



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY SAFETY
AND LIAISON

BUDGET SPEECH

19 APRIL

2023/2024

**GROWING
KWAZULU-NATAL
TOGETHER**

BY THE HONOURABLE
MR S.E HLOMUKA
MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON



“LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN OUR JOURNEY OF
BUILDING A CRIME FREE PROVINCE”



MR S.E HLOMUKA

MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON

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KWAZULU-NATAL GOVERNMENT

- 1  Basic Services
- 2  Job Creation
- 3  Growing the Economy
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- 5  Education and Skills Development
- 6  Human Settlement and Sustainable Livelihood
- 7  Build a Peaceful Province
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BUDGET POLICY SPEECH VOTE 9 DELIVERED BY THE KWAZULU–NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON, HONOURABLE S.E HLOMUKA, AT THE KZN LEGISLATURE, PIETERMARITZBURG, 19 APRIL 2023

- Madam Speaker; Honourable Nontembeko Boyce;
- Deputy Speaker; Honourable Themba Mthembu;
- Members of the Provincial Executive Council;
- Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;
- Director-General and Heads of various Departments;
- Acting Head of Community Safety and Liaison;
- Department of Community Safety and Liaison Management;
- Provincial Police Commissioner Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi;
- Members of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster;
- The Leadership of Community Safety Structures;
- Members of the Media; and Citizens of Kwazulu-Natal.

1. INTRODUCTION

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, I rise before this House to present the Vote 9 Budget Policy Speech for the Department of Community Safety and Liaison. Our budget allocation during this current financial year of 2023/24 is R250,6 08,000.

This policy speech is very important as we strive to make significant inroads in our efforts to curb the high levels of crime in our society. We present this budget speech under the theme **“Leaving no one behind in our journey of building a crime free Province”**.

Honourable Members, today marks an important and very significant day in the history of our Province and the country as a whole, and to a larger extent our fight for liberation and self-determination from our oppressors. History taught us that on this day, 19 April in 1906 Inkosi Bhambatha kaManciza led the defiance campaign against the imposition of the “Poll Tax”. The bravery and leadership shown by Inkosi Bhambatha, to fight for that what was just, is precisely the same spirit we want to awaken inside all the people of KwaZulu-Natal - to unite and wage a war against all forms of criminality in our society.

Chairperson, in recent satisfaction surveys, crime features as the number one concern of a large majority of our population, regardless of race, gender, religious or political affiliation. During her inaugural State of the Province Address, the Honourable Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube mentioned crime as the number one enemy of the people of KwaZulu-Natal and this current administration.

To this end, we understand the mammoth task we are faced with. We have the responsibility of creating safer living conditions for all the people of our Province. We must take decisive action and heighten our endeavor to make a significant dent against the rising level of crime in our society.

Central to our resolve to address the levels of crime in the Province are the resolutions taken by the previous Lekgotla of the Provincial Executive Council, African National Congress (ANC) manifestos, Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDP) and the National Development Plan 2030.

The Department's budget is aligned to priority number six (6) of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), which is Social Cohesion and Safe Communities, with the emphasis on building a united and cohesive society. A significant portion of the Department's budget allocation is toward safety promotion activities, such as Communities in Dialogue Programme (CIDP), mainly in areas where there is instability in the Province, safety against crime programmes, attending to issues of Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBV & Femicide).

Furthermore, attention is given to promoting police relations with communities and support of community safety structures such as Community Safety Forums (CSFs) and Community Police Forums (CPFs) in communities, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the functionality of police stations, monitoring of South African Police Services (SAPS) specialised units and looking into service delivery complaints received against SAPS.

SUCCESSSES DURING THE TERM OF THE SIXTH ADMINISTRATION

The Department successfully implemented 48 Communities in Dialogue Programmes. The conflicts that were resolved include family against family, village against village, taxi industry-related, traditional leadership conflicts, farming communities' conflicts, and hostels, just to mention a few. The programme has been successful in addressing conflicts in areas like Umlazi's Glebelands hostel, KwaMashu hostel, Hluhluwe, Nongoma, Nquthu, Msinga, Newcastle, Ladysmith, Richmond, Umshwathi and many other areas. Through the Inter-Provincial Peace Initiative, peace and stability in Gauteng hostels was restored.

