

**BUDGET VOTE 9 SPEECH 2020/21: PRESENTED TO THE
KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE BY MEC FOR
TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON,
HONOURABLE M.B. NTULI, MPL, PIETERMARITZBURG, 04
JUNE 2020**

- *Madam Speaker, Honourable Nontembeko Boyce;*
- *Deputy Speaker, Honourable Mluleki Ndobe;*
- *The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Honourable Sihle Zikalala;*
- *Members of the Provincial Executive Council;*
- *Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;*
- *Chairperson of the Community Safety and Liaison Portfolio Committee, Honourable Ndodophethe Mthethwa;*
- *Provincial Police Commissioner, Lt. General Khombinkosi Jula and your management team;*
- *Director-General of KZN, Dr. Nonhlanhla Mkhize;*
- *Head of Department, Mr. Sibusiso Gumbi;*
- *Heads of Provincial Departments present;*
- *Members of the South African Police Service;*
- *Senior officials of government departments;*
- *Members of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster;*
- *Leadership of the Community Safety Structures;*
- *All other social partners and broader civil society present;*
- *Distinguished guests;*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen;*

1. INTRODUCTION

Chairperson, it is my honour and privilege to present the Budget Policy Speech for the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, Vote 9 under the theme: “***Collectively building a crime free province.***” This theme resonates with the current focus in the country and the province to attract investment and ensure job creation. Our firm view is that investment and economic growth will be undermined if the fight against crime is not pursued with vigour and a strong determination by all of us. In this theme, there is a clarion call to all the people of KwaZulu-Natal to individually and collectively put their hands-on deck towards building a crime free province.

The African National Congress (ANC) manifesto is explicitly clear on the eradication of crime thus building safer communities in our country.

Chairperson, the work of this Department is central to the realisation of the ideals outlined in the Freedom Charter which today find expression in the Constitution.

The Constitution of the Republic asserts the rights of all citizens to be safe and secure, therefore, this Department is obliged to fulfil its mandate of playing an oversight to the functioning of the police. Similar sentiments and directives also find expression in the National Development Plan (NDP), which is envisaged to build safer and secure communities by 2030. The NDP makes

the following commitments and targets: “In 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe at home, at school and at work, and they enjoy a community life free of fear.”

This means as we have entered the term of office for the 6th Administration, we must develop clear mechanisms and strategies to achieve the vision set out by the NDP. Practically, Chairperson, it means we have nine years to 2030, therefore, we must challenge ourselves to do things differently to turn the tide against high levels of crime that continues to ravage our communities.

Crime and corruption are two major issues that continue to be sharply raised by our people in all KZN Customer Satisfaction Surveys. This means our people are living in fear and they want to see something done – not tomorrow but right now. This budget policy speech therefore presents a bold plan of action, which we seek to roll out in building a safer province. A plan of building a province that is safe and attractive to investors and tourists. Our plan is that of building a province where young women will have the freedom to walk at midnight knowing nothing will infringe on their right to do so. We want to build a province that values human life. This plan is also aimed at securing learners and educators in schools.

2. SCENE SETTING

Chairperson, this country has entered a critical political phase as it has entered its third decade of our freedom and democracy. We owe it to many of our heroes and heroines who paid the ultimate sacrifice and laid down their lives for us to be where we are today. The work of building peace and stability in our country and province remains a mammoth task ahead of us. Equally, this freedom and democracy will be meaningless if we fail thousands of our people who are victims of crime, intolerance and violence. We must use this period to reflect and be honest on whether, as this democratic government, we have done enough to protect our people from all social menace and ills that continue to bedevil our communities daily.

As we celebrate the 100 years of our struggle stalwart ubaba uRaymond Mhlaba and iBhubesi laseMidlands, ubaba uHarry Gwala, we must ponder about the fundamentals of building a new society.

A society based on the rule of law, a society that values each other, a society that protects its women and children and a society that is at peace with itself. In a nutshell Chairperson, I am challenging this House to lead a new trajectory of being a symbol of a completely changed and transformed society if we are to achieve the objectives of the NDP. Our people must be at the centre of this “new society.” Like Former President Thabo Mbeki

reflected at the funeral of the late stalwart Raymond Mhlaba: ***“Today we can speak of people-driven processes of change. We speak of the need to mobilise the masses of our people to fully participate in the struggle to determine their future. We define ours as a participatory democracy which must draw its vibrancy from the involvement of the masses of the people mobilised to act as their own liberators.”***

The above wisdom shared by former President Mbeki gives us a better context of what we need to do to reach consensus in building a new society. The values of this new society we are envisaging must be based on the values of Ubuntu and strict adherence to the rule of law.

Chairperson, the society I am referring to is the one that His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke of during his State of the Nation Address when he said: “Investment and growth require a safe, stable and a crime free environment.” This commitment by the President speaks boldly of increasing resources and investing in specialised units to beef-up the fight against crime.

The same sentiments were echoed by the Premier of the Province, Honourable Sihle Zikalala in his State of the Province Address when he committed this government to concentrating its efforts in areas and police stations that continue to record high numbers of crimes. Again, the Premier spoke frankly on the need

to involve communities and embark on a mass-based programme to fight crime in our communities.

3. IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Chairperson, this country for the next coming years will feel the social and economic impact brought about by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The devastating effect of this virus has almost torn the world apart and challenged the world order. Allow me to express our profound gratitude to our government for the manner in which it has handled and continues to deal with the scourge of this pandemic. On the same note, we wish to salute our health care workers and other essential service personnel for the sterling work they have done during this difficult phase of our democratic dispensation. We also wish to thank our people who exercised restraint and maximum discipline during the National Lockdown.

