



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



Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison

POLICY AND 2022/23 2022/23 BUDGET SPEECH



**BUDGET SPEECH (VOTE 9)
PRESENTED TO THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
BY THE MEC FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON,
MR. VUSI SHONGWE (MPL)**



MEC Vusi Shongwe





BUDGET SPEECH (VOTE 9) PRESENTED TO THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE BY THE MEC FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON, MR. VUSI SHONGWE (MPL)

14 JUNE 2022

SALUTATIONS

Honourable Speaker,
 Deputy Speaker, and Chief Whip of the Majority Party,
 Honourable Premier, Mrs. Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane,
 Honourable Members of the Executive Council,
 Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature,
 Chairpersons of various Portfolio Committees,
 The Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane and other
 Traditional Leaders present,
 Executive Mayors of District and Local Municipalities
 The Director-General for the Province, Mr. Makhukhu Mampuru;
 The Acting HOD for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr. Godfrey Ntombela; and Other
 Heads of Departments;
 South African Police Service (SAPS), Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Semakaleng
 Manamela,
 African National Congress Chairperson in the province, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu and other leaders of
 our glorious movement in our midst,
 Representatives from SAPS and other government departments,
 Representatives from labour federations,
 Distinguished guests and members of the public,
 Members of the Media,
 Ladies and Gentlemen, **SANIBONANI**





INTRODUCTION

Madam Speaker, we present this year's Budget Speech against the backdrop of rising levels of crime and Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the province and the country as a whole. Honourable Members, Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane in her State of the Province Address earlier this year, she once more emphasized the importance of fighting crime and corruption.

We need a country and a province that is stable for economy to grow and create much needed jobs. Perceived high levels of crime and corruption do not only scare away potential investors, it also scares away tourists to visit our beautiful province.

Crime does not only threaten our democracy, it prevents people from freely living their lives and connecting with one another.

It is in this context that the department with all its stakeholders should continue to work harder to eradicate crime and corruption. We all know that for the province to fully succeed in realizing economic growth and recover from the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the scourge of crime must be defeated.

On Gender Based Violence and Femicide

Honourable Members, we owe it to women and children of this country and the province, to create an environment that will enable women and children to live their lives freely.

GBVF still remain a huge challenge for the province and the country at large.

It cannot be correct that women and children continue to live in fear created by minority of cruel criminals who live amongst us.

Honourable Members, recently the whole country and the world was shocked following the news of the attack on Mpumalanga's world renowned artist and an elderly, Dr. Esther Mahlangu. During the break in at her homestead in Siyabuswa, she was assaulted and robbed. Although the incident left the family traumatised, it is pleasing to note that arrests had been made.

In another sheer display of absolute cruelty, a 28-year-old, Ms. Hillary Gardee was killed under horrific





Ms. Gardee was initially reported as a missing person. Days later reports emerged that her lifeless body was discovered at a Timber Plantation outside Mbombela.

Honourable Members, the recent gruesome murder of a six-year-old girl, Bontle Mashiyane at Mganduweni in the Masoyi area, left many people in great anguish. What is even more painful is that some of her body parts were missing. This gave credence to the belief that she was killed for muti purposes. It is in this context that we once again calling on our communities to expose these evil traditional healers who uses human body parts for muti purposes.

Madam Speaker, we will soon interact with the traditional healers in our province in order to mobilise them to work with us in crime prevention. We also want our communities to expose these evil people. These *izinyanga* must stop cleansing criminals who come to them for assistance after committing all types of atrocities.

They should rather report criminals to the police and not help crooks to evade justice. Honourable Members, Masoyi is the very same area where children were killed after disappearing and this happened in 2017.

It is one of the areas that will receive heightened focus even in the current financial year. Madam Speaker, it is therefore critical that the perpetrators should be brought to book and the cases are concluded in a shortest possible time. This will not only bring justice to the victims and survivors of crime, but it will go a long way towards deterring others.

It is also worth noting that many other perpetrators of these heinous crimes ended up behind bars. Another similar story was the conviction and sentencing of Julius Mndwawe. Mndawe was sentenced at the Mpumalanga High Court sitting in Mbombela for murders of five women that he reportedly met through social media.

