulu-Natal recorded 729 cases, of which 525 were withdrawn and 39 resulted in convictions. This represented a withdrawal rate of

approximately 72 per cent. North West recorded a withdrawal rate of approximately 70.9 per cent and Mpumalanga approximately 65.6 per cent. Limpopo and North West reflected particularly low conviction rates of approximately 1.8 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively. The Northern Cape and Western Cape recorded the highest conviction rates in the information presented, at approximately 28.9 per cent and 22.8 per cent respectively.

SAPS was unable to provide an average period from the reporting of a statutory rape case to arrest. It explained that the duration of an investigation depended on the circumstances of each case. The presentation also did not fully explain the relationship between cases recorded as reported, referred, withdrawn, undetected, removed from the court roll or resulting in conviction.

2.3. Mandatory reporting and underreporting

SAPS identified fear of stigma and victimisation, financial dependence on alleged perpetrators, harmful cultural beliefs, informal settlements, distrust in the criminal justice system and reluctance among some professionals as factors contributing to non-reporting.

SAPS stated that the reporting requirements under section 110(1) of the Children's Act formed part of basic and in-service police training. Training covered the identification of children in need of care and protection, mandatory reporting, referral to Social Development and Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) Units, and the legal consequences of failing to report.

The presentation did not provide statistics on investigations, criminal charges or other action taken against persons who had failed to comply with mandatory reporting obligations. It also did not establish whether police stations consistently accepted reports from educators, healthcare professionals, social workers or other persons who were not the child's parent or guardian.

2.4. Registration, safeguarding and referral

SAPS stated that, once statutory rape was reported, a criminal docket was opened and registered on the Crime Administration System or Investigation Case Docket Management System. The child was taken to a healthcare facility for medical assessment and completion of a J88 form, and the docket was referred to an FCS unit for further investigation.

A designated social worker was required to be notified through SAPS Form 581(b) within 24 hours. SAPS Form 581(a) could be used to place the child in temporary safe care where the child was considered at risk. An alleged offender could also be removed from the child's residence where this was considered necessary in the child's best interests.

SAPS stated that a person reasonably suspected of having committed a criminal offence against a child, including statutory rape or failure to report statutory rape, could be arrested without a warrant. The presentation did not, however, explain whether every pregnancy or birth involving a child under 16 automatically resulted in a referral to SAPS and the registration of a criminal docket or preliminary investigation.

2.5. Adolescent sexual conduct

SAPS referred to the Constitutional Court's judgment in *Teddy Bear Clinic* and advised that members had been trained on the applicable legal framework. Relevant instructions included National Instruction 3 of 2008 on Sexual Offences, National Instruction 3 of 2010 on the Care and Protection of Children, National Instruction 2 of 2010 on Children in Conflict with the Law and the standard operating procedure relating to vulnerable children.

SAPS maintained that there was no conflict between the Children's Act and the Sexual Offences Act because the legislation and national instructions provided guidance on their respective application.

2.6. FCS capacity and resources

SAPS reported a national FCS establishment of 2 670 posts, of which 2 548 were filled, representing 95.4 per cent of the approved establishment. It anticipated expenditure of approximately R1.6 billion on FCS and broader GBVF-related activities. This included approximately R1.5 billion for FCS personnel and operational expenditure, R40 million for youth and vulnerable-group programmes and an additional R50 million allocated to provinces to strengthen GBVF responses and FCS units.

The national occupancy rate did not provide a complete picture of operational capacity. The presentation did not include unit-level caseloads, the geographical distribution of personnel,

operational vehicle availability, forensic-social-worker coverage or the relationship between staffing and service demand.

SAPS reported that qualified forensic social workers provided specialist child-interviewing services. FCS units also worked with Thuthuzela Care Centres, while each province had a Serial and Electronic Crime Investigation section for serial rape, cross-provincial matters and electronic child sexual abuse.

SAPS advised that FCS offices were generally closed over weekends but that investigators were placed on standby and weekly rosters were shared with police stations. No national information was provided on weekend staffing levels, response times or compliance with standby arrangements.

2.7. Training

SAPS reported that its proactive and reactive GBVF training programmes included victim empowerment, human rights in policing, first response to sexual offences, vulnerable groups, sexual-offence investigation, crime-scene management, DNA evidence recovery, domestic violence and FCS investigations.

Specialist training for FCS members reportedly covered child-protection investigations, child pregnancies, trauma-informed interviewing, evidence handling and coordination with health and social services. SAPS also referred to continuing development programmes for forensic social workers and refresher training for frontline officers, detectives and station commanders.

The presentation identified the training programmes available but did not provide a sufficiently clear provincial breakdown of the number and proportion of members trained or demonstrate the effect of the training on compliance and case outcomes.

2.8. DNA analysis and forensic services

SAPS reported that statutory rape cases formed part of a joint SAPS–NPA project to prioritise DNA evidence in GBVF-related cases. Between 2021/22 and 2024/25, DNA reports were issued in 53 361 prioritised GBVF-related cases. This comprised 7 611 cases in 2021/22, 20 492 in 2022/23, 16 606 in 2023/24 and 8 652 in 2024/25.

The information was not disaggregated to show how many of the prioritised cases involved statutory rape or other child sexual offences. It also did not indicate the average turnaround

time, the number of statutory rape cases awaiting forensic results or the contribution of completed DNA reports to arrests, prosecutions and convictions.

2.9. Evidence-collection kits and J88 forms

SAPS indicated that sexual-offence evidence-collection kits were generally available nationally. The engagement nevertheless identified possible weaknesses in distribution between national supply, provincial offices and operational units. Reports of shortages at police-station and FCS-unit level, including in the Western Cape, required verification.

2.10. Case management and oversight

SAPS stated that statutory rape cases were registered and tracked on CAS/ICDMS. The age and gender of the victim were recorded electronically, while the relationship to the alleged perpetrator and the location of the offence were contained in the victim's statement.

Oversight measures included national and provincial visits to FCS units, quarterly detective-service reviews, monitoring by a national nodal point, consultation with prosecutors in complex cases and docket inspections at station, district, provincial and national levels.

SAPS explained that a docket filed as undetected was not regarded as permanently closed. Such cases were placed on a brought-forward system and could be reopened when new evidence emerged or during periodic review. Cases removed from the court roll because of outstanding reports were similarly monitored and could be returned to the Senior Public Prosecutor for possible re-enrolment.

The presentation did not indicate how frequently statutory rape dockets on the brought-forward system were reviewed or how many were subsequently reopened, prosecuted or finalised.

3. PRESENTATION BY THE CSPS

3.1. Oversight mandate

The CSPS stated that its responsibilities included monitoring police performance and compliance with policy directives, assessing SAPS compliance with the Domestic Violence Act and related legislation, and reporting to the Minister on police performance. The CSPS and

provincial secretariats conducted quality assessments relating to the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act and associated legislation, including the Sexual Offences Act.

3.2. Policy framework

The CSPS reported that it had finalised two relevant policies in 2017: the Policy on Reducing Barriers to the Reporting of Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence, and the Policy on the Investigation and Management of Serial Rape and Serial Murder.

Although the policies were not confined to statutory rape or child victims, the CSPS regarded them as relevant to improving reporting, investigation and coordination. It also referred to the DBE School Safety Protocol, amendments permitting reports on behalf of minors and amendments to the SAPS National Instruction on Domestic Violence.

3.3. Pregnancy and birth information

The CSPS reported that information submitted to the National Working Committee of the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy reflected 1 424 deliveries by children aged 10 to 14 and 67 389 deliveries by persons aged 15 to 19.

The CSPS stated that the Department of Health completed Form 22 reports and worked with the Department of Social Development when child abuse was suspected. It nevertheless identified a gap in the referral of these matters to SAPS. Consequently, a pregnancy or suspected abuse identified by a healthcare facility did not necessarily result in the registration and investigation of a criminal case.

Information subsequently considered in preparing this report cited updated Department of Health figures of 2 387 deliveries by children aged 10 to 14 and 114 808 deliveries by persons aged 15 to 19 during 2024/25. The difference between the figures presented by the CSPS and the later figures emphasised the need to specify the reporting period, extraction date, source and age category whenever pregnancy data was presented.

3.4. Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS)

Through the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS) National Working Committee, the CSPS received quarterly safety information from departments including Health and Basic Education.

The CSPS reported that Basic Education was developing an action plan addressing statutory rape through school visits, educator vetting, training and cooperation with SAPS. The identified gap between Health reporting to Social Development and reporting to SAPS remained a significant weakness in the interdepartmental referral chain.

3.5. Assessment of FCS services

The CSPS reported that it had assessed the implementation of the Sexual Offences Act, with particular attention to the efficiency and effectiveness of FCS units in responding to sexual offences generally.

The assessment recognised the work undertaken by FCS units but found that their performance could be strengthened through improved Health and Social Development support services in rural areas and greater access by FCS members to relevant training.

As the assessment was not specific to statutory rape or child victims, it did not provide a complete response to the child-focused issues arising from the inquiry.

3.6. Classification and data quality

The CSPS identified gaps in the classification of rape cases at police stations and within FCS units, including inconsistent differentiation between categories of rape during case registration. These weaknesses affected the reliability of statistical information, the identification of trends and effective oversight. The CSPS stated that the concerns had been referred to provincial detective commanders for improvement plans. It considered intensified inspections necessary at police-station, FCS-unit and provincial levels and reported that a dedicated monitoring and evaluation team for specialised units had been approved.

3.7. Monitoring of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF

The CSPS stated that its monitoring of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF focused particularly on accountability, coordination and leadership, as well as justice, safety and protection.

Its activities included monitoring compliance with the Domestic Violence Act, detective-policy assessments, public dialogues, crime-prevention initiatives, cooperation with memorandum-

of-understanding partners and monthly reporting to the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.

3.8. Public awareness and cold cases

The CSPS reported that public education and victim support were undertaken through partnerships with organisations including Memeza and Aware.org. It also referred to its "case closed" campaign, through which cold cases, including sexual-offence cases, were reopened and brought before court.

The presentation did not provide statutory-rape-specific information on the number of persons reached, cases reopened, matters enrolled or convictions secured through these initiatives. This limited the Committee's ability to assess their effectiveness.

3.9. Public complaints and secondary victimisation

The CSPS reported that it had received a complaint concerning the treatment of a child victim at a police station in Gauteng. Although the complaint remained under investigation, the CSPS intervened to ensure that the child received the necessary services and support.

The matter demonstrated the CSPS's role in responding to individual complaints. It did not, however, establish the broader prevalence of secondary victimisation or the adequacy of complaint-handling mechanisms nationally.

4. COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

The Committee expressed serious concern about the scale of statutory rape and child sexual abuse, the extent of underreporting and the limited number of cases that ultimately resulted in successful prosecutions. Members emphasised that the effectiveness of the criminal justice response should be assessed not only by the number of cases recorded, but also by whether reports were investigated promptly, forensic evidence was processed, perpetrators were prosecuted and child victims received appropriate protection and support.

4.1. Ministerial leadership and accountability

Members expressed concern about the absence of the Acting Minister from an engagement dealing with a matter of significant national importance. The Committee noted that repeated

apologies for the non-attendance of executive and senior SAPS leadership weakened accountability and limited the Committee's ability to obtain authoritative responses on policy, operational priorities and institutional shortcomings. Members emphasised that sustained executive leadership was required to address the systemic nature of statutory rape and the fragmented response across government.

4.2. Proactive investigation and the responsibility of the state

Members rejected any suggestion that the failure to report statutory rape could be attributed principally to children, families or communities. Children affected by statutory rape were frequently already visible within public schools, healthcare facilities and social-development services. The Committee questioned why cases were not proactively identified, reported and investigated when children under 16 presented as pregnant or gave birth in public healthcare facilities.

Members emphasised that SAPS should not depend on a child or family member to initiate or drive an investigation where information suggesting the commission of a sexual offence was already available to the state. Once such information becomes known to a school, healthcare facility, social worker or other state institution, the relevant reporting and referral mechanisms should be activated without delay.

The Committee requested clarity on the systems used to link teenage-pregnancy information held by Health, Education and Social Development with SAPS case records, and on the number of investigations initiated through such referrals. Members also requested information on whether prenatal and postnatal DNA testing was used in appropriate cases and how DNA evidence arising from pregnancies and births was used to identify alleged perpetrators and support prosecutions.

4.3. Automatic criminal investigation following pregnancy or birth

Members expressed serious concern that a child under 16 could give birth in a public healthcare facility without a criminal case automatically being registered and investigated. The birth establishes that sexual penetration occurred. It must therefore trigger an immediate referral to SAPS, the opening of a criminal docket and an investigation into the age and identity of the other person and the circumstances in which the child became pregnant.

Members emphasised that this process cannot depend on the child or her family laying a complaint or expressing a willingness to proceed. Nor may a parent, family, healthcare facility or community decide that the matter should be dealt with privately through an informal settlement or the payment of compensation. The possible commission of a sexual offence against a child is a matter for the state to investigate.

The Committee recognised that the investigation may establish that the conduct falls within the statutory provisions governing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, including the close-in-age exception. That determination can be made only after the relevant facts have been established. The possible application of an exception cannot justify a failure to report the pregnancy or birth, open a docket and investigate the circumstances.

The Committee therefore questioned why every pregnancy or birth involving a child under 16 did not automatically generate a corresponding SAPS case or formally recorded investigation. Members requested information on the systems used to link pregnancy and birth records held by Health with SAPS case records, the number of referrals received, the number of dockets opened and the outcomes of those investigations.

4.4. Mandatory reporting and failure to act

The Committee raised concern about apparent non-compliance with mandatory reporting obligations by educators, healthcare professionals, social workers, caregivers and other persons responsible for the protection of children. Members questioned whether SAPS assessed such non-compliance and whether investigations or criminal proceedings had been instituted against persons who wilfully failed to report suspected child sexual abuse.

Members requested details of the number and categories of persons investigated, the charges instituted and the outcomes of those matters. The Committee also sought clarity on whether the applicable reporting provisions were sufficiently understood and whether SAPS had engaged Basic Education, Health and Social Development on corrective measures.

Members emphasised that reports should not be restricted to parents or relatives. Any person with knowledge or a reasonable suspicion of child sexual abuse should be able to approach SAPS. This was particularly important where a parent was the alleged perpetrator, protected the perpetrator or was unwilling to report because of intimidation or financial dependence.

4.5. Withdrawal of cases and possible improper interference

The Committee expressed serious concern about the high number of statutory rape and sexual-offence cases that were reportedly withdrawn. Members requested a detailed breakdown of who initiated withdrawals, the stage at which they occurred and the reasons for them. Possible contributing factors included intimidation, bribery, economic dependency, family pressure, informal settlements, investigative delays, incomplete dockets and inadequate victim support.

Members questioned why cases involving children were permitted to be withdrawn and whether any SAPS members had improperly facilitated withdrawals or discouraged complainants from proceeding. Allegations that police officials had helped to close cases or had failed to assist victims required investigation. The Committee requested information on disciplinary or criminal action taken against members implicated in such conduct.

The Committee further questioned who had the authority to allow cases to be resolved informally on the basis of social or cultural norms. Members stressed that serious sexual offences against children could not be displaced by private agreements between families and alleged perpetrators.

4.6. FCS capacity and the allocation of specialised investigators

Members raised significant concerns about the capacity of Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences units. Oversight visits had revealed staffing below the approved establishment, excessive caseloads and inadequate access to suitable operational vehicles. These problems appeared particularly severe in high-crime areas and rural provinces.

The Committee observed that reported national FCS staffing levels did not correspond with the operational conditions encountered during oversight. Members requested a provincial and unit-level breakdown of approved and filled posts, vacancies, caseloads, vehicle allocations and operational vehicle availability.

Members were concerned that FCS detectives were assigned matters outside their specialised mandate, including common assault, assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and, in some instances, murder. The Committee questioned how SAPS intended to protect the

specialist mandate of FCS units and ensure that their limited capacity remained focused on offences against children and other vulnerable victims.

Members also raised concern about the availability of forensic social workers and other specialist support personnel. SAPS was requested to identify the provinces and units experiencing the greatest resource constraints and explain the measures being implemented to address them.

4.7. Weekend and after-hours services

The Committee questioned whether the FCS staffing model was aligned with the times at which sexual offences were most frequently reported. Members noted that sexual offences commonly occurred or were reported between Thursday and Sunday, while weekend standby arrangements were considerably more limited than weekday capacity.

Members referred to reports that only approximately two FCS members might be available on standby over a weekend, compared with between 12 and 18 members during the week. Response times to police stations and hospitals could reportedly reach four to five hours. Such delays risked compromising evidence, prolonging the trauma experienced by victims and delaying access to medical and psychosocial services.

The Committee requested clarity on the deployment of standby investigators, average response times, overtime arrangements and the manner in which the public was informed about after-hours services.

4.8. Forensic evidence-collection kits

Members raised serious concerns about the availability and distribution of rape evidence-collection and DNA kits. An unannounced oversight visit to the SAPS supply-chain facility in Silverton suggested that kits were distributed nationally to provinces, but shortages nevertheless occurred at police-station and operational-unit level.

At the Epping provincial supply-chain facility, the Committee found that the provincial store did not directly control certain rape and DNA kits. Kits received nationally were collected by the Office of the Provincial Commissioner for onward distribution. Members considered this an apparent break in the supply chain between national allocation and station-level availability.

Although FCS needs assessments reportedly indicated that national supply was adequate, operational units continued to report shortages. Nyanga FCS, for example, reportedly required approximately 360 D1 kits but had only slightly more than 100 available. Members also received reports of shortages at police stations in high-crime areas of Cape Town and other provinces.

The Committee questioned why kits were routed through provincial commissioners, whether replenishment cycles contributed to shortages and how SAPS monitored stock at station and FCS-unit level. Members stressed that the unavailability of kits could compromise evidence collection, investigations, prosecutions and victims' access to justice.

4.9. DNA backlogs and forensic delays

The Committee requested a single, reliable and consolidated account of the DNA backlog. Members noted apparent discrepancies between figures provided by SAPS and those reflected in DNA Board information. It was unclear whether a figure of slightly more than 70 000 represented the entire backlog or only selected categories of forensic exhibits.

Members referred to figures reflecting approximately 502 000 registered exhibits, 358 000 completed exhibits and more than 175 000 entries beyond prescribed timeframes. The Committee was concerned that the actual extent of delayed forensic work might be greater than presented.

Members requested the average DNA turnaround time in statutory rape cases, the number of cases awaiting forensic results and the measures being implemented to address delays. Concern was also raised that forensic delays contributed to cases being withdrawn, classified as undetected or remaining unresolved.

The Committee further identified inadequate communication between forensic laboratories and investigators. Members proposed a more direct notification mechanism to ensure that investigators received and acted on forensic results without unnecessary delay. Particular concern was raised about an apparently increasing backlog at the KwaZulu-Natal forensic laboratory despite the facility being operational.

4.10. Victim support and secondary victimisation

Members expressed concern that children might experience further trauma through delays, repeated referrals and inadequate support at police stations and healthcare facilities. The Committee requested information on the availability and operating hours of victim-friendly facilities and Victim Empowerment Centres, average waiting periods and the measures used to prevent secondary victimisation.

SAPS was asked to explain how it measured victim satisfaction and recorded allegations of secondary victimisation. Members also requested information on safe accommodation and designated places of safety for children following medical examinations.

The Committee was concerned that, in some school-based cases, the victim was removed or transferred while the alleged perpetrator remained at the institution. Members questioned why the burden of relocation and disruption was placed on the child rather than the alleged offender.

4.11. Coordination with Health and the completion of J88 forms

The Committee raised concern about delays in the completion and retrieval of J88 medical forms, which could leave dockets incomplete and impede investigations and prosecutions. Members requested clarity on whether a formal agreement existed between SAPS and the Department of Health governing the completion, transmission and monitoring of J88 forms.

Members also questioned whether SAPS was formally linked to hospitals and other healthcare facilities so that pregnancies and births involving children under 16 could be identified and referred without depending solely on families to open cases. A coordinated protocol was considered necessary to reduce delays, improve information sharing and prevent children from being moved repeatedly between healthcare facilities and police stations.

4.12. Data integrity and case tracking

Members observed that provincial statutory rape figures appeared low when compared with teenage-pregnancy, birth and child-sexual-abuse data held by other departments. This raised questions about underreporting, case classification and the completeness of official SAPS statistics.

The Committee requested clarity on whether SAPS maintained a dedicated national mechanism for tracking statutory rape cases, including undetected, inactive or withdrawn cases. Members also questioned how repeat or serial offenders operating across provincial boundaries were identified.

Concern was raised that published crime reports appeared no longer to provide the same level of information on crimes against women and children. Members emphasised that incomplete or inconsistent reporting undermined Parliament's ability to evaluate trends and hold SAPS accountable.

The Committee further requested an explanation for approximately 857 rape cases in which victims were reportedly unaccounted for, including the number involving children and the steps taken to trace and protect those victims.

4.13. Sexual offences in educational institutions

Members expressed concern about the prevalence of sexual offences in schools and other educational environments, including learner-on-learner offences and allegations involving educators. SAPS was requested to provide a dedicated analysis of these offences, the trends identified and the interventions undertaken with education authorities.

The Committee sought clarity on formal coordination mechanisms between SAPS, the Department of Basic Education, provincial education departments and higher-education institutions. Members also requested details of school-based social crime-prevention programmes and the indicators used to evaluate their effectiveness.

4.14. Rural access and engagement with traditional leaders

Members noted that children in rural and remote areas experienced longer delays in accessing FCS investigators, healthcare facilities and Thuthuzela Care Centres. Inadequate vehicles and the distance between communities and specialist services compounded these challenges.

The Committee also considered engagement with traditional leaders to be insufficient, particularly in communities where cultural practices, informal settlements or family pressure contributed to underreporting. SAPS was requested to explain how traditional leaders were involved in prevention, reporting and community education without permitting customary or informal processes to replace criminal investigations.

4.15. Role of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service

Members questioned why the CSPS had not undertaken a dedicated assessment of the policing response to statutory rape despite the seriousness and persistence of the problem. The Committee requested clarity on whether child-specific research, policy development and monitoring were planned.

The CSPS was also requested to explain the weaknesses it had identified in the classification of statutory rape cases, the effect of those weaknesses on data integrity and oversight, and the systemic problems identified through its monitoring of SAPS. Members further questioned whether a dedicated policy response was required and, if so, when it would be developed.

4.16. Overall concern

The Committee emphasised that the matters raised were not personal criticism of individual officials. They formed part of Parliament's constitutional responsibility to scrutinise the performance of SAPS and the CSPS. Members were particularly concerned that statutory rape had been discussed repeatedly over many years without sufficient improvement in reporting, investigation and prosecution outcomes.

The Committee considered the continued disjuncture between teenage pregnancies, reported statutory rape cases and prosecutions to be indicative of a potentially serious institutional failure requiring verified data, coordinated intervention and clear accountability across SAPS and the broader criminal justice system.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends that:

5.1. SAPS develop and implement a dedicated plan for addressing statutory rape and child sexual offences within its broader GBVF framework. The plan must include measurable targets for mandatory reporting, investigations, case attrition, forensic turnaround times, victim referrals and support, and case outcomes.

5.2. SAPS must review and issue national instructions governing reports by educators, healthcare professionals, social workers and other mandatory reporters. The

instructions must be consistent with the Sexual Offences Act, the Children's Act and other applicable legislation. They must confirm that a report may not be refused because it was not made by a parent or guardian and must provide clear procedures for referral, escalation and the protection of persons who report in good faith.

5.3. SAPS establish a mechanism to record, investigate and report on suspected wilful non-compliance with mandatory reporting obligations, including the outcomes of any criminal, disciplinary or professional proceedings.

5.4. SAPS, in collaboration with the Departments of Health, Basic Education and Social Development, establish a child-centred process for the screening, referral, investigation and follow-up of cases in which children present with pregnancies or sexually transmitted infections. The process must provide for the correct application of the age-of-consent and close-in-age provisions and record the number of referrals that result in criminal investigations.

5.5. SAPS review the procedures governing the purported withdrawal of statutory rape and other child sexual-offence cases. The procedures must provide for supervisory review, an assessment of possible intimidation, financial dependency or undue influence, continued protection of the child and investigation of allegations that SAPS members improperly facilitated withdrawals or discouraged complainants from proceeding with cases.

5.6. SAPS conduct a national assessment of FCS units, including approved and filled posts, vacancies, caseloads, vehicles, forensic social workers, specialist support, geographical coverage and after-hours readiness. A costed remedial plan must prioritise high-burden and underserved areas, particularly rural communities.

5.7. SAPS ensure that FCS investigators are not routinely assigned matters falling outside their specialist mandate where this materially reduces their capacity to investigate crimes against children. Any expansion of the responsibilities of FCS units must be accompanied by adequate personnel and resources.

5.8. SAPS review the FCS standby model and align staffing and vehicle availability with periods of greatest demand, particularly from Thursday to Sunday. Measurable response and waiting-time standards must be established and monitored.

5.9. SAPS review the entire supply chain for sexual-offence evidence-collection and DNA kits, from national procurement to police-station and FCS-unit level. Minimum-stock, expiry-monitoring and automatic-replenishment controls must be implemented, with designated officials held accountable for last-mile distribution and station-level availability.

5.10. SAPS establish statutory-rape-specific monitoring of DNA workloads, backlogs and turnaround times. Child sexual-offence cases must be appropriately prioritised, and a direct notification mechanism must ensure that investigating officers receive and act on forensic results without unnecessary delay.

5.11. SAPS and the Department of Health conclude or strengthen binding operational protocols governing reporting by healthcare facilities, the completion and transmission of J88 forms, the taking of statements at healthcare facilities, the referral of affected children and the collection and preservation of forensic evidence.

5.12. SAPS ensure that police stations and FCS units provide accessible and child-sensitive services, including functioning victim-friendly facilities, appropriate referral pathways, access to places of safety and measures to prevent secondary victimisation. Performance information must include waiting times, completed referrals and the experiences of victims, disaggregated by age, sex, disability and location.

5.13. SAPS, the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Higher Education and Training conduct a focused analysis of learner-on-learner, educator-related and other sexual offences occurring in educational institutions. Formal coordination mechanisms must provide safe reporting routes, protection against retaliation, case monitoring and measurable prevention interventions.

5.14. SAPS prioritise appropriate vehicles, mobile services, specialist investigators and forensic support in rural and remote areas to reduce delays in access to investigators, healthcare facilities and Thuthuzela Care Centres.

5.15. SAPS strengthen national tracking of statutory rape and other child sexual-offence cases, including withdrawn, inactive and undetected cases and repeat offenders operating across provincial boundaries. An interoperable minimum dataset and referral identifier should be developed across SAPS, Health, Education, Social Development and prosecution systems, subject to appropriate safeguards for children's privacy and lawful access to information.

5.16. SAPS provide recurring training to frontline members, detectives and station commanders on child sexual offences, mandatory reporting, trauma-informed interviewing, forensic evidence, case withdrawals and the treatment of child victims. Compliance must form part of the performance assessments of relevant commanders.

5.17. The CSPS conduct a dedicated thematic assessment of SAPS's response to statutory rape and child sexual offences. The assessment must address case classification, data integrity, FCS capacity, victim support, mandatory reporting, the referral gap between Health and SAPS and compliance with relevant national instructions. Child-specific indicators should also be incorporated into CSPS and NSP-GBVF monitoring.

5.18. The Committee recommends that every pregnancy or birth involving a child under 16 automatically trigger a mandatory interdepartmental referral and preliminary criminal investigation. SAPS must establish the age and identity of the other person, assess the circumstances in which the sexual penetration occurred and determine whether an offence under section 3 or section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act is disclosed. The registration and investigation of the matter must not depend on a complaint or the willingness of the child's parent, guardian or family to pursue criminal proceedings. The close-in-age provisions must be assessed during the investigation and may not be used by frontline officials as a basis for refusing to register or refer the matter.

6. FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Following its engagement with SAPS and the CSPS on 3 June 2026, the Committee requested additional written information from the Acting Minister of Police on 17 June 2026, copied to the Acting National Commissioner and the Secretary for Police. The information was required to address outstanding matters and finalise the Committee's contribution to the joint statutory rape inquiry.

The deadline for submission was 17 July 2026. Despite a follow-up after the deadline, no response had been received by the time this report was finalised.

The Committee is concerned about the non-response, particularly as it forms part of an increasing pattern of delayed or outstanding responses to its correspondence. The missing information limits the Committee's ability to assess SAPS's handling of statutory rape, including investigations, case withdrawals, forensic services, FCS capacity, victim support and interdepartmental coordination. The Committee therefore expects the Ministry, SAPS and the CSPS to respond fully to formal requests for information within the stipulated timeframes.

