



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement  
Western Cape Provincial Parliament  
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

Ref number: WCPP 11/4/6

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

*Friday, 27 January 2023 (at 9:00) Chamber*

**PRESENT:**

**Members**

**Democratic Alliance**

Maseko, LM (Chairperson)  
Sileku, I  
Fry, C

**African National Congress**

Marran, P

**Good Party**

August, S

**Al Jama-ah**

Brinkhuis, K

**Apology**

Lili, A (ANC)  
America, D (DA)

**Persons who were in attendance**

**Ministry Infrastructure**

Mr Simmers, Minister: Infrastructure  
Ms V Njalo, Head of Ministry  
Mr N Mbingeleli, Media Office

**Department of Human Settlements**

Ms L Schuurman, Head of Department

Mr B Nkosi, Chief Director: Implementation  
Ms S January-Manzini, Acting chief Financial Officer  
Ms K August, Chief Director: Planning  
Mr R Stewart, Director: Land and Asset Management  
Ms I Nel, Director: Professional and Project Management Services  
Ms S Adams, Deputy Director: Strategic Support  
Mr S Gqoboka, Chief Engineer  
Mr K Naidin, Programme Manager  
Mr R Smith, Director: Grant and Municipal Performance Management  
Mr D Alli, Acting Director: Planning

### **City of Cape Town**

Mr D Hill-Lewis, Mayor: City of Cape Town  
Cllr M Booie, Mayoral Committee Member for Human Settlements  
Ms N Gqiba, Executive Director: Human Settlements  
Mr V Botto, Executive Director: Safety and Security  
Mr C Pophaim, Ward Councillor  
Mr R Rughabar, Director: Human Settlement Development  
Mr H Steyn, Manager: Housing Development  
Mr P Roberts, Director: Safety and Security

### **Ministry Community Safety**

Mr Reagan Allen, Minister: Police Oversight and Community Safety  
Mr M Martin, Media Liaison Officer

### **Department of Community Safety**

Adv. Y Pillay, Head of Department  
Mr D Coetzee, Chief Director: Secretariat Safety and Security  
Mr D Leak, Deputy Director: Western Cape Liquor Authority Oversight  
Mr B Simelane, Director: Monitoring and Evaluation

### **South African Police Services**

Mr P Voskuil, Major General  
Mr M Mkabile, Brigadier  
Mr L Hanana, Brigadier

### **South African Local Government Association**

Mr A Mpela  
Mr K Mullagie

### **Media**

Mr V Cruywagen, Daily Maverick  
Ms A Ndongeni, WCPP Media Liaison Officer

### **Members of the public**

Please see the attached attendance register.

## **1. Opening and welcome**

The Chairperson welcomed all in attendance and allowed for brief introductions.

The meeting commenced with a brief overview of the effects of extortion in the construction industry and how the three spheres of government in conjunction with communities could work together to combat this rising behavior of criminal extortion.

The Chairperson also allowed the Mayor, the Minister of Infrastructure and the Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety to provide a brief overview of extortion in the construction industry.

## **2. Briefing by the City of Cape Town**

The City of Cape Town briefed the Committee on extortion cases reported in the past five years. They disclosed that extortionists were hindering construction projects within the Western Cape. Due to the rise in extortion, a large portion of the budget allocated for housing was redirected to safety and security. Community members and business owners were hesitant to report incidents of extortion for fear of being harmed. The South African Police Services' (SAPS) investigations were being hindered as people were afraid to testify. Securing construction sites was reported to be very costly. Alternative strategies were being reviewed to deal with extortion in the form of land invasion, the illegal occupation of houses and kidnapping incidents. Special task teams and forums were established to investigate extortion and meet regularly as part of the investigation process.

The Committee deliberated on the presentation by the City of Cape Town.

## **3. Briefing by the Western Cape Department of Community Safety**

The Western Cape Department of Community Safety briefed the Committee on the strategies that were implemented to deal with gangs who were construed to be extortionists. A Western Cape Safety Plan was devised to resolve the rising number of extortion cases. The Safety Plan consist of two pillars namely, law enforcement and crime prevention. The Western Cape Department of Community Safety and SAPS were reported to be working together on law enforcement through an Anti-gang Priority Committee. A provincial response to the Anti-gang strategy was developed with key safety stakeholders for the Western Cape. The Department funded the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) Programme, which enabled the deployment of approximately 1 000 LEAP officers to 13 priority areas within the Western Cape. The Department of Community Safety chaired the Western Cape Government Safety and Security Managers Forum, where transversal safety and security issues were discussed. Safety and security advisory support was provided to the Department of Human Settlements as part of safety and security risk assessments. The assessment provided security advice, and information on the investigation of breaches, and aided in the development of guiding documents on safety and security with specific reference to the security policy framework. Leaflets and threat risk assessment guideline documents were developed and distributed to tourists and businesses in the province. The documents aimed to create awareness of possible threats, and risks and report them where possible. The Department advised that regular meetings will be held with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the SAPS, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) and the Department of Correctional Services, to foster good working relationships for efficient and effective crime prevention service delivery in the Western Cape.

