



community safety & liaison

Department:
Community Safety and Liaison
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



2018 2019 *Budget Speech*



KZN DECLARING WAR AGAINST CRIME.



Mr. T.M. KAUNDA

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison
KwaZulu-Natal Province



BUDGET VOTE SPEECH 2018/ 2019

Every community in our country has a fundamental right to be free from fear. Each and every South African has the right to feel secure in their home, to feel safe in the cities, towns and rural areas. - Nelson Mandela

**BUDGET VOTE 9 (COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON) POLICY
STATEMENT FOR 2018/19, TABLED AT THE KWAZULU-NATAL
PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE BY THE MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY
SAFETY AND LIAISON, HONOURABLE
T.M. KAUNDA, MPL, IN PIETERMARITZBURG, ON TUESDAY, 8 MAY 2018.**

- Madam Speaker;
- The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Honourable T.W. Mchunu;
- Members of the Provincial Executive Council;
- Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;
- Amakhosi AseNdlunkulu present;
- Mayors and Councillors of Municipalities;
- Excellences, members of the diplomatic corps;
- The Director-General of the Province;
- Heads of the various Departments and State Agencies;
- Acting Provincial Commissioner and your management team;
- 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;
- Members of the Media; and
- Fellow Citizens.

1. INTRODUCTION

Madam Speaker; it gives me great pleasure to stand before this House to present to you the 2018/19 budget policy statement for Vote 9 (Department of Community Safety and Liaison), under the theme **“KZN DECLARING WAR AGAINST CRIME”**.

We are continuing to declare war against crime, so the people of this province can reclaim their right to freedom to live without fear of crime and criminals. We deliver this budget against the backdrop of the celebration of the centenary of the life of our late, former President Nelson Mandela (*Isithwalandwe-Seaparankoe*), and the late *uMama* Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu, who was a Stalwart of the anti-apartheid movement as well as leader of the Women’s League of the African National Congress (ANC).



We would like to salute the ANC, our popular and oldest people's movement in the African continent, for producing leaders of the calibre of President Mandela and Mama Sisulu! Today, we would not be celebrating 24 years of freedom had it not been through their commitment to the Struggle for Freedom and Democracy.

Kunjalo nje asinamona, futhi asinanzondo when even those who worked against the ANC and its former President Mandela, are today appropriating him as theirs. After all, the ANC is the leader of society, and for this reason it is to be expected that people from across the political spectrum, would find it appropriate to associate themselves with, and indeed, interest themselves in the affairs of the ANC.

After he was released from prison, *Madiba* travelled the length and breadth of the world convincing leaders across Africa and the globe about the significance of democracy, peace and the benefits that humanity can derive from a stable and peaceful world.

He took it upon his shoulders to bring together all political party leaders and urged them to spread a message of peace and security in the country, including the then strife-torn Natal, which is now KwaZulu-Natal.

As testimony to his commitment to eradicate crime in the country, President Mandela called for a National Day of Safety and Security, immediately after his inauguration in 1994. Speaking at the event, he said and I quote:

"... crime and violence (have) brought pain and misery in our communities. Let us all take responsibility for freeing our communities of crime and violence. Let us not rob ourselves of the freedom, which we have so recently won by allowing these evils to continue. Every community in our country has a fundamental right to be free from fear. Each and every South African has the right to feel secure in their home, to feel safe in the cities, towns and rural areas. People should not fear the night. They must be able to travel to work, to school and other places without danger. But these rights are being denied to many by criminals who do not hesitate to use violence to achieve their goals. However, we say to you all: Do not despair. Together we can root out crime from our communities."

Madiba delivered this message over two decades ago, but it remains relevant today.

In KwaZulu-Natal, we still have areas where communities are terrorised by criminals. Some rural parts of the province are bedevilled by faction fights, which have left scores of people dead. Just like Madiba assured us not to despair, we also want to reassure the people of our province that fighting crime is one of the priorities of this government.

To this end, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison has developed a Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy, which seeks to ensure that the people of KwaZulu-Natal are, and feel safe, as outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Provincial Growth Development Plan (PGDP). The NDP states that a safe environment is a pre-condition for an economically sound South Africa.