7. GOING FORWARD

A joint follow-up meeting of the relevant Portfolio Committees will be convened to consider the matters arising from the inquiry and agree on a consolidated set of recommendations for submission to the National Assembly.

The Portfolio Committee on Police will also schedule a follow-up engagement with SAPS and the CSPS during the fourth parliamentary term. The engagement will consider the outstanding written responses, the concerns raised by Members and progress made in addressing the identified deficiencies relating to mandatory reporting, investigations, case withdrawals, FCS capacity, forensic services, victim support, data management and interdepartmental coordination.

SAPS and the CSPS will be expected to submit the outstanding information sufficiently in advance of the meeting to enable Members to consider it properly. The Committee will

thereafter determine whether further recommendations, reporting requirements or oversight interventions are necessary.

8. CONCLUSION

The Committee's engagement identified continuing weaknesses in the reporting, investigation and management of statutory rape cases. Of particular concern were the apparent disjuncture between teenage-pregnancy figures and reported criminal cases, inconsistent compliance with mandatory reporting obligations and the absence of automatic referrals and investigations when children under 16 present as pregnant or give birth. The Committee also raised concerns about the withdrawal of cases, limitations in FCS staffing and operational resources, delays in forensic analysis, the availability and distribution of evidence-collection kits, inadequate after-hours services and weaknesses in victim support. These challenges are compounded by fragmented data, inconsistent case tracking and insufficient coordination between SAPS, Health, Education, Social Development and the NPA. Addressing them will require clearer operational procedures, reliable information, adequately resourced specialist services and sustained oversight.

The Committee expresses its appreciation to SAPS and the CSPS for their participation in the engagement and recognises the commitment of the many officials and specialised personnel working under difficult circumstances to protect children and investigate these offences. While important shortcomings require attention, the Committee remains committed to working constructively with SAPS and the CSPS to strengthen their capacity and improve the state's response to statutory rape.

Report to be considered.

3. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE MOOIPLAAS INFORMAL SETTLEMENT (GAUTENG PROVINCE) ON 25 JUNE 2026, DATED 26 AUGUST 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Police undertook an oversight visit to the Mooiplaas Informal Settlement on 25 June 2026, in compliance with a resolution adopted by the National Assembly on 4 November 2025. The resolution arose from a motion without notice moved by Ms B. K. Diale concerning the serious crime situation in Mooiplaas, near Sunderland Ridge Industrial in Tshwane. The National Assembly identified the settlement as a hotspot for serious and violent crime, particularly murder, and directed the Committee to conduct an oversight visit and report back to the House.

This report accordingly sets out the Committee's observations, findings and recommendations arising from the visit.

2. DELEGATION

The delegation comprised the following Members and support staff:

2.1. Members of the Committee

The following Members attended the oversight visit:

1) Hon. I Cameron (Chairperson)
2) Hon. L Schickerling (DA)
3) Hon. D Skosana (MKP)
4) Hon. S Moela (ANC)
5) Hon. D Direko (ANC)
6) Hon. M Khoza (EFF)

2.2. Support staff

The following support staff attended the oversight:

1) Ms Mbengo (Committee Secretary)
2) Mr M Nywashu (Committee Assistant)
3) Ms van Zyl-Gous (Content Advisor)
4) Ms Sihawu (Executive Secretary to the Chairperson)

3. PREPARATORY BRIEFING ON MOOIPLAAS

On 27 May 2026, the Committee received a virtual briefing from the South African Police Service (SAPS) in preparation for the oversight visit to Mooiplaas. The briefing was intended to provide Members with background information on the policing environment, crime trends, operational challenges and interventions implemented within the Mooiplaas informal settlement. The Committee emphasised that the briefing did not replace the physical oversight visit directed by the National Assembly but would assist Members in identifying matters requiring verification and further interrogation on the ground.

SAPS informed the Committee that Mooiplaas falls within the Erasmia policing precinct and continues to experience serious levels of violent crime, particularly murder. SAPS indicated that Mooiplaas accounted for approximately 76.7 per cent of murders recorded within the relevant policing sector. The reported interventions included high-visibility patrols, tactical and intelligence-led deployments, liquor compliance operations, integrated law-enforcement operations, collaboration with the Department of Home Affairs and municipal authorities, the installation of closed-circuit television cameras at strategic locations and the deployment of a Mobile Community Service Centre. SAPS further advised that a dedicated murder investigation project had been established in collaboration with prosecutors to review relevant dockets, strengthen investigations and improve the management of murder cases.

The Committee was informed that Erasmia Police Station had 75 members, of whom at least 46 were assigned to visible policing and 17 to detective services. SAPS advised that Organisational Development had recommended a Mobile Community Service Centre instead of a permanent satellite police station, partly because of the informal nature of the settlement,

dolomitic conditions and unresolved relocation plans. In the interim, a Mobile Community Service Centre from Olievenhoutbosch Police Station was being used to provide services in Mooiplaas.

SAPS also addressed allegations that members stationed at Erasmia Police Station owned rental properties or conducted private business activities in Mooiplaas. It reported that members had been required to submit declarations and that the initial investigation had not substantiated the allegations. Members nevertheless questioned whether the declarations had been independently verified and called for lifestyle audits, integrity testing, counter-intelligence involvement and further investigation. SAPS undertook to strengthen the integrity-management process and indicated that members found to have submitted false information would face appropriate action.

Members raised concerns on the following matters:

1) Reliability and completeness of the crime statistics presented
2) Continued escalation of murder and other violent crime
3) Adequacy of personnel, vehicles and detective capacity
4) Community confidence in SAPS
5) Effectiveness of surveillance cameras and other policing interventions
6) Progress of murder investigations, and
7) Status of the proposed additional police service point. Members also emphasised that the City of Tshwane and other relevant departments should participate in the oversight process, as poor lighting, inadequate roads, informal settlement management, environmental conditions and broader service-delivery challenges materially affected policing and community safety.

The Committee agreed that the physical oversight visit was necessary to verify the information presented by SAPS, engage directly with residents and community structures, assess policing facilities and resources, and determine whether the interventions described during the briefing were operational and effective. The issues raised during the preparatory briefing accordingly informed the scope and focus of the oversight visit conducted on 25 June 2026.

4. VISIT TO THE ERASMIA POLICE STATION

4.1. Introduction

The Committee commenced its oversight visit at Erasmia Police Station, where it received a briefing from the SAPS on the policing environment within the Erasmia policing precinct, with particular emphasis on the Mooiplaas informal settlement.

Before inspecting the Erasmia Police Station and visiting the Mooiplaas Informal Settlement, the Committee received an operational briefing from the South African Police Service (SAPS). The briefing provided an overview of the policing environment, crime trends, investigative performance, operational challenges and interventions implemented within the Erasmia policing precinct, with particular emphasis on Mooiplaas. It also contextualised and updated the information presented to the Committee during the preparatory briefing held before the oversight visit.

4.2. Policing environment

SAPS informed the Committee that the Erasmia policing precinct is geographically diverse and comprises formal residential areas, agricultural holdings, industrial areas and extensive informal settlements. The precinct is divided into three policing sectors:

- Sector 1 comprises Erasmia Residential, Lekkerhoekplaas, Vlakplaas, Zwartkop, Sunderland Ridge Industrial and portions of the Mooiplaas Informal Settlement.
- Sector 2 comprises the remainder of Mooiplaas, together with Gerhardsville, Knoppieslaagte, Hennops River and Richaletta.
- Sector 3 comprises Hills and Dales, Roodekrans, Vlakfontein, Rhenosterspruit, Riverside Estate and Laezonia.

Mooiplaas therefore falls within both Sectors 1 and 2. SAPS explained that the sector-policing model was intended to improve police visibility, community engagement and operational coordination across the precinct. However, the size, density and informal nature of Mooiplaas presented particular policing challenges, including limited accessibility, informal road networks, inadequate lighting and environmental conditions that impeded police visibility and response times.

4.3. Case management and detective performance

Members were briefed on case management and detective performance during the fourth quarter of the 2025/26 financial year. SAPS presented information on reported cases, matters carried forward from previous reporting periods, cases referred to court, withdrawals, undetected cases and matters that remained under investigation.

The presentation also addressed the progress of cases already before the courts, including matters that had resulted in guilty verdicts or withdrawals and those that remained pending. SAPS indicated that the statistics reflected the substantial investigative workload facing the station and the volume of cases requiring continued investigative attention.

4.4. Murder investigations

The Committee received a detailed overview of murder investigations registered within the precinct during the reporting period. SAPS outlined the circumstances of individual cases, including the locations of the incidents, apparent causes of death, victim profiles, the status of identified suspects and the progress of the investigations.

A significant proportion of the reported murders had occurred within the Mooiplaas Informal Settlement. The incidents involved shootings, stabbings, assaults and burnings. While certain investigations had resulted in arrests and court proceedings, a substantial number remained ongoing because suspects had not been identified or investigative and forensic processes had not been completed. Several cases remained dependent on post-mortem reports, forensic evidence or further information from witnesses before the matters could proceed.

SAPS acknowledged that the continued concentration of murders within Mooiplaas constituted a significant policing challenge and required sustained, focused operational and investigative attention.

4.5. Crime-prevention initiatives and stakeholder engagement

SAPS outlined the crime-prevention initiatives undertaken within the precinct and emphasised the importance of collaboration with community structures and other organs of state. Regular

engagements were reportedly held with the Community Policing Forum, ward councillors, community representatives and other local stakeholders to identify policing priorities and coordinate interventions.
SAPS also reported ongoing engagement with the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality ("the municipality") regarding infrastructure and environmental conditions affecting crime prevention and police operations. These included inadequate public lighting, poor road conditions, informal settlement infrastructure, environmental design and limited accessibility within parts of Mooiplaas.

Petitions had been submitted to the municipality regarding the installation of high-mast and solar lighting, but the proposed interventions had not yet been implemented. Although municipal grading of roads had commenced, the work remained incomplete, and poor road conditions continued to impede police access and emergency response in parts of the settlement.

Community members had been encouraged to participate in community patrols. SAPS advised that such patrols should be conducted in groups and with appropriate caution to minimise risks to participants. It emphasised that sustained community participation, supported by effective policing and improved municipal services, formed an important component of crime prevention within Mooiplaas.

4.6. Operational challenges and proposed interventions

SAPS identified inadequate public lighting, poor road infrastructure, difficult and inaccessible terrain and environmental conditions that restricted police visibility and response times as persistent obstacles to effective policing. It emphasised that these challenges could not be addressed through policing interventions alone.

SAPS accordingly called for a coordinated and multidisciplinary response involving the police, the municipality, relevant government departments and community structures. Priority areas included improving municipal infrastructure, strengthening environmental design measures, enhancing access within the settlement, maintaining partnerships with community structures and addressing the broader socioeconomic and environmental conditions contributing to crime.

The Chairperson thanked SAPS for the briefing and emphasised that the purpose of the oversight visit extended beyond receiving information. The Committee intended to verify the information presented through direct observation, inspection of policing facilities and engagement with residents, community structures and relevant government institutions. The briefing therefore informed Members' questions during the inspection of Erasmia Police Station, the visit to Mooiplaas and the subsequent stakeholder engagements.

4.7. Discussion on Serious and Violent Crime in Mooiplaas

Following the presentation, Members engaged SAPS on the prevalence of serious and violent crime within Mooiplaas, with particular emphasis on the high incidence of murder recorded within the informal settlement. Referring to the presentation, Members noted that between the 2020/21 and 2025/26 financial years, 112 murders had been recorded in Sector 1 of the Erasmia policing precinct, of which 86 occurred within Mooiplaas. Members observed that the concentration of murders within a relatively small geographical area warranted focused oversight and requested further clarity regarding the factors contributing to this trend.

Members sought to understand the principal drivers of violent crime within Mooiplaas and questioned whether the murders were predominantly linked to organised criminal activity, interpersonal disputes, substance abuse, illegal firearms, gang-related activity or broader socio-economic conditions. Members further enquired whether SAPS had identified specific crime hotspots within the settlement and how crime intelligence informed operational deployments and policing strategies.

The Chairperson referred to recent operational successes within Mooiplaas and requested an update on enforcement activities conducted immediately prior to the oversight visit. SAPS reported that an integrated operation had recently been conducted within Mooiplaas and neighbouring policing areas, resulting in the closure of six illegal liquor outlets, the recovery of a firearm near the Erasmia–Laudium boundary, the arrest of a suspect found in possession of a Metro Police uniform, arrests relating to illegal gambling and the unlawful possession of firearms, and the arrest of approximately forty undocumented foreign nationals during the initial phase of the operation. SAPS further advised that Crime Intelligence was continuing to profile certain suspects arrested during the operation to determine possible links to other serious crimes.

SAPS explained that the concentration of violent crime within Mooiplaas had resulted in the implementation of targeted enforcement initiatives, including intelligence-led policing, integrated operations involving specialised units, intensified high-visibility patrols during identified peak crime periods, stop-and-search operations and focused action against illegal liquor outlets. Members were informed that these interventions formed part of the station's broader strategy to reduce violent crime within the settlement and apprehend priority offenders.

Members also discussed the sustainability of these interventions and whether periodic integrated operations were sufficient to produce lasting reductions in violent crime. In response, SAPS indicated that enforcement operations formed only one component of its crime prevention strategy and emphasised the importance of sustained community engagement, environmental improvements and cooperation with other government departments in addressing the underlying conditions contributing to violence within Mooiplaas.

Throughout the discussion, Members emphasised that while enforcement successes were welcomed, the continued concentration of murders within Mooiplaas suggested that additional interventions beyond conventional policing may be required. Members indicated that the subsequent site inspection and community engagements would assist the Committee in assessing whether the operational picture presented by SAPS corresponded with conditions observed on the ground.

4.8. Discussion on Operational Resources and Policing Capacity

Members engaged SAPS on the adequacy of the station's operational resources and its capacity to effectively police the Mooiplaas informal settlement. The discussion focused on personnel, detective capacity, vehicle availability, fleet management and the practical challenges associated with policing a rapidly expanding informal settlement.

Referring to the presentation, Members noted that Erasmia Police Station reported staffing levels close to its approved establishment and sought clarity on whether these figures accurately reflected the station's operational capability. Members emphasised that numerical staffing levels did not necessarily translate into effective policing and requested further information

regarding personnel deployment, operational responsibilities and the availability of specialised investigative capacity.

Particular attention was given to Detective Services. Members sought clarification regarding detective workloads, the number of active murder investigations, the allocation of complex investigations and the station's capacity to investigate serious and violent crime. Members also enquired whether detective resources had kept pace with the increasing investigative demands arising from Mooiplaas and whether additional support was available from specialised provincial or national investigative units.

The discussion subsequently turned to the station's vehicle fleet. Members referred to the information presented by SAPS regarding vehicle allocations and questioned whether the number of operational vehicles was sufficient to police both the formal residential areas and the extensive informal settlement falling within the precinct. Clarification was requested regarding the number of vehicles currently undergoing repairs, the period for which they had remained unavailable and the impact of vehicle shortages on visible policing and detective investigations.

SAPS explained that the station had twenty allocated vehicles against a Resource Allocation Guide requirement of nineteen vehicles. Officials advised that a number of vehicles were temporarily unavailable owing to scheduled maintenance and repairs, while replacement vehicles were allocated in accordance with provincial fleet management processes. SAPS further explained that vehicles reaching the end of their operational lifespan were subject to a formal boarding process before replacement could be authorised. Members were informed that replacement allocations were prioritised at provincial level based on operational need and available resources.

Members questioned whether the Resource Allocation Guide adequately reflected the operational realities of policing an area such as Mooiplaas. Particular concern was expressed regarding the suitability of certain vehicles for navigating informal roads, difficult terrain and densely populated sections of the settlement. Members noted that the effectiveness of police deployments depended not only on the number of vehicles allocated but also on their operational condition, availability and suitability for the terrain in which they were required to operate.

The Committee also sought clarification regarding the procurement and maintenance of the SAPS vehicle fleet. Members referred to recurring concerns raised during previous oversight visits concerning prolonged repair periods, shortages of replacement parts, tyre procurement and fleet maintenance. SAPS explained the processes applicable to vehicle servicing, repairs and replacement, including the implementation of National Treasury's RT46 transversal contract intended to improve fleet maintenance and reduce repair turnaround times. Officials indicated that the revised procurement arrangements were expected to improve service delivery and minimise the time that operational vehicles remained unavailable for policing duties.

Members welcomed the explanation but observed that vehicle availability remained a recurring concern across several policing precincts visited by the Committee. The Chairperson noted that the issue extended beyond Erasmia Police Station and suggested that the Portfolio Committee may, at an appropriate stage, consider a broader engagement with SAPS regarding national fleet management, vehicle procurement processes, maintenance arrangements and the impact of vehicle availability on operational policing.

The discussion further considered the relationship between resource availability and policing outcomes. Members emphasised that effective policing could not be assessed solely through establishment figures or resource allocations, but required consideration of operational readiness, deployment practices, investigative capacity and the practical ability of SAPS members to respond to incidents and conduct proactive crime prevention activities. Members indicated that these issues would be further assessed during the inspection of the station's facilities and operational resources.

4.9. Discussion on Environmental Design, Municipal Infrastructure and Accessibility

Members engaged SAPS on the extent to which municipal infrastructure, environmental design and service delivery challenges contributed to crime and undermined policing within the Mooiplaas informal settlement. The discussion recognised that while SAPS remained responsible for maintaining law and order, many of the underlying conditions affecting crime prevention required intervention by other organs of state.

Referring to the presentation, SAPS explained that the physical layout of Mooiplaas continued to present significant operational challenges. The informal nature of the settlement, characterised by narrow access routes, densely constructed dwellings and an evolving settlement pattern, limited the ability of police vehicles to access certain areas and affected emergency response times. Members were informed that some sections of the settlement remained inaccessible to conventional police vehicles, requiring members to continue on foot when responding to complaints or conducting patrols.

Members sought clarification regarding the impact of inadequate public infrastructure on policing operations and questioned whether environmental conditions were contributing to the concentration of violent crime within the settlement. Particular attention was given to the availability of public lighting, the condition of internal roads, stormwater management, overgrown vegetation and the general accessibility of the area for police, emergency medical services and other first responders.

SAPS advised that inadequate lighting remained one of the most significant crime prevention challenges within Mooiplaas. Officials explained that poor visibility during the evening and early morning hours affected both police patrols and community safety, creating opportunities for criminal activity while increasing the operational risks faced by police officials. Members were informed that SAPS had repeatedly engaged the municipality regarding the installation of additional lighting infrastructure, including high-mast and solar-powered lights, but that these interventions had not yet been fully implemented.

The Committee further discussed the condition of roads and access routes within the settlement. SAPS indicated that poor road infrastructure continued to impede routine patrols and delayed emergency responses. While the municipality had undertaken grading of certain roads, Members were informed that the work remained incomplete and that accessibility challenges persisted, particularly following periods of rainfall. SAPS emphasised that improved road infrastructure would significantly enhance police mobility and service delivery within the settlement.

Members also raised concerns regarding environmental conditions that could facilitate criminal activity. The discussion included the presence of dense vegetation, unmanaged open spaces and informal pathways that limited natural surveillance and provided concealment for

offenders. SAPS explained that environmental improvements formed part of its ongoing engagements with municipal authorities and community stakeholders, recognising that crime prevention required a combination of law enforcement and environmental interventions.

The Committee noted that these challenges extended beyond conventional policing and required a coordinated response from multiple spheres of government. Members emphasised that improvements in municipal infrastructure, environmental design and basic service delivery should be viewed as integral components of crime prevention rather than matters separate from policing. It was recognised that sustainable reductions in crime would require continued cooperation between SAPS, the municipality, the Gauteng Department of Community Safety and other relevant departments responsible for infrastructure development and service delivery.

Members further indicated that the subsequent site inspection of Mooiplaas would provide an opportunity to verify the extent to which the environmental and infrastructure challenges described by SAPS were evident on the ground and to assess the impact of those conditions on policing operations and community safety.

4.10. Discussion on Integrated Operations, Illegal Immigration and Interdepartmental Coordination

Members engaged SAPS on the implementation and outcomes of integrated law enforcement operations conducted within Mooiplaas, with particular emphasis on operations targeting undocumented persons, illegal liquor outlets, illegal firearms and other criminal activities.

Members noted that SAPS had reported several successful integrated operations within the area and sought clarification regarding the operational outcomes of these interventions. While acknowledging the value of coordinated enforcement operations, Members questioned whether such operations produced sustainable improvements in community safety or whether they merely resulted in short-term enforcement actions.

Particular attention was given to the arrest of undocumented foreign nationals during recent operations. Members sought clarity on the procedures followed after arrests had been effected, including the transfer of undocumented persons to the relevant authorities, the period for which

such individuals remained in police custody and the operational impact that immigration-related detentions had on the management of police holding cells.

SAPS explained that, where undocumented persons were identified during law enforcement operations, they were processed in accordance with the applicable legislative framework and transferred to the responsible authority for further processing. Officials indicated that SAPS remained responsible for the initial law enforcement function, while subsequent immigration-related processes fell outside the operational mandate of the South African Police Service.

Members further questioned whether repeat arrests of undocumented persons were being experienced and whether feedback mechanisms existed to enable SAPS to determine the final outcome of persons transferred following immigration-related arrests. The discussion highlighted the importance of effective coordination between SAPS and other departments responsible for immigration management in ensuring that integrated operations achieved lasting outcomes.

The Committee also sought clarity regarding the extent to which undocumented migration contributed to crime within Mooiplaas. Members emphasised the importance of distinguishing between criminal conduct and immigration status, while recognising concerns raised by residents regarding criminal activity allegedly involving undocumented persons. SAPS advised that operational decisions were based on criminal conduct and available evidence, and that enforcement operations targeted offences irrespective of a person's nationality or immigration status.

More broadly, Members discussed the importance of integrated law enforcement operations involving multiple government institutions. SAPS explained that operations within Mooiplaas were planned on a multidisciplinary basis and involved cooperation with other law enforcement agencies where appropriate. Officials emphasised that many of the underlying challenges affecting Mooiplaas, including informal settlement management, environmental conditions, undocumented migration and municipal service delivery, required coordinated responses extending beyond the mandate of SAPS.

Members noted that the effectiveness of integrated operations ultimately depended not only on successful arrests but also on sustained intergovernmental cooperation and follow-up by the

relevant authorities responsible for the various aspects of law enforcement, immigration administration and municipal governance.

4.11. Discussion on Community Policing, Stakeholder Engagement and Public Confidence

Members engaged SAPS on the extent of community participation in policing initiatives and the effectiveness of existing partnership structures established to address crime within Mooiplaas. The discussion recognised that sustainable crime prevention depended not only on law enforcement interventions, but also on constructive relationships between SAPS, community structures and other stakeholders.

SAPS advised the Committee that it continued to engage regularly with the Community Policing Forum (CPF), sector crime forums, ward councillors, community leaders and neighbourhood patrol groups. Officials explained that these engagements provided an important platform for identifying emerging crime trends, addressing community concerns and coordinating crime prevention initiatives. SAPS further indicated that community structures assisted in communicating policing priorities, identifying local safety concerns and facilitating engagement between residents and the police.

Members sought clarity regarding the functionality of the CPF and questioned the extent to which community concerns influenced operational planning and policing priorities. Members further enquired whether the existing partnership structures remained representative of the broader Mooiplaas community and whether they continued to enjoy the confidence of residents.

The discussion also considered the willingness of community members to report crime and cooperate with criminal investigations. Members questioned whether SAPS experienced challenges in securing witness cooperation, particularly in relation to serious and violent crimes, and whether fear of intimidation or retaliation affected the reporting of criminal activity. SAPS acknowledged that witness cooperation remained an ongoing challenge in certain investigations but indicated that continued community engagement and visible policing were intended to strengthen public confidence and encourage greater cooperation with law enforcement.

Members also discussed the role of community patrols and other community-based safety initiatives operating within Mooiplaas. SAPS explained that community participation remained an important component of local crime prevention efforts and that patrol groups were encouraged to work in cooperation with the police. Officials emphasised, however, that community patrollers should avoid unnecessary confrontation with suspects and should operate in a manner that prioritised their own safety while promptly reporting criminal activity to SAPS.

The Committee further questioned whether SAPS had observed any improvement in community trust and whether relationships between the police and residents had strengthened following recent operational interventions. SAPS advised that while relationships with many community stakeholders remained constructive, maintaining public confidence required sustained engagement, visible policing and consistent feedback to complainants and community structures regarding policing interventions and operational outcomes.

Members noted that the effectiveness of community policing structures would be explored further during the Committee's engagement with the Community Policing Forum and residents later in the programme. It was emphasised that the Committee wished to assess whether the experiences of the community corresponded with the operational picture presented by SAPS and to identify any areas where perceptions differed.

5. STATION INSPECTION AND SITE VISIT

Following the briefing by SAPS, the Committee conducted an inspection of selected facilities at Erasmia Police Station to verify the operational environment and assess the station's readiness to service the policing needs of the Mooiplaas community.

5.1. Victim-Friendly Room

The Committee inspected the Victim-Friendly Room (VFR) and observed that the facility was neat, clean and appropriately maintained. The room was equipped with a sleeper couch to accommodate victims where necessary and had access to a dedicated counselling room.

The Committee noted that a shower facility located within the VFR was currently being utilised for storage purposes rather than its intended function. Members were informed that victims of sexual offences are generally advised not to shower prior to forensic examination in order to preserve evidential material. SAPS further advised that child victims are ordinarily referred to specialised facilities in Laudium where appropriate services are available.

5.2. Register for Remunerative Work Outside the Service

The Committee inspected the station's register relating to remunerative work outside the Service. Members noted that the register did not appear to comprehensively record potential external interests or activities that may give rise to conflicts of interest.

In particular, Members questioned whether the register adequately captured involvement in sectors that may present elevated corruption risks, including the taxi industry and liquor trade. It was suggested that consideration be given to maintaining a more integrated register of external interests rather than limiting oversight to particular categories of organised crime or identified risk areas.

Members also sought clarity regarding the applicable SAPS policies governing outside remunerative work, transfers and the management of potential conflicts of interest.

5.3. Authority to Drive State Vehicles

The Committee inspected records relating to the authority of members to operate state vehicles. Members were informed that only 51 of the station's 79 personnel were authorised to drive state vehicles, of whom three were administrative personnel. Concerns were raised regarding the proportion of operational members who were not authorised to drive official vehicles and the possible impact that this could have on operational deployments and service delivery. The Committee further noted concerns relating to the administration of drivers' licences and the maintenance of the relevant records.

5.4. Records Management and Digitisation

Members discussed the station's records management systems and were informed of challenges associated with the continued reliance on paper-based filing systems.

The Committee noted that the absence of a comprehensive digital records management system increased the risk of documents being misplaced or permanently lost in the event of fire, flooding or other unforeseen incidents. Members observed that improved digitisation of operational and administrative records would strengthen institutional resilience and improve record management.

5.5. Holding Cells

The Committee inspected the holding cells situated at the station. SAPS advised that the cells were currently utilised only for the temporary processing of detainees and were not being used for longer-term detention owing to outstanding infrastructure deficiencies. Members were informed that the cells could not be fully utilised pending remedial work by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), including repairs to the ceiling and roof structure. The Committee noted the operational implications of the limited availability of detention facilities.

5.6. Site Inspection: Mooiplaas Informal Settlement

Following the station inspection, the Committee undertook a walkabout through the Mooiplaas informal settlement.

Members immediately observed the challenging physical environment within which residents lived. The Committee traversed unpaved roads and difficult terrain and noted that significant portions of the settlement had developed on or adjacent to a waste disposal site. Members expressed concern regarding the environmental conditions, which were considered incompatible with acceptable standards of human dignity, public health and community safety.

The Committee observed that the physical environment presented considerable challenges not only for residents but also for the delivery of policing and other essential government services.

5.7. Inspection of the Mobile Community Service Centre

The Committee proceeded to inspect the Mobile Community Service Centre (CSC) deployed within Mooiplaas. SAPS advised that the vehicle belonged to the Olievenhoutbosch Police Station and had been temporarily deployed to Mooiplaas approximately two weeks prior to the oversight visit. Members were informed that the vehicle was shared between policing areas and was staffed by three SAPS officials.

The Mobile CSC primarily provided administrative policing services, including the commissioning of affidavits, certification of documents and other community service functions.

During the inspection, Members observed several operational challenges affecting the deployment of the Mobile CSC. SAPS indicated that the vehicle had recently experienced battery problems, which had since been resolved through the replacement of the battery.

