

**BUDGET VOTE SPEECH BY THE MEC FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY,  
FAITH MAZIBUKO, AT THE GAUTENG LEGISLATURE: 15 JUNE 2021**

**Madam Speaker**

**Madam Deputy Speaker**

**Honourable Premier**

**Honourable Members of the Executive Council**

**Honourable Chief Whip & Members of the Legislature**

**Members of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Safety**

**Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service and the Management  
Team**

**Chiefs of Metropolitan Police Departments**

**Chiefs of Local Traffic Police Departments**

**Acting Head of Department and Senior Managers**

**Our stakeholders from the Criminal Justice System in the Province**

**Our Community Policing Fora in Gauteng & Community Safety Fora**

**Ladies and gentlemen, All Protocols Observed**

**Sanibonani!**

Madam Speaker, we present this budget during a year in which the South African Government marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the liberation struggle heroine and human rights campaigner, Charlotte Mmakgomo Manny-Maxeke, under the theme - **“The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: Promoting Human Rights in the Age of COVID-19.”** We commemorate the role played by our bold leader, heroine and doyenne of the women’s movement fighting for African Women’s Rights specifically. A courageous and outstanding leader of our glorious movement, the African National Congress and founder

of the Bantu Women's League. The iconic and colossus Charlotte Maxeke was at the forefront in the fight against the colonial rule and the apartheid regime.

Mme Maxeke served the country in ground-breaking ways, along with other freedom fighters who bore the brunt of racist pass laws and actively resisted those unjust laws. In honour of Mme Charlotte Maxeke, we must redouble our efforts and recommit ourselves to be active participants in the fight against criminal elements, which threaten not only the safety of communities, but also threaten the economy of our province. I will quote one of her quotations "Deal with it, you can't conquer what you can't confront."

Honourable members, policing during the COVID-19 pandemic has been a mammoth task for law enforcement officers and officials as many of them contracted the disease, while others succumbed to it. We therefore want to take this opportunity to send our heartfelt condolences to their families, friends and colleagues.

The Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) is relentless in its effort to implement the Growing Gauteng Together "GGT2030" plan, and has identified several priorities and specific interventions in strategic sectors and corridors to ensure optimal outcomes during this 6<sup>th</sup> Administration. The GPG has adopted a coherent and integrated GGT 5-year Policing Plan, which is supported by resource allocation. This is a concrete step in equipping our law enforcement agencies with the necessary capabilities to keep all Gauteng citizens safe and secured.

The plan draws from the analysis of crime statistics of the previous years and interventions made. It also identifies crime categories to be targeted and prioritises what were considered petty crimes in the previous years. An implementation plan has been developed and is currently being executed by all law enforcement agencies in pursuit of a crime-free Gauteng.

The effective implementation of the GGT 5-Year Policing Plan is essential in ensuring that the commitments of the Gauteng Provincial Government are fulfilled. At the centre of the commitments made by this administration is the reduction of crime by 50%.

## **Budget Allocation**

Honourable Members, for the financial year 2020/21 we will appropriate **R 962 280 000.00 (Nine hundred and sixty-two million, two hundred and eighty thousand rands)**. The budget allocation for the three programmes in the department is as follows:

- **Administration** - R 169 644 (One hundred and sixty-nine million, six hundred and forty-four thousand rands)
- **Provincial Secretariat** - R 240 979 (two hundred and forty million, nine hundred and seventy-nine thousand rands)
- **Traffic Management** - R 551 657 (Five hundred and fifty-one million, six hundred and fifty-seven thousand rands)

It is also important to note that the department has earmarked certain funds, informed by our priorities, as part of our endeavours to make Gauteng a safe place for all. A breakdown of the funds that we have earmarked is as follows:

- **R36 million** – to improve police visibility
- **R62.8 million** – to fight the scourge of Gender based violence and femicide
- **R20 Million** – for implementation of the e-policing strategy which includes the establishment of the command centre
- **R84 million** – to convert contract positions into permanent positions in the department.