The Committee deliberated on the presentation by the Department.

#### **4. Briefing by the Department of Human Settlements**

The Department of Human Settlements briefed the Committee on reported extortion cases that took place in the past five years. They elaborated on the negative effects of extortion in communities, and its effects on beneficiaries and contractors who reportedly were not able to deliver on their mandates due to extortion. The implementation of additional security measures was reported to amount to R1,5 million per month. The Department of Human Settlements reported that a mutual agreement was reached with a contractor to terminate their contract due to safety concerns. A termination agreement was drafted and vetted by the Department's legal services mainly because of the standing time claims from the contractor which amounted to R700 000 per month. The Department indicated that SAPS agreed to conduct random patrols of housing project sites and increase visible policing.

The Committee deliberated on the presentation by the Department.

#### **5. Briefing by the South African Police Services**

The South African Police Services (SAPS) briefed the Committee on reported extortion cases, the number of cases which lead to prosecution, and the number of people who have been arrested for extortion in the housing sector in the Western Cape. The Committee was informed of the confirmed and unconfirmed cases of extortion in the housing/construction sector, murders, robberies, public violence, house break-ins and theft, intimidation, damage to property, assault, and kidnappings. Two task force teams were deployed in the Western Cape. The task force teams aimed to work in conjunction with crime and intelligence, and other ad-hoc role-players to develop strategies to mitigate extortion and other related crime.

#### **6. Oral submission**

- 6.1 Ms Lavina Fortune, a member of the public, informed the Committee that she was a security officer at the Schools of Skills in Manenberg. Gangsters had entered the premises and were accosting the people. The police were slow in their response time to attend to the incident. She was on site when the gangsters entered and had phoned the police repeatedly, but they only arrived after 50 minutes had lapsed. She said her life was in danger and that the police had failed to aid her.

Further concerns were raised regarding police loading crates into their van illegally. The incident was reported to the station commander, but nothing came of the matter. She stated that police officers were not doing what they were mandated to do, and should the matter persist, she would approach the media to report on the matter.

In addition to the abovementioned, she stated that it was concerning that government houses were owned or rented to illegal immigrants. Relatives of people who work for the City Council or the Reconstruction and Development Project (RDP) Council were provided with housing opportunities dishonestly. She requested that these incidents be investigated.

- 6.2 Ms Elizabeth Smit, a member of the public, stated it was concerning that persons who were not registered on the Housing Demand Database received a housing opportunity before people who have been on the waiting list for a very long time. The frequent changes to the housing policies were brought into question. She indicated that she resides with her parents and had applied for tenancy. Her request was denied as her brother was provided with the requested tenancy. A further request for tenancy was submitted and once again it was allocated to her older sister who was not registered on the Housing Demand Database as a beneficiary.

6.3 Ms Geraldine Pieterse, a member of the public, stated that housing opportunities were not allocated to the beneficiaries on the Housing Demand Database but were being occupied by illegal tenants. Gangsterism was rife due to their social circumstances and living conditions. Payments to the value of R5 000 were requested to receive a housing opportunity. She requested that the Department and the City of Cape Town investigate the matter.

## **7. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Committee Documents**

The Committee resolved to consider and adopt the Draft Committee Documents at the next meeting.

## **8. Resolutions/Actions**

- 8.1 The Committee REQUESTED that the City of Cape Town provide it with a progress report on its investigation into the complaints raised by members of the public on matters of extortion.
- 8.2 The Committee REQUESTED that the Department of Human Settlements, the Department of Community Safety, and the City of Cape Town provide it with one report that contains the following information:
  - 8.2.1 The time when the policy on the 30% to designated groups comes into effect;
  - 8.2.2 The way in which the change in the bylaw affects the community with specific reference to the negative and positive impact the change in the policy will have;
  - 8.2.3 The safety and security strategies in terms of extortion that will be implemented;
  - 8.2.4 A list of the extortion hot spots and the strategies that were implemented to deal with identified problematic areas;
  - 8.2.5 The mechanisms implemented to create awareness in communities regarding the ramifications of extortion, the way in which to report extortion, and how whistle-blowers will be safeguarded;
  - 8.2.6 The budget allocated to combat extortion, land invasion, illegal housing occupation and the deployment of LEAP officers;
  - 8.2.7 The mechanisms that were implemented to ensure that contractors are qualified to fulfil their contractual obligations; and
  - 8.2.8 The mechanisms that were implemented to provide guidance to subcontractors.

The Committee adjourned at 12:00.

*M. Maseko*

**MS LM MASEKO (MPP)**  
**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

**DATE:** 10 March 2023