Members were further informed that the vehicle lacked external lighting. As a result, officials relocated the Mobile CSC to a nearby factory premises after approximately 18:00 each evening in order to operate under adequate lighting conditions. The Committee noted that this arrangement limited the visibility and accessibility of policing services during the evening. The Committee was advised that the proposed location of the Mobile CSC had been discussed.

Members also observed that the generator installed on the Mobile CSC was not operational.

During the inspection, community patrollers accompanying the Mobile CSC were found to be carrying sjamboks. SAPS officials confiscated the sjamboks and explained that community patrols should not carry dangerous weapons while performing community safety functions.

5.7.1. Visit to Ditshego Pre-School

The Committee visited *Ditshego Pre-School*, which was providing early childhood development services to approximately 140 children.

Members were informed that approximately 86 per cent of the learners were South African children, although a significant proportion of the broader Mooiplaas population consisted of foreign nationals. The school also operated an "Open School" programme that accommodated children of foreign nationals who would otherwise spend their days within the informal settlement and surrounding dumping areas. The programme was intended to provide children with a safe environment while promoting access to education and developmental support.

The Committee further noted that the school provided aftercare services for children whose parents travelled to surrounding areas, including Rietondale, for employment.

During the engagement, Members discussed recent government policy developments concerning the employment of undocumented foreign nationals and expressed concern that well-intentioned community organisations could inadvertently face adverse consequences while attempting to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable children.

Concerns were also raised regarding environmental health compliance. Officials from the Gauteng Department of Health, who were present during the visit, clarified that a health inspection report previously issued to the school did not constitute a formal health certificate. The matter remained unresolved and was identified as requiring further engagement between the relevant authorities.

5.7.2. Visit to Team Creative Day Care Centre

The Committee also visited *Team Creative Day Care Centre*, another early childhood development facility supported by a non-governmental organisation.

During the visit, Members engaged with a representative of *Ekuphumuleni Garden and Studio*, who advised that she had been working within the Mooiplaas community for approximately 26 years. Members were informed that the project combined educational support with food security initiatives through the cultivation of vegetables for the benefit of the school and surrounding community.

The Committee inspected several greenhouses located on the property. While some deterioration was evident, Members observed that the facilities remained operational and

continued to support local food production. Surplus produce was sold within the community, contributing to the sustainability of the project.

5.7.3. Informal Engagement with Community Members

Throughout the site inspection, the Committee was accompanied by local community patrollers.

Members were informed that the patrollers did not form part of the CPF but operated as an independent community initiative. The Committee encouraged the group to formally engage with the local police station and strengthen cooperation with SAPS through recognised community policing structures.

The Committee subsequently held an informal public engagement with residents at the local sports ground, which Members observed was little more than an open field with minimal recreational infrastructure. Community members were invited to attend through the use of a loudhailer, while SAPS provided a portable public-address system to facilitate the engagement.

Residents were afforded an opportunity to address the Committee directly and raised numerous concerns regarding crime, policing and service delivery within Mooiplaas. Allegations of police corruption featured prominently during the engagement, together with concerns relating to visible policing, infrastructure, public safety and the broader living conditions experienced by residents. These issues are recorded in greater detail under the subsequent section dealing with the Committee's engagement with the community.

6. FORMAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

6.1. Introduction

The purpose of the session was to provide an opportunity for community representatives, government departments and other stakeholders to respond to issues identified during the site inspections, present additional information relevant to policing and community safety within Mooiplaas and engage directly with Members of the Committee.

The discussions were informed by the Committee's observations made during the morning programme and focused on crime trends, policing, municipal infrastructure, community safety, service delivery and broader governance challenges affecting the Mooiplaas community. Throughout the engagement, Members sought to test information received during the SAPS briefing against the lived experiences of residents and the perspectives of the various stakeholders present.

The stakeholder engagement proceeded in the following order:

- Community engagement with residents of Mooiplaas;
- Engagement with the CPF;
- Briefing by the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality; and
- Briefing by the Gauteng Department of Community Safety.

6.2. Briefing by the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality

The Chairperson invited representatives of the municipality to brief the Committee on matters falling within the Municipality's responsibility that affected policing and community safety within Mooiplaas. The briefing focused primarily on the status of the informal settlement, land ownership, environmental constraints, municipal service delivery and ongoing interventions aimed at addressing the challenges experienced within the area. The Committee noted that many of the issues observed during the site inspection, particularly those relating to infrastructure and environmental conditions, fell within the Municipality's mandate.

Representatives of the municipality advised that the Mooiplaas (Wetlands) informal settlement had been established during the early 2000s and had expanded significantly over time. Members were informed that the settlement had originally been assessed through the National Upgrading Support Programme in 2018 and that subsequent structure counts demonstrated substantial growth, particularly following the COVID-19 period. The municipality indicated that the settlement now extended across numerous land parcels, only one of which was owned by the City of Tshwane, with the remainder being privately owned.

The municipality explained that geotechnical investigations undertaken within the area had concluded that significant portions of the settlement were unsuitable for permanent residential development owing to the presence of dolomitic conditions and the associated risk of sinkholes.

Members were informed that these conditions prevented in-situ upgrading of the settlement and that relocation of residents would ultimately be required before permanent housing could be developed.

The Committee was further advised that the municipality was unable to undertake permanent development on privately owned land and that this significantly constrained available intervention options. Although provision had previously been made to relocate residents to Olievenhoutbosch Extension 27, officials explained that the intended relocation programme had not materialised after the relocation site itself became occupied before the planned beneficiaries could be accommodated. Consequently, no suitable relocation site was presently available for residents occupying the municipality-owned portion of Mooiplaas.

Pending a permanent housing solution, the municipality advised that it continued to provide humanitarian and basic municipal services to the settlement. These interventions included the provision of chemical toilets, the delivery of potable water through water tankers and limited maintenance of internal roads where operationally feasible. Officials indicated that these measures were intended to alleviate immediate humanitarian concerns while longer-term planning continued.

6.2.1. Discussion

Members referred to the conditions observed during the site inspection and questioned whether the current level of municipal intervention was adequate given the scale and continued expansion of the settlement. Particular concern was expressed regarding the apparent growth of Mooiplaas despite the acknowledged inability to develop the area permanently.

The Committee sought clarification regarding the ownership of the various land parcels occupied by the settlement and questioned what legal or administrative mechanisms existed to prevent further unlawful occupation and expansion. Members further enquired whether the Municipality had engaged private landowners regarding the continued occupation of their properties and what measures were being pursued to manage further land invasions.

Members also questioned the municipality regarding the condition of roads within the settlement, noting that the Committee had personally experienced the difficult terrain during

the site inspection. Clarification was sought regarding the grading of roads, drainage, accessibility for emergency services and the extent to which road conditions affected policing, emergency medical services and fire and rescue operations.

The Committee further referred to the inadequate lighting observed during the visit and sought an update regarding the installation of public lighting infrastructure. Members recalled that SAPS had earlier indicated that requests for solar-powered lighting had been submitted to the Municipality but had not yet materialised. The Committee requested clarity regarding the status of these proposals and the reasons for the apparent delays.

Members also raised concerns regarding waste management, environmental degradation and the broader public health implications arising from the proximity of the settlement to landfill and waste disposal areas. It was noted that the environmental conditions observed during the inspection were likely to contribute not only to health risks but also to policing challenges by reducing visibility, limiting accessibility and creating opportunities for criminal activity.

The Committee emphasised that many of the crime drivers identified during the SAPS briefing, including poor lighting, inaccessible roads, environmental design and inadequate municipal infrastructure, could not be addressed through policing interventions alone. Members stressed the importance of coordinated planning between SAPS, the Municipality and other spheres of government to ensure that environmental and infrastructure improvements formed part of a broader crime prevention strategy.

6.2.2. Responses

Municipal representatives reiterated that many of the challenges experienced within Mooiplaas stemmed from the legal status of the land and the unfavourable geotechnical conditions affecting development. Officials advised that while the Municipality continued to provide basic humanitarian services where possible, permanent upgrading remained constrained by land ownership, environmental limitations and the absence of suitable relocation land.

The municipality further indicated that infrastructure improvements remained subject to planning processes, budget availability and intergovernmental cooperation. Officials acknowledged the complexity of the situation and emphasised that sustainable solutions would

require coordinated action between the Municipality, provincial government and national departments responsible for human settlements and related services.

6.2.3. Matters Emerging from the Discussion

The discussion highlighted that many of the policing challenges identified by the Committee during both the SAPS briefing and the site inspection were closely linked to municipal planning, infrastructure and environmental conditions. Members noted that while policing interventions remained essential, long-term improvements in community safety would depend upon integrated planning, effective land-use management, improved municipal infrastructure and coordinated implementation across the three spheres of government.

6.3. Community and Community Policing Forum Engagement

The Chairperson invited representatives of the CPF and members of the Mooiplaas community to address the Committee on policing and community safety challenges within the area.

The CPF representative advised that the Forum maintained a constructive working relationship with station management and remained committed to strengthening cooperation between SAPS and the community. However, concern was expressed that the policing needs of the wider Erasmia policing precinct, including Mooiplaas, had changed significantly over recent years, with crime shifting from predominantly property-related offences to more serious contact crimes, including violent home invasions. Reference was made to recent incidents, including the shooting of a child during a home invasion, as evidence of the increasing severity of crime affecting the community.

The CPF further expressed concern regarding the limited visibility of police patrols within the area. It was submitted that community members seldom observed proactive patrols and that police vehicles were generally only seen when responding to complaints. The representative indicated that the Forum had repeatedly sought greater engagement with SAPS regarding the deployment of additional visible policing resources and requested a structured plan to improve police visibility within Mooiplaas and the surrounding communities. Particular concern was raised regarding the availability of operational vehicles and the limited number of members available for patrol duties.

The representative further cautioned that the establishment of additional policing facilities, including the proposed Mobile CSC, should not result in existing operational resources simply being redistributed from elsewhere within the Erasmia policing precinct. The CPF emphasised that any expansion of policing services should be accompanied by additional personnel and operational resources to avoid placing further strain on an already limited establishment.

Members engaged the CPF regarding its relationship with recently established community patrol groups operating within Mooiplaas. Clarification was sought regarding the extent of cooperation between these groups and the formal Community Policing Forum, as well as the support available to community volunteers involved in neighbourhood patrols. Members also questioned whether the patrol groups operated in coordination with SAPS and whether mechanisms existed to strengthen cooperation between the various community safety structures.

The discussion also returned to allegations raised earlier during the site visit concerning possible police misconduct and corruption. Members sought clarity regarding allegations that certain SAPS members were allegedly involved in criminal activities or maintained private business interests within Mooiplaas. The Committee further questioned SAPS regarding complaints from residents that certain reported cases had not been adequately investigated or followed up after statements had been taken. Members emphasised the importance of properly investigating these allegations and ensuring that any credible complaints were addressed through the appropriate internal accountability mechanisms.

During the engagement, Members also questioned whether the recent deployment of the Mobile CSC formed part of a sustainable policing intervention or whether it had been introduced specifically in anticipation of the Committee's oversight visit. Clarification was sought regarding the long-term operational arrangements for the facility and the resources that would support its continued deployment within Mooiplaas.

6.3.1. Matters Emerging from the Discussion

The engagement highlighted several recurring concerns regarding visible policing, operational resources, community confidence in SAPS and allegations of police misconduct. While the

CPF reaffirmed its willingness to work constructively with SAPS and other stakeholders, it emphasised that stronger police visibility, increased operational capacity and sustained engagement with community structures remained essential to improving safety within Mooiplaas. Members noted that many of the issues raised by the CPF were consistent with concerns expressed by residents during the site visit and broadly aligned with several of the operational challenges previously identified during the SAPS briefing.

6.4. Briefing by the Gauteng Department of Community Safety

The Chairperson invited representatives of the Gauteng Department of Community Safety to brief the Committee on the Department's role in supporting community safety initiatives and oversight of policing within Mooiplaas. The Chairperson noted that, while the Department was not responsible for operational policing, it played an important role in coordinating community safety programmes, facilitating intergovernmental cooperation and monitoring policing performance within the province.

The Department briefed the Committee on its involvement in community safety initiatives within Mooiplaas and the broader Erasmia policing precinct. Officials advised that the Department continued to engage with SAPS, the municipality, CPFs and other stakeholders through established provincial and local coordination structures aimed at strengthening community safety and improving cooperation between government institutions.

The Department indicated that its interventions focused primarily on promoting safer communities through stakeholder coordination, community mobilisation, oversight of policing performance and support for crime prevention initiatives. Members were informed that the Department participated in various integrated forums and sought to facilitate collaboration between departments responsible for policing, municipal services and broader community safety interventions.

Officials further advised that the Department continued to monitor developments within Mooiplaas owing to the persistent challenges associated with violent crime, informal settlement conditions and the vulnerability of the community. The Department acknowledged that many of the challenges identified during the Committee's site inspection extended beyond traditional policing and required sustained cooperation across all spheres of government.

6.4.1. Discussion

Members welcomed the briefing and sought clarification regarding the practical impact of the Department's interventions within Mooiplaas. Referring to the conditions observed during the site inspection, Members questioned how the Department measured the effectiveness of its community safety programmes and how it monitored the implementation of commitments made by other departments and institutions.

The Committee further sought clarity regarding the Department's oversight role in relation to SAPS. Members questioned how concerns raised by communities regarding policing, visible policing, detective capacity and police responsiveness were monitored and escalated where necessary. Particular attention was given to the mechanisms available to the Department to ensure accountability where persistent policing concerns remained unresolved.

Members also discussed the functioning of CPFs and other community safety structures. Clarification was sought regarding the support provided by the Department to strengthen community participation in policing and whether sufficient capacity existed to sustain effective partnerships between SAPS and local communities.

The Committee further enquired about the coordination of provincial safety initiatives with municipal programmes, recognising that many of the challenges observed during the visit, including poor infrastructure, environmental degradation and limited access to services, required coordinated responses extending beyond the policing mandate.

Members emphasised that effective community safety required not only operational policing, but also strong provincial oversight, sustained stakeholder coordination and regular monitoring of interventions implemented by the various role players responsible for community safety.

6.4.2. Responses

In responding to Members, the Department reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening cooperation between provincial departments, municipalities, SAPS and community structures. Officials advised that the Department continued to support integrated approaches to crime

prevention through established provincial coordination mechanisms and community safety forums.

The Department acknowledged that many of the challenges identified during the oversight visit required long-term interventions and indicated that sustainable improvements would depend upon continued collaboration between all spheres of government. Officials further emphasised the importance of strengthening community participation, supporting Community Policing Forums and maintaining effective communication between government institutions and local communities.

The Department also undertook to continue monitoring developments within Mooiplaas and to engage with relevant stakeholders regarding matters raised during the oversight visit where these fell within its oversight and coordinating mandate.

6.4.3. Matters Emerging from the Discussion

The engagement highlighted the important distinction between operational policing and provincial oversight of community safety. Members observed that, while responsibility for policing rested with SAPS, the Department played a critical role in promoting coordination, monitoring implementation and facilitating collaboration between the various institutions responsible for improving community safety.

The discussion further reinforced the Committee's earlier observations that the challenges affecting Mooiplaas could not be addressed through policing interventions alone. Sustainable improvements would require coordinated action between SAPS, provincial government, the Municipality and community structures, supported by ongoing oversight and accountability mechanisms.

7. UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO OLIEVENHOUTBOSCH POLICE STATION

Following the conclusion of the Mooiplaas programme on 25 June 2026, the Committee conducted an additional unannounced visit to Olievenhoutbosch Police Station. Although the station did not fall within the scope of the National Assembly resolution, the visit was

undertaken while the Committee remained in the area and was relevant to the deployment of the Mobile Community Service Centre to Mooiplaas.

The Committee observed that Olievenhoutbosch Police Station operates from a relatively small facility that has been supplemented by prefabricated structures and container offices to accommodate operational requirements. While the station was generally found to be clean and well maintained, Members observed that the existing infrastructure was inadequate to support the policing demands associated with the size of the community served by the station.

The Committee noted that office accommodation was severely constrained. Detective offices were particularly inadequate, with insufficient space available to conduct interviews, consultations and investigations in an appropriate and confidential environment. Members further observed that the station lacked a dedicated boardroom or meeting facility, with operational meetings reportedly being conducted in an open area outside the Station Commander's office without adequate shelter from the elements.

Serious concerns were also raised regarding the security and condition of the station precinct. Members observed that perimeter fencing and security lighting were either inadequate or absent in certain areas, creating unnecessary security risks for police personnel, state assets and members of the public accessing the station. The Committee further noted persistent connectivity challenges, with limited internet access affecting the station's ability to utilise digital policing systems effectively.

The Committee inspected the station's vehicle management arrangements and was advised that a detailed vehicle register would be provided following the visit. Members were informed that the station was allocated approximately 35 vehicles, of which only 12 were operational at the time of the inspection. Concerns were raised regarding lengthy turnaround times for vehicle repairs, with Members noting that the current maintenance arrangements significantly reduced the operational availability of the fleet. It was suggested that greater use of outsourced maintenance services, where appropriate, may improve turnaround times and increase vehicle availability.

Members further observed that the station's kitchen facilities were in a poor condition and were not conducive to providing a suitable working environment for personnel. In addition, the

detention facilities were found to be inadequate and unsuitable for their intended purpose, raising concerns regarding compliance with the required standards for the detention and processing of arrested persons.

The Committee was advised that Olievenhoutbosch Police Station serves a substantially larger population than the neighbouring Erasmia policing precinct, despite facing significant resource constraints. Members expressed concern that the allocation of personnel, infrastructure and operational resources did not appear to adequately reflect the policing demands associated with the station's growing population.

During the engagement, the Committee expressed serious concern regarding the overall working conditions under which SAPS members at Olievenhoutbosch Police Station are expected to perform their duties. Members noted that the combination of inadequate infrastructure, limited office accommodation, insufficient operational vehicles, inadequate detective facilities and poor support infrastructure undermined the station's ability to provide effective policing services to the community.

The Chairperson remarked that it was deeply concerning that, despite a previous visit to the station by the President, many of the critical infrastructure and resource deficiencies remained unresolved. The Committee emphasised that these conditions were unacceptable and undermined the ability of dedicated police officials to effectively serve one of the province's rapidly growing communities.

At the same time, the Committee commended the professionalism, dedication and commitment demonstrated by station management and members, who continued to provide policing services despite operating under exceptionally difficult conditions. Members noted that the conduct of officials reflected the principles of Batho Pele and demonstrated a strong commitment to serving the community despite the significant operational constraints under which they worked.

The Committee emphasised that SAPS management should urgently prioritise the upgrading of Olievenhoutbosch Police Station and ensure that sufficient personnel, operational vehicles, detective facilities, ICT infrastructure and supporting resources are allocated to enable the station to fulfil its constitutional mandate effectively. The Committee further indicated that it would continue engaging SAPS leadership regarding the operational deficiencies identified

during the visit and would monitor progress in addressing these matters as part of its ongoing parliamentary oversight responsibilities.

8. EXTENSION OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT

The Committee's approved oversight programme relating to Mooiplaas concluded on 25 June 2026 following the completion of the scheduled inspections, stakeholder engagements and Committee debriefing.

On 26 June 2026, following the conclusion of the approved programme, the Chairperson identified Bramley Police Station and Diepsloot Police Station for additional unannounced oversight visits. The purpose of these visits was to assess policing conditions at the two stations and obtain further contextual information regarding police infrastructure, operational capacity and frontline service delivery within the broader Gauteng policing environment.

As the additional visits were arranged after the conclusion of the approved programme, several Members were unable to participate owing to pre-existing parliamentary, travel and other official commitments scheduled on the basis of the original programme. The visits were therefore conducted by the Chairperson, Mr I. M. Cameron, and Ms L. Schickerling, accompanied by the parliamentary support staff.

The visits to Bramley and Diepsloot Police Stations did not form part of the National Assembly resolution concerning Mooiplaas or the Committee's approved oversight programme. The observations arising from these visits are therefore recorded separately from the Mooiplaas oversight proceedings. They are nevertheless included in this report for completeness and because they provide relevant contextual information on policing infrastructure, operational capacity and frontline service delivery in Gauteng.

9. UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO BRAMLEY POLICE STATION

On 26 June 2026, following the conclusion of the Committee's approved oversight programme, Hon I. Cameron and Hon L. Schickerling, accompanied by the available parliamentary support staff, conducted an unannounced oversight visit to Bramley Police Station.

9.1. Community Service Centre

Upon arrival, Members observed that the Acting Station Commander and station management were meeting with the CPF in preparation for protest action concerning undocumented foreign nationals scheduled for 30 June 2026. The Acting Station Commander apologised for the reception afforded to the Committee, acknowledging that the standard of service observed at the CSC was inconsistent with SAPS policies and service standards.

Members expressed concern regarding the atmosphere at the CSC, noting that officials appeared unwelcoming and reluctant to engage with members of the public. The Committee further observed that no uniformed police officials were present in the Community Service Centre at the time of the visit.

The Chairperson emphasised that the CSC is the heartbeat of every police station and often represents a citizen's first interaction with the criminal justice system. The Committee stressed that the quality of service experienced at the CSC frequently shapes public confidence in the South African Police Service and that all members should display professionalism, empathy and a service-oriented approach when assisting members of the public.

The Chairperson further clarified that the purpose of the oversight visit was not to find fault, but rather to identify operational challenges and assist SAPS in improving frontline service delivery.

Members also observed that the station was generally untidy and that the overall condition of the facility compared unfavourably with other stations visited during the oversight programme. Of particular concern was the discovery of both the South African National Flag and the SAPS flag folded and stored untidily in a cupboard. Members remarked that, while symbolic, the condition in which these official flags were kept reflected poorly on the station and reinforced broader concerns regarding organisational discipline, pride and professionalism.

9.2. Victim-Friendly Facilities

Members inspected the VFR and were informed that the facility was operated with the support of *Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (ADAPT),* a non-governmental organisation providing services to victims of domestic violence and related offences.

Representatives advised Members that, in addition to supporting women and children, the organisation also facilitated dialogues and support programmes for men and boys who had experienced domestic violence or abuse. The Committee welcomed the partnership between SAPS and civil society organisations in strengthening victim support services.

9.3. Detective Services and Operational Resources

Members observed that detectives did not have dedicated office telephones and, although new telephone handsets had been procured, they remained unusable owing to licensing and activation challenges. Detectives also lacked dedicated mobile telephones, further limiting communication with complainants, witnesses and other role players.

Members were advised that the station processed approximately 400 case dockets each month. However, the station's scanner had been out of service for an extended period, preventing the electronic uploading of dockets onto SAPS systems. Officials explained that staff were required to transport dockets to neighbouring police stations for scanning in order to comply with the electronic docket management system. The Committee regarded this as an unnecessary administrative burden that diverted valuable operational capacity.

Members further noted that Bramley Police Station serves an estimated population of approximately 67 000 people. Members were informed that approximately 90 per cent of the station's reported crime originated from the nearby informal settlement of Stjwetla, where serious offences, particularly gender-based violence and carjacking, were prevalent. Officials explained that the dense layout of the informal settlement and the difficult terrain complicated policing operations and hindered rapid response.

9.4. SAPS 13 Store and Firearm Management

Members conducted a detailed inspection of the SAPS 13 exhibit store and found it to be exceptionally well organised and professionally managed. Particular commendation was expressed regarding the management of firearms and high-value exhibits.

Officials explained that extensive security measures had been introduced nationally following the Prinsloo matter, in which firearms earmarked for destruction were diverted back into criminal circulation. Members were advised that these measures had significantly strengthened controls governing exhibits and surrendered firearms, making unauthorised removal substantially more difficult.
The Committee further observed innovative security measures introduced at station level by the member responsible for the SAPS 13 store. These included the installation of an independent CCTV camera system and the implementation of a tamper-evident seal system whereby security gates were locked using uniquely numbered security tags. The unique numbers were recorded in a register, enabling any unauthorised access or tampering to be immediately detected.

Members regarded these initiatives as examples of good practice and suggested that SAPS should consider evaluating similar measures for possible implementation at other police stations nationally.

Officials nevertheless highlighted several ongoing challenges affecting exhibit management. Members were informed that ballistic examinations frequently took several years to be completed, significantly delaying the return of lawfully owned firearms to their owners. Officials also explained the challenges posed by imitation firearms capable of discharging blank ammunition, which often closely resembled functional firearms and complicated criminal investigations.

Members further noted the operational impact of previous disruptions affecting SAPS firearm management systems and were advised that interruptions to digital firearm administration systems had created significant administrative challenges for stations.

Members also discussed the implementation of section 102 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000, which provides for the declaration of individuals as unfit to possess firearms. Officials expressed concern regarding inconsistent implementation processes, fragmented information

management and limited integration between domestic violence investigations, firearm licensing functions and other administrative processes. The Committee noted these systemic concerns as matters requiring further engagement at national level.

9.5. Vehicle Fleet

Members were informed that the station had an approved allocation of 41 vehicles, of which 29 were operational, representing an operational availability rate of approximately 71 per cent. Detective Services operated ten vehicles, of which eight were operational, while Visible Policing utilised sixteen vehicles, with one vehicle awaiting disposal and one undergoing repairs.

Members commended station management for the excellent condition of the fleet. Members were advised that weekly random vehicle inspections were conducted, with the condition of each vehicle being recorded in the Occurrence Book before and after operational deployment. The station had also established an effective working relationship with local repair garages, achieving an average repair turnaround time of approximately two weeks.

9.6. Human Resources and Operational Equipment

Members were advised that the station had an approved establishment of approximately 240 personnel but remained nineteen members below its approved strength.

Members further noted shortages of Domestic Violence evidence collection kits and DNA Buccal Sample Kits, both of which are essential for the investigation of domestic violence and serious violent crimes. Members expressed concern that shortages of basic forensic equipment could negatively affect criminal investigations and the successful prosecution of offenders.

9.7. Detention Facilities

Members inspected the station's detention facilities and expressed concern regarding their overall condition and suitability for the safe and dignified detention of arrested persons.

Members were informed that the station did not have dedicated detention facilities for female detainees. Female detainees were therefore transported to Alexandra Police Station for detention and processing. Similarly, meals for detainees were prepared and delivered from Alexandra Police Station, creating additional logistical and operational demands.

During the inspection, Members observed that the detention facilities required significant maintenance. Particular concern was expressed regarding the cleanliness of the cells and ablution facilities, with the toilets appearing to be blocked and in an unsatisfactory condition. Members also noted that the cells were exceptionally cold and questioned whether the facilities complied with the standards required for the detention of persons in police custody.

Members further observed that firearms were stored in close proximity to the detention area and questioned whether the current arrangement represented appropriate security practice. Members also raised concern that the Station Commander was not present during this portion of the inspection to account for the condition of the detention facilities and the operational arrangements observed.

Members emphasised that detention facilities form an integral part of constitutional policing and should at all times comply with the standards of safety, hygiene, security and human dignity required by law.

9.8. Station Infrastructure

Members noted that the Bramley Police Station building is owned and maintained by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI). Members observed that the overall condition of the facility was less than ideal, with several aspects of the infrastructure requiring maintenance and refurbishment. While acknowledging that responsibility for the upkeep of the building rests with DPWI, Members expressed concern that the condition of the station adversely affected both the working environment of SAPS members and the quality of service provided to the public. Members emphasised the importance of closer collaboration between SAPS and DPWI to ensure that police facilities are maintained to a standard that supports effective policing, safeguards the wellbeing of officials and projects public confidence in the criminal justice system.

9.9. Chairperson's Observations

In concluding the visit, Members distinguished between matters requiring urgent intervention and examples of operational excellence observed during the inspection.

While expressing serious concern regarding the quality of frontline service delivery, the condition of the CSC, shortcomings in station infrastructure and shortages of essential operational equipment, Members also recognised several areas where station management had demonstrated strong leadership and innovation.

Members particularly commended the management of the SAPS 13 exhibit store and the station's vehicle fleet, noting that these reflected a culture of accountability, effective supervision and sound operational management. Members encouraged SAPS to identify and replicate such good practices more broadly across the organisation while urgently addressing the shortcomings identified during the inspection.

10. UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO DIEPSLOOT POLICE STATION

On 26 June 2026, following the conclusion of the Committee's approved oversight programme, Hon I. Cameron and Hon L. Schickerling, accompanied by the available parliamentary support staff, conducted an unannounced oversight visit to Diepsloot Police Station.

10.1. General Observations

Members noted that Diepsloot Police Station is a large policing facility serving a densely populated and rapidly growing community characterised by significant policing demands. Despite the operational pressures associated with the policing precinct, Members found the station to be generally functional and were encouraged by the professionalism and commitment demonstrated by station management and operational personnel throughout the visit.