Chairperson, I wish to single out our law enforcement agencies for going far and beyond the call of duty, while risking their lives, in ensuring the enforcement of the regulations and protecting our people; including tourists. I personally participated in the Provincial Joint Operational Centre in my capacity as the Chairperson of the JCPS Cluster, which was an integrated nerve centre for all enforcement operations. I must say this was an eye opener and an experience I will forever cherish working with those committed men and women in the service of the nation.

Disturbingly, it is a fact that some people opted to disobey the regulations and chose to be in conflict with the law. During the National Lockdown, more than 18 000 people were arrested in the province for violating the regulations. This irresponsible behaviour must be condemned by all of us as it had a potential of undermining the work of fighting this virus.

Chairperson, we are still deeply angered and surprised that some criminals used this period as an opportunity to advance their nefarious deeds. The incident that took place at Sweetwaters in Pietermaritzburg where uGogo Zuma (74) was attacked and raped by criminals is a painful reminder of the cruel and merciless society we have become. Standing here, I cannot believe how such an old innocent woman could have her life taken away so brutally. Once again, we wish to convey our deepest condolences to the Zuma family and the entire community as well as many other communities that were victims of crime. We, however, commend the swift action by the police who arrested suspects in the Gogo Zuma matter within a space of 48 hours. We also welcome the arrest of seven suspects who were allegedly linked with the kidnapping and murder of a young teenager from Hambanathi in uThongathi. Chairperson, I am also pleased by the involvement and participation of community members in working with the police in apprehending these suspects. It has always been our call that communities should work together with the police in eradicating crime.

We were also disturbed by incidents of criminals who impersonated themselves as health or law enforcement officials during the mass screening process and victimised our people.

We also wish to commend the police and communities for working together in ensuring that criminals, who during this period targeted schools for vandalism and theft, are brought to book. We must all protect our schools as knowledge centres and essential training centres for our children. We are working together with the Department of Education, the South African Police Service and the National Prosecuting Authority in prioritising these cases.

Critically, Chairperson we have had to apply precautionary measures to protect the police and members of the public against COVID-19 as some of these members had tested positive. The incident of Folweni Police Station and KwaMaphumulo Police Station is one of many where we had to take drastic decisions including temporarily shutting down the main station and establishing temporary measures to ensure that service delivery is not hampered. As part of our oversight responsibility, the Department in its monitoring plan will include assessing the availability of PPEs in all police stations.

Chairperson, moving forward the Department will implement measures to protect staff and members of the public who interact with the Department. We are now implementing the

Departmental COVID-19 Recovery Plan. This plan entails a number of initiatives including sanitizing all of our offices, identifying staff that could work from home, ensure provision of PPEs and capitalizing on the digital platforms for communication and meetings.

Chairperson, we wish to allay fears regarding the release of low-risk inmates who are close to serving their Minimum Detention Periods and were sentenced for non-violent crimes, to reduce the spread of Covid-19. This is due to the fact that the virus spreads quicker in closed spaces. We have a serious challenge of overcrowding in our prisons, for example in our biggest Correctional Service Centre in the province, which is Durban Media A has occupancy level of 164.01% with a total of 4 102 inmates whereas its bed capacity is 2 501.

Chairperson, other countries such as Italy, Cameroon and, France and Iran, had to also release inmates to ease overcrowding in their facilities during the outbreak of the virus. It is against this backdrop that the South African government had to act decisively to save the lives of officials, the broader population and offenders as the Covid-19 cases continue to rise.

Therefore, in line with Section 82 (1) of the Correctional Services Act, President Ramaphosa has authorised the consideration of parole for selected low risk qualifying sentenced offenders who have or who will reach their Minimum Detention Periods within

five years. Approximately 19 000 inmates across the country will benefit from this decision provided that they meet the requirements of the parole board. These inmates will be considered on a case by case basis and those who qualify will be placed on parole after all due processes, including Victim Offender Dialogues, have been concluded.

Chairperson, we wish to emphasise that in Correctional Service Centres there are programmes that are aimed at correcting the behaviour of offenders and promote social responsibility. They are also empowered to prepare for a second chance in life upon their release. Therefore, the successful reintegration of inmates into society requires commitment on their part but they also need significant help and support from society as well.

4. 2021 Local Government Elections

Chairperson, we have no reason not to believe that the challenge of political killings has now been buried in our province. The current indications are that we have achieved in building political tolerance and peaceful coexistence within and among political parties. As we are about to begin the campaign phase for the Local Government Elections, all political parties and their individual members must commit not to take us back to the ugly past of political killings. We know incidents are usually on the rise during this time due to this sphere of government being closest on the ground to the people. Through the Multiparty Political

Party Intervention Committee, which I am privileged to lead, we have developed a concrete plan of action that seeks to proactively address any flash point areas that might undermine and discredit elections in the province. Guided by the resolutions of the Cabinet Lekgotla, we plan to launch similar structures at a local level so that issues can be addressed at a local level before they are escalated to the district and the provincial structure.

Our strategy involves direct engagements with individual political parties engaged in the Intra-Party Conflict and proactive engagements with political parties engaged in the Inter-Political Party Conflict. Our plans include setting up a multi-disciplinary enforcement task team that will proactively detect and attend to areas of potential threats. This plan will be accompanied by a massive election monitoring project involving our volunteers, officials and volunteer lawyers (to be placed as election observers in voting stations for dispute resolution purposes). The plans also involves a Provincial Stability Strategy to analyse and facilitate responses to instability in the Province. Experience has taught us that public protests are likely to increase towards the Local Government Elections. Whilst we recognise the constitutional right of everyone to engage in peaceful and unarmed protests, we must strongly condemn any accompanying violence, damage to property or disruption of transport and business activities. Such unlawful acts not only infringe on the rights of others, but also negatively impact on

investment and job creation. We have put in place the necessary governance and law enforcement response mechanisms to manage public protests and we would not hesitate to do whatever is necessary to uphold the rule of law.