Honourable Members; Madiba was a fearless leader. Our province will only be safe and stable if we all declare war on crime without fear. Let me now speak to how we continue to wage the war against crime, through the programmes of the Department.

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Together we can root out crime from our communities.

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2. PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

Honourable Members, adherence to the principle of good governance will be critical in implementing our programmes. In his State of the Province Address, the Honourable Premier said and I quote:

“... for government to perform better we have to step up our ability to manage our departments and entities in a manner that will meet the good governance standards measured by the Auditor-General.”

We are pleased to report that since 2014, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison has been obtaining unqualified audit opinions.

Going forward, we will ensure that we maintain this record and improve towards a clean audit by addressing matters that are still putting us at odds with the Auditor-General. This should not be an insurmountable task given the fact that the Department is gradually increasing its capacity and footprint in the province.

Currently, we are sitting at **176 staff members** including 23 interns for the current financial year. The department has a total of **13 district offices** namely; Durban South, Durban North, Durban West, Umgungundlovu, Ilembe, King Cetshwayo, Umkhanyakude, Zululand, Uthukela, Umzinyathi, Ugu, and Harry Gwala.

The Department is fast-tracking the process of allocating offices for King Cetshwayo, Durban South and Umgungundlovu districts.

The Department has also embarked on a process of restructuring to improve service delivery as it decentralises its services. We have also started the process of screening, vetting and lifestyle audit for members of staff as directed by the Premier.

2.1 RADICAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Honourable Members; Radical Socio Economic Transformation remains the strategic focus of government to ensure that the people of KwaZulu-Natal, Africans in particular, participate meaningfully in the mainstream economy.

As part of our contribution to the programme, the department has managed to transform the lives of workers who are currently providing cleaning services through the existing service providers.

The workers have been assisted to form co-operatives and are currently receiving business mentorship. We are pleased to report that these workers now have a registered cooperative and a certificate, which confirms that they can provide the service on their own.

We will also continue to ensure that Small, Micro, and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) benefit from our discretionary spending in line with the recently amended Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act (PPPFA).

In line with our President Cyril Ramaphosa's emphasis in the State of the Nation Address (SONA), the Department has endeavoured to pay service providers within 30 days as stipulated in the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). The Department achieved and exceeded its targets in the distribution of work as follows:

- For women, the department achieved 52.73%;
- For youth, the department achieved 36.09%;
- For military veterans, the department achieved 4.82%;
- For Africans, the department achieved 96.47%; and
- The department also achieved a target spending of 32.64% for rural and township black owned companies.



MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mxolisi Kaunda addressing law enforcement on the issue of eradicating crime in the province. *Photo: Mbuyiselo Ndlovu*

The department has been unable to determine its procurement from people with disability due to a challenge with the classification on the Central Supplier Database (CSD).

2.2 Social Crime Prevention Programme

Madam Speaker; under Programme 1 we also have the **Volunteer Social Crime Prevention Programme (VSCPP)**. This programme entails the recruitment, training and deployment of volunteers who facilitate engagement between communities and the law enforcement agencies.

The key objective of the programme is to drive social crime prevention and to provide work experience for the unemployed youth.

These volunteers also monitor crime hotspots in their communities. Currently we have **1 715 volunteers** and the recruitment process is underway to ensure that each ward has **two volunteers**. The Department has developed a strategy to assist volunteers who are exiting the programme to get full time employment. Others who have acquired qualifications through the assistance of the Department are exiting the programme and venture into business and other better opportunities.

3. PROGRAMME 2:

PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE SERVICE

3.1 CRIME TRENDS IN KWAZULU-NATAL.

Madame Speaker; over the past four years, KwaZulu-Natal has experienced an increase in violent crimes including murder. Last year's crime statistics indicated that murder increased by 2.2%.

The area of Inanda was identified as a leading policing area nationally in terms of reported murders. Other hotspot areas for murder include uMlaza, KwaMashu, Plessislaer, Mpumalanga, Ntuzuma, KwaDukuza, Mountain Rise, Chatsworth and Mariannhill. Statistics further indicate that both perpetrators and victims of this crime are mostly males between the ages of 18 and 40. Furthermore, most of these murders occur on weekends, from Friday to Sunday.

