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**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, THURSDAY, 23 APRIL
2020**

- *Madam Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the KZN Legislature;*
- *The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Honourable Mr S. Zikalala;*
- *Honourable Members of the Provincial Executive Council;*
- *Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;*
- *Chairperson of the Community Safety and Liaison Portfolio Committee,
Honourable Mr NB Mthethwa;*
- *Provincial Police Commissioner, Lt. General K.E Jula and your management
team;*
- *Amakhosi AseNdlunkulu present;*
- *Mayors and Councillors of Municipalities;*
- *Members of the Diplomatic Corps present;*
- *Director-General of KZN, Dr N.O. Mkhize;*
- *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;*
- *Representatives of Labour;*
- *Religious Leaders;*
- *All other social partners and broader civil society present;*
- *Distinguished guests;*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen;*
- *Members of the media; and People of KwaZulu-Natal,*

1. INTRODUCTION

I am honoured to present the Budget Speech for the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, Budget Vote 9 under the theme: **“Intensifying the fight against crime to create safer communities and grow KwaZulu-Natal Together.”** This theme resonates with the Provincial Government’s clarion call of Growing KwaZulu-Natal Together and through intensified efforts on the ground, we are confident that we will win the war against crime. We are determined to create a violence free society.

The safety and security of citizens is a critical priority in our province, more importantly in ensuring an improved quality of life. The Constitution asserts the rights of all citizens to be safe, healthy and secure. Therefore, government, at all levels, is required to fulfil these rights.

As such, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison continues to fulfil its constitutional mandate by playing an oversight role, but broadly intensify efforts of mobilizing stakeholders and communities in the fight against crime.

We want to build a safer KwaZulu-Natal and to this end, we will continue advocating for strategic partnership with various sector, including capacitating the crime fighting structures to enable them to actively play a meaningful role in the fight against crime to create safe streets, safe communities, and safe villages and towns. Creating safer communities will ensure a thriving economy, growth and prosperity for our province.

In his State of the Nation Address, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, makes it clear that investment and growth require a safe, stable and crime-free environment. He elaborated, and I quote, **“More importantly, it is fundamental to the aspirations of all our people to live in a security, peace and comfort. Police visibility, effective training and better resourcing of police stations are our priorities.”**

We also welcome the commitment made by the Honourable President to tackle the growing problem of criminal groups that threaten contractors and extort money from construction companies and other businesses.

As the province of KwaZulu-Natal, we can confirm that specialised units drawn from the police are tackling these crimes of economic disruption.

1.1 CRIME-FIGHTING INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

As we forge ahead and intensify our fight against crime, led by our Premier, we will launch our crime-fighting intervention programme titled **Operation Vala**. This intervention will specifically focus on gender-based violence, house and business robberies, drugs, gangsterism and murders.

We are determined to make our streets, homes and communities safer through improved police visibility and greater involvement of community policing and safety structures.

Madam Speaker, the department has integrated its programmes to address all social ills directed at vulnerable groups including Gender based-violence under an umbrella called “**Operation Khuz’umhlola**”. Our programmes will have a specific focus on the following categories:

- Disabled people
- Contact Crimes
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Offenses
- Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT)
- Children and Women Abuse
- People living with Albinism

In the past financial year, the department conducted 26 awareness programmes that included workshops, crime indaba and izimbizo which specifically focused on issues affective elderly people.

With regard to interventions aimed at addressing gender-based violence, the department collaborated with sector departments and stakeholders such as community safety structures, interfaith fraternity, Non-Government Organisations, business sector as well as civil society. More than 40 awareness programmes were conducted to fight the scourge of gender-based violence. We must sustain the momentum in the fight to end gender-based violence and femicide.

Honourable Members, the department is in the process of acquiring MEMEZA Alarms that will be distributed to the community, but the focal point is on the vulnerable

groups, as means of an early warning that will pro-activate SAPS and Community Policing Forums as well as neighbours to respond to crimes when one is in a crisis. We are sure that the alarm will contribute greatly in reducing Gender based violence and Crime in general.