These offences were committed between 2018 and 2019 in the Masoyi area. Honourable Members, besides these cases, there are many other women and children, who have also suffered enormously at the hands of criminals, but their stories did not make newspaper headlines. We commend the police under the leadership of Lieutenant General Semakaleng Manamela, for the sterling work that they continue to do in cracking these complex cases.





That is why when perpetrators are convicted, we do not only give hope to our communities, but communities also become inspired to work with us in order to push back the frontiers of criminality. We similarly give hope to the survivors and victims who find some solace that justice is being served. The conviction and sentencing of criminals, furthermore, give security agencies more courage and determination to relentlessly pursue these monsters.

As a department, we continued to mobilise communities in the fight against GBVF. We also continue to advocate for harsher sentences against the perpetrators of crime. We should not leave anybody behind. Men, who are mostly perpetrators should be at the forefront and that is why some of the programmes that we will embark upon in the current financial year, will speak to that.

It is in this context that the department will work closely with the police to support all programmes and initiatives meant to better protecting women, children and persons with disabilities. As part of fighting GBVF, the province implements a 365 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Strategy.

The implementation of the programme sees all government departments coming together along with various non-governmental organizations. This is done to enhance communities' awareness about the scourge.

Support has also been given to the victims and survivors of GBVF and abuse. That is why the department, as part of its oversight on SAPS, monitors the implementation of the provisions of Domestic Violence Act at police stations.

The department continuously advocates for proper functioning of the Victims Friendly Facilities at all police stations across the province.

The department will also conduct monitoring on the availability of DNA kits at police stations to ensure successful convictions. The department will also give more attention to the top 30 police stations that contribute mostly to serious crimes in the province in the current financial year.





We will ensure the functionality of 20 Community Safety Structures (CSFs) because local municipalities have a huge role to play in ensuring of integrated community safety plans. For instance, the issue of poor street visibility during the night and inaccessible streets makes policing difficult in some areas. The CSF is the heartbeat of the municipalities to ensure community safety.

On School Safety Programme

Schools are microcosm of societies within which these schools are located. Therefore, the criminality and acts of bullying, carrying of weapons and drugs by learners is a clear indication of some of the challenges that we have in our communities.

When we remove prohibited items that contribute to crime, our schools will become safer havens for effective learning and teaching to take place. Earlier this year, we did unannounced visits at several identified schools in the province. We have seized dangerous weapons and drugs from these learners inside the school premises.

Some of these schools have been troubled by gangs as we have seen at Kamhola Secondary School in Barberton and Reggie Masuku, Ithafa and Lindile Secondary in Wesselton in Ermelo. We visited these schools and I am happy to indicate that things are better.

The other schools that are still having gangs MUST be warned that we are coming for them. We will continue to monitor the affected schools. These schools have also been linked to nearby police stations in the event there are issues that such are immediately responded to by the police.

Furthermore, the department will conduct its annual programme of prison visits by learners at identified schools. This is part of the overall school safety strategy and it will be carried out in conjunction with other stakeholders such as the Department of Education, Correctional Services and SAPS. We will continue to visit various identified schools.





We will again conduct awareness campaigns among these learners to educate on the importance of staying away from drugs substance abuse and crime.

Last year, a School Safety Programme and Road Safety Debate programmes were implemented as part of mobilising young people to be part of finding solutions to road safety and crime challenges in our communities.

On Border Security

Honourable Members, efforts have been made to enhance border security and combat the influx of undocumented foreign nationals in the country.

Mpumalanga by virtue of bordering Mozambique and Eswatini, has a challenge of influx of foreign nationals in pursuit of better life in our country. Despite efforts by all agencies, the problem still persists and it has led to crime challenges such as illegal movement of illicit drugs, stolen vehicles and which upon crossing borderlines, it becomes very difficult to recover.

The other issue that we have picked up while visiting the borderlines recently, is the existence of the so called runners. These runners allegedly facilitate the movement of undocumented people into the country.