Robbery with Aggravated Circumstances, including trio crime, is also on the upward trend over the past four years according to crime statistics. Our major concern is that these murders are committed by criminals using illegal firearms.

3.2 PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL FIREARMS

Madam Speaker; **we commend the police for recovering 18 638 illegal firearms in the past four years in the province.** In line with our provincial crime prevention strategy, the Department will embark on an intensive programme aimed at confiscating more illegal firearms across the province.

The programme will include convening an Indaba with private security companies and gun owners' associations in the province to find ways of preventing legal firearms from ending in the hands of criminals.

Working with the Private Security Industry Regulating Authority (PSIRA) and the police, we are also going to embark on an intensive campaign to screen all VIP Security Guards.

In partnership with the Department of Home Affairs, our Department will facilitate the development of a Provincial Firearm Register to ascertain how many people are in possession of licensed firearms and who have lost them.

In partnership with other law enforcement agencies, the Department will embark on the following initiatives:

- Tracing firearms of the deceased.
- Workshop firearm license holders on how to safeguard their firearms.
- Trace all people in possession of hunting licenses and the number of firearms they possess.
- Conduct regular inspections in security companies to check if their firearms match licenses issued.
- Form partnership with the media, including community radio stations to encourage communities to report illegal firearms.

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Every community in our country has a fundamental right to be free from fear.

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3.3 STOCK THEFT

While all property-related crimes have decreased in the 2016/2017 financial year in the province, stock theft increased by 4%.

Since April last year, police have recovered 6697 stolen cows, 3209 goats, 1000 sheep, 99 horses, 31 pigs and 2 donkeys. This form of crime is prevalent in the rural areas as a result of the following factors:

- People leave livestock in the veld for several days unattended, making it difficult for the police to recover when it is stolen;
- Most livestock is stolen for traditional ceremonies and by the time the owner reports it to the police, they find it already slaughtered; and
- Unbranded livestock expose the police to civil claims.

The Department will continue working closely with the Department of Agriculture and other stakeholders to encourage people to brand their livestock. Part of this campaign will be to encourage people to know the off-springs of their livestock for DNA purposes.

Through the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS) and Amakhosi, we will be resuscitating animal pounds and create awareness about the Animal Pound Act. We will also be engaging the Department of Justice to ensure that cases related to stock theft are prioritised. The Department has directed Community Safety Forums through its district offices to conduct anti stock theft campaigns.



MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda during a routine inspection in Inanda. The area of Inanda was identified as a leading policing area nationally in terms of reported murders. *Photos: Mbuyiselo Ndllovu*

3.4 COMMERCIAL CRIME

Madam Speaker; commercial crime has increased by 8.9% in 2016/2017, after having remained fairly stable over the last five years in KwaZulu-Natal. In the previous financial year, police investigated **12 405 commercial crime cases**.

Commercial crime covers a wide range of offences including fraud, corruption, collusion, tax evasion and cyber-crimes, which affects mostly the public and private sectors.

Through the JCPS and the Integrity Commission in the Office of the Premier, we will intensify the rolling out of anti-fraud and corruption campaigns.

We will also ensure that the relevant authorities and agencies within the JCPS Cluster undertake the following initiatives:

- Prioritising the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases to promote public trust and community involvement in tackling these crimes;
- Improve the awareness about fraud and corruption in all sectors through the development of corruption awareness and prevention plans; and
- Expand the participation in the *“I do right campaign”* beyond the public sector.

3.5 CROSS BORDER CRIME

Cross-border crime is another thorn in the flesh for our provincial government. Our major concern is the crime in the border between South Africa and Mozambique along the Manguzi border town.

Members of the community in the area have complained about theft of vehicles and livestock, drug smuggling, contraband, human trafficking, movement of undocumented persons as well as the poaching of endangered animals.

We wish to commend former President Jacob Zuma for visiting the affected area twice last year, and further instructing the relevant government departments to implement a number of interventions to fight the scourge of crime in the area.