Chairperson, from 2019 until December 2022 more than 60 vehicles were recovered, with the assistance of trained cross-border volunteers at the Kosi Bay border post between Manguzi and Mozambique.

Madam Speaker, following recommendations made by the Department, the Manguzi police station was renovated to be better suited to address the scourge of cross-border crime.

Chairperson, in the past four years all 184 police stations across the Province were monitored and evaluated. After that process, the identified challenges such as the non-compliance with the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act (DVA), Muden Police station (uMzinyathi) ranked as the worst performing station on DVA compliance. Following our intervention, it is now ranked at number four (4) in the country. This is indeed a good story to tell. In Harry Gwala District, Swartberg Police station was also amongst the worst performing at 28% and have now seen a significant improvement and are currently at 79%.

Honourable Members, we have seen a remarkable improvement in all police stations in uMzinyathi District following a series of Domestic Violence Act workshops facilitated by the Department. Through our intervention as the Department, all police stations have officially appointed DVA coordinators to oversee the handling

of all domestic violence cases.

Madam Speaker, through the Department’s complaints management policy, the following categories of complaints were successfully dealt with:

- Police negligence;
- Lack of feedback given to complainants;
- Poor investigation;
- Poor control and management of SAP 13 (evidence store and register);
- Poor handling of gender-based violence cases.

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|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| PROGRAMME ONE | Administration | R123 642 million |
| PROGRAMME TWO | Civilian Secretariat for the Police | R126 966 million |

PROGRAMME ONE: ADMINISTRATION

Building the capacity of the Department

Chairperson, it is well documented that the Department is amongst the least funded. We are, however, doing all we can with the limited resources to expand the services rendered by the Department and to have a footprint across the Province. After decentralizing the Department to all districts, we continue to capacitate all personnel in an endeavour of ensuring that services are rendered effectively.

We are also progressing with the filling of critical posts as part of building stability in the Department. We are also moving with speed, guided by the Office of the Premier, in finalising the appointment of the Head of Department.

The new organisational structure is in the final stages of development, which will see the number of personnel drastically increase from 191 to 514.

The approved organisational structure will be finalised in June 2023, to bring about the following improvements in the Department:

- Strengthened visibility and impact at a district level in line with the District Development Model (DDM);
- For district offices, the proposed structure will contribute to the reduction in operating costs as all business processes will be planned, implemented, and monitored at a district level;
- There is going to be improved efficiencies, productivity, and service delivery impacts as all resources will be managed at the district level.

Whilst the process of the new organisational structure is being finalised, workload analysis exercise is currently being conducted to identify critical sections in the Department that require urgent intervention in

terms of allocating additional human resources.

This will help determine the urgent human resources needs in terms of quality and quantity in accordance with the goals and strategies of the Department and improve efficiency.

The Department has further accommodated 24 interns, who will be with the Department for the next two years. The internship programme aims to provide experiential learning to recruited graduates targeting youth and further capacitate them with relevant skills.

Technological Advances to Improve Business Processing

Honourable Members, I am pleased to report that the migration from physical Information Technology (IT) infrastructure to Cloud Computing has helped the Department immensely as it delivers more flexibility and reliability, increased performance and efficiency whilst cutting IT costs.

The Digital Signature System has been introduced to improve high-speed document processing and better security from fraudulence in transactions. This will make it easier to track the status of documents when the system is fully functional.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, a remarkable progress has been made in introducing the Electronic Complaints Management System, which will be introduced in July 2023. The system will make it easier for civilians to lodge complaints relating to SAPS service delivery through an App that can be downloaded onto a smartphone.

Audit Matters

Honourable Members, the Department continues to maintain an unqualified audit opinion, however, we are still committed to obtaining a clean audit report. That can only be achieved if we speed up the rectification of the findings and ensure that matters raised by the Auditor-General receive urgent attention. I have spoken to the management about the matter and expressed my concerns regarding the issues raised and the urgency required in resolving the findings. I must say that I am optimistic that we are not far off from obtaining a clean audit because looking at the findings by the Auditor-General it is not something we cannot rectify as a Department if we apply our minds to it correctly.

