

**MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY
LEONARD RAMATLAKANE'S
BUDGET SPEECH 2008/ 9
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY
WESTERN CAPE
15 MAY 2008**

"Our journey to date in building safer communities"

Speaker

The great Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who died 60 years ago this year, once said (and I quote): "We must become the change we want to see in the world."

As the fight against crime and criminals in our province gathers momentum, this is a sentiment that I find myself agreeing with wholeheartedly – and, I'm pleased to say, it is a sentiment that increasing numbers of residents of this province are also finding common ground with.

Before 2002, the crime landscape of our province was littered with what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles.

The levels of safety ... of social consciousness ... and of community cohesion, networks and participation were characterized by widespread lack of trust in the police, by indifference and by feelings of lingering hopelessness.

Things looked bleak then.

People were wringing their hands and wondering what could be done (and if there were suggestions, the next problem was how to implement these to turn things around).

Thankfully, there have been major changes in our ongoing fight against crime.

Today, Speaker and colleagues, I'm pleased to say that there has been a paradigm shift among our communities and our police – a shift that has ushered in the beginnings of a better, more hopeful future, characterized by the acknowledgment that crime is not the responsibility of the police alone.

Before the ANC government took over, citizens of this province were not recognized as crime fighters.

In the last five years, we have seen increasing numbers of our communities expressing a willingness to participate in crime prevention ventures – and the immediate consequence of this change of attitude is that the level of trust between police and communities is improving in leaps and bounds.

I am thrilled about the journey that we – as Government, as police, as citizens and as partners – have embarked upon.

I would like to assure the people of our province that my Department is determined to stay the course of this journey.

We will not rest until we secure victory over the scourge of crime....

Speaker,

I am pleased today to be able to table a budget of R228-million for the Department of Community Safety, for the 2008/09 financial year.

In presenting this BUDGET, I would like to beg your indulgence for just a moment ... to enable us to take stock – by first looking back ... and then by tracking how we got to where we are today ... and finally, by plotting a route forward.

Five years ago, my Party assumed leadership of this Department.

It was not an easy time.

The relationship between the police and our people was at an all-time low.

Indeed, it was worse than that: our communities were, in essence, at war with the police.

Before the ANC government assumed this portfolio, chaos reigned in this province.

The evil influence of gangs had spread throughout this city and this province - we shall all remember the Cape Flats that were on fire... with gang wars rife in Mitchell's Plain, Retreat, the cross fire and stray bullets killings children in Mannenberg.

In Khayelitsha, Nyanga and Guguletu- undetected murders occurred. Urban terror and taxi conflict - were all part of the painful experiences of our communities.

There was a lack of political will in turning the policing situation around.

We had successive MEC's, others resigning en-mass stating that they've lost the battle.

And don't even mention leadership of the police. There was none.

All of these challenges compelled us to come up with an alternative - hence we rolled out the People Orientated Sustainable Strategy - a strategy that recognised communities, young and old and men and women as a central cog for a better tomorrow.

Speaker,

Today, we have reason to celebrate.

We celebrate without underplaying the challenges of fighting crime together.

We have achieved much in our fight against crime ... in our efforts to build community cohesion ... and in our attempts to forge strong partnerships.

Five years ago, the volume of contact crime was at 136 726.

But today contact crime has been reduced by 32 per cent.

Of course, the battle isn't over. It never will be - without our people being central to our campaigns for peace and stability.

But we are getting better all the time at making this province a safer home for all.

We know that if we are to make the Western Cape a "Home for All" we will need to tackle crime – and those who market it and benefit from it.

And we need to tackle them head on.

Let me stress, governments throughout the world – even those in the most developed countries – acknowledge that crime is a stubborn obstacle to the building of safe and stable communities.

Crime thrives when there are massive chasms between haves and have-nots.

We need only to look at the gap between rich and poor in South Africa and, indeed, in the Western Cape to realize why crime presents so many challenges here.

Few of us escape its effects.