## **Provincial Secretariat (Police oversight)**

As part of our oversight mandate, we will continue to monitor all the 143 police stations, with a specific focus on the 55 priority stations which are crime hotspots and contribute high numbers to the crime statistics of the province. A special focus will also be given to police stations with a high number of reported trio crimes and sexual offenses. Announced and unannounced visits will be conducted at police stations, as part of the intervention process to address complaints relating to breakdown in community police relations.

Honourable Members, in the past few weeks we experienced the most gruesome act of vigilantism the province has ever encountered. On the morning of Wednesday 19 May 2021, the country woke up to the news of 8 people who had been burned alive and 1 person whose hands were mutilated in Zandspruit. Sadly, 8 of the 9 people who were victims of the act of vigilantism died: 4 died at the scene and 4 died in hospital. May their souls rest in peace.

Even though the information we received from the community indicates that this incident was caused by fights for drug territories, the incident in Zandspruit is a practical example of what happens when the relationship between the police and the community has broken down. The Department will enhance its efforts in ensuring that there is a good working relationship between police and the community.

It is of critical importance that the department heightens audits on closed dockets, especially dockets that were closed as undetected. Madam Speaker, the number of dockets that were closed as undetected in 2020/21 is shocking. The breakdown for some of the crime categories is as follows:

- Murder – 1591
- Robbery aggravated - 38027
- Rape – 2731

- Sexual assault – 319
- Assault GBH - 8503
- Theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle – 23269

I am pained by the reality that 1591 were killed and 2731 people, mainly women and children, were raped and no one has been brought to justice.

In addressing the backlog on case resolution, the SAPS Gauteng Crime Detection Unit, as led by Brigadier Shibiri, has set up a pilot team for 3 months, starting 1 April 2021, That will ensure that they re-investigate and reopens all the closed dockets that were undetected especially those of murder, GBVF and abused and killed children.

Gauteng suburbs and townships are growing at an alarming rate and yet the police personnel is not increasing. In collaborating with the Minister of Police more focus will be on ensuring that Gauteng is assisted and beefed up even through the Community in Blue (which are vetted Community Patrollers). Non-performing stations and under-performing station will be monitored very closely. As the Provincial Government we continuously talk about Batho Pele, but there are Police officers that are undermining and ridiculing our people as making them to suffer secondary victimisation. These officers they must rethink why they joined the service. If they are here for the wrong reasons, they must leave the service.

During the 2021/22 financial year, there will be prioritized police stations where the Department will be literally camping until meaningful results are realised. Any act of unprofessional conduct, poor service delivery, abuse of power and police inaction, amongst others, will be dealt with decisively.

Police Services are the primary entry point into the criminal justice system, therefore poor service delivery by police discourages citizens from reporting crime and negatively impacts the execution of justice. The Department of Community Safety will conduct exit surveys at police stations and customer satisfaction surveys on policing in Gauteng through social media and other platforms.

Recently we also received the Crime stats, I must say crime continues to rear its stubborn head. Our Communities are really under siege. The current season being winter is also a challenge, the sun quickly sets and the sunrise is also very late.

About 12 Police stations still remain in the Top 30 of police stations that contribute to crime in our province. Honeydew and JHB Central are the worse contributors. They are number in the whole country. Though the overall picture shows a 14.6% decline, but crime is still very bad.

### **Traffic Law Enforcement**

Over many years, Gauteng Traffic Police has served as a force multiplier to South African Police Service (SAPS) in the fight against social crime and trio crimes in the province. At the centre of these operations, was the Gauteng Law Enforcement Agency (GLEAF) which is used as an instrument of coordination and integration of high impact law enforcement operations such “O Kae Molao Operations”.

The budget for Traffic Management will be allocated as per follows sub-programmes:

- Traffic Law Enforcement
- Public Transport Inspectorate
- Special Service
- Road Safety Education

- Traffic Management

The Department will intensify the monitoring of the three province's Metropolitan Police Departments (MPD). Each MPD has been directed to submit two precincts where they are going to ensure that we see visible improvement with respect to **Traffic Management**, **Crime Prevention** and **By-Law Enforcement**, by the end of this financial year.

