



community safety,
security & liaison
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



POLICY & BUDGET SPEECH 2019/20



“Together Let’s Fight Crime and Road Carnage”

POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH BY MPUMALANGA MEC FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY MS. GABISILE SHABALALA ON THURSDAY, 11 JULY 2019 AT 14H00 AT MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE IN MBOMBELA

Greetings

Honourable Speaker, Ms. Busi Shiba

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Vusi Mkhathshwa

Honourable Premier of the Province, Ms. Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane,

My colleagues in the Executive,

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee Honourable Speedy Mashilo.

House of Traditional Leaders led by the Chairperson, Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane

Acting Director General of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, Mr. Mathew Mohlasedi

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

The South African Police Service (SAPS) Provincial Commissioner Lt. General Mondli Zuma

DCSSL and SAPS Management teams,

Chairperson of the CPF Provincial Board Mr. Kevin Pillay

Public Safety councillors from various municipalities.

Representatives from the JCPS Cluster

Distinguished guests and all dignitaries present here today.

Members of the media, Comrades and Friends

Ladies and gentlemen,

SANIBONANI, MOLWENI, SHAWANINI

Introduction

1. It is indeed a great honour for me to present and table to this august house, the Policy and Budget Speech for 2019/2020 financial year. This presentation is taking place during the former State President Dr. Nelson Mandela's birthday month.
2. Our actions, Madam Speaker, should continue to be inspired by great luminaries such as Dr. Nelson Mandela as we move towards enhancing the safety and security of the communities. He would not have wanted to see a South Africa that is terrorized by criminals where women and children live in constant fear for their lives.
3. We must all work towards eradicating crime and corruption in all its manifestations and forms as we move towards the third decade of our democracy.
4. The country has recently held general elections that ushered-in the sixth administration. Once more the majority of South Africans confidently mandated the ANC to continue governing the country.
5. Madam Speaker, one of the key priorities for this department in to ensure the creation of safer communities in line with the Manifesto of the ruling Party. All our efforts should be directed towards this end so that our people are and feel safe.
6. When I was still in the Portfolio Committee during the previous administration, we have been into many communities through Taking Legislature to the People Programme and Izimbizo. During these public engagements, many have told us how unsafe they felt in the streets and their own homes due to high levels of criminality in communities.
7. They also told us that they want the police service and the criminal justice system that respond timeously to their cries.
8. This, therefore, Madam Speaker, means that our work as department together with various stakeholders is enormous. We must implement with great speed various programmes that are geared towards making our people safer both in their homes and on the road.
9. We will still continue to build on the past successes and draw lessons from the challenges experienced in the previous financial years. When we do that, our communities will work with us in the ongoing war against crime.
10. We will be able to realize the Vision 2030 as envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP). We will continue to interact with our communities in the war against crime.

11. We are also happy that His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced during the State of the Nation Address, that the number of new SAPS recruits will increase from 5000 to 7000 recruits per cycle over the next two intakes.
12. The initiative will benefit the Province by addressing human resource challenges in Police Stations and improve visible policing to eradicate criminality in the province and the country as a whole.
13. Madam Speaker since my arrival in the Department, I have seen several reports of women who were brutally murdered in some cases by their partners.
14. In one of the incidences, a woman was found dumped at the cemetery in Umjindi with multiple gunshot wounds. It is alleged that she was last seen with her boyfriend few days earlier.
15. At Msholozhi township in Mbombela another horrific incident took place where a nine-year-old girl was reportedly raped by an unknown person. The suspect is believed to have set the house on fire where the girl was staying at the time. The remains of the child's mother were found on the scene after the fire was extinguished.
16. Children were also not spared from heartlessness as some children disappeared and some were found dead. In April this year, two children aged between six and seven years disappeared while playing near their home in Mganduzweni Trust in Masoyi. With the help of the community, the police searched for these children to no avail. Their bodies were found dumped near a ditch in the area few days later.
17. Last week on Thursday, Mpumalanga News headlined with a story of a child who disappeared in Matsulu last year. The child has not yet been found and the police are still searching for the child. We need to help this family and many others whose children are not yet found.
18. We will continue to interact with Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS) to follow up on progress with regard to these and other cases. Quicker finalization of abuse cases will lead to increased conviction rates.
19. Harsher punishment of offenders will also inspire more communities to work with the police in the fight against crime.
20. Last year in November the Presidential Summit on gender based violence and femicide was held to deal with violence affecting mainly women and children. We will also align our activities in line with the summit's programme of action in order to address this scourge of abuse.

