**UNREVISED HANSARD**

**MINI PLENARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 24 MAY 2022**

**VOTE NO 28, 24 & 21 - POLICE (including INDEPENDENT POLICE**

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***PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINI-PLENARY SESSION – NATIONAL ASSEMBLY***

***CHAMBER***

\_\_\_\_

Members of the mini-plenary session met on the virtual

platform at 16:30.

The House Chairperson Mr C T Frolick took the Chair and

requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or

meditation.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you. Hon

members, before we proceed, I would like to remind you that

the virtual mini-plenary is deemed to be in the precinct of

Parliament and thus constitutes a meeting of the National

Assembly for debating purposes only. In addition to the Rules

of virtual sittings, the Rules of the National Assembly

including the Rules of debate apply. Members enjoy the same



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powers and privileges that apply in a sitting of the National

Assembly. Members should equally note that anything said on

the virtual platform is deemed to have been said in the House

and may be ruled upon.

All members who have logged in shall be considered to be

present and are requested to mute their microphones and only

unmute when recognised to speak. This is because the mics are

very sensitive and will pick up noises that may disturb the

attention of other members. When recognised to speak, please

unmute your microphone and connect your audio as well as your

video. Members may make use of the icons on the bar at the

bottom of their screens which has the option that allows

members to put up his or her hand to raise points of order.

The secretariat will assist in this regard. When using the

virtual system, members are urged to refrain or desist from

unnecessary points of order. We shall now proceed to the

Order, which is a debate on Budget Vote 28, 24 & 21 police

including independent police investigative directorate &



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civilian secretariat for the police service: Appropriation

Bill. I will now recognise the Minister of Police.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

Debate on Vote No 28, 24 & 21: Police (including Independent

Police Investigative Directorate & Civilian Secretariat for

the Police Service:

The MINISTER OF POLICE: Hon Chairperson, hon Ministers, hon

Deputy Ministers, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on

Police, Ms Tina Joemat-Peterson and members of the portfolio

committee, hon MECs, Members of Parliament, National

Commissioner of the South African Police, SAPS, General Fannie

Masemola, National Head of Directorate for Priority Crime

Investigation, DPCI, Lieutenant General Godfrey Lebeya, Acting

Secretary of Police, Mr Takalani Ramaru, Executive Director of

Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ms Dikeledi

Ntlaseng, IPID, Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority

,PSiRA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Manabela Chauke, DPCI Judge



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Kgomo, the leadership of organized labour, sanibonani,

Dumelang, Molweni, Avuxeni,Good Afternoon.

Today I address this august House delivering the Budget Vote

of the Police, IPID, and the Civilian Secretariat for Police

Service, CSPS.

As the country and the world at large embraces the economic,

social and political rainbow, post the devastating COVID-19

overcast in the past two-years.

The three-legged pot in the Ministry of Police, together with

the supporting entities have reinforced and regrouped in

support of a call to action of taking steps to strengthen our

democracy and reaffirm our commitment to a Constitution that

protects us all. Even the strongest three-egged pot cannot

perform miracles in the absence of adequate collection of

strong firewood.

Therefore, after constructive deliberations and progressive

diagnosis, we all agreed that the strongest firewood that will



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make the three-legged pot police, IPID and the CSPS to be

effective and efficient, that is the communities we serve.

Hon members, it is on that score we dedicate this Budget Vote

to the rebuilding and strengthening community relations in the

fight against crime. Today, we say ...

*IsiZulu:*

Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu. Iphoyisa, iphoyisa ngomphakathi.

*English:*

We are anchoring our police to the communities they serve. We

are advocating for progressive change. Communities must be

able to say these are our police and the police must equally

embrace communities and continue to serve and protect.

His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa during the State of

the Nation Address said and I quote:

Another area of immediate attention will be the re-

establishment of the Community Policing Forums, CPFs, to



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improve relations and co-ordination between local police

and residents of the areas they serve.

Chairperson, before the dawn of democracy in 1994, I attended

a Safety and Security Training in Scotland Yard – London,

together with Dr Johan Burger of the Institute for Security

Studies. Part of the training was to conceptualise and

understand the notion of CPFs. Hence, I took particular

interest in the article Dr Burger published on the 1st of

November last year where he penned his views on the current

state of our CPFs.

It therefore, becomes increasingly imperative that we minimise

debates in this regard and meaningfully engage in a discourse

that will ensure that the directives of His Excellency the

President are realised.

Hon members, you would recall that the establishment of CPFs

is provided for in section 221(2) of the Constitution and

section 19(1) of the South African Police Services Act 68 of

1995. The CPFs and business together with the police must



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establish and maintain a partnership with the community,

promote communication between the police and the community.

Furthermore, promote co-operation and ensure that the police

fulfil the needs of the community in respect of policing,

improve the service of the police to the community, improve

transparency and accountability of the SAPS and promote joint

problem identification and problem solving.

Therefore, the philosophy of CPFs is not new, in fact it has

been proven that, the more involved law enforcement is with

the residents they are sworn to protect, the more residents

can help police achieve their goals of reducing crime. To

date, there are currently 772 functional CPFs countrywide.

The death of over 300 people during the weeklong lawlessness

that befell us in July last year, will remain one of the

darkest times in our democratic history. The unrest called for

clear reforms of security services and at the same time

exposed the divide between the police and the communities they

serve. The police needed the community and the community



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needed the police. But it was clear the CPF was at its weakest

and there was little to no trust between the police and the

communities.

The July 2021, unrests that engulfed South Africa posed a

serious security threat to the country’s economy and

highlighted some security gaps in intelligence-driven

collaboration between the private security industry and other

government law enforcement agencies.

In responding decisively to the July unrests, a total of 19

instigators of violence were arrested and more will be

arrested, Chairperson, including those who meted untold

brutality to another race group, under the disguise of

defending their community and property during the unrest. To

date 36 suspects have been arrested for their alleged

respective roles in the murder of 35 people and 31 people have

been arrested for attempted murder in Phoenix.

Meanwhile, PSiRA has conducted an analysis to determine what

went wrong and what needs to be improved in terms of the



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private security industry’s involvement as a force-multiplier

in the fight against crime and the protection of the country’s

economy. PSiRA believes that a concerted effort in building

relations between the industry and other law enforcement

agencies in terms of information gathering and sharing will go

a long way in preventing similar incidents in the future.

In line with the many improvements to follow, the

collaboration of PSIRA, SAPS and State Security Agency, SSA,

will see the Authority launching a mandatory counter-terrorism

awareness campaign in the form of 40-hours of training for the

private security industry in the next two quarters of this

financial year. PSiRA and SAPS will collaborate to ensure a

practical working relationship between the Private Security

Industry and SSA in line with the established and existing

partnership frameworks.

Hon members, I deliver this Budget Vote with a clear

presidential directive in mind, for the police to be embedded

in the communities they serve.



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Chairperson, I present to you the South African Police Service

Budget Vote 28 for this financial year to the amount of

R100,695 billion, the Independent Police Investigative

Directorate, IPID, Budget Vote 24 to the amount of R357

million and the Department of the Civilian Secretariat for

Police Service Budget Vote 21 to the amount of R150 228

million.

SAPS has allocated R10 million to support community outreach

programmes. The robust and progressive community engagements

through Izimbizo will continue to gain priority and momentum

going forward.

Our visits to Pimville, Diepsloot, Botshabelo, Mafikeng,

Lusikisiki, Delft, Khayelitsha, Loskop, Daggakraal, Phoenix,

Amaoti, Malamulele, Bushbuckridge, Paballelo and many more,

are evident towards achieving our goal of promoting community

participation in governance.

In responding effectively to public unrests, capacitation of

Public Order Policing, POP, Units, through recruitment has



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been prioritised. POP Units will receive an additional 4 000

members during this financial year. An amount of R150 million

was allocated to the operational response environment as part

of once-off allocations over a three-year period for capital

modernisation, including procurement of armoured vehicles and

aircraft and a further R9 million allocation has been set

aside for the procurement of protective gear for POP members.

Equally, the CSPS, as the custodians of civilian oversight

have allocated R4,8 million to improve effective community

partnerships in this regard. Meanwhile, the CSPS has developed

the National Policing Policy which provides the policy

direction for responding to the current policing, crime and

violence challenges in the country.

Chairperson, it is imperative to note a significant milestone,

where, in March 2022, Cabinet approved the Integrated Crime

Prevention and Violence Strategy, which is an implementing

tool for the 2016 White Paper on Safety and Security with the

primary objective of addressing the root causes of crime and



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violence through whole of government and whole of society

approach to crime and violence prevention in the country.

