

## **BUDGET VOTE SPEECH AND 2023/2024 PRIORITIES BY THE MEC FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, FAITH**

**MAZIBUKO, AT THE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE: 26 MAY 2023**

Singakhohlwa nokubingelela amaCrime Prevention Wardens, who are also known as AmaPanya Panya ... the new force in Gauteng

Ladies and gentlemen!

Sanibonani!

Madame Speaker, it is an utmost privileged to stand before this house and the people of Gauteng to present the Department of Community Safety's budget for the financial year 2023/24. We present this budget a few days before National Child Protection Week begins. A week dedicated to raising awareness about Children's Rights and heightening efforts to end neglect, abuse, violence, and the exploitation of children. The creation of a safe and thriving Gauteng is crucial for ensuring that our children are protected and have opportunities to realize their dreams. Children must be seen and heard and protected

Madame Speaker, nge Sizulu siye sithi " Ingane engakhali ifela embelekweni. We have heard the cries of our communities because they live in fear in their homes and can't even walk at night even during the day coz their valuables are taken from them. Thus far the Gauteng Provincial Government, led by Honorable Premier Lesufi, is resolute in its concerted efforts to strengthen the fight against crime, corruption, vandalism, and lawlessness. To this end, the Department has aligned the elevated priorities, as per the commitments made by the Premier during the State of The Province Address (SOPA) to the Growing Gauteng Together (GGT2030) programme of action and the GGT 5-Year Policing Plan.

### **Budget Allocation for the 2023/24 financial year**

Madame Speaker, the Gauteng Provincial Government has identified the fight against

crime as an apex priority for the province. Against this backdrop, the Department's budget has been increased significantly to R2 706 192 000.00 (Two billion, seven hundred and six million, one hundred and ninety-two thousand rands) for the 2023/24 financial year. The budget breakdown for the three programmes in the department is as follows:

Administration – R 178 344 000.00 (One hundred and seventy-eight million, three hundred and forty-four thousand rands).

Provincial Secretariat – R 268 689 000.00 (Two hundred and sixty-eight million, six hundred and eighty-nine thousand rands).

Traffic Management – R 2 259 159 000.00 (Two billion, two hundred and fifty-nine million, one hundred and fifty-nine thousand rands).

The Department has earmarked R 1 491 177 000 (One billion, four hundred and ninety-one million, one hundred and seventy-seven thousand rands) to give effect to the elevated priorities that are aimed at building safer communities. This amount will be used for funding an the new organogram structure as a result of the 6 000 Crime Prevention Wardens (CPWs), purchase of tools of trade for the CPWs, training of CPWs, leasing of helicopters, buying drones, and training of drone operator pilots, e-panic buttons for all the members of the community. This budget will ensure that we help our communities in the fight against crime and ensuring that there are more boots on the ground as a force multiplier

### **ADMINISTRATION.**

The Department has filled vacancies, particularly in senior management positions, to ensure that service delivery continues without delay. The Chief Director for the Provincial Secretariat and the Director for Supply Chain Management have been recently appointed. This is in line with fulfilling the mandate of the Department to

implement the Service Delivery Model (SDM) and organizational structure.

As the department in responding to ensuring that women are empowered and indeed as a department we are proud to announce that we 60% of women in senior management positions

The Department has promoted 10 people with disabilities and employed 6 more people.

The total number of people with disabilities in the Department is 41. Furthermore, the Department has a complement of 420 young people (youth) which translates to 26.5%.

The total number of employees in the staff establishment of 1586.

### **PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT (Police oversight).**

The Department continues to monitor the province's priority police stations by using the Gauteng Information of Police Performance System (GIPPS) model as a yardstick to measure performance. This oversight function will continue in the priority stations as mandated by section 206 of the Constitution.

In addition to providing oversight, the Department will continue to support the implementation of crime-fighting initiatives. The Department's effective implementation of an "interventionist oversight approach" during the 2022/23 financial year led to the procurement of 50 patrol vehicles and 4 additional mobile police stations for the South African Police Service (SAPS) to enhance visible policing and response in crime hotspots, on highways and in public spaces on a 24-hour basis.

The Department's interventionist approach with respect to the implementation of its oversight model continues to reassure the law enforcement agencies' leadership, at different levels of command, that we are together in dealing with the crime challenge in this province.

