



community safety & liaison

Department:
Community Safety and Liaison
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

BUILDING A UNITED FRONT AGAINST CRIME.



**BUDGET VOTE
SPEECH
2017/2018**



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MEC for Transport,
Community Safety and Liaison



BUDGET VOTE SPEECH 2017/2018

Presented to the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature
on Thursday, 20 April 2017

BUDGET VOTE 9 SPEECH 2017/18: PRESENTED TO THE KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE BY MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON, HONOURABLE T.M. KAUNDA, MPL, PIETERMARITZBURG, THURSDAY, 20 APRIL 2017.

- Madame Speaker;
- The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Honourable Mr. T.W. 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;
- Acting Provincial Commissioner and your management team;
- Members of 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: “ISIFUNDAZWE ESILWISANA NOBUGEBENGU” which means “A PROVINCE FIGHTING CRIME”.

1. THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY’S WEALTH

Madame Speaker,

This budget presentation to this august House takes place against the backdrop of significant epochs and clear instructions by leadership, at all levels, on what needs to be done urgently to address the plight of those still suffering from the effects of the legacy of apartheid.

These instructions and the new marching orders for the country towards a national democratic and poverty free nation were eloquently spelt out by the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency, Mr. Jacob Zuma, in his State of the Nation Address. Among key pronouncements, the President was unequivocal about the urgent need to embark on rapid and radical economic transformation with a view of integrating millions of people into the mainstream of the economy.

He said, and I quote: “Today we are starting a new chapter of radical socio-economic transformation. We are saying that we should move beyond words, to practical programmes.

“The State will play a role in the economy to drive that transformation. In this regard, government will utilize to the maximum, the strategic levers that are available to the State.

“This includes legislation, regulations, licensing, budget and procurement as well as Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment charters to influence the behaviour of the private sector and drive transformation.”

The President also warned against the dangers of the slow pace of land restitution, saying the fact that very little land was in the hands of the majority could impact negative on the strategic projects of reconciliation and racial social cohesion in the country. These pronouncements by the President are a reflection of and speak to ideals outlined in the Freedom Charter, that historical document that informs and shapes our globally-admired Constitution. On the subject for equality and the need for all to benefit from the wealth of the country, the Freedom Charter declares that, “The People Shall Share In The Country’s Wealth.”

This time-tested document envisages that in the post-apartheid South Africa, “The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be restored to the people. The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of people as a whole. All other industries and trade shall be controlled to assist the well-being of the people.

All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and enter all traded, crafts and professions.”. Indeed, this budget presentation takes place during what the President has declared “The Year of Oliver Reginald Tambo” - that illustrious leader of our glorious liberation movement, the ANC, who sacrificed his youth to fight for democracy in South Africa.

This theme and commitment to better the lives of the down-trodden was carried through by Premier Mchunu in his State of the Province Address which was delivered with such articulation and resolution.

The Premier was unequivocal on the need for social cohesion, unity of the people of KwaZulu-Natal, free and united in their diversity, saying all the noble objectives of moving the Province forward could only be achieved if the people had shared values.

This underlined the conditions under which rapid economic transformation and land transfer to the masses could and should take place.

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, we have all - individually and collectively - been instructed to move with speed to do everything possible to full-fill the commitments made in the Freedom Charter and our Constitution.

If we succeed in doing this, we will be full-filling the strategic and the noble objectives set by the founding fathers of our liberation, such as Tatu Tambo.

The visionary Tambo had this to say about the corrosive effects of apartheid, its racial and discriminative economy:

“The objective of our struggle in South Africa, as set out in the Freedom Charter, encompasses economic emancipation. It is inconceivable for liberation to have meaning without a return of the wealth of the country to the people as a whole. To allow the existing economic forces to retain their interests intact is to feed the roots of racial supremacy and exploitation, and does not represent even the shadow of liberation. It is, therefore, a fundamental feature of our strategy that victory must embrace more than formal political democracy; and our drive towards national emancipation must include economic emancipation.”

It is these wise and instructive words of the stalwarts such as Tambo that should propel us into action and to work for goodness, racial harmony and a just and equal society.

This calls upon all of us to ensure that, indeed, the Freedom Charter’s ideal that ***“THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY’S WEALTH”*** becomes a reality in our lifetime.

Such instructions by our leaders at all levels, impose a number of daunting questions and challenges of what is expected of us to deliver on these eloquently outlined marching orders.

The KwaZulu-Natal Planning Commission envisages a situation whereby in 2030, KwaZulu-Natal shall be a ***“Prosperous Province with a healthy, secure and skilled population, acting as a gateway to Africa and the World”***.

In short, the question that we have to answer is what initiatives should the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, ably supported by the Honourable Members of this House, embark upon to ensure the realization of the objectives outlined above.

Madame Speaker, it is evident an environment that is free of crime and other social ills is essential for complete economic emancipation. This is also recognised in the Government blue print, the National Development Plan (NDP).

To achieve the goals set out in this plan (NDP), South Africans need to feel safe everywhere and have confidence in the criminal justice system to protect them and to act swiftly and effectively when required to do so.

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, in examining our role as the Department and the programmes planned for this financial year in this policy context, it is also necessary to briefly consider our legislative mandates.

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.