Fighting fraud and corruption

According to the National Development Plan, the vision for 2030 is zero tolerance for corruption. The Department, through the Risk and Integrity Management Directorate, has performed risk assessments and has put measures in place to mitigate risks of fraud and corruption within the Department. The Department is tightening its internal controls informed by its risk-mitigating strategy.

The Department has an Ethics Management Strategy in place and has continued to conduct fraud and corruption awareness campaigns in various districts to institutionalize and enhance ethical behaviour in the working environment. The Department has been working with other Departments such as the Office of the Premier to investigate allegations of corruption within the Department.

Opportunities created for Youth and Other Vulnerable Groups

Women constitute 59% of the total establishment in all employment levels in the Department whilst youth employees constitute 36% of the total staff establishment. The representation of women in Senior Management is at 50%. Disabled people constitute 1.7% of the establishment. Various interventions are in place to attract people with disabilities to apply for vacancies in the Department.

80 Internship opportunities were created in the past four years. The aim is to give graduates much-needed experience that would help them compete in the job market whilst creating a pool of suitably qualified candidates that the Department can recruit from in the future. 25 more opportunities have been advertised and the new Interns will commence on 01 July 2023.

29 students, mainly from FET Colleges, were offered opportunities for Work-Integrated Learning to help them gain the experience that is required by their respective institutions for them to graduate.

Volunteer Social Crime Prevention Programme (VSCPP)

Madam Speaker, this programme is part of the interventions by the Department to reinforce the work of the police in their quest of eradicating crime in our communities.

During the past four (4) years, this programme afforded employment opportunities to 5 142 young people and 1 279 are currently serving actively across all districts in the Province.

Honourable Members, 64 of these social crime prevention volunteers are placed at various police stations assisting law enforcement with victim empowerment in cases of GBV. 80 volunteers are actively involved in the fight against the scourge of stock theft.

Chairperson, these are unemployed young people recruited from communities to assist with crime detection and prevention, working closely with law enforcement.

In uMkhanyakude, for example, along the Kosi Bay borderline, we placed (37) social crime prevention volunteers who are dealing with cross-border crimes. During this current financial year, we are going to recruit 13 volunteers to reach our target of 50. Between the period of 2019 to 2022, these volunteers assisted with the recovery of more than sixty (60) stolen vehicles. These vehicles are stopped before even crossing the border - that is how committed these young people are. They are leading from the front in defending vulnerable communities.

Chairperson, we pride ourselves as the Department by the fact that some of the volunteers who joined the programme, some with only a matric certificate and others with tertiary qualifications have now sought greener pastures elsewhere, some within the JCPS cluster. Some are my special guests this afternoon include.

- Ms. Wandi Diko from eThekweni Metro, who is a former VEP volunteer is now a member of the SAPS in Mariannhill;
- Ms. Nokuthula Moskoena from Amajuba is now a member of the Public Order Police (POP) in Port Shepstone;
- Ms. Nompumelelo Mdletshe from uMkhanyakude District is now a member of the SAPS;

- Ms. Mafungwase Zulu from eThekweni Metro) joined the programme with a Grade 12 certificate and is now a qualified nurse;
- Ms. Samkelisiwe Mbuyisa from iLembe is currently studying towards a Diploma in Public Management at Umfolozi TVET.

Madam Speaker, as part of the contribution to job creation, the Department will appoint 37 youth as general workers on a 24-month contract. They will receive a stipend of R4500 per month. Their duties will vary from rendering cleaning services at all our offices, handyman duties and preparing refreshments during meetings.

GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Madam Speaker, in the previous financial year we recruited 15 law graduates. These graduates are currently attached to 7 private law firms and 8 at the Office of the State Attorney.

Chairperson, we are happy to report that all 15 law graduates are currently registered with the Law Society, which sets a trend for the attainment of the objectives of the programme. We are anticipating that next year, at the end of their in-service training within the programme, they will be confirmed as qualified attorneys.

Madam Speaker, in addition to the law graduates, the Department also recruited ten (10) researchers with the aim of providing them with work experience.

These placements afford the graduates the opportunity to achieve professional accreditation and/or the experience they need, whilst this Department benefits by building an additional pool of expertise available of professionals in the fields contributing to its work.