In the past three years, the Department procured 100 BMWs (high-powered vehicles), 12 mobile police stations, and 50 patrol vans for the South African Police Service (SAPS)

and 29 GBV cars that have been donated to SAPS so that victims of abuse do not suffer secondary victimisation. This we do as the Provincial government in a bid to ensure that police have the necessary resources, improve police visibility and ensure access to police services. The Department will observe the impact of these improvements in the 2023/24 financial year while focusing on improving policing in various priority locations within the province.

The GGT 5-year Policing Plan and the Intergrated Crime Prevention & Violence strategy . The expectation is that the leadership of various law enforcement agencies, led by SAPS, should intensify efforts to achieve the deliverables as set out in this plan. One of those key deliverables is the enhancement of community policing, which is made possible by the immense community support that exists in the form of functional Community Police Forums (CPFs) and Community Patrollers.

The concept of safer communities will be achieved through greater oversight of policing service delivery as carried out in the 144 police stations and Community Police Fora (CPFs) across the province.

Through a joint initiative with the Civilian Secretariat of Police Service, the Department will continue to conduct customer satisfaction surveys at various police stations. The Department will intensify its oversight function over the Metropolitan Police Departments (MPDs) through the War Room model. Our plan is to ensure that By-Law Enforcement is intensified during this financial year in all policing precincts.

### **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT.**

The work of the Gauteng Traffic Police and Road Safety is focused on combatting crime, reducing road carnages, and creating safer roads for all citizens and visitors using Gauteng roads. It is in this regard that the greater allocation of the department's budget falls under this programme.

### **Excessive speeding.**

Gauteng province continues to experience road traffic crashes, as demonstrated by the Festive and Easter Season Road Safety season statistics which are attributed mainly to the level of driver training, the general attitude of drivers, driver behaviour and the level of driver self-discipline, and self-regulation and compliance with the law. All of these relate to human factors which lead to fatal crashes in most cases. Other elements include the road traffic environment and excessive speeding, amongst others. The Gauteng Traffic Police through The Road Traffic Infringement Agency is continuously addressing the issue of excessive speeding in the province. The speedsters are therefore detained to face the full might of the law.

Honourable Members, the Department continues to conduct heightened speed operations across the province, and those that disregarded the road traffic rules and regulations, thus conducting themselves with impunity are issued with citations and others are arrested for excessive speeding.

### **Drunk Driving Operations.**

Data shows that Gauteng is a province with the highest percentage of drunk driving accidents. Road users whose blood alcohol levels are over the legal limit of 0.5g per 100ml of alcohol are often involved in accidents that happen on public roadways.

Eyesight, response speed, decision-making capacity, motor skills, and poor hearing are significantly impacted by drinking and driving.

To address this risky behaviour, several drunk driving operations are carried out in various areas across the province and those found to be over the alcohol limit are arrested.

To alleviate the backlog of blood alcohol sample analysis at government laboratories, the Department is currently in the process of procuring Mobile Alcohol Evidentiary Units

that will be deployed at critical places including drinking places.

In addition, a number of Static Alcohol Evidentiary Centers will be created across the province in line with National Director of Public Prosecution specifications. This approach will result in speedy finalization of the drunk driving cases as this method will not require the drawing of the blood for determining the alcohol level in the blood.

### **Pedestrian Operations and Education.**

Pedestrians account for more than 50% of the total road traffic fatality rate in the province. Statistical information indicates that most pedestrian fatalities occurred in urban areas, which is attributable to jaywalking, drunk walking, ignoring traffic signals and road traffic markings, and many other forms of dangerous road usage behaviour.

As the Gauteng Provincial Government, we are pleading with pedestrians to avoid the dangerous behaviours outlined above. They must wear clothes that are reflective in the dark for visibility. The Department will regularly deploy traffic and road safety officers at identified hazardous locations to educate and conduct awareness on road safety, in an effort to save lives.

### **Resuscitation of Road Safety Councils.**

The Department, through the Road Safety Promotion Unit, has resuscitated the Community Road Safety Councils in the five corridors, namely Southern, Western, Northern, Eastern, and Central. 125 Community Road Safety Councils were launched throughout the province and issued corporate gear so that they are identifiable as the department safety ambassadors. Schoolchildren are assisted with crossing the road at the busy intersections on their way to and from school, as well as other road users are assisted during peak hours in the morning and afternoon.

We will continue to conduct road safety awareness campaigns, working closely with community structures such as churches, youth clubs, liquor outlets, amongst others,

and by also visiting identified taxi ranks, malls, industrial companies, and other public spaces.