Section 206 instructs that a member of the Cabinet (Minister of Police) must be responsible for policing and must determine national policing policy after consulting the provincial governments and taking into account the policing needs and priorities of the provinces as determined by the provincial executives.

Section 206 further entitles 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; to assess the effectiveness of visible policing; and to liaise with the Cabinet member responsible for policing with respect to crime and policing in the province.

The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act of 2011 reinforces the constitutional powers of Provinces to exercise civilian oversight over the police and to monitor and review police performance. In addition it requires the promotion of community safety partnerships and structures as well as the development of safety models.

After careful consideration of the preceding policy and legislative obligations, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison conceptualised what services it would deliver to the people of KwaZulu-Natal in 2017/18 under its two Programmes - Administration and Provincial Secretariat for Police Service.

2. PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

Sound administration is critical for any organization to function efficiently and effectively at all the time. The key objective of administration is to develop and manage the Department, including administrative support, regulation of the overall management of the Department and provide centralized and all round strategic support.

Following years of administrative instability caused mainly by fact that the department had been forced to operate without a Head of Department, at times without the Chief Financial Officer and without the Head of Provincial Secretariat, the filling of these key posts have brought about necessary administrative stability and progressively re-focused the department.

On 11 November 2016, the Minister of Police made Regulations in terms of section 33 of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act, 2011. These Regulations apply to members of the Civilian Secretariat and Provincial Secretariats established in terms of the Act and to the police service. The department has commenced training staff members/regions on the regulations as they would inform how the department should perform its functions.

The administration is now finely attuned to provide strategic leadership and management, maximise internal and external communications, manage and use information effectively, use information technology to maximise human performance, manage and optimise human performance, ensure sound financial management and reporting. Finally and critically, this new era enables us to comply with all legal requirements and good corporate governance.

For example, there was no adverse finding on performance management in the audit report for the last financial year. We were commended by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts because this had been a recurring AG finding for many years. We are striving for a clean audit in the near future.

Honourable members, the department does not only attract capable staff into its fold, but we also provide ongoing training to staff. This is to ensure that they are fully equipped for the challenging task of serving of our people. This approach fits well with the government's quest to create highly capable, skilled, socially and ethically committed public service cadres that understand and accept their national duty and have a common culture and ethos.

It therefore gives us great pride to announce that through our programme of continuously improving the capacity of our staff, last year one of our employees, Mr Mafika Maseko (should I say Dr Maseko), obtained a PhD. What makes us more proud is also the fact that Dr. MJ Maseko's Ph.D. was fully funded by the Department through the Employee Bursary Scheme.

A total of 48 staff members last year completed Crime Prevention Management and Civilian Oversight for Police programmes with Wits University. Others received training on Writing Minutes and Facilitation of Learning. A total of 16 interns were placed in the Department.

As part of our strategic decision to decentralise the department and take it closer to the people, we are moving with speed to capacitate our district offices so that they could effectively service our people.

The department, as part of its contribution to Radical Economic Transformation, is planning to empower the workers who are currently providing services through the existing service providers, by helping them to form co-operatives and facilitating business mentorship.

The Department will target further black owned business, especially those formed by Africans. The designated groups such as EMEs in townships, rural areas and underdeveloped areas will be focused on.

The procurement targets for the department will be as follows: Women 30%, Youth 35%, People with Disability 5%, Military Veterans 10% and Africans 60%. The Department will focus mostly on cooperatives to empower groups rather than individuals. We are, indeed, trying our utmost best to do more with little.

3. PROGRAMME 2: PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE SERVICE

3.1 Operational Environment

Our police have to provide this essential service in a province that is largely rural and with a very difficult topography to operate on. The province has a population of over 10.9 million people and an area of 94 361 square kms. The ratio of police to population is 1:469. The province has eight (8) ports of entry and three international borders with Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland.

Crime in KwaZulu-Natal is influenced by multiple factors, such as the legacy of so many conflicts including faction-fights and political violence of the 80's and 90's. All these left the province abound with illegal firearms which are now the key drivers of conflict in the province. I will later reflect on how we intend to deal with this and other related challenges.

On the other hand, KwaZulu-Natal is experiencing phenomenal economic development and population growth. Naturally, it is expected of the police to provide security, safety and stability to the inhabitants. Some of the challenges impacting on trust rate between police and the community are the release of perpetrators of serious crime back into the communities and Justice System.

It is for this reason that we support the Government's bid for tighter bail conditions in order to prevent the release of dangerous suspects back into communities where they allegedly committed crime.

Delays in trials, high rates of withdrawals and low conviction rates further aggravate the situation. We are, however, constantly engaging the key stakeholders in the justice system to work together to address these aspects.

Also, the upsurge of public protests, which have subsided in recent times, had the effect of diverting police resources from core business and placed an added burden on understaffed members. The Provincial Government as a whole has endeavoured to play its part in managing public protests in a strategic manner and it will continue to do so.

3.2 Crime in KZN

Crime and safety remain foremost in the minds of all citizens of our beautiful province. Their circumstances place them either at risk of perpetrating crime, or of becoming victims. When speaking about crime, it is therefore not useful to view all crime phenomena through the same lens.