These include:

- Building modified New Jersey barriers to prevent the movement of stolen cars across the border. Already, the provincial government has set aside **R50 million** for this project.
- Launching of a satellite Police Station at Skhemelele.
- Allocation of **R90 million** budget for upgrading the Manguzi Police Station, which is nearing completion.
- The upgrade of Manguzi Police Station Commander to Colonel level, which improves the capacity of the station in terms of size and resources.
- **25 high-performance 4x4 vehicles** for the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and **seven (7)** vehicles for the SAPS.
- The Department of Community Safety and Liaison has recruited, trained and deployed **40 volunteers** specifically for this project.
- Electrification of elephant fencing and fencing of Tembe National Park by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.
- Implementation of Project Ilitshe by the SANDF, which entails the placement of boulders on identified illegal crossing points.



- The national Department of Public Works has commissioned a feasibility study for the upgrade and identification of the physical border line.

These interventions have begun to yield the following positive results:

- Reduction of trio crime by 46.15%, with car hijacking going down by 66%, house robbery decreasing by 51.22%, and business robbery declining by 8.33%.
- The number of vehicles that are stolen and taken across the border have declined since the police made a major breakthrough in recovering 30 stolen vehicles along the border.
- Significant strides have been made in arresting people linked to crime syndicates in the area. Last year, 14 police officers were arrested and dismissed for colluding with criminals.
- Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between KwaZulu-Natal and Maputo Provincial governments led by the Premier.



MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda during one of many raids conducted in the Point buildings to flush out criminal activities. Photos: Mbuyiselo Ndlovu

Honourable Members, we are making progress in tackling the scourge of cross-border crime. We remain convinced that if all stakeholders continue to work together, we will eliminate this menace. We further urge all sectors of the community including the business sector and civil society to be partners in the war against crime.

3.6 Inter-Provincial Technical Task Team (IPTTT)

Honourable Members; the government has recognised the inter-provincial nature of certain incidents of crime, compounded by the inter-provincial movement of persons, goods and the provincial interdependencies inherent in public transport and road traffic regulation.

In addressing these challenges, the Department has facilitated a close working relationship with other neighbouring provinces.

The MECs responsible for Transport and Community Safety and Liaison in the provinces, particularly affected by inter-provincial public transport and movement of persons and goods, established an Inter-Provincial Technical Task Team (IPTTT). The primary objective of this committee is to improve inter-provincial law enforcement and crime prevention.

These provinces are KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Free State, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and the Eastern Cape. The Department of Community Safety and Liaison in KwaZulu-Natal is the convenor of this important initiative. The focus areas of the task team thus far have included:

- Uniform enforcement on public transport operating licenses;
- Inter-provincial Road Blocks and Operations;
- Combating taxi violence;
- Improving road safety and reducing road fatalities;
- Enforcement of laws relating to Learner Transport and the use of Light Delivery Vehicles;
- Communities in dialogue aimed at eliminating faction fights with a specific focus in resolving • Hostel conflicts; and
- Inter-provincial Crime Summits.

The Task Team recently developed two significant guiding documents which include an Anti-Corruption Strategy for Traffic Law Enforcement Officers as well as Taxi Violence Strategy and Reference Guide.

3.7 STABILITY IN KZN

Honourable Members; KwaZulu-Natal remains relatively stable. However, we will continue to monitor the situation in areas regarded as crime hotspots such as Swayimane, Nongoma, Ladysmith, Glebelands Hostel, Msinga and Umzimkhulu.

The above areas are still experiencing incidents of violent conflicts, which are characterised by high levels of murder, attempted murder and other contact crimes.

We are pleased to report that working with the Office of the Premier, the Department successfully resolved some of the most difficult conflicts, and brought about peace and stability in areas such as Ematheni in Nongoma, Nquthu, Maphumulo, Mbonambi and Intshangwe, just to mention a few.

To further give impetus to this programme, we have aligned our crime fighting programmes with the implementation of Project Lethukuthula through Operation Thulamsindo, which is led by the Premier's Office. By combining these initiatives, the government is now in a better position to act proactively in averting conflicts.



Honourable Members; I must indicate that significant progress has been made in stabilising KwaMashu and Glebelands hostels. The two hostels are now characterised by peaceful coexistence and relative tolerance. Working with the police, government will continue to give special attention to Glebelands Hostel with a view of improving both the safety of the people and social environment. We commend the police, who, with the community of this hostel have managed to share significant information which has resulted in the arrest of kingpins who are in the forefront of the violent conflicts.

