



# UPDATE ON THE FIRE AT PARLIAMENT IN JANUARY 2022 - SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

**Presentation to:**  
The Joint Standing  
Committee on the  
Financial Management  
of Parliament

**Date:**  
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# Part A - Investigation into the fire that took place, on 2 January 2022, at the Parliamentary Precinct, Cape Town (DPCI)

# Cape Town CAS 52/01/2022



# Background

- On 2 January 2022, members of the South African Police Service, stationed at the Parliament in Cape Town saw that smoke was coming from the Old Assembly building of Parliament.
- Upon further investigation the members realised that the Old Assembly building was on fire and the fire brigade from Cape Town was immediately notified.
- The members on the scene of the fire then saw an unknown African male, who was busy climbing through a window from inside the Old Assembly to the outside. Members of the Police confronted the African male and saw that he was in possession of bags containing property, which seemed to be from inside Parliament.
- The African male was arrested and detained at Cape Town Central SAPS on charges of housebreaking, theft and arson.
- The suspect was identified as Zandile Christmas Mafe, a 49 year old male, residing at Khayelitsha.



# Zandile Christmas Mafe



# The Investigation

- The crime scene was officially handed over to the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, on 2 January 2022 and a Colonel from Crimes Against the State (CATS) was appointed as lead investigating officer.
- The lead investigator interviewed Mr Mafe during the day, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2022.
- Information on Mr Mafe's side of story was received and will form part of evidence at court.
- A pointing out was also conducted by a commissioned officer not associated with the DPCI, and this will also form part of evidence.
- Another commissioned officer, not associated with the DPCI, also recorded a confession, which will be the subject of evidence in court.
- More than 30 hours of video footage, which will speak for itself, will also be part of the evidence.
- The case against the accused, who remain in custody, is postponed to 9 June 2022, for further investigation.
- Forensic Reports are outstanding.

# Zandile Mafe in Court









# Outstanding Investigation

- The final Fire Investigation Report, from the SAPS Fire Investigator and his photo album.
- Final report of the Cyber Expert, relating to the video downloads at Parliament.
- Final damage report from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.
- Once all the reports have been received, the case will be transferred to the Cape Town High Court, for the purposes of trial.





## Part B - Physical Security and Safeguarding of the Precinct (Division: PSS)

# Update: Regulation of Physical Security (1)

- In 2018, the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for Joint Planning Committee were appointed. Since then the process of establishing a Joint Planning Committee never materialized.
- On the 9th of February 2022, the Divisional Commissioner: Protection and Security Services wrote to the Acting Secretary of Parliament to confirm that those who were appointed as Chairperson and Deputy are still available.
- The Acting Secretary of Parliament confirmed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are available and their appointment is still valid.
- Furthermore the Acting Secretary of Parliament requested that Protection and Security Services conduct the National Key Point induction.



## Update: Regulation of Physical Security (2)

- On the 21st of February 2022, an induction workshop was held with Parliament officials.
- The Inaugural Joint Planning Committee took place on 9 May 2022. All role-players were in attendance and committed in terms of their respective mandates to service Parliament.
- The Parliament and SAPS Legal Services met on 12 May 2022 to iron out issues of conflicts in the Acts – Separation of Powers, Owner, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act 4 of 2004 and the National Key Point Act 102 of 1980.

# Update: Physical Security Enhancement

- The following three main NDPWI projects are currently in process:
  - (WCS 055441) Maintenance contract of current security systems (CCTV / Access Control);
  - (WCS 045138) Enhanced Perimeter Barrier and five upgraded entrances at the Parliamentary Precinct:
    - The final scope of the project is now deemed concluded after receiving the heritage permits from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) that was issued on 25 February 2022.
  - (WCS 055443) Upgrade Project: New main security control room / CCTV cameras / PIDS / UPS / Access Control.
- National Treasury has given NDPWI permission to go ahead with these projects.

# Update: Safeguarding of the Precinct

- The internal investigation into compliance to the administrative, procedural and regulatory requirements, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders from the South African Police Service by the Division Protection and Security Services was concluded on 28 February 2022.
- An Action Plan is being finalised in terms of internal shortcomings identified.
- The disciplinary investigations were concluded and the hearings of the three (3) PSS members are in process.
- Additional static protection deployments through the payment of overtime has been implemented at the Precinct.



## Part C - Enquiry into the Security Breach at Tuynhuis (Component: PPS)

# Update: Enquiry into the Security Breach at Tuynhuis

- The investigation, with regard to this matter, was concluded and specific recommendations were forthcoming:
  - Capacity building in terms of filling the new Component structure should be dealt with, as a matter of urgency, to address issues of personnel.
  - The demarcation and zoning of the area of responsibility between Parliament and Tuynhuys should be clearly defined, for the purpose of accountability and allowing enhanced security measures (for an example a high fence around Tuynhuys).
  - A service level agreement should be put in place whereby SAPS Presidential Protection Service is dependent on the Presidency or the Department of Public Works, for any services, for the purpose of service delivery and accountability
  - There must be separation of duties between Static Protection duties and CCTV room duties, because CCTV room duties on its own should be treated as a speciality with a specified level of IT knowledge and expertise.
- It must, however, be mentioned that Component Head: PPS referred the matter back to the investigating officers to look at the responsibilities of Unit Commander: Static Protection at Tuynhuys and the Provincial Commander from the Western Cape (Presidential Protection Service) and only after that, will the Component Head will be able to make an informed decision, regarding this matter.





THANK YOU