The Chairperson acknowledged the dedication of SAPS members serving at Diepsloot Police Station, noting that they continued to perform their duties under often difficult circumstances while maintaining their commitment to serving the community.

10.2. Human Resources and Management Capacity

Members were informed that the station had an adequate complement of operational police officials to perform frontline policing functions. Members also noted with appreciation that absenteeism did not appear to be a significant challenge at the station.

However, concerns were raised regarding shortages at management level. Officials advised that several funded and advertised management posts had been frozen or reallocated to other stations, resulting in numerous acting appointments and a shortage of commissioned officers responsible for supervision and operational command. Members were informed that some senior officers were required to fulfil management responsibilities across neighbouring stations, placing additional pressure on the station's command structure.

Members expressed the view that effective policing depends not only on sufficient operational personnel but also on stable and adequately resourced management structures capable of providing leadership, supervision and strategic operational planning. Members indicated that they would engage both provincial and national SAPS leadership to better understand the allocation of management posts and to advocate for a more appropriate balance between operational personnel and supervisory capacity.

10.3. Victim Support Services

Members inspected the Victim-Friendly Room and found the facility to be spacious, appropriately equipped and supported by both social workers and a non-governmental organisation. Members welcomed the integrated approach adopted by the station in providing support services to victims of crime and recognised the important contribution made by civil society organisations in strengthening victim empowerment services.

10.4. Detention Facilities

Members inspected the station's detention facilities and expressed concern regarding their general condition. While the facilities remained operational, Members observed that they required maintenance and upgrading to ensure that they met acceptable standards for the safe and humane detention of arrested persons. Particular concern was expressed regarding the low

temperatures within the detention cells, which Members considered unsuitable for detainees held in police custody.

10.5. SAPS 13 Exhibit Store

Members conducted an inspection of the SAPS 13 exhibit store. While the facility was found to be functional and generally compliant with operational requirements, the Committee observed that the organisation and storage of exhibits could be improved. Although no significant shortcomings were identified, Members encouraged station management to strengthen inventory management and housekeeping practices to ensure that exhibits continued to be managed in accordance with best practice.

10.6. Vehicle Fleet Management

Members commended station management for maintaining the station's vehicle fleet in a good operational condition. Members were informed that vehicle inspections formed part of the station's daily parade routine, with the condition of vehicles regularly monitored and maintenance issues identified proactively.

Members welcomed this approach, noting that regular inspections promoted accountability, improved vehicle availability and reduced the likelihood of operational disruptions. Members regarded the station's fleet management practices as an example of sound operational management.

10.7. Operational Equipment

Members noted that the station appeared to have a relatively sufficient supply of Domestic Violence evidence collection kits and DNA Buccal Sample Kits, thereby supporting the investigation of gender-based violence and other serious offences.

Members further welcomed the availability of a functional scanner at the station, enabling case dockets to be digitised in support of SAPS' electronic docket management system. This contrasted with challenges observed at other stations visited during the oversight programme

where the absence of functioning scanning equipment created significant administrative burdens.

10.8. Chairperson's Observations

In concluding the visit, the Chairperson observed that Diepsloot Police Station demonstrated a strong commitment to frontline policing despite the operational challenges associated with policing one of Gauteng's largest and most demanding communities.

While expressing concern regarding shortages in management capacity and the condition of the detention facilities, Members commended station management for maintaining high levels of operational discipline, effective vehicle fleet management, low absenteeism and well-developed victim support services.

The Chairperson concluded that strengthening management capacity through the appointment of commissioned officers and filling critical supervisory vacancies would further enhance the station's ability to provide effective leadership, support operational policing and improve service delivery to the Diepsloot community.

11. COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1. Integrated Governance and Community Safety

- **Assessment:** The oversight visit confirmed that the safety challenges affecting Mooiplaas extend well beyond the policing mandate of SAPS. During the site inspection, Members observed severe deficiencies in municipal infrastructure, including poor road access, inadequate lighting, difficult terrain, unmanaged dumping areas and environmental conditions that significantly impede policing operations. These observations were corroborated by SAPS, community representatives, the City of Tshwane and the Gauteng Department of Community Safety. The Committee further observed that policing interventions alone cannot address the underlying conditions that contribute to violent crime and insecurity within the settlement.

- **Committee Finding:** The Committee finds that crime and violence within Mooiplaas are driven by interconnected policing, infrastructure, environmental and governance challenges that require a coordinated whole-of-government response.

- **Recommendation:** The Committee recommends that SAPS, within its mandate, initiate and participate in a coordinated intergovernmental response to the safety challenges affecting Mooiplaas. SAPS should report to the Committee within three months on the intergovernmental engagements undertaken, the responsibilities assigned to SAPS and any matters requiring referral to other parliamentary committees or organs of state.

11.2. Policing of Informal Settlements

- **Assessment:** Members observed that the physical layout of Mooiplaas significantly undermines policing. Narrow roads, informal pathways, inadequate street lighting and poor accessibility limit vehicle patrols, delay emergency responses and expose police officials to increased operational risks.
  The Committee further noted similar operational challenges during the unannounced visit to Olievenhoutbosch Police Station, where policing demands continue to increase within rapidly expanding informal settlements.

- **Committee Finding:** The Committee finds that existing policing models and resource allocation frameworks do not adequately respond to the operational realities of rapidly expanding informal settlements.

- **Recommendation:** SAPS should develop a dedicated operational framework for policing informal settlements, including revised patrol models, specialised vehicles, improved geographic planning, enhanced community partnerships and technology-assisted policing where appropriate.

11.3. Resource Allocation and Operational Capacity

- **Assessment:** While Erasmia Police Station generally reflected staffing levels close to its approved establishment, the Committee observed significant operational pressures arising from the size and complexity of the policing area.

  The unannounced visit to Olievenhoutbosch Police Station further demonstrated that resource allocation does not always correspond with population growth and operational demand.

  Members observed inadequate detective accommodation, insufficient operational vehicles and significant infrastructure shortcomings despite the station serving one of the fastest-growing communities within the province.

- **Committee Finding:** The Committee finds that current resource allocation models do not sufficiently account for population growth, informal settlement expansion or operational policing demand.

- **Recommendation:** SAPS should review the national Resource Allocation Guide to ensure that personnel, vehicles and operational resources are aligned to actual policing demand rather than historical establishment figures.

11.4. Police Infrastructure

- **Assessment:** Members observed that infrastructure deficiencies directly undermine effective policing.

  - At Mooiplaas, the Mobile CSC operated under constrained conditions, including inadequate lighting and generator failures.

  - At Olievenhoutbosch Police Station, Members observed that the station serves a rapidly expanding community under exceptionally constrained conditions, with inadequate infrastructure, insufficient detective accommodation, poor perimeter security, limited ICT capability, inadequate detention facilities and a severely constrained operational vehicle fleet. Despite these challenges, station

management and members demonstrated exceptional commitment to service delivery.

- Similar infrastructure concerns were identified during the visits to Bramley and Diepsloot Police Stations.

- **Committee Finding:** The Committee finds that deteriorating police infrastructure has become a significant operational risk affecting both service delivery and the wellbeing of SAPS members.

- **Recommendation:** SAPS and the DPWI should jointly undertake a priority assessment of police station infrastructure, with particular attention to stations serving high-growth communities and informal settlements.

- **Recommendations specific to Olievenhoutbosch Police Station:** The Committee recommends that the National Commissioner urgently prioritise Olievenhoutbosch Police Station for operational and infrastructure intervention.

- The Committee further recommends that SAPS undertake a comprehensive assessment of the station's infrastructure, human resource requirements and operational capacity, and submit an implementation plan to the Portfolio Committee on Police, within three months of the report being adopted, setting out the interventions to be undertaken, associated timeframes and budget implications.

11.5. Community Service Delivery and Public Confidence

- **Assessment:** Throughout the oversight visit, Members repeatedly heard concerns regarding police visibility, response times, communication with complainants and allegations of poor service delivery.

  While many police officials demonstrated professionalism and commitment under difficult conditions, Members observed inconsistencies in the quality of frontline service delivery between stations.

The Committee noted that community trust remains fragile and requires sustained engagement by SAPS.

- **Committee Finding:** The Committee finds that improving community confidence requires not only effective crime fighting but also consistent, professional and respectful service at Community Service Centres.

- **Recommendation:** SAPS should strengthen supervision of Community Service Centres, introduce regular service quality assessments and reinforce Batho Pele principles through ongoing management oversight and training.

11.6. Detective Capacity and Investigative Support

- **Assessment:** The Committee observed that detective services continue to operate under constrained conditions. At Olievenhoutbosch Police Station, detective accommodation was inadequate and communication resources were limited. Similar operational challenges relating to office facilities and investigative support were observed elsewhere. Members further noted the importance of ensuring that detectives have access to appropriate interview facilities, communication equipment and administrative support.

- **Committee Finding:** The Committee finds that detective support infrastructure has not kept pace with increasing investigative demands.

- **Recommendation:** SAPS should prioritise improvements to detective accommodation, communication systems and investigative support infrastructure, particularly at stations responsible for serious and violent crime.

11.7. Good Leadership and Operational Innovation

- **Assessment:** Despite resource constraints, the Committee observed numerous examples of effective station management and operational innovation:

- At Olievenhoutbosch Police Station, officials demonstrated exceptional commitment despite inadequate infrastructure.

- At Bramley Police Station, innovative exhibit management controls and strong vehicle fleet management reflected sound operational leadership.

- At Diepsloot Police Station, daily fleet inspections and strong operational discipline contributed to effective vehicle availability.

- **Committee Finding:** The Committee finds that effective station leadership significantly improves operational performance, accountability and service delivery, even where stations face considerable resource constraints.

- **Recommendation:** SAPS should identify, document and replicate operational best practices developed at station level, particularly in relation to exhibit management, fleet management and local accountability mechanisms.

11.8. Community Partnerships

- **Assessment:** The Committee observed that community organisations, schools, non-governmental organisations and volunteers continue to play an important role in supporting safety and social development within Mooiplaas.

  Members further observed that these organisations often operate under extremely challenging circumstances while providing services that complement the work of SAPS.

- **Committee Finding:** The Committee finds that effective policing is strengthened where meaningful partnerships exist between SAPS, community structures and civil society organisations.

- **Recommendation:** SAPS should continue strengthening CPFs and formalise cooperation with credible community organisations operating within high-crime communities.

11.9. Conditions of Detention and Implementation of OPCAT

The Committee recommends that a dedicated oversight engagement be convened on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) as it relates to police detention facilities.

During the oversight visit, the Committee observed several concerns regarding the condition of detention facilities, including inadequate infrastructure, poor sanitation, extremely cold cells and facilities that may not consistently meet the standards of safety, hygiene and human dignity required by the Constitution and applicable legislation.

The Committee recommends that the engagement include, at a minimum:

- the South African Police Service;
- the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID);
- the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC);
- the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS), where appropriate;
- the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service; and
- the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

The purpose of the engagement should be to assess compliance with OPCAT obligations, clarify institutional responsibilities regarding police detention facilities, identify systemic shortcomings and develop a coordinated implementation plan to ensure that all SAPS detention facilities comply with constitutional and international human rights standards.

12. RESOLUTIONS

12.1. National review of the SAPS vehicle fleet

The Portfolio Committee on Police will convene a dedicated meeting with the SAPS to consider the management of the national SAPS vehicle fleet.

Although several stations demonstrated sound fleet-management practices, the oversight visit highlighted persistent systemic challenges relating to vehicle availability, maintenance, repair

turnaround times and fleet allocation. These challenges directly affect police visibility, emergency response and operational effectiveness.

The meeting will consider, among other matters:

- national fleet availability and shortages;
- the methodology used to allocate vehicles;
- maintenance contracts and repair turnaround times;
- the impact of boarded vehicles on operational policing;
- best practices observed at station level; and
- measures required to improve vehicle availability throughout SAPS.

12.2. Follow-up oversight on Mooiplaas

The Committee will monitor the implementation of the recommendations relating to policing and community safety in the Mooiplaas Informal Settlement.

12.3. Focused Engagement with the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality

The Committee resolved to convene a dedicated and focused engagement with the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality on the concerns identified during the oversight visit to Mooiplaas.

The engagement should enable the Municipality to provide a comprehensive response on matters falling within its mandate, including the condition and maintenance of access roads, public lighting, waste management and illegal dumping, environmental health and safety, land ownership and settlement planning, and measures to improve the accessibility of Mooiplaas for policing and emergency services.

The Municipality should further provide details of interventions already undertaken or planned, responsible municipal departments, applicable budgets and implementation timeframes, as well as any constraints requiring cooperation from the Gauteng Provincial Government or national departments.

The Committee should use the engagement to establish clear commitments, responsibilities and timeframes against which implementation can subsequently be monitored through parliamentary oversight.

12.4. Priority intervention at Olievenhoutbosch Police Station

The Committee will request SAPS to submit an urgent intervention plan addressing the operational and infrastructure deficiencies identified at Olievenhoutbosch Police Station.

The oversight visit identified inadequate infrastructure, constrained detective accommodation, poor perimeter security, limited ICT capability and insufficient operational vehicles. These conditions materially undermine policing services within a large and rapidly growing community.

The intervention plan should address:

- the provision of suitable permanent police-station infrastructure;
- adequate accommodation for detectives and other personnel;
- perimeter security, lighting and access control;
- ICT connectivity and operational equipment;
- vehicle availability and fleet management; and
- interim measures to sustain service delivery pending permanent infrastructure improvements.

12.5. Review of police detention facilities

The Committee will convene a focused engagement with SAPS, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) and the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) on the condition and oversight of police detention facilities.

The station inspections identified concerns relating to the cleanliness, maintenance, security and suitability of certain detention facilities. The engagement should assess compliance with constitutional standards, applicable legislation and South Africa’s obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

The engagement will consider:

- minimum standards applicable to police detention facilities;
- the frequency and effectiveness of inspections;
- the treatment and separation of detainees;
- infrastructure, sanitation, safety and security deficiencies;
- institutional responsibilities for remedial action; and
- measures required to strengthen independent monitoring and accountability.

13. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Within three months of the adoption of this report, SAPS is requested to submit the following reports and implementation plans. The three-month period applies to the submission of the reports and does not imply that all remedial measures must have been completed within that period. Where implementation remains outstanding, SAPS must identify the responsible division, required resources, measurable milestones and anticipated completion date.

Mooiplaas implementation report

The report should provide a comprehensive update on the implementation of policing and crime-prevention interventions in Mooiplaas. It should include progress in murder investigations and related prosecutions; the personnel, detective and vehicle capacity of Erasmia Police Station; and the deployment, utilisation and effectiveness of the Mobile Community Service Centre.

The report should further address intelligence-led operations, police visibility and crime-prevention measures; the functionality and monitoring of CCTV cameras; community-policing and stakeholder engagements; and progress towards establishing an appropriate permanent police service point. It should also set out SAPS' coordination with the City of Tshwane and other relevant institutions regarding lighting, road access, settlement conditions and community safety.

Integrity investigation report

SAPS should report on the investigation into allegations that members stationed at Erasmia Police Station own rental properties or conduct private business activities in Mooiplaas. The report should indicate how members' declarations were independently verified; whether

lifestyle audits or integrity testing were conducted; and whether Crime Intelligence, counter-intelligence or other integrity-management structures were involved.

The report should set out the findings reached, any outstanding investigative steps and any disciplinary or criminal action instituted. Where the investigation has not been concluded, SAPS should provide the reasons for the delay and a timeframe for its completion.

Olievenhoutbosch intervention report

SAPS should submit an intervention plan addressing the serious infrastructure and operational deficiencies identified at Olievenhoutbosch Police Station. The plan should cover the provision of suitable permanent infrastructure; detective accommodation and working conditions; perimeter security, lighting and access control; ICT connectivity and operational equipment; and personnel and vehicle shortages.

The report should also identify the interim measures implemented to maintain effective service delivery pending permanent improvements, together with the responsible divisions, implementation timeframes and associated resource requirements.

National vehicle-fleet report

SAPS should submit a comprehensive report on the management and operational status of its national vehicle fleet. The report should provide the total number of vehicles nationally and indicate how many are operational, boarded, undergoing repairs or otherwise unavailable. It should explain the methodology used to allocate vehicles and identify significant shortages at provincial and station level.

The report should further address maintenance arrangements, repair turnaround times, expenditure on repairs and maintenance, measures to reduce prolonged vehicle downtime and SAPS' national plan to improve fleet availability. This report will inform the Committee's dedicated engagement with SAPS on vehicle-fleet management.

Police detention-facilities report

SAPS should report on the condition of the detention facilities at the police stations visited and their compliance with applicable constitutional, legislative and regulatory standards. The report

should identify deficiencies relating to sanitation, maintenance, safety, security and the accommodation and separation of detainees.

It should further set out the remedial measures undertaken or planned, the responsible divisions and implementation timeframes, as well as the inspection and monitoring arrangements applicable to police detention facilities. The report should also explain the measures taken by SAPS to support compliance with South Africa's obligations under OPCAT.

Station-specific remedial reports

SAPS should report on the corrective action taken or planned in response to the deficiencies identified at Erasmia, Bramley and Diepsloot Police Stations. The reports should address, where applicable, infrastructure, management capacity, detective services, ICT systems, detention facilities, operational equipment and vehicle availability. Each report should identify the responsible division, required resources and timeframe for completing the remedial action. SAPS should thereafter submit quarterly progress reports on all outstanding matters until the Committee is satisfied that the principal recommendations have been implemented. Each report should clearly distinguish between measures that have been completed, those that remain in progress and those that have not yet commenced, with reasons provided for any delay.

14. CONCLUSION

In compliance with the National Assembly resolution of 4 November 2025, the Committee undertook the oversight visit to assess policing conditions in Mooiplaas, verify information presented by SAPS and engage directly with residents, community structures and relevant government institutions. The visit confirmed that serious and violent crime, particularly murder, is compounded by inadequate infrastructure, difficult terrain, environmental degradation and limited access to services. These conditions impede effective policing and require more than a policing response.

While acknowledging SAPS interventions, including integrated operations, targeted crime-prevention activities and the deployment of a Mobile CSC, the Committee remains concerned about the concentration of murders and other serious crimes in Mooiplaas. Sustained intelligence-led policing, adequate personnel and vehicles, effective detective services and stronger community partnerships are required.

A coordinated whole-of-government response is necessary to address road access, lighting, land use, human settlements, environmental health, immigration administration, social development and community safety. This must be supported by clear responsibilities, measurable targets and regular reporting.

The station inspections revealed serious shortcomings relating to infrastructure, detention facilities, detective accommodation, ICT systems, equipment and vehicles, alongside examples of commendable exhibit, fleet and victim-support management. Olievenhoutbosch Police Station requires particular priority, while the condition of detention facilities warrants focused oversight against constitutional standards and South Africa's obligations under OPCAT.

Through this report, the Committee reports its observations, findings and recommendations to the National Assembly, as directed by the resolution. The Committee will monitor their implementation, with progress measured by tangible improvements in policing capacity, intergovernmental coordination and community safety.

Report to be considered.

4. Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on its oversight visit to OR Tambo District Municipality and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape, 24 - 28 March 2025, and follow-up engagements held on 10 and 11 March 2026, dated, 19 August 2026

1. Introduction

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts (the Committee) undertook an oversight visit to the OR Tambo District Municipality (ORTDM) and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) in the Eastern Cape from 24 to 28 March 2025. The purpose of the visit was to assess governance, financial management, service delivery, and audit outcomes within the municipalities.

In line with the strategy the Committee adopted at the beginning of the 7th Parliament, the oversight visit was the first of annual oversight assessments that would continue until the end of the 7th Parliament. Therefore, the oversight visit of 24 to 28 March 2025 served as a "benchmarking" exercise so that the following year (2026), the Committee would be able to make an informed assessment of whether the municipalities were making progress or not.

Following the oversight visit, the Committee identified several areas of concern requiring further engagement and follow-up over the following 12 months.

Subsequently, on 10 - 11 March 2026, the Committee held follow-up engagements to address issues raised during the oversight visit, as well as matters relating to the 2024/25 audit outcomes. These engagements were conducted jointly with the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), where evidence was presented by relevant stakeholders.

This report therefore outlines the Committee's findings and recommendations arising from both the oversight visit and the subsequent follow-up engagements.

Delegation attendance

The delegation for the oversight visit was composed of the following Members of the Committee:

- Hon SS Zibi, MP (Rise Mzansi), Leader of the delegation
- Hon TJ Bila, MP (ANC)
- Hon N Maduna, MP (ANC)
- Hon HE Neale-May, MP (ANC)
- Hon GJ Skosana, MP (ANC)
- Hon PG Atkinson, MP (DA)
- Hon F Essack, MP (DA)
- Hon KE Madlala, MP (MKP)
- Hon NV Mente-Nkuna, MP (EFF)
- Hon CT Nontenja, MP (UDM)

Support Staff:

- Ms N Nkabinde
- Mr D Bowman
- Ms N Cenge
- Mr L Balfour
- Ms A Matutu
- Ms R Mokhatla
- Ms F Ndenze

Delegation from OR Tambo Eastern Cape 24 - 26 March 2025

- Cllr M Ngqondwana: Executive Mayor
- Cllr T Sabisa: Deputy Executive Mayor
- Cllr N Ngqongwa: Speaker
- Cllr M Ndabeni: MMC Infrastructure Water and Sanitation
- Mr BP Base: Municipal Manager
- Mr S Ndakisa: Chief Financial Officer
- Mr DS Gqiba: Director Infrastructure Water and Sanitation

Delegation from Buffalo City Metro 27 - 28 March 2025

- Cllr Humphrey Maxegwana: Council Speaker
- Cllr Princess Faku: Executive Mayor
- Cllr Ntombizandile Mhlola: Council Chief Whip
- Mr Mxolisi Yawa: Municipal Manager
- Mr Vincent Pillay: Acting Chief Financial Officer

Delegation from Buffalo City Metropolitan Development Agency (BCMDA)

- Mr Ayanda Gqoboka: Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Mr Mandilakhe Dilima: Interim Chairperson
- Mrs Athi Ntshokoma: Acting Executive Manager: Property Planning, Development, and Management

Delegation from OR Tambo Eastern Cape 10 March 2026

- Cllr M Ngqondwana: Executive Mayor
- Cllr M Ndabeni: MMC Infrastructure Water and Sanitation
- Mr BP Base: Municipal Manager
- Mr S Ndakisa: Chief Financial Officer
- Mr DS Gqiba: Director Infrastructure Water and Sanitation

Delegation from Buffalo City Metro 11 March 2026

- Cllr Princess Faku: Executive Mayor
- Mr Mxolisi Yawa: Municipal Manager
- Mr Vincent Pillay: Acting Chief Financial Officer

Delegation from Buffalo City Metropolitan Development Agency (BCMDA)

- Mr Ayanda Gqoboka: Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

2. Background

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) conducted an induction programme for new Members of the 7th Parliament from 20 to 21 August 2024. During this induction, the

Committee resolved to intensify its oversight over municipalities, in response to concerns raised in the 6th Parliament Legacy Report and the persistent challenges affecting local government. These challenges have continued to undermine effective service delivery across municipalities.

As part of this focus, the Committee received briefings from the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) on 29 October and 21 November 2024 on the audit outcomes and financial performance of the OR Tambo District Municipality. In addition, the Committee received a briefing from the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) on 23 October 2024 regarding investigations into the municipality.

Continuing its oversight programme, on 29 January 2025 the Committee received further briefings from both the AGSA and the SIU on Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. The AGSA presented the audit outcomes for the 2023/24 financial year, highlighting key issues relating to financial performance, compliance, and governance. The briefing also addressed outstanding matters previously raised by the Committee during its oversight visit, including weaknesses in internal controls, ongoing irregular expenditure, and delays in implementing corrective measures.

The SIU provided a briefing on investigations conducted at the municipality, outlining progress made in probing allegations of maladministration, procurement irregularities, and financial misconduct. The update included developments on consequence management, recovery of financial losses, and referrals for further legal action where applicable.

The Committee subsequently resolved to conduct an oversight visit to the ORTDM and BCMM.

3. Objectives of the site visit

- The aim of the visit was to uncover the systemic issues that have allowed these problems to persist. The visit focused on identifying gaps in leadership, inadequate oversight mechanisms, weak enforcement of existing policies, or a lack of political will to hold officials accountable for their actions. By pinpointing where accountability is failing –

whether it is in performance reviews, audits, disciplinary actions, or internal controls – the visit aimed to create a foundation for recommending reforms.

- The visit aimed to delve deeper into these non-compliance issues by looking at both administrative and organisational factors. Administrative causes may include inadequate training or lack of qualified personnel, while organisational issues could involve insufficient internal controls or ineffective governance.
- Evaluating the role and effectiveness of governance structures in municipalities, such as audit committees and internal audit functions. This includes determining whether audit committees have the necessary resources, independence, and expertise to effectively scrutinise municipal operations.

4. OR Tambo District Municipality

The OR Tambo District Municipality (ORTDM) is the Water Services Authority (WSA) for the five local municipalities, namely, King Sabata Dalindyebo, Nyandeni, Mhlontlo, Port St Johns, and Ingquza Hill. In terms of the Water Services Act (Act No 108 of 1997), ORTDM is responsible for ensuring access to efficient and sustainable water services in the District Municipal area.

The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) presented the findings from the audit of the municipality for the 2022/23 financial year. The municipality, which is tasked with providing water services to several local municipalities, has experienced significant challenges, which have been detailed in the findings.

4.1. History of Instability and Dysfunctional Governance

The municipality has a history of instability, with several periods of dysfunctional governance and administration. These challenges have severely impacted its ability to deliver essential services effectively. Key issues include:

- The failure to meet key service delivery targets, particularly in water and sanitation.
- Delayed infrastructure projects, with significant projects like water reservoirs remaining unused.
- A high proportion of unspent grant funding.
- Poor revenue collection, with 79.9% of debtors being impaired.

- A steady increase in unauthorised, irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure.
- Compliance issues related to supply chain management regulations.

4.2. Audit Opinion

The ORTDM received an unqualified audit opinion with findings from the AGSA for the past two consecutive financial years, namely the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years. While this marks progress from the municipality's previous qualified audit opinions, the audit report highlighted significant issues that remain unaddressed, indicating that full operational and financial stability has not yet been achieved.

The municipality is only allocating 1 per cent of its budget to maintenance, which is below the norm of 8 per cent. The municipality incurred irregular expenditure that has not been adequately dealt with as it is under investigation. Following investigations and recommendations by the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC), the Council approved a write-off of R526.37 million. The audit findings highlighted six concerning Material Irregularities, which are:

- Prepayments made to the Amatola Water Board
- Covid-19 danger allowance was paid using an incorrect rate
- Overpayment made to a consultant for the Ntsonyini Dam
- Overpayment made to a contractor for the Ntsonyini Dam
- Revenue not billed, leading to a financial loss
- Underuse of municipal assets

4.3. Municipality's Governance Challenges

The municipality's governance history has been marked by conflict, dysfunction, and poor decision-making:

4.3.1 Intervention

- In August 2021, the Eastern Cape Provincial Treasury and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) attempted to place the municipality under administration due to ongoing instability.
- However, the matter went to court, where the court ruled that the council could continue operating, halting the intervention.

- On 08 December 2021, the Eastern Cape Member of the Executive Council (MEC) of Provincial Treasury placed the municipality under administration pursuant to Section 139(5)(a) and (c) of the Constitution. The municipality remains under Section 139(5)(a) and (c) administration to date.

4.3.2. Dysfunctional Council

- There was a period when two councils were effectively running concurrently, which led to infighting and further dysfunction within the council.
- This split resulted in two factions: one led by the mayor and the other by the deputy mayor. These factions were at odds, contributing to ongoing instability.

4.3.3. Municipal Manager Issues

- During this period, the municipal manager was suspended but later had the suspension overturned in court.
- Multiple acting municipal managers were appointed, further complicating the leadership structure and preventing coherent decision-making. Each faction of the council appointed its municipal manager, further deepening the divide.

4.3.4. Financial Challenges

- In May 2021, the council adopted an unfunded budget, indicating severe financial planning issues. This decision, coupled with internal disputes, hindered the council's ability to allocate and manage resources effectively, which exacerbated the challenges the municipality faced.

4.3.5. Service Delivery Impact (2021-2022)

- During the period of intense internal conflict between 2021 and 2022, the council's focus shifted away from service delivery and towards internal power struggles. This significantly affected the municipality's ability to deliver critical services, especially water services. The internal dysfunction prevented effective planning, resource allocation, and implementation of necessary projects, leaving the district's essential service delivery at risk.