There are 32 suspects who have been arrested for murder since the killings started, including a police officer. A further 46 suspects were arrested for possession of firearms and intimidation.

4. SOCIO-POLITICAL ISSUES

4.1 PUBLIC PROTESTS

Honourable Members, the provincial government is committed to enforcing the law in respect of any unlawful protest action.

Section 17 of Chapter 2 of the country's Constitution provides that, and I quote, ***“Everyone has the right, peacefully and unarmed, to assemble, to demonstrate, to picket and to present petitions”***. The exercise of this right is regulated by the Gatherings Act of 1993. Therefore, any demonstration not complying with this Act, is unlawful.

Unfortunately, the majority of protests in the province do not adhere to the provisions of this Act, and have adverse repercussions for our communities, commuters and the economy. They also divert the attention and stretch the resources of the police, who instead of focusing on fighting crime, have to manage public protests.

As government, we are concerned about the recent spate of violent and illegal public protests in the province. **In the last financial year alone, we have had approximately 530 protests.** We anticipate that these protests will increase ahead of the 2019 General Elections. It is therefore important for us as government to manage such protests appropriately. Against this background, the Provincial Executive Council has established a **Technical Committee on Public Protests**.

The Department of Community Safety and Liaison is the convenor of this committee, which is responsible for the following:

- a) Receiving reports from local government, relevant provincial government departments and relevant national government departments on service delivery protests, labour unrest, land invasions, interference with construction projects and critical infrastructure, public transport instability, instability at institutions of learning and faction fights, among others;
- b) Receiving reports on emerging factors, circumstances or incidents which could lead to or escalate into public protests;
- c) Deliberating on appropriate and integrated government responses to public protests or identified risk factors; and
- d) Reporting to the Inter-ministerial Committee on Public Protests established by the Executive Council and chaired by the MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison.

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Everyone has the right, peacefully and unarmed, to assemble, to demonstrate, to picket and to present petitions.

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The committee has already developed the Provincial Intergovernmental Relations Protocol on Public Protest Management, which was approved by the Executive Council on 11 April 2018. This is indeed a clear indication that the Provincial Government is committed to enforcing the law as a collective in respect of any unlawful protest activity.

4.2 PERCEIVED POLITICAL KILLINGS

Madam Speaker; since the beginning of 2016, particularly the period leading to the Local Government Elections, KwaZulu-Natal came under spotlight for the killing of public representatives.

Post the elections, the scourge continued unabated with councillors and senior government officials becoming targets. While these killings have been sporadic, they became more intense in areas such as uMzimkhulu, Richmond, Intshangwe and Harding.

Due to the increase in these incidents, the Premier established the Commission of Inquiry into Political Killings in the province, which concluded its hearings in March this year. We are optimistic that the commission's findings will throw some light on what could have been the motive behind the killings that we have witnessed recently and the people behind them.

At the same time, the police have established the National Intervention Unit (NIU) whose work has already begun to yield positive results. Through its multi-disciplinary approach, consisting of crime intelligence, detectives, prosecutors and forensic experts, the unit has begun to make breakthroughs in some of these killings. Out of the 41 cases reported, three have been converted to an enquiry, 19 are under investigation, 28 are before court and 62 arrests have been made.



The Intergrated Law enforcement team at a meeting called by MEC Mxolisi Kaunda in Durban before the Easter holidays. Photo: Mbuyiselo Ndlovu



4.3 MULTI-PARTY POLITICAL INTERVENTION COMMITTEE/ 2019 ELECTIONS

Honourable Members; as the country prepares for the 2019 National General Elections, the Department is planning to maximise interventions of the Multi-Party Political Intervention Committee (MPPIC) in places where there are challenges of political intolerance.

The committee is critical in ensuring that all political parties participate in creating a conducive environment for peaceful, free and fair elections. During the by-elections in Nquthu the committee did a sterling work in ensuring that the elections were conducted in a free and fair environment. The Department has already identified hotspot areas, which might pose as a challenge during the election period.

As part of the Department's contribution in ensuring peaceful elections, we have embarked on a process of recruiting **120 lawyers** who will be deployed in voting districts that are identified as hotspots to resolve disputes. These lawyers will be assisted by over **1 700 social crime prevention volunteers** and **60 senior managers** of the Department.

