

**VOTE 9 BUDGET SPEECH FOR 2013/2014 PRESENTED TO THE KZN LEGISLATURE BY THE
MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY & LIAISON, MR TW MCHUNU
31 MAY 2013**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Madam Speaker;
The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Honourable Dr. Zweli Mkhize;
Members of the Provincial Executive Council;
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;
Amakhosi AseNdlunkulu present;
Mayors and Councillors of Municipalities;
Excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps;
Director-General and Heads of the various Departments;
The South African Police Service;
Senior officials of government departments;
Membership of the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster;
The leadership of the Community Policing Structures;
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;
All stakeholders;
Members of the media; and
People of KwaZulu-Natal,

I have the honour to present the budget speech for the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, Budget Vote 9, under the theme '**Accelerating People's Action Against Crime**'.

TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE

Chairperson, in 2009, the decree of the manifesto of this ANC led government came alive. The manifesto declared that '*together we can do more*' to fight crime and corruption. The priority outcome which the government intended is for our people 'being and feeling safe'. In pursuance of these obligations, the department interpreted the meaning of 'together we can do more to fight crime' as a call to build partnerships between government and the people to fight crime.

This interpretation led to the conceptualisation of our flagship programme of 'building a united front against crime' as a programmatic response to the manifesto.

REFLECTING ON SERVICE DELIVERY

Honourable members, I deemed it crucial that we reflect on how we have taken forward our service delivery programme of building a united front against crime, since this administration started in 2009 before delving on our approach moving forward. This is aimed at enabling us to evaluate ourselves in the interest of improving the quality of lives of our people.

Police Performance

In order to make an assessment of the effectiveness of the police, there can be no better indicator than the crime statistics and trends. It is therefore encouraging to note that the crime statistics in this province for the period 2009 to the end of March 2012 reflect downward trends for most crime categories.

There are, however, crime categories which reflected an upward trend and require additional attention. These include burglary at non-residential premises, public violence and common robbery.

At the same time, on a positive note, police action in detecting drug related crime and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs increased. In assessing the efficiency of the police service, it is important to have regard to the number of arrests made by the police and a total number of 280 641 arrests were made in the period 2011 to 2012.

These statistics firstly mean that the police are working extremely hard to identify and arrest criminals. Secondly, it means that our communities produce a large number of criminals. In other words, the police have their hands full and they are generally doing their best in an environment where crime is rampant and where their own lives are at stake and they themselves at times become the victims of criminals. As a Provincial Government we are deeply saddened by the many officers we lose in the line of duty and other circumstances and we call on everyone to campaign against police killings.

Departmental deliverables

The department has contributed to the fight against crime in the Province under the current administration.

Since 2009 to date, the department evaluated 355 police stations, assessed 81 victim support centres, evaluated 16 specialized units and conducted 67 interventions at under-performing stations.

Other highlights falling within the period under review include the launch of Building a United Front Against Crime, a strategy for the department to fight against crime driven by the vehicle called Operation Hlasela, monitoring the national and provincial elections together with a team of legal experts in 2009 and the hosting of the Summit Against Police Killings, as well as the Cross Border Crime Summit.

The rolling out of the provincial training initiative under the banner *Thathulwazi* to departmental stakeholders continues to be a success story. The successful hosting of Communities in Dialogue programme throughout the province greatly assisted in the fight against crime. Some of these areas include Mombeni, Mafakatini, UMTshezi, Ngudwini, Mtubatuba, Hlabisa and Dukuduku, to mention but a few. Some of these areas still remain under our close monitoring because of the nature and history of these communities, Ngudwini and UMTshezi being among such areas.

The intervention of the Multiparty Political Oversight Committee has contributed markedly to political stability in the Province pre- and post- elections. This committee achieved remarkable success in ensuring that peace and stability in preparation for the May 2011 Local Government elections was realized.

Unfortunately there has been a resurgence of violence in the Mbabazane / uMTshezi areas and the KwaMashu hostel. These have been characterized by the killing of councillors and political office bearers. Even more shocking is the arrest of a recently elected councillor on allegations of murder. These instances continue to leave profound sadness in our hearts.

We wish to condemn the recent upsurge of violence against older women and children and its relationship to the proliferation of drugs in the strongest possible terms. We also wish to call on our communities to support the Azibuye eMasisweni campaign led by the Premier and the MEC for Social Development.

In the process of pursuing our service delivery programmes, we also re-evaluated ourselves as the department and realised that there were gaps in our functioning. To address this, we had to review of strategic focus and our organisational structure.

A NEW STRATEGIC FOCUS

The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act, enacted in 2011, confirmed our interpretation of the manifesto by requiring provinces to develop community safety partnerships by requiring provinces to develop community safety partnerships, thereby giving legislative life to the 'Building A United Front Against Crime' programme. This programme identified certain processes which needed to be embarked upon.

The first process was the repositioning of the department's strategic focus. In order to adequately address the scourge of crime, our mindset had to be re-oriented to see this department as an activist against crime and the strategic centre of crime-fighting in KZN.

The new strategic outlook of the department rests on five pillars.

