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STATEMENT BY THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

Khayelitsha Commission Report Recommendations Endorsed

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's Standing Committee on Community Safety today unanimously agreed to endorse the recommendations of the O'Regan Commission of Inquiry into Policing in Khayelitsha as they relate to the role of the legislature.

Some of the recommendations made by the commission require reports and reporting to the Provincial Parliament by both the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Western Cape Minister for Community Safety. For example, the commission recommends the establishment of an oversight and monitoring team to ensure that those inefficiencies identified at the three Khayelitsha police stations are improved. This multi-agency team has been tasked to meet monthly and prepare quarterly reports, which must be submitted to the Minister for Community Safety, the National Police Commissioner and the Provincial Secretariat. The commission asks that the Minister table progress reports in the Provincial Parliament at least twice a year.

Furthermore, the commission also recommends that human resource allocation within SAPS should be disclosed in SAPS annual reports to Parliament as well as to provincial legislatures. This is to overcome the worrisome police-to-population ratios that were discovered in the course of the commission's investigations. The commission notes that 'any significant departure from an allocation based on population figures and reported crimes rates should be explained'. The standing committee will address this matter in the upcoming budget cycle to ensure that this is indeed included in the SAPS annual report to the Provincial Parliament.

The chairperson of the standing committee, Mireille Wenger, said, 'The commission has conducted a thorough examination of the complaints raised and the focus now must be on implementing the recommendations in order to ensure that the safety of the residents of Khayelitsha can be improved.' She noted further that 'the committee takes our monitoring and oversight responsibility seriously and we will ensure that reports are tabled as required and interrogated rigorously'.

-ENDS-

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The chairperson of the Standing Committee on Community Safety, Ms Mireille Wenger, can also be reached for comment at mwenger@wcpp.gov.za or 073 814 9393.