I readily accept that most of us have been directly or indirectly affected by criminal actions.

But I also believe – and I will stress this repeatedly – that the best sources of information are our communities.

They are the most knowledgeable about the nooks and crannies of our various suburbs.

I therefore regard them as pivotal partners in the fight against crime.

Speaker,

A wide range of communities, not to mention countless numbers of residents who have been involved in our programmes, will confirm that we are making progress in our efforts to create safer communities.

The money this Department received in the last financial year – and in previous years – has been wisely invested.

Thanks to this money, the type of programmes and facilities that we've rolled out will together form an irreplaceable and a lasting legacy within the Criminal Justice Cluster of this administration.

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

1. Governance

Speaker,

For the past five years, this Department has taken the lead in efforts to build partnerships with communities, and various other government departments.

I'm therefore pleased to say today that our communities have indeed mobilised – and here I would like to mention the strong Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and Community Police Forums (CPFs) that have come into being.

I'm also grateful for the support that communities have given for the establishment and training of Bambanani Neighbourhood Watches (NHWs).

The results of these partnerships have been impressive.

I'm particularly proud that the efforts my Department made to foster institutional collaboration with community structures, such as CPFs, and to strengthen community organisations. These initiatives have been bearing fruit in such encouraging fashion.

I also appreciate the invaluable contribution being made by Bambanani volunteers from various communities in our efforts to solve the many complex issues of social fabric crimes.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Speaker,

During the last five years, this Department continued to implement its constitutional mandate through a series of strategic thrusts.

We implemented the relevant aspects of the Social Capital Formation Strategy (SCFS) anti-gang strategy, anti-rape strategy and the Bambanani volunteer programme.

As a result of the implementation of the strategy, it has been confirmed by our well known critics, the Institute for Security Studies in a study they recently conducted with no less than 4 500 people that "the Western Cape is one of the safest provinces" .

The study also says that the police are doing a good job and because of this there is an increase in the reporting of crime”

We’re encouraged by these results ... however we cannot be complacent. One or two crimes committed are still a crime.

At present we have an active database of 8,000 (eight thousand) trained volunteers, all of whom have been mobilized and deployed over the past five years.

5 000 of those are active in the field as we speak.

Speaker

We further mobilised and we continue to mobilise ex-combatants to participate in our broad front against crime.

Our movement made a commitment to mobilise our communities to become part of the police reservist core. Our policy direction affirms this position.

Today, we are proud to see a successful transformation of Bambanani volunteers to become reservists.

Today, our Bambanani programme gave birth to reservists.

We also supported the process whereby 2,000 (two thousand) volunteers joined the SAPS police reservists.

Of these 2,000 volunteers, 596 met the criteria and were integrated into the SAPS reservist force.

Community Policing Forums

Speaker,

Five years ago the Community Police Forums (CPF's) received less support from the DA provincial government and in some instances rendering them ineffective.

Now, this provincial government led by the ANC has mobilised and deployed

- Over 2 000 Victim support volunteers covering 168 police stations
- Neighbourhood watches,
- School safety volunteers,
- Farm watches,
- Traffic volunteers
- Commuter safety volunteers

Furthermore :

- Capacitated 188 CPFs,
- Developed thousands of Bambanani volunteers,
- Established restorative justice volunteers,
- Facilitated the formation of over 200 street committees,
- Piloted the establishment of 12 Community Safety Forums.

All of these, form part of a formidable force working in partnership with the police to restore peace in our communities.

We would like to commit ourselves to strengthening our institutionalisation programme.

2. COMMUNITY COHESION

Speaker,

Our society has been fragmented as a result of the apartheid legacy.

It has been dehumanised, resulting in life of others having no value, the youth becoming daring, indulging, peddling in drugs, hijacking cars as a direct consequence of the weakness in our society to enforce a social order.

Understanding this societal challenge, it requires an even much more closer partnership between state, parliament and society to build social cohesion.