A HOLISTIC FRAMEWORK

The first pillar is the establishment of a holistic community liaison framework through which the government can reach partners, develop partnerships, develop safety models and drive safety initiatives. The holistic community liaison framework was adopted by the Executive Council on 4 December 2012.

The framework was designed to accommodate liaison with communities and stakeholders from a provincial level down to a voting district level.

A permanent advisory and consultative platform in the form of the KwaZulu-Natal Council Against Crime will soon be launched. The Council will comprise of representatives of the Premier, Members of the Executive Council, the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster, the House of Traditional Leaders, Religious Leaders, Business, Youth, Organised Labour, the Provincial Community Police Board, the KZN Community Crime Prevention Association and the Private Security Industry.

One of the key output expected from the Council is to facilitate, encourage and promote broad societal education programmes for people of all ages in KwaZulu-Natal on the prevention of crime in the community, with our initial focus on those who are involved in crime fighting structures.

On a district level, the role of the Council will be fulfilled by District Community Safety Forums (CSFs). At ward committee level, the Ward Safety Committee will be established by the ward councillor, assisted by the safety representative on the ward committee. On a voting district level, the residents in each voting district will form a safety team of approximately 10 members with clearly spelt out terms of reference.

Training to the safety teams and committee members will be provided by the department under its societal educational programme.

Due to the higher incidence of crime in certain areas, the wards within 65 police station areas, identified after consultation with the police, are being prioritised and the focus placed on the priority crimes in each area.

ROBUST COMMUNITY POLICING

The second pillar of the new strategic focus is the formation of robust Community Police Forum structures.

The re-establishment of the Provincial Community Police Board has, with the assistance of the department and the SAPS, finalised the new constitution and its adoption 20 October 2012. For the first time representation of the Youth Desk on the Provincial Board is provided for in the constitution to ensure a direct link to the youth.

The next phase of the revitalisation of the community police structures in the Province is replicating the abovementioned process in all the 25 police clusters under the leadership of the newly elected Executive Committee and re-established Board and thereafter doing so in respect of all the Community Police Forums.

COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION

The third pillar of the strategy is harnessing and directing the energies of community crime prevention efforts.

Community Crime Prevention Associations

When mentioning specific community crime prevention associations, the most notable being isiKebhe, mostly negative responses are received, both within and outside government.

In reality, the emergence of these associations presented both a challenge and an opportunity to government. The government was faced with groupings of people who are largely unregulated and operating outside CPF structures and, at times, outside even the boundaries of the law. It was also faced with many residents who have taken it upon themselves to protect themselves and others without any reward other than safety itself.

The government further had an opportunity to recognise the constitutional right of these organisations to exist as long as they operate within the confines of the law. Government also had to recognise that CPFs are not the only structures in existence which are concerned with policing and crime prevention and that in fact Chapter 7 of the South African Police Service Act of 1995 provides specifically that the South African Police Service may liaise with the community by means other than through community police forums and boards.

Building a bridge between the police and these other structures is a legal obligation for our Government, which is critical for effective policing and preventing people from taking the law into their own hands, to their own detriment and that of their communities.

The department has embarked on a programme to educate and capacitate voluntary crime prevention organisations to better understand the laws of our country and to organise themselves into legally recognised associations.

The education and capacitation programme included the facilitation of the formation of an umbrella body called the KwaZulu-Natal Community Crime Prevention Association (hereafter "the KZNCCPA"). The Honourable Premier publicly launched the KZNCCPA on 12 November 2012 to 13 November 2012, whereat the first election of the Executive Committee was held and the KZNCCPA constitution was adopted.

The constitution includes a Code of Conduct, which regulates the conduct of these organisations. Any contravention of which by a member of the KZNCCPA or its representative shall constitute misconduct and the disciplinary procedure prescribed in the constitution must be followed.

Communities-in-Dialogue

The essence of the Communities-in-Dialogue Programme is creating a platform for dialogue and acceptance of responsibility to resolve inter- and intra-community conflicts.

In the case of politically related conflicts, the approach takes the form of Multiparty Political Interventions, whereby the department facilitates dialogue between affected political parties and the acceptance of responsibility for resolving conflicts between and among their members, with the support of law enforcement and other government departments.

Honourable Members, it is an indictment on us as political parties, who are supposed to employ all our skills and resources to better the lives of the electorate, that our Province is still reeling from political violence. I can cite many examples in the recent past where this programme of Multiparty Political Intervention was required. In my report to this House on 2 August 2012, I indicated that the Multiparty Committee could not succeed on its own and called upon all political parties to give space to police to do their investigations properly on these matters, to educate their constituencies on political tolerance and democracy, to report criminals within their parties so that they do not hide behind political parties and to adhere to the principles of political freedom, democracy and community safety. Honourable Members, sadly much work still needs to be done by all of us, especially as we approach the national elections scheduled for 2014.

The response of government to politically related challenges in this period is three pronged: (i) the Multiparty Dialogue Programme; (ii) the Peace Process of His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini, which commenced in earnest during December 2012; and (iii) decisive action by the SAPS to arrest any persons suspected of criminal conduct. I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the SAPS for the breakthroughs they have made in the past few months.

