

**POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH PRESENTED BY MEC FOR COMMUNITY
SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON IN MPUMALANGA, HONOURABLE
PAT NGOMANE
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE - 23 MAY 2017**

Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Honourable Premier of the Province, Mr. DD Mabuza

Honourable Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Honourable Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Ms G Shabalala

Public Safety councilors from various municipalities

House of Traditional Leaders led by the Chairperson Kgoshi Mokoena

Director-General of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, Mr. Thulani Mdakane

Head of Department, Mr. William Mthombothi and fellow HODs present

The South African Police Service (SAPS) Deputy Provincial Commissioner

Major General Phahla and SAPS management team,

Representative of the CPF Provincial Board Mr. Stanley Madonsela

Representatives from the JCPS Cluster

My former Secondary School Principal, Mr Maluleke who is working as a Chief Director at the DARDLEA

My former Primary School Principal, Mr Manzini who is now a pensioner

My former teachers from both Primary and Secondary Schools

Distinguished guests and all dignitaries present today

Members of the media,

Comrades and Friends

Ladies and gentlemen

Sanibonani, dumelang, avuxeni, lotjhani, goeie middag, good afternoon.

Opening

Honourable Speaker, the Constitution of the Republic of South African (Act 108 of 1996) asserts that all citizens have rights to live in a safe and secure environment as articulated in Chapter 2 of the Bill of Rights.

The State, through its agencies has to ensure the realization of these rights. It is in this regard that the mandate of the Department of Community Safety Security and Liaison is to promote safety among people in line with the rights enshrined in the Constitution.

To strengthen the rights, outcome 3 of the National Development Plan (NDP) advocates that “All People in South Africa are and feel safe”.

In ensuring that every citizen is and feel safe in the country and the province, focus is given to vulnerable groups such as women, elderly people, children and people with disabilities. It is against this background that we welcome the establishment of five Sexual Offences Courts in the province.

With the establishment of these courts, we believe that sexual offence cases will be prioritized and this will assist in the fight against women and children abuse. The latest addition of these courts, Madam Speaker came with the opening of the Boschfontein Court in the Nkomazi Local Municipality in March 2017.

Now, the ball is in the court of community members who are required to report these cases and also support the victims as witnesses in court.

Madam Speaker, the department implemented the 365 days campaign on women and children abuse. This amplifies the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children campaign.

As a department responsible for community safety, we are saying that this is not enough because we see our women being kidnapped and brutally killed in the country. In the province, we are still searching for Lethabo Rakgajana (16), a Grade 11 learner from Mmametlhake High School who disappeared on 30 April 2017.

We urge community members to assist the Rakgajana family find her. If she is located, local police should be contacted.

Madam Speaker, the use of drugs and alcohol has been identified to be among the contributors of crime and road carnage in the province. This is also a matter of concern within the Mpumalanga Provincial Government as the Executive Council instructed the department to attend to liquor outlets located closer to schools and churches.

To this end, a Steering Committee constituted of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mpumalanga Liquor Authority and the South African Police Service (SAPS) has been established and ongoing measures have been put in place to ensure that owners of liquor outlets comply with all relevant legal prescripts. The community will continue to be educated about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse through awareness campaigns. The Department and its stakeholders will intensify the monitoring of liquor outlets in the province in order to prevent crime emanating from these establishments.

Workshops directed at liquor traders have been conducted in three local municipalities. They include Mbombela, Steve Tshwete and Nkomazi local municipalities. Honourable Speaker, what emerged so far from these workshops is that most residents are subjected to excessive noise pollution, road and street blockages, public indecency and littering among others.

It does not only end there, people who reside near liquor outlets are targeted by criminals who patronize these outlets. We believe that by the time the steering committee completes its work, owners of the liquor establishments will be operating within the legal ambit as well as ensuring that their patrons do not contribute to crime and road carnage.