21. Illegal mining activities taking place in the Province attracts illegal miners from different Provinces including neighbouring countries. Some of the illicit miners end up participating in criminal activities.
22. **Lenye incinamba lesibekananenayo ukuphulwa kwempahla uma abantu bezwakalisa ukunganeliseki ngezi khalazo zabo. Kufuneka ukuthi abantu babhikishe ngokulandela umthetho wase South Africa.**

Road Safety

23. Madam Speaker on the other hand, road safety remains another key challenge for us. It was heartbreaking for me to attend the mass funeral service of the six members who perished in one head on collision that took place on R544 Road between Emalahleni and Verena. The head on collision claimed the lives of six people of which five were from the same family.
24. The N12 section around Delmas remains a challenge due to mist which make road usage a challenge. In three separate incidents, the pile up resulted in the loss of seven lives which included two tourists and one former intern of the Department who was driving the tourists from Johannesburg.
25. Just a few days ago fifteen people were killed in various crashes within 24 hours. Seven of those killed include school children. They were all passengers in a light delivery vehicle (LDV) that collided head on with an articulated truck on R555 Road between Middelburg and Stoffberg.
26. On the same Saturday, four more lives were brought to an abrupt end during a head on collision that occurred between two sedans. We extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences to all the families who have lost their loved ones in these and many other crashes.
27. These and many other crashes continue to bring devastation to many families.
Sekwanele abantu bakithi bayaphela emgwacweni ngenxa yokungaziphathi kahle kwabanye.
28. The carnages on the road also cost the economy billions of rands on an annual basis. If these crashes were reduced a lot of money was going to be used for other developmental needs of the country.
29. What is of major concern is that it is mostly young people who are still economically active that are affected. An average of 1200 people are killed every year on road crashes in the province.

30. These crashes are avoidable because they happen as a result of decisions that are made by motorists. We have a major challenge with the reckless and negligent behaviour of most drivers.
31. We have made numerous calls for improved driver behaviour but our road users continue to die due to road crashes. We will nonetheless continue with the same vigour to implement various law enforcement and road safety education campaigns.

Programme 1: Administration

32. The budget for the programme is **R151 million** and it has increased from the previous financial year's **R136 million**. The increase will assist with the provision of effective support services to all the core functions of the department.

Programme 2: Civilian Oversight

33. The programme has been allocated **R61 million** in the current financial year. The department in 2018/19 implemented several educational awareness programmes in line with the 365 Days of Activism for no Violence Against Women and Children campaign.
34. In 2019/20 financial year, the Department will focus on 25% (twenty-five) of the worst performing stations in implementing the Domestic Violence Act by developing and implementing improvement plans.
35. This will ensure that they move from deficiency failures to compliance in the implementation of the Act to reduce secondary victimization. Some of the budget will go towards implementing of various awareness and education campaigns for the department in the current financial year.
36. School Prison Visits will also be conducted in order to deter learners from criminality in selected schools which are dominated by learner violence. The Department will further embark on Public Participation Programmes (Izimbizo) by the MEC and also assist Victim Empowerment Centres.
37. Madam Speaker, the NDP highlights an integrated approach in the fight against crime. To achieve this, Community Policing Forums (CPFs) and Community Safety Forums will be provided with support.

38. Sizawuchubeka nekusebenzisana nabo bonke abathintekayo kumkhakha wezokuphepha kwemfuyo. Sizawuchubeka sibacele ukuthi bafake lucingo kuze imfuyo ingangeni emgwacweni kuze kunciphe izingozi nekulahlekelwa yimfuyo. Siqcuqczuzela wonke umphakathi ukuthi wenze isicinisekiso sokuthi yonke imfuyo iyamakhwa kuze kwazeke ukuthi ngeyabani.
39. Furthermore, I urge the various war room structures to prioritize the issue of community safety in their meetings at grassroots level, crime prevention initiatives has a greater impact as crime is committed at a local level.
40. We believe that such measures will go a long way towards making the province achieve its intention with regard to combatting violent crimes which continues to negatively affect the quality of lives of many people.
41. We are all aware that violent crimes are not only police matters but these are matters that require all stakeholders and communities to work together.
42. Madam Speaker, the Department will support initiatives by the police in the province and the Mpumalanga Economic Regulator in addressing liquor traders that violate the conditions of their licenses.
43. The Department will implement the Tourism Safety Monitors (TSMs) Project benefitting 450 young people towards ensuring the safety of tourists. The project will also assist in addressing the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