The balanced yet independent approach in the functioning of

the SAPS, IPID and CSPS will contribute positively in the

fight against crime. The three institutions will forever be

encouraged to operate independently of each other when

responding to their respective legislative mandates.

While CSPS is providing policy advice and strategic oversight,

the IPID is a significant watchdog, in ensuring that the SAPS

constitutional mandate is realised. In this regard, the IPID

plays a critical role in contributing towards the improvement

in police conduct by engaging in station lectures across all

provinces. In the previous financial year 33 station lecture

awareness sessions were conducted and a total of 40 station

lectures will be undertaken this financial year.

Moreover, in June 2021 IPID launched Access and Awareness

Rural Strategy which is aimed at improving accessibility to



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IPID services and strengthening relations with stakeholders in

rural areas.

During this financial year IPID will continue to establish new

offices in other provinces. To date, 11 new offices were

established in three provinces in the previous financial year.

This administration is working with agility to improve

community relations at all levels of governance. The three-

legged pot which is SAPS, IPID and CSPS is hell-bent in

restoring the trust deficit that impacts on our overall fight

against crime. The organisation has taken up the challenge to

rebuild itself and at the same time, improve its image and

regain the trust in the communities we serve.

Yes, hon members, the trio led by the Ministry is similar to

an active construction site, as the much needed repairs,

demolitions, alterations, restorations and refurbishments gets

underway. All these minor to major changes are aimed at

improving the overall functionality of the SAPS and supporting

entities, especially at police station level.



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As we roll out plans to rebuild and strengthen community

relations in the fight against crime - key to this, is to

channel adequate and functional resources and manpower to

police stations to ensure that the fight against crime is

effective and efficient in winning public confidence in

policing. Chairperson, to qualify the above, the National

Treasury allocated additional funding for the recruitment of

12 000 new police trainees over the Medium-Term Expenditure

Framework, MTEF, with an allocation of R5,8 billion to

rejuvenate and improve policing capacity.

For the current financial year, the biggest intake of 10 000

trainees is aimed at closing the gap of the past two years,

where training was halted due to COVID-19 lockdown. To this

end, over R500 million has also been reserved from the

baseline for expenditure associated with trainees undergoing

basic police development. A further recruitment of additional

5 000 new recruits for the next financial year will commence

in June 2022. While an additional 200 graduates, especially

Bsc Graduate will commence training in August 2022.



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To date, myself, Deputy Minister Mathale and the national

commissioner have visited and addressed the new police

recruits stationed at SAPS Tshwane Academy and Kimberly South

African National Defence Force, SANDF, 3 South African

Infantry, SAI, Battalion base respectively. As the Ministry,

we remain confident in the ability of the SAPS and SANDF

management to iron out some of the teething problems

experienced at some of our training facilities.

Provinces with the highest incidence of reported crime, have

been prioritised in terms of the allocation of baseline

budgets. The top 30 High Contact Crime Weight Stations have

been prioritised in terms of resources which includes an

additional budget allocation of R62 million, while R25 million

additional allocation will be directed to safety and security

at police stations. The KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Eastern Cape,

Western Cape and Limpopo provinces received the biggest

allocation of funds in this regard.

A further R26 million additional funding will continue to

capacitate the Anti-Gang Units in this regard. The Western



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Cape province has the lion’s share of this budget with R10

million allocated towards preventing, combating and

investigating gang violence in that province. Hon members,

this budget will support continued efforts and operational

plans to deal with stations that contributes high murder and

attempted murder statistics including other violent crimes.

The additional budget allocations over and above the baseline

budget must make a difference in Umlazi, Inanda, Plessislaer,

Harare, Kraaifontein, Delft, Mfuleni, Khayelitsha, Kagiso,

Thohoyandou and Lusikisiki and others.

Station commanders and their members, including provincial

commissioners and their management teams will have to occupy

the streets more often than before and saturate these places

with continuous crime prevention and multi-disciplinary

operations. This budget allocation must be spent to its

entirety. We will not accept any roll overs in this financial

year, otherwise there will be consequences.



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Key in achieving the ultimate goal of halving violent crimes

by 2030, policing at station level must be enhanced and

adequately resourced. This includes significant investment

towards boosting the morale of our members. No matter the

willingness of the communities to enhance partnerships with

the police, a demoralised workforce will not add value in the

fight against crime. We therefore call upon the national

commissioner and his management to prioritise the wellness of

police members across the board.

I am happy to announce that the last leg of the agreement

reached with organized labour during our discussion will be

implemented. This agreement will see 8 607 constables and

sergeants promoted to sergeants and warrant officers

respectively. These promotions will contribute significantly

to an improvement in employee morale.

The organization seeks to renew the trust and confidence

amongst the people of South Africa, through enhanced service

and performance. With every planned rebuilding project, there

is a design or a plan that must be followed. The required



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materials to build a credible and solid structure are being

prioritised. After all, “Trust is earned when actions meet

words.”

There are four pillars that form the cornerstone of this

rebuilding project and they include the following. Increased

recruitment of more members to bolster police response times

and police visibility, adequate and increased funding of

gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, investigations and

programmes, capacitation and resourcing of critical and

specialised units of the SAPS, strengthening community

organisations and partnerships with law enforcement to join

the fight against crime.

Chairperson, to date, investigations of Truth and

Reconciliation Commission, TRC, cases emanating from the

Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act 34 of 1995

investigations are receiving priority by the DPCI which has

since hired investigators, on a three-year contract basis. Of

these investigators, 34 have been specifically assigned to

investigate the TRC recommended cases.



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These contract workers started in 1 April 2021. From the 100

TRC cases on hand, six of these are currently on the court

roll, with an inquest case also in court. Seventeen cases have

been referred to the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, for

decision while 76 cases are under investigation.

*IsiZulu*:

Icala aliboli. Nalawo abawenza kudala azolandelwa.

*English*:

Furthermore, the DPCI will be attending to the 22 210 cases

involving national priority offences. Of these, more than 13

000 accused are appearing before the various court rolls in

the country. It is worth mentioning that last financial year

the directorate effected approximately 2 400 arrests and

secured 1 137 convictions. Of these arrests, 342 were for

illegal mining, 178 for damage to fuel pipelines, 146 for

cash-in-transits of which 10 life sentences and 365-years

imprisonment have been secured. Ten life sentences with 215-

years were secured for murder of police officials.



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The DPCI is one of the key role players in the Fusion Centre.

Since its establishment, about R3,39 billion from the proceeds

of crime which includes COVID-19 relief corruption has been

recovered and more than R613,2 million in suspected criminal

funds frozen. As at the end of the financial year, a total of

230 incidents were registered with 171 under investigation, 61

cases are in court with 129 accused and 20 court cases have

been finalised with 19 convictions.

In the VBS Mutual Bank, VBS, case, the investigation team

recorded more than 2 000 statements. To date, 27 suspects have

been arrested and are facing 188 counts of patterns of

racketeering activities, money laundering, corruption, fraud,

and theft in the courts of law. Amongst the 22 000 cases

handled by the DPCI, is the Steinhoff International Holdings

NV investigations. Even though the unforeseen delays in

resolving this matter are concerning, so far, over 300

statements have been obtained and this highly complex

investigation extends to 12 other jurisdictions. Currently,

there are 32 additional witnesses whose statements are to be

obtained in South Africa so that we proceed.



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The DPCI shall in conjunction with the investigating

directorate of the NPA, also be focusing on the cases

emanating from the Zondo Commission. Of the various

recommendations relating to law enforcement, a number of cases

were already under investigation and some of these matters

were already serving before court.

In the 2021-22 financial year, the DPCI contributed towards

the preservation, restraint and forfeiture orders impacting on

R208,9 million of criminal networks assets.

Hon members, there is a progressive and significant down

management of deoxyribonucleic acid, DNA, backlog within the

SAPS Forensic Science Laboratory to date. The backlog has been

reduced by 38,71% from 251 603 to 154 204. To this end,

additional allocation of R50 million will support all Buccal

Samples and Collection kits operations.

Meanwhile, another additional budget of R100 million will be

allocated to provinces over and above baselines to support all

programmes related to GBVF Action Plans and Child Abuse and



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Sexual Offences, FCS, Units, at SAPS, resourcing including the

top 30 stations. Continuous breakthrough in GBVF related

crimes boosts public confidence in policing. True to our

Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Offences Action Plan, R1,3

billion is allocated to baseline activities related to the

GBVF and resourcing of FCS Units. The R1,263 billion of this

amount will go towards the units’ operational expenses

including human and other resources, R30 million will be

geared towards the servicing of youth, children and vulnerable

groups including awareness campaigns.

