

**BUDGET VOTE 9 SPEECH 2016/17: PRESENTED TO THE KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE BY
MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON, HONOURABLE TW MCHUNU, MPL,
PIETERMARITZBURG, THURSDAY, 14 APRIL 2016**

Madame Speaker;

The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Honourable Mr Senzo Mchunu;

Members of the Provincial Executive Council;

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;

Amakhosi AseNdlunkulu present;

Mayors and Councillors of Municipalities;

Excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps;

Director-General and Heads of the various Departments;

The South African Police Service;

Senior officials of government departments;

Membership of the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster;

The leadership of the Community Safety Structures;

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

All stakeholders;

Members of the media; and

People of KwaZulu-Natal,

*I have honour to present the Budget Speech for the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, Vote 9, under the theme: "**Advancing People's Power in Fighting Crime**".*

1. ALL SHALL ENJOY HUMAN RIGHTS

Madame Speaker,

This presentation to the House takes place against the background of significant developments both in the province and in the country as we promote the delivery of better lives for the majority of our people who are still ensnared in the legacy of apartheid.

It is inevitable, as a government and the representatives of our people, to always have regard to the provisions of section 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. It states that the Republic of South Africa is one, sovereign, democratic state founded on the following values:

- a) Human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms;
- b) Non-racialism and non-sexism;
- c) Supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law;
- d) Universal adult suffrage, a national common voters roll, regular elections and a multi-party system of democratic government, to ensure accountability, responsiveness and openness.

The 2016/2017 budget presentation occurs just weeks after the province and the country had celebrated Human Rights Day. It was an occasion which we used to raise awareness of racism and to explore ways in which it could be totally eradicated as we move to create social cohesion among the people of our province.

Significantly, this year's commemoration of Human Rights Day coincided with the 20th anniversary of the signing of the final draft of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa into law, which occurred in Sharpeville on 10 December 1996.

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, the provisions of our globally admired Constitution are largely based on the tenets of the Freedom Charter. Among others, the Freedom Charter declares that **"ALL SHALL ENJOY HUMAN RIGHTS"**.

These rights find expression in Chapter 2 of the Constitution, which deals with the Bill of Rights, aptly described as the "cornerstone of democracy in South Africa".

Honourable members, I wish to draw your attention to Sections 17 and 18 of the Constitution, which deal with the rights "to assembly, demonstration, picket and petition".

Section 17 says, and I quote, "Everyone has the right, **peacefully and unarmed**, to assemble, to demonstrate, to picket and to present petitions." Section 18 guarantees the right to freedom of association.

Honourable members, I wish to point out that these rights come with responsibilities. Other persons also have the rights in the Bill of Rights. This means that in the exercise of our human rights and freedoms, we must behave in a manner that does not infringe on the rights of others.

Furthermore, the rights in the Bill of Rights may be limited "...in terms of law of general application to the extent that the limitation is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom...". This is so because our Republic is founded, not only on the advancement of human rights, but also on the rule of law.

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, we therefore have a collective responsibility to promote a culture of respect for human rights and the rule of law.

This brings me to the matter of the recent upsurge of violent unlawful public protests in the province. The majority of protests in the province are unlawful gatherings or demonstrations depicted by disruptive and frequently violent behaviour of participants. The protests are aimed at coercing public or even private institutions to the action or omissions demanded. The protestors further normally create an environment for optimal coercive impact. The unlawful nature of the protests avoids prior notice to authorities and the consequent ability of authorities to exercise control over the protest. Their disruptive and violent nature (for example the destruction of private and public property) ensures adverse consequences for the public (commuters, businesses, labourers, employers), which in turn

places considerable pressure on relevant public and private institutions to resolve the cause of the protest, including on our already understaffed police service.

The subjects of unlawful protests include service delivery dissatisfaction (such as in respect of housing, education, health, land), labour disputes, public transport disputes, political disputes and resource competition.

Honourable members, the government is duty bound to act decisively against those behind this disorder in order to protect our democracy, the rule of law and the right of our people, enshrined in Section 12(1)(c) of the Constitution, to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources.