Speaker,

In the 2008/09 Financial Year, my Department will focus on supporting existing community street committees and establishing street committees in a number of the Social Transformation Programme (STP) areas and Community Safety Forums.

We will, moreover, continue to implement key programmes that have yielded continuously effective results including the:

- The Safer Festive Season (SFS) Programme;
- The Safer Easter Holiday Programme (SEHP);
- The Safer Schools Programme;
- The Commuter Safety Programme, and
- The Child Rapid Response Unit (CRRU):

It's our Department's flagship programme established in more than 30 communities with more than 800 volunteers. This programme has a phenomenal success rate of 96% in lost or missing children who were found and were re-united with their families. The programme was awarded the Premier's Excellence Awards.

My Department intends speeding up the implementation of our Motor Vehicle Accident Strategy by strengthening our Traffic Law

enforcement capacity, by concentrating on human capital development and by facilitating greater integration of operations and strategic processes with National and Local Governments.

I firmly believe that this budget builds on the key deliverables of the foundation of the last five years.

One of its key strengths is that it has the capacity to consolidate the programmes that we have initiated and implemented over the past five years.

I am convinced that it will ultimately deliver the results that we want.

3. CRIME

As I mentioned earlier, all of us – Government, police and residents – must join hands and march and act together – to defeat the criminals and crime bosses.

By engaging with local crime combating organisations, we will build our capacity to prevent serious and violent crime in our Province.

Our partnership with communities (8000 Bambanani volunteers) and the South African Police Services (SAPS) is a key reason why contact crimes were reduced by 42 per cent in the Western Cape over the festive seasons of the last five years.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Community Based Organisations (CBO), Community Police Forums (CPFs), Business Against Crime and the Neighbourhood Watches (NHWs), the victim support volunteers and all anti-crime formations for these successes.

Speaker,

Bambanani volunteers have, in many instances, proved to be star crime fighters.

But their main strength has been in the area of crime prevention.

Since their inception five years ago, contact crime has decreased by 42% during the festive seasons.

Consider this....

- In the 2003/04 Safer Festive Season, contact crimes dropped by 18 per cent
- In the 2004/05 Safer Festive Season, contact crime was stabilised by 2 per cent
- In the 2005/06 Safer Festive Season, contact crimes dropped by 27.2 per cent
- In the 2006/07 Safer Festive Season, contact crimes dropped by 12.3 per cent in the Province and
- In the 2007/08 Safer Festive Season, contact crimes dropped by 11.1 per cent in the Province

This continuous reduction was achieved as a result of the centrality of our volunteers.

PEOPLE ORIENTED SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY (POSS) – SAPS

The People-Oriented Sustainable Strategy is an intervention aimed at transforming policing in the Western Cape to effectively reduce crime and improve service delivery.

The Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA) has arisen from this strategy.

POCA legislation has led to the:

- Arrests of a number of so-called high-flyers (people involved in organized crime);
- Forfeiture of assets of crime bosses;
- The closure of a number of drug and shebeen outlets.

DRUGS AND GANGS

Drug abuse and gangsterism are a historic, parasitical fact about the Western Cape Province.

Five years ago, a fragmented model of government had no ability to deal with the scourge of gangsterism and drugs in a co-ordinated and integrated way.

Today, our integrated model of government in the form of inter-departmental clusters is beginning to produce sustainable results.

Today our anti-drug campaign focussing on the 21 areas earmarked for social transformation and led by the Social Cluster is bringing hope to our communities.

Today, the drug peddling and gang initiation at schools are receiving attention through inter-departmental programmes between my department, Social Development, Education, Sports and South African Police Services (SAPS) with a focus on the 165 schools most at risk in the province.

This is a demonstration that we are a caring government.

I've said this before – and I'm going to say it again....

The Department of Community Safety and our policing agencies will NOT sit down and watch our children destroy their futures with drugs and involvement in gangs.

Speaker,

It should be remembered that when we took over, gangs ruled this province. Gang wars and gang shoot outs resulted in the killing of innocent children.