1.2 MULTI-PARTY POLITICAL INTERVENTION COMMITTEE (MPIC)

Madam Speaker, in the last financial year, we resuscitated the Multiparty Political Intervention Committee with the aim of ensuring lasting peace and stability in KwaZulu-Natal. Importantly, this committee is critical in creating a peaceful atmosphere conducive to free political activity and to ensure free and fair elections ahead of the 2021 Local Government Elections.

The objectives of the committee are to assess the stability of the province to ensure that there is free and fair elections and intervene where there are foreseeable tensions. In pursuit of these noble objectives, all political parties have committed themselves to working towards creating an atmosphere conducive to free political activity and to producing free and fair elections in 2021.

We have started with the planning process for next year's elections and will be cascading the message of peaceful elections to the local community. We are also monitoring the by-elections that are taking place in different wards within the province.

The Department of Community Safety and Liaison will provide election monitors in critical voting stations and key areas. The police have also committed themselves to vigorous law enforcement before, during and after the elections.

As we continue to conduct by-elections and prepare for the 2021 Local Government Elections, we must all strive towards capitalising on the positive gains we have made towards ensuring peaceful, free and fair elections in our province.

1.3 SCHOOL SAFETY INTERVENTIONS

Madam Speaker, we continue to strive hard toward creating a safe environment in our schools that is conducive to learning and teaching.

Early this year, during the 2020 Schools Functionality and Monitoring Programme I as the MEC for Community Safety and Liaison, adopted Phumanyova High School and Dover High School under the Zululand District. I took an initiative of improving the environment or the status 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 speaker, 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 transferred 320 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 revised our strategy. We will continue with our 'adopt a school campaign', where each police station is attached to a particular school or schools as a safety champion, and we believe that this initiative will go a long way towards ensuring that learners are safe from violence, bullying, harassment and substance use.

Working in partnership with 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 schools as means of assisting securities, school safety committees and the school governing body.

Honourable Speaker, we have established **(include number)** school safety committees in more **(include number)** school in the Province. During the current financial year, we will ensure that by the end of the third quarter all schools have a duly elected and constituted school safety committee.

2. PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

Honourable Speaker, the Auditor-General report tells us that the Department had received an Unqualified Audit outcome with statements in the previous financial year. We are actively working towards achieving a clean audit report this financial year.

The Department continue to bring change in the lives of our young graduates so that they improve for better. In 2019/20 financial year we hired 29 interns, by the end of January 2020 we were sitting with the number of 15 interns. This is due to that most of them were permanently hired by different government departments including the national departments. We also had an intake of in-service trainees from different institution of Higher Learning as they are expected to receive workplace exposure and gain experience as part of their graduating requirement.

2.1 SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Madame Speaker, the Volunteer Social Crime Prevention Programme (VSCPP), continue to be one of the tools that the Department use in changing lives of young people. Through this programme, the Department transferredvolunteers to the Department of Education. EPWP, provide Departments a grant of two years which is in line with the volunteer's contract. Our partnership with the Department of Education, have since been able to provide them with an opportunity of working as specialists in the field of security.

The new intake of 1225 volunteers will start soon after we have finalised the vetting process. Madam Speaker, it is so disturbing when Government open an opportunity for younger people to get jobs and only to find that they have criminal cases. I therefore, wish to encourage young people not to implicate themselves into any criminal activities despite of them wanting to work for government or not. Crime does not pay.

3. PROGRAMME 2: PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE SERVICE

“TOGETHER GROWING A UNITED FRONT AGAINST CRIME”

3.1 STABILITY IN KZN

OPERATION FAKÙLWAZI UZOBONA

The Departmental WhatsApp line, 063 697 9569, has been operational for over a year now and was meant as a Mpimpa hotline where the department can receive anonymous tipoffs 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 received via the WhatsApp line and dealt with. The line has not only received matters pertaining to this Department, but from other departments as well, mostly Department of Transport. There were some about municipal service delivery. Interventions that have resulted from the WhatsApp line have included arrests in some cases, law enforcement operations being planned following tipoffs received, communities been able to access certain services like water tanks delivering water.