Furthermore, the Department will embark on an intensive education and awareness campaigns, using various media platforms as well as town hall discussions to inculcate the culture of tolerance. Police have established an election priority team, which is seized with a responsibility of planning for the elections.

4.4 TAXI-RELATED CONFLICTS

Honourable Members; I am also happy to report that most of the areas that were characterised as hotspots in terms of taxi-related conflicts are showing signs of stability as a result of the interventions the Departments of Community Safety and Liaison as well as Transport have made. These areas include Nongoma and Ladysmith.

It is important to also note that since we announced the suspension of taxi operations in Ladysmith, between Sizwe Transport and Klipriver taxi associations in December last year, no lives have been lost to date, even after we partially lifted the suspension to allow local taxis to operate.

The police will continue to maintain a strong presence in the area until the situation returns to normal. We are also monitoring the situation in Hammarsdale, KwaNdengezi and Msinga following incidents of violent conflicts that were reported in these areas.

Police have developed a plan to deal decisively with *izinkabi* (hitmen) and private security guards who are perpetuating violence within the industry. We are also going to continue to promote the culture of constructive engagement to resolve conflict in the industry.

4.5 COMMUNITY AND POLICE RELATIONS

Madame Speaker, the Department will continue to advocate for building and improving of relations between the police, various sectors of the society and communities. Owing to the past experience, we have identified key sectors including former liberation armies to forge close working relations with the police. Our conviction is that if these formations cooperate and collaborate we can achieve maximum peace and stability in our communities.

Last year, the Department made a commitment to facilitate the improvement of poor relations between the police and members of the former liberation armies.

The Department, in partnership with Nazareth Baptist Church, conducted a cleansing ceremony for military veterans and the police in KwaMashu.

As government, we also want to send a strong warning to criminals who are killing our police officers, the only shield we have to protect us from heartless criminals.

In the **past two years, 46 police officers have been killed on duty**. Anyone who attacks a police officer while on duty, is undermining the authority of the State. We have issued a clear directive to the police to defend themselves and the authority of the State if they are attacked by criminals.

Madam Speaker; the Department continues to mobilise all sectors of our society against crime and criminality. Through our anchor programme of ***Building a United Front Against Crime (BUFAC)***, we are going to strengthen community policing as a mechanism of fighting crime.

In the current financial year, the Department will accelerate the process of establishing and sustaining street safety committees, voting district safety teams, ward, local and district safety forums. In line with the resolutions of the governing party, the ANC, the Department has made progress by launching the street committees in Mandeni. We will continue with the rollout of this initiative throughout the province.

The existence of these committees will complement the work of other existing crime fighting structures. We are also going to strengthen partnerships with the Council Against Crime, Community Policing Forums and the KwaZulu-Natal Community Crime Prevention Association. We strongly believe that if these structures are given adequate support, KwaZulu-Natal will be able to turn the tide against crime.

4.6 REINTEGRATION OF OFFENDERS AND ANTI-GANGSTERISM

Honourable Members; research commissioned by the JCPS indicates that most crime that is taking place in our communities is committed by former inmates. It is precisely for this reason that the Department has started a programme to reintegrate offenders in the community. Currently, the Department is working with the Department of Correctional Services and to ensure that every offender who is released from prison is properly introduced to members of his or her community, particularly those who committed serious offences. The Departments of Correctional Services and Social Development will also assist in providing diversion and offender reintegration and victim offender dialogue programmes.

4.7 SCHOOL SAFETY

In an attempt to curb crime in our schools, the Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education, which is aimed at promoting the implementation of the National School Safety Framework (NSSF).

The framework calls for the establishment of School Safety Committees to address all school safety risks including bullying, drug abuse, carrying of dangerous weapons and theft. The Department will be assembling a team of School Principals whose schools are performing well in this regard and deploy them throughout the province to share best practices.

4.8 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

One of the legislative mandates of this Department is to monitor and evaluate the policing policy and the conduct of the police in the province. In the current financial year, **the Department will run a special project of monitoring all 184 provincial police stations within the period of six months to assess and improve service delivery**. Specialised units, clusters and the SAPS provincial head office also form part of the evaluation exercise. Since 2014 up to the last financial year, the Department has evaluated **482 police stations**.