They were monitored and no action was sufficiently taken to stop them.

When we took over, the gangs were dealt with.

We told them: "You stop or be stopped".

Today the situation is different. The life of gangs and drug lords is being made unbearable. No amount of threat has deterred us.

Our law enforcement agencies and our courts have turned the screws on gangs and drug lords.

The POCA legislation (Prevention of Organised Crime Act) has brought relief in this province, driven by the ANC government.

Today our courts have declared it unlawful to belong to a gang like those Americans, Sexy Boys, Corner Boys and all gangs.

To those who continue to peddle drugs such as TIK, our law enforcement agencies and the integrated plan will turn the screws even tighter in all the identified 21 areas and beyond.

Five years ago no High flyers were arrested but today 1,658 high flyers were arrested over four years {257 in 2004/05, 384 in 2005/6, 250 in 2006/7 and 767 in 2007/08}.

At the same time 465 drug outlets were closed and 4,797 drug related arrests were affected.

Speaker

The partnership between SAPS and the Assets Forfeiture Unit investigated 83 cases, with 18 houses referred to the council for evictions.

At the same time, in the last five years, the following were seized by the police:

- ❖ Dagga with a street value of R21 million
- ❖ LSD tablets R77 150
- ❖ Crack to the value of R5.4 million
- ❖ Heroin to the value of R4.92 million
- ❖ Cocaine street value of R354 160
- ❖ TIK to the value of R33 million
- ❖ Unga Heroin to the value of R96 000
- ❖ Cat to the value of R256 200
- ❖ Mandrax with a street value of R20 million
- ❖ Methcathinone to the value of R107 100
- ❖ Ecstasy to the value of R743 370
- ❖ Cocaine to the value of R24million

The total weight of the seized drugs and substance equals the total weight of 22 one ton Bakkies.

In monetary value, the confiscated drugs is equal to the salary of 1 028 million individuals for a period of three years with a monthly salary of R3 000.

Speaker, we are moving in the right direction in dealing with those drug lords who are destroying learners at many Cape Flats schools as potential new customers.

These interventions have encouraged communities to take responsibility and ownership of the drug problems in their areas and to find ways to remedy the situation.

5. VULNERABLE GROUPS

(YOUTH, WOMEN AND AGED)

Speaker,

It saddens me to note that despite concerted efforts by government, the business sector, communities and other partners, women and children continue to be the most vulnerable groups in our province.

Women and children in our province are confronted on an almost daily basis with domestic violence, abuse and rape.

The Department of Community Safety continuously promotes the wellbeing of vulnerable groups and communities in the Western Cape.

As a caring government, today we have an integrated provincial wide anti-rape strategy that we launched in partnership with civil society, NGOs, faith based groups and CBOs so that all deal with the scourge of crime against vulnerable groups .

Let me give you some examples of where we've concentrated our efforts:

Since the last five years, we have embarked on several programmes such as the Hands Off Our Children (HOOC) campaign and went to schools to create awareness on crimes against children and in doing so we reached 3, 5 million people in the Western Cape.

Through this campaign, over 500 disclosures have been facilitated and subsequently led to successful arrests. A parental guidance programme was designed and implemented as a corrective measure to those who parents who had been found guilty.

350 social workers from the public and private sector were trained as agents of change for the HOOC campaign.

My department established Victim Support Rooms (VSRs) at 168 police stations with 2 000 community volunteers rendering services at these rooms.

Five years ago there were only TWO Family Children Sexual Crimes courts serving the Western Cape.

But today, 13 family, children and sexual units were established in communities where there were none but crimes against women and children were prevalent.

Added to the 2000, a further 650 volunteers were trained as counsellors as part of the Siyabulela campaign.?? Which 650 volunteers

CHRYSALLIS ACADEMY

Speaker,

It is a preventive rather than rehabilitation programme that aims to enhance the potential of young men and women by offering them the opportunity to develop themselves.

The Academy re-orientate and develop youth at risk to become crime resistant youth.