3.2 CRIME ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN IN KWAZULU-NATAL.

Madame Speaker, human safety and security is a core human right and a necessary condition for human development, economic growth and improving quality of life. Vulnerability to crime and violence therefore remains a key priority for the government of the Republic of South Africa and is reflected in policy pronouncements and imperatives at the highest level.

An overview of the KwaZulu-Natal crime statistics for the period 2019/20 reveals both areas of progress as well as areas of challenge. Provincially, all *Contact Crimes*

increased marginally in the latest reporting period. The crimes which saw the largest increases were *Sexual Offences* (up by 6%) and *Common Robbery* (up by 7.5%). Truck Hijacking rose significantly increasing by 54%. Property crimes saw minor shifts. Burglaries at homes and businesses both increased marginally. Thefts of vehicles and vehicle break-ins decreased slightly. *Stock Theft* increased by less than 1%. The number of crimes detected as a result of police action decreased by 24.8%.

- **CONTACT CRIME:** *Contact Crime* as a total has been decreasing over the last 5 years and rose marginally in the latest period.

Murder: The latest figure of 4 395 Murders is a 0.3% increase on the previous period, an increase of 13 Murders. **Murder** has increased year-on-year in KZN over the 5-year period. The present figure is the highest *Murder* figure in the last 10 years. The problematic areas in respect of *Murder* are Inanda, Umlazi, Plessislaer, Kwa Mashu E, Mariannhill, Verulam, KwaMakhutha, Kwadabeka, Ntuzuma, Mountain Rise and Esikhaleni. Analysis conducted by the SAPS has indicated that Murders occur mainly over week-ends with alcohol and drugs continue playing a major role in incidents. Youth feature prominently in incidents as both victims and perpetrators. Almost equal numbers of Murders are committed with sharp objects as those committed with firearms. Analysis conducted by the SAPS reveals that most victims are between the ages of 18 and 40 years old.

Attempted Murder: 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.

Sexual Offences, having been steadily increasing over the last three years, 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.

Assault GBH increased by 0.7%. **Common Assault** increased by 3%.

Aggravated Robbery: 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) and Cash in Transit Robberies decreased by 60% (by 18 cases). No bank robberies occurred in the latest period, down from 3 in the previous year. Problematic areas in respect of Aggravated Robbery include: Durban Central, Pinetown, Umlazi, Kwa Mashu E, Kwadukuza, Umbilo, Inanda, Plessislaer, Phoenix, Empangeni, Ntuzuma, Chatsworth and Pietermaritzburg.

- **PROPERTY CRIME:** Property Crimes as a total has been on a steady decline over the 5-year period, with a further decrease of 1.5% in the latest release.

Burglaries: 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, Margate, Chatsworth, Umbilo and Empangeni.

Theft of motor vehicles has 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.

Stock Theft: Stock Theft increased in the latest period 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.

Fraud increased significantly (by 21%). Hotspots include Durban Central, Pinetown, Empangeni, Durban North, Newcastle, Pietermaritzburg, Phoenix, Richard's Bay, Port Shepstone and Kwadukuza.

- **CRIMES DEPENDENT ON POLICE ACTION FOR DETECTION:** The total number of crimes detected as a result of police action decreased in the latest period by 24.8% (by 19 860 cases).

In terms of National comparisons, the KZN stations in the country's top 30 high crime Stations are Durban Central, Pinetown, Plessislaer and Phoenix.

The above state of affairs calls for renewed emphasis on the relevance of a united, multi-pronged approach in responding to crime. Such an approach combines aspects of crime prevention, crime combating, the improvement of socio-economic conditions and strengthening of human solidarity among citizens. In this vein, the *KZN Provincial Safety Strategy* which the JCPS Cluster entrusted the Department to co-ordinate the drafting of, 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 which seeks to develop a problem-solving framework which looks for multi-agency solutions to identified problems and uses a range of methods of crime and violence prevention.

