

Taking Decisive Action to Address Crime and Building a Coordinated Approach to Crime Prevention and Control

Closing Remarks to the Ministerial Briefing on the National Crime Prevention Strategy

Tuesday, 22 February 2022

Honourable Programme Director;

The Chairperson of the NCOP, honourable Amos Masondo;

Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, honourable Lucas;

Deputy Minister of Police, honourable Cassel Mathale;

Members of the Executive Councils responsible for community safety;

Distinguished Special Delegates;

Honourable Members;

Representatives of the South African Local Government Association;

Ladies and Gentle men;

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the honourable Deputy Minister for availing himself to share with the National Council of Provinces the National Crime Prevention Strategy;

Clearly, the presentation by the Deputy Minister has not only touched on the National Crime Prevention Strategy, but also on how government is responding to the new emerging crime patterns in the country;

As honourable Members may be aware, different crime patterns are not static but constantly change to outmanoeuvre the state detection and response; When the state and society close one space, criminals retreat, regroup and occupy new grounds both in terms of operation and space;

When you close their market in one area, they move to another area as a centre of operation and adopt new mode of operation;

It is against this background that we see the proliferation of illicit drug markets in small rural areas;

Programme Director, we welcome the broad outline of the revised National Crime Prevention Strategy with different pillars that are sector specific;

As honourable members have pointed out, each province has different dynamics that require more focus on specific forms of crime, both in terms of resources and capabilities;

Section 207 (4), (5) and (6) of the Constitution empower the Provincial Legislature to hold the Provincial Commissioner of Police accountable;

This presupposes two critical role of the provinces: first; meaningful and active role of the provinces in the review of the National Crime Prevention Strategy, and two; to ensure that the provinces adapt the implementation of the strategy to their specific dynamics;

For instance, the question would be what resources and capabilities are deployed to the provinces that are bordering our neighbouring countries to fight and combat cross border crimes? Surely, the Deputy Minister have mentioned this critical point as contained one of the pillars of the National Crime Prevention Crime Strategy;

Programme Director, as the honourable Chairperson of the NCOP has pointed out, this briefing takes place hardly few days after the Minister has released crime statistics;

This statistics are a critical tool for effective oversight of the NCOP, and in doing so, the NCOP Select Committee should grapple with the fundamental questions: how is the SAPS Strategic Plan and the Deployment of resources and capabilities responsive to the strategic goal of reducing these statistics?

Programme Director, the Chairperson of the NCOP has also raised a critical question of the mobilisation of the civil society and communities in our national efforts to combat crime;

Critical to this should be the strengthening of the Community Police Forums and other Sector Policing Forums like Rural Safety Forums, School Safety Forums and others;

Honourable Deputy Minister would concede that without active participation of communities in the fight against crime, the Police alone cannot win this battle against crime;

Honourable Deputy Minister, there is growing trend of lawlessness characterised by the violence and destruction of property associated with democratic protests that require urgent and coordinated response;

As we conclude this briefing, it is indeed fitting that we lower our banners in salute of the heroism, bravery and professionalism of our men and women in blue, who took the alleged armed criminal suspects toe to toe in Rosettenville in Gauteng Province yesterday;

As we do this, we must also wish those who sustained injuries speedy recovery and reclaim their battle trenches in the fight against crime;

Honourable Deputy Minister, there is no doubt that, this incident of Rosettenville, other foiled cash in transit heists and armed robberies, manifest qualitative improvements in the coordination and capabilities of our intelligence services;

I thank you