Programme 3: Transport Regulation

44. Programme 3 has been allocated **R672 million** for the current financial year. This allocation, Madam Speaker, will enable the department to implement various law enforcement and road safety education programmes.
45. Honourable Speaker, the allocated budget will among others cover the roll out of the licensing function to the South African Post Offices across the province. The roll out will come at the cost of R10 million in the current financial year. The move is expected to make the Departmental licensing function accessible to our communities in line with Batho Pele principles.
46. A further R30 million of the allocation will go towards covering the operational costs related to the takeover of licensing functions from the Nkomazi Local Municipality and the City of Mbombela for the current financial year.

47. We will continue to enhance law enforcement visibility in roads that have contributed to most crashes during the previous holiday seasons. Madam Speaker, such roads include N4, N17, N3, N12, R40, R573 (Moloto Road), R38, R555, R544 and R570.
48. During the holiday seasons and busy weekends, Rest Stops will be conducted where road users will be encouraged to rest after driving two hours or two hundred kilometers, because we believe that some of these crashes are largely attributed to driver fatigue due to lengthy concentration.
49. Drunken driving and speed law enforcement operations will also be an integral part of these programmes because as indicated earlier, most deadly crashes occur at night and on most weekends when the affected drivers have been consuming alcohol and driving at high speed.
50. The corruption in the issuing of driver and vehicle licenses and certificates will be given a serious attention as the fraudulent and corrupt activities relating to licensing has proven to be one of the contributory factors to road crashes.
51. Overloading does not only affect the lifespan of the road infrastructure but also contribute to road crash fatalities. The weighing of freight vehicles will be intensified.

Youth Capacity Development Programme

52. Madam Speaker, the department in collaboration with the Provincial Departments of Education and Social Development and the Service Sectoral Education Training Authority (SETA), implemented the Youth Capacity Development Programme.
53. Over 700 learners have received their driving licenses from this initiative. We will therefore continue to mobilise both the public and private sector to consider these young people with jobs when such opportunities arise.

Mpumalanga Traffic Training College

54. Madam Speaker, Mpumalanga Traffic Training College has so far produced over 300 traffic officers who completed 12 months training in Basic Traffic Officers Course. The current intake at the college is 152.
55. These students come from various local municipalities across the province while others come from North West, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape Provinces.

56. Honourable Speaker, a total of 45 officials from various municipalities and private testing stations have received training in the Examiner of Vehicles' Course.
57. The college has also trained fifteen (15) law enforcement officials as Assessors in February 2019. A further 109 law enforcement officers received refresher training in line with the Firearm Control Act.

Programme 4: Security Management

58. The programme's allocation for the current financial year is **R468 million**. Provincial sites where private security services providers are deployed will be monitored to ensure compliance to the service level agreement.

Conclusion

In conclusion Honourable Speaker, I once more thank the Honourable Premier for the faith she placed in me to be part of the Executive. I also appreciate her continued guidance.

Let me also extend my appreciation to all members of the Provincial Legislature, particularly the Portfolio Committee and its Chairperson for ensuring that the Executive continue to account to its people through the Legislature.

Let me thank the collective effort by the Department under the leadership of HOD Mr. William Mthombothi. The SAPS Provincial Commissioner, Lt. Gen Mondli Zuma and his management team. They have welcomed me very well and I believe we will continue in the same vein throughout.

I also want to take this opportunity to fully pledge my support to the work of the entire Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster. Without the cluster we will not be able to achieve a safe and secure South Africa that we all aspire to and in line with NDP Vision 2030.

It is only fair that I also acknowledge the incredible support of my partner, Babu Shabalala and my whole family because they have to constantly bear with my long hours of work and extensive travelling that this portfolio requires.

Honourable Speaker, allow me therefore, to present and table to this house the 2019/2020 budget for Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Vote number 09, as follows:

Programme1: Administration

R151, 953 million

Programme 2: Civilian Oversight

R61, 840 million

Programme 3: Transport Regulation

R672, 190 million

Programme 4: Security Management

R468, 348 million

The total budget allocation for the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Voter 09, for the financial year 2019/2020, is **One Billion, Three Hundred and Fifty Four Million Three Hundred and thirty One Thousand Rand** (R1, 354, 331, 000).

I thank you.

NOTES



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