The Department's work supports the approach taken in the *KZN Provincial Safety Strategy* because we want safety in our Province to be *sustainable*. Sustainable 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. Sustainable safety is about intervening for victims of crime because untreated trauma perpetuates the cycle of crime and violence in which we find ourselves. 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.
- **Liquor:** Over the last decade, in the majority of violent incidents in KZN, the offender(s) and in some cases victims, were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offence. Moreover, numerous crime incidents occur at or near alcohol establishments. Alcohol is also a central feature in incidents of sexual offences and partner abuse.

Given the association between alcohol use and violence, reducing alcohol supply and consumption is likely to be beneficial in crime prevention. In addition to supply reduction, this strategy also aims to address the provision of targeted treatment and prevention approaches that reduce harmful alcohol use and build life skills and resilience towards reducing alcohol-related harms.

- **Drugs:** Apart from illegal narcotics use, possession and supply constituting criminal offences, illegal drugs drive crime in several ways. These include the range of property offences to fund drug use as well as the illegal actions of organised crime groups in operating and maintaining syndicates supplying the drug market, including money laundering and sexual trafficking.

The role of society in curbing social ills through promoting positive norms and values must continue to be emphasized. Further, a multi-sectoral approach by all sectors of society must also continue to be accentuated and strengthened. Firearms, alcohol and illegal drugs must be rigorously targeted as part of the overall crime prevention strategy.

3.3 HOSTELS PEACE INITIATE

Madame Speaker, 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 in keeping our hostels quiet and peaceful. We will continue to conduct awareness Inter-Provincial programs in order to stabilise the conflict between hostel dwellers.

The Department will stage an Inter-Provincial Communities in Dialogue where both Departments as well as His Majesty and Amakhosi Peace Committee will lead this program.

3.4 CROSS BORDER CRIME (NEW JERSEY BARRIERS)

The Contractor and the monitoring staff are already on site. Site establishment has been done. The Contractor has fenced the casting site, setup office containers, materials storage containers and brought a concrete batch mixing plant to the casting site. The Contractor has also cleared some space on the casting site for the casting of the panels. The concrete mix design has been approved. Panels have been casted and are awaiting transportation to site. The Department is in the process of getting the Environmental Management Programme approved prior to starting with the excavation on site.

3.5 COURT WATCHING BRIEF (CWB)

Madame Speaker,

- Post for the Court Watching Brief officials have been advertised**

- Awaiting the filling of the posts**

- The Province is represented in the National Court Watching Brief Task team**

- This task team has finalized the tools, reporting templates, job descriptions and guidelines for the Court Watching brief unit**

3.5 DISABILITY DIALOGUE

Madame Speaker, we wrapped November Safety Month by conducting a Disability Dialogue. The dialogue was done in line with the Disability Month. I am pleased to report that.....

4. CONCLUSION

Madame Speaker,

5. WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Premier for his leadership and commitment he continues to portray in making sure that the lives of the people are improved. The same sentiment goes to MEC`s for the warm welcome they`ve showed me. The dedication and enthusiasm you have for this Province and its people does not go unnoticed.

My distinctive appreciation goes to the African National Congress (ANC) for entrusting us with this huge responsibility. The Chairperson of the Community Safety and Liaison Portfolio Committee, the Honourable Ndodophethe Mthethwa, and the Honourable members of the Portfolio Committee for the guidance you provide in planning, organising and implementing tasks that lie ahead of us.

I also wish to thank the Head of Department, Mr CT Mavundla, the Provincial Commissioner, Lt-General Jula and your senior management and staff for your hard work and commitment in making the people of KwaZulu-Natal safe.

Lastly, I would like to thank my wife, (Ma-Zulu) and my family for always being there for me.

6. BUDGET

Madame Speaker, it is my pleasure to table the budget of the Department of Community Safety and Liaison for the 2020/21 financial year of **R 243 406 000**.for approval to be appropriated as follows:

8. PROVINCIAL ALLOCATION

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION : **R101 103, 000.**

PROGRAMME 2: PROVINCIAL CIVILIAN SECRETARIAT : **R142 303,000**

I thank you.