4.3.6. Stabilisation Efforts in 2022-2023

- By 2022 - 2023, some stabilisation efforts were made with the appointment of a new Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The new leadership team focused on:
    - Correcting financial statements, which was seen as a foundational step towards rebuilding the municipality's financial integrity; and
    - Establishing a credible base for future improvements, aiming to address the ongoing issues and rebuild the trust of the community and stakeholders.

4.4 Project Sites Findings

During the oversight visit, the Committee visited several sites related to the ORTDM's infrastructure delivery of Water and Sanitation Services Projects across various villages. These included the Lusikisiki Sewer and Sewage Treatment Works, the Ntsonyini Ngqongweni Regional Water Supply Scheme (the construction of Ntsonyini Dam), and the Mqanduli Secondary Bulk Water Supply. The purpose of the visits was to assess actual progress on the ground and engage directly with municipal and project officials.

The Committee made a number of serious findings, raising concerns about the overall state of these projects. One of the most pressing issues was the significant delay in the implementation of key water and sanitation initiatives. These projects, intended to improve access in underserved areas, have been hampered by delays that have prevented their timely completion.

As a result, residents in the affected communities continue to face water shortages and inadequate sanitation infrastructure. This ongoing situation undermines the objectives of the projects and has caused widespread frustration, with many residents losing confidence in the municipality's ability to deliver basic services. The prolonged delays also contribute to increased costs, which may lead to budget overruns.

The Committee further noted concerns regarding financial accountability. There were signs of weak expenditure tracking, limited transparency in financial management, and possible misuse of public funds. These shortcomings suggest poor oversight and raise the risk of maladministration.

In addition, the Committee observed that some infrastructure was either not completed to the required standard or was poorly constructed. This raises concerns about quality control and the

durability of the facilities, which could lead to higher maintenance costs or early failure of essential infrastructure.

These findings highlight the need for urgent intervention to strengthen project management, improve financial oversight, and ensure the completion of high-quality infrastructure that delivers the intended benefits to communities.

Below is a breakdown of the key findings for each project:

Lusikisiki Sewer and Sewage Treatment Works

The Lusikisiki Sewer and Sewage Treatment Works project includes multiple phases (1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3B, and 3C) intended to improve wastewater treatment and sewer reticulation in the area.

The Committee noted the following key findings:

- Phases 1A and 1B were completed in 2015, and Phase 2B in 2022.
- Phases 2A, 2C, and 3B have been practically completed, meaning the infrastructure is currently functional and being used by intended beneficiaries, pending full finalisation.
- The completion of earlier phases occurred approximately a year later than originally planned, largely due to daily project disruptions caused by disputes between contractors and local business forums. These challenges required ongoing intervention and negotiation by the municipality. The municipality reported that its engagement with business forums has since improved.
- A recurring issue raised was interference from local trucking groups, which demanded that contractors hire local trucks at a fixed daily rate of R3 500.00. The main contractors were not permitted to use their own trucks to, for instance, import bedding material, leading to cost escalations and delays.
- The Committee was particularly concerned about Phase 3C, namely the Lusikisiki Sewer Reticulation, which remains incomplete. This phase involved the construction of a 10-kilometre sewer pipeline using polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipes ranging from 110mm to 160mm in diameter, along with 157 manholes intended to provide adequate sewerage reticulation in the Newtown area.
- Phase 3C, budgeted at R21.208 million, commenced on 23 February 2023 and was scheduled for completion by 11 March 2024.

- The contract for Phase 3C was terminated in September 2024 due to the contractor experiencing cash flow challenges, which affected its ability to pay workers, rent equipment, and maintain site activity. By that point, R10.36 million had been spent, only 3 km of the 10 km sewer pipeline had been completed, and 57 out of 157 manholes had been constructed. None of the manholes had yet been tested. Although a letter of termination was issued, the contractor disputes having received it. As a result, the termination account remains unresolved, and the municipality has not yet finalised the process.
- The Committee raised concerns that only 23 per cent of the physical work under Phase 3C had been completed, while nearly 50 per cent of the project budget had already been spent. The municipal officials indicated that a portion of the expenditure relates to materials procured and stored for future use, such as pipes and bedding materials.
- The municipal officials indicated that the contractor was responsible for procuring all required materials. However, where the contractor lacked sufficient funds, the municipality stepped in and paid suppliers directly to prevent delays.
- The municipality advised that it was in the process of appointing a new contractor.
- Since the previous contractor left the site, the municipality has taken responsibility for securing project materials, including pipes and manhole components. Materials are stored in various locations, PVC pipes were placed in a secure yard and monitored by security personnel, while other materials were left exposed outside. The municipal officials assured the Committee that the material is still usable but could not ascertain whether any had been stolen. They indicated the materials will be handed over to the incoming contractor to avoid unnecessary repurchasing or waste.
- The municipality assured the Committee that the remaining budget will be sufficient to complete the project.
- Households in the Newtown area have not yet been connected to the municipal sewer system under Phase 3C.
- Residents continue to rely on septic tanks and other interim sanitation solutions, as the infrastructure is incomplete.

Ntsonyini Ngqongweni Regional Water Supply Scheme (Ntsonyini Dam)

The Ntsonyini Ngqongweni Regional Water Supply Scheme aims to supply water to an estimated 41 178 households and consists of four core components: the construction of Ntsonyini Dam, the River abstraction pump station, the water treatment plant, and the

associated main supply pipelines and pump stations. The Committee inspected the construction site of the Ntsonyini Dam and noted the following key findings:

- The contract for the Ntsonyini Dam was awarded on 13 December 2018 at a cost of R200.674 million, with a planned duration of 24 months.
- Construction commenced on 01 February 2019, but the contract was terminated in February 2022, with only 36 per cent of the work completed, despite R143.042 million (71 per cent) of the contract amount already spent.
- The Committee noted that the contract was terminated due to a number of reasons including:
    - Disputes over the Bill of Quantities (BOQ), as the actual excavation depth encountered on site was double what was anticipated in the original scope, requiring additional work that had not been costed.
    - Cash flow problems on the part of the contractor, arising from under-pricing. The contract was awarded at R60 million less than the estimated cost of over R260 million.
    - The contractor lacked the capacity to deliver the full scope of work.
    - Heavy rains and flooding, affecting excavation and material transport. Repeated interruptions by local stakeholders, including subcontractors.
    - Additional challenges included Covid-19 lockdowns, closure of site due to a court interdict obtained by a nearby shop owner, and the withholding of funds by National Treasury in terms of section 216 of the Constitution, which resulted in the municipality being unable to pay contractors.
- The costliest portion of the work executed was the excavation required to reach bedrock, which is necessary for the dam wall foundation. This process involved removing a significant volume of overburden material in challenging terrain. A portion of the excavated material remains on-site and is expected to be crushed and reused for dam wall construction. There is also material worth several million rands sitting idle on site, exposed and at risk of damage.
- The municipality appointed engineers and design consultants, including dam specialists, to revise and re-scope the project. The Committee was informed that the revised technical designs for the dam will be completed by June 2025, after which the project will be re-tendered, and a new contractor appointed.

- The access road to the dam site was upgraded prior to project implementation. However, due to adverse weather and lack of maintenance following the contract termination, the road has since deteriorated.

Mqanduli Secondary Bulk Water Supply project

The Mqanduli Secondary Bulk Water Supply Project primarily focuses on improving access to water for communities along the Mqanduli Corridor. The main water source is the Mthatha Dam, where water is abstracted and treated at the Thornhill Water Treatment Works (WTW) before being conveyed to the 20 ML Viegesville Reservoir. This reservoir serves as a command reservoir, from which water is gravity-fed to all terminal reservoirs across the network. The project involves 17 contracts, covering the construction of gravity-fed pipelines and reinforced concrete reservoirs. While all planned infrastructure has been constructed and completed, many components remain non-operational due to insufficient capacity at the Thornhill WTW and its reservoir.

The following key findings were noted:

- The ORTDM is currently unable to draw water from the Mthatha Dam due to a defective pipeline owned by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and instead draws water directly from the Mthatha River. As a result, the municipality relies on direct abstraction from the Mthatha River to meet its water supply needs. The defective pipeline has been a longstanding issue, with reports dating back several years indicating that the leak was detected in 2016 and expanded over time, leading to the suspension of its use.
- Pipe bursts occur frequently, especially in old infrastructure areas, due to outdated pipes not designed to withstand the pressures introduced by upgraded systems. The municipal officials noted that while bursts are rare in newly installed pipelines, leaks at joint fittings have occurred and are managed as they arise. Burst incidents often disrupt supply to critical users and surrounding communities.
- Illegal connections, vandalism, and community interference continue to undermine the stability of the water supply network. Communities not receiving water have, at times, resorted to tampering with infrastructure. The municipality has diverted funds intended for service delivery towards security services to protect infrastructure.
- The municipality faces a significant challenge with non-revenue water losses, primarily from burst pipes, illegal connections, and communal taps that are not metered. While yard

connections are regulated and paid for by consumers, most of the rural supply is through unmetered standpipes, resulting in limited cost recovery. The Committee noted that the inability to recover sufficient revenue directly impacts the municipality's operational and maintenance budget.

- The Committee expressed concern about financial reporting practices, especially where final expenditures matched the exact awarded amounts across multiple contracts. The municipal officials attributed this to the tight management of contingency funds and scope constraints, but the Committee warned against practices that might result in malicious compliance, such as skipping essential activities to avoid overspending. It was also noted that much of this occurred during a period of council dysfunction prior to 2021, which may have affected project oversight and variation approval.
- The residents of Maqhinebeni village raised concerns about the reservoir located in their village area, which is supplying water to Mqanduli town while they themselves remain without access to water. Municipal officials informed the Committee that the reservoir intended to supply Maqhinebeni village has not yet been constructed. The residents expressed their dissatisfaction, noting that although there is a reservoir in their vicinity, it does not serve their community but rather supplies other areas. They also reported that the existing reservoir frequently overflows, causing flooding and posing a safety risk to the community.

Overall, the Committee observed that the absence of strong oversight mechanisms across all the projects visited has broader implications. Without effective monitoring by both municipal officials and project managers, there is a heightened risk of financial mismanagement, project inefficiencies, and substandard infrastructure. Furthermore, this gap in accountability limits the municipality's ability to detect and resolve issues early, compounding delays and undermining service delivery goals.

4.5 Meeting with Council and management of OR Tambo District Municipality

During the engagement, the discussion with the municipality addressed issues of governance and instability, allegations of fraud and corruption as highlighted in the SIU investigations, the municipality's audit outcomes, as well as unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and how these matters are being addressed by the municipality. The key observations from the meeting are as follows:

Governance and Institutional Instability

- The municipality conceded that, in the early stages of the current term of Council, it operated without funding from National Treasury due to the invocation of Section 216 of the Constitution due to budget credibility concerns. This resulted in suspended transfers and project delays. Furthermore, the institution experienced instability and infighting between the Executive Mayor and the Speaker, which spread to municipal administration.
- Staff morale and cohesion reportedly suffered due to factionalism within the institution. Employees, including senior managers, were reportedly aligned with different political factions, weakening institutional performance and decision-making.
- Due to continued underperformance, financial mismanagement, and poor audit outcomes, the Provincial Executive Council invoked Section 139(5) of the Constitution, leading to the development of a Mandatory Financial Recovery Plan (FRP) by National Treasury in August 2023.

Human Resources

- The Committee noted with concern that the municipality's employee-related costs significantly exceed the National Treasury norm of 25 – 40 per cent, placing unsustainable pressure on the overall budget. This overspend is driven by a combination of historical structural inefficiencies and poor management of allowances and overtime. To address these challenges, the municipality indicated it had undertaken the following corrective actions:
    - Since November 2021, the municipality reviewed its organisational structure as was advised by COGTA and National Treasury and reduced its staff from 2 548 positions to 1 745 positions, including the reduction of senior management positions from 11 to 6 employees, all of which are now filled in compliance with the approved organisational structure. This restructuring aimed to lower the employee costs and improve operational efficiency.
    - The municipality initiated a review of all car and other allowances, with the aim of removing benefits not aligned with job requirements. Each allowance is now subject to justification based on actual business needs.
    - Historically unchecked overtime claims are now being curtailed through tighter internal controls and policy enforcement. Only roles where overtime is justifiable are permitted to claim, and monitoring has been improved.

- Job evaluations had been pending due to contractual lapses with external service providers. The process has since been re-engaged and is being finalised in coordination with the South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU).

Audit Outcomes and Financial Performance

- During the 2023/24 financial year, the municipality received an unqualified audit opinion from the AGSA, with findings related to the impairment of receivables from exchange transactions totalling R735.770 million. In response, the leadership developed a Management Audit Action Plan (MAAP), which was approved by Council to address all the audit findings by AGSA.
- The municipality has been characterised by high levels of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure dating back as early as 2011. These issues were not adequately addressed by the previous Councils, contributing to the ORTDM becoming the second highest municipality in the province and among the top ten municipalities with the largest amount of irregular expenditure. The reported unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure totals are as follows:
  - 2021/22: R1.896 billion
  - 2022/23: R1.171 billion
  - 2023/24: R970.607 million (consisting of R653.060 million – irregular expenditure, R267.349 million – unauthorised expenditure, and R50.198 million – fruitless and wasteful expenditure).
- The MPAC referred to some transactions involving suspected financial misconduct to the Municipal Disciplinary Board and an amount of R31.314 million has been written off in the current financial year. An amount of R42.092 million was sent to be further investigated by competent external investigators. By the time of the oversight visit, the Committee was informed that the MPAC was busy reviewing the 2023/24 unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditures, the final report was expected to be presented to the Council in April 2025.
- Regarding the material irregularity raised by the AGSA pertaining to the COVID-19 danger allowance paid using an incorrect rate, resulting in an overpayment of approximately R11 million, the municipality has taken legal steps to recover the overpayments:
  - 12 employees have voluntarily entered into repayment agreements.

  - Court action is underway for those refusing to pay back the money, including filings with the Grahamstown High Court.
- Over R100 million in conditional grants were unspent and had to be returned.
- Contractors abandoned several sites due to non-payment, severely impacting service delivery.

Procurement and Supply Chain Management (SCM) Weaknesses

- The municipality continues to award contracts to lowest bidders despite capacity concerns.
- The SCM process does not always adequately assess a bidder's ability to deliver, leading to terminations and incomplete work. There is a need for stricter due diligence and use of objective criteria to ensure quality service delivery.

Water Services Challenges

- Underutilised water treatment and distribution assets exist due to poor integration and planning.
- High water losses and frequent pipe bursts are attributed to aging infrastructure not designed for upgraded system pressures.

SIU Investigations into Alleged Irregularities and Maladministration

The Committee noted that the ORTDM is subject to ongoing investigations by the SIU following two presidential proclamations:

- On 29 July 2022, the President signed Proclamation. R.80 of 2022, for the investigation of the ORTDM. The investigations related to allegations of the appointment of a service provider to provide technical and operational support to strategic programmes and the Project Management Office. The allegations included:
  - Serious maladministration in connection to municipal affairs;
  - Improper and unlawful conduct by employees/officials of the municipality;
  - Unlawful appropriation or expenditure of public money/property;
  - Unlawful, irregular, or unapproved acquisition act, transaction, measure, or practice having a bearing upon state property;
  - Intentional or negligent loss of public money or damage to public property;

  - Offence referred to in Parts 1 to 4, or sections 17, 20, or 21 of Chapter 2 of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004 committed in connection with the affairs of the municipality; and
  - Unlawful or improper conduct by any person, which has caused or may cause serious harm to the interests of the public or any category thereof.
- In addition to the 2022 proclamation, the President signed an additional Proclamation R.172 2024 for the SIU to investigate infrastructure projects. The investigations related to the bulk water projects and Amatola Water Board affairs, allegations of 2018 and the scope involved:
  - The construction of the Signal Hill Reservoir and the appointment of Amatola Water Board and alleged irregular payment to the water board;
  - The construction of the Mqanduli Bulk Water Supply Water Scheme, the appointment of Gcinasonke Engineers and the alleged irregular payment;
  - The construction of Mqanduli Bulk Water Supply Water Scheme, the appointment of Khwalo Construction and alleged irregular payment;
  - The supply and installation of pump at Mhlontlo Cluster 1 and the appointment Valotone 94 CC and Phoenix Tanks (PTY) Ltd and the allegedly irregular payments; and
  - The electrification of Mthatha Dam and Highbury and the construction of the Thornhill Clear Water Pump Station and alleged irregularities regarding the payment of Amatola Water Board.

These investigations reflect institutional dysfunction at ORTDM, serious risks of corruption, and a need for urgent structural reform to restore accountability and effective service delivery.

5. Follow-up hearing with the ORTDM - 10 March 2026

On 10 March 2026, the Committee had a joint meeting with the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to receive updates from the ORTDM, following the oversight visit in March 2025. Prior to the hearing, the Committee received briefings from the AGSA on 18 February 2026 and from the SIU on 24 February 2026, on the latest audit outcomes and the status of investigations.

The follow-up meeting highlighted the following areas:

5.1 Audit outcomes and financial information – 2024/25 financial year

- The ORTDM received unqualified audit outcomes for 2024/25 financial year, with material findings on non-compliance with legislation. The audit outcomes remain stagnant for the past three financial years.
- The AGSA reported that the financial statements that were submitted for auditing were not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122(1) of the MFMA. Material misstatements identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statements were subsequently corrected, resulting in the financial statements receiving an unqualified audit opinion.
- There were six material irregularities (MIs) identified during the audit linked to non-compliance and suspected fraud, resulting in approximately R110.08 million and the status of the MIs is as follows:
    - 2 cases resolved: Incorrect payments to Amatola Water Board and Overpayment of Covid-19 danger allowance due to wrong rates.
    - 2 cases under follow-up: Revenue not billed, leading to financial loss, and completed assets not being used due to poor prioritisation (underutilisation).
    - 2 cases with no appropriate actions taken: Overpayment to a consultant and overpayment to a contractor (Ntsonyini Dam).
- The closing balance for irregular expenditure was R463.938 million, according to the municipality, this is historic irregular expenditure dating back to 2011/12 financial year and was due to non-compliance with the SCM and tax prescripts. The municipality reported to the joint meeting that no new irregular expenditure identified in the past two financial years. They have developed and adopted an irregular expenditure strategy, implemented appropriate controls and referred historical irregular expenditure to the Municipal Disciplinary Board (MDB).
- The closing balance for the unauthorised expenditure was R572.718 million, mainly caused by overspending on non-cash items.
- The closing balance for fruitless and wasteful expenditure was R43.865 million mainly due to interest and penalties charged by the service providers and entities due to late payments, and penalties charged by service providers due to delayed projects and change of sites due to land disputes.

- The budget for maintenance was at 0.32 per cent, far below the norm of 8 per cent. This under expenditure contributes to asset impairments and increased water losses, which pose serious risks to the municipality's operational effectiveness and long-term financial health.
- The municipality's debt collection methods remain inadequate, as evidenced by the impairment of 87 per cent of consumer debtors. This high impairment rate significantly impacts the municipality's financial sustainability, indicating that revenue collection is critically low and that insufficient efforts are being made to recover outstanding debt. The situation is further exacerbated by the municipality's low expenditure on repairs and maintenance, which falls below the expected levels.

5.2 Service delivery and Infrastructure projects

Progress on four main projects (Ntsonyini, Lusikisiki, Mqanduli and Coffee Bay)

Ntsonyini Regional Water Supply Scheme

On 18 February 2026, the AGSA provided a status update to the Committee, summarised as follows:

The Ntsonyini Regional Water Supply Scheme is a multi-year water supply project consisting of three phases:

- Phase 1: Construction of the Ntsonyini Dam
- Phase 2: River abstraction
- Phase 3: Water Treatment Plant

Phase 1 was audited during the 2022/23 financial year and several findings were raised. In the 2023/24 financial year, follow-up work was conducted on the previous year's findings on phase 1, during which the AGSA identified that the contractor for the dam was terminated and has not been replaced. During the 2024/25 financial year, it was noted that the replacement contractor had still not been appointed and the project is still at standstill.

Phase 2 of the project was audited in the 2023/24 financial year and no findings were identified, and the pump station is at completion stage.

Phase 3 of the construction of the water treatment plant was audited for the 2024/25 financial year, however, the project was at initial stage as the work done was only at site establishment and site clearances at the time of the audit.

The AGSA reported that there is still a delay in providing water services to estimated 17 900 people in the Nyandeni and Port St Johns Local Municipalities due to incomplete phases of the project.

In the joint meeting on 10 March 2026, the ORTDM reported that:

- Abstraction work has been completed.
- Gravity pipelines and the treatment works are under construction.
- The contractor responsible for the off-channel storage dam was terminated; designs for completion are advanced and the municipality intends to advertise for a new contractor by around September 2026, with an estimated two-year completion period.

Lusikisiki Sewer and Sewerage Treatment Works

The project was planned to be completed in May 2021, although a conditional practical completion certificate was granted in November 2022. The AGSA reported that when they visited the site in October 2025 (2 years and 11 months after conditional practical completion date), the contractor had still not finished the outstanding work and there was no construction work taking place at the plant. Auditors identified several quality failures, including eroded subbases, and roads left without asphalt.

The municipality incurred a financial loss of R1.2 million because the quantities claimed by the contractor in the payment certificates exceeded the quantities specified in the original tender Bill of Quantities (BOQ). The contractor claimed more work than what had been approved in the tender and no variation orders or any other supporting documentation were issued to justify these increased quantities. The AGSA further noted that the contractor claimed for 100 per cent of the work done on some items while the work on site was left without being complete.

On 10 March 2026, the municipality provided the following update to the Committee:

- The Lusikisiki sewer project has largely been completed, with remaining work being finalised by a new contractor.
- The underperforming contractor was terminated and replaced with a new contractor, with certain components was expected to be completed around April 2026.
- The remaining work relates primarily to reticulation extensions under specific phases.

Mqanduli Secondary Bulk Water Supply

The AGSA highlighted five-year delays regarding the Mqanduli infrastructure project. According to the AGSA, the value of the specific upgrade is approximately R10.2 million.
The delays contribute to the district's overall challenge where communities face severe backlogs in basic water and sanitation services.

On their presentation to the Committee on 10 March 2026, the ORTDM provided the following status update:

- The reservoir was observed to be overflowing as a result of faulty overflow of control unit.
- The control unit has since been repaired and is currently monitored, the leaking water from the reservoir has been controlled, and the engineers had investigated that the surface leakages from the tank and arranged to seal the concrete floor of the tank and the water losses observed in the Maqhinebeni Storage Tank is contained.

Coffee Bay Regional Water Supply Project (Phase 3C)

The Committee noted that, although this project was not visited during the March 2025 oversight visit, it was extensively discussed during the follow-up meeting.

The municipality reported that Phase 3 forms part of the extension of the Coffee Bay Regional Water Supply Scheme and aims to provide water to 43 villages in Ward 25 and five villages in Ward 24.

The Committee was informed that the project has experienced significant delays due to governance challenges and land disputes. In one instance, construction of a reservoir was halted following objections by the landowner's family, despite prior approval from the landowner and traditional authority, with compensation demands reportedly amounting to R10 million.

The AGSA's Investigations Business Unit identified ten findings, including irregular changes to procurement processes, specifically the alteration of preference point systems from 80/20 to 90/10 through an addendum rather than a new tender process. Additional concerns included deficiencies in the preferred bidder's documentation, such as incomplete submission of required forms.

Key findings of the AGSA on the audit of the Coffee Bay Regional Water Supply Project (Phase 3 C) are as follows:

- The contract was awarded to Lihle Nathi Property Construction, the AGSA found that the successful bidder's submission contained two different versions of form of offer. The first version, which corresponds with the bid opening register, did not include a bid price, while the second version contained a bid price of R102.406 million and was used during the evaluation process, resulting in the awarding of the contract. The AGSA found no evidence that the second version formed part of the original bid submission at the time of bid closure, as it didn't have the municipality's receipt stamp and inconsistencies in handwriting and signatures, raising concerns that it may have been inserted after the closing date and thereby compromising the integrity, fairness, and transparency of the procurement process.
- Non-compliance with procurement requirements - the municipality amended the tender evaluation criteria from the 80/20 to the 90/10 preference point system without extending the bid closing date, contrary to SCM regulations. The failure to adjust the closing date created a compliance breach.
- The AGSA identified inconsistencies relating to the successful bidder's Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) registration and disclosures regarding previous fraud-related matters, indicating weaknesses in the municipality's due diligence and verification processes.
- The AGSA found that the Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) incorrectly calculated functionality scores, which favoured the winning bidder, Lihle Nathi Property Construction. The winning bidder was incorrectly awarded full points for experience despite submitting an outdated completion certificate for a project with unrelated scope of work. Additionally, full points were awarded for key personnel despite the bidder failing to provide the required professional certificates and proof of qualifications.

The Committee raised serious concerns regarding the appointment of a contractor for the Coffee Bay Regional Water Supply Project, noting reports that the contractor was facing criminal charges at the time of the award. Members questioned whether adequate due diligence had been conducted prior to the appointment, particularly in light of the risks associated with awarding public contracts to entities linked to alleged criminal conduct.

The Municipal Manager indicated that the contractor was not listed on the National Treasury database of restricted suppliers at the time of appointment and that independent legal advice had confirmed that there was no legal impediment to proceeding with the award.

Notwithstanding this explanation, the Committee remained concerned that reliance solely on the absence of blacklisting may be insufficient, and emphasised the need for strengthened due diligence processes to safeguard public funds and ensure integrity in procurement practices.

5.3 SIU investigations

On the two SIU investigations underway (Proclamations 80 and 172), the SIU reported to the Committee on 24 February 2026 that there was a lack of cooperation from municipal officials and that correspondence and attempts to secure meetings with the Municipal Manager had not yielded results. The Unit confirmed that written communication had been issued and indicated that escalation mechanisms would be utilised where necessary.

Proclamation R80 of 2022 – Strategic Programmes / Project Management (Ayavelisa)

- The SIU confirmed the completion of its investigation into the irregular appointment of Ayavelisa Consortium for strategic and project management services. The final Presidential Report was submitted on 26 March 2025. The SIU was preparing civil litigation to recover approximately R54 million and was conducting asset tracing to prevent hollow judgments.
- Disciplinary referrals were issued; however, no progress was observed until the Office of the Premier intervened on 19 January 2026, after which ORTDM indicated it would proceed with disciplinary actions.

Proclamation R172 of 2024– Current Water and Infrastructure Matters

Signal Hill Reservoir / Amatola Water

- The SIU reported that consulting engineers GIBB had recommended one bidder, but the ORTDM Bid Committee appointed another contractor without explanation.
- Approximately R12 million was paid through Amatola Water on an invoice lacking adequate supporting documentation, with some payments made prior to completion of work.
- The SIU was preparing disciplinary referrals against three ORTDM officials and four Amatola Water officials. Related criminal cases were already before the court through the Hawks.
- Tyeks Plant Hire was appointed for three sites to supply and install water pumps but completed only one, receiving approximately R7.2 million. Under pressure, two sites were ceded to Valotone and Phoenix, who were appointed by Zinzame Consulting Engineers.
- These entities were paid before work was performed, and completion occurred only after the SIU commenced its investigation. The SIU intended to institute civil recovery proceedings of approximately R3.1 million and to issue disciplinary referrals against three ORTDM officials.

Phase 2 Projects (Ongoing Investigations)

- Investigations were continuing into the Mqanduli Water Scheme involving Kanasonke Engineers and Khwalo Construction, both appointed on 2 April 2019 and paid substantial amounts by 30 April 2019 without adequate supporting documentation. The electrification of the Mthatha Dam project was also under analysis, with no findings yet reported.

In the joint meeting on 10 March 2026, the municipality claimed that it was cooperating with the SIU; however, there were differing accounts regarding the municipality's responsiveness to SIU requests, which officials attributed to communication protocol misunderstandings.

According to the municipality, disciplinary processes are managed through the Labour Relations Unit under Corporate Services, with charges authorised by the Municipal Manager.

The municipality acknowledged that the pace of SIU-related cases must improve and will prioritise them with a tracking mechanism and timelines, reporting progress to oversight bodies, including the Special Investigating Unit, where applicable.

5.4 Consequence management

The Committee reiterated concerns raised in previous engagements regarding weaknesses in consequence management within the OR Tambo District Municipality.

The Committee expressed serious concern about persistent instances of financial misconduct and procurement irregularities, coupled with delays in initiating and finalising disciplinary processes. Members emphasised that such delays undermine accountability and weaken efforts to address audit findings and material irregularities.