### **ELEVATED PRIORITIES.**

The Gauteng Provincial Government has identified crime as an apex priority. In the 2022/23 financial year, the department undertook bold steps toward implementing crime-fighting initiatives. The provincial government investigated strategies for stepping up the five elevated priorities, with an emphasis on strengthening the fight against crime, corruption, vandalism, and lawlessness. These elevated priorities are underpinned by the Gauteng Provincial Government's desire to improve the living conditions of the citizen and visitors in Gauteng, with a specific focus on Townships, Informal Settlements, and Hostels (TISH).

### **Recruitment of 6 000 Crime Prevention Wardens.**

I wish to quote from our stalwarts Charlotte Maxheke "Do it. you can't Conquire what you did not attempt" which is what has propelled us To recruited 6000 Crime Prevention Wardens (CPWs), as part of strengthening our efforts in the fight against crime and improving the visibility and effectiveness of law enforcement in our respective communities. These CPWs are deployed in the 361 TISH wards, across the 5 corridors of the province. The allocation of the wardens aims to ensure that in each of the wards attached to TISH areas, an average of 17 CPWs are deployed. Their deployment will be extended to other areas identified as hotspots, to augment the work of law enforcement in Gauteng. Through the addition of these new Crime Prevention Wardens, our law enforcement has received a significant infusion of energy and manpower.

They bring fresh perspectives to the fight against crime, irrespective of the evolving nature of criminal activities. By expanding the size of the force, we have drastically increased our capacity to patrol the streets and increase visibility as a means of

apprehending those who violate the law, thus enforcing the rule of law and order in the province.

The CPWs are already making an impact in the areas they are deployed in. They are recording great success, especially in dealing with criminal activities such as the selling of drugs, and our communities are appreciating their work.

### **EPOLICING.**

On 18 February 2023, the Department convened an e-Policing dialogue with all law enforcement agencies and private security companies in Gauteng province to encourage meaningful partnerships and collaboration to make communities and public spaces safer and secure. This exercise has resulted in many companies making their resources available and committing themselves to working with law enforcement agencies to fight crime. This partnership will go a long way in reducing criminal activities in the province and positioning Gauteng as a global and competitive City Region free of crime.

As part of efforts to strengthen the fight against crime, corruption, vandalism, and lawlessness, the Department will ensure the allocation of resources to support law enforcement agencies through the tools of trade such as high-quality drones, surveillance cameras, high powered, patrol vehicles and helicopters.

As part of ePolicing, the Gauteng Provincial Government continues to establish private-public partnerships for crime prevention initiatives. Collaboration with stakeholders in the security cluster is essential for knowledge sharing and demonstration of solutions aimed at fighting crime. It is established that crime prevention is a multi-sectoral issue that requires a multi-pronged approach. Given the complexities and dynamics associated with crime as well as its generators, partnership at societal level becomes imperative.



Business against Crime was instrumental in securing a donation of 100 CCTV cameras to be placed in previously disadvantaged communities in Gauteng. The plan is that the Provincial Government through the Department of e-Government should augment these efforts.

### **PROVINCIAL INTEGRATED COMMAND CENTRE (PICC).**

In this financial year, the Department will fulfill the long outstanding vision of establishing a Provincial Integrated Command Centre. The Command Centre includes the integration of technological advancements and tools into safety efforts with particular emphasis on priority crimes and stronger coordination with the Criminal Justice cluster. This intervention will contribute to the utilization of technology to improve policing in the province. The technological interventions introduced in the policing environment call for a “paradigm shift” in the oversight model.

The Department of Community Safety, in collaboration with the Department of e-Government, will create a new e-Security network to efficiently monitor the movements of people and vehicles and stop criminals in their tracks. This e-Security network will be linked with the Provincial Integrated Command Centre.

The Gauteng Provincial Government has procured two helicopters, 200 patrol vehicles and will work closely with e-Gov to procure 144 drones and 351 fully functional surveillance cameras to be deployed in all crime hotspots across the province to enhance visibility.

### **LAND INVASION AND DAMAGE TO INFRASTRUCTURE.**

As part of dealing decisively with land invasion and lawlessness in the province, the Department of Community Safety in collaboration with the Department of Human Settlement and Department of Infrastructure Development has established a 24/7 anti-land invasion task team. The Department will also tackle “lawlessness” through

heightened law enforcement operations, and prevent incidents of illegal land occupation and damage to state infrastructure. The Department of Community Safety facilitated inputs of LEAs on provincial anti -land invasion strategy.