PROGRAMMETWO:

PROVINCIAL CIVILIAN SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE SERVICE

Crime Overview

Chairperson, we must refuse to have our Province being proclaimed as the Murder and Rape capital of South Africa. We are alarmed at the statistics after some of our police stations took the lead in the second and third quarter(s) crime statistics as announced by the Minister of Police, Bheki Cele in the 2022/23 financial year. Unfortunately, we continue to make headlines in the tabloids for human slaughter. This barbaric behaviour needs to come to end. There has been a steady increase in the last five years, despite a dip during the hard lockdown in April/May 2020. Umlazi, Plessislaer, Inanda, KwaDabeka, and KwaMashu E, recorded 320 rape cases, a fifth of the Province's total.

The latest figure of 6 406 murders is a 33% increase on the previous periods when the murder figure in the Province was approximately 4800 murders per annum. Murder has increased year-on-year in KwaZulu-Natal over a 5-year period. The present figure is the highest murder figure in the last 10 years.

Chairperson, analysis conducted by the South African Police Service (SAPS), indicate that murders occur mainly over weekends, in the main with alcohol and drugs continuing to play a major role as causal factors of these incidents. Youth feature prominently in these incidents as both victims and perpetrators. Slightly more

murders are committed with firearms than with sharp objects.

Similarly, attempted murder spiked in the latest period, also by 33%, and there were over 4 000 attempted murder cases per annum in the previous years. The figures for Sexual Offences, having dropped slightly during the COVID-19 hard lockdown period, have returned to the previous level of approximately 9 500 reported incidents per annum. Within this category, Rape and Sexual Assault followed this pattern while contact sexual offences have been decreasing slightly year-on-year.

Assault GBH also followed this pattern and now stands at over 26 000 reported incidents per annum and a similar pattern was also seen in the case of Common Assault. Aggravated Robbery, having decreased slightly during the COVID-19 hard lockdown period, has risen in the recent period standing at just over 23 000 cases per annum. Within this category, car hijacking followed a similar pattern, while house robberies and business robberies have been steadily increasing.

Truck hijacking and robbery of cash-in-transit have also been on the rise. Common robbery is also returning to previous levels after having dipped during the COVID lockdown period.

Property Crime: Property crimes as a total have been on a steady decline over the past 5-year period, with a further decrease of 5.3% in the last quarter crime statistics.

Burglaries at business premises are increasing while residential burglaries are on a steady decrease. The theft of motor vehicles has been on a decline over the last few years.

Stock Theft: Stock Theft is declining slightly year-on-year. Fraud, however, is on the increase.

The total number of crimes detected because of police action in the period is lower than it has been in previous years. Districts contributing the highest number of crimes are eThekweni, uMgungundlovu, and King Cetshwayo.

Honourable Members, from 2019 to 2022, we have lost 19 police officers who were killed whilst executing their duties of protecting the people of KwaZulu-Natal. We bow our heads for these fallen brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in this noble course of crime fighting.

Chairperson and Honourable Members, let us take our hats off to the police in their fight against stock theft. From April 2022 to February 2023 they managed the monetary recovery of a total of R63 119 200 of cattle, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, and donkeys. This also indicates the seriousness of stock theft in the Province.

Chairperson, the Department has been given a huge responsibility in the Province, that is, one of an oversight role over police, and chairing the Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster. In these roles, we have met with all role players in the fight against crime and deliberated on the plans to respond to the unprecedented levels of crime in our society.

We need to conduct regular integrated operations of liquor outlets, mount roadblocks, and raids that will assist in creating stability and add to police visibility at the same time. Our people must feel safe, and we must use every resource available and vigorous energy to achieve this!

Fight against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, the State President has in the recent past declared Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) as a second pandemic this country has to come to terms with. This tops the list of our priorities when it comes to dealing with crime. We need to ensure that those who commit these crimes are dealt with harshly to send a clear message to perpetrators. We welcome the 16% decrease in contact sexual offences. This is a clear indication that we are working towards turning the tide against this type of crime.

This financial year, our Premier has a pro-active approach and resolved to work with His Majesty, King Misuzulu kaZwelithi to convene a Provincial Summit to find lasting solutions to curb the scourge of GBV and the resultant moral decay in our society.

Honourable Members, the Department will therefore convene this summit during the November Safety Month.