Chairperson, on the 29th of April, the Police Ministry led an

Imbizo hosted in Lusikisiki. This community engagement further

showed that the residents of this area, which has one of the

highest rape incidents in the country, struggles with access

to police services due to shortage of police vehicles. Urgent

policing interventions have since been put in place to allow

for the better servicing of this community. But it is also

equally crucial that victims of this dreadful crime are met

with professional services at the point of reporting.



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To date, GBVF desks at police stations have been established

at the top 30 National GBV Hotspots such as Lusikisiki. The

GBVF desks are also available at all 1 153 police stations

countrywide. These desks are staffed with members trained in

GBVF related courses. To date 82, 577 police officers have

undergone such training.

President Cyril Ramaphosa pronounced succinctly in his state

of the nation address, that and I quote:

Infrastructure the ongoing vandalism and theft of

economic infrastructure has damaged confidence and

severely constrained economic growth, investment and job

creation.

He then instructed the government especially the police to

move on.

These crimes will not be allowed to go an unabated, this is

why task-teams will be established in 18 identified hotspots,

linked to municipalities with highest reported cases of such



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crimes. These multidisciplinary task-teams will focus on

extortion at construction sites and businesses and illegal

mining. The highly-skilled teams will tackle theft of non-

ferrous metals, copper cables and put in measures to combat

and stop illegal mining. Residents of Pimville, Diepkloof,

Eldorado Park, Klipspruit and many more communities cannot

continue to be held ransom and left in the dark due to cable

theft and related crimes.

Task-teams will also tackle essential infrastructure crimes

such as the tampering, damaging or destroying of

infrastructure related to energy, transport, water, sanitation

and communication services.

Critical Infrastructure crimes will also be on their radar

which involves the attack, damage or theft of fuel pipelines

and related crimes. Legislation to this effect is also

underway.

Ms T M JOEMAT-PETTERSSON: Thank you very much, hon House

Chairperson. I wish to greet our Minister and all our



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Chairpersons, members of the House, the National Minister,

Deputy Minister, National Commissioner, all members of the

security cluster, our police men and women in particular. The

tragic murder and brutal death of Ms Namhla Mtwa serves as the

reminder of the siege of women and the fear women live in

every single day. Our women are being viciously murdered at

the hands of boyfriends, husbands and intimate partners. The

hon President recently stated, and I quote:

The unacceptably high levels of gender-based violence and

femicide in South Africa are a blight on our national

conscience, and a betrayal of our constitutional order

for which so many fought, and for which so many gave

their lives. South Africa holds the shameful distinction

of being one of the most unsafe places in the world to be

a woman. We have amongst the highest rates of intimate

partner violence.

However, hon House Chairperson, the committee expresses our

sincere condolences to Namhla’s family and the loved ones. May

her beautiful soul rest in peace. It is fair the extremely



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concerning that evidence has emerged that the perpetrator of

this heinous crime is a member of the police service. Of

course, the police service is a microcosm of our society and

they are not immune to be in victims or perpetrators of

domestic violence. However, members of the police service must

serve and protect our citizens, but far too often they

themselves are on the wrong side of the law. We call on all

those National Commissioner and the Minister as well as the

committee to leave no stone unturned in ensuring justice for

Namhla and all other women viciously murdered by intimate

partners.

Hon House Chairperson, we have adopted the Criminal Law

Forensic Procedures Amendment Bill last week which enables the

police to take deoxyribonucleic acid, DNA, samples from all

convicted schedule at offenders. This is a massive step

forward to bring justice to victims of gender-based violence

and femicide. During public hearings, the committee was told

of one of extreme case that illustrates the importance of this

Bill. A certain Mr Mickey was convicted on a charge of common

assault and received a suspended sentence. However, before



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being released his DNA was taken and loaded on for convicted

offenders index of the DNA database. Because of this simple

act of taking his DNA sample, he was linked to several crimes

for which he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 15 times of

life imprisonment and 12 times of 10 years imprisonment. The

power of this Amendment Bill is truly immense and we must

salute the Minister and his team for assisting us in

processing this Bill so fast.

It is almost unprecedented for all members, hon House

Chairperson, to support an Amendment Bill unanimously. In this

case politics are set aside for the common good of our people.

We would especially like to thank hon Whitfield for proposing

the adoption of the Bill and the support of all political

parties in the adoption of the Amendment Bill. The SA Police

Service, SAPS, has allocated approximately R1,3 billion on its

baseline activities related to the gender-based violence and

resourcing of Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual

Offences, FCS, units. R1,2 billion of FCS units human and

other resources that include operational expenses, R30 million

on youth, children and vulnerable groups including awareness



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campaigns. In addition to the buck R70 million plus

R30 million was allocated to provinces for prioritisation of

gender-based responses and the strengthening of FCS units.

This will go a long way to address the scourge of gender-based

violence and femicide that plagues our society and terrorises

our women and young girls.

Hon House Chairperson, our country has seen violence and

injustices in the July 2021 unrest that unfolded in parts of

KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. This shocked our nation

tremendously. The Portfolio Committee on Police is committed

to deal with the findings and recommendations of this report

together with that of the SA Human Rights Commission hearings

into the unrest. Once referred to Parliament, this is an

uncompromising directive from President Ramaphosa for us to

get to the bottom of over complaints which were levelled.

Business is relied heavily on private security providers to

secure the properties. During the hearings Private Security

Industry Regulatory Authority, Psira, received many calls from

security service providers requesting that they contact police



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management and Ministers to request them to allow the security

service providers to assist in defending infrastructure under

attack. They were prepared to play a bigger role beyond just

fulfilling the mandates of the ... [Inaudible.] ... clients.

Psira addressed various accusations of the abusive power of

the private security service providers. The authority

reiterated that private security guards are not allowed to

search or arrest members of the public, but may do so within

the property-owned business clients. Security officers are

also not allowed to set up road block on public roads or to

investigate members of the public.

Psira indicated that security guards found guilty of

unlawfully setting up a road block, arresting or assaulting

members of the public will be held to account Psira and to

SAPS. Psira informed us that steps will be taken to

investigate alleged breaches our security service providers or

members thereof and to tighten controls in the regulatory

system. Psira received its third consecutive clean audit, this

means that the authority did not record any financial

misstatements.



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Hon House Chairperson, in September last year President

Ramaphosa signed the Private Security Industry Regulation Act

2014 into law which will greatly enhance the regulation of the

private security industry. The committee welcomes the recent

success of the crime intelligence National Anti-Kidnapping

Task Team that was established last year in response to the

spike of kidnapping cases where a ransom was demanded. In

February this year the alleged kingpin and his associates

believed to be behind the spate of kidnappings across Gauteng

was arrested in Johannesburg area. This shows a responsive

police service with the capacity and capability to address

changes in crime patterns.

Hon Minister, we welcome the 10 000 additional police members

which will be recruited and have already taken up position.

This shows that SAPS is focused on job creation needless to

say that more than a hundred thousand new jobs were created in

this private security industry. At the end of 2021 financial

year, SAPS received an unqualified audit for the first time in

five years. This is a great success and achievement not only

for the police, but for the Portfolio Committee on Police. It



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was achieved through our ... [Inaudible.] ... persistence in

executing our oversight mandate and determination to keep the

SAPS accountable and to improve their performance. Our next

aim is to help the police service obtain a clean audit. We

would like to encourage the Civilian for Secretariat to our

Police to continue the development of key legislation to

strengthen policing functions in South Africa. To this end, we

would like this Amendment of the South African Police Service

Act and the Independent Police Investigative Directorate,

Ipid, Act to come to Parliament as soon as possible.

We have heard disturbing truth about the desperate state of

police stations when we were at the meeting with the Minister

and the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure. To state

it quite bluntly the Minister of Public Works and

Infrastructure it was a disaster, it was catastrophy, but we

had a very positive meeting with both the Ministers and the

situation is receiving high level of attention and achievement

will be visible soon. Police stations are the first contact

point with the public. Once a person steps into a station and

sees it in a state of disrepair they form an opinion of



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unprofessionalism. It is unfair to blame the police for

something that is not in their control. Our police members

deserve a conducive working conditions from which to discharge

their constitutional mandate. We must not look site of the

monetary value over R100 billion and how this is use to fight

crime. The police budget is enormous and must be applied

effectively to combat violent crime in our country.

Hon House Chairperson, on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on

police I wish to thank our police officers who risk life and

limb to protect our country and her people. I encourage these

brave men and women to keep their heads high, you are

respected. I wish to thank the work of the committee, hon

Seabi, members of the portfolio committee, including those

from the opposition parties for the hard work and dedication

towards ensuring that we root out crime and corruption in our

country. I wish to thank the National Commissioner who is

newly appointed and I wish to congratulate the National

Commissioner and thank him and his team for their persistent

work.