The Committee further raised concern about the risk of irregular expenditure being recommended for condonation or write-off without adequate investigation, proper documentation, and clear identification of responsible officials. Members stressed that all cases of irregular expenditure must be thoroughly investigated and linked to consequence management processes before any consideration of condonation or write-off.

The Committee emphasised the need for the municipality to strengthen its disciplinary processes, ensure timely action against implicated officials, and demonstrate visible accountability in order to restore confidence in its governance and financial management systems.

5.5 Disaster Management and Planning

As a disaster-prone district, the Committee questioned the ORTDM on its strategic planning and the use of relief grants to improve readiness for recurring events.

Members expressed concern about the extended stay of disaster-affected households in Temporary Residential Units (TRUs) and mass care centres in areas such as Northcrest and Ngangelizwe.

Members also raised concerns about the distinction made between homeowners and tenants in disaster relief arrangements. Clarity was requested regarding disaster funding allocations, utilisation, and long-term housing solutions for affected communities.

The municipality reported that:

- Disaster damage assessments were undertaken with support from the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent, following severe weather events in the district.
- Based on these assessments:
  - Approximately R30 million was allocated for disaster repair projects, covering 12 of 13 identified projects, with one project funded from the municipality's own revenue; and
  - An additional R45 million allocation has recently been approved and is awaiting formal gazetting.
- The municipality has also allocated approximately R7.3 million in its current budget for disaster response and is considering additional emergency response equipment.
- Regarding Temporary Residential Units (TRUs) and areas such as Northcrest, officials indicated that the municipality has been working with the provincial human settlements department to relocate disaster-affected households and develop longer-term housing solutions.

5.6 Committee observations and concerns

During the engagement with the OR Tambo District Municipality (ORTDM), and after considering inputs from the Auditor-General of South Africa and the Special Investigating Unit, the Committee raised the following key observations and concerns:

- The Committee expressed concern regarding shortcomings in transparency and public accountability, particularly the apparent absence of a final annual report on the municipality's website and the limited disclosure of material irregularities and audit findings. This raised questions about compliance with statutory reporting requirements and the accessibility of information to the public.
- The Committee noted inconsistencies between the municipality and the SIU regarding the level of cooperation in ongoing investigations. Members were concerned that delays in responding to the SIU, as well as weaknesses in internal communication and escalation processes, may undermine investigative processes and accountability.
- The Committee raised serious concerns regarding the slow pace and effectiveness of consequence management. In particular, Members highlighted delays in disciplinary processes, the limited number of suspensions despite serious allegations, and the risk that accountability is avoided when implicated officials resign, retire or complete their

contracts. The Committee emphasised that disciplinary and criminal accountability processes must continue irrespective of employment status.

- The Committee further observed that the municipality's approach to irregular expenditure presents a risk of premature condonation or write-off without adequate investigation or consequence management. Members stressed the need for clear classification, detailed reporting, and demonstrable efforts to recover funds where applicable.
- The Committee expressed concern regarding ongoing procurement weaknesses, including missing documentation, deviations from prescribed processes, and audit findings suggesting possible irregularities in bid evaluation and contract awards. These issues were viewed as indicative of systemic weaknesses in supply chain management and internal controls.
- The Committee also raised concern about reported overpayments on infrastructure projects, as well as discrepancies between payments made and actual work completed. Members stressed the importance of strengthening contract management, enforcing accountability for service providers, and ensuring value for money in public expenditure.
- The Committee noted with concern that contractors with a history of underperformance or incomplete projects appear to continue receiving work, raising questions about due diligence, contractor performance monitoring, and procurement oversight.
- The Committee expressed concern about persistent delays in the completion of critical water and sanitation infrastructure projects. Members emphasised that these delays have a direct and adverse impact on communities, particularly in areas with significant service delivery backlogs.
- The Committee further observed that land disputes and inadequate stakeholder consultation processes continue to disrupt infrastructure projects, resulting in delays and additional costs. This points to weaknesses in planning, land verification, and community engagement processes.
- The Committee raised concerns about water service delivery challenges, including high levels of water losses and non-revenue water, reliance on communal standpipes, and the prevalence of illegal connections. Members emphasised the need for measurable improvements in water conservation and demand management initiatives.
- The Committee expressed concern about the municipality's low allocation for infrastructure maintenance, which is significantly below recommended norms. Members

cautioned that underinvestment in maintenance contributes to infrastructure deterioration and undermines long-term service delivery sustainability.

- The Committee also raised concerns regarding disaster response and recovery measures, particularly the prolonged accommodation of affected households in Temporary Residential Units and community facilities. Members questioned the fairness and consistency of relief measures, especially in relation to non-property owners, and called for clarity on long-term housing solutions.
- The Committee noted risks associated with the recovery of Covid-19 danger allowance payments, including the potential for legal disputes and financial exposure for the municipality. Members requested clarity on the legal framework and mechanisms used for recovery.
- The Committee raised concerns about the effectiveness of performance management systems, particularly in relation to senior management accountability and alignment with governance and service delivery challenges. Members also highlighted the need for improved risk management practices and clearer articulation of mitigation strategies.
- The Committee questioned the tangible impact of economic development initiatives implemented through the Ntinga OR Tambo Development Agency, particularly in terms of job creation and support for local economic activity.
- The Committee expressed concern about safety and security challenges in key tourism areas, as well as the capacity of emergency and disaster management services. Delays in the completion of critical infrastructure such as the Disaster Management Centre were also noted as a concern.
- The Committee further raised concerns about the effectiveness and independence of internal oversight structures, including the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC), and their role in addressing audit findings and financial misconduct.
- The Committee noted potential labour and financial risks associated with organisational restructuring and unresolved job evaluation processes, which may have future financial implications for the Municipality.
- The Committee observed that responses from the administration at times reflected a defensive posture towards findings by oversight bodies, rather than a proactive approach to addressing identified weaknesses. Members emphasised the need for stronger political and administrative leadership, and a clear commitment to accountability, transparency and improved service delivery outcomes.

- The Committee strongly condemns the widespread and alarming trend across Eastern Cape municipalities, where service providers and contractors routinely abandon infrastructure projects without completion, after they have been paid substantial public funds, and yet continue to be awarded new tenders in public institutions without facing any consequences or accountability. The Committee noted this culture of impunity by non-performing contractors who exploit systemic SCM loopholes by abandoning project scope or executing unauthorized cessions to evade contractual obligations while extracting financial gain. The SIU reported to SCOPA a yellow-plant contract awarded by ORTDM to Tyeks Plant Hire and Construction for three assigned sites. The contractor only delivered one of the three sites and abandoned the remaining work while receiving R7.241 million. The remaining work was ceded to the other contractors (Valotone 94 CC and Phoenix Tanks), resulting in an additional R3.185 million being paid. The SIU also reported fraudulent invoices and payments made before work even commenced. The Committee emphasised that allowing such entities to walk away from incomplete projects and seamlessly secure state business undermines public service delivery and requires immediate, decisive actions, including blacklisting. Members flagged concerns regarding yellow-plant fleet contractors operating across municipalities in the Eastern Cape, collecting full payments while abandoning projects and ceding responsibilities to avoid accountability.
- The Committee finds that the establishment of the Strategic Programmes and Project Management Office (SPPMO) and the awarding of the related contract to the Ayavelisa Consortium was marred by serious governance and procurement irregularities. The SIU investigation under Proclamation R80 of 2022 revealed that the contract, valued at R70.27 million, was awarded despite bid evaluation discrepancies and without proper Council approval for the creation of the SPPMO. The initial contract amount was R20 million and payments totalling R70.13 million were made to Ayavelisa under the SLA, including invoices for unrelated events and payments outside the scope of the contract. The SIU found that municipal officials used the SLA as a vehicle to enrich themselves, their families and third parties. The SIU reported that evidence pointed to corruption risks, including a municipal official receiving R120 000 from a service provider and allegations that a vehicle purchased by the consortium was being used by a municipal official. The SIU concluded that the arrangement facilitated systemic abuse of municipal resources and made referrals for disciplinary, criminal, and administrative actions. The Committee questioned the justification for maintaining an externally managed project management structure when the

municipality reports that it has adequate internal capacity. The Committee requests clarity regarding the final cost, overall purpose and the current status of the contract.

6. Recommendations - OR Tambo District Municipality

Considering the observations and concerns raised during the engagement, the Committee makes the following recommendations to the OR Tambo District Municipality:

6.1 Recommendations to be implemented or processes to be initiated within 30 days

- The municipality must improve its internal control environment to avoid misuse of financial and other resources, and the Accounting Officer must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the municipality has effective, efficient, and transparent financial and risk management systems as well as strong internal controls, as required by section 62(1)(c) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, No.56 of 2003 (MFMA);
- The Accounting Officer must take reasonable steps to ensure that unauthorised, irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditures and other losses are prevented, as required by section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA, and ensure effective, efficient, and transparent processes of financial and risk management, as provided for in the MFMA and Treasury Regulations;
- Disciplinary actions must be taken expeditiously against employees who are responsible for incurring irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditures, as required by section 62(1)(e) of the MFMA;
- In cases where criminality has been found, criminal proceedings must be instituted against any official of the municipality who has allegedly committed an act of financial misconduct or an offence in terms of chapter 15 of the MFMA, those cases must be referred to law enforcement agencies;
- The Committee notes with concern that the majority of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure is written off by the Council with no disciplinary actions taken, recoveries, or criminal proceedings, and recommends that Council ensures that all cases are properly investigated and consequence management applied;
- Municipal assets should be properly safeguarded and adequately maintained as required by section 63(a) of the MFMA, to prevent loss, deterioration, or underutilisation of public infrastructure;

- During the interaction with management, the Committee was alarmed to learn that some senior officials who have been arrested on more than one occasion are still on duty, and the Accounting Officer is defending their continued presence at work. The Committee made its displeasure clear, and a recommendation was made that actions must be taken against the implicated officials to protect the integrity of the district municipality;
- Municipal contracts must be managed by suitably qualified and experienced personnel. The municipality must ensure that contracts are awarded only to competent service providers and that payments are made only for work completed and verified. Strict contract management practices should be adopted, including enforcing penalties on contractors who abandon works or delay delivery, leading to avoidable costs and project overruns;
- The municipality must strengthen cooperation with oversight and investigative bodies, including the Special Investigating Unit and the Auditor-General of South Africa. Clear internal protocols should be established to ensure that all correspondence is timeously escalated and responded to at the appropriate level of authority;
- The municipality should urgently improve consequence management by ensuring that disciplinary processes are initiated and finalised within reasonable timeframes. Regular progress reports on all disciplinary matters, particularly those arising from SIU and AGSA findings, should be submitted to Council and relevant oversight bodies;
- The municipality must foster a culture of accountability and responsiveness, ensuring that findings by oversight bodies are addressed constructively and without delay, and that leadership demonstrates commitment to good governance and improved service delivery outcomes;
- The municipality must strengthen internal oversight structures, including the MPAC, to ensure effective monitoring of financial management, audit findings, and consequence management; and
- The municipality must provide the Committee with a detailed close-out report on the Ayavelisa Consortium contract, including total expenditure, the scope of services rendered, and the current status of disciplinary proceedings against all implicated officials.

6.2 Recommendations to be implemented or processes to be initiated within 60 days

- To ensure effective service delivery, the Accounting Officer must finalise all outstanding termination accounts and expedite the appointment of replacement contractors for incomplete projects, including the Lusikisiki Sewer Reticulation and Ntsonyini Dam;

- The municipality must operationalise completed infrastructure, particularly in the Mqanduli Bulk Water Supply Project, by resolving the water supply constraints at Thornhill Water Treatment Works and completing necessary reticulation networks, with an implementation plan submitted to relevant oversight bodies;
- The municipality should ensure full compliance with statutory requirements relating to the tabling and publication of annual reports. The final annual report, including complete disclosures of material irregularities and audit findings, must be made publicly accessible to enhance transparency and accountability;
- The municipality must ensure that disciplinary and recovery processes continue even where implicated officials have resigned, retired, or completed their contracts, including the pursuit of civil and criminal proceedings where applicable;
- The municipality should refrain from condoning or writing off irregular expenditure unless all investigations have been completed, accountability has been established, and all reasonable steps to recover losses have been taken. A detailed irregular expenditure register, reflecting the status of each case, should be maintained and reported;
- The municipality must strengthen supply chain management processes by enforcing compliance with procurement legislation, ensuring proper documentation at all stages, and enhancing due diligence on service providers prior to contract award;
- The municipality should implement stricter contract management controls to prevent overpayments, ensure that payments are aligned with verified work completed, and enforce penalties for non-performance by contractors;
- The municipality must ensure that contractors with a history of poor performance or non-compliance are appropriately assessed and, where necessary, restricted from future work in line with applicable regulations;
- The municipality should develop and implement realistic project plans with clear timelines for completion of infrastructure projects, particularly those related to water and sanitation, and provide regular progress updates to oversight bodies;
- The municipality must strengthen planning and stakeholder engagement processes, including early verification of land ownership and consultation with affected communities and traditional authorities, to minimise project delays arising from land disputes;
- The municipality should intensify efforts to improve revenue collection and reduce non-revenue water, including the implementation of effective billing systems, enforcement measures, and water conservation initiatives with measurable targets;

- The municipality must increase its allocation for infrastructure maintenance to align with recommended norms, in order to protect existing assets and ensure long-term sustainability of service delivery;
- The municipality should provide a clear plan to address water service backlogs, including long-term infrastructure planning aligned with available funding sources and realistic implementation timelines;
- The municipality must improve disaster response and recovery planning, including reducing the duration of stays in Temporary Residential Units and ensuring fair and transparent criteria for disaster relief support;
- The municipality must assess and report on the impact of economic development initiatives implemented through the Ntinga OR Tambo Development Agency, ensuring that such programmes deliver measurable benefits in terms of job creation and local economic growth;
- The municipality should expedite the completion of critical infrastructure, including the Disaster Management Centre, and ensure that disputes and variation orders are resolved promptly to avoid prolonged project delays; and
- The municipality should ensure that organisational restructuring and job evaluation processes are finalised in a manner that mitigates potential labour and financial risks, and that such risks are reflected in the municipal risk register.

7. Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) is a Category A municipality located on the east coast of the Eastern Cape. It serves as the primary urban centre in the eastern part of the province and comprises the cities and towns of East London, Bhisho, and Qonce (formerly known as King William's Town), along with the townships of Mdantsane and Zwelitsha. BCMM was established as a local municipality in 2000 following South Africa's municipal reorganisation and was subsequently separated from the Amathole District Municipality and granted metropolitan status in May 2011.

7.1. Audit outcomes and financial information

Prior to the oversight visit, the AGSA presented to the Committee the audit outcomes for 2023/24 financial year. The presentation highlighted a municipality that is grappling with poor

financial management, weak financial health, and deteriorating infrastructure. Its inability to effectively plan, monitor, and report on performance has exposed persistent weaknesses in critical municipal operations.

The municipality received a qualified audit opinion on its financial statements from the AGSA for the 2023/24 financial year, and this was the same opinion received in 2022/23 financial year.

The AGSA reported that the financial statements submitted for auditing were not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122(1) of MFMA. Material misstatements related to property, plant, and equipment; repairs and maintenance; and revenue for sewerage service charges which were identified in the submitted financial statements were not corrected.

The BCMM allocated only 2 per cent of its total budget for maintenance, which is below the norm of 8 per cent. The municipality lacked standard operating procedures for asset management transactions such as impairments, work-in progress classification, and revaluation resulting in material misstatements. This absence undermines the ability to ensure consistent, accurate, and complete recognition in the financial statements.

The irregular expenditure closing balance ballooned over the years from R2.38 billion in 2019/20 to R10.555 billion in 2023/24. The Council wrote off R1.63 billion of the irregular expenditure in 2023/24 and there were no recoveries . The AGSA reported that the irregular expenditure identified were not investigated to determine if a person was liable for the expenditure, and consequence management procedures were not adequately implemented by the municipality against the officials responsible for incurring irregular expenditure.

The AGSA attributed the following reasons as the main contributors for irregular expenditure:

- In some cases, goods and services of a transaction value above R750 000.00 were procured without inviting competitive bids, as required by SCM regulation 19(a).
- Deviations were approved by the Accounting Officer even though it was not impractical to invite competitive bids, in contravention of SCM regulation 36(1).

- Some of the invitations for competitive bidding were not advertised for a required minimum period of days, in contravention of SCM regulations 22(1) and 22(2).
- Persons in the service of the municipality who had a private or business interest in contracts awarded by the municipality failed to disclose such interest, in contravention of SCM regulation 46(2)(e) and the code of conduct for staff members, issued in terms of the Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000).

The closing balance for unauthorised expenditure at the end of the 2023/24 financial year was R403.496 million, and the closing balance for fruitless and wasteful expenditure was R981 826.00. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure amounted to R10.442 million was written off during the 2023/24 financial year.

The debt-collection ratio was 151 days instead of the targeted 30 days. The municipality incurred water losses amounting to R147.960 million (37.74 per cent), which is above the accepted norm of (15 – 30 per cent). The water losses mainly attributed to poor maintenance of municipal water infrastructure.

The AGSA raised the following concerning material irregularities that was identified:

- Pollution of water resources continues to occur despite interventions by management.
- There is slow implementation to address the below-market rental of municipal properties.
- Control measures to prevent vandalism and theft of the assets have been implemented however the sourcing of funding to complete construction is still in progress.

7.2. Project Sites Findings

During the oversight visit the Committee visited several infrastructure project sites, namely the Zwelitsha Wastewater Treatment Works, the Mdantsane NU2 Swimming Pool and the East London Water World Fun Park project. In addition to engaging with municipal and project officials, several overarching findings were made that raised serious concerns. These findings, which point to both potential setbacks in the success of the projects and indications of maladministration of state funds, highlight the challenges.

Below is a breakdown of the key findings:

Zwelitsha Wastewater Treatment Works

- The main objective of the Zwelitsha Wastewater Treatment Works project was to amalgamate the four works that are over-capacitated into one regional works namely Bhisho, Schornville, Zwelitsha and Breidbach. The contract commenced on 01 February 2016, with phase 1 of the project, which is civil works, and was initially for 36 months with a planned completion date of 15 January 2019. Phase 2 of the project is the electrical and mechanical works. The expenditure to date is at R413.19 million and the contractor terminated the contract in November 2021 due to the non-payment of certified work, with approximately 90 – 95 per cent of the work completed.
- The project has been beset by chronic delays, mainly involving litigation stemming from irregular tender processes and payment disputes as well as underperformance by contractors. The project remains incomplete due to the contract being terminated before the commissioning date of the plant.
- The site is poorly maintained, looks abandoned, there is frequent vandalism and is vulnerable to organised crime. Due to vandalism and theft, the municipality needs to reassess the status of the plant, and it is estimated that the additional amount of approximately R130 million is needed to complete the work, mainly mechanical and electrical work.
- The delays in this project have consequently resulted in the municipality not being able to extend housing and other industrial development in areas restricted by lack of sewage treatment. The municipality advised the Committee that they are in the process of appointing a new contractor to complete the project.

Mdantsane NU2 Swimming Pool

- The Mdantsane NU2 Swimming Pool was closed more than 40 years ago and was lying in an abandoned and neglected state. In order to bring it to its former glory and serve its purpose, the project was redesigned and additional building and infrastructure was planned. The project commenced on 09 February 2021 for an initial period of 9 months and was scheduled to be completed by 09 November 2021. The initial contract amount was R22.5 million. The service provider failed to complete and hand over the facility due to a cracked pool structure, unresolved snags, incomplete installation, and contract disputes.
- The contractor terminated the contract and abandoned the site before rectifying and attending to defective work onsite. The project progress at that time was estimated at 85

per cent. There were no approved extensions of time beyond the revised project completion of 15 December 2021.

- The BCMM did not impose penalties against the contractor for failing to complete the project within the contractual timelines, resulting in financial losses for the municipality.
- The consulting engineer approved numerous payment certificates even though there was no evidence of work done. The repetitive submission of incorrect payment certificates with the same number means the municipality made irregular payments.
- The swimming pool must be demolished and reconstructed owing to the poor standard of work by the inexperienced contractor who constructed the pool. The project is visibly neglected with no maintenance being done on the facility. The children's pool is filled with algae and cannot be used, despite being completed, until the main pool has been reconstructed.
- The Committee was informed that the municipality appointed a task team with built environment expertise to do the site technical assessment, designs, specifications, business plan, bill of quantities, and cost estimates. The report by the task team was to be presented to the Council in May 2025.
- The community is frustrated by the lack of progress with the project and the municipality's inability to commit to a new project completion date.

East London Water World Fun Park

- The project was to upgrade and expand the existing Water World infrastructure to provide one-of-a-kind water fun park, not only for the BCMM, but for the entire province of the Eastern Cape to strengthen its tourism potential for both local and international users. However, the project under the implementation of the Buffalo City Metropolitan Development Agency (BCMDA) has been plagued by various challenges and delays, including the Covid-19 lockdown, time extensions, and account disputes. There were other issues in the Bill Of Quantities (BOQ) that were not initially included, and this resulted in cost escalation, variation orders, and cost overruns.
- The planning for this project commenced in 2017, and the initial consulting team responsible for designing the project was appointed between 2018 and 2019. The contractor responsible for the construction was appointed, and the construction started in March 2020 and was planned to be completed within 18 months, with an original contract value of R103 million.

- In February 2022, management issued the contractor the first default notice of poor performance. The constructor left the site and abandoned the project due to disputes, and the contract was subsequently terminated in April 2023. There is an ongoing dispute between the contractor and the BCMDA which could have financial implications.
- For the BCMDA to complete the project itself, it would need an estimated R42 million from the BCMM, meaning additional cost escalations.
- According to the BCMDA, as an alternative, there is a proposal to advertise the site as a recreational site for a Public-Private Partnership (PPP), where a private investor can take over the project and finish it off. The estimated amount for this private investment is R10 million to get the project to operational level. The municipality and the investor will then enter into a long-term lease agreement, with the facility still belonging to the BCMM.
- The amount that has been spent on this project is estimated at R121 million, at the time the contractor left the site, the project was about 90 per cent complete, however, due to vandalism and lack of maintenance the project has deteriorated.
- The Committee observed that the site is unattended with no security guarding the property. There was overgrown vegetation on site, as no maintenance is being carried out. Grass cutters were deployed onsite on the day of the oversight visit.

7.3. Meeting with leadership and management of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality

During the engagement with the municipality, the Committee emphasised that this is not a once-off event but the start of a relationship to ensure that the municipality is working as it should.

The engagement dealt with issues of governance and instability, allegations of fraud, corruption, and SIU investigations, the audit outcomes of the municipality, unauthorised, irregular fruitless, and wasteful expenditure, and how these are dealt with by the municipality.

Some of the observations from the meeting are as follows:

- The BCMM has a financial recovery plan in place, implemented after its cash reserves dwindled towards the end of 2023.

- The municipality acknowledged that the projects visited have resulted in a loss of public funds and it will cooperate with the law enforcement agencies to ensure that those found responsible will be held accountable.
- Most infrastructure projects within the municipality are left incomplete as contractors tend to abscond after declaring a dispute and then contracts get terminated. There is also no consequence management implemented by the municipality against contractors that abscond from the projects.
- The Council took a decision to unlawfully terminate an electrical contract and award it to the civil works contractor at the Zwelitsha Wastewater Treatment Plant without obtaining legal counsel. The head of legal only became aware once the matter was in court. The municipality had to consequently pay a settlement as per the court order.
- A forensic investigation was commissioned by Council into the Mdantsane Swimming Pool Project and at the time of the oversight visit, the report had yet to be presented before Council. The Council was also not cooperating with the request from the SIU for access to the forensic report for the purpose of its investigation.
- There is frustration that MPAC reports that are to serve before the Council are unilaterally removed from the agenda by the Chief Whip of Council, and therefore recommendations for remedial action or consequence management are not implemented.
- The municipality is also grappling with more than R10 billion in irregular expenditure, much of which is considered irrecoverable and subsequently written off by Council.
- The municipality's debt book remains high, predominantly from households. Billing for water charges remains a challenge to the municipality.
- The Chief Operating Officer (COO) has a dual role at the municipality and is also acting in the position of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), who has been on sick leave since 2022 due to a motor vehicle accident. However, the CFO has indicated that he is ready to return to duty, but this is being blocked by the leadership at the municipality.
- The top expenditure items for the municipality are employee related costs, bulk purchases, depreciation and amortisation as well as debt impairment.
- The municipality does not have an end-to-end system for its asset register and maintenance of the municipal assets is not being done leading to a depreciation of the assets.
- The BCMDA as the implementing agent for several infrastructure projects in the municipality has a track record of its projects being delayed which results in significant cost escalations.

- The BCMDA struggles with timeous submission and publication of its annual reports and financial statements as required by legislation, making it challenging to conduct oversight over the financial and non-financial affairs of the agency.
- The Committee's observation is that Council has no appetite to investigate matters where public funds have been misused and implement consequence management.
- Marina Glen B (Ebuhlanti) Beachfront project – the Committee notes with concern the issues surrounding this project. There is a disparity between the total funds spent and the actual work visibly completed on-site, raising serious concerns about the value for money. The overall costs increased from the initial budget of R6 million to R70 million. The Committee is requesting a comprehensive breakdown of the actual expenditure and the exact scope of work. The Ebuhlanti project was flagged as an example of poor oversight by the municipality, where payments were processed without adequate evidence of work performed, contributing to the municipality's growing irregular expenditure balance.
- East London Beach Front Court Crescent Redevelopment "The Stoep" - the Committee is concerned about the amount spent on this project, and the poor quality of work that has been widely reported by the public and various media reports. This project is executed by the BCMDA, was originally allocated R50 million and the actual expenditure escalated to R87 million, and some reports indicate that the actual expenditure has been over R100 million. This project has faced significant delays, budget overruns, contractual disputes, and widespread quality defects. The Committee requests the municipality to provide detailed information and expenditure on this project.

8. Follow-up hearings with the BCMM 11 March 2026

On 11 March 2026, the Committee had a joint meeting with the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to receive updates from the BCMM.

8.1 Audit outcomes and financial information – 2024/25 financial year

The Committee noted the following:

- The Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) received a qualified audit opinion for the 2024/25 financial year, with material findings on compliance with legislation and performance information. The audit outcomes remain qualified for three consecutive years.

- The qualified audit opinion was primarily due to material misstatement relating to the property, plant and equipment that remained uncorrected. The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) highlighted persistent internal control weaknesses that were not addressed, preventing management's ability to make the necessary audit adjustments within a reasonable time and still allow time for re-audit. Significant misstatements were noted in impairment, asset verification, and depreciation.
- The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) identified material misstatements in the financial statements that were submitted for audit.
- There was material non-compliance identified in areas of expenditure management, contract management, consequence management, environment management, human resource management, as well as asset management.
- The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) identified that the municipality's performance management system remains weak and inadequately implemented, despite the existence of a formally documented framework. The Committee expressed concern that these findings are a recurrence of issues identified in previous audit cycles, indicating that longstanding systemic weaknesses have not been effectively addressed. The Committee further noted that the municipality achieved only 55 per cent of its key service delivery targets during the 2024/25 financial year, reflecting continued shortcomings in performance planning, implementation, monitoring, and accountability.
- The budget for maintenance was at 1 per cent, far below the norm of 8 per cent.
- The closing balance for irregular expenditure was R11.628 billion, mainly due to uncompetitive bidding processes, deviations from procurement processes, and prohibited awards.
- The closing balance for the unauthorised expenditure was R646.822 million, and fruitless and wasteful expenditure was R6.6 million. The municipality explained that the majority of this amount resulted from technical accounting adjustments rather than actual overspending. One major factor was the annual reassessment of the municipality's debt book. When the actual debt impairment exceeds the amount originally budgeted for, it necessitates an adjustment that is recorded as unauthorised expenditure. Another significant cause involved infrastructure projects. When completed projects previously recorded as "work in progress" were added to the asset register, the resulting depreciation costs were higher than what had been budgeted, requiring correction through an adjustment budget.

The municipality explained that these technical adjustments are typically addressed and corrected through the municipality's adjustment process.

- The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) identified nine Material Irregularities (MIs) during the period under review. Of these, four resulted in financial losses to the municipality, while five resulted in, or were likely to result in, substantial harm to the general public.
- Regarding the status of the Material Irregularities, the Committee noted that three had been resolved, one had appropriate remedial action taken, three had been recently notified to the municipality, and two remained unresolved, with no appropriate action having been taken. The AGSA indicated that it was considering whether to invoke its extended powers in respect of the unresolved Material Irregularities.
- The Committee noted with concern that the unresolved Material Irregularities relate to:
  - the municipality's failure to prevent pollution of the Nahoon River arising from the Nahoon Bulk Outflow Sewer Pipeline and the East Bank Wastewater Treatment Works, resulting in ongoing environmental harm; and
  - the municipality's failure to effectively manage and collect revenue from the rental of municipal properties, resulting in continued revenue losses.