We applaud all the crime fighting initiatives undertaken by our Monarch and we pledge to continue working closely with the House of Traditional Leadership and Khoisan to raise awareness and the importance of protecting our women, children, the elderly, and all vulnerable groups in our society.

Chairperson, one of the contributing factors to the rise of GBV cases is the exposure to and use of alcohol and the sporadic increase in the number of illegal liquor outlets in our communities.

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The South African Police Service (SAPS), working together with the KwaZulu-Natal Liquor Board and Gambling and Business Licences, have arrested 11 803 illegal liquor outlets operators and closed and charged 11 046 outlets during the 2022/23 fiscal year.

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These strides will contribute positively to the fight against sexual assaults because some of the cases reported are a result of substance abuse. While some abuses and cases of rape happen behind closed doors, some



emanate from taverns where women are targeted, followed, and are raped and assaulted as they make their way home. Some, unfortunately, die in the process, simply because the perpetrator is known by the victim.

Chairperson, our partnership with the Department of Social Development (DSD), over and above being part of the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS), have resulted in several programmes where our daily activities intersect in the fight against crime, mainly because they lead the DRUG MASTER PLAN. Many of our social ills results from drug and substance abuse, within our young people in the main. We work very closely with them in confronting Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBV & F), Victim Empowerment Vulnerable Groups, and on Youth Crime Prevention because they are professionals. They coordinate JCPS Cluster Departments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and report to the Provincial Forum for Families, Victim Empowerment and Social Crime Prevention. We will reinforce this partnership to ensure sober-minded young people in the Province. Some of our volunteers, especially those placed at the Victim Friendly Facilities in our police stations, work very closely with Social Workers in ensuring that we assist the police in forming a formidable case against those charged with rape because several cases are being withdrawn from the courts because of incomplete investigations.

Court Watching Briefing

Chairperson, the court watching brief is in line with the oversight mandate of the Provincial Secretariat for Police Service for monitoring police conduct, especially their efficiency and effectiveness in providing services to the community, and to enhance the criminal justice system by reducing the number of service delivery complaints emanating from poor performance by police and the courts.

Since its inception in the 2021/2022 financial year to date, 48 courts have been visited to attend to criminal cases that have been withdrawn and/or struck off the court roll due to systematic failures on the side of investigations by SAPS.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to inform this House that we have analysed 592 dockets across the Province and have made recommendations to have these cases reinstated to court.

Police Station Monitoring and Evaluation

The Department, through its monitoring and evaluation activities, will continue to monitor and evaluate areas for improvement, such as detectives' units, especially where these were not giving feedback on cases or where they showed poor investigation of crimes. The Department will conduct a census in all 184 police stations utilising the prescribed National Monitoring Tool (NMT) and the Domestic Violence Act Tool (DVA) during Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of the 2023/24 financial year to collect data on the status of the police stations, which will be used as a baseline for monitoring in the next 4 financial years.

Subsequent to the NMT census, the Department will conduct feedback sessions on the census to the Department of Civilian Secretariat for Police as part of providing feedback on the findings during data collection (census). The Department will continue to monitor 16 specialised SAPS services across the Province, including the Stock Theft, Family Violence, Child Protection, and Sexual Offences units, as well as the Metro police.

The Department will also continue to investigate, and address complaints received against the SAPS in accordance with its constitutional mandate and will ensure that recommendations from the Independent Police



Investigating Directorate (IPID) to SAPS are followed through. The Department will also continue to monitor compliance in terms of the school safety and crime prevention protocol between SAPS and Department of Education.

Assessment and Capacitation of Community Safety Structures

The Department, as part of improving police relations with communities, will continue to support municipalities in the establishment of safety structures through the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. To ensure the effectiveness of community safety structures, the Department will assess the functionality of 33 Community Safety Forums (CSF) and 184 Community Policing Forums (CPF). The CSFs and CPFs are assessed at a district level, and this is determined by the number of CSFs established during that financial year and the number of police stations targeted for CPF functionality assessment. The Department assists the non-functional structures by means of capacity building through induction and skills development of members of such structures.

Chairperson, the Department indicated that during the establishment of community safety structures, there

are usually new recruits, and the Department is responsible for building their capacity through training, workshops, and inductions. As such, capacity building for these structures includes ongoing inductions facilitated by the Department and ongoing skills development, which is usually outsourced.