The mechanisms mostly used by government thus far have included the activation of the Rapid Response Structure and Procedure set up by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), police deployment and the prosecution of common law and statutory offences committed by participants. However, we are also now exploring other legal remedies.

Section 11 of the Regulation of Gatherings Act of 1993 deals with the liability for damage arising from gatherings and demonstrations and it determines that if any riot damage occurs as a result of a gathering or demonstration, participants and convenors shall be jointly and severally liable for that riot damage as joint wrongdoers.

A more preventative legal mechanism against unlawful public protests was successfully used in Weenen late last year when the Provincial Government interdicted a threatened violent public protest by a group that has caused chaos on the R74 on several occasions in the past.

A provincial legal task team has now been set up to develop a comprehensive legal strategy against unlawful violent public protests.

I wish to urge the Honourable members to support the government in protecting the Province against this threat to the founding values of our democracy.

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, section 205 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa calls for the establishment of the national police service that should be structured to function in the national, provincial and, where appropriate, local spheres of government. It provides further that the objects of the police service are to prevent, combat and investigate crime, to maintain public order, to protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property, and to uphold and enforce the law.

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, section 206 of the Constitution further requires each province to monitor police conduct, to oversee the effectiveness and efficiency of the police service, including receiving reports on the police service, to promote good relations between the police and the community and to assess the effectiveness of visible policing.

In addition to these constitutional powers, the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act of 2011 provides for the functions of the Civilian Secretariat for Police at a national level as well as that of Provincial Secretariats. It goes further to stipulate in section 4(5) that Provincial Secretariats must perform functions and exercise powers of the Civilian Secretariat in the provincial sphere. In this way, this Act reinforces the constitutional powers of Provinces to exercise civilian oversight over the police and to monitor and review police performance. In order to do this, the Province must monitor and review the prevention, combatting and investigation of crime, the maintenance of public order, the protection and securing of the inhabitants of the Province and their property, and the upholding and enforcement of the law by the police as required by section 205 of the Constitution.

Honourable members, we are re-emphasising this so that all members and our stakeholders can understand that each programme we undertake emanates from these Constitutional and statutory mandates.

2. REVIEW OF POLICE PERFORMANCE AND COMPLIANCE

In order for us to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the police, we have to consider the crime statistics, arrests and station evaluations.

Honourable members, it is worth mentioning that during the release of the Crime Statistics for the 2014/2015 financial, the National Minister of Police, Mr Nathi Nhleko, noted that KwaZulu-Natal is among the top three best performing provinces in the battle against crime.

2.1. INTERPROVINCIAL COMPARISON

A comparative analysis of murders as a ratio of population for each province reveals that KZN, unfortunately, has the highest reported murder rate, contributing 22.3% to the national total.

Equally disturbing is the fact that KwaZulu-Natal has the second highest reported cases of attempted murder which contributes 22.3% to the national total. In this category of crime, Gauteng tops all provinces, contributing 24% to the national total.

In the category of aggravated assaults, our province is also second to Gauteng and has the third highest cases of sexual offences, contributing 16.9% to the national total.

KwaZulu-Natal further has the third highest reported rate of stock theft, with Gauteng occupying the first spot and Eastern Cape coming second.

To beef up the high visibility of the police and their capacity to conduct raids at crime flashpoints, as the department we have recommended to the provincial government that it considers partly funding Operation Fiela. We hope that this recommendation would be considered in this financial year to contribute to the fight against crime.

2.2. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE IN SPECIFIC AREAS

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, while we have noted the overall trend in the crime statistics in KZN there are, however, some issues of specific concern. These include the following:

- Crime such as murders, attempted murders and aggravated assault are increasing to levels last seen in 2010/11. Other crime related to transport disputes, intergroup conflicts and community protests have also shown an upward trend.
- While street and house robberies are decreasing, business robberies are increasing and they largely involve small businesses.
- Burglaries at non-residential and residential premises have shown small decreases.