In respect of violent crimes, we can distinctly identify the key causal drivers and contributors as our society's problematic relationship with alcohol, drugs and firearms. These continue to drive the high levels of Murder, Attempted Murder and Serious Assault witnessed daily in our province.

On the positive side though, contact crimes as a total decreased in the province over the five (5) year period. Assault with the Intent to Commit Grievous Bodily Harm, Common Robbery, Sexual Offences and Common Assault have decreased, but unfortunately, Murder, Attempted Murder and Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances have increased.

A particularly worrying feature of crimes such as Murder has been that young people feature prominently in these incidents as both perpetrators and victims. The analysis of the 2015/2016 incidents has revealed that 70% of Murder victims were between the ages of 16 and 40 years. Also, 78% of suspects were between the ages of 18 and 40.

A similar trend has been observed in respect of Attempted Murders and Serious Assaults.

An example is the murder of Sister Stefani near Ixopo, who was victimised by young people from the very community she served as a nun.

In the coming year, the department will research the causes of violence affecting young people as victims and perpetrators, to determine means to prevent a recurrence of such incidents.

In respects of sexual offences, many of these crimes are perpetrated against children and by known assailants. Again, living circumstances may be placing persons at risk as analysis has indicated that in the case of Rape incidents, 62% occurred within the victim's residence. In 26% of cases, the use of alcohol by the perpetrator was mentioned. We challenge our society to urgently interrogate the circumstances which create and contribute to vulnerability and employ protective measures.

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, it is encouraging that in respect of Property Crimes in the Province in the last year, there has been a positive trend. Decreases were seen in stock theft, while Housebreaking at Business and Residential premises, Theft of Motor Vehicle and Theft out of Motor Vehicle stabilised.

Also in respect of Other Serious Crime in the Province in the last year, decreases were seen in category of Theft (Other) and commercial crime, while Shoplifting stabilised.

The crimes of Carjacking and Robbery at Business Premises increased. Truck Hi-Jacking, House Robbery and the Robbery of Cash in Transit stabilised.

As the government, we will continue to put all the resources at our disposal into ensuring that the drivers of crime are addressed and that perpetrators are brought to book and efficiently dealt with by the criminal justice system.

The Provincial Crime Summit held on 11/12 November 2016, provided valuable information to Government and its stakeholder in respect of the policing needs and priorities, the improvement of the criminal justice system and areas requiring more attention.

At the same time, we must remember that we have opted for a community-centred model of policing. As the State, we no longer 'police communities', but instead, we police with communities.

Members of this august House, the question is: **What can communities do?**

Communities must discourage drug and alcohol abuse at every opportunity and at every level, with all the resources we can muster. Communities must identify persons at risk – of either perpetrating crime or of becoming a victim - and build a layer of protection around such persons, averting any negative outcomes. Communities and individuals must never benefit from ill-gotten goods, and those who do, must be identified and made to account.

Madame Speaker, I wish to emphasise the importance of families and parents in fulfilling their family and parental obligations. The outsourcing of these duties invariably leads to the break-down of the social fabric of society and, ultimately, criminality. We also call on our communities to assist the few social workers we have to care for and identify persons vulnerable to social ills and crime.

Honourable members, the problematic relationship we have with firearms must be addressed urgently. Research has shown that more guns in a society do not make that society safer. Instead, fewer guns will make us safe.

Honourable members, the sad reality that we have to face head on is that illegal firearms, illegal and unregulated shebeens and drugs constitute what I will refer to as “axis of evil” which are key drivers of crime in KwaZulu-Natal.

Just in January alone, police recovered 139 firearms in KwaZulu-Natal through intelligence-driven operations which were conducted by different clusters around KwaZulu-Natal.

The operations were conducted from 1 January 2017 to 28 January 2017, and included the recovery of 119 pistols, four shotguns, six homemade firearms and 10 rifles.

A total of 1431 live rounds of ammunition were also recovered during the operations. The firearms were taken for ballistics to ascertain if they were used in the commission of any other crime in the country.

The police managed to arrest at least 151 suspects for possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition. They appeared in the various magistrates’ court across the province.

At the beginning of February, police in the Zululand Cluster arrested 13 suspects at Klipfontein farm near Vryheid, who were in possession of 10 unlicensed firearms and ammunitions.

Last year alone (April to December 2016) our hard working police recovered 3 325 firearms. From January to February 2017, a total 717 firearms were recovered in the province. Equally frightening, is that an analysis done in 2016, indicates that of people killed, 35 percent of them were killed using firearms.

Colleagues, we are duty-bound to do something urgent about this state of killer illegal firearms. As recently noted by the Minister of Police, this is a national challenge. To deal with this challenge, and in line with the national initiative, in the new financial year we will launch a high profile anti-illegal firearms campaign.

This campaign, to be rolled out throughout the province and driven by our district offices, will seek to mobilise communities to contribute towards recovery of illegal firearms, share with them the dangers of having such weapons of murder in circulation. Working with national, we will also look at the issues of amnesty for those returning illegal firearms.

Also, through the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster, we are engaging the Liquor Authority to review the licences of offenders. With regards to unregulated taverns / shebeens, we have engaged police management in the province to closely monitor those outlets frequented by violent crime. Our first targets are those liquor outlets near schools and churches.