SOCIETAL EDUCATION

The fourth pillar of the new strategic focus of the department is education. The *Thathulwazi* educational programme has trained approximately 700 CPF members since its inception in 2006, but the department wants to extend the programme to reach more people from all structures. A concept document on societal education has been developed in terms of which the *Thathulwazi* programme will be extended to include subjects such as community safety framework; criminal justice system; developing and maintaining community safety plans; developing effective community safety partnerships; and people and conflict management among others.

The target groups would be extended to business, traditional leadership, councillors, Faith Based Organisations, the labour movement, Community Based Organisations, South African Military Veterans Association, community crime prevention organisations, school based structures and community members. We are exploring the best mechanisms to take this programme to the people for broad based accessibility to reach all wards. This programme will be driven under the guidance of the KZN Council Against Crime.

RE-DESIGNING THE DEPARTMENT

The second process identified to 'Build A United Front Against Crime' was the re-design of the department.

As Honourable Members are aware, the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act of 2011, was enacted in 2011. The President, by Proclamation, determined 1 December 2011 as the commencement date of the Act. Section 16 of the Act requires the MEC to constitute a provincial secretariat for the Province, within 18 months after the commencement of the Act.

It is my great pleasure to announce that the Minister of Public Service and Administration, the Honourable Lindiwe Sisulu, provided her written concurrence with the new structure of the department, in the presence of the Honourable Premier and me, on 7 December 2012, well before the statutory deadline of 30 June 2013. I am proud that we are the first province in the country to have achieved this goal.

The revised structure distributes the districts under five regions headed by senior managers. The regional groupings are based on the population, number of households, number of wards, number of local municipalities, number of police stations and geographical considerations.

In terms of the newly constituted structure, the following functions will now be performed at a district office level: Police Performance Monitoring, Complaints Management, Crime Prevention and Partnerships.

Furthermore, two additional directorates have been added under the Provincial Secretariat. The first additional directorate must perform the function of oversight over the Office of the Provincial Commissioner and Specialised Units as well as community police relations at a provincial level. The second additional directorate will perform the function of safety information analysis and conceptualisation which has to be done at a provincial level. This new unit will be the information nerve centre of the department. It will continuously collate information from all the service units in the department and use this information to review policing policies and directives, develop, evaluate and review community safety models, initiatives and monitoring tools, review police practices, methodologies and performance and conduct research into the policing needs of the province as required by the Constitution and the Act.

Due to financial considerations, a phased implementation of the structure has been decided upon. In order to finance the implementation of phase 1 in 2013/14, the Department has rolled over the under-expenditure during the 2012/13 financial year. The Provincial Treasury has made available a once-off amount of R5 million in 2014/15 and another once-off amount of R5 million.

CONCLUSION

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, during the year 2013/14, the department will, supported by the pillars of its new strategic focus and its new organisational structure, **'Accelerate People's Action Against Crime'** by –

- a) taking forward His Majesty the King's Cleansing Programme;
- b) addressing signs of political intolerance and instability;
- c) prioritising monitoring and evaluating priority police stations;
- d) establishing safety structures in the priority police station areas;
- e) resolving complaints of poor police service delivery and police brutality;
- f) researching the policing needs and best safety models for KZN;
- g) facilitating community-based partnerships and campaigns against stock theft, drugs, rape, violence in schools, house breaking, stolen goods, police killings, cross border crime and illegal shebeens;
- h) prioritising improvements in the treatment of victims and vulnerable groups;
- i) introducing moral regeneration and diversion programmes for young people;
- j) improving the volunteer crime prevention programme; and
- k) expanding societal education on community safety.

As I conclude this speech, I reiterate a clarion call for all Members of this House to take seriously this priority of our government, namely the fight against crime and corruption by actively participating in crime fighting structures in their own communities in which they reside. The resources of the department are limited. Police on their own cannot win the fight against crime. The time is now for the wider society in all its formations to lead a revolution against crime beginning in their own locality. We are certain that the day the people of this province say enough is enough and collaborate with the police and all crime fighting structures, we will win this war against crime.

Allow me chairperson to thank the organization which entrusted me to lead this portfolio, the African National Congress. The members of the portfolio committee have contributed markedly in our programmes of the fight against crime. Our sincerest thanks to the Government of KwaZulu-Natal led by the Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize not forgetting this Legislature led by the Speaker Mrs Peggy Nkonyeni and the Deputy Speaker Mr Mtholephi Mthimkhulu.

I would also like to thank the Department under the stewardship of Mr Bhengu the Head of Department, the South African Police under the stewardship of Lieutenant General Mamonye Ngobeni. I thank my family for their continued support.

This is the year of '**Accelerating People's Activism Against Crime**'. Together we can certainly do more to fight crime.

It is my privilege to table the budget of the Department of Community Safety and Liaison for the 2013/14 financial year amounting to R172,347,000.00 for approval to be appropriated as follows:

- a) PROVINCIAL ALLOCATION - R166 978 000
- b) EPWP INCENTIVE GRANT - R 5 369 000

I thank you.