Although the department implement border security awareness campaigns in areas closer to the borderlines, there is a need to work on the infrastructure at ports of entry. This we believe will play a major role in preventing and detecting illegal movement of people.

We will also continue to raise challenges posed by the porous borders in MINMEC meetings and the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to ensure that our borders are safe and this will lead to the safety of the province and the country.

Border security will also continue to receive heightened attention during the Joint Management Forum Meetings (JMF) with SAPS Management as well as Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster(JCPS), cluster meetings.





On Overall Friday Programme

When I returned to this portfolio last year, we immediately relaunched the Overall Friday Programme. The programme is used as a vehicle to enhance law enforcement visibility in identified areas where it is implemented.

We also brought together various members of JCPS to work in order to achieve maximum impact while targeting crime and also promoting law enforcement visibility.

Oversight Work on SAPS

The department monitors SAPS in line with the Constitution and its mandate. One of the innovations introduced by Police Minister, General Bheki Cele a few years ago is a Court Watching Brief Programme.

With the programme, the officials from the department attend courts and identify cases which were closed as a result of inefficiencies on the part of the police during the statement taking stages and compilation of dockets.

Such dockets are revisited and corrected and where necessary put back on court rolls.

The strategy is expected to have an impact on conviction rates. This will make it difficult for offenders and perpetrators to go unpunished.

The department started to implement the programme last year, we believe that with improved budget, we will be able to recruit officials so that they are able to assist as many people in this regard.

On Public Participation Programme

Honourable Members, the department has conducted five public participation programmes (Izimbizo) in Emalahleni (Nkangala District), two in Marite, Naas in KaMachekeza (Ehlanzeni District) and Elukwatini (Gert Sibande District) in the financial year 2021/2022.





The purpose of the Izimbizo was to mobilise the communities in the fight against crime while also affording them an opportunity to complement the work of the security cluster by raising issues of concern around crime and safety in their own communities.

Many communities came forward and the management of the department, the police and other security agencies have already responded and addressed issues raised by communities.

Madam Speaker, other issues that require long term intervention are equally receiving attention. We will continue even in the current financial year to host three more Izimbizo in the three districts. The department through its Promotion of Safety Unit, has also implemented educational and awareness programmes on GBVF, trio crimes, human trafficking, tourism safety, school safety, stock theft and border security among others.

More educational and awareness campaigns will be implemented in the current financial year to empower our communities and also contribute to reducing crime levels in our communities. Furthermore, we will continue to support crime combatting efforts by among others giving adequate support to Community Police Forums (CPFs) and Community Safety Forums (CSFs) even in the current financial year.

These and many other campaigns will continue to part of the Annual Performance Plan (APP) of the department. We will further support all other programmes within the security cluster to enhance the safety of communities.

On Road Safety and Traffic Law Enforcement

The province experienced an increase in all categories of road crashes for the 12 Months period of 2021/22.

Ehlanzeni and Nkangala recorded most of the crashes.

All the regions had an increase in fatalities, Ehlanzeni and Nkangala contributed to most serious crashes and slight injuries.





The N4 toll road, some municipal roads, R40 road from Barberton to Acornhoek, R573 known as Moloto Road, R23 road leading to N3 toll road near Grootvlei towards Heidelberg, and R38 road near Bethal, were the contributors of most road crashes in the province.

During these Easter Holidays we lost 21 lives over a period of four days.

Due to the strategic positioning of the province, there is always transport activities for export and import of goods to foreign countries through Eswatini and Mozambique. This has an impact on road safety based on the number road crashes that are recorded from time to time.

It is in this context that we will continue to strengthen our road safety and law enforcement initiatives. We are constantly monitoring routes which contributes to most number of crashes.

We respond by implementing various programmes such as block patrols, K278 roadblocks, alcohol driven operations and static road blocks on certain routes especially during long weekends and peak holiday seasons.

Honourable Members, enforcing road traffic law and reducing road crashes, the department will introduce Information Communication Technologies which will be linked to the National Traffic Information System (NATIS) to issue traffic summonses.

On licensing

Madam Speaker, we will also continue to strengthen support to Registering Authorities in order as to ensure that some of the issues that have contributed to adverse audit findings are eliminated.