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Hon House Chairperson, we thank the Minister, the Deputy

Minister and the teams for steering a ship which is a very

difficult ship in a battle against crime and corruption. The

African National Congress supports Budget Vote 28. I thank

you.

Mr A G WHITFIELD: House Chairperson, a professional police

service characterised by high levels of discipline, merit-

based appointments and a capable, fit for purpose senior

management which inspires confidence through its ranks and in

the public by reducing violent crime. This is the police

service we deserve and this is the policing service for which

we must fight. Not even the Minister can deny that the last

decade of policing in South Africa has seen the most basic

policing functions immobilised by political interference,

corruption and incompetence at the highest levels.

A lack of professionalism, broken management systems and a

deteriorating quality of investigations have all contributed

to taking the SA Police Service, SAPS, to the brink of

collapse. The chain of command has been compromised by



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politics and the promotion of unqualified cadres above

qualified, capable police officers giving rise to declining

levels of morale, poor performance and even corruption. And

what has the solution been to this long list of institutional

and systemic failures? More money. Between 2012 and 2022 the

SAPS budget increased by 65% from R62 billion to R100 billion.

Over the same period, the SAPS has had six national police

commissioners and murders increased by nearly 40%. In 2021

SAPS had an opening balance of R1,53 billion in irregular

expenditure with more than R3,4 billion in irregular

expenditure still under assessment by the Auditor-General.

Contingent liabilities are up from R7,4 billion in 2020 to

R8,2 billion in 2021 with a total of 52 203 civil claims

valued at R60 billion still pending.

Spending on training and development has declined from 100% in

2018 to just 8,9% in 2021. As a consequence, the SAPS’

performance has declined from achieving 78% of its targets in

2018 down to 74% of targets achieved in 2021 with detective

services performance declining most dramatically from 83% in

2019 to 58% in 2021. So the budget has increased and the



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performance has declined, proving that throwing more money at

the problems is not a solution to the challenges faced by the

SAPS. In 2021 the SAPS conducted an Organisational Climate

Survey in which just 22% of SAPS members agreed that the SAPS

cares about their wellbeing while only 16% of SAPS members

said that SAPS does an excellent job in communicating changes

that affect employees. The survey also revealed that 68% of

SAPS members are dissatisfied with opportunities for future

career progression while 77% are dissatisfied with the process

used for promotions in the SAPS. Declining morale has a direct

bearing on declining performance and this is where the new

national police commissioner must allocate his time and

resources. Far from the gaze of the cameras and the news media

is where the solutions lie to repairing this broken

institution. The new commissioner must avoid being dragged

across the country from crime scene to crime scene by the

Minister. He must rather dedicate his time to repairing the

internal deficiencies of SAPS which have given rise to

declining performance and morale within its ranks.



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We all know of the long list of problems; DNA backlogs,

firearm license chaos, police clearance certificate

congestion, high crime rate, low conviction rates, corruption

and ill-discipline. Behind these problems are people who have

either been thrust into positions beyond their capability or

people who suffer from debilitating low morale, using outdated

systems and often working in buildings which should be

condemned. Simply throwing money at these problems without

analysing and repairing the root causes will see performance

continue to decline and crime continues to increase. Now the

Minister likes to criticise the opposition when we criticize

him, so today I offer 10 not so sexy but necessary solutions

to the Minister and I challenge him to spend his last two

years in the office implementing them. They will not get you

headlines, Minister, but they will fix the problems and help

to repair your reputation. One, the SAPS must take the

outcomes of their Organisational Climate Survey seriously and

intervene with urgency to address the shortcomings identified

by their members. Two, recruit specialist skills in

investigations urgently to improve the quality of police work

and improve the conviction rate. Three, amend the SA Police



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Service Act to ensure that the appointment process of the

national police commissioner is transparent, merit-based and

insulated from political interference. Four, introduce an

independent discipline management unit to guarantee a culture

of consequence management for rogue officers.

Five, amend the discipline regulations, Minister, to prevent

the SAPS from reinvestigating the Independent Police

Investigative Directorate, Ipid’s findings and undermining

Ipid’s independence and authority. Six, modernise the training

of officers across all divisions to improve outcomes, and for

goodness sakes, fix the dilapidated and disgraceful SAPS

training academies. Seven, demilitarise the SAPS to rebuild

public trust and improve the quality of policing. Eight,

strengthen community policing partnerships with neighbourhood

watches, community policing forums, CPFs, NGOs, churches,

private security, local law enforcement and Metro Police. This

will go a long way to improving outcomes and rebuilding trust

in the communities the SAPS serves. Nine, develop targeted

strategies to tackle the complex and often unique local

challenges in communities across the country. And finally,



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ten, devolve policing powers to provinces for more

accountability and better oversight for better policing. These

are actionable solutions which require political will and hard

work. Channelling resources and time into these solutions will

yield a more professional and more effective police service

which will achieve better outcomes.

Hon Minister, there are many hardworking and dedicated

officers who deserve so much better and could do so much more

if given they were given the space and the opportunity to

lead. We owe it to them and the people of South Africa to fix

the SA Police Service. Chasing cameras to crime scenes is not

going to get the job done. I thank you.

Mr H A SHEMBENI: Chairperson, on 21 April this year, Namhla

Mtwa was assassinated outside her home in Mthatha in the

Eastern Cape. As it has now been made public, Namhla was a

victim of gender-based violence at the hands of a man who

claimed to love her, Mfesane Major Bhekizulu. The person who

murdered her pumped nine bullets into her body and was simply

thrown away after making sure that she was dead. From that day



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until Namhla’s sister started speaking out on social media,

the police had done nothing to investigate the case.

To this day, the police have not even questioned the man who

abused her for years because the man has connections across

the Eastern Cape and funds the lavish lifestyles of many of

the politicians in that province, including the premier and

the mayor of the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality.

Tomorrow, the EFF will lead progressive forces in the Eastern

Cape in the march to the Madera Police Station to demand the

answers from the police as to why they ignored this case for

so long. Namhla is not the only case that the police in

Mthatha and across the Eastern Cape have ignored.

That part of the country is slowly becoming a GBV and rape

capital of South Africa. Criminals are allowed to do as they

please there because they work together with the police.

Lusikisiki is another town where women and girls are unable to

live in peace because men have declared war on their bodies.

Mr Cele, all this is happening right under your nose, sir. And

your inaction on cases such as this is a huge indictment on



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your person and the state. Women and girls need protection

from all of us against these sadistic criminals, but the buck

ultimately stops with you.

The police have no plan of dealing with GBV whatsoever. You

have allowed the DNA lab to collapse under your leadership,

placing cases of thousands of women who have been raped or

murdered in serious jeopardy. You have allowed the Firearms

Registry to collapse, leaving thousands of legal South African

gun owners and prospective gun owners with nowhere to run.

Whilst exposing guns and ammunition to connected criminal

networks across the country.

You have thoroughly politicised and then collapsed crime

intelligence in this country leading to aimless and effective

crime prevention strategies in this country. It is as a result

of this aimless policing that today we witness mass shootings

every weekend in Khayelitsha and Cape Town. Why is that you do

not know ... [Interjections.] ...



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The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Shembeni, just

the moment. My apologies. Hon Radebe, you have your hand up.

Mr B A RADEBE: Hon Acting House Chairperson, I have a point of

order. I am rising on Rule 85. The member on the platform has

just insinuated that the Minister has thoroughly collapsed the

intelligence services. I think that needs a substantive motion

to deal with it. It cannot just be left like that. Thank you,

Chair.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): I will look into

that, hon Radebe, and get back to you. Thank you. Proceed, hon

Shembeni.

Mr H A SHEMBENI: ... the root causes of these mass shootings?

Why have you failed to identify the masterminds behind these,

shootings? Why have you not dismantled the protection fee

rackets in the townships of Cape Town, Minister? Are you not

aware that the protection fee rackets have it impossible for

young people in the townships to open their businesses. A few

years ago you asked for the SA National Defence Force, SANDF’s



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involvement in fighting crime in Cape Town, but because that

intervention was not led with proper intentions, it failed to

deal with the daily murders in Cape Town. You have failed our

people, sir. You have watched the police being run by a

criminal network that has no regard or respect for anything in

this country. This was aptly demonstrated when the police

arrested advocate Teffo inside the courtroom in the middle of

a court case involving Senzo Meyiwa. It is also the police who

tip off criminals wherever their honest colleagues are making

any headway with their investigations.

It is the police who allowed the proliferation of drugs in the

country because they are in the pockets of the drug lords. We

condemn your complicity in the escalation of crime in the

country. We condemn your criminalisation of the police force.