Over the past five years, the Chrysallis Academy trained over 5 000 youth that were at risk of crime, drug addiction and gangsterism and an estimated 60% of them are now in employment and in learnerships.

TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

Speaker,

Crashes on our roads that result in the loss of life and / or serious injuries are a cause for concern.

These fatal accidents cost the state billions of rands.

Informed by this challenge, we have to accelerate implementing the Motor Vehicle Accident strategy in the province together with all spheres of government and relevant departments.

Speaker,

I would also like to report to this House on work and achievements that have been undertaken by our partners in the criminal justice system.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICES

When we took over as the ANC led government, we found a police

service of no more than 11,000 men and women in blue who lacked strong leadership in the fight against crime.

We found a police a service that was low on morale.

The very communities that they were supposed to serve negatively received them.

Today, under the leadership led by Commissioner Petros, co operation and trust in the police has been restored.

Today, thousands of communities throughout our province are willing to report crime and share information that leads to the arrest, prosecution, and conviction of criminals.

Looking back, it has been a journey well worth the effort.

Speaker, we rolled out the people oriented policing problem solving strategy (POSS) in August 2003.

This strategy introduced a new model of policing in the Western Cape.

It is a model that paved the way for the release of resources to station level,

It is a model that saw the deployment of experienced foot soldiers in the coalface of crime. It is a model that has seen the Police strengthening its first line of defence.

It also quantifies the notion that contact crime be reduced by between 7 - 10% annually.

Today, this model has seen an increase in police personnel from 11 000 to around 20 000 in this province.

It also paved the way for the appointment of the first African Provincial Police Commissioner in the Western Cape.

THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME – FORMATION OF PARTNERSHIPS

Before we took over, police resources were concentrated in economically developed areas of the Western Cape.

When we took over, the SAPS Management had to deal with equitable distribution of policing resources to the areas mostly affected by violent crime on the Cape Flats.

Five years ago there were 4 police stations in the African townships of this province...

Today we have 15 new service points, including 14 fully fledged new police stations in previously disadvantaged communities.

Today we have 13 operational rooms with state of the art monitoring devices within the clustered stations which had an impact in the reduction of crime.

This type of arrangement was the first of its kind in the country.

When we rolled out the POSS strategy, places like Khayelitsha were regarded as the most dangerous in the province.

Today, 550 sector police structures are operating 24 hours a day with 864 cellphones allocated to the sectors.

Contact crimes have decreased from 3 593 incidents in 2005/6 to 2 927 in 2007/8.

The highest decrease recorded provincially was in 2005/6, which was 17.1%.

In 2006/7 a 4.3% decrease was recorded and when the crime statistics are released for 2007/8 later this year, it will show a further reduction.

Worthy to note is the gradual decline in vigilantism and revenge by members of the community.

Another challenge was to ensure that there is enough personnel for deployment, hence the staff complement of 20,028 in 2007.

In the last four years, the budget of the South African Police in the Province has increased to R640, 811,000 million and the police vehicle fleet increasing to 5 709.

GANGS AND DRUGS

As a demonstration that our strategy against drugs is effective, we have recorded a 100% success rate in the seizure and bust in drugs.

We have driven an aggressive programme to close down drug and TIK factories - an action that translated into thousands of arrests of people for possession and the consumption of drugs.

Speaker

Five years ago, little attention was paid to the Flying Squad emergency services but today we have a full complement deployed on all the city's major routes and identified hotspots areas.

Speaker,

WESTERN CAPE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

The Justice department has adopted a collaborative and synergistic approach to service delivery by working together with the entire criminal justice system partners and stakeholders to ensure, service excellence for the people of the Western Cape.

Four years ago, our courts experienced huge backlogs in several cases including petty offenders' crimes.

Today we have seen new court buildings in our disadvantaged areas of Phillipi, Blue Downs, Bishop Lavis and Vredendal.

We have also seen more mobile courts reaching out to the remote and rural areas to serve our communities.