JMPD Chief Mokasi, I am certain that one of the precincts you will submit for Joburg is Hillbrow, EMPD Chief Mapiyeye - Kempton Park and TMPD Chief Nkomo – Sunnyside.

Joburg has launched its 10 Plus programme, which will see Officers being deployed in all Wards as part and parcel of fighting crime and implanting the by-laws. I'm hoping the MPDs of Ekurhuleni and Tshwane will develop their Safe City Plans and implement them as part of making our Gauteng a safe place for all its citizens.

I look forward to the day when I open my social media accounts and I do not get complaints from the public about the three Metro areas mentioned above. Until a significant improvement is seen in these areas, particularly addressing the problem of drugs, alcohol and brothels, which are also linked to human-trafficking, I will continue receiving these complaints. Therefore, I am appealing to the SAPS District Commanders to work closely with the MPD Chiefs in ensuring that we share the resource capacity and invest greater effort in eradicating crime in these areas and other areas which are hotspots.

Honourable members, in our previous budget vote speech we made a commitment to employ on a permanent basis 400 traffic police officers, over the next three years, in order to increase visibility and enhance road safety in the province. So far, the Department has employed, on a permanent basis, 157 traffic officers who are deployed across the five

Corridors. We will add more officers this year and the next financial year until we reach our intended target of 400 by the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

The enforcement of by-laws by all law enforcement agencies in the province must continue throughout all municipalities. It is also important that land invasions are discouraged as they threaten the peace and stability of our people. We are working with Municipalities and law enforcement agencies to stop land invasions across the province.

We are making inroads towards the goal of having Gauteng Traffic Police working a 24/7 shifts. Engagements with Labour Unions is ongoing. Cabinet Memo will soon be approved.

### **Action Against Gender-based Violence and Femicide**

Gender-based Violence continues to be a very dangerous pandemic and a societal problem. The Gauteng City Region is acutely aware that an integrated approach in policing and a paradigm shift is required to put gender-based violence to a complete halt.

Sexual offences cannot continue unabated. Crimes against women, children as well as other vulnerable groups has reached crisis point and there is dire need to intensify our efforts to turn the tide.

A Gender-based Violence Coordinator has been appointed by the provincial government to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the Gender-based Violence and Femicide Response Plan across all spheres of government in the province.

The Department launched the Gender-based Violence Brigades programme, which facilitates and strengthens survivor-focused, resourced and coordinated response to



gender-based violence. I am delighted to report that we have recruited, screened and inducted 620 Gender-based Violence Brigades. These Brigades continue to raise awareness in communities and assist victims of gender-based violence to open cases, break free from abusive and toxic relationships.

To date, over 89 000 households have been visited by the GBV Brigades for psycho-social support. The fight against GBV must not only be fought in communities only, the fight must also be intensified at schools and institutions of higher learning, since most young women are victims of this pandemic.

In helping Police Stations to transport survivors of GBVF, as the department we have handed over cars to FCS and stations to 11 stations that had serious challenges and high numbers of GBVF. It can't be right that victims suffer secondary victimisation by being transported in a police vans when seeking medical attention and other consultations with the Doctors. This year more cars will be procured and distributed to stations to help the victims

Working together with the police and NGOs, the provincial government conducts candle lighting sessions at which victims and families are provided with feedback on their cases. We urge the police not to turn their backs on women who go to police stations to open cases of gender-based violence and not subject them to secondary victimisation. Police must enforce protection orders and must apply the law on defaulters without fear or favour.

The Department has also continued with the roll out of Green Doors in all the 5 Corridors of Gauteng. Madam Speaker, we have already started rolling out the Green Doors at Tertiary Institutions at Vaal University of Technology. The Department will continue to roll out the same programme to other institutions of higher learning as well at TVET colleges.

These Green Doors will assist the Students Community to urgently be assisted when experiencing challenges that need Law enforcement.

The Department has deployed floor managers at police stations in the province as part of efforts to improve service delivery, and to ensure that victims of GBV are attended to speedily and receive the quality service they deserve. Victim support, immediate case management on GBV matters and psycho-social support is currently being offered at the Victim Empowerment Centre (VECs) across all police stations.