We, therefore, rejected this budget, Mr Minister. I thank you,

Chair.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Thank you very much,

hon member. Hon Radebe, hon Shembeni made a political



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statement which if the Minister at the end wishes to respond

to will do so

Mr N SINGH: Thank you very much, hon Chairperson. Hon

Minister, I make these comments on behalf of the hon Majozi

who sits on this committee and who is on sick leave at the

moment. Firstly, let me take this opportunity to congratulate

Gen Sehlahle Fannie Masemola on his recent appointment and we

trust that he put together a management team the country can

be proud of to do what is required of him, free of any

political or any other defiance.

The National Development Plan outlines utopian society where

and I quote: “People living in South Africa feels safe at

home, at school and at work and women walk freely in the

streets, children play safely outside and the police service

is well resourced” I am sure all who are listening to this

debate can agree that the SA Police Service has a long

difficult road ahead, if it is to achieve this vision within

the next eight years. The crime statistics paint a sobering

picture. The murder statistics for the term of 2021-22



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financial year revealed that more women who were killed in the

last part of 2021 compared to the same period the previous

year has the murder rate also increased by 8,9% year on year.

As the IFP we have consistently expressed our concern over

various issues highlighted in the committee report and among

others, and I quote: “The continued underspending of the SAPS

of their budget allocation which has detrimental effect on

service delivery and must be addressed as a matter of

urgency.” That is in the committee report. Further, we echo

the concerns raised by the Police and Prisons Civil Rights

Union, Popcru, in particular, around and this is what it says:

“The continuous decrease in the visible policing budget” It

continue to say that the ineffectiveness of community policing

forums and the lack of resources and infrastructure police ...

[Inaudible.] ... especially in rural areas and townships.

There is a saying that states that if you look after the

pennies, the pounds take care of themselves. What this means

is that one should get the basics right. Our people need to be

kept save and in order to do this the SAPS needs a well-

resourced, properly trained boots on the ground personnel. We



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can confirm the claim, especially in KwaZulu-Natal that

states: “Most police stations in rural areas and townships are

housed in unsafe and dilapidated structures. I again call on

the Minister to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency.

We believe that if a conducive environment is presented for

dedicated police men and women to work in, the output will be

greater. Basics such as properly serviced vehicles, and not

vehicles parking in garages and this is something you need to

investigate and I know there is an investigation of the

possible fraud that takes place with vehicles that are under

repairs. If we give them the basics like proper arms and

proper two-way radios, etc, we will find that the production

increases considerable. Also, if the gender-based violence and

sexual offences action plan is a key priority for 2022-23, it

is concerning that Popcru recommended that police stations

must be resourced with rape testing kits, and police officers

trained on how to use them. Why would Popcru say this is if

this is not happening – if this is something that is a problem

to them? Why has this not been done yet? Where is the promise



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commitment to ending gender-based violence and ensuring that

justice for the victims of these heinous crimes?

In addition to keeping people safe, the SAPS, through the

Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, DPCI, must be

fully capacitated. Particularly during 2022-23, the DPCI will

prioritise investigations and recommendations of the State

Capture Commission. According to the report and I quote: “The

DPCI is severely undercapacitated and function with the 48%

workforce.” This is unacceptable. This lack of capacity dooms

the investigations to failure before they even begin.

The IFP also further notes and is in support of the

committee’s observations and recommendations regarding the

Civilian Secretariat for Police Service, as well as those

relating to the Independent Police Investigative Directorate,

Ipid. As regards to Ipid, the IFP has agreement that it is

completely unacceptable that, and I quote the figures from the

report: “The total backlog is currently 37 116 cases.” Rapid

action is needed. The issues I have highlighted barely scratch

the surface and staff morale is at an all-time low. The SAPS



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needs to get back to basics, as I have said, and government

needs to ensure sufficient resources, human and otherwise, for

them to be able to get the job done.

The promise ... [Time expired.] ... with reservations, the IFP

support the budget. Thank you, Chair.

Dr P J GROENEWALD: Hon Chair, the Constitution determines that

the Police Service must protect the citizens of South Africa

and their property. The fact of the matter is that the Police

Service is also that component of the criminal justice system

that plays a major role to ensure that the citizens of South

Africa are protected and that their properties are protected.

We have high rates of violent crime in South Africa. Our

murder rate is about five times more than the world average.

Our murder rate is 36 per 100 000 of the population and the

world average is seven per 100 000 of the population.

Now, the state department that is in possession of the most

number of firearms in South Africa is the Police Service. The

Minister is very quick to show figures to the public and legal



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firearm owners and accusing them of the reason for the high

crime rates as far as violent crime is concerned. The fact is

that we must go and see how the police deal with these

firearms. They have more firearms than the SA National Defence

Force.

Over the last five years since 2016-17 and 2020-21, there were

3 405 firearms stolen or lost by members of the Police

Service, and of those, only 1 674 were recovered. In other

words, there are 1 731 firearms still in circulation amongst

criminals. Everybody knew and took note of the Norwood Police

Station, where 175 firearms were lost the SAPS 13 or the

evidence store of the Norwood Police Station. The person in

charge of that office committed suicide at the same time. The

audit was done in that SAPS 13 store, but the fact of the

matter is 175 firearms were lost. These evidence stores are

crucial for our crime system and for the criminal justice

system to protect our people.

I have asked the question to the hon Minister what other items

were lost in these audited that was done on the SAPS 13 store



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in Norwood, and the official answer is that besides

175 firearms, almost 80 000 in cash disappeared from this

store. If you add them all up, there are no less than 53 cases

where the evidence is not lost. That undermines the criminal

justice system. The only thing the station commander did is

that he resigned in January of this year. So, Chairperson,

that’s where the problem is. It is no wonder that if we look

at the trust and the confidence the public has in the SA

Police Service declined from 47% in 1999 of the highest to

only 27% at this moment.

*Afrikaans*:

Ek wil dadelik sê, daar is baie goeie hardwerkende, eerlike,

lede in die SAPD, maar ek wil ’n beroep op die Minister en die

Kommisaris van Polisie doen - en ek wens hom sterkte toe – u

moet drasties optree teen dissipline, en om korrupsie

eenvoudig te beveg in die SAPD-stelsel. Waar die polisie die

strafregstelsel moet bevorder en uitbrei, is hy besig om dit

te ondermyn en al die rooi ligte is reeds aan. Ek dank u.



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Rev K R J MESHOE: House Chairperson, the ACDP is very

concerned about the increase in mass shootings in the country,

the kidnapping of school children, the proliferation of drugs

in the country, particularly in the vicinity of schools. It

breaks our hearts to see the increase of school children who

drop out of schools because of drug addiction. The police must

do more to find and arrest drug dealers who are destroying the

future leaders of our country.

This financial year, the SAPS budget has decreased in real

terms by 4,1%. The budgets for the strategic programme of

Visible Policing and the essential subprogramme of Forensic

Science Laboratories were also decreased. And sadly, budget

constraints are not the only challenges facing the SAPS staff.

The men and women in blue also need to be reassured that they

have the support of the top structures in the execution of

their duties. They need to feel that their employer cares

about their wellbeing and that promotion is possible if they

are honest and diligent at all times.



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Right now, the morale of the SAPS staff is very low. Their

current working conditions make it very difficult for them to

maintain public order; protect and secure the inhabitants of

South Africa and their property, and to also enforce the law

as required by the SA Police Service Act. According to a

survey the SAPS did on the morale of its staff in 2021, the

organisation is very poor at communicating changes that affect

employees. Top management have also been known to disagree

openly. There is no unity, no working together.

Our police really are also understaffed. According to the

expert panel report, the strength of the SA Police Service is

a mere 180 000 for a population of some 60 million people.

This financial year, funding is only enough to provide for an

additional 12 000 entry-level members of the police, and

unfortunately, 10 000 of these new recruits will simply be

replacing former staff members now lost to the SAPS for

various reasons. So, in actuality, there will only be

2 000 new staff members.



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The ACDP is also concerned about SAPS-owned firearms that are

reported as stolen or lost. We all know that not all police

officers are honest. So, the target to reduce lost and stolen

firearms to 600 in the upcoming year is ridiculously too low.

If our officers cannot safeguard their weapons, how can they

be trusted to protect South Africans? [Time expired.]

*Sesotho*:

Ke a leboha ntate.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE: Hon Chairperson, Minister of

Police Bheki Cele, other Ministers present, Deputy Ministers,

chairperson of the committee hon Tina Joemat-Peterson,

committee members, MECs present, heads of entities, National

Commissioner, executive head of the Independent Police

Investigative Directorate, Ipid, Mme Ntlatseng, Acting

Secretary of the Civilian Secretariat Mr Ramaru and the CEO of

the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority, Psira, Mr

Chauke, it is an honour and privilege for me to be part of

this deliberations this afternoon. I should start by saying

that as Parliament and as South Africa we should be proud of



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the route that the President has taken to ensure that as he

appoints the replacement of General Sitole he has adopt an

approach which is very transparent contrary to the call that

was made by one hon, the hon Whitfield that the process is not

transparent. For the first time in the Republic a National

Commissioner is appointed through an open process run by a

panel of highly experienced South Africa including those who

served in the SA Police Service in the past. This must be

commended by the President and this administration for taking

that route. Those who are making a call in this regard clearly

they don’t stay in this country.