We have also seen new community courts established in Fezeka(Guguletu), Mitchell's Plain and Cape Town to deal effectively with the crime in those communities.

THE DIRECTORATE FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS:

Since their inception, the Directorate for Special Operations has been recording successes in particular in establishing the jurisprudence in implementing the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA), focusing on organized crime.

Merely four years ago, this legislation (POCA) was gathering dust and was not implemented.

Today, the jurisprudence has been effected and the law is being referred to by other courts throughout the country.

Today, using the POCA legislation, the DSO has successfully seized 15 houses or property that were either used as illegal shebeens, drug outlets and organized crime.

A further 10 properties were forfeited to the state from alleged drug dealers and gang bosses. Five more houses are before our courts.

With regard to the illegal poaching and dealing in abalone poaching, large sums of cash, luxury vehicles, luxury boats and diving equipment were seized.

The message is clear: If you use your property or house to commit crime, you will lose it. You stop or you will be stopped.

For this past financial year, the DSO recorded the following successes:

The DSO also scored successes in organized crime:

The seizure of contraband with a street value of R364 million seized in an operation where British nationals were arrested in 2007.

The loot was later destroyed in a ceremony attended by various stakeholders in the law enforcement arena.

A further R14 million of contraband was also seized.

The DSO managed to secure racketeering convictions of 24 persons accused in the Marc syndicate matter.

Speaker, it has been a journey well travelled to date.

Our journey towards building this broad front against crime, remains relevant and urgent towards achieving peace and stability.

LOOKING AHEAD - FORWARD

Speaker

In moving forward, the Department together with our partners will continue to tighten the grip against crime and ensuring that we play an effective oversight role over the law enforcement agencies.

Our journey of the past five years shows that we have been on the right track.

In looking ahead to the 2010 World Cup, we are committed to recruiting 16,000 volunteers by the time the football extravaganza kicks off in 2010.

The Department of Community Safety is committed to deliver an effective and efficient service to create a "Safer Home for All" to the communities we have been called to serve.

Furthermore, the Department through its programmes contribute to a safer and secure environment where economic growth is possible through increased levels of social cohesion and social capital.

It is therefore against this background that, government has identified the 21 priority areas where we will roll out our contribution to the building of social capital in the Western Cape.

Even though departmental programmes will be broadly implemented in the Province, areas where crime pattern analysis indicates high levels of serious violent crimes as well as crime against women and children will receive preference.

The Department will continue to partner the South African Police Services in their efforts to reduce crime through community mobilisation.

Provincial Secretariat for Safety and Security is also responsible for creating an environment that builds social networks, community participation and social cohesion in communities.

The Department has been tasked through the iKapa Elihlumayo strategy, to build social capital with the emphasis on youth, children and women.

The Department aims to do so through the following strategic objectives:

Building active, crime resistant, responsible families and citizens and develop social cohesion, with the focus on youth, children and women;

OUR COMMITMENTS

1. Youth Orientated Crime Prevention Projects

We will train and deploy 820 volunteers to address safety at 165 high-risk schools

2. Chrysalis Academy

The Chrysalis Academy will train a further 720 youth who will attend training on various skills before being deployed back to

their communities to help set up and maintain some of the Chrysalis Youth clubs.

3. Provincial Social Transformation Gang Prevention and Intervention Strategy (PSTGS)

As part of our contribution to the Social transformation chapter the Department will roll out 100 street-smart educational programmes on Drug abuse, gangsterism and HIV/AIDS.

60 youth at risk will be identified and selected to attend a Life Skills training camp;

3. Enhanced safety of vulnerable groups

With reference to vulnerable groups, we will create awareness about the anti-rape strategy through the deployment of volunteers to create victim support to 200 households,

We will also establish 5 new Victim Support Rooms, while we will continue to maintain the other 168 victim support rooms.

4. Enhanced community involvement in safety provision and crime prevention

We continue to be involved in communities in social crime prevention efforts.