At the end of the evaluation, areas of concern will be shared with the provincial SAPS management. In the 2017/18 financial year, the Department will also upscale the docket audit initiative, which has been at a pilot phase.



Since I was appointed to this portfolio in 2016, I have been making announced visits to police stations to assess their functionality. To date, I have assessed over **30 police stations** in the province.

4.9 DISTRICTS CRIME PREVENTION SUMMITS

Madam Speaker; in 2016 the Department convened a Provincial Crime Summit, which paved the way for the development of a Provincial Crime Prevention Strategy that was approved by the Provincial Executive Council last month. As part of implementation of the strategy, the department will be rolling out local and districts crime summits, culminating in a provincial summit, which will be convened annually.

The summits will be instrumental in evaluating the strategy and to come up with new innovations to fight the scourge of crime. In implementing the strategy, the Department will also utilise the Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) service delivery model to deliver Youth Against Crime programmes. Our ultimate goal is to have a war-room based crime prevention strategy.

4.10 PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL LIQUOR OUTLETS

Honourable Members; the JCPS has highlighted the contribution of alcohol abuse to contact crimes. We have therefore engaged the Liquor Authority through the Cluster to review the licences of offenders. We have also developed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the Liquor Authority to cooperate and assist in reducing the socio-economic impact and other effects of alcohol abuse. We further agreed to work together in enforcing and monitoring adherence to the Liquor Act by licence holders as well as to extend community consultations before granting a licence.



MEC for Transport Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Mxolisi Kaunda, addressing concerns of members of the public during a visit at the Rossburgh Licence Testing Station. *Photo: Mbuyiselo Ndlovu*

4.11 SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Madame Speaker; in our last budget speech we committed to host an awards ceremony for both the SAPS and traffic law enforcement. Due to budget constraints, we could not stage this event. However, in the current financial year, the Department is in the process of sourcing funds to make this event a success.

4.12 FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY

Honourable Members; I am pleased to announce that after many years of operating in a small and dilapidated building in Amanzimtoti, the Department of Police has finally approved the building of a new forensic laboratory in Pinetown. The new building will assist the police in fast-tracking investigations and reduce case backlogs.

The current building is prone to flooding during heavy rains, which puts the information and evidence contained in the building at risk. In 2016, the building experienced severe flooding, which damaged the furniture and IT equipment. Last year, I visited the laboratory to assess its functionality and subsequently engaged the then Minister of Police to fast track the process of constructing a new building. The National Department of Public Works has commenced with the first phase of design.

5. CONCLUSION

Madame Speaker; we have tabled before this House our plans to fight all forms of crime in the province. However, without the collaboration of all stakeholders, these plans will not be achieved as envisaged. We therefore wish to make a call to all the people of KwaZulu-Natal, individually and collectively, to work with us to reduce the scourge of crime in the province. Let us all unite against crime.

Finally, let me express my profound gratitude to the Honourable Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, uMacingwane for his leadership and guidance. I continue to thank the ANC for entrusting me with this huge responsibility of ensuring that all the people of KwaZulu-Natal are and do feel safe.

I also thank my colleagues in the Executive Council for their unwavering support. Without the support of the Chairperson of the Community Safety and Liaison Portfolio Committee, the Honourable Mr. Bheki Ntuli, and the Honourable members of the Portfolio Committee, our work will be weakened – and we thank you profoundly for support and oversight.

I would also like to recognise the hard work of the management and staff of the department, led by Mr. Themba Mavundla, the Head of Department.

To my wife, uMaXaba and children as well my extended family and friends – thank you so much for being the pillar of my strength.

Madame Speaker; it is my pleasure to table the budget of the Department of Community Safety and Liaison for the 2018/19 financial year of **R214.63 million** for approval.

The budget will be appropriated as follows:

- *Programme 1 (Administration): R79.25 million;* and
- *Programme 2 (Provincial Civilian Secretariat): R135.38 million.*

I thank you.

NOTES



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KwaZulu-Natal Legislature

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BUDGET VOTE SPEECH 2018/2019

KZN DECLARING WAR AGAINST CRIME.



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