5. Extortion and Violence at Economic Sites

Chairperson, certain groups/individuals commonly known as Business Forums and Federation for Radical Economic Transformation (FRET) use mafia-style tactics of bargaining into businesses by, amongst others, demanding a 30% share of business, demanding tenders from municipalities as well as contracts and sub-contracts on major infrastructure projects.

These groups/individuals have adopted an aggressive and violent approach which led to regular incidents of intimidation and other crimes. The activities of these groups/individuals impact negatively on the economic growth and business in KwaZulu-Natal.

A total of 46 criminal cases have been opened against these groups and some are already in court. Rest assured, the Criminal Justice System will deal with the culprits.

Chairperson, the burning of trucks and attacks on drivers in our province is another major issue of concern for us, as it threatens to destabilise the logistics industry as well as our economy. An inter-ministerial task team was set-up last year in order to ensure

stability and mitigate any further attacks. Government's interventions included developing an eight-point plan that would end the crisis. Among the points were the establishment of a rapid response team, an end to illegal employment of foreigners, skills development of local drivers, creation of a database of unemployed drivers, and a review of work permit legislation. Investigation of these cases were centralized at the Provincial Investigation Unit. A total of 73 cases have been reported, 69 cases are under investigation and 170 suspects have been arrested since the torching of trucks and trailers issue began in 2019. We are confident that the Criminal Justice System will ensure that the culprits are harshly dealt with.

6. Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence

Chairperson, the scourge of gender-based violence is one of the persistent crimes that needs serious attention. The crime directed against women and children is alarming and all of us need to stand up to defeat the scourge. As we have indicated, our freedom and democracy is meaningless if we fail to protect women and children. We commend President Ramaphosa for prioritising this issue and developing a 10-point plan to address this scourge. The reality though, is that we all need to do something to challenge the current trajectory where women become easy targets from men, their partners, including their close relatives.

Chairperson, it is more worrying that in the last financial year more than 24 117 crimes were committed against women and children in this province. Of those, 545 were murders while attempted murders were standing at 747 cases.

Honourable members, we must bemoan the cruelty and brutality against women. Last year more than 3 598 rape cases were reported and 144 cases of attempted rape. This must come to an end and that must happen now.

There is no parent who must bear the pain of burying their child. In the period under review, 181 murder cases were committed against innocent and helpless children with 188 registered cases of attempted murder. Disturbingly most crimes are committed during the weekends and with dangerous weapons. We have directed the police in the province to prioritise these cases and in most cases suspects are being apprehended. The leading stations are again, Inanda, Umlazi, Empangeni, Ntuzuma and Plessislaer.

We also appeal to those who have not come forward due to fear or victimisation to report these cases because we want to see justice prevailing. We encourage all victims of these crimes to report these cases regardless of the status or relations. In the last financial year, 602 rape cases were committed by family members, 393 by acquaintances, 350 by neighbours, 292 by boyfriends, 197 by ex-boyfriends and 143 by friends.

All police stations have been directed to beef up the family offenses units and victims support programme as part of upscaling the war against gender-based violence.

Already the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, working with other stakeholders, has conducted more than 40 awareness programmes in various communities as part of educating them about their rights and the importance of joining hands in the fight against the scourge. Chairperson, this is important to the deployment of 60 of our volunteers at VFFs and also welcome the employment of 183 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) support social workers by the Department of Social Development.

7. SCHOOL SAFETY INTERVENTIONS

Chairperson, we continue working hard in creating a safe environment at our schools to make them conducive to learning and teaching. Like all affected stakeholders, we are concerned with the levels of violence on school premises, where educators are attacked, and learners are killing each other. The Premier is already leading the campaign for school safety initiative which was launched in Hammersdale in Durban after the incident of attacks and killings of security personnel. Together, with the Department of Education, we have developed clear working protocols to address the scourge of violence in schools.

Earlier this year, during the 2020 Schools Functionality and Monitoring Programme, as the District Champion of Zululand District, I adopted Phumanyova High School in Zululand District Municipality, as well as Dover High School and Kati Primary School under the King Cetshwayo District. I took an initiative of improving the environment and the conditions of the schools our children are exposed to. I believe that the overall condition of our schools should be enabling for teaching and learning to take place.

Honourable Members, in the last financial year, the Department reported that it is working closely with the Department of Education to address the challenge of school safety. Indeed, the Department has since transferred **320 social crime prevention volunteers** to the Department of Education because we are committed to creating a safe learning and teaching environment in schools.

We also reported that each police officer in a station will be attached to a particular school as a safety champion. In view of the number of police officers we have in our province, we had to scrutinise and revise our strategy. To this end, working in partnership with the Department of Education and police, we have resuscitated the school safety protocol implementation workshops. We will continue with our **“adopt a school campaign”**, where each police station is attached to a particular

school or schools as their safety champions, and we believe that this initiative will go a long way towards ensuring that learners are safe from violence, bullying, harassment and substance abuse.

As part of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Community Safety and Liaison and the Department of Education, we will continue with our awareness campaigns and operations where our women and men in blue randomly visit schools and conduct cordon-and-search operations. Our crime-fighting volunteers are also attached to wards as a means of assisting security guards, school safety committees and the school governing body.