The Department aims to ringfence and monitor GBV cases. This is done as part of enhancing our capacity to build the Criminal Justice System component, which will assist with co-ordination in this critical function.

### **Mobilize communities to Take Charge Against Crime**

Community mobilization is a critical pillar of our safety strategy in Gauteng. This pillar is executed through establishing functional Community Policing Forums (CPFs) and deployment of community patrollers as a force multiplier in the fight against crime. The Department will continue with the mass mobilisation of communities in the fight against crime by strengthening the Social Movement against crime in our province and our safety structures such as Community Safety Fora (CSFs), Community patrollers, Faith-based Organisations, Military Veterans, Young People, WASP, MASP, Ward Committees and Sector Crime Fora. The deployment of Ward-based Patrollers will further increase the safety of our communities which are now recruited as Community in Blue.

The Ready to Govern document of the African National Conference outlines that policing shall be based on community support and participation and that the police shall be accountable to society and the community it serves. There is a need for interdependence

and shared responsibility between the police and the communities in an active partnership towards the fight against crime.

The Department remains committed to strengthening the functioning of CPFs and their subsidiaries. This will be done through continuous monitoring of these structures and intervening where gaps are identified. The Department has made inroads in establishing its Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) and more than 1 967 unemployed safety ambassadors, benefitted. The plan for this financial year, is to strengthen the programme and expand on the achievements made.

### **School Safety**

The department will direct additional resources to support social mobilization against criminal activities, including our community policing forums, school governing bodies and local drug action committees, as well as organized social movements. This will improve safety in schools, institutions of higher learning, health facilities and other public spaces.

The department has developed and implemented safety plans for schools at risk, including unannounced visits. Fifty (50) problematic schools have already been identified with the assistance from Department of Education and visits to some of the schools were conducted with all stakeholders involved, including the South African Police Service. The department, in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE), planned to deploy 5094 patrollers at schools. There was a rollout of 3996 community patrollers to ensure the safety of schools until the end of March 2021.

This partnership is important because schools exist within our communities and its infrastructure cannot continue to be vandalised under our watch.

As the Gauteng Provincial Government in the year of 2020 we made a commitment to provide the police with 100 high-performance vehicles fitted with cutting-edge crime-fighting technology, 50 additional patrol cars and 12 mobile police stations. We have so far already delivered 55 of the 100 high performance vehicles, procurement processes have already started.

The vehicles assist in enhancing police visibility and police response in crime hotspots, on highways and in public spaces on a 24-hour basis. These high-powered vehicles also assist in fighting Trio crimes such as car-jackings, truck hijackings, business and house robberies. They will also help us to respond to Cash in Transit and increase police visibility in our Province. Ever since the launch, impressive successes were recorded resulting in the arrests of some of the wanted suspects.

The process of setting up the state-of-the-art Provincial Integrated Command Centre has commenced and will be rolled out in phases starting this financial year.

### **Corruption within law enforcement**

There is an urgent need to eradicate corruption and criminality within law enforcement and the criminal justice system. None of our efforts in fighting crime will yield results while we still have criminals disguised as police, lawyers and judges within the criminal justice system.

The integrity, dignity and respect of the law enforcement fraternity will only be restored when corrupt and criminal elements are isolated, dealt with decisively and put behind bars for a very long time.

Honourable Members, we have requested that a special unit must be established to deal with corruption within law enforcement. There is no law enforcement operation that will yield optimal results, as long as you have criminals within the ranks leaking operational information.

The Department will continue to work hand in glove with the South African Police Service and the Independent Police Investigation Directorate (IPID) to address cases and allegations of police corruption and brutality.

In conclusion, we like to congratulate the National Assembly for recently passing the 3 Bills that will help in the fight against Gender-based Violence and Femicide. We hope as and when they are brought to the NCOP for concurrence honourable members of this august house will speedily make them into law.

A TIGHT GRIP is needed if we are going to win the war against crime and GBVF.

Dankie, Ngiyabonga.