Contrary to what has been said by the hon Shembeni, it is

incorrect to say that the SA Police Service is run by

criminals of networks as alleged. We do acknowledge that, yes,

we do have elements within the SA Police Service who work with

criminals. Some of them have been arrested in the past and we

will continue to act against such elements who behave as if

they are police officers whereas they are criminals. We will

take actions against this and anybody who engages in any

criminal activity under the guise that they have connections,



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be it within the governing party. As the SA Police Service we

will act against any wrongdoing irrespective of who the person

is and who their associates are. We have demonstrated in the

past that it does not matter to what your political

affiliation is. Where action is needed we will take action, we

will do so today and, tomorrow and into the future.

The call that one will make during this debate to the public

is that, yes, let’s us social media platforms to communicate

our views with our friends and other colleagues that we share

the same platforms with, but it is very important that we must

know that the information we share on the social platform will

not assist police to have a watertight case to put before

prosecution and case to stand in court. So, we are making a

call that while you use those platforms, please give police

officers credible information so that we can act against

criminals to ensure that we live in an environment that is

free from crime.

It is incorrect to say that the officers who use rape kits are

not trained. We have trained officers who use rape kits and we



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know that all the stations have access to rape kits in the

country. The people who have access to this are those who work

within the units that deal specifically with this type of

crime. We do have them properly capacitated. I thought it is

important that these matters be clarified because they create

an impression that we give people who are not properly

qualified to do the work that they are supposed to do.

We have a pressing obligation to continue pursuing every

effort that will realise a crime-free South Africa, where the

populace and everyone within our borders live without fear of

being attacked or becoming victim of criminality, where our

women and children do not live in fear of falling victim to

gender-based violence and femicide.

Hon members, during the SA Police Service Budget Vote debate

of 2021, my input was opened with a quote from one of the

renowned Japanese authors, Mr Hauki Murakami, which says: I

quote once more:



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Once the storm is over, you won’t remember how you made

it through, how you managed to survive. You won’t even be

sure whether the storm is really over. But one thing is

certain. When you come out of the storm, you won’t be the

same person who walked in. That’s what this storm’s all

about.

This year’s Budget Vote is indeed held post the stormiest

years of our recent history, with South Africa and the world

emerging from the overwhelming effects of the COVID-19

pandemic. We are not even sure if the storm is really over or

we are still within the storm. Our beautiful coastal province

of KwaZulu-Natal has just experienced severe flooding with

loss of lives and immeasurable damage to infrastructure. As a

department we have also lost loved ones in both these

occurrences, but one thing is certain, we are stronger as a

nation than we were before. It is not easy but we are pulling

through and we will ultimately emerge.

Now the hard-work of rebuilding our country through improving

and strengthening our service delivery mechanisms has already



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started. A lot still awaits us, but with all hands on deck we

will succeed. Hence, as Minister Cele mentioned earlier we are

dedicating this Budget Vote to rebuilding and strengthening

community relations in the fight against crime. We can

comfortably stand in front of you today and state with

certainty that we know what lies ahead as the Ministry and the

family of the SA Police Service. We are ready for the task at

hand and we further invite everyone to join in our

determination to fight crime as we have always interarted.

Fighting crime is not the sole responsibility of our men and

women in blue. But it is our shared responsibility which

should be appreciated and acted upon. Under all circumstances

we should always remember that fighting crime is a national

commitment that must never be failed or compromised.

As part of our efforts to closely and effectively work with

communities in fighting crime, the community in blue

directives and reporting template were developed for

implementation in all the nine provinces and about 19 000

patrollers were recruited nationally, which is almost double



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the number we reported in the previous financial year. The

goal is to intensify efforts to improve community policing,

focussing on the mobilisation of the community in blue

initiatives in order to improve visibility particularly in

high crime areas. We remain resolute to achieve our target,

notwithstanding certain occurrences of nature which at times

reduce our speed. What should be understood is that the issue

of the community in blue is not the sole instrument that

should be looked at in our fight against crime. When we talk

about community we also including Members of Parliament, we

are including the business community, we are including the

sporting fraternity and we are including religious leaders.

Together as a totality of the South African citizens we have a

role to play. The question that needs to be asked is, as a

Member of Parliament, as a business person and what is your

role and what contribution can you make in this regard because

it is our joint problem?

We are continuing to strengthen our outreach programmes in

partnership with the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service



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and other stakeholders under the stewardship of our visible

policing.

Our direct interaction with our people through izimbizo

affords us an opportunity to understand various difficulties

and challenges affecting our communities. We are ensuring that

issues raised by community members are correctly recorded and

followed up. We have ensured regular meetings to monitor

progress made on issues raised by the community members until

closure of each case that they have raised with us. In

addition, as part of an izimbizo we intend to include public

education on the processes and functioning of the criminal

justice system as a whole. It has come as serious course for

concern to learn during our engagements that our people do not

understand how the justice system works and are therefore

unable to protect themselves in the event that their rights

are violated.

In consideration of the increasing incidents of crime and

violence amongst our youth and as part of our school and

campus safety strategy, we intend to intensify our safety and



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security interventions, especially in institutions of higher

learning. In this regard, we will be appointing safety and

security liaison officers and together with the Department of

Higher Education and Training. [Time expired.]

Ms G P MAREKWA: Thank you, House Chairperson, let me greet the

hon ... [Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon Marekwa.

Ms G P MAREKWA: Yes, Chair.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): We are advised to

close your video for better network.

Ms G P MAREKWA: Okay, thank you, Chair. Hon House Chair, hon

Minister and Deputy Minister of the Police, Chairperson of the

Portfolio Committee on Police, hon members present, the

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa section 205 says

that:



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The objects of the SA Police Service, SAPS, are to

prevent, combat and investigate crime, to maintain public

order, to protect and secure the inhabitants of the

Republic and their property, and to uphold and enforce

the law.

To do all this, Chairperson, clearly means that, the SAPS need

the necessary and relevant resources to carry out this

function. The ANC is resolute in creating a safer and secure

society for all. Different policy documents of the ANC

continue to affirm this position of putting the safety of the

South Africans as a priority in the government commitments.

The guiding documents of the ANC, the strategy and tactics

also clearly stipulates this explicitly as the commitment to

creating a safe society for all.

It is through a safe society where economic activities can

take place freely, and attract investors who are only prepared

to invest in a safe, secure and stable environment. It is

through a safe and secure environment, that an economy

recovery plan can fully yield positive outcomes. Hon House



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Chair, the National Development Plan, NDP, provides the Vision

2030 for the government, and this vision says, I quote:

In 2030, people living in South Africa should feel safe

at home, at school and at work, and they enjoy a

community life free of fear. Women walk freely in the

streets and children play safely outside.

This is the kind of South Africa the government is

thriving towards, and Budget Vote 28 in 2022 is one of

the steps towards that society. The NDP identified five

key areas to enhance the realisation of the 2030 Vision,

and two from the five that has been identified in the

document also highlight the rebuilding of safety

environment, using an integrated approach in building

community participation in safety. These two are

instrumental in consolidating the priority that seeks the

medium-term strategic framework which is social cohesion

and safe community.



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The overall allocation of the budget over the years, has been

increasing, and in 2022-23 financial year, the department

received about R100 billion, which is a slight nominal

increase of R221,5 million. However, in real terms,

considering inflation, the department’s allocation decreased

by R4,1 billion for the second year, and the largest increase

for the second year, and the largest increase within the

department’s core programme of visible policing, which we

believe that, this part of the police department is the one

that is out there doing the work, House Chair, and they really

need to be taken care of and considered as and when we discuss

the budget.

In real term, the budget for this programme was reduced by

R508,3 million. This is the main programme that played a

meaningful role in the crime prevention in the department.

Whilst crime statistics continue to be high, a budget

reduction was surely having negative impact on the operations

of the police in the crime prevention programmes. Hon House

chair, the idea of creating a safer society, is not the

responsibility of the SAPS alone, stakeholders including



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businesses and churches and all different formation, also have

a critical role to play, by providing support to the SAPS in

different forms.