Emanating from the recent violent service delivery protests by the Bushbuckridge Community, which resulted in the burning of schools and interrupted school programmes, the department will together with relevant stakeholders intensify programmes aimed at ensuring that learners are safe in schools. This will be in line with Integrated School Safety plan spearheaded by our department, SAPS and the department of education.

In collaboration with the departments of Education and Correctional Services, the department will continue to conduct programmes wherein learners from flashpoint schools visit prisons. These programmes are aimed at exposing the learners to the prison environment as a way to deter them from committing crime. Other measures, including search and seizures in identified schools, awareness campaigns on the dangers of drugs and substance abuse will continue to be strengthened.

The visibility of police in schools shall be strengthened through the programme of linking a police officer to a school. As well said by the Honourable Premier of the Mpumalanga Province, Mr DD Mabuza, "Every child is entitled to the life of opportunities and possibilities that come with a decent education."

Madam Speaker, protests come with more disadvantages than advantages. They also have an effect on policing as more resources are deployed to areas where there are violent actions, compromising the safety of people in other areas. Recently, Standerton was a war zone when people marched to the local police station to demand the immediate arrest of people perceived to be corrupt. I am told that a 16-year-old boy was shot. At the moment it is not clear who fired the shot but the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) is investigating the case.

The Constitution gives community members the right to protest, however it is against the law to do so without obtaining approval from the relevant authorities. Also, peaceful protests will take our society forward and enhance nation building.

Madam Speaker, last Saturday the department opened the state-of-the-art Mpumalanga Traffic Training College situated in Mkhuhlu, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. Law enforcers in the province shall be continuously trained and equipped with knowledge at the College and it shall be accessible to all.

The establishment of the college will assist in enhancing road safety and law enforcement in the province and the country. The Department has identified a need to change the behavior of road users in order to win the fight against road crashes and its focus shall be on road safety.

SAPS in the province will ensure that there is capacity for effective detection and arrest of criminals involved in serious crimes such as Cash-in-Transit heist (CIT) and Trio Crimes. I applaud the police for the arrest of four men including a 32-year-old police constable on Friday in Bushbuckridge. The officer was tasked with investigating serious crimes and ended up colluding with criminals. He is facing charges of possession of unlicensed ammunition for different firearms, a tear gas canister, empty dockets, a roll of SAPS danger tape and dagga. The SAPS will continue to work with agencies within the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS) to ensure that set targets are achieved.

Lieutenant General Zuma, SAPS Provincial Commissioner has identified 30 police stations that have the highest crime rate in the province. The police stations will be supported and monitored to improve service delivery. The department will also continue to support Community Policing Forums (CPFs) in all police stations in the province.

On RAF

Honourable Speaker, during the 2016/17 financial year, the office of the Road Accident Fund (RAF) was officially opened in Mbombela. The office is operational and provide services to the people of Mbombela and the surrounding municipal areas accordingly. The Department has a healthy working relationship with RAF and this has been seen through the crashes where we lost many people. RAF also assisted the concerned families with burial resources during the recent crash that occurred in Verena wherein 18 learners and two adults lost their lives.

I am pleased to report that people of the province and private companies still have Ubuntu as they also assisted the families to go through the bereavement period smoothly.

Programme 1: Administration

The budget allocation for administration has increased from R110 million to R116 million in the 2017/18 financial year. The allocated amount also caters for the 41 officials appointed at the Mpumalanga Traffic Training College and 62 departmental trainees who are currently at the college.

The amount is also inclusive of the salaries of staff members who have been absorbed by the department following the Executive Council resolution relating to the take-over of licensing function in six municipalities and annual general salary adjustments.

Programme 2: Civilian Oversight

The programme is allocated an amount of R57 million for the 2017/18 financial year compared to R58 million in the previous financial year, while the budget for goods and services has been drastically reduced to R4.3 million.

Madam Speaker, 87 police stations will be monitored during the 2017/2018 financial year. The Daggakraal and Kamhlushwa police stations have been completed and will also be on the radar screen of the department in order to enhance service delivery.