As we contemplate appropriate responses to that sector of our communities that have chosen to take the low road of crime, what we cannot do is to throw our hands up and say to the criminal-justice system, ‘You deal with this’. That will not work. Multi-stakeholder collaboration and an informed, evidence-based approach will take us much further than any other activity on its own will.

3.3 Police Performance Monitoring & Evaluation

3.3.1 Overview

Honourable Members, the year 2016 ushered in a number of organizational changes, including the introduction of new clusters and provincial structures within the SAPS. This, including the Government strategy of “back to basics” approach, sought to strengthen the services fight against crime in partnership with all key stakeholders. The SAPS approach in dealing with crime remains driven through the Seven Pronged Implementation Strategy. This flagship strategy consists of a Geographic Approach, Organised Crime Approach, Victim Support Approach, Multi-Disciplinary Approach, Community Partnership Approach, Repeat Offender Approach and Apex Priority Approach.

Police conduct weekly operations which target hot-spots. Regular analyses of crime trends are conducted by Provincial and satellite war rooms who also give direction on Trio Crimes responses. Special task teams are established where multiple murders occur. A service recovery plan, in respect of crime prevention, crime investigation and organizational matters, were put together after the provincial SAPS had identified specific areas of underperformance. These plans were vigorously implemented to fight crime.

Another sad reality, Honourable members, is that our society produces a lot of criminals which keeps our understaffed service very busy. For instance, in the 2015/16 financial year, police arrested a total of 211 000 people. These include 124 000 for priority crimes, 62 000 for less serious crimes and 24 000 for other crimes. We also remain deeply concerned at the continued targeting of our police who are killed and maimed by criminals. Last year (April to December 2016), 15 police were killed. This trend, continued this year.

To mobilise the community against this scourge and against crime, last November during the Safety Month, we launched a multi-pronged and high profile awareness campaign dubbed "Sekwanele." This innovative campaign, which is currently being rolled out throughout the province, seeks to nurture partnerships against crime and police killings. The core of the campaign is to obtain community and civil society support against crime and police killings through, among others, the collection of one million signatures.

The campaign involves dramas, performed in public and six community radio stations. It is backed by billboards and radio messaging.

This campaign also seeks to deal with continued distrust and poor relations between police and communities brought about by the legacy of apartheid and past experiences. Under the slogan "Iphoyisa lami lungungqo", communities are encouraged to embrace and celebrate their hard-working police officers.

Honourable members, in fulfilment of the commitment we made in the last financial year, various efforts are underway to improve poor relations and suspicions between the police and former members of the liberation armies. This project is set to culminate in a symbolic cleansing ceremony for the police and former members of the liberation armies.

3.3.2 Police Service Delivery Evaluation

Honorable members, we place high premium on the monitoring and evaluating of police performance, police stations and specialized units.

This remains a critical feature of the Department's oversight responsibilities as it enables us to hold the police accountable and to work with them to improve an overall service offered to the people.

We do this important work using the National Monitoring Tool (NMT) which is reviewed on an annual basis by the Civilian Secretariat for Police in collaboration with all the Provinces.

Last year, we took a strategic decision to reduce a number of stations to be evaluated and rather do 91 police stations. We did this in order to focus on few with a view of improving the quality of our evaluations.

As a result of our engagement with the police management in KZN, which is a by-product of these evaluations, the SAPS has conducted its own analysis of 61 stations showing some levels of weakness. Dubbed Project 500, these stations are part of the drive by the national government aimed at improving the quality of services to users at its frontline points.

The programme also aims to improve the back-office operations of the SAPS by, among other things, ensuring that SAPS service points are accessible and standardized to adequately support professional policing.

Honourable members and colleagues, immediately after my appointment to this portfolio, I undertook random and unannounced visits to quite a number of police stations in the province – both urban and rural. I was shocked by the poor physical state of many of these police stations.

They just do not instill confidence and do not give inspiration to members working there. Apart from their terrible state, their location was informed by apartheid spatial planning, away from the communities, depressing.

During these visits and interaction with communities, we are constantly inundated with calls for new police stations, closer to communities, and calls for the establishment of the satellite police stations. We have managed to intervene in some cases, but I have raised this matter with the Minister of Police.

I must say that, thankfully, some work has been done to improve the look of some stations in the province. Honourable members, you will recall that for the past two financial years, we have been trying to implement a pilot project to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of detective services with reference to closed case dockets in respect of the crime categories of property and drug related crimes, contact crimes and sexual offences. However, as you will recall, this project experienced some challenges. After some engagement with the police management, we were eventually given a limited access to the closed dockets and we completed the audit in the last year. However, the audit methodology determined by the Acting National Commissioner does constrain the full exercise of our oversight role.

We will continue further engagements to address this. In fulfillment of our undertaking made last year to extend the monitoring and evaluation of police to the Metropolitan Police, the Department is currently engaging the city of eThekweni on this initiative, a process which has taken longer than anticipated due to changes in leadership.

3.3.3 Highlights of Oversight Findings and Recommendations

In respect of Domestic Violence Audits, it was found among others, that not all police members know how to complete DVA documentation properly, no proper filing system at station in respect of DVA and in most of the cases DVA files do not have all the required information and documentation. To deal with this challenge, the DVA Act needs to be work-shopped with all members and we need to ensure that all stations have Victim Friendly Facilities.