Fight against the Killing of Amakhosi and Izinduna

Madam Speaker, the killing and kidnapping of Amakhosi and Izinduna remains a major concern for this Administration and law enforcement agencies. Since 2018 to date, there have been eleven (11) Amakhosi killed and 33 of Izinduna killed. Working with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, government has been working to intervene to end this painful and alarming scourge.

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Chairperson, as part of the ground-breaking interventions, we are pleased to officially report to this House that Treasury has granted our Department an allocation of R11.5 million for the establishment of the Community Safety Intervention Unit (CSIU).
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This Unit will be used as a pilot project to ensure that appropriate security measures for traditional leaders, who have legitimate threats against their lives, are facilitated, thus granting them the freedom to execute their duties without any fear knowing their security is guaranteed. The Unit will be given clear indications in terms of its responsibilities working within the ambits of law. This is an indication that our government remains committed to working closely with His Majesty the King Misuzulu kaZwelithi and the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, to find lasting solutions to any acts of criminality targeted at Amakhosi. Amongst other things this Community Safety Intervention Unit (CSIU) has the following responsibilities:

- Conduct a security analysis relating to any incidents, threats, or instability;
- Engage with law enforcement to facilitate appropriate deployment and investigation;
- Facilitate threat analysis by the SAPS in respect of targeted individuals and facilitate the provision of recommended interim static and/or personal protection services by private security service providers;
- Conduct an analysis of the underlying causes and environmental factors relevant to the incident, threat or instability and formulate an intervention strategy and plan;
- Engage relevant stakeholders and facilitate/monitor the implementation of the intervention plan;



- Review the security situation on an ongoing basis and facilitate remedial adjusted measures where necessary.

Madam Speaker the Department will convene an Imbizo to address the scourge of the killing of Amakhosi with the view to finding lasting solutions. This summit will be convened during **September 2023, which is Heritage month.**

Proliferation of Illegal Firearms and Ammunition

Chairperson, the number of illegal guns and ammunition that is in circulation in our society is a major concern. Our Province has the unfortunate tag of being named in the recent 4th quarter crime statistics released by Police Minister Bheki Cele, as the most prone to violent crimes such as murder, attempted murder, car-jacking, business, and house robberies. Regrettably, when these heinous crimes are carried out, criminals are in possession of illegal firearms and ammunition. In my capacity as the Chairperson of the JCPS cluster, I have been tasked with the unenviable task of implementing proactive interventions to ensure that we rid our streets of these dangerous weapons that threaten the livelihood of our people and undermine the authority of the state.

Honourable Members, I stand before you to reassure this House that I am confident that the work that has begun to be executed by members of the JCPS cluster will yield the desired effect. A series of integrated intelligence-driven operations have been undertaken especially in areas around eThekweni Metro. Raids will also be carried out regularly in places that are currently under police surveillance and hostels where most



hardened criminals often seek refuge. On March 16, 2023, a sting operation thwarted and arrested five (5) heavily armed alleged hitmen in Mayville. These men were en route using stolen vehicles to assassinate a prominent Durban businessman. During this bust, police recovered 3 unlicensed assault rifles and an assortment of ammunition.

Madam Speaker, from 2021 to date law enforcement has recovered 818 illegal firearms and 783 assortments of ammunition from various communities.

These operations will be rolled out to other hot spot areas that law enforcement have identified - we are equal to the task. Other measures that we will be carrying out as directed by Premier Dube-Ncube are:

- We call for a review and tighter regulation of the possession of firearms and ammunition, and limiting the number of rounds a person can purchase. Those contravening the law must face harsher sentences;
- Dealing decisively with unlicensed guns, fake gun shops, and guns that are in the hands of illegal firearm owners due to deceased estates;
- Implementing plans to remove all illegal guns that are terrorising our communities and are also used in the killing of our policemen and women;
- We welcome the announcement of more boots on the ground following the passing out parade and the allocation of 1800 police officers to KwaZulu-Natal. To win the war, we need to attend to the axis of criminality involving the sophisticated networks of criminals, which work with corrupt individuals in the criminal justice system;
- We have engaged Department of Transport to look into reviving Operation Shanela to focus on violence and crime on our roads and strengthen the fight against crime.