Honourable Members, we will continue to monitor police stations in respect of their implementation of school safety protocols. This programme is progressing well and the Department has been able to give feedback to stakeholders on the findings in this regard.

Chairperson, we are extremely concerned that since the Covid-19 lockdown 463 schools in our province have been vandalised. The damage caused due to the torching and theft in the schools will indeed have a negative impact on the implementation of the recovery plan for the Department of Education once the lockdown is lifted.

Honourable members, we welcome the arrest of 28 suspects in connection with the vandalism, burglary and destruction of schools across various parts of our province. A task-team comprising the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, the Department of Education, National Prosecuting Authority and SAPS has been established. The task team will ensure that all these cases are urgently dealt with. We want to send a strong message that such criminal elements have no place in our society. We applaud the work done by the police and are confident that more arrests will be made. We want to see arrests and prosecution of every single criminal involved in this appalling crime which is a direct threat to the future of our children and country.

Campus safety is another strategic project led by the Department working with the CPF Youth Desk. Through this programme we are able to engage students in institutions of higher learning. We have managed to stabilise institutions of higher learning; however, we are still concerned about levels of violence and disruptions during student protests, mainly at the start of the academic calendar year. In some universities such as Zululand University we have had to intervene when students burnt the satellite police station in KwaDlangezwa. This police station was servicing the entire community.

8. PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

Chairperson, we are working very hard to respond to the directives by the Premier to improve the capacity of the state to deliver on its mandate. Over the years, the Department has undergone serious transformation with the decentralization programme that saw the Department having offices in all 13 districts in the province. These developments are accompanied by capacitation of our staff in dealing with crime prevention strategies. Furthermore, we have directed that all wards, local municipalities up to the district level, must have their District Crime Fighting Strategies. Crime trends and environmental scanning will be an important base and premise to develop these plans. Such plans must be shared and be adopted by all enforcement in the cluster to improve integration.

The Department is currently addressing some of the shortcomings in its current existing structure. The structure does not cater for some of the key areas and responsibilities that need to be performed by the Department. Such limitations, including the decision to decentralize have prompted the review of the organisational structure which we are now seized with. We are also hoping that this process will arrest the long-standing tensions in the Department which also affected the relations between management and organised labour. This exercise will complement the existing 163 workforce in the Department.

In this financial year, we also plan to recruit 25 new interns, who will be employed for two years as part of skills development and training. Through other partnerships the Department continues to attend to skills development of its staff; these include building and reviewing the Information Communication Technology to align the operation with the realities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

8.1 AUDIT OUTCOMES

Chairperson, for the past consecutive financial years the Department has received Unqualified Audit opinion with matters in the previous financial year. We are actively working towards achieving a clean audit report this financial year. The few matters remaining are being given maximum attention and will be cleared in this financial year. We remain committed to good governance and in ensuring value for money as prescribed in the Public Finance Management Act.

8.2 SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Honourable Members, the Volunteer Social Crime Prevention Programme (VSCPP) continues to be one of the tools that the Department is using to change the lives of young people. Through this programme, the Department transferred volunteers to the Department of Education. The EPWP provides the Departments with a grant of one year which is in line with the volunteer's contract. Our partnership with the Department of

Education, has since been able to provide them with an opportunity of working as specialists in the field of security. This is part of the existing strategy and to expose the volunteers to other existing opportunities.

The new intake of **1 225 new volunteers** will start soon after we have finalised the vetting process. These volunteers will assist in working with the police in various communities across the province. Importantly, the main task is to improve relations between the communities and the police so that collectively we can squeeze the space to criminals. We also want to sharpen community intelligence in the fight against crime so that they themselves can play a significant role in liberating their townships and villages – they must claim what belongs to them back from these dangerous and brutal criminals who are terrorising our people.

9. PROGRAMME 2: PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE SERVICE - KZN CRIME TRENDS AND ANALYSIS

Chairperson, this province is turning the tide against the fight against crime. While there are areas of concern and stubborn crimes that are refusing to go down, the general indication is that many categories of crime are going down. We have put into action plans, which are now being monitored to improve areas of concern and to turn the situation around.

Honourable Members, human safety and security is a core human right and a necessary condition for human development, economic growth and improving quality of life.

Once again, the overview of the KwaZulu-Natal crime statistics for the period 2019/20 reveals both areas of progress as well as areas of challenge. In terms of National comparisons, there are a few KZN stations in the country's top 30 high crime stations which are Durban Central, Pinetown, Plessislaer and Phoenix.

The safety of people in their homes needs to be addressed urgently as cases of burglaries at homes and businesses both increased marginally while cases of vehicle theft and vehicle break-ins decreased slightly.

Chairperson, murder cases continue to be among the major crimes in this province. Disturbingly, areas such Inanda and Umlazi continue to feature as the top leading stations when it comes to murder cases.

The latest figure of 4 395 murders is a 0.3% increase on the previous period, an increase of 13 murders which occurred in the province. Murder cases have increased year-on-year in KZN over the past five-year period. The present figure is the highest ***Murder*** figure in the last 10 years.

The most problematic areas in this regard are Inanda, Umlazi, Plessislaer, KwaMashu E, Mariannahill, Verulam, KwaMakhutha, KwaDabeka, Ntuzuma, Mountain Rise and Esikhaleni.

The analysis conducted by the SAPS has indicated that Murders occur mainly over weekends with alcohol and drugs being a contributing factor in the incidents. This House must, therefore, consider serious regulations in the sale and use of alcohol if we are to decisively fight the scourge of road fatalities and crime in our communities.