Also, the Sector Policing should be prioritized with regards to allocation of resources to all police stations to ensure effective crime prevention. Road block equipment needs to be allocated to all clusters for use by police stations.

With respect to Detective Services, station commanders should prioritize making office space and interview rooms available for witnesses. Efforts should also be made to ensure that detective units are based at police stations.

Based on the outcome of the docket audit pilot project, detectives should, amongst others, improve the prioritisation of forensic evidence, following up on important clues, leads and evidence, the pace of investigations, direction by supervisors and case management.

Resource management and availability remains a challenge and station commanders should elevate this issue of shortage of personnel and resources to the provincial level. It will also assist for fleet managers to liaise with Provincial Logistics prior to vehicles being allocated to police stations.

In general, the service should improve resourcing in respect of manpower and vehicles for festive season operations with the deployment of female members needing to be prioritized for such operations.

Critically, the SAPS should make provision for overtime budget during festive season operations.

In the current financial year, we will be intensively engaging the police management in the province with regards to attending to these challenges in order to assist the SAPS to deliver an effective service to the community.

3.3.4 Service Excellence Awards

Madame Speaker and colleagues, you will certainly agree with me that in the police service and in our community, there are men and women who go out of their way to fight crime and contribute positively to peace and stability in our province.

These are men and women who need to be recognized for their bravery, dedication and willingness to serve our people. Similarly, members of our communities themselves must be recognized for their voluntary contributions in the war against crime.

We have taken a decision not to host the MEC's Community and Police Service Excellence Awards last year due to a review of the approach and methodology of the awards. During 2017/2018 financial year we will again host the awards, but this time it would be undertaken jointly with the Department of Transport and include recognition of traffic law enforcement service excellence. I am sure that you will agree with me that this is the proper thing to do.

3.4 Integrated Law Enforcement

We have been encouraged by the success of our Festive Season Integrated Safety Plans which were hugely successfully. This plan contributed immensely in reducing the levels of crime in the province during the festive season because there was visible policing and people were able to take ownership of their communities from criminals.

To deal with the issue of high police visibility, we will be rolling out this operation in all our districts throughout the year. We are engaging all municipalities and all law enforcement agencies to pursue this idea.

The Crime Summit underlined the need for the strengthening of partnerships and to involve all sectors of the community in the fight against crime. In pursuance of this belief, we will be formalizing a number of agreements and partnerships with the business sector, traditional leaders and the private security industry. We have no doubt that this will act as a critical “force multi-plier” for our understaffed SAPS.

Working with the chambers of commerce, we plan to aggressively focus the fight against crime in the provincial economic hubs of Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Richards Bay.

Honourable Members, as the province we share international borders with Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique –all which have various types of crime due to the porous nature of our border line security infrastructure.

UMkhanyakude district, which borders on Mozambique, is highly affected by the scourge of cross border crime where vehicles are being taken by force from the owners and taken across the border of Mozambique. Following several engagements with the eManguzi community, the Provincial Executive Council tasked me to lead the process to address this challenge. We have engaged all key stakeholders, including amakhosi and the local community.

A Border Integrity Improvement Plan has been developed and is being implemented in collaboration with the national sphere of Government. The key elements of the plan are the deployment of 40 crime prevention volunteers to improve detecting illegal activity, reducing the ability of criminals to move hijacked / stolen vehicles freely across the border through the installation of Jersey barriers, improving police deployment in the area and improving intergovernmental cooperation, especially between SAPS and the SANDF.

Both the provincial and the national governments are commitment to this process. President Zuma and Premier Mchunu held a crime indaba with the the community of uMkhanyakude on 13 March 2017 and they will soon return to the area to provide feedback.

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, the Technical Task Team on Inter-Provincial Crime and Law Enforcement is an initiative of this Province which is particularly concerned with the inter-provincial nature and, to some extent, the international nature, of serious and violent crime with an organised character perpetrated in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal or perpetrated beyond its borders with a nexus to the Province. The Task Team meets once every two months and the hosting of meetings is rotated among the participating provinces.

It has facilitated several joint initiatives, most notably joint cross-border public transport enforcement operations during holiday periods and community dialogue sessions in Gauteng hostels.

The Task Team initially included KZN, Gauteng, Free State and Mpumalanga. Today, I am proud to announce that this home-grown initiative has now been extended to Eastern Cape as well as Limpopo. This initiative will be launched once the political leadership in all participating provinces have been brought on board.

4. UNITED FRONT AGAINST CRIME

Honourable members, this flagship programme remains a centre-piece of all our efforts and initiatives in the mobilisation of all sectors of our society against crime and criminality. At the heart of this programme, lies the implementation of the Holistic Community Liaison Framework. This framework remains the central platform through which the government engages with communities at all levels in the fight against crime and criminality.

4.1 Ward Safety Committees

The establishment and capacitating of community safety structures across the province received priority attention in the last year. More than 1,388 people were trained on the Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy. Last year, we had committed ourselves to establishing 52 ward safety committees. We managed to establish and induct 54 such structures. This year we will be continuing with the training and skilling of all existing and newly established community safety structures on the workings of the criminal justice system.