Honourable members, to deal with the rising levels of crime and criminality, we are developing a consolidated Provincial Crime Prevention and Combating Strategy. This strategy will consolidate all crime fighting initiatives and in particular focus on contact crime, political conflict, taxi-related conflict, community faction-fights, public protests/instability, school safety, drug and liquor programmes.

2.3. POLICE INTERVENTIONS

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, the police continue to perform well in the war against crime and criminality. In the 2014/15 financial year alone, police arrested 162 131 people in KwaZulu-Natal. We are, however, deeply saddened and concerned at the continued attacks and killings of our police.

From April 2014 to 31 March 2015, 14 members in KwaZulu-Natal died while in the line of duty. This is, indeed, a great loss to the state and the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

Honourable members, there is a strong feeling that an attack on police should be treated as an attack against the state and, therefore, be regarded as an act of treason. At the Executive Council in February 2016, a resolution was taken that the SAPS working together with the department must make recommendations to amend the minimum sentences laws to include minimum sentences for the killing of law enforcement officers.

Moreover, in this financial year, the Department will intensify the One Million Signature Campaign Against Crime and Police Killings. The progress in reaching our target with this campaign has been less than expected. We therefore revised the implementation methodology to include dialogues, billboards, proximity marketing, social media and radio as the key drivers of the campaign, which will also enable improved community feedback.

Another aspect which requires urgent attention is continued distrust and poor relations between police and communities brought about by the legacy of apartheid and past experiences.

As part of improving these poor relations and suspicions, we will this year (working with relevant stakeholders) undertake a reconciliatory engagement process culminating in a symbolic cleansing ceremony for the police and former members of the liberation armies.

2.4. POLICE SERVICE DELIVERY EVALUATION

Oversight visits are carried out using the National Monitoring Tool (NMT). The NMT is reviewed on an annual basis by the Civilian Secretariat for Police in collaboration with all the Provinces. We have in the past resolved to appoint a panel of retired Provincial Commissioners to assist KwaZulu-Natal to amplify this tool to establish the norms and standards of an optimally functioning police station. This has not yet been executed. This year we will ensure that a refined tool is developed which will enable qualitative assessments.

Last financial year, 176 stations out of 183 were evaluated in the Province, constituting 96% of the total police stations in the province. It is the first time that the department has been able to evaluate almost all the stations in the province and it is indicative of the positive impact of the decentralisation and restructuring of the department. The challenge ahead is to improve the quality of assessments and the monitoring of the implementation of recommended remedial measures.

Findings and recommendations emanating from oversight visits inform the Executive Authority and the management of the police service whether a need exists to introduce policy interventions or whether there is a need to develop strategies toward improving police service delivery.

In the last financial year, we had undertaken to implement a pilot project to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of detective services with reference to closed case dockets. This project entailed the auditing of 50 closed dockets identified by the department in respect of the crime categories of property and drug related crimes, contact crimes and sexual offences.

We approached the Provincial Commissioner in respect of the initiation of the pilot project on 31 July 2015, who referred the matter to the National Commissioner. The Acting National Commissioner responded in a letter dated 8 December 2015 by giving partial authority for the project. We accepted the approach proposed by the Acting National Commissioner subject to a request for further engagement on the methodology for future detection service delivery monitoring and evaluation. Pending this engagement, the department has identified the 50 dockets for auditing and the compilations of the audit reports are underway.

There has been confusion among certain honourable members of Legislature in respect of the objective of this project. It is therefore important to reiterate that this project seeks to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the work of police detectives and not the National Prosecuting Authority. The exercise is intended to address the challenge of deficient case dockets being submitted to the National Prosecuting Authority, resulting in cases not being prosecuted at all or unsuccessfully so. We are concerned about the delays in proceeding with this very important project to improve the criminal justice system. We hope this year to address all challenges and establish a permanent capacity for docket audit and case tracking in the Department of Community Safety and Liaison.

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, we previously indicated that we would be developing a police visibility monitoring tool. The department indeed developed such a tool for the 2015/16 festive seasons and monitored the visible policing in 70 police stations in the province. It was found that,

generally, police deployment in respect of personnel and vehicles need to be improved. We will this year be strengthening the monitoring of visible policing in the province.