The Province will progressively invest in technology and artificial intelligence to deal with crime. This will include the wide installation of CCTV cameras and microchips to end stock theft and a strategy to deal with illegal liquor trading.

Strengthening Partnerships with the Private Sector

Chairperson, we wish to commend and appreciate the excellent work done by Business Against Crime and the private security companies to ensure the safety and security of our citizens, business premises and property during the March 20th national protest. Their intelligence gathering and use of technology like CCTV surveillance play a significant role in thwarting any possible threats. The Department of Community Safety and Liaison and law enforcement will continue to work closely with these sectors in our journey of building a crime-free society.

Madam Speaker, we have also forged a close working relationship with the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) in eThekweni, specifically uMlazi Ningizimu. In our effort to revive street committees SANTACO has donated torches, boots, and reflectors to over 1000 community crime fighting structures that are responsible for patrols during the night and the early hours to ensure the safety of our people. We are currently finalising plans to roll-out this initiative to more areas throughout the Province.

Proactive Peace and Stability Campaign towards the 2024 General Elections

Chairperson, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison is entrusted with the huge responsibility of ensuring that our journey towards the much-anticipated 2024 General Elections is without any incident of intimidation or any other form of criminality that may infringe on any individual or members affiliated to any political party. We have resurrected the Multi-Party-Political Intervention Committee (MPPIC) to ensure that the political landscape realises political tolerance, unity and stability before, during and after the next year's General Elections.

Chairperson, the Multi-Party-Political Intervention Committee will meet on a quarterly basis to ensure that there are no outstanding issues that are not attended to. In our previous meeting, we appealed to representatives from all political parties to always preach a culture of political tolerance amongst its members.

Our Province has seen significant bloodshed because of political instability and intolerance. Over the years, our government has worked tirelessly to ensure that we create and foster a political sphere that is free of violence, intimidation, and political intolerance. To this end, ladies and gentlemen, the MPPIC has established district committees to ensure that issues are dealt with at local level whenever they arise.

Honourable Members, during the 2019 General Elections there were troublesome areas identified during the election period where political instability had reared its ugly head. However, we take comfort that the JCPS cluster has managed to restore peace and stability in these areas like Mtshezi, Lindelani in Stanger, Bergville and other areas.

Madam Speaker, we wish to assure this House that the SAPS, State Security Agency and other organs of state have begun drawing up comprehensive plans to ensure that the 2024 General Elections will proceed without any incidents. The Department of Community Safety and Liaison is finalising plans for the training and deployment of 1279 Social Crime Prevention Volunteers across all our districts who will assist law enforcement on the ground with gathering and relaying necessary information to curb any criminal activities during the election period.

Crime Fighting Intervention Programmes

Chairperson, crime eradication and creating safer communities remains an apex priority of this Administration. Our Honourable Premier, Nomusa Dube-Ncube declared crime as a top priority for the Provincial Government. To this end, a resolution was adopted by the Provincial Executive Council to convene and organise a series of crime fighting izimbizo under the theme "uHulumeni uya Kubantu". The first imbizo was organised and convened in eThekweni Metro, KwaNdengezi last Sunday, 16 April 2023 and was attended by 5 000 community members to address criminal issues affecting the Marianhill and KwaNdengezi policing precincts. In uThukela district we will host an imbizo to curb the scourge of cross-border stock theft issues. In Zululand we will convene a crime fighting imbizo to address illegal mining and stock theft at Ntumbane under Pongolo Local Municipality.

Madam Speaker, we are especially pleased to report to the House that the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has identified and handed over a plot of land to the Police Ministry to build another

er police station in Marianhill to address rising crime levels in the eThekweni West area. The building of this police station will also remove the strain that is currently on the shoulders of the Marianhill police station, which currently finds its officers policing a vast terrain with an ever-increasing population. This is indeed a welcome relief to all of us.

We acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of various community safety structures who work with the Department on various projects to fight crime in our communities. The Department will continue to support these structures by providing training, transport, and other relevant logistical support to ensure that they function effectively. The Department is in the process of lobbying Treasury to make funds available to enable us to pay stipends to members of all community crime fighting structures (CPF, CPF Youth Desk & KZNCCPA). We remain hopeful that this noble idea will materialise soon.