Sadly, our youth feature prominently in these incidents as both victims and perpetrators. Almost equal numbers of murders are committed with sharp objects as those committed with firearms. The analysis conducted reveals that most victims are between the ages of 18 and 40 years old.

Chairperson, attempted murders increased by 2.5% (by 104 cases) in the latest period. The list of areas involved is similar to those indicated for murders. Our plan and strategies are focused on those areas because we hold a belief that if we manage to dent crime in those areas, we will be able to reduce it in the province as a whole.

Farm murders remain an area of concern, with 62 cases of crime reported in the last financial year. Of those crimes five (5) were murder cases. Even though there is a significant drop compared

to the previous year, we must however do more to protect both farm owners and farm workers. Crime targeting farms has the potential of affecting production and food supply in the country.

Chairperson, having been steadily increasing over the last three years, sexual offences rose by 6.3% to 9 308 incidents. Problematic areas include: Inanda, Umlazi, Empangeni, Ntuzuma, Plessislaer, Kwadukuza, Nongoma, Mountain Rise, Esikhaleni, KwaMashu E, Osizweni and Eshowe.

Other crimes such as the aggravated Robbery increased by 2.6% (567 cases) in the latest period. Car hijacking increased by 2.4% and stands at 2 764 cases per annum. Robbery at non-residential premises increased by 0.3%. House Robbery increased by 0.2% in the latest release. Truck hijacking increased by 54% (28 cases).

Honourable members, the old adage that 'there is light at the end of a tunnel' is true. While most crimes indicate a rise, some other categories are showing serious decline. Cash-in-Transit Robberies decreased by 60% (by 18 cases) and no bank robberies occurred in the latest period, down from three in the previous year.

Again the most problematic areas in respect of Aggravated Robbery include: Durban Central, Pinetown, Umlazi, KwaMashu E, Kwadukuza, Umbilo, Inanda, Plessislaer, Phoenix, Empangeni, Ntuzuma, Chatsworth and Pietermaritzburg.

Property Crimes as a total has been on a steady decline over the five-year period, with a further decrease of 1.5% in the latest release. This is while burglaries at both residences and businesses increased marginally by 0.6% and 1% respectively.

The hotspots for burglaries at business and other non-residential premises include: Pinetown, Durban Central, Umbilo, Pietermaritzburg, Greenwood Park, KwaDukuza, Richard's Bay, Empangeni, Newcastle, Ladysmith, Port Shepstone and Plessislaer. The hotspots for burglaries at residential premises include: Plessislaer, Inanda, Alexandra Road, Hillcrest, KwaDukuza, Pinetown, Westville, Margate, Chatsworth, Umbilo and Empangeni.

Chairperson, one of the serious crimes we need to address is the theft of motor vehicles. This crime, in some areas, has forced communities to embark on protests due to their assets being stolen, usually at gunpoint. This is despite theft of motor vehicles having been on a decline over the last 10 years (except in 2015/16). The latest figure is 8 050 having, over time, dropped

from as high as 12 080 in 2008/2009. Hotspots include Durban Central, Berea, Umbilo, Brighton Beach and Phoenix.

Honourable members, having managed to address the challenge of faction fights in this province, the next conflict will be around the challenge of stock theft in traditional communities if this is not addressed urgently and now. Since I arrived in the Department seven months ago, we have had to intervene in a number of areas where communities were up in arms due to high levels of stock theft. During the period under review Stock Theft increased by 0.9% (by 58 cases) after having remained fairly constant in previous years. Problematic areas include Bergville, Dannhauser, Impendle, Utrecht, Upper Tugela, Estcourt, Amangwe, Ladysmith, Bulwer, Osizweni, Vryheid, Ezakheni and Weenen. Moving forward the training and capacitation of our community structures will focus more on the work around this area and we will be strengthening our partnership with the Department of Agriculture and the farming communities.

Fighting fraud and corruption remains one of key areas of focus. Fraud cases increased significantly (by 21%). Hotspots include Durban Central, Pinetown, Empangeni, Durban North, Newcastle, Pietermaritzburg, Phoenix, Richard's Bay, Port Shepstone and KwaDukuza.

Chairperson, we must overall commend the work of our men and women in blue. There are some within the service who are willing to risk and place their lives in danger defending innocent civilians. In all of the above cases the total number of crimes detected as a result of police action decreased in the latest period by 24.8% (by 19 860 cases).

Honourable members, one area of concern which needs to be attended to is crime in rural areas, mainly stock theft. If not addressed, this will be the main source of new conflict in rural communities. In the period under review, 34 503 cases of stock theft were reported with the recovery of only 9 888. Most targeted livestock are cattle, sheep, goats and horses.

The current state of affairs calls for renewed emphasis on the relevance of a united, multi-pronged approach in responding to crime. Our turnaround strategy combines aspects of crime prevention, crime combating, the improvement of socio-economic conditions and strengthening of human solidarity among citizens.

Our plans also aim at tackling liquor and drugs in the province. We believe if the two can be addressed we can significantly reduce crime.

In this vein, the *KZN Provincial Safety Strategy* which the JCPS Cluster entrusted the Department to co-ordinate the drafting thereof, is a continuation of the paradigm introduced by the 1996 National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) which has been reinforced by new experience and knowledge.

The approach taken is one that seeks to develop a problem-solving framework looking for multi-agency solutions to identified problems and using a range of methods of crime and violence prevention.

The Provincial Lekgotla resolved that there should be a provincial crime fighting programme which will be led by the Premier. Through **Operation Vala**, our aim is to intensify our crime prevention strategy and tactics, where the Premier and all MECs, including the leadership of local government will participate in the campaign to fight against crime. This will support the approach proposed by the KZN Provincial Safety Strategy.