8.2 Use of consultants

The BCMM spent R18.1 million on financial reporting consultants, nearly double the previous year's cost, yet they were deemed ineffective due to a lack of review, undefined responsibilities, and inadequate skills transfer. The Committee raised concerns about the municipality's continuous use of consultants when material misstatements still exists in the financial statements. The Committee is of the view that there is no justification for this expenditure as the municipality continues to receive qualified audit opinions for three consecutive years.

8.3 Service delivery and Infrastructure projects

The Committees requested status updates on the projects visited in March 2025.

Mdantsane Swimming Pool Project (NU2)

The Committees were informed that:

- The project has remained incomplete for several years. There was no additional construction work taken place since the oversight visit. A major structural failure occurred

when cracks developed in the pool after construction. This was attributed to the failure to conduct a proper conditional assessment before building began, which would have identified underlying structural issues

- The services of the original consultant have been terminated. A new consultant is to be appointed to revive the project under a recovery plan adopted by the council.
- The municipality is preparing new project specifications to issue a tender for the remaining work, with the intention of appointing a new consulting team during the next financial year.
- The municipality indicated that potential civil recovery actions are being considered.

Access to the Ernst & Young Forensic Report

Members expressed concerns about the difficulty experienced by oversight institutions in obtaining the Ernst & Young forensic investigation report relating to the Mdantsane Swimming Pool project and other matters.

The municipality informed the joint committees that there is a binding non-disclosure agreement signed with Ernst & Young constrained the municipality from releasing the report to third parties without the consent from the firm. The Committees were informed that the municipal legal services advised that the municipality is contractually bound by this provision and cannot unilaterally release the report.

The Committees are of the view that the circumstances surrounding the disclosure of the Ernst & Young forensic investigation report into the Mdantsane Swimming Pool project raise important questions regarding the balance between contractual confidentiality and public accountability. During the engagement, the municipality maintained that contractual provisions requiring third-party consent prevented it from releasing the report, including to oversight institutions such as Parliament and the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), without the consent of Ernst & Young.

The Committees expressed concern that contractual confidentiality clauses should not unduly impede the constitutional and statutory oversight responsibilities of Parliament, particularly where matters involve the use of public funds and allegations of maladministration. While the municipality subsequently indicated that consent had been granted by Ernst & Young for the

report to be released, the Committees noted that the delay in disclosure had hindered effective oversight.

The Committees further noted that the Ernst & Young forensic investigation report was ultimately obtained directly from Ernst & Young following a request by the Committees, thereby enabling the Committees to consider its findings as part of their oversight of the Mdantsane Swimming Pool project.

East London Water World Fun Park Project

The Committees noted that, similar to the Mdantsane NU2 Swimming Pool project, no construction work had been undertaken on the Water World project since the Committee's oversight visit in March 2025. During the engagement, municipal officials explained that the delay was attributable to the need to first assess and quantify the outstanding work required to complete the project. Following the completion of that assessment, the municipality indicated that the next step would be to secure the necessary funding before construction could resume.

The Committees further noted that the municipality had completed the assessment and determined that approximately R54 million is required to complete and rehabilitate the public infrastructure component of the project, including the water park, slides, and amphitheatre. The municipality further indicated that it intends to allocate funding during the 2025/26 financial year to facilitate the completion of the public infrastructure.

The Committees noted the municipality's explanation that the Water World project comprises both publicly funded infrastructure and private-sector investment components. The municipality indicated that it remains responsible for completing the public infrastructure, including the fun park and the amphitheatre, while the hotel component is intended to be developed and financed by private investors. The municipality further advised that the project has been presented to potential investors as part of its tourism investment promotion initiatives to attract private-sector participation.

Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Challenges

Members raised concerns regarding persistent water and sanitation service delivery challenges, including:

- Pollution of rivers due to malfunctioning wastewater treatment plants.

- Vandalism and theft at municipal infrastructure facilities.
- Erratic water billing and extremely high consumer accounts.

Members also expressed concern that the municipality's responses to material irregularities raised by the AGSA had been submitted late.

The municipality acknowledged the challenges affecting wastewater treatment plants and confirmed that infrastructure upgrades and repairs are underway. Measures include:

- Appointment of consulting engineers to upgrade critical infrastructure;
- Installation of enhanced security measures at facilities; and
- Implementation of infrastructure repair programmes

The municipality also indicated that:

- A new billing system with improved exception reporting has been introduced.
- A customer portal and call-centre have been established to assist residents in resolving billing disputes.

Officials acknowledged that some responses to the Auditor-General's material irregularity notices were submitted after the required deadlines but indicated that dedicated teams are now addressing the outstanding issues.

Water losses and water tankers

The municipality faces significant challenges regarding water losses and infrastructure maintenance. The AGSA reported that water losses were estimated at 41 per cent, valued at R187.49 million in the 2024/25 financial year. These losses are primarily driven by ageing infrastructure and frequent pipeline bursts and leaks, which directly impact water availability in some areas. The issue is compounded by poor maintenance practices, as the municipality's budget for maintenance was only 1 per cent, far below the 8 per cent norm.

Furthermore, the AGSA reported that maintenance is often carried out after a failure has occurred rather than through proactive and preventive measures. This lack of safeguarding and maintenance of infrastructure has led to severe environmental consequences, such as discharge

of untreated effluent from 12 out of 15 non-operational wastewater works into local river systems.

The municipality informed the Committee that it has implemented a structured routine for delivering water to the communities via water tankers. During the joint meeting, questions were raised about mechanisms in place to ensure accountability and prevent payment for unperformed work. The municipality responded that all tankers are equipped with trackers to monitor routes, collection points, and delivery locations. The tracking system ensures that water is sourced only from approved, regulated locations to guarantee it is potable and safe for consumption.

Delivery schedules are informed by residents' demand and coordinated through ward committee members. Councillors are required to sign a verification form confirming the number of trucks delivered. This signed document is a prerequisite for processing payments to contractors.

The Executive Mayor informed the Committees that there is a widespread syndicate operating around water tankers. She noted that vandalism of permanent water and electricity infrastructure often forces the municipality to rely on expensive water tanker services. Millions of rands are spent on private companies to deliver state-owned water, a practice the Executive Mayor argues should be minimised by protecting existing infrastructure and reducing reliance on external contractors.

8.4 SIU investigations

Committee members raised concerns regarding delays in implementing disciplinary actions against officials implicated in the SIU reports. There has been no visible consequence management, despite the SIU's referrals for disciplinary actions and criminal referrals, including several cases referred to the Directorate for Priority Crimes (DPCI), and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

Members noted that the implicated officials are still in their posts, continue to receive full salaries and potentially still influencing municipal operations.

The municipality indicated that the SIU reports had been formally tabled before the Council, which resolved to refer the matters to the Financial Disciplinary Board (FDB) for investigation and recommendations. Three officials lodged review applications seeking to set aside some of the aspects of the SIU report. The Municipal Legal Advisor indicated that continuing with disciplinary proceedings while there is pending review application may create legal risks, for this reason disciplinary hearings have not yet proceeded. The municipality was in the process of submitting a report to Council at the end of March 2026 to determine how to proceed.

8.5 CFO incapacity and acting arrangements

The Committees sought an update on the prolonged absence of the substantive Chief Financial Officer (CFO), who has been on extended leave following a motor vehicle accident in 2022. Members raised concerns regarding the financial implications of the Municipality continuing to remunerate both the substantive CFO and the Acting CFO over an extended period and enquired about the measures being taken to resolve the matter.

In response, the municipality advised that it is managing the matter in accordance with the applicable labour legislation and employment processes. The municipality explained that the applicable framework required a 24-month recovery period before formal incapacity proceedings could be initiated. It further reported that an independent incapacity inquiry was underway, which includes medical assessments by independent practitioners and a formal incapacity hearing scheduled for 24 – 25 March 2026. The municipality indicated that, pending the conclusion of the prescribed legal process, it remains legally obliged to continue remunerating the CFO.

8.6 Municipal accommodation used by municipal Councillor (chalet resort)

During the joint hearing, a query was raised around a Councillor who had been for years accommodated at a chalet resort at the municipality’s expense. The municipality informed the joint committees that it was hearing about the chalet resort for the first time and requested to be afforded a chance to investigate the matter, and the joint committees will be furnished with the outcomes of the matter.

8.7 Boxing promotion – R2 million sponsorship

The Committee raised concerns regarding the Xaba Boxing promotions sponsorship matter, particularly the governance and financial implications of the arrangement. The municipality confirmed that it had entered into a 2018 sponsorship agreement with Xaba involving a boxer.

The agreement was event-specific and was considered complete once the event took place. Therefore, it could not be relied upon to support a later sponsorship claim in 2024/25.

The municipality stated that there was no valid subsequent sponsorship agreement, as the required sponsorship committee and approval process had not been followed. Furthermore, no budget had been allocated.

The Executive Mayor was alleged to have concluded a WhatsApp sponsorship agreement with Xaba Boxing, represented by Mr. Matiti, to the value of R2m. The allegation was denied as the municipality's financial crisis did not allow it to entertain such sponsorship agreements. No sponsorships advertisements were made. However, the municipality later learned that Mr. Matiti had obtained a court order to impound 22 of its vehicles. The court order was based on a previous agreement concluded in 2018, to the value of R3.4m, before the Executive Mayor joined the municipality.

The Executive Mayor informed the joint committees that it was unfortunate that the legal department did not go to court to contest the matter, resulting in a default judgment. A sponsorship agreement concluded in 2018 could not still be valid in 2026 because such agreements are event-based and one agreement was for one specific event. Furthermore, all sponsorship agreements had been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Treasury did not encourage sponsorships. The legal department was also in receipt of the notices leading to the writ of execution but did not respond. The official currently in charge of the legal department had not yet joined the municipality when these events transpired, although these happened under the current City Manager's watch.

In his defence, the City Manager explained that lawyers were briefed to defend the matter. However, on the day of the default judgment, the legal department advised the lawyers to take postponement as it had concluded that the case was not defensible. The City Manager only knew about this when the default judgment was announced and was reportedly aggrieved by

the fact the legal department had made a decision that fell within the Accounting Officer's purview.

As payment based on the default judgment would have incurred irregular expenditure, the City Manager sought a legal opinion, and was advised that the municipality was obliged to pay. The City Manager was not happy with this legal opinion. An application for the recession of the default judgment was made, but when Xaba Boxing Promotion learned about this, they obtained a writ of execution before the municipality could finalise its recession application. The municipality has since obtained a stay of execution, which saw the return of the vehicles that had been impounded for a month and seven days. As the Xaba sponsorship matter was still in court, the Executive Mayor felt that it was sub judicare.

Members queried the mechanisms and MoUs used by BCMM to fund local promoter associations and host sports events, emphasising that all municipal sponsorship frameworks must adhere strictly with applicable legislation, avoiding unbudgeted and irregular expenditure.

9. Recommendations - BCMM

The Committee recommends the following:

9.1 Recommendations to be implemented or processes to be initiated within 30 days

- The Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality should implement an action plan to address the persistent audit findings, with immediate effect;
- Time frames for the implementation process should be set and forwarded to the Committee and the AGSA;
- Management must immediately establish and implement a fraud prevention plan;
- Vetting of all the executive management and supply chain management officials should be conducted as a matter of urgency;
- The BCMM and the BCMDA must submit comprehensive reports detailing both the Marina Glen B (Ebuhlanti) and the Court Crescent (the Stoep) projects. This submission must include itemised financial reconciliations from the original budget baselines against the actual expenditure to date, accurate ground-level progress reports mapping the current state against the original scope, and detailed breakdown and reasons for the cost overruns.

The submission must include details of internal investigations, implicated officials, disciplinary actions, civil recovery and criminal referrals against implicated officials and consultants responsible for procurement irregularities;

- The BCMM and the BCMDA must submit a detailed plan addressing the completion, funding, timelines and operating model of the proposed East London Water World Fun Park PPP project. The plan must demonstrate how the facility will remain a public asset under municipal control, ensuring that pricing and access are not transferred to the private sector at the expense of community interest. The municipality must ensure that the proposed PPP arrangement is subjected to rigorous public-interest and affordability tests, including public consultation; and
- Invest in capacity building and training for municipal staff involved in financial management, procurement, and project oversight. This will ensure that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to manage funds and projects effectively and avoid the pitfalls of mismanagement.

9.2 Recommendations to be implemented or processes to be initiated within 60 days

It is crucial for Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality to address the ongoing concern of mismanagement of funds, which diverts public money from its intended purpose of improving water access and infrastructure. To ensure the effective and responsible use of public resources, the following actions are strongly recommended;

- Establish a comprehensive and transparent system of financial oversight that includes regular and independent audits. These audits should be conducted at frequent intervals and the results made publicly available to promote accountability and reduce the risk of funds being misappropriated;
- Revise and reinforce procurement policies to ensure that contracts are awarded based on merit, transparency, and competitive bidding. This will help minimise corruption and the awarding of contracts to unqualified or unscrupulous entities, reducing the likelihood of substandard work or incomplete projects;
- Involve local communities in the decision-making process related to water access and infrastructure projects. Establish feedback mechanisms that allow citizens to report concerns or progress on these projects, ensuring that their needs are met and that the municipality remains answerable to the public;

- Set clear timelines and performance benchmarks for all infrastructure and water access projects. Any delays or deviations from the initial plans should be reported transparently, with proper justifications provided for any changes, to avoid unfinished or subpar projects.
- Maintain open lines of communication with the public, national government bodies, and other stakeholders. Regularly update them on the status of projects, including financial expenditures, challenges faced, and milestones achieved. This will foster trust and demonstrate a commitment to transparency;
- Ensure that there are strong legal repercussions for individuals involved in the mismanagement of public funds. A clear and enforceable accountability framework will act as a deterrent against corruption and wasteful spending; and
- By taking these actions, the municipality can work towards better utilisation of public funds, ensuring that infrastructure projects, particularly those related to water access, are completed successfully and meet the needs of the community. Additionally, these measures will help restore public trust in the municipality and national government institutions tasked with safeguarding public resources.

10. Further recommendations for OR Tambo District Municipality and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality

The Committee recommends that the ORTDM and the BCMM submit close-out/handover reports to Parliament within 30 days of adoption of this report by the Committee. These reports should be submitted strictly before the conclusion of the current municipal term and should outline progress on infrastructure projects, consequence management, and the implementation of the SIU and AGSA's recommendations. These reports must detail specific remedial actions, responsible officials, and completion deadlines to ensure continuous oversight, smooth transition to incoming municipal councils, and long-term accountability.

In light of serious concerns surrounding the mismanagement of funds and potential malfeasance within both OR Tambo District Municipality and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, it is strongly recommended that a comprehensive investigation be undertaken into the conduct of these municipalities. The investigation should be led by the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), and should include the following key actions:

- A thorough investigation into the financial management and execution of all ongoing and completed projects within both municipalities should be conducted. This should cover water access projects, infrastructure development, and any other projects funded by public funds. The focus of this review should be to identify discrepancies, irregularities, or failures in the management and execution of these projects, particularly those that have not achieved their intended outcomes. The review should also include an assessment of any unreported or incomplete projects.
- A detailed lifestyle audit should be conducted on senior municipal officials and officials in SCM units for both OR Tambo District Municipality and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. This includes but is not limited to, mayors, municipal managers, and heads of relevant departments. The goal of the audit is to identify any unexplained wealth or financial gains, which could indicate corrupt practices, misappropriation of funds, or illicit activities. Discrepancies between their legitimate income and lifestyle should be investigated thoroughly.
- The investigation should assess the procurement and contract management processes within both municipalities. Any evidence of nepotism, favouritism, or illegal activities in awarding contracts must be identified. This will ensure that public resources are being used efficiently and for the benefit of the community, rather than being diverted for personal or political gain. Special attention should be given to instances where contracts were awarded without proper procedures, or where there have been delays or cost overruns.
- All financial transactions involving large sums of money, particularly those allocated for infrastructure and water access projects, should be scrutinised. The investigation should examine budget allocations, actual expenditures, and the timelines of project completions. A review of financial documentation should include invoices, payment records, and receipts to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.
- If the investigation reveals malfeasance or illegal activities, immediate action should be taken. This includes criminal prosecution, where applicable, as well as internal disciplinary measures within the municipalities. Those found guilty of corruption, mismanagement, or any illegal activities should be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law, including facing consequences such as removal from office, fines, or imprisonment.

By initiating this thorough investigation, OR Tambo District Municipality and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality can take critical steps toward rebuilding public trust and ensuring that funds are used appropriately for the development of infrastructure, water access, and other

essential services. These actions will also demonstrate a strong commitment to transparency, accountability, and the eradication of corruption at the local government level.

To ensure continuous accountability and seamless intergovernmental tracking, the OR Tambo District Municipality and the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality must formally notify the provincial MEC for COGTA, the national Minister of Finance and the Minister of COGTA regarding their specific plans and progress in implementing the Committee's recommendations within 30 days of the adoption of this report by the Committee. This notification should include structured and time-bound action plans detailing how each municipality intends to address the flagged compliance failures in procurement and expenditure management, consequence management directives, and weaknesses in internal controls.

Following the adoption of this report by the National Assembly, it should be forwarded to the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs for its information and further oversight. The municipality should also submit quarterly progress reports to the Committee on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations until the Committee is satisfied that the identified matters have been adequately addressed.

11. Conclusion

The Committee was generally disappointed by the extent to which the municipal management has not addressed the financial management weaknesses identified in the audit report, especially as some of these matters had been raised in the previous audits and addressing matters related to the SIU findings.

In the light of the above, the Committee resolved that the AGSA should conduct a follow-up special audit into the matter of the financial weaknesses of the municipalities.

The Committee recommends that the Executive Authorities submit a quarterly progress report on the implementation of the above recommendations to the National Assembly within 60 days after the adoption of this report by the House.

Report to be considered.

5. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON ANNUAL BRIEFINGS BY DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION (DPCI) AND THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATING UNIT (SIU) ON PROCESSING OF MATTERS REFERRED TO IT BY THE AUDITOR-GENERAL OF SOUTH AFRICA (AGSA), DATED 3 JUNE 2026

The Standing Committee on the Auditor-General (SCoAG), after having received its annual briefings from the DPCI and SIU on the processing of material irregularities referred to it by the AGSA, reports as follows:

1. Introduction

1.1 The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) is established in terms of Chapter 9 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (the Constitution) and is a state institution supporting constitutional democracy. The Constitution guarantees the AGSA's independence and requires that the institution operates in an impartial manner, and performs its functions without fear, favour or prejudice.

1.2 Section 2(c) of the Public Audit Act No 25 of 2004, as amended by the Public Audit Amendment Act No 5 of 2018 (PAA), on the objects of the PAA, is to provide for an oversight mechanism established in terms of Section 10(3) to assist and protect the Auditor-General (AG) in order to **ensure the independence, impartiality, dignity and effectiveness of the AG** and to advise the National Assembly. Section 10(3) of the PAA further requires the National Assembly to provide for a mechanism to maintain oversight of the AG in terms of section 55(2)(b)(ii) of the Constitution. Accordingly, the Rules of the National Assembly provide for the establishment of the SCoAG.

1.3 NA Rule 227 (1) (c) further empowers portfolio committees to *"monitor, investigate, inquire into and make recommendations concerning any such executive organ of state, constitutional institution or other body or institution."*

1.4 In conducting such enquiries, a committee is also empowered in terms of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2004 (Act 4 of 2004) to summon any person to appear before it or to produce documents.

1.5 This report comprises four parts: Part A, dealing with the background of the briefing requests; Part B, provides an update from AGSA on matters referred since the last engagement; Part C, covering the details of the briefings from DPCI and SIU; and Part D, containing the committee recommendations.

Part A

2. Background

2.1 During the Fifth Parliament (2014 – 2019), the Public Audit Act was amended by the Public Audit Amendment Act, 2018, which was signed into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa on November 20, 2018, and came into effect on April 1, 2019. These amendments, known as Act No. 5 of 2018, significantly expanded the mandate of the Auditor-General, granting powers to take remedial action, issue certificates of debt, and refer material irregularities for investigation to strengthen accountability in the public sector.

2.2 Section 5(1A) of the PAA provides that the AG may refer any suspected material irregularity identified during an audit performed under this Act to a relevant public body for investigation, and the relevant public body must keep the AG informed of progress and the final outcome/s of the investigation.

2.3 At a meeting with the AGSA on 6 September 2024, the Committee requested the AG to advise how best to support the AGSA in the implementation of the amendments to PAA.

2.4 The AG advised that the AGSA had adequate powers to ensure delivery of its core mandate, however, the slow processes of other state institutions like the DPCI, otherwise referred to the “Hawks”, and the SIU impacted the AGSA in performing its mandate. The AGSA was working on strengthening collaboration with these institutions however there seemed to be a need for those institutions to improve their own processes.

2.5 The Committee invited these investigative bodies to do briefings to the Committee in September 2025 on their efficiency in the processing of matters referred to them by the AGSA.

2.6 The Committee, in its report to the National Assembly (NA ATC-203-2025-11-20-ENG) and in line with its mandate to ensure the independence, impartiality, dignity and effectiveness of the AG, committed to:

- Having annual engagements with investigative agencies to monitor and track progress in dealing with referrals from the AGSA;
- Monitor the broader communication between the DPCI, SIU and AGSA, specifically the MOU's on fast-tracking referrals and overlapping responsibilities which was identified as an area for improvement;
- Monitor the communication collaboration between DPCI, SIU, and AGSA to make successes more visible as communicating investigation outcomes to the public was critical;
- Monitor the finalisation of the National Anti-Corruption Risk Management Framework (SIU);
- Monitor the implementation of the SIU reporting mechanism to the President, in collaboration with SCOPA; and
- Advise and update the National Assembly accordingly.

Part B

3. AGSA update on material irregularity (MI) referrals to DPCI and SIU

3.1 The AGSA provided the Committee with a written update (dated 12 May 2026) on its MI referrals to the DPCI and SIU to assist the Committee in executing its oversight role, as follows:

3.1.1 Since the inception of the MI process, the AGSA had referred 19 MIs to the DPCI and 32 MIs to the SIU for further investigation.

3.1.2 Overall, there had been measurable progress in advancing the referrals made to the SIU, while the majority of the matters referred to the DPCI remained under investigation.

3.1.3 The progress observed in relation to certain referrals could, in part, be attributed to early and proactive engagement between the AGSA and the investigative bodies, including discussions on the scope of the MI and the evidence required prior to referral. This had assisted in reducing delays and limiting the need for significant rework following referral.

3.1.4 In a number of instances, the referred MIs were supported by sufficient factual and evidentiary information, enabling the investigative bodies to advance investigative and related processes with greater clarity.

3.1.5 Ongoing collaboration continued through the respective MOU arrangements between our institutions, enabling follow-up engagements, joint discussions and information requests, where required. This had contributed to a more coordinated approach in relation to referred MIs and demonstrated the value of sustained inter-institutional collaboration in supporting the implementation of the AGSA's expanded mandate.

3.1.6 Notwithstanding the progress outlined above, a number of constraints continued to affect the pace at which certain referrals progress and are concluded. Several of the earlier MI referrals continued to reflect that the investigation was ongoing / in progress, with limited accountability outcomes achieved to date. In relation to matters referred to the SIU, delays in the commencement of investigations were largely attributable to the time required for the proclamation process, including consideration by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, as well as the subsequent processes preceding the issuing of proclamations by the President.

3.1.7 Capacity and prioritisation constraints within the investigative bodies, particularly where large volumes of complex matters compete with broader national priorities, also contributed to slow progression of certain cases. In addition, evidence dependencies, including access to third-party records, banking information and historical documentation, continued to affect the pace of investigations in certain matters. These observations point primarily to structural and process-related constraints affecting the progression of investigations, rather than concerns regarding the basis for the referral decisions themselves.

3.1.8 The progress and challenges outlined above demonstrate the important role of the AGSA's enforcement and referral mechanisms in supporting the identification and escalation of significant governance failures. However, the achievement of accountability outcomes remains dependent on sustained responsiveness across the broader accountability ecosystem. Continued oversight and engagement by the Committee would remain important in supporting the timely progression of referrals and strengthening accountability, consequence management and the recovery of financial losses.

Part C

4. Briefing from the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) commonly known as the "Hawks" on MI's referred by the AGSA on 15 May 2026

4.1 The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) received an invitation from the Committee in line with the provisions of section 17k(1) of the South African Police Service Act 68 of 1995, which provides that Parliament shall effectively oversee the functioning of the Directorate and the Committees established in terms of Chapter 6A of the Police Act.

4.2 The South African Police Service Act, 1995, established the DPCI as an independent directorate within the SAPS to provide a specialized and independent unit to tackle serious crimes, succeeding a previous unit known as the Scorpions, to improve the investigation and prosecution of significant criminal activity in South Africa. The Act aimed to ensure the DPCI had the necessary structural and operational independence to operate effectively and without undue interference.

4.3 DPCI investigates national priority offences, including serious corruption, commercial crime, and organised crime, as defined under the South African Police Service Act and the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004 (PRECCA).

4.4 The Minister of Police, Mr Feroz Cachalia, introduced the team and Lieutenant Colonel Seliane, Senior Officer at the DPCI, presented key updates on the investigations relating to referrals from the AGSA since its previous update on 5 September 2025.

4.5 The DPCI presentation focussed on AGSA referrals related to material irregularities (MIs) involving fraud, non-compliance, theft, or breaches causing financial loss or harm to public institutions.

4.6 The DPCI was managing a total of 21 cases, of which 17 (difference between the 19 cases, reported by AGSA, and the 17, reported by DPCI, was because two referrals - Thabazimbi and City of Matlosana - were still in process and had not yet reached the DPCI) related to material irregularities, 4 were at court, 14 were under investigation, and 1 case had been finalised with a guilty outcome.

4.7 The status of cases in the respective departments were as follows:

7

HAWKS
DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION

STATUS OF CASES IN THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS

No.	DEPARTMENTS	NO OF REFERRALS	NO. OF CASES ON HAND	NO. OF CASES IN COURT	NO. OF CASES SUBMITTED FOR DECISION	NO. OF CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION
1.	South African Post Office SA Post Bank/South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) Grants	3	7	4	0	3
2.	Matjhabeng Municipality	1	1	0	1	0
3.	Free State Development Corporation	1	1	0	0	1
4.	Department of Human Settlement	6	6	0	1	5
5.	Department of Education	1	1	0	1	0
6.	Department of Defence	1	1	0	0	1
7.	Mohokare Local Municipality	2	2	0	0	2
8.	Madibeng Local Municipality	1	1	0	0	1
9.	Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality	1	1	0	0	1
TOTAL		17	21	4	3	14

During the last briefing to the Portfolio Committee on 5 September 2025, a total of **278 statements** had been obtained. Since that reporting period, an additional **84 statements** have been collected, bringing the overall total to **362 statements**.

4.8 The volume of statements obtained during the investigation process underscored the extensive effort involved, particularly given that white-collar crimes were predominantly document-based. This work included the collection and analysis of data, which was then incorporated into the content of witness statements. Witnesses themselves were also required to rely on substantial documentary evidence and data.

4.9 It was further noted that these cases were investigated through a multi-disciplinary approach which included the application of the Prosecutor-Guided Investigation (PGI) methodology and collaboration with key stakeholders.

4.10 The investigations under consideration were extraordinary in scale and complexity, far exceeding the scope of ordinary criminal inquiries.

Volume of Documentation:

Across 17 Major Investigations, a total of 107 files were generated. Individual case dockets frequently may surpass 50, 100, 200, or even 250 files, requiring investigators to manage archive-level volumes of records and statements.

Attending to Referrals and Proactive Collaboration:

The Auditor-General (AG) audits financial years that are typically two to three years prior to referral. By the time matters are referred to the DPCI, investigators are already facing a significant delay, complicating evidence collection and case progression.

4.11 To mitigate these delays, the AG and DPCI have established a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) enabling proactive information sharing. Potential criminal findings are flagged and shared with provinces in real time, allowing investigators to identify existing cases and strengthen ongoing investigations.

Illustrative Case Example:
In Zastron CAS 67/05/2025, the AG audit (2023/2024 financial year) uncovered irregular payments dating back to January 2015. The matter was only referred to DPCI in April 2025, meaning investigators began their work with a 10-year gap between the original transactions and the start of the investigation.