4.2 Community Police Forums

The importance of robust and functioning Community Police Forums cannot be over-emphasized. Last year, we assessed the functionality of all 184 community policing forums. We also continued our initiatives to support CPFs through the facilitation of their Annual General Meetings, induction workshops and other related support. In terms of capacitation, members of CPFs, Youth Desks, KZNCCPA and volunteers participated in a Wits civilian oversight training programme (NQF7) which ended in March 2017. We intend extending this programme to as many members as the budget would allow.

We are particularly proud that Chatsworth CPF represented the province at the National Commissioner's Excellence Awards and scooped second place, receiving a trophy and an amount of R15,000.00. Congratulations to Chatsworth CPF!

In May 2016, the Provincial Community Police Board was dissolved by the Acting Provincial Commissioner. The re-organisation of the SAPS clusters necessitated the re-establishment of Cluster Boards and therefore also the Provincial Board. A Provincial Steering Committee was appointed to launch Cluster Boards in the 17 new clusters as well as the Provincial Board. All new clusters have been launched and it is expected that the Provincial Board establishment will follow soon.

4.3 Youth Desks

The launch of the Provincial Youth Desk on 4 June 2015, as part of the CPF structure of the province, was a critical milestone in our efforts to mobilise all sectors of our society and placing them on the forefront of the fight against crime. The Provincial Youth Desk held its AGM on 15 May 2016 where a new leadership was elected. From July 2016 to October 2016, the department trained members of the local Youth Desks at police stations. This training sought to ensure that all 184 local Youth Desks function effectively and understand the vision of the structure. The development of a Youth Crime Prevention Strategy is currently underway.

The Provincial Youth Desk has been very active, mainly with promoting peace at schools and focusing the attention of the youth on the fight against crime. We wish to recognize the sterling contributions of our Youth Desks / CPFs, who have even taken it upon themselves to clear dangerous bushes around schools to promote a safer school environment. Keep up the good work!

4.4 KwaZulu-Natal Community Crime Prevention Association

Honourable Members, one of the key successes in our efforts to build a united front against crime, was the formation of the KZN Community Crime Prevention Association (KZNCCPA). This body is made out of voluntary community crime prevention associations who have subjected themselves into working within the law with the department and the police to fight crime.

We have capacitated this structure by providing training programmes focused on leadership, conflict resolution and the criminal justice process. This has assisted in making the members to understand their role in the fight against crime working in partnership with the police. In particular, this has enhanced their capability to work within the law, thus reducing the incidents in which there are allegations of their members taking the law into their own hands.

The KZNCCPA has been very successful in dealing with rural and urban crime, especially stock-theft. Working with the police, they have been instrumental in the recovery of stolen stock, contributing to the 3.8 percent decline in stock-theft in the province. The organization is also active in resolving of community conflicts and it has been instrumental in numerous arrests and recovery of stolen goods.

4.5 KZN Council Against Crime

The KwaZulu-Natal Council Against Crime, which comprises all sectors of the community and is the platform for the coordination of all province-wide initiatives against crime, was launched by Premier in 2014. However, due to some challenges, this strategic structure has not been able to function fully. Together with the Office of the Premier, which chairs this structure, we have resuscitated the Council, which met last Thursday.

4.4 Partnership with Traditional Leaders

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.

His Majesty, the king has been fully behind all efforts to ensure that his people co-exist peacefully and has on several occasions directed that amakhosi should lead this process. You will recall the role played by ONgangezwe Lakhe in brokering peace in Gauteng and in Durban hostels. We remain indebted to His Majesty, the King for this. Bayede!!!

As a result of the template developed through working with uBayede and other Amakhosi, we are now able to intervene and bring about peace in a number of conflict-ridden areas.

In this regard, as a result of efforts driven by the Department, the Office the Premier and eThekweni Metro, we are seeing positive results in the resolution of conflict in Durban residential units. At Glebelands, a peace agreement was concluded and, while the process faces challenges from time to time, Glebelands and KwaMashu are currently mostly stable.

Honourable members, let me hasten to add that we greatly value the role played by the traditional leaders in all efforts to bring about lasting peace in the province. Ondabezitha recognize and accept that it is only a stable KwaZulu-Natal that could develop and attract investment. Amakhosi are key players in ensuring rural safety.

The Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Act, 2003 provides that Traditional Leaders must promote unity amongst traditional communities, must promote nation building, must foster good relations with the organs of state with whom he or she interacts and must promote the principles of a democratic and open society. The KwaZulu-Natal Traditional Leadership and Governance Act, 2005 goes further to provide for Amakhosi to maintain law and order and liaise with Government in this regard.

Honourable members, I am deeply concerned at the loss of life at some traditional functions and ceremonies. In order to preserve the importance and relevance of these events, we will be engaging the Amakhosi on the issue of stick-fighting and related matters to prevent a recurrence and protect the integrity of these customs. In this financial year, we commit ourselves to entering into a memorandum of understanding with Amakhosi in order to formalize our partnership against crime and criminality as contemplated in the legislative framework.

5. IT IS IN OUR HANDS TO DEFEAT CRIME

Honourable members and people of KwaZulu-Natal, we are our own liberators and it is, indeed, in our own hands to defeat crime. We need to take the struggle against criminals and criminality to all corners of KwaZulu-Natal and be a Province Fighting Crime.