Safety is about making everyone in our society useful in one way or another, starting from the perspective that everyone has a contribution rather than a problem. To this end, we envision a society where all people:

- Live in safe environments;
- Play a role in creating and maintaining a safe environment;

- Feel safe from crime and violence and conditions that contribute to it; and
- Have equal access and recourse to high quality of services when affected by crime and violence.

9.1 MONITORING OF POLICE SERVICE DELIVERY

The Strategic Framework for this term requires us to monitor the perception of police visibility in the top 30 high crime police stations, a project which we will commence this year. The focus will be given to the 130 priority stations that were flagged as a serious concern during the national census project. In this financial year, the Department will also monitor 16 specialised SAPS services across the province.

Chairperson, beyond the above, the Department embarked on a Census project. This project has been a ground-breaking project for the Department with the phenomenal results it yielded in terms of findings and interventions that arose as a result of the Project. The objective of the Census Project was to collect baseline data at all 184 police stations in the Province and generate reliable information on SAPS compliance to policy and legislation. The Census Project was a labour-intensive and a lengthy process. It entailed visiting every police station in the Province to monitor the stations compliance levels to the Domestic Violence Act.

The findings of this Project were indeed remarkable as it allowed the Department to formulate strategies and interventions to address challenges that were identified at station level. Some of the success stories for the Department relates to the Muden Police Station, which was found to be the worst performing station in the country in terms of compliance to the Domestic Violence Act. The Department's immediate intervention resulted in Muden SAPS being ranked in the Top Ten National Best Performing Stations for compliance to the Domestic Violence Act.

Chairperson, again, Kranskop SAPS was also found to be highly non-compliant to the Domestic Violence Act. With all the focus being placed on Gender Based Violence the Department without hesitation arranged Domestic Violence Workshops for the Umzinyathi Cluster in order to address the challenge. The Department was able to improve the performance of Kranskop SAPS so that it was significantly compliant to the Domestic Violence Act.

Honourable Members, with regards to the Mbazwana Police Station which was performing poorly, based on complaints from the community, particularly with regards to cases and issues of Gender-Based Violence in terms of compliance, general policing services were poor as well. The Department intervened during the previous financial year, working with SAPS Provincial Senior

Management and this resulted in the turn around strategy which was implemented including implementing changes with regard to station management. The Department's interventions resulted in improved performance by the station which is also measured by positive community feedback. Importantly, complaints about the station declined by 80% when compared to complaints received in the past two financial years. Honourable Members, these are indeed remarkable success stories for the Department!

9.2 PROLIFERATION OF FIREARMS AND OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPONS

Chairperson, it is concerning that firearms are the key drivers of murder in our society. In the last financial year more than 38.9% of crimes were committed. Disturbingly, in the same period, more than 73.1% of cases of attempted murder were reported where firearms were used. Most of these firearms are illegal and are in the hands of dangerous criminals. The high prevalence of murder cases in the province is owing to the fact that we have many firearms that are in the wrong hands. In the past financial year, police managed to recover thousands of firearms and thousands of ammunitions. Between November 2019 and April 2020 more than 4842 firearms and 44575 ammunitions were seized. This resulted in a total arrest of 85 489 suspects. As part of the plan to combat crime we have directed the police to spare no effort in rooting out all illegal firearms in the communities

through targeted operations. Most murder cases are occurring because of arguments/misunderstanding, armed robbery, mob justice, revenge, domestic violence and the taxi-related violence.

Our generous government has also provided an amnesty period to all those who want to return these firearms. The amnesty is still on as we speak, and we urge you all Honourable Members and the public to return all those firearms you are hiding. For now, it is a plea but after the amnesty period – **Kushubile!**

9.3 CRIME-FIGHTING INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES

Chairperson, the work of fighting crime requires all of us to play an active role. Already the Premier, Khuzeni has committed to leading the provincial crime fighting campaign known as **Operation Vala**. This intervention will specifically focus on gender-based violence, house and business robberies, drugs, gangsterism and murders. The campaign will be integrating other Departments, including Social Development and the police. Some of the activities will be coordinated through the Provincial Council Against Crime, which is a structure that involves all role players, including civil society, organised labour and business.

Through this campaign, we are determined to make our streets, homes and communities safer through improved police visibility

and greater involvement in community policing and safety structures. Indeed, fighting crime is our collective responsibility.

Chairperson, the Department has integrated its programmes to address all social ills directed at vulnerable groups including Gender-based violence under an umbrella called “**Khuz’umhlola Programme**”. Our programmes will have specific focus on the following categories: disabled people, contact crimes, domestic violence and sexual offences.

Chairperson, as part of the interventions, in the past financial year, the Department conducted **26 awareness programmes** that included workshops, crime indaba and izimbizo which specifically focused on issues affecting elderly people and vulnerable groups.

As part of the interventions and capitalising on the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the Department has acquired ***Memeza Alarms*** that will be distributed to communities, but the focus is on vulnerable groups such as women and people with disabilities. These electric gadget alarms will be used as a means of an early warning signal that will activate SAPS and Community Policing Forums as well as neighbours to respond to crimes when one is in a crisis. We are confident that the alarm will contribute greatly in reducing gender-based violence and crime in general.

Chairperson in addition, we are closely monitoring the construction of the Donnybrook and Gamalakhe Police Station as we seek to improve the capacity of police in order to ensure safety and security.

9.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFER CITY FRAMEWORK

The implementation of the Safer City Framework, including through the use of smart technology, has reaped benefits in eThekweni. This year the Department will engage with other major economic hubs in the province to explore the feasibility of rolling out this framework.