Fighting Cross-Border Crime

Cross-border crime remains a major concern for our provincial and national government for over the last decade. The Manguzi police station has been upgraded following recommendations made by the Department of Community Safety and Liaison. This upgrade improved the station's capacity to be better equipped to deal with the scourge of cross-border crime. Earlier this year we witnessed unsavoury acts of public violence, damage to public and private property. These acts of criminality had far reaching negative impacts on our economy especially the regional and international tourism industry on the R22 stretch of road from Hluhluwe to Mhlabuyalingana area, especially the Kosi Bay border line. Despite this setback, through several stakeholder engagements, we managed to return some semblance of normality in that area. The killing of Mr. Juda Mthethwa and Mr. Sandile Tembe, who were both crime fighting activists in the area, remains a painful reminder that until something drastic is done between the two countries, the problem will persist.



Chairperson, we applaud and welcome the decision taken by the Provincial Executive Council to resume the installation of jersey barriers as a deterrent to cross-border crime. This project will be led by the Department of Transport.

Honourable Members, we are pleased to report to this House that the Department of Community Safety and Liaison will lead a crime fighting imbizo in the Mhlabuyalingana area in uMkhanyakude District in early May 2023, with the view to find solutions to the scourge of cross-border crime.

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Madam Speaker, through interventions made by the National Police Commissioner General Fanie Masemola and the Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi to augment police deployment in the area, there are currently 250 police officers from different specialised units deployed to defend the Kosi Bay border line between Manguzi and Mozambique.

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The Department of Community Safety and Liaison has 37 Social crime prevention volunteers working as information feeders to all law enforcement working along the border to deter criminals from exporting hijacked vehicles and other contraband to Mozambique. We have also augmented the number of intelligence operatives in the uMkhanyakude District to counter or deter any planned criminal activity by syndicates from both our Republic and neighbouring Swaziland and Mozambique. Chairperson, from 2019 until December 2022 more than 60 vehicles were recovered with assistance of trained cross-border volunteers at the Kosi Bay border line between Manguzi and Mozambique.



Communities in Dialogue Programme (CiDP)

Chairperson, the Communities in Dialogue Programme remains the vehicle for bringing about social cohesion in many corners of the Province. In the previous financial year, the Department finalised a series of engagements that brought about unity, co-existence, and peace between the Mavuso and Dlamini Tribal Authorities in Ntumbane, Pongolo in the Zululand district. These two had been at loggerheads since as far back as 1983 due to tribal and land demarcations disputes. Moreover, conflicts between the Simelane and Dlamini Tribal Authorities has been resolved through the Communities in Dialogue Programme.

Honourable Members, the issue of illegal mining and community benefaction at the BOSVELD mine in Ntumbane has now been resolved through the CiDP initiative. The Provincial Executive Council has resolved that the second phase of Community Development through socio-economic development must commence forthwith. This phase seeks to ensure that community members can identify and realise business and economic opportunities and improve their standard of living, thus lifting them from abject poverty. This is the implementation phase of the Ntumbane CiDP recommendations made by the Department.

Madam Speaker, this financial year, the Department has begun a series of engagements in collaboration with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to resolve a land dispute between the Nkosana and Gangadweni areas under iNkosi Hlongwane at Bergville under uThukela District. This impasse emanates from a farming land dispute. We are committed to forging lasting peace and unity in all corners of our Province.

CONCLUSION

Chairperson, let me take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube, and the governing party African National Congress (ANC) for affording me this opportunity to serve the people of KwaZulu-Natal with diligence.

I also thank the staff and management for their unwavering support and willingness to work towards improving the lives of the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

Let me thank the Honourable Members of the Community Safety and Liaison Portfolio Committee led by the Chairperson Honourable H.A. Chiliza, for the support and guidance you always provide.

To the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service (SAPS), Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, your management team and staff, your hard work and dedication to crime prevention and upholding the law always is a marvel to watch. I truly believe that the police are equal to the task of crime detection and prevention thereof. Let us continue working together to reclaim our streets from criminals and grow a crime-free Province.

To my family, thank you for allowing me and for understanding that I have been sent to serve the people of KwaZulu-Natal. I know my work is time consuming and I appreciate your support, patience, support and understanding.

I THANK YOU.



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BUDGET

VOTE 2022

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
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