The department has crime prevention programmes to facilitate province-wide participation in respect of the following:

5.1 Substance Abuse

Honourable members, drugs are one of the key contributors to the decline of morals and crime. It is indeed a serious threat to the future of our youth. Apart from the devastating effect of drugs on the youth, the Central Drug Authority puts the socio-economic cost of drug abuse to the country's economy at R130 billion per year. Of particular concern is the targeting of learners by drug-traffickers, with devastating effects. Last year, KwaZulu-Natal recorded several deaths of learners as a result of a lethal mixture called 'Mercedes'.

Clearly, 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. To this end, I recently engaged learners and staff at some schools in eThekweni.

Our police have also intensified the battle against this scourge and have detected that the highest volumes of drugs are found in Phoenix, Point, Durban Central, Chatsworth, Plessislaer, KwaDukuza, Pietermaritzburg, Umlaza, Verulam and Sydenham. However, there is a further need to programme drug law enforcement for better coordination and investigation.

5.2 Public Transport Violence

Honourable members, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, in partnership with Department of Transport and law enforcement agencies, continued to cooperate in the resolution of conflicts in the taxi industry.

In respect of public transport stabilisation, the department has been monitoring police response to incidents, facilitating integrated law enforcement and conflict resolution through the Communities-in-Dialogue Programme. The Provincial Priority Committee on Taxi Violence has been implementing the Provincial Integrated Law Enforcement Strategy. It is heartening to note the decline in public transport violence in the recent past as a result of our collective efforts.

5.3 School Safety

Over the past year, we built on the initiatives resulting from the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between our Department, the Department of Education and the South African Police Services last year. 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 continued with 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. A total of 285 schools having been linked to police stations.

We believe that schools are part of the community and it is the responsibility of communities to ensure that schools have a safe environment for learning.

Perhaps this is being better illustrated by the principal of Ntenga Primary School in Jozini. Ms Nokukhanya Brightness Mathenjwa has cooperated with the community, through the School Safety Committee, to ensure that the school is not being vandalized and it remains in a good condition. We congratulate you, Ms Mathenjwa. We hope others can learn from you. School Safety Committees should rally the community to take ownership of their school and not treat the school as an isolated island. In this way school vandalism and other crime would be reduced.

5.4 Stock-Theft

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, stock-theft has plunged many communities in KwaZulu-Natal into serious conflict. This largely has to do with the emotional value that the people of KwaZulu-Natal attach to their stock. The reality is that if the matter of stock-theft is not effectively dealt with, it has the potential to negatively affect peace and stability.

Thankfully, the recent past has seen stock-theft declining by 3.8 %. This is largely due to the collaboration of police, the KZNCCPA and farmers in initiatives against stock-theft.

We are continuing to work with the Department of Agriculture to encourage communities to brand their stock.

5.5 Sexual Offences and Family Violence

Honourable Members, crimes against the vulnerable, such as sexual offences, are the most violent in our society. This category of crime (rape, attempted rape, sexual assault and contact sexual offences) are classified as “total sexual offences.” This category of crimes decreased by 1.5 % in 2015/16 compared to 2014/15.

During 2016, we continued with our 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 further intensified this year.

It is encouraging to note that police work resulted to impressive convictions for sexual offences. Despite this, the department is continuously conducting audits of Domestic Violence Act compliance to sharpen the ability of police to deal with this challenge.

Honourable members, we need to recognise and applaud the contribution of the anti-sexual abuse campaigner, Mr Jan Mabuyakhulu, who dedicates his time to highlight the plight of the vulnerable. Mabuyukhulu literally walks the walk and talks the talk against rape, abuse, violence against woman, children, the aged and the mentally impaired.

I have had an opportunity to join him on his walk and the department has collaborated with him, but everyone should support and encourage him to continue this excellent initiative.

5.6 Volunteer Crime Prevention

This programme, started to assist during the 2010 World Cup hosted by South Africa, has proven to be very effective in so many respects, including monitoring public events and assisting police during the festive season. The volunteers are also deployed during elections and by-elections, assisting to bring about stability. The Department is currently involved in the recruitment of a further 286 volunteers in respect of wards without volunteers.

We have developed an exit programme to enable some of the volunteers to exit this programme. After a skills audit exercise, 400 volunteers are currently being trained in Accredited Project Management (Level 4). A total of 20 volunteers will receive training in respect of a post-graduate certificate in Crime Prevention Management and the remaining 1020, will be trained as security officers.

5.7 Displacement of African Nationals

Honourable Members, following on the unfortunate attacks on African nationals in March 2015, the Government of KwaZulu-Natal and eThekweni Metro have set up programmes to promote peaceful co-existence among the people of the province and our African brothers and sisters.

A social cohesion programme aimed at promoting social co-existence between the local residents and African nationals is an on-going programme which includes a number of social dialogues with both local communities and African nationals.

Following recent concerns raised by the representatives of the African nationals in Durban, we are re-doubling our efforts to promote peaceful coexistence with our fellow Africans. A meeting with all relevant parties were held recently and a way forward mapped out.

Police have been placed on high alert to deal with those seeking to copycat the unfortunate incidents in Gauteng. We furthermore urge people of KwaZulu-Natal to follow the example of the communities in KwaDukuza, who have been living in harmony with African nationals, even during the turbulent times of 2015.