This will include the facilitation with other cities and municipalities to establish their own Safer City Frameworks and strategies. Our Department will liaise with the National Department in the development of the measurement and monitoring tool, assessing and benchmarking progress in eThekweni and other newly established municipalities strategies and accompanying action plans.

Engagements will take place with COGTA as a member of the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS) to also assist in the facilitation of this, mainly in areas such as uMhlathuze, KwaDukuza, Ray Nkonyeni, Msunduzi and Newcastle.

Our Departmental Police Oversight Unit Directorate will champion this project.

9.5 DEPARTMENTAL MPIMPA HOTLINE

The Departmental WhatsApp line, **063 697 9569**, has been operational for over a year now and was set-up as the Mpimpa hotline where the Department can receive anonymous tip-offs on certain concerns of a criminal nature that members of the community were afraid or unable to report through ordinary procedures. People who use the line are from very different backgrounds, both rural and urban and they vary from concerned citizens, to structures, community leaders and those who are not sure which appropriate door to knock on to get their service delivery matters addressed.

Between July and December 2019, over **80 matters were reported** and dealt with in the past financial year of 2019/20, which were received via the WhatsApp line. The line has not only received matters pertaining to this Department, but from other departments as well, mostly the Department of Transport. There were some issues relating to municipal service delivery that have been reported. Interventions that have resulted from the WhatsApp line have included arrests in some cases, law enforcement operations being planned following tip-offs received, communities were able to access certain services like

water tanks delivering water. We urge our communities to make use of this number, we say ***Lethulwaz' uzobona.***

9.6 COMMUNITIES IN DIALOGUE

Chairperson, this programme has proved to be the most effective programme in intervening in areas and communities that are experiencing conflict and violence. The Communities in Dialogue programme has brought together various factions in communities and has achieved tangible results through signing of peace agreements and other peaceful conclusions reached. This programme was employed as a tool to end faction fights in traditional communities in the province but beyond that it has been used to restore stability and bring about a sense of peace. This programme has also been employed in addressing conflicts in hostels that usually manifest themselves in traditional communities during busy holidays such as Easter and Festive season holidays. This work has been further beefed up by a team of Amakhosi representing His Majesty Isilo samaBandla in pursuing peace among his subjects in various parts of the country.

The Department together with the Gauteng Department of Community Safety and Amakhosi Peace Committee continue to meet with the intention of finding a lasting solution to keep our hostels quiet and peaceful. We will continue to conduct

awareness through Inter-Provincial programmes in order to stabilise the conflict between hostel dwellers.

The Department will host an Inter-Provincial Communities in Dialogue where both Departments as well as His Majesty and Amakhosi Peace Committee will lead the facilitation of peace among hostel dwellers.

Chairperson, there is notable progress in stabilising the previously notorious Hostels in Durban. These hostels are KwaMashu and Glebelands. Over the last financial year, KwaMashu hostel crime decreased by 18% while Glebelands decreased by 5% and 17 T-Section by 30%.

Honourable Members, with regard to the Shembe Nazareth Baptist Church matter, government remains committed to peaceful mediation and working with the church to ensure that all issues that are part of the tension are addressed properly.

10. FIGHTING CROSS-BORDER CRIME

Chairperson, fighting cross-border crime remains one of our strategic priorities. Our strategy is targeted towards fighting crimes at borders that we share with neighbouring countries (Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho) and on the other hand neighbouring provinces (Mpumalanga, Free State, Eastern Cape and the Gauteng corridors). We have made tremendous progress in tracking down the syndicates that are involved in

cross-border crime. This ranges from motor vehicle theft, movement of counterfeit goods, human trafficking and undocumented foreign nationals.

With regards to vehicle theft between Mozambique and South Africa the indications are that the crime is still rife despite numerous interventions we have made in fighting the scourge. Among some of the interventions that have been put in place are the upgrade of the Manguzi Police Station, installation of a satellite police station in Skhemelele, increasing patrol vehicles with high calibre 4x4s, forging partnerships with the police and South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and deploying social crime volunteers.

Another key catalytic programme in that area is the construction of the New Jersey Barrier wall that is being built between the border of South Africa and Mozambique. This 8-kilometre-long project is led by our sister department, the Department of Transport. We wish to commend the intervention by Premier Zikalala which has assisted in unlocking challenges which were hampering progress and implementation of the project. I personally inspected the first set of the concrete wall being put-up on the 23rd of March 2020. Even though the work has been affected by the national lockdown period, but we remain committed to completing the first phase of this project this financial year. In addition, the Department of Community Safety

and Liaison has deployed 40 volunteers to assist in fighting cross-border crime.

In addition, the Department continues to participate in the Inter-Provincial Technical Task Team, which integrates the work of neighbouring provinces to form partnerships of issues of mutual interest, such as cross-border crime.

11. COURT WATCHING BRIEF (CWB)

Chairperson, we are serious about executing our oversight role and to assist the police in improving the quality of their investigations. Through the Court Watching Brief programme, we are going to have a team of six dedicated officials that will have direct access to matters of interest placed before the courts and analyze the proceedings in court cases. This will not only assist the department but the entire criminal justice system to identify loopholes and gaps that need to be addressed in ensuring that justice and the rule of law is not compromised. Through this programme we will address the challenge of cases that are thrown out of court due to poor investigation methodologies. In addition, it will assist in analysing the nature and extent of evidence collected and how it was obtained to secure reasonable prospects of convictions to perpetrators of crime.

Another area of concern we want to address through this programme is the unreasonable postponement of cases,

delaying justice to both victims and perpetrators. These six posts are critical and will be filled in this financial year.

