

Closing remarks by the Chief Whip of the NCOP, Hon. Mr S J Mohai, MP during the Virtual Ministerial Briefing Session on the Resourcing of the Police Service and Police Stations

1 November 2022

Honourable Deputy Chairperson

Honourable Deputy Minister Mathale

Honourable Members

Honourable MECs

Ladies and gentlemen

We converge today few hours after the senseless and heartless murder of seven vendors in Finetown, Ennerdale in Johannesburg after they resisted having their chicken feet stolen and robbed of the paltry takings.

Allow me to join the millions of our people who have condemned and deplored such senseless cold blooded killings. We join our hearts in loss and grief with the families of the deceased and convey our heartfelt condolences. We also welcome the decisiveness in which the South African Police Service has

responded to this matter and the commitments that were made by the Minister to respond to the criminality in the community of Finetown. We wish those who were injured a speedy recovery.

We have also learned with great shock and sadness the brutal and senseless murder of an elderly man in a wheelchair who was shot dead in Westbury, Johannesburg yesterday while the body of another man was found burnt beyond recognition in the same area. We equally condemn this senseless murders and call on the police to leave no stone unturned in bringing the perpetrators to book.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, today's Ministerial Briefing Session on the Resourcing of the Police Service and Police Stations has further demonstrated the need to have these sessions to thoroughly engage on matters concerning the delivery of services to our people and the capacity of the state to respond to their needs.

It has further highlighted the need to renew our pledge for partnerships at all levels of our society to wage a concerted battle against crime and criminality in our society. It also highlighted the urgency for government to put more resources and greater urgency in the fight against the resourcing of the police service

and police stations to appropriately equip them to ensure the safety our people.

The advent of democracy in our country ushered in what is, without doubt, the most optimistic era in the history of our country. Whereas apartheid obliged policemen and policewomen to disregard the human rights of our people, they have now been offered a place of pride in the process of building a new and better life for all.

The advent of democracy brought about the potential for unprecedented progress for our country and held out the promise that our people would be able to live their lives in prosperous peace. We cannot allow our people to be terrorised, robbed, raped and even murder in cold blood. Our people are facing unimaginable violence from heartless and callous criminals who show no mercy in pursuit of their selfish deeds.

I am aware of the enormous challenges faced by members of our police service. Many police officers and their families have become victims of violent crimes. It must be acknowledged that police officers in South Africa have a much greater chance of being murdered in cold blood in the line of duty and in defence of our people.

We need to appreciate and encourage the efforts of those police officers who often go beyond the call of duty to ensure the safety of their fellow citizens. We must do whatever it takes to ensure that they are appropriately resourced and supported to ensure the safety of our people.

We are mindful of the fiscal constraints that impact on the resourcing of the police, and the police infrastructure. We are in agreement that the fight against crime requires a collective effort by the society at large working together with the police.

On Budget Allocation:

We note the reality that the budget allocation that is impacted upon by the population growth and migration, especially in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape, as these provinces continue to experience inward migration that is linked to migration to these provinces for socio-economic reasons. There is a greater urgency to relook at the distribution of budget of the department to ensure that these provinces are appropriately equipped to deal decisively with the challenges of economic crimes.

We are encouraged by the reprioritization of budget allocation by the department to deal with issues of gangsterism as well as the thorny issue of gender-based violence. The attack on various police stations remains a matter of serious concern. We need to ensure that the police service is appropriately equipped to function and serve our people even during loadshedding, which is when they are more vulnerable to crime and criminality.

On Staff establishment

We note that staff allocation is informed by population level, as well as the crime statistics of different areas or provinces. We must, however, continue to ensure that even smaller provinces are appropriately resourced and that rural communities and farmers are also protected.

We must also take this opportunity to welcome the commitment by the Minister of Finance who announced in the Medium Term Budget Speech last week that funding has been made available for the recruitment of an additional 15000 new Entry Level Police Trainees over the next three financial years. The allocated Medium Term Budget will assist in capacitation of the Police Service and Police Stations.

Vehicle fleet

We note challenges relating to the fixing of the vehicles. We are encouraged by the new vehicles that are been ordered for the different provinces. This will strengthen the police as they fight crime as well as adding to police visibility. The procurement of the helicopter is also welcomed. Members made an appeal to ensure that procurement processes are enhanced to deliver on time and with greater urgency.

On SAPS Infrastructure

The number of police stations and satellite police stations have increased as compared to a few years ago to respond to the reality of population growth, however a lot is still required in rolling-out police stations and satellite police stations to other areas.

Honourable Chairperson, George Orwell once said I quote "People sleep peacefully in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." We owe a depth of gratitude to the men and women who continue to their lives take this heavy responsibility of serving the nation and protecting our people. We owe a depth of gratitude to the police officers, detectives, investigators, forensic analysts, K9 units and

scientists who work tirelessly to protect our people from heartless criminals and the scourge of violence.

I thank you.