Siyabangena team (patrollers) have been roped in to discourage land invasion and Community Police Fora structures have been tasked to assist with early warning and gathering of intelligence on the ground. This team will also be assisted by the recently recruited Crime Prevention Wardens on the ground.

### **SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AGAINST**

### **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE.**

The Gauteng Provincial Government is relentless in its 365 days comprehensive programme of action against Gender-based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). This crucial work continues to be undertaken jointly with all provincial government departments, civil society organizations and the private sector, as part of strengthening partnerships toward the elimination of gender-based violence and femicide.

An amount of R65.9 million has been allocated to the Department to accelerate the fight against the GBVF pandemic. The Department of Community Safety has, through the Provincial Gender-Based Violence Coordinating Office, shifted its strategic focus to the prevention of GBVF and responding to reported cases effectively. We call upon men and all sectors of society to spearhead the fight against GBVF, by engaging themselves in community dialogues and fostering collaborative efforts to end the scourge of GBVF.

The GBVF Brigades Programme, which is hailed as a best practice, will continue increasing its footprint. The impact realized by the GBVF Brigades is as follows:

GBVF Community Outreach/Awareness programme will be done through 220 000 house visits at ward level.

A commitment to escalate unresolved and new GBVF matters through an

effective referral matrix - special focus on referral for psycho-social and family justice support.

Court picketing will continue to be done across Gauteng in support of GBVF victims and their families.

The Gauteng Provincial Government will roll out e- Panic buttons and e- Panic Apps in communities from hotspot areas as part of a rapid response system, which will assist in combating gender-based violence and other criminal activities. 100 000 vulnerable families will benefit from the e-panic rapid response application initiative as a solution to make an impact on reducing GBVF in South Africa. This solution will offer on-demand, emergency armed response for safety and security and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) within 3-10 minutes.

Research studies will be conducted to ensure a more inclusive GBVF response for the LGBTIQIA+ and Persons with disabilities (PWD). The Provincial GBVF workstream platform will allow the state, civil society, and private sector to review GBVF statistics on a bi-weekly basis with the aim of designing integrated responses to serve TISH and vulnerable groups. Thus, keeping interventions current.

Existing public-private partnerships will be expanded to increase the impact on making the lives of GBVF survivors meaningful. Deliberate focus will be placed on harnessing current public-private partnerships with First National Bank (FNB), Spar and Coca Cola company.

In this financial year, through Ikhaya Lethemba Victim Empowerment Centre, 120 women will be empowered through skills development training to ensure that they are self-reliant upon exiting the center. In the previous financial year, 120 women were trained on skills ranging from Waitressing, Security, Hair and Beauty techniques as a commitment in capacitating survivors of GBVF. GBVF cases will also be tracked in the

Criminal Justice system including analysis of closed dockets.

In the previous financial year, Green Doors offered emotional support to 2387 victims who were also linked with SAPS for further assistance. About 38 Green Doors will be rolled out in the current financial year, while there plans to roll out beyond the number in line with TISH program. The focus will be on informal settlements that have a high rate of GBVF cases reported at their nearest police stations.

The Department will also ensure that Floor Managers and Green Door Ambassadors focus on the following:

**Receiving and containment of victims.**

**Capacitating floor managers and Green Door ambassadors with basic skills**

**Trauma Debriefing.**

The Floor Manager Programme was rolled out to 50 priority stations that needed additional GBVF support services. The floor managers act as a frontline, receiving victims as and when they enter the police station. The victims are contained emotionally and ushered to Victim Friendly Rooms for further therapeutic interventions. Additional 55 policing precincts are targeted for the roll-out of the floor manager program for the current financial year. The Ikhaya Lethemba model and GBVF Brigades programmes have received attention from various provinces, with provinces visiting for benchmarking purposes.

The previous financial year saw 144 Law Enforcement Officers trained on the handling of GBVF cases and capacitating SAPS Victim Friendly Room Co-ordinators and training will continue this financial year.

In the previous financial year 1000 cases were tracked within the criminal justice system and victims supported through psychosocial support. 1200 cases will be targeted for the current financial year.

A total of 44 Little Heroes were recognized by the Department in the past financial year. These heroines and heroes are child victims who have testified in criminal cases. They were celebrated and hailed for their bravery and courage for standing as credible witnesses in various courts around the province.

### **SCHOOL SAFETY**

School safety continues to be a matter of grave concern to the Gauteng Provincial Government. In light of the violent incidents that have plagued our schools in recent times, the Department of Community Safety in collaboration with the Department of Education will closely monitor school safety programmes across the province to ensure a conducive teaching and learning environment.