The Department is continuing to implement the resolutions of the Crime Prevention Summit held in October 2016 in collaboration with its stakeholders. These resolutions include among others, the cross border management issues, such as illegal crossings, human trafficking, drug trafficking, smuggling of firearms among others.

In the 2017/2018 financial year, the department continues to implement the 365 days campaign against the abuse of women and children.

The rationale behind the campaign is to ensure integration of all plans by different stakeholders in the fight against the abuse of Women and Children and all the Vulnerable Groups.

Programme 3: Transport Regulation

This programme has been allocated R516 million for the 2017/18 financial year compared to R540 million in the previous financial year.

Honourable speaker, road crashes and fatalities are continuing to be a big challenge. During the previous financial year the department has experienced an increase in both road crashes and fatalities by 2.2 and 0.8 percent respectively.

The national roads, N4 and R40 contribute the highest crashes and fatalities in the province. The department is intending to procure more Moving Violation Recorders (MVR's). They will be fitted in law enforcement vehicles and this is expected to curb moving violations such as barrier line overtaking, which leads to crashes.

With the support from the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), the department conducted six road safety education campaigns in the province during the Festive Season. The department is focusing on road safety education campaigns dedicated to young people for a long term investment. Scholar patrols and Junior Traffic Training are amongst the programmes of the department that focus on early age education.

Programme 4: Security Management

An additional R103 million was allocated on this programme. Seventy Nine million rand is from various departments for additional deployment of security officers on identified sites. This resulted in an incremental funding from R359 million for the previous financial year to R462 million in 2017/18 financial year.

The department intends to conduct an assessment of all existing sites of the provincial government in order to determine security requirements of each site, which will also consider the electronic security aspects.

By introducing these systems, the control and safety of assets and information of the Provincial Government will be enhanced. The electronic systems will also support the existing infrastructure and the physical security currently dependent upon.

In a drive to enhance the protection of information, assets and employees, the department plans to increase on its security awareness programmes for employees. Security managers will be encouraged to also participate in this initiative and to conduct sessions in the various departments.

Conclusion

Honourable Speaker, as I conclude, allow me to appreciate and thank the Honorable Premier Mr. DD Mabuza for the excellent leadership and guidance pertaining to this portfolio.

Honourable Speaker, the continued support from all Executive Council Members is well received and appreciated.

Let me also extend my appreciation to all members of the Provincial Legislature, particularly the Portfolio Committee and its Chairperson, Honourable Gabisile Shabalala, for monitoring the work of the department and for their guidance.

Let me thank the collective leadership and efforts exerted by the Department under the leadership of HOD William Mthombothi.

The SAPS collective in the Province under the leadership of Lt. General Mondli Zuma and the entire Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster for their continued and reliable support.

To the pillar of my strength, My Lovely Wife La Shabalala, I thank you for understanding when I am always on the road in a quest to save the people of Mpumalanga. My Mother La Mamba, I know you are always standby for me when I need motherly advise and always pray for me every day. All my family members and comrades, I say thank you for your unwavering support.

I will only win the fight against criminality when I have your full support as it is not only for law enforcers, but society in its entirety that should be in the front of the war.

Let us all join hands in a collective effort to fight crime and road carnage. I remain convinced that the dream of a crime-free Mpumalanga Province is attainable.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to present and table to this house the 2017/2018 budget for Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison as follows:

Programme1: Administration

One Hundred and Sixteen Million Rand
R116 million

Programme 2: Civilian Oversight

Fifty Seven Million Rand
R57 million

Programme 3: Transport Regulation

Five Hundred and sixteen Million Rand
R517 million

Programme 4: Security Management

Four Hundred and sixty two Million
R463 million

The total allocation to the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison is One Billion, One Hundred and Fifty One Million Rand (R1,153,000 000).

E Mpumalanga sitsi “Sekwanele, Bopha.”

I thank you.