In this financial year, we also intend to extend the monitoring and evaluation of police to the Metropolitan Police in accordance with a resolution taken at the Executive Council Lekgotla in February 2016. Our engagement with the Durban Metro and the Metro Police to give effect to this resolution will now begin.

2.5. COMMUNITY AND POLICE SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS (2015/2016)

In recognition of the tireless efforts by our men and women in blue and community crime fighters in the war against crime – at times under the most difficult conditions – we once again hosted the MEC's Community and Police Service Excellence Awards during the year under review.

The event, held in Durban in February this year, was well received by those being recognized and was generally accepted as an important token of appreciation for going beyond the call of duty.

A total of 17 Special Awards were given out to individuals who were recognized for excelling in their fields of fighting crime in their communities.

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, I would like to once again take this opportunity to also extend our deepest gratitude to His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini, for his positive contribution to peace in KwaZulu-Natal through his leadership in many peace processes and his participation in community safety programmes.

In particular, it will be remembered that His Majesty, the King, played a key role in the initiatives, driven by Amakhosi, and supported by the department, to broker peace in Gauteng hostels. This initiative was aimed at resolving traditional conflict involving His Majesty, the King's subjects based in Gauteng hostels. This was successfully executed with the full backing and blessing of His Majesty, the King.

In July last year, we held a successful meeting with the KwaZulu-Natal House of Traditional Leaders who committed themselves to working collectively with the government to fight crime and resolve conflict at the hostels in the Province. We also extend our gratitude to the Amakhosi.

The approach and the experience gained in dealing with the conflict in Gauteng hostels is now in the process of being used in dealing with similar challenges in KwaZulu-Natal hostels, including Glebelands.

In this regard, we have assembled a departmental team, who are once again, in contact with parties in conflict at the Glebe hostel, with a view of reviving the stalled dialogue. We are working with other key stakeholders, including the Office of Premier, the police and eThekweni Metro. eThekweni Metro has already effected some of the security upgrades, including the installation of high mast lights, close circuit cameras and perimeter fencing.

The city is also in the process of taking over the full management of the hostel, including the allocation of beds. This aspect has been identified as one of the issues that triggered the current conflict.

This financial year we hope to formalise our collaboration with Amakhosi on crime fighting throughout the Province, including on the subject of hostel conflicts, in a memorandum of understanding.

3. BUILDING A UNITED FRONT AGAINST CRIME

Honourable members, this continues to be the anchor of all departmental programmes, around which all our efforts to mobilise and place all sectors of our community in the forefront of crime fighting, revolves.

3.1. HOLISTIC COMMUNITY LIAISON FRAMEWORK

This holistic framework continues to provide a platform through which the government works with communities at grass roots level in the fight against crime.

In the 2015/16 financial year, we established community safety structures across the province. By February this year, more than 1,488 people had been trained on the Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy.

We plan to establish 52 ward safety committees in the 2016/17 financial year. We will also be continuing with the training and skilling of all existing and newly established community safety structures in the workings of the criminal justice system.

3.2. COMMUNITY POLICING

Community Policing constitutes the second pillar of the strategic focus which seeks to establish robust and functioning Community Police Forum structures throughout the province.

A total of 417 people were trained in the first phase of the CPF station capacity building programme and a further 336 people in the second phase of this training programme. This training provides knowledge of the CPF legal framework as well as the criminal justice system and procedure. The training also covered strategies on dealing with the issue and the threat of xenophobic attacks.

The Community Policing Pocket Guide, that was developed and printed in English by the department in the previous financial year, has since been revised and translated into isiZulu to respond to demands from the community crime fighting structures.

3.3. COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION

Madame Speaker, Honourable Members, the third pillar of our strategy is to mobilise and direct the energies of community crime fighters.

One of the key vehicles for community mobilization is the KZN Community Crime Prevention Association (KZNCCPA). We have capacitated this structure by providing training programmes focused on leadership and conflict resolution skills.