There is a need to intensify the role of policing forums in

all provinces. Government must ensure that these forums are

well trained and equipped. When communities are mobilised and

working with the police, it becomes easy for police to do

their job because they rely on their communities, and it

becomes very difficult for criminals to commit crime, and it

will ensure that criminals has no space to operate from, as

all gaps and corners will be tightly close for them. Hon

Chair, it is time that all of us work together and help bring

peace and safety back into our homes, schools and streets.

Let us continue to report all criminal activities and suspects

to the police, let us close that net on criminals. The ANC

remains committed in ensuring that we defeat gender-based

violence, GBV, and femicide, that continues to kill women and

girls in our country. This crime is happening at a pace that

is highly impossible for the peace-loving and law-abiding



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citizens to keep quiet. The fight against GBV also requires

society to play its role in reporting this crime to the

police, as and when it happens, and to encourage society also

to report on behalf of victims, because sometimes we see and

hear what is happening in our neighbourhood, but we tend to

turn a blind eye or turn our heads the other way, and then

tomorrow, we count bodies of people who have lost their lives.

It is important as neighbours, as people in community where we

know crime of this nature is taking place, to report and

assist those people who cannot raise their voices and be able

to take action for themselves. We acknowledge that the DNA

backlog has been reduced, and the number of perpetrators were

arrested and sentenced in recent times. However, it’s the

budget allocation of the forensic science laboratories, the

sub-programme for the 2022-23 financial year, has been reduced

from R1,57 billion to R1,50 billion and that needs to be

attended to and looked into because, if we don’t address that

properly also through the budget, it means the backlog will

still continue, and it may even increase again.



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It will then defeat the work that the police have done so far

in reducing that backlog. Hon House Chair, we do appreciate

the good work also in this regard concerning what the police

have done so far in reducing this backlog. It has not been

easy, but they have tried to make sure that it is reduced, and

the budget will also assist them to do that further. House

Chair, if we reduce the budget for this lapse, it will have a

negative impact and progress into the work made by the police

thus far, and it is out of appreciation that we recommend that

there should be no budget reduction in the department, to

enhance the work of the department in the fight against

gender-based violence.

The ANC appreciates that there are global economic challenges

and welcome the Budget Vote. It also recommends that there

should be no budget reductions as that will affect the work of

the police. The budget it’s an important instrument to ensure

that police are well-resourced to fight crime out there. The

Budget Vote will help to fight all forms of crime, and that

the most vulnerable people in the society stand to benefit

from the commitment by the ANC of creating a better South



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Africa for all. House Chair, as the ANC, we welcome and

support the Budget Vote, and let us continue serving the

people of South Africa to the best of our ability. I thank

you.

Mr M G E HENDRICKS: Hon House Chair, the nation has been moved

fierily today, by the concern of the hon of the Portfolio

Committee Chair on Police, hon Tina Joemat, about the plight

of women and war against women by men. She must know about the

kidnapping of Shireen Essop yesterday, and I’m sure she is

watching the progress for her rescue, minute by minute, as I

and many others do. The parents of learners at Bangor Primary

School in Randburg, are grateful for the swift action of

Deputy Minister, Cassel Mathale, at the request of the Chief

Whip, he calls for an environment free-crime.

Deputy Minister, the Cape Flats wants to work with you. Just

look after our leaners at primary schools. Mothers, like all

mothers love their children. Minister, you need to give on the

13nth, the work within the next six months on how the state of

police infrastructure will be succinctly addressed. Don’t let



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the Minister of Public Works delay you. Minister, you have

already given your famous hat, the South Africans needs a

socioeconomic response to gangsterism, drugs and crime

problems, and Al Jama-Ah commends you for that.

Activists stating gangsterism and drugs may make a paradigm

shift, and wants to redirect learners at schools to pursue

procession in either than becoming a gang leader. We are going

to invite you, Minister, when we conduct these master classes

on the Cape Flats with these activists. We know about the

latest kidnapping of a mother, a wife and a daughter, Shireen

Essop, Al Jama-Ah knows of your best endeavours, and the best

endeavours of the Provincial Commissioner of Police. Minister,

please rescue Shireen Essop.

Her car was found in sweet home farm, Phillipi on the Cape

Flats, but she is still missing. Her last words to her mom

was, “they are taking me; they are taking me.” Al Jama-Ah

wants to hear your last words today, Minister Bheki Cele. We

will rescue her; we will rescue her. Thank you very much, hon

Chair.



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Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Hon Acting House Chairperson, allow me to

start off by paying tribute to all the women and men in blue.

A very difficult responsibility, many of them going in the

morning not knowing if they will get back home. For what they

get paid and the benefits that they enjoy, their lives are at

risk on a daily basis. If I had it my way, I would not even

support this budget for the simple reason that the budget that

is allocated to this department cannot do justice to the needs

of this department in combating and fighting crimes. I know

that speaker after speaker raises the issue of the gender-

based violence in the country as if it is the responsibility

or the fault of the SA Police Service. Clearly, it is not. No

one wants to get to the root cause of what is going on.

If you are going to allow gangsterism in the country, high

unemployment, the unavailability of grants, if you have

dysfunctional family where at 78% of black children do not

have a father in their homes, then of course, the task for the

SA Police Service will be more and more difficult. It is not

their responsibility to fight crime but their responsibility

to prevent crime but we are not creating a conducive



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environment to prevent crime. So, unless we deal with this

holistically, that is, better living conditions, better

housing, having electricity, having roads, ensuring that there

are jobs, no drugs, no alcohol or shebeens opened 20 hours a

day, you are going to continue having high levels of crime.

I want to appeal to the Minister of the department and I know

it is very difficult what I am going to ask. Can you

prioritise and treat every kidnapping or every murder the same

so that some of these people like shebeens who has just been

kidnapped can also get your due attention. I know that you

have got limited resources particularly human resource. Every

child is valuable and every child is loved by her parents and

all feel the pain whether you are rich, poor, black or white.

I want to urge you Minister to do something about that.

More importantly, I want to say to you Minister, through you

Chair, what we do not have is the continued assessment and

wellness of police officers in the country and that is why you

get high levels of gender-based violence amongst police

officers as well. This is because of the traumatic experiences



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that they have in combating and fighting crime. We forget that

these are also human being who also get trauma. So, we need to

deal those experiences Minister.

The other problem Minister and this is a cry from many of your

officers. The issue of the systems of promotions. Many of them

feel that they have been left behind and they are

disillusioned for that reason. They want to exit the police

force and go to open up their security companies. It is

something that you need to look at.

I want to lastly say that you can put another tenfold of

police officers but if you do not deal with them holistically,

you are not going too far to win this war. Thank you very

much.

M Gen O S TERBLANCHE: Hon Acting House Chairperson, hon

members and fellow South Africans, here we are again in

another annual debate on the allocation of money for the SA

Police Service, SAPS to make it possible for this essential

department to fulfil section 205 constitutional



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responsibilities. This is done with a purposeful and

anticipation and hope that this time around, it will yield the

desired results. Unfortunately, history has taught us that it

remains an impossible dream.

The following budget allocations were made into two very

important departments to fulfil their responsibilities. First

Budget Vote 24 Independent Police Investigative Directorate,

Ipid, receives the main Appropriation of R357,2 million in

2022/23 taking the inflation into account, the budget

decreased by 3,3%. Budget Vote 21 Civilian Secretariat for

Police received Appropriation R152,3 million in 2022/23 again

taking into account the inflation, the department’s budget

decreased by R5,3million or 3,5%.

The obvious questions regarding both departments are, what

were they both expected to do and how they performed in the

previous financial years? The majority of both department’s

budgets go towards compensation of its employees. The

Independent Police Investigative Directorate Act provided the

directorate with an extended mandate which focuses on serious



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crime, a crime committed by members of SAPS and the

Metropolitan Municipal Police Service. It further obliges the

SAPS and the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA to report the

matters to be investigated by Ipid and the status of

implementation of disciplinary recommendations made by the

Ipid upon the completion of those investigations.

In terms of section 21(a) of the Police Investigative

Directorate Act, must investigate any death in police custody,

death as a result of police acting, complaint relating to the

discharge of an official firearm by any police officer, rape

by a police officer, whether the police officer is on or off

duty, rape of any person in custody and any complain of

torture or assault against the police officer in the execution

of their duties, corruption matters within the police

initiated by the executive director or after a complaint from

a member of a public or refer by the police or the MEC, the

Secretariat for Police Service and any matter referred to Ipid

because of the decision by the executive director or if so

requested by the Minister, MEC, the Secretariat for Police

Service as the case may be.



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Section 28 further provides for the directorate that it may

investigate matters related to systemic corruption involving

the police. The directorate’s most important task is obviously

to investigate all these allegations and criminal cases. There

seems to be an impossible task due to serious personnel

shortages. Ipid conveys the following to the Portfolio

Committee on Police on 20 April 2022 during their budget and

annual performance meeting. On that day, they had a backlog of

37 116 cases. They have received more than 5 000 new cases for

the year but only managed to complete their investigations of

4 121 of which 53% were backlog cases. This means that 1 937

new cases are just added to the ever growing backlog list.