12. ROLE OF COMMUNITY CRIME FIGHTING STRUCTURES

Chairperson, we cannot fight and win the battle against crime without the involvement of communities. The active citizenry demonstrated by our people through community crime fighting structures must be welcomed and appreciated. The role of the Community Policing Forums (CPF) and their sub-structures, including the CPF Youth Desk is very instrumental in mobilising and organising communities. Some have started the Neighbourhood watches, and again we invite them to come and work with us in forming this united front against crime.

Chairperson, the role of the KwaZulu-Natal Crime Prevention Association (KZN CCPA) is equally essential in fighting crime and working with the police in townships and villages. This organisation is made up of voluntary community crime fighting organisations, which have taken it upon themselves to join the fight against crime. The majority of these organisations were fighting stock theft in rural communities and are doing excellent work resulting in the apprehension of many suspects. We had to transform their approach and we are grateful that many of them adapted to these changes and are now working within the

ambits of the law. The few remaining incidents of vigilantism is not acceptable in a democratic state that is based in the rule of law. We are also concerned about the fact that some leaders of these organisations end up being targeted by criminals. We must discuss and come up with mechanisms of protecting them so that they can continue performing this patriotic duty, which they risk their lives for, without even being paid. We urge young people to joint these organisations and play an active role in eliminating crime in their communities.

Community in Blue Project - Chairperson, the community policing philosophy is an approach that focuses on police establishing partnerships and enhancing working relations of the communities. The policy requires police to inherit a proactive approach to address public safety concerns.

This led to the inception of the Community in Blue concept. The Community in Blue concept is in line with the implementation of community policing approach and the National Development Plan,2030.

Objectives of the Community in Blue Project, amongst others, is to promote reporting of criminal activities and any suspicious behaviour in the communities, increase visibility in order to deter criminal activities; and active community participation in crime

prevention initiatives. The Department has thus far procured 500 jackets and caps for the Community in Blue Project.

13. STRENGTHENING POLICE RELATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Chairperson, we must use the experiences of the National Lockdown as an important foundation to strengthen the relationship between the police and the community. This partnership is central to fighting crime but also creating a harmonious working environment between the police and our people. During the lockdown period, many communities were receptive to the police and they worked with them during the enforcement of the regulations. This partnership between the police and communities has helped us to reduce the incidents of police killings in the province as our people are now aware that police are the only shield between us and heavily armed criminals. Even though sometimes we are disturbed by incidents of police brutality, we must have trust in the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) that it has enough capacity to address and isolate those individuals from the system.

Another challenge is with regard to those police officers who collude with criminals and end up in conflict with the law that they are supposed to uphold at all times. We are equally concerned

by members of law enforcement agencies who continue to act in conflict with the law and bring the profession into disrepute. During the Lockdown period, 11 officers were arrested for being in conflict with the law. This does not set a good precedence in our efforts of eradicating crime in our communities.

Chairperson, this year we are intensifying our campaign against police killings. We appeal to the police to fight until the last bullet when facing dangerous and merciless criminals. No police must die in the hands of criminals. In the last financial year, 18 police officers were killed with three killed on duty and 15 killed off duty.

14. CONCLUSION

Chairperson, I wish to reiterate that fighting crime requires both financial and human capacity. On that note, I wish to urge this House to support our efforts of engaging in a process of adequately resourcing this department to respond to fighting crime as one of the apex priorities. Whilst we are all aware that this department is the least funded, it must be noted that we will never be complacent in our endeavour to protect our people and their valuable assets and properties. It is on this note that we are embarking on a campaign to galvanise all sectors of our society and progressive organisations to work with us.

Chairperson, allow me to pass my gratitude to the African National Congress (ANC) for entrusting me with this responsibility and the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Honourable Khuzeni for his guidance. I would also like to convey my gratitude to the Community Safety and Liaison Portfolio Committee led by the Chairperson, Honourable Mthethwa for their support. To the Provincial Commissioner of Police, Lt. General Jula and the entire management of SAPS for the robust and yet healthy relations we have built in the course of securing our people. A special thanks also goes to the members of the JCPS for their involvement in securing this province. Special gratitude also goes to the former Head of Department, Mr. Mavundla, the management team and the entire workforce of the Department for being a central pillar in the development of policy and programmes aimed at building a crime free KwaZulu-Natal.

The Department also welcomes Mr. Gumbi who is the newly appointed Head of Department. Mr Gumbi's experience and expertise will contribute in re-engineering the Department especially during this period when efforts to fight crime needs to be intensified.

My heartfelt gratitude also goes to my wife, MaZulu, and the entire Ntuli family for being my beacon of hope and support system as I continue to perform the duties assigned to me by the African National Congress (ANC).

In conclusion, allow me to quote the words of the former Minister of Police in our democratic dispensation and our struggle veteran, Mr. Steve Tshwete:

“It is our intention to improve pretty speedily to ensure that the lives of criminals, particularly rapists and armed bandits, remain miserable. They must know no joy in their dens, in the police holding cells and prisons. The criminals and their friends, including those armed bandits and pipe bombers in the Western Cape must soon know that the South African state possesses the authority - morally and politically - to ensure, by all means at its disposal, that the people of this country are not deprived of their human rights in any way. It is not the intention of the state now or in future to surrender this moral and political authority to anybody, or institution or organisation.”

Like Tshwete directed, through this budget speech and plan of action, we intend making the lives of criminals miserable whilst ensuring the safety of our people.

Allow me to present this budget Vote 9 which is **R249 million** for your consideration and approval.

I thank you.