The KZNCCPA has been highly effective in assisting in crime prevention throughout the province. Some communities have tangible examples of their successful interventions to stop crime from being committed. The organisation has worked extensively with commercial farmers in the areas of rural safety and to battle stock-theft.

3.4. DECENTRALISED SERVICE DELIVERY

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, by the third quarter, only eight of the planned 13 district offices had been secured by the Department of Public Works and are operational. These are Amajuba, Ugu, Uthukela, Umzinyathi, eThekwini North, eThekwini West, Zululand and ILembe.

The Harry Gwala, uMkhanyakude, uMgungundlovu, uThungulu and eThekwini South district offices had not been finalised by the Department of Public Works by year-end. However, since our recent engagements with the Finance Portfolio Committee on this matter, the uMkhanyakude district has found office space.

We are happy that services to the people have been brought closer to the people in at least these districts.

We have engaged our Department of Public Works counterpart with a view to expediting the process of the acquisition of offices that are still outstanding.

In the meantime, the department continues to function in those districts without offices, utilising existing district office staff currently accommodated at Head Office in Pietermaritzburg.

3.5. TOGETHER WE CAN DEFEAT CRIME

Guided by these four pillars of a United Front Against Crime that are already in place, work is underway to take united action against crime and all social ills to unprecedented levels by means of the fifth pillar – crime prevention programmes. These programmes are:

3.5.1. YOUTH AND CRIME

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, the youth remains important partners in the war against crime and we continue to work with them in this regard.

Therefore, our efforts have been focused on developing resilience and healthy lifestyles for young people. The department has also been focusing on capacitating CPF Youth Desks in the development of a Youth Safety Strategy.

We are proud to announce that the Youth Desk is now fully functional and active on the ground. Some of their activities involved conducting crime awareness campaigns at schools in Ilembe District, festive

season anti-crime activities, back to school visits and an anti-drug campaign. The Youth Desk is now a reliable partner in the battle against crime.

In 2016/17, we will continue to assist them in their programmes. These include supporting them to roll out their school safety programme in all 13 districts of the department, youth capacity building programmes, and holding their executive and full board annual general meetings.

3.5.2. ANTI-SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Honourable members, we are shocked and concerned at the increase of the use of drugs, especially by learners as exemplified by the death of four learners in KwaMashu. Now we are told that this killer drug has spread to the KZN Midlands.

This calls for urgent action by all sectors of the community and the government through the implementation of the National Drug Master Plan in partnership with relevant role players. The Executive Council of KwaZulu-Natal, at its Lekgotla in February 2016, resolved that a Provincial Coordinating Mechanism to programmatise drug law enforcement must be established, which must include a specialist dedicated capacity to investigate drug-related crime.

3.5.3. PUBLIC TRANSPORT VIOLENCE

Honourable members, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, in partnership with Department of Transport and law enforcement agencies, is now fully involved in efforts to prevent public transport violence and to stabilize the taxi industry.

I would like to remind honourable members of the role of the department in respect of public transport violence: monitoring police response to incidents, facilitating integrated law enforcement and conflict resolution through the Communities-in-Dialogue Programme. The district office teams have been trained on the legal framework for taxi violence management during the last financial year and in some districts, implementation has been fruitful.

The Provincial Priority Committee on Taxi Violence has been revived with the Provincial Integrated Law Enforcement Plan being implemented.

3.5.4. SCHOOL SAFETY

Believing that safety of our schools and children is intrinsically linked to the improved learner outcomes, we have in the year under review rolled out a plethora of initiatives to bring stability and safety in our provincial schools.

Perhaps the highlight of these initiatives was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between our Department, the Department of Education and the South African Police Services last month. This memorandum binds the Department of Education to establish School Safety Committees and implement the National School Safety Framework (NSSF) with the support of the Department of Community Safety and Liaison as well as the SAPS. The Department has commenced the formal monitoring of police stations in respect of compliance with the National School Safety Framework and

the training of School Safety Committees on the legal framework for crime prevention and criminal justice. This process will continue during this financial year.