Considering the serious backlog, each investigated

effectively, there is still 150 cases to be investigate.

Indeed, this is an impossible task. This directorate is led by

a person with no investigating experience and despite numerous

promises and undertakings, the lack of his vital skills have

started to show as expected.



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The said reality is that performance indicators and targets

decrease or remain unchanged. In 10 out of 13 indicators while

only three increase. Victims in 3 7116 cases committed by

police officers are still awaiting justice the while these

perpetrators remain on the payroll paid by the taxpayers. This

important directorate has now joined the ranks of the infamous

back loggers. Another failing entity, another toothless bull

dog, this boldy barking without the necessary biting.

The Civilian Secretariat for Police also show slow performers.

At the moment the impact on the ground is still unclear. They

are only theorising about the suitable measuring tool while

essential legislation, policies, etc are not worth coming

within acceptable timeframes. The following deliverables still

lack momentum. Improving community participation in the fight

against crime, improving police communication, facilitating,

collaboration, co-ordination and integration on safety, crime

and violence prevention within all spheres of government.

Ensuring a transformed and accountable police service by now

Minister Cele is notorious for not filling in vacant positions

timeously. This department limping along without a leader



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despite timeous reminders by the opposition parties. Please

Minister, it is time to fill in these positions. The

department is not firing or surrenders that country is

waiting. Thank you.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr M G Mahlaule): Hon members, I am

advised that hon Joemat-Petterson saved three minutes and hon

Morekwa saved one minute of which both of them would want to

donate to Seabi. In other words, hon Seabi will now have 14

minutes in total.

Mr A M SEABI: House Chairperson, greetings to the hon Minister

of Police and other Ministers in the platform, hon Deputy

Minister Mathale and other Deputy Ministers on the platform,

the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee of Police, hon

members of the Portfolio Committee of Police and hon Members

of Parliament on the platform.

House Chairperson, let me appreciate the opportunity given to

me to participate in the Budget Vote of the Department of

South African Police Service, SAPS. As the ANC we fully



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support this Budget Vote. [Inaudible.] ... in this department.

However, we will overcome. This is a department hard at work

to make sure that the lives of our people are safe.

Hon Minister, let me assure you of our support in your

endeavour to fix the police service. Don’t fear to intervene

where necessary. It is only when the political leader has a

political will and is passionate about his or her work that

things will happen.

There are those who cry political intervention calling it

political interference, but at the same time they blame the

Minister when things are not happening, claiming that the buck

stops with the Minister. They are talking with split tongues.

House Chairperson, it is in this regard that I call upon

community members to play a pivotal role and assist SAPS to

fight crime, because fighting crime is a societal issue. We

support this budget confident that the leadership of the

department will respond positively to the call by the state

President during the state of the nation address when he



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announced that more than 10 000 police officers will be

recruited in the next 12 months. These new recruits, once they

complete their training, they will contribute towards visible

policing — one of the areas in which the department has shown

some weakness.

We are happy that amongst these recruits will be people

qualified in the areas of science ... [Inaudible.] ... that

will, in the long run, increase the capacity of SAPS to deploy

relevant and skilled office laboratories.

We support this budget fully aware that whilst the majority of

police officers are doing their work ... [Inaudible.] ... out

of order, moonlighting as criminals. It is in this regard that

we call upon the Independent Police Investigative Directorate,

IPID, to be even more robust in their investigations and bring

into book the rogue police officers, so that the trust

relationship between communities and SAPS can be restored.

The IPID derives its mandate from the Independent Police

Investigative Act which gives effect to section 206(6) of the



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South African Constitution. The bulk of the work done by IPID

is to investigate crimes committed by members of the South

African Police Service, and complaints against them. In

supporting this budget, it is our view that it should enhance

IPID’s ability to conduct investigations thoroughly and

improve the quality of such investigations. It will assist

IPID to establish offices in all provinces to enable IPID to

be accessible to ordinary citizens.

From this budget, IPID’s share is R357 million plus, which is

a nominal increase compared to the previous budget. However,

if we are to factor in inflation, then we would conclude that

IPID’s budget has decreased by 3,37%. The state of affairs

will directly affect the investigation and information

management programme which is the main service delivery

subdivision. This, therefore, will considerably affect the

ability of IPID to effectively carryout its mandate. It is our

hope that the leadership of IPID will think out of the box in

addressing the backlogs. It is indeed unacceptable that we

have such a huge backlog of cases in IPID. Hon members, whilst

we sympathise with IPID regarding their budgetary constraints,



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we are however worried about the downgrading of their targets

as captured in their annual plan.

As I have alluded earlier to the announcement by the President

that more than 10 000 police officers will be recruited and

that this will increase the number of police officers

therefore intensify visible policing, we are told that such

recruits have already started training and they will be ready

for deployment in the near future. We are happy that the

leadership of the department is responding to the call by the

state President, notwithstanding the budget cuts that will

affect the programme, as I have said, for example, of visible

policing. This budget reduction poses a challenge to the

implementation of the police mandate of creating safer

communities.

The private Security Industry Regulatory Authority, SIRA, is

mandated to regulate the private security industry and

exercise control over the practice of the occupation of

security providers in the public interest as well as in the

interest of the private security industry itself. As we



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support this Budget Vote, it is our conviction that it will go

a long way in enhancing the work of SIRA.

Hon members, as the ANC, through the portfolio committee, we

will continue to hold the executive and the department

accountable. We call upon the executive and the department to

ensure that there is value for money as they execute and

implement programmes funded from this budget.

Let me once more congratulate General Masemola for being

appointed as the national commissioner and continue to thank

general Sitole for the foundation he laid. I also want to

thank the President for acting so swiftly in replacing general

Sitole. If this can be the attitude we adopt in the whole

public service, we can be assured of better service delivery.

As I close, House Chair, I want to reiterate our concern with

regard to the number of police officers being killed on and

off duty and also police officers who commit suicide. We

raised this concern with the national commissioner, General

Masemola, and he has promised the portfolio committee that he



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will intensify the implementation of wellness programmes to

assist police officer. Further, that he will develop a serious

intervention programme to mitigate against the killing of

police on and off duty. The national commissioner promised as

well to introduce programmes that will raise the morale of

police officers.

We lower our banner as we remember the fallen men and women in

uniform. We also take our hats off for those police officers

who are committed to their work, especially those who have

carried their missions successfully as we have witnessed in

the not so long distant past. House Chairperson, once more,

the ANC supports the Budget Vote. Thank you, Chair.

The MINISTER OF POLICE: Thank you very much, Chair, there is

not much to respond to contributions made by members except

for hon Whitfield. The points he puts are all in the speech.

If he goes back to read, he will understand that he was almost

superfluous on his contribution, except the last point where

he talks about devolution of powers. He knows it is



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unconstitutional. He can’t instruct the Minister to follow his

mind of being unconstitutional. I will end there on that one.

I am not going to be charged for hon member Shembeni’s display

of maximum ignorance of matters. It cannot be my problem. If

he wants to be briefed on matters which many of them have been

wrongly put here, that could be fixed.

The issue of sharing Essop is taken on a very high level. The

national team has been dispatched to work with the provincial

team there since ... [Inaudible.] ... 2 pm and though the car

that she was driving has been found. She has not been found.

We believe that the police would be able to crack the case as

they have always done with other cases.

From our side as the Ministry, we would like to thank the

leadership of the SAPS. An extended profound gratitude to the

SAPS members, law enforcement partners and their families for

their selfless sacrifice during the April floods in KwaZulu-

Natal, and in particular those who made the ultimate sacrifice



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in the service of their communities. We have lost several

police on duty.

We would like to conclude from the Ministry but thanking

Deputy Minister Mathale and the guidance provided by the

chairperson, Tina Joemat, the National Commissioner and all

portfolio committee members, the chief of staff of the

Ministry, the Acting secretary, the IPID head, the chief

executive officer of PSIRA, Manabela Chauke, Judge Kgomo,

Lindiwe Thomas Nkosi, who is a board chairperson, Ms Lungelo

Shandu who deals with the issues of Firearms Appeals Board.

I would like to thank the family that supports us under very

difficult conditions – every member of the family especially

the wives that keeps us going.

...[Inaudible.] ... on all members the police are remembered.

Last but not least, all members of the SAPS, all men and women

in blue from the college where they are to the highest office,

we say to them, thank you very much. We salute them for the



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commitment their doing in order to protect the nation. Thank

you very much.

The mini plenary rose at 18:25.

