

UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE UNDERTAKINGS DURING THE NCOP TAKING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE, UGU DISTRICT, KWAZULU-NATAL

Briefing to: Select Committee on Security and Justice

Date: 22 November 2023

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Background and Purpose

- During the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Taking Parliament to the People (TPTTP) in the Ugu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, from 14 to 18 November 2022, the Minister of Police made six Executive Undertakings.
- The purpose of this presentation is to provide an update to the Select

Committee on Security and Justice on what the Ministry has accomplished with regard to the Executive Undertakings.

 There is an agreement that the National Department, the Speaker of the Provincial Legislature and MEC for Transport and Community Safety will visit Umuziwabantu Local Municipality on 28 November 2022 to attend to taxi violence that has engulfed the area.

- The Ministerial Imbizo by the Minister of Police took place, on 28 November 2022, where a commitment was given to establish a task team to deal with the murders in the Harding policing areas.
- The task team was established and is still active in addressing murder cases in the area.
- Members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) Employee, Health and Wellness (EHW) visited some of victims of crime to provide support and counselling.
- The task team is still in place and functional.

Moving the Msinsini Police Station: Rural police stations are old and dilapidated. For example, the Msinsini police station was built for a shop. When the shop was shut down, the station remained operating in the middle of nowhere. A discussion has been ongoing to move it either to Qwabe or Xoloxolo area. There are engagements with traditional leaders to move that police station.

- The construction of the Msinsini Police Station is part of the Deep Rural Programme and is currently operating from a farm house that is in a process of re-establishment on a new site, which has already been cleared.
- The professional services were appointed and are currently busy with the planning and design phase, which will be completed by 31 March 2024.
- The bid for the appointment of the contractor will be advertised during April 2024 for award before July 2024.
- It is envisaged that the site will be handed over to the appointed contractor during
 September 2024, after the Department of Labour has provided the construction permit.

- Mgaye Mobile Police Station: The Minister noted that a mobile SAPS station
 - for KwaMgaye is finalised and he undertook that it will be introduced shortly.

 The placement of a mobile Community Service Centre (CSC) at the Sawoti Police Station will be addressed and allocated as soon as it becomes available.

Gamalakhe Station handover: Regarding the Gamalakhe SAPS Station, the Minister claimed that handover was supposed to have happened, but the launch could not happen due to heavy rains. He further stated that the station should not be closed at night and it should be staffed at all times. The Department will open the Station officially.

 The Gamalakhe Police Station was constructed by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) and completed on 30 August 2019. The process is underway to set a date for the official opening of the police station.

 Stipends for Community Policing Forums (CPFs): The Minister undertook to further investigate options in relation to stipends for CPFs and related structures.

The feedback, with regard to Executive Undertaking 5, was provided by the Office of the Secretary of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service (CSPS):

- The Minister, through the SAPS and the CSPS, is still investigating viable and affordable options to address the requests from communities and CPFs relating to, amongst others, stipends, equipment, meeting fees and other resources necessary to carry out their functions.
- Options, such as the utilisation of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and engagements with the private sector to facilitate the resourcing of CPFs, are also being explored.
- A draft resourcing model will be developed to provide for the minimum standardisation for the provision of resources for CPFs, as a collaborative exercise between the CSPS, the SAPS and Provincial Departments of Community Safety.
- The proposed solution/s that would be presented in due course will have to take into account the current fiscal constraints and the struggling local and international economic climate.

- Provision has been made in the SAPS budget for 2023/24 for the allocation of additional funding to empower community policing forums (CPFs) and support their functionality on the ground.
- An amount of R70 million was allocated to provinces to provide for the strategic and operational needs of CPFs, covering a wide spectrum of resources such as transport, laptops, phones, airtime, reflector jackets, safety boots, stationery, etc.
- Guidelines for the effective utilisation of this budget have been compiled and distributed to provinces accordingly.
- The CSPS will continue to monitor the utilisation of the allocated funds, as part of its assessment on the SAPS' budget and programme performance.

 Internal discipline: The Minister stated that SAPS will work hard to root out police officials who do not serve the people and become involved in criminality.

- All members of SAPS who are involved in criminal activities are subjected to disciplinary processes, in terms of the SAPS Discipline Regulations.
- To this end, a total number of 12 SAPS members from the Ugu District Municipality were subjected to a disciplinary process after it was found that they had been involved in criminal activities.
- The status of the disciplinary proceedings, against the 12 members, are as follows:
 - One member was dismissed from the SAPS.
 - One member was given a written warning.
 - One member was found not guilty.
 - One member was found guilty and sanctioned to two months suspension without salary.
 - Disciplinary proceedings were provisionally withdrawn against six members.
 - The disciplinary hearing against two members is still in progress.

THANK YOU