Honourable Members, efforts will be made to reduce congestion at Registering authorities, through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and effective utilization of technology. This will assist in ensuring that potential clients are diverted to other strategic partners for accessing other licensing services.

For example, South African Post Office (SAPO) still offers renewal of license disk for vehicles as a result of the partnerships that has existed with the department for a number of years now.





Honourable Members, Covid-19 pandemic also affected our licensing services adversely. This happened when Driver Licensing and Testing Centres (DLTCs) were closed during the hard lockdown.

The backlog on renewal of Driving Licenses, Public Driving Permits and Temporary Driving Licenses was created.

Even when restrictions were eased not many people were able to renew their expired driving licences due to constant closures of DLTCs every time a positive case was identified. This was done to protect employees and members of the public against the virus.

The Minister of Transport offered several extensions until very recently for the holders of the licenses that expired between 26 March 2020 and 31 August 2021. As a department, we opened our doors Monday to Friday until 18h00 (6pm) and on Saturdays from 08h00 until 14h00 (2pm) during the month of May 2022.

This was done to assist as many people as possible to renew the affected driving licenses.

Honourable Members, we have so far been able to renew more than hundred thousand such licenses.

There is a backlog of same amount. We are therefore appealing to members of the public who are still holding expired driving licenses to come forward and renew their licenses.

On the re-launching of Traffic Intervention Unit

Madam Speaker, last year during the tabling of our budget speech to this house, we announced the department will re-launch the Traffic Intervention Unit. The re-launch that did not take place in the previous financial year due to budgetary constraints and unavailability of the tools of the trade for the unit.

I am now indicating that the re-launch of the TIU will take place in August this year.

The Unit is expected to play a major role in government's ongoing road safety efforts and to also curb reckless and negligent driver behaviour.





On filling of vacant posts

Honourable Members, we reported last year to the house that the department took over licensing functions at the City of Mbombela local municipality.

Following that rigorous process, some employees opted to remain with the municipality while others agreed to be transferred to the department.

This development resulted in vacant posts being created at various DLTCs in Mbombela. The department at that time undertook to fill the vacant posts.

We are happy to report that vacant posts at the Barberton and White River DLTCs have been filled. This, we believe will go a long way towards augmenting the department's ability to deliver quality and efficient licensing services to communities.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

Honourable Members, the budget for the financial year 2022/2023 has been allocated as follows:

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

The programme has been allocated an amount of: ***One Hundred and fifty-Five Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand Rand***
(R155 958 million)

PROGRAMME 2: CIVILIAN SECRETARIAT

The programme has been allocated an amount of: ***Fifty-Seven Million, Nine hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand Rand*** (R57 957 million).





PROGRAMME 3: TRANSPORT REGULATION

This programme has been allocated an amount of **Seven Hundred and Thirty Million, Four Hundred and Thirty-Seven Rand (R730 437 million)**

PROGRAMME 4: SECURITY MANAGEMENT

The programme has been allocated an amount of **Six Hundred and Thirty-Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy-One Thousand Rand (R639 971 million)**

We therefore present the total budget for the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Vote No. 9 which is:

One Billion, Five Hundred and Eighty-Four Million and Three Hundred and Twenty-Three Rand (R1,584 323 BILLION)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would therefore like to thank Honourable Premier, Mrs Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, and my colleagues in the Executive Council for their guidance and support.

I am indebted to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Transport; Community Safety, Security and Liaison under the leadership of its Chairperson, Honourable Norah Mahlangu for the role that the committee play in the work of the department.

The team in my department, led by the Acting Head Mr. Godfrey Ntombela, thank you for the support and commitment and also to our external stakeholders, let us soldier on to make our beautiful province safer for all its citizens and visitors alike.

My appreciation also goes to the African National Congress under the leadership of Comrade Mandla Ndlovu. And lastly, I want to thank my family, friends and comrades for their unwavering support over all these years. Ngiyabonga.





Notes:

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VISION

"A safe, secure, crime and road crash free Mpumalanga Province"

MISSION STATEMENT

To improve community and road traffic safety through mass mobilization, oversee the performance of the police and provision of security services.