5.8 Community Conflicts

Honourable members, the Communities-in-Dialogue programme continues to bring peace and stability in communities. It has been hugely successful and there are currently several initiatives underway in all corners of the province.

Some of the areas currently engaged in this programme include eSidakeni in Ladysmith, KwaDabhasi in KwaNongoma, Glebelands in Umlazi, Nquthu in uMzinyathi and Mbava in KwaSwayimane.

It is noteworthy that there has been a significant decrease in community conflicts, which is a clear indication of the success of this programme.

Madame Speaker and Honourable members, it is encouraging that the people of KwaZulu-Natal are beginning to see the value of amicably resolving conflicts before resorting to violence. In eSidakeni where there was violent conflict between families, a lot of progress has been made in brokering peace. Recently the warring factions conducted their cleansing ceremony and a bigger event in conjunction with the Government is in the pipeline.

We would like to draw attention to the 6 life sentences imposed by the High Court in respect of the conviction of the accused in the 2014 eZakheni massacre case. Let this be a clear message to all criminals, especially those participating in community conflicts, that the Rule of Law will be upheld by the Criminal Justice System.

5.9 Political Stability

Madame Speaker and Honourable Members, we continue to celebrate and benefit from the grand idea developed by our visionary leaders to set up the Multi-Party Political Intervention Committee.

Through your work, Honourable Members, as critical participants in the Multi-Party Political Intervention Committee, we can proudly say that the province is substantially free of political conflict.

Last year this committee worked hard to deliver free and fair Local Government Elections on 3 August 2016. It is, however, regrettable that in the build-up to these elections 12 people were killed during the tensions associated with the holding of elections.

However, our analysis of the situation seems to suggest these killings were not as a result of tensions between political parties but mainly due to intra-party conflict.

Thankfully, the Office of the Premier has launched a Commission of Inquiry into these killings and police continue to make progress in the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for these murders. I must add, Honourable Members, that the Multi-Party Political Intervention Committee, which I activated in the build up to these elections, working together with law enforcement agencies, worked very hard to stabilize the province.

In this regard, 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 what is expected to be a hotly contested eNquthu and other by-elections.

I am convinced that we all understand and appreciate how important it is for all of us to make KwaZulu-Natal a stable and politically tolerant province.

As the members of the Multi-Party Political Intervention Committee you surely understand your obligation in this regard.

5.10 Sport Against Crime

Honourable members, we continue to use this initiative, which has the potential to engage our youth in positive activities, divert them from crime and drugs, and to mobilize them against crime. Last year, our districts rolled out several programmes under this programme.

We believe that if this programme is undertaken in partnership with the departments responsible for education and sport and recreation, it will have a greater impact and reach more youth. In the 2017/18 financial year, we will work very hard to formalize a memorandum of understanding with the affected departments. This programme has a lot of potential, but we need to elevate its status for greater impact.

5.11 Rehabilitation & Reintegration of Offenders

Honourable members, there is always a challenge in getting those who have wronged the community to be accepted back into the community and to assist them to start a new life. This programme assists greatly in doing this. Using this programme, we were among others, able to integrate back into the community the offenders who killed people during the Richmond political conflict.

There is also an on-going programme of re-uniting young offenders with their parents and those they offended. This programme is ongoing. The Executive Council has taken a resolution that a safety model 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.

6. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Madame Speaker, Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, the pronouncements made by President Zuma, in his State of the Nation Address and Premier Mchunu, in his State of the Province Address, no doubt place additional demands on this Department.

The delivery of radical economic transformation and rapid transfer of land to the people call on us to create conditions conducive to the attainment of these noble goals. These have to happen orderly and in an atmosphere that is free of crime and criminality. Honourable Members, this calls for measures to ensure that, indeed, in 2030 KwaZulu-Natal becomes a gateway to Africa and the World.

There is no doubt that crime is the single greatest threat to our democracy and it has to be treated as the enemy of our people and our democracy. In short, this is call on all of us in the Province to rise against crime, to form an unprecedented partnership against crime.

Honourable members, we were able to rise and successfully defeat the demon of apartheid. Equally, working together, we can successfully defeat crime. We need to strengthen partnerships against crime at all levels of our society. In this year, the Year of Oliver Tambo, we need to do all that is possible to defeat crime.

As the Department, we will continue to put in place plans to ensure that we achieve this noble objective of a crime free KwaZulu-Natal. Given the critical and mammoth mandate given to this portfolio, it remains our hope that it will in due course be properly funded to enable effective delivery.

Madame Speaker, in finally closing, let me express my gratitude to the glorious liberation movement, the ANC, for deploying me to the community safety and liaison portfolio. Equally, this gratitude also extends 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. I would also like to recognise that hard work of the management and staff of the department.

And to my loving wife, MaXaba, and 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 2017/18 financial year amounting to R204,486,000.00 for approval to be appropriated as follows:

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATION:	R202, 999, 000.00
• PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION:	R74, 981, 000.00
• PROGRAMME 2: PROVINCIAL CIVILIAN SECRETARIAT:	R128, 018, 000.00
• EPWP INCENTIVE GRANT:	R1, 487, 000.00

I thank you.



KwaZulu-Natal Legislature

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BUDGET VOTE SPEECH 2017/2018

“Building A United Front Against Crime.”