200 capacity building workshops will be facilitated

We will establish 30 new Child Rapid Response Units.

100 Community Anti-crime Structures will be aligned with local CPFs;

We will initiate 12 new partnership Community Safety Forums (CSFs), and Roll out Community Charters to the STP areas.

The Department will continue with programmes and sessions to re-align all CPF's, anti-crime watch structures and Bambanani Volunteers so that they are governed by one uniform constitution and policy.

6. Commuter Safety

The Department will continue to maintain the Commuter Safety project at the 45 Metro rail train station platforms.

We are confident that we will be able to ensure the safety of our visitors and locals based on the deep commitment of our police, communities and other law enforcement agencies to work in tandem in ensuring that all security arrangements are in place.

Our experience has shown that our challenges in this regard will not be easy, but as government with our partners, we believe we will succeed in together building safer communities.

COMMITMENTS FOR THE 2008/09

For the 2008/09 Financial year the department commits to build on the above mentioned interventions by rolling-out community social crime prevention projects with a focus on violence at schools, combating gang activities and depopularising substance abuse and drugs, especially Tik.

The department will allocate a budget of R30 million for the implementation of the following intervention for vulnerable groups:

- 100 Educational programmes that focus on gender and youth safety

- 820 volunteers deployed at schools, 450 deployed on platforms and 200 farm watches trained.
- 1200 volunteers deployed on project Tourist & Visitors
- 1200 volunteers deployed on project CRRU
- 550 students to be enrolled graduated and employed per quarter at the Chrysalis Academy
- 550 students to complete specific skills programmes such as learnerships
- 220 road safety awareness programmes amongst Scholars (Youth and Gender) aimed at reducing the number of pedestrian related accidents to be presented.

6. POVERTY ALLEVIATION

The Department, in the fight against poverty will contribute by making sure that we train and deploy our Bambanani volunteers as SAPS reservists.

We will make sure that we train more Bambanani volunteers in security competencies where they obtain level D and E certificates to increase their employability.

Speaker

In conclusion, the gains and the achievements that we have recorded at this Department under the ANC government cannot be reversed.

When we assumed this office, we assumed it from a political party whose business was to bicker while gangs and criminals were holding our communities hostage.

Today, five years later we see a continuous decline in crime because of the integrated efforts and sustained partnerships between our communities and our law enforcement agencies.

These measures are worth the cent we spend because it is our people, our communities who benefit.

The South African Police Services will continue to execute their operations and wherever they are receiving valuable intelligence information about criminal activity, they are the best people to deal with it.

At the same time, the Western Cape criminal justice cluster is proud to be one of the few in the country where all of these units continue to work together in an integrated manner.

Speaker, our journey has not yet reached its destination.

Our destination is the realization of a province that is a safer Home for All, where our children will be able to go back and play in the park.

It is a destination that will require that we continue in this vein of building strong partnerships so that we can close the space to criminals.

Today we are amongst the safest provinces despite the criticism.

Speaker,

Let take this opportunity and pay tribute to our glorious movement, the ANC for giving us an opportunity to serve our people in the pursuance of a better life.

Let me thank Dr Gilbert Lawrence, the HOD of our Department and his staff.

Let me also thank the Chairperson and Members of the Standing Committee for their dedication and selflessness in keeping us as a department on our toes.

Let me also thank the Provincial Commissioner Petros for his commitment to steering and leading the Western Cape police.

I also want to thank Advocate Rodney De Kock, head of the Provincial Directorate of Public Prosecutions, the Head of the DSO Mr. Adrian Mopp, and the Head of the Provincial Justice Department Mr. Hishaam Mohamed, head of the Asset Forfeiture Unit, Ms Hermione Cronje.

I also want to thank my wife and my family for the kind of support they continue to give while executing my tasks as an elected public servant.

I also want to thank the police, the traffic officials, the Bambanani volunteers as well as the Victim support volunteers, and our members of our communities who have come to join us in the tabling of the Budget speech.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.