The Department conducted research on an assessment of school safety interventions in some of the problematic schools in Gauteng and disseminated the findings to a joint sitting of the Portfolio Committees on Safety and Education. Further engagements on this matter will continue in the 2023\24 financial year.

### **MOBILISE COMMUNITIES TO TAKE CHARGE AGAINST CRIME.**

The Department continues to work on initiatives aimed at building safer communities. Our view is that the close working relationship between communities and various law enforcement agencies is of utmost importance. Madame Speaker, I must be the first to acknowledge that the formation of street committees and block committees has become more important than ever.

The time has come for all members of law enforcement, including private security companies, to work in partnership with community structures to make communities and public spaces safe and secure. To this end, the Department is implementing ongoing preventative measures against crime through increased community involvement, by conducting community-wide awareness campaigns on social crime prevention (anti-

crime) programmes, facilitated by departmental corridor teams and our skilled safety ambassadors (volunteers), including youth crime prevention desks, patrollers, women as safety promoters, and men as safety promoters, mostly enrolled as gender-based violence brigades.

The volunteer programmes have yielded significant successes in that most volunteers have been appointed as permanent employees of the Department, notably as Gauteng Traffic Officers, Officials within the Provincial Secretariat and Crime Prevention Wardens.

Having patrollers and neighborhood watches adds to the force multipliers. The Department will enhance the deployment of the rapid patrol group (Siyabangena) to various crime hotspots to intensify the fight against crime, corruption, vandalism and lawlessness. This programme continues to augment the work of law enforcement agencies and assists in alleviating poverty through the employment of 500 patrollers that receive monthly stipends.

Additional funds will be channeled towards sustaining the Department's support towards the Kiosk project with a total of 154 patrollers benefiting in this regard. Additionally, the programme helps to improve police visibility, while also ensuring access to police services.

The Department remains committed to the professionalization of Community Police Forums (CPFs). Funds have been set aside to ensure that CPF structures are capacitated through training programs. In addition, the Department will provide branding material to the CPF structure, during this financial year, to enhance brand recognition, which is part of the professionalization programme.

In this financial year, Okae Molao campaign will be heightened and supported, including through the deployment of Crime Preventions Wardens at all Integrated Law

Enforcement Operations.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

### **STRATEGY.**

In implementing the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS) which was adopted in 2022, the Department will work hand-in-hand with various stakeholders to realise the strategic goal of an integrated approach to the prevention of crime and violence.

This includes working with the Gauteng Department of Social Development, Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED), Gauteng Department of Human Settlement (GDoHS), Gauteng Department of Education (GDE), SAPS and Gauteng Provincial Community Police Board (GPCPB), Metropolitan Police Departments (MPDs) to address the following issues:

Prevention of proliferation of drugs and substance abuse;

Prevention of illegal occupation of land and buildings;

School Safety; and,

Tackling of criminality which continues to hinder the rollout of economic opportunities in the province.

The plan is to make use of the ProvJoints to ensure that coordination is realized.

### **CORRUPTION WITHIN THE RANKS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

One of the biggest challenges affecting the law enforcement fraternity is corruption. Our efforts to build safer communities are hampered by dishonest officials who participate in unlawful activities. All sectors of society must participate in the fight against corruption for it to be successful.

The Department's third follow-up research on the integrity of the provincial law enforcement agencies found regrettably lower integrity levels than the baseline in the

2016/17 financial year. A multi-disciplinary approach is needed to address all acts of criminality including corruption. As a society we simply cannot allow corruption to take hold. It is up to each one of us to always act with integrity and to be both responsible and honest citizens.

The Department will continue to hold the monthly Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) Recommendations meetings with SAPS, Metropolitan Police Departments and IPID to ensure that there is accountability with respect to unethical behavior. This forum has made strides in this regard.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi, Members of the Executive Committee, Members of the Portfolio Committee, the HOD, the staff at the department and law enforcement officers for their unwavering support. While significant strides have been made to tackle lawlessness, we to work extra hard to win the war against crime and realise the vision of a safe and prosperous Gauteng City Region. The fight against crime requires us to continue mobilizing communities, the private sector, and stakeholders to work hand in glove with the government as crime affects all of us. We are appealing to communities to support the work of Crime Prevention Wardens, as they work with law enforcement to create safer townships, informal settlements, hostels, and ultimately a safer Gauteng.

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