However, we will in addition be looking into the implementation of the Societal Education Programme, developed and implemented in previous financial years, in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education, at school facilities in order to reach the community it serves and their children.

3.5.5. STOCK-THEFT

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, we remain concerned that the emotional and tangible value attached to stock poses a potential to trigger conflict if stock theft is not contained in this province.

We, are however, encouraged by the positive impact being made by the collaboration of the police, the KZNCCPA and farmers in the battle against stock-theft in the province.

The overall recovery rate by the police is 42.3% and we remain concerned at this low rate, especially considering that total losses to the stock owning community are estimated at R90.9 million.

To deal with this challenge, the Red Line project to detect stolen stock crossing borders is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture. Other intervention strategies include encouraging municipalities to establish pounds with set pound fees, increased co-operation between farmers and local authorities, improved branding of livestock, strengthened community collaboration in fighting stock theft and extensively auditing the capacity of all stock theft units.

3.5.6. REDUCING SEXUAL OFFENCES AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Honourable Members, we are concerned about the increased incidents of sexual offences and family violence.

To deal with this, we launched a high-profile campaign to increase the awareness of the community against this scourge. In particular, we organized protests outside courts where suspects were appearing on charges of sexual offences, urging the courts not to grant bail. This campaign will be intensified this year.

Police have had significant successes in the battle against this scourge. While by August last year there were 1 918 arrests for crimes against vulnerable groups, with a total of 287 convictions (including 63 life sentences), as of February this year, there were 1 660 arrests for such crimes, with 32 life sentences and 2 458 collective years of imprisonment.

In the 2016/17 financial year, the department will focus on border post police stations in its evaluation work. This will, in the main, seek to address concerns about human trafficking.

3.5.7. VOLUNTEER CRIME PREVENTION

Currently, there is a total of 1 490 social crime prevention volunteers in KwaZulu-Natal. Madame Speaker and Honourable members, we are pleased to announce that as result of improved spending as well as improved reporting in respect of this project, a significant increase in the EPWP budget for the 2016/17 financial year has been allocated by the Department of Public Works. The increase in this grant allocation, from R1 million to R11 million, will allow the department to increase the number of crime prevention volunteers by 385 in 2016/17. The ultimate objective is to recruit at least two volunteers per ward. This year, in any ward where there is no volunteer, we will recruit at least one volunteer.

3.5.8. DISPLACEMENT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

Honourable Members may be aware that the reports of the Social Cohesion Committee and Special Reference Group on Migration and Community Integration in KwaZulu-Natal have been publicised by the Honourable Premier. The Provincial Government is continuing with the process to extract lessons from the incidents in 2008 and 2015 to prevent a recurrence.

As a department we will play our role in the social cohesion programmes envisaged in the reports.

Since the outbreak of xenophobic attacks in the province in March 2015, we have continued to create awareness within our communities of the need for tolerance and appreciation of Ubuntu. We also continue to work with organisations such as African Solidarity Network for Refugees in addressing challenges facing foreign nationals in the province.

The department is also encouraging foreign nationals to participate in community meetings, including war-room meetings of Operation Sukuma Sakhe so that they will be known to all structures within the government.

In March 2016, the department, in partnerships with Soccer Legends and Games for Africa, launched a social sport programme against Afrophobia. This sought to promote social cohesion through sport under the theme: "Play Together, Work Together".

In the 2016/17, the department aims to roll-out these tournaments to all townships within eThekweni and other districts to promote social cohesion. We will also continue to host dialogues to address Aphrophobia.

3.5.9. COMMUNITIES-IN-DIALOGUE

This programme has continued to bring peace and stability in communities involved in conflicts.

Honourable members, earlier on in my address, I spoke at length about how this programme was used to resolve the conflict involving KwaZulu-Natal citizens based in Gauteng. In addition to this, a total of 13 Communities-in-Dialogue programmes were conducted in the 2015/16 financial year. Some of these include resolving community conflicts in Richmond and eZakheni. It is worthy to note that there has been a significant decrease in community conflicts, which is a clear indication of the success of this programme.

