The protests in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng were planned and deliberate.

The first group of looters were the “brains” who formed the spear of the looting and destruction. This “spear” gained access to buildings and premises targeting ATMs, safes holding cash and other valuables, before the masses arrived.

There was also the criminal element who took advantage of the easy access to buildings and valuables.

SAPS were hopelessly outnumbered, under-resourced, ill-prepared, threatened and hence stood back. There were also allegations of police involvement in the looting and protest, if not physically and in person, then complicit by their inaction.

There was a clear deficit of intelligence sharing between the crime fighting agencies/ departments, which could have prevented much of the looting and destruction. The threats, by those supporting former President Zuma, were not taken seriously or were ignored.

There appeared to be a mixture of a targeted approached and indiscriminate criminal looting or activity during the week of unrest.

The toll on the economy of KZN and Gauteng is huge and runs into billions of rands in terms of damaged buildings, stock and profit that was lost. Thousands of small traders, SMME’s and established local and multinational companies have been affected. Some of these will never recover. For others, it will take years to rebuild and some multinational companies will just not return.

The reputational damage to the country is extensive and possibly incalculable.

Economists predict that the damage caused will shave off some 0.7% from our GDP, something the economy can not afford during this economic recovery period. Additionally, some 150 000 to 200 000 jobs are expected to be lost, as a direct consequence of the protests.

6. **Recommendations**

Informed by its deliberations, the Committee recommends that the House requests that the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition should consider:

6.1. Immediate assistance, financial and otherwise, from our related agencies to those businesses affected by the looting.

6.2. A national preventative strategy/plan to be send to all businesses on how to prevent/ mitigate their business properties from further damage in the future. This strategy/plan, in 6.2, should be informed by inter- departmental and sectoral collaboration.

6.3. Methods to remedy the negative effects of reputational damage caused.

6.4. A call to further condemn the wanton looting and to expedite the arrest of those considered to be behind the looting and destruction of property.