Key undertakings

4.12 Following the discussion with the Committee, key undertakings from the DPCI and AGSA were as follows:

a. The DPCI undertook to continue prioritising these matters through dedicated teams, head-office monitoring and prosecutor-guided investigations, with the intention of demonstrating more substantial progress before the end of the year.
b. The DPCI further undertook to improve the format of future reports so that progress, outstanding actions and movement on each case was reflected more clearly.
c. The DPCI indicated that it would continue strengthening investigative capacity through recruitment and the use of improved investigative methods, including data analytics and multidisciplinary approaches.
d. The AGSA undertook to continue reconciling referrals with the DPCI, to utilise the renewed MOU for earlier risk-based engagement, and to continue making direct referrals where appropriate.
e. The AGSA advised that it was monitoring trends including water tankering, overtime abuse, standing-time payments, misuse of implementing agents and SASSA/Post Office-related fraud, and would continue reporting relevant patterns to the Committee.
f. The Minister undertook to engage further with AGSA and DPCI leadership on strengthening this area of the accountability system and to pursue concerns raised regarding Mangaung and the broader municipal accountability environment, and suggested involving other stakeholders, such as the Department of Local Government, particularly in addressing entrenched issues in places like Mangaung.

4.13 The Chairperson noted the upcoming engagement with the SIU on the 29th May 2026, where the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development would be invited, as proclamations for investigations depended on that office.

5. Briefings from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) and the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) on matters referred by the AGSA on 29 May 2026

Briefing from the DoJ&CD

5.1 The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development reaffirmed the department's commitment in supporting the SIU and ensuring it could operate without hindrance, while also working to process referrals efficiently. She highlighted communication gaps and procedural delays as key challenges, particularly in the flow of submissions between the SIU, the department, and the Minister's office. Key issues raised included:

- Delays in proclamations due to back-and-forth submissions and compliance checks.
- Cases where the cost of investigations may exceed the value being investigated.
- The problem of narrow proclamations, which required later amendments when new issues emerged, causing further delays. She suggested drafting broader proclamations to improve efficiency.

5.2 She explained that the process for handling SIU referrals was submission → departmental evaluation → compliance checks → ministerial review → recommendation to the President for proclamation. The Minister emphasised that her role was to ensure legal compliance, not to alter investigations. She noted that several proclamations had recently been processed and authorised, with more under consideration. Finally, she introduced the officials present and handed over to the Acting Director-General, Ms Pillay, for the DoJ&CD to present further details.

5.3 Ms Pillay proceeded to provide progress made on the matters received from the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) for consideration and referral to The Presidency for approval.

5.4 In the past two Financial Years, the Department had facilitated and published a significant number of proclamations – 47 for 2024/2025 and 17 for 2025/2026.

Concerns Relating to SIU Matters

5.5 The following issues were generally identified regarding motivations from the SIU, namely:

- Existence of numerous investigations by other entities and private bodies over the same subject matter, resulting in multiple investigations at huge costs to the State.
- Finalised investigations by the time the AGSA issues both the audit finding and the material irregularity notices.
- Disagreements between the AGSA and relevant Entity/Institution – with regard to material irregularities – (question) is the SIU the appropriate vehicle to resolve such disagreements and to enforce the findings of the AGSA.
- Lack of supporting letters from the relevant entities to be investigated, where required – some matters end up being processed without letters – which is not desirable as there may be certain relevant factors that may be mentioned for consideration.
- Issue of the amount involved in the alleged maladministration to warrant a SIU Proclamation and its costs.
- Costs of SIU investigations to many municipalities who are cash-strapped as opposed to the possible value that can be gained from an investigation, particularly where other investigations and findings have been made, which were not implemented.
- Cost implications of investigations by the SIU appear not to be a consideration on whether to investigate a matter or not.

Consideration of SIU Requests

5.6 In considering requests for referral, the following considerations, amongst others, are taken into account:

- Whether the institution/entity is a State institution as defined in the Act.
- Whether the allegations involve amounts of approximately R2,5 million.
- Who made the allegations to the SIU and what information or evidence was provided.
- If findings of the MI were referred to the SIU by the AGSA in terms of the Public Audit Act – substantiated by a letter received from the AGSA and various annexures.
- Whether the allegations appear to fall within the ambit of section 2(2) of the Act and are serious enough to warrant an investigation by the SIU.
- The prospects of recovery of some of the damages or losses which the State may have suffered.

- Whether there are any current or pending investigations or proceedings into the allegations.
- Foreseeable legal risks to the proposed investigation into the allegations set out in paragraph above.
- What is the opinion of the Head of the SIU – should the matters be referred to the SIU for investigation.
- Whether the SIU has the human resource capacity and expertise to undertake an investigation of the nature of the matter.
- Whether the investigation will have the added benefit of—
    - exposing corrupt employees or officials which may lead to the curtailment of future unauthorised, irregular and wasteful expenditure; and
    - identifying shortcomings in the risk management systems of the institution/entity to be investigated.

5.7 In light of the considerations as mentioned above:

- The Department scrutinises the motivation and draft Proclamation, assesses legal and factual issues contained in the motivation – reverts to the SIU for clarification of certain issues, where necessary.
- Upon receipt of the clarifications, the Department further engages and prepares a memorandum to the Minister with a draft President's Note, Proclamation and President's Minute, with a recommendation to the Minister to advise the President to issue a Proclamation.
- Where matters of a legal nature arise, legal opinions are sometimes sought to address the issues.
- The Department also often liaises with the legal advisors in the Presidency in relation to SIU Proclamations.
- The Minister is responsible to exercise control over SIU and to advise the President on the applications (whether to consider issuing or not) for Proclamations – Therefore, the motivation must be evaluated as a whole.
- The role of the Department and the Minister is not to merely rubber-stamp a request from the SIU for a proclamation, but for it to apply itself and to advise the Minister accordingly of any shortcomings.

Processing Delays

5.8 The Unit dedicated to processing the requests is also responsible for development of legislation – Department has huge legislative mandate.

5.9 The Unit has severe capacity challenges – however these are being addressed.

5.10 A process of filling 5 posts is at an advanced stage (verifications of candidates' credentials and approval).

Table 1: List of Proclamations

SIU ITEM NO	SUBJECT MATTER	STATUS
18	Department of Military Veterans (emergency housing)	Memo and relevant documents prepared - submitted for consideration and transmission to the Minister
19	Department of Roads and Public Works (NC) – overpayments	One combined memo and relevant documents prepared - submitted for consideration and transmission to the Minister
20	Department of Roads and Public Works (NC) – standing time	
21	Department of Education (NC)	Memo and relevant documents prepared - submitted for consideration and transmission to the Minister
22	Department of Education – Construction of Tlholo Primary School (FS)	One combined memo and relevant documents prepared - submitted for consideration and transmission to the Minister
23	Department of Education – Construction of Malebogo Primary School (FS)	
24	Department of Education – Construction of Caleb Motshabi Primary School (FS)	
25	Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality (FS)	Memo and relevant documents prepared - submitted for consideration and transmission to the Minister
26	Public Security Industry Regulatory Authority	The PSiRA proclamation has been signed by the President – will be processed for publication

5.11 The following should be noted when referring to Table 1 above:

- The motivations (on overpayments and standing time) for the Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works have been processed as one proclamation.
- The motivations (on Tlhole, Malebogo and Caleb primary Schools) for the Free State Department of Education have been processed as one proclamation.

5.12 Therefore, instead of 9 proclamations as indicated in the SIU presentation, there will be 6 proclamations.

Briefing from the SIU

5.13 The Acting Head: SIU introduced Mr Lekgetho who delivered the presentation.

Constitutional and Legislative Mandate

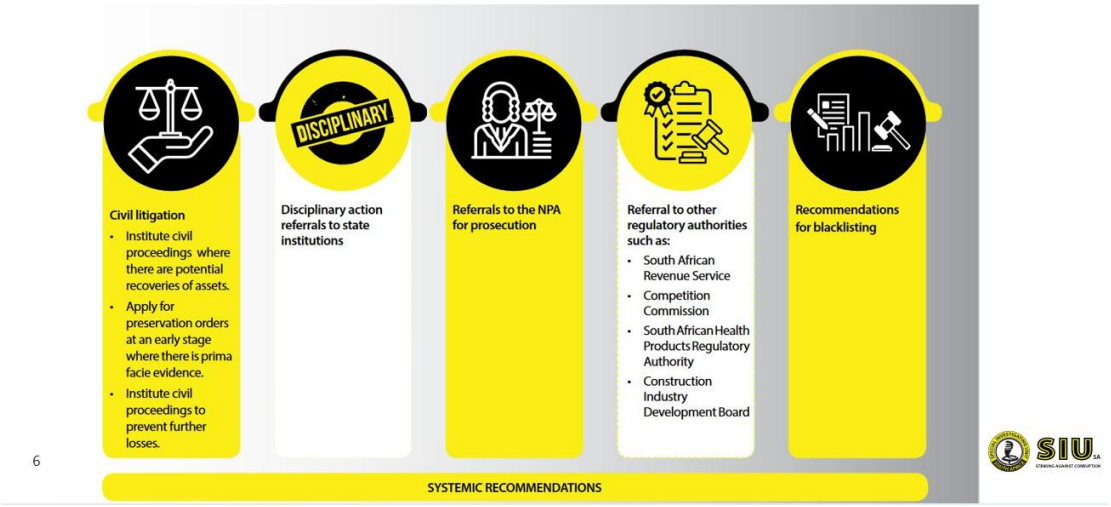
5.14 The SIU carries out its mandate in line with the fundamental rights in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The unit has a specific and direct impact on Sections 32, 33 and 34 of the Constitution, under the Bill of Rights section promoting access to information, just administrative action, and access to the courts.

5.15 The Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, 1996 (Act no. 74 of 1996) in South Africa established the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) as an independent statutory body to investigate corruption, malpractice and maladministration, institute civil proceedings in state institutions.

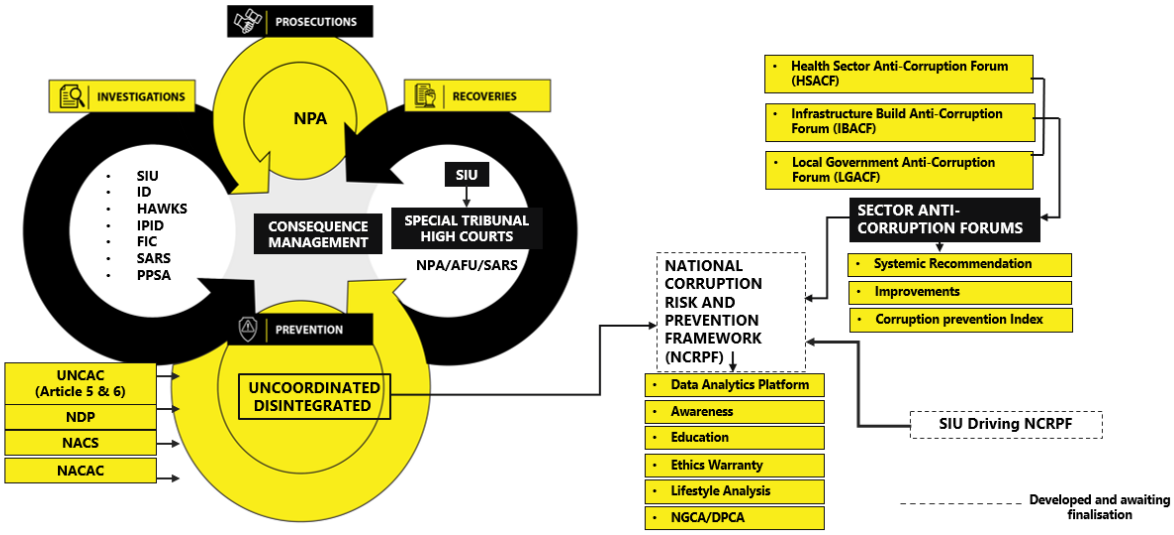
5.16 The legislation grants the SIU powers to subpoena, search and seize evidence, interrogate witnesses under oath (once a proclamation has been issued) and institute civil litigation to recover state funds lost or to prevent future losses.

5.17 The Act gives the SIU significant authority to carry out its mandate in the form of arresting or prosecuting offenders, implementing disciplinary actions and working closely with other relevant agencies where its powers fall short (see illustrations below on *SIU outcomes & Consequence Management*, the *Fight Against Corruption, Maladministration & Malpractice Ecosystem* and the *Motivation and Proclamation Process*).

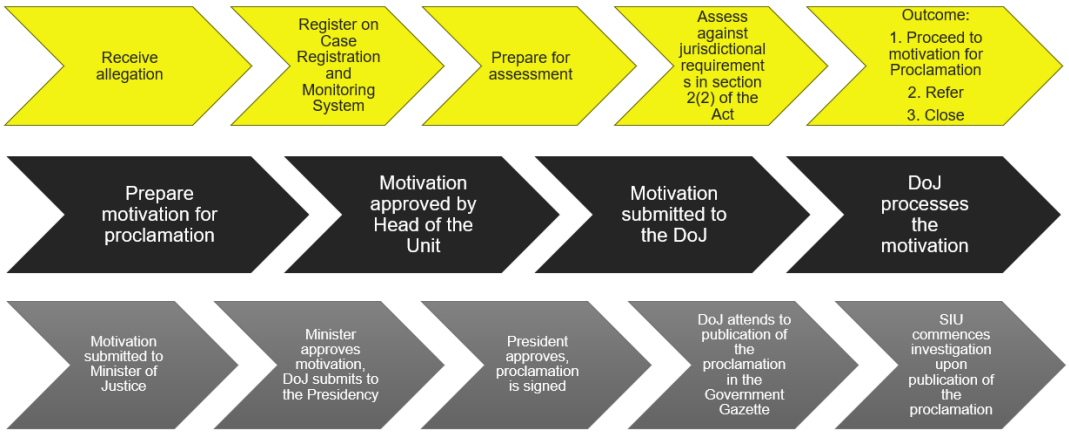
SIU OUTCOMES & CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT



Ecosystem - Fight Against Corruption, Maladministration & Malpractice



MOTIVATION AND PROCLAMATION PROCESS



AGSA MI referrals to the SIU

5.18 The SIU and AGSA concluded an MoU in 2022 to enhance co-operation between the Parties. The MoU was reviewed and updated in July 2025. In terms of the MoU, the AGSA may refer MI's to the SIU for assessment with a view of the SIU applying for a Proclamation to investigate such MI's.

No. of MIs Referred	No. of MIs investigated under existing Proclamations	No. of MIs resulting in Proclamations	No. of MIs resulting in Motivations for Proclamations which are pending with the Department of Justice ("DoJ")	No. of MIs being prepared for assessment against the jurisdictional requirements of the SIU&ST Act
32	4	13	9	6

Overview of SIU proclamations

5.19 At the time of the presentation, there were 4 existing proclamations, 13 new proclamations and 9 motivations for proclamations and 6 being prepared for assessment against jurisdictional requirements of the SIU&ST Act, as per Table 2 below.

Table 2:

STATE INSTITUTION	VALUE OF THE CONTRACTS	SIU PROCESS	PROCLAMATION NO.	STATUS
1. National Treasury - IFMS	R822 300 505.60	Existing Proclamation	R4 of 2020, amended by R40 of 2020	Finalised - Support Phase
2. Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality - Generators (NW) 3. Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality - Water	R25 000 000.00	Existing Proclamation	R23 of 2020	Finalised
4. National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure		Existing Proclamation	R20 of 2018	Finalised
5. JB Marks Local Municipality (NW)	R31 983 632.30	New Proclamation	R.196 OF 2024	Finalised
6. Amajuba District Municipality (KZN)	R59 913 612.34	New Proclamation	R137 of 2023	Finalised
7. uMngeni-uThukela Water – Consultancy services (KZN) 8. uMngeni-uThukela Water – Security services	R598 710 749.89	New Proclamation	R122 of 2023	Finalised

9. Department of Defence and Military Veterans	R922 000 000.00	New Proclamation	239 of 2025	Ongoing
10. State Information Technology Agency	R24 825 828.95	New Proclamation	258 of 2025	Ongoing
11. Chris Hani District Municipality – goods and services (EC)	R214 503 210.51	New Proclamation	216 of 2024	On Hold
12. Chris Hani District Municipality - VAT payments (EC)	R84 000 000.00	New Proclamation	256 of 2025	Ongoing
13. Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (MP)	R11 375 017.82	New Proclamation	259 of 2025	Ongoing
14. Office of the Premier – Free State (FS)	R14 200 000.00	New Proclamation	R123 of 2023	Ongoing
15. uMzinyathi District Municipality – fuel (KZN) 16. uMzinyathi District Municipality – generator	R210 000 000	New Proclamation	305 of 2026	Ongoing
17. Siyathemba Local Municipality (NC)		New Proclamation	295 of 2025	Ongoing
18. Department of Military Veterans (emergency housing)	R11 366 941.52	Motivation for a Proclamation	under consideration	DoJ on 26 Nov 2024
19. Department of Roads and Public Works - Overpayments (NC) 20. Department of Roads and Public Works – standing time	R282 551 257.74	Motivation for a Proclamation x2	under consideration	DoJ on 07 Feb 2025 DoJ on 06 Aug 2025
21. Department of Education (NC)	R54 400 113.26	Motivation for a Proclamation	under consideration	DoJ on 30 Sep 2025
22. Department of Education – Construction of Tlholo Primary School (FS)	R24 000 000.00	Motivation for a Proclamation	under consideration	DoJ on 23 Jun 2025
23. Department of Education – Construction of Malebogo Primary School (FS)		Motivation for a Proclamation	under consideration	
24. Department of Education – Construction of Caleb Motshabi Primary School (FS)		Motivation for a Proclamation	under consideration	
25. Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality - Overpayments (FS)	R23 228 384.00	Motivation for a Proclamation	under consideration	DOJ on 15 Oct 2025

26. Public Security Industry Regulatory Authority		Motivation for a Proclamation	under consideration	DoJ on 07 Oct 2025
27. Department of Military Veterans (non-usage of machinery)	R204 600 000.00	Secondment	Secondment	Ongoing
28. Department of Defence (St George's Hotel)		Under assessment	Assessment	
29. Road Accident Fund (intercepted payments)		Under assessment	Assessment	
30. Road Accident Fund (overpayment of claims)		Under assessment	Assessment	
31. Mangaung Municipality (fuel losses)		Under assessment	Assessment	
32. Mangaung Municipality (debt collection)		Under assessment	Assessment	

Summary of outcomes

5.20 The outcomes from SIU investigations as a result of matters referred to SIU by AGSA are illustrated in Table 3 below:

Table 3:

Summary of SIU outcomes over the period 2020 to date	
Output Indicators	**Total**
Potential cash and/or assets to be recovered	**R26 558 966.59**
Actual cash and/or assets recovered	**R6 399 434.52**
Rand value of matters referred for the institution or defence/opposition of civil proceedings	**R25 000 000**
Referrals to the National Prosecuting Authority	**43**
Referrals for disciplinary action against officials and/or executives	**58**
Referrals made for administrative action	**16**

Trends and Patterns from matters referred by the AGSA

5.21 The SIU identified the following trends and patterns from the matters referred by the AGSA:

- Non-compliance with procedures
- Contravention of the MFMA and Regulations

- Irregular contracts
- Corruption
- Irregularities in the supply chain management processes
- Fraud
- Irregular appointment of service providers
- Procurement irregularities
- Overpricing
- Conflicts of interest
- Fruitless and wasteful expenditure
- Service providers failing to fulfil contractual obligations

Conclusion

5.22 From the 32 Material Irregularities referred by the AGSA to the SIU -

- 8 proclaimed investigations have since been finalised
- 9 proclaimed investigations are still ongoing
- 1 Secondment
- 9 Motivation for Proclamation under consideration by the Department of Justice.
- 5 being prepared for assessment against the jurisdictional requirements of the SIU&ST Act.

Key undertakings

5.23 The Committee raised concerns about delays in proclamations, weak consequence management, duplication across institutions, and the need for stronger accountability and prevention measures. In response, the Minister, AGSA, DoJ&CD and SIU outlined steps being taken to improve coordination, streamline proclamations, strengthen prevention-focused interventions, and enhance reporting on implementation of recommendations. Key undertakings from the Minister, the AGSA, the DoJ&CD and the SIU were as follows:

The Minister

5.24 The Minister acknowledged concerns about delays and lack of coordination in tackling corruption and emphasised the need for better alignment across government. She noted ongoing efforts to streamline processes, including improving how proclamations are drafted to reduce delays and prevent suspects from evading accountability. Key points were:

- Coordination and duplication: Government was working to reduce overlapping responsibilities, ensuring that clear criminal cases were handled directly by law enforcement (e.g., DPCI) rather than duplicating SIU processes.
- Shift to prevention: There was a stronger focus on preventing losses upfront, such as stopping irregular contracts early rather than relying on recovery after funds were lost.
- Legal developments: A recent Constitutional Court ruling limited payments on invalid contracts, helping the state avoid unnecessary losses.
- Efficiency vs thoroughness: While the Minister signed referrals quickly (within 48 hours), she stressed the need for careful, legally sound investigations to avoid losing cases in court.
- Improved communication: Ongoing efforts to ensure better coordination between the SIU and the department to reduce delays.
- Funding challenges: Highlighted that the SIU's current funding model was unsustainable, as it relied on payments from departments it was investigating. Proposed reforms would ensure direct funding from Treasury.

5.25 She concluded by requesting Parliament's support for legislative changes to strengthen the SIU's funding and effectiveness, before handing over to officials to respond further.

The AG

5.26 The AG welcomed the improved collaboration and momentum between AGSA, SIU, the Department of Justice, and the Presidency, noting progress in handling referrals and issuing proclamations. Key points were:

- Threshold misalignment: Highlighted a gap between AGSA's threshold (R1 million) for material irregularities and SIU's R2.5 million threshold for investigations, suggesting the need for further discussion on how to handle smaller but still significant cases.
- Primary accountability: Emphasised that accounting officers remained responsible for preventing losses, initiating action on irregularities, and ensuring investigations and recoveries were followed through. AGSA's role was supportive, not substitutive.
- Weak accountability: Where accounting officers failed to act, it reflected a breakdown in the accountability system.
- Strengthening the system: AGSA provided guidance and insights to all stakeholders (departments, audit committees, Parliament) to improve performance and was currently assessing the effectiveness of the accountability ecosystem.

- Need for better coordination: Supported calls for stronger collaboration among anti-corruption bodies (AGSA, SIU, DPCI) to improve impact, cost-effectiveness, and speed.
- Focus on prevention and recovery: Emphasised the importance of both preventing financial losses and acting quickly to recover funds, alongside strengthening internal controls.

5.27 She concluded by stressing that all stakeholders must improve coordination and execution to achieve faster, more effective accountability outcomes.

Acting DG: DoJ&CD

5.28 The Acting DG addressed several issues regarding investigations and delays:

- Investigation threshold: While the R2.5 million threshold was important, it was not absolute—cases involving systemic corruption or serious misconduct could still be investigated regardless of value. However, the cost of investigations must be considered, especially for financially constrained municipalities.
- Appropriate referrals: Not all matters required SIU investigation—clear criminal cases should go directly to the police (DPCI).
- Delays vs process: What may be seen as delays were often due to necessary processes, such as engagements with SIU, requests for additional information, and obtaining legal opinions to ensure sound decisions.
- Turnaround time: For straightforward cases, the department aimed to process proclamations within 10–20 days, provided no complications arose.
- Consolidation of cases: Combining multiple cases into fewer proclamations (e.g., within the same department and province) did not compromise investigations and might improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
- Key reform for accountability: Emphasised the need to strengthen and speed up internal disciplinary processes, ensuring accounting officers enforced them properly to improve accountability outcomes.

SIU

5.29 The Acting Head: SIU addressed key questions on SIU operations:

- Consolidation of cases: Confirmed that consolidating multiple allegations within the same department did not compromise investigations and could improve efficiency.

- Improved collaboration: Noted significant progress in cooperation with the DPCI, NPA, and SAPS, supported by MOUs to streamline referrals and enhance accountability outcomes.
- Action during investigations: Emphasised that the SIU acted proactively when irregularities were identified, it advised institutions to stop payments on contracts immediately, even before investigations concluded, to prevent further losses. SIU then pursued legal action to have such contracts set aside.
- Handling thresholds: Explained that SIU might aggregate related cases to meet financial thresholds for investigation, ensuring matters were still pursued where appropriate.
- Ongoing improvements: Highlighted the need for continued engagement with the Department of Justice to address delays, improve processes, and ensure faster handling of cases.
- Partnership with AGSA: Described the relationship with AGSA as strong and valuable, with effective cooperation supporting SIU investigations.
- Turnaround time: the ideal turnaround time for obtaining a proclamation was under 30 days, based on arrangements with the Department of Justice and the Presidency, although delays could arise if documents or approvals were outstanding. While waiting for a proclamation, the SIU said it had very limited powers and generally could not investigate or enforce action.
- Implicated officials who resign or move posts: SIU could
    - seek to freeze pensions through court action,
    - cite former officials in court proceedings for recovery of losses,
    - trace whether they had moved to another state institution and refer the matter there for action,
    - and still pursue criminal referrals regardless of whether they remained employed.
- Cases where the NPA declined to prosecute: SIU engaged the NPA to understand the reasons, provide further information where possible, and use that feedback to improve future referrals, although it had no alternative prosecuting authority to approach.

5.30 The Chief Programme Portfolio Officer: SIU explained how the SIU ensured that lessons from investigations led to preventative reforms:

- Dedicated prevention capacity: The SIU established specialised prevention, advisory, awareness, and data analytics units to focus on post-investigation reforms.

- Risk-based approach: It used investigation findings to identify systemic weaknesses and control gaps in institutions.
- Engagement with institutions: The SIU conducted targeted awareness sessions and worked with affected departments to develop systemic improvement plans.
- Implementation and support: SIU assisted institutions in implementing recommendations and strengthening internal controls.
- Data-driven insights: Produced trend analysis reports based on investigation data, with recommendations to prevent recurring irregularities.
- Monitoring compliance: Tracked implementation of recommendations, including oversight by the Presidency, which required feedback from institutions.
- Future improvements: A case monitoring system was being developed with the Presidency to enhance tracking and accountability.

5.31 He concluded that overall, the SIU was shifting toward a proactive, prevention-focused approach to reduce corruption and improve governance.

Committee requested additional information for future presentations

5.32 The Committee pointed out that the SIU presentation did not clearly show what happened after cases were finalised and requested information on the implementation of recommendations, including the number of disciplinary cases initiated and completed, criminal and civil cases taken to court, convictions secured and whether entities recommended for blacklisting were actually blacklisted. Future SIU presentations should include an additional column indicating detailed updates on every matter referred, including the status of criminal referrals and departmental implementation of recommendations.

Part D

6. Committee observations and recommendations

The Committee, in line with its mandate to ensure the independence, impartiality, dignity and effectiveness of the AG, makes the following observations and recommendations:

6.1 The Committee to maintain active oversight of the AGSA referred matters to the DPCI and SIU in light of the seriousness of the issues raised and the pace of progress reported.

6.2 The Committee commits to strengthening accountability, consequence management and recovery of lost public funds by monitoring the undertakings made by the Ministers, the departments, the DPCI, the SIU and the AGSA.

6.3 The Committee will continue having annual engagements with investigative agencies to monitor and track progress in dealing with referrals from the AGSA.

6.4 The Committee requests that future reports include detailed updates on each referral, including the status of disciplinary, criminal, and civil actions, and whether recommendations (e.g., blacklisting) have been implemented.

6.5 The Committee recommends that the DOJ and SIU develop a joint action plan to address procedural delays and capacity constraints, with regular progress reviews.

6.6 The Committee recommends the initiation of discussions between AGSA, SIU, and DOJ to harmonize thresholds for referrals, or develop a mechanism to ensure significant cases below the SIU threshold are not overlooked.

6.7 The Committee recommends the establishment of a formal mechanism for tracking the implementation of recommendations, including disciplinary actions, recoveries, and blacklisting, with regular feedback to the Committee.

6.8 The Committee to monitor and endorse legislative changes to provide direct Treasury funding to the SIU, ensuring its independence and operational sustainability.

6.9 The Committee recommends the establishment of a coordination forum between AGSA, SIU, DPCI, and DOJ to streamline referrals and avoid duplication.

6.10 The Committee to receive regular trend analysis reports from SIU and DPCI, with recommendations for systemic reforms to prevent recurring irregularities.

6.11 The Committee requests that future reports include not only actions taken but also the impact (e.g., funds recovered, officials sanctioned, contracts set aside), to assess the effectiveness of interventions.

6.12 The Committee will advise and update the National Assembly accordingly.

Report to be considered.