In this financial year, we will continue with this programme to deal with conflicts in Jacobs, Glebelands, KwaMashu and all other hostels, as well as other emerging conflicts in the province.

3.5.10. PROMOTING POLITICAL STABILITY

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, through the hard work of the Multi-Party Political Intervention Committee, the province is now virtually free of political instability. We wish to acknowledge the contribution of all political parties in bringing about political stability in the province and we hope that political parties will cooperate with us as we approach the 2016 Local Government Elections. Honourable members, it is important for all of us to make KwaZulu-Natal a stable and politically tolerant province.

The department will play its role, as it has done in respect of previous elections, through the implementation of its election monitoring project in respect of the upcoming 2016 local government elections.

3.5.11. SPORT AGAINST CRIME

The Sport Against Crime initiative, which has a potential to engage our youth in positive activity and remove them from crime and drugs, is a very important programme.

In 2015/16, more than 10 events were held, attracting more than 30 000 people in Folweni, KwaMakhutha, uMlazi, Ugu, Greytown, Point and Impendle.

We will be continuing with this programme in the 2016/17 financial year in all our districts. We will in this regard continue to explore cooperative arrangements with the Department of Sport and Recreation.

3.5.12. REHABILITATION & REINTEGRATION OF OFFENDERS

The aspect of career criminals and the role of the community in enabling or disabling this practice brings to the fore the impact of the correctional system regulated by the Correctional Services Act of 1998. In section 36 of the Act, the objective of implementation of a sentence of incarceration is stated as the following:

'With due regard to the fact that the deprivation of liberty serves the purposes of punishment, the implementation of a sentence of incarceration has the objective of enabling the sentenced offender to lead a socially responsible and crime-free life in the future.'

Against this background, the Executive Council has taken a resolution that a safety model should be developed, in collaboration with Social Development and Correctional Services, to address and possibly prevent repeat offending, targeting offender rehabilitation and ex-offender social reintegration processes.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Madame Speaker, Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, we have reflected extensively on the mandate of the department and the challenges it has to face head on to reduce the level of crime in the province.

It is, indeed, clear that the fight against crime correctly remains one of the top five priorities of the government, as is captured in a number of strategic government documents, including the National Development Plan and the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy.

Crime in its various forms is an injury to the rights to human dignity, equality, life, security of the person, privacy, property and education. In this way, it presents a barrier to the advancement of the human rights in the Bill of Rights. At the same time, criminality goes against the very fibre of the Rule of Law. The founding values of our country are therefore under attack.

The profound effect of crime on our democracy highlights the significance of the role of those charged with fighting crime efficiently and effectively. As one of the organs of state made responsible for guarding our democracy against criminality, it is sad that the department continues to be the most underfunded of all provincial departments. We reiterate our feeling that Government, at some stage, needs to address the issue of the baseline allocation of this department. This matter has been raised through various governance mechanisms, without any impact, yet crime rages on.

Honourable members, we wish to place on record that the proposed budget cut of around R6 million will severely hamper the ability of this department to deliver on its mandate, including rolling out our work closer to the people in 13 districts.

I therefore wish to appeal to the honourable members of this House, to assist this department in having its baseline allocations addressed as a matter of urgency.

Madame Speaker, I close by expressing my gratitude to the glorious liberation movement, the ANC, for deploying me to the community safety and liaison portfolio. My gratitude also goes to the Honourable Premier of KwaZulu-Natal and my colleagues in the Executive Council for their continued backing; to the Chairperson of the Community Safety and Liaison Portfolio Committee, the Honourable Mr Bheki Ntuli, and the Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee, for creating an enabling environment through their oversight activities. And to my family – thank you for the unwavering support.

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, it is my privilege to table the budget of the Department of Community Safety and Liaison for the 2016/17 financial year amounting to R210,123,000.00 for approval to be appropriated as follows:

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATION	- R199,080,000.00
➤ PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION	- R 68,896,000.00
➤ PROGRAMME 2: PROVINCIAL CIVILIAN SECRETARIAT	- R130,184,000.00
EPWP INCENTIVE GRANT	- R 11,043,000.00

I thank you.