



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

WCPP 11/4/7

**Report of the Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport on the Annual Reports of the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, the Western Cape Police Ombudsman, and the Western Cape Liquor Authority for the 2022/23 financial year**

The 2023/24 strategic objectives of the WCPP linked to the Speaker's priorities, which have an impact on committees, are as follows:

Priority 1: Building a credible WCPP; and  
Priority 3: Strengthening the core business.

The Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport, conducts oversight over multiple portfolios. The cyclical annual report process affords the Committee the opportunity to engage the respective departments and entities on its annual reports.

The Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport having deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, the Western Cape Police Ombudsman, and the Western Cape Liquor Authority, for the year ended 31 March 2023, reports as follows:

## **Introduction**

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's (WCPP) Annual Report programme for the 2022/23 financial year was advertised in newspapers, as well as the WCPP's social media platforms, inviting stakeholders and members of the public to attend and participate in the discussions. The Committee deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety (the Department) and the Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA) on 11 October 2023 as part of its oversight function. The Minister and the Head of Department were given an opportunity to make opening remarks. Likewise, the Chief Executive Officer and the WCLA's Governing Board Chairperson were afforded the same opportunity.

The Department and its Entities were examined on:

Part A: General Information,

Part B: Departmental Performance Information; and

Part D: Human Resources Management of the Department's Annual Report

Members of the public were also given an opportunity to pose questions and to make input during the discussions. The public input is recorded in this report.

### **1. Key points from the discussion on the Western Cape Police Ombudsman**

- 1.1. The Western Cape Police Ombudsman, Maj Gen OD Reddy, stated that the WCPO will mark its 10-year anniversary in 2024.
- 1.2. The WCPO has processed 4 333 complaints since its inception, with 520 of those complaints received during the 2022/23 financial year.
- 1.3. Investigations into these 520 complaints were largely focused on the South African Police Service's (SAPS) alleged failure to not close known drug houses, and alleged failure to address kidnapping and extortion cases.
- 1.4. The WCPO does not have coercive and/or post-monitoring powers to follow up on the consideration and implementation of its recommendations, and/or initiate investigations without having to first receive a complaint or a request to investigate from an external source.
- 1.5. The WCPO does not have the mandate to address complaints about municipal policing officials, such as the metro police, traffic coordination officers, law enforcement officers, or the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) officers.
- 1.6. There were 91 complaints received related to the Mitchells Plain policing cluster. This was the highest number of reported complaints for a single policing cluster in the Western Cape. Mitchells Plain SAPS also recorded the joint highest 21 complaints received specific to police stations. Grassy Park SAPS also recorded 21 station-specific complaints.

- 1.7. The WCPO spent 90.8% of its budget with an underspend on the compensation of employees due to staff attrition and delays in filling vacant posts.

## **2. Request for information from the WCPO**

- 2.1. The Committee requested a breakdown of the 520 complaints received, more specifically of the cases pertaining to alleged failure by the SAPS to close known drug houses, and the SAPS' failure to address kidnapping and extortion cases, in the Western Cape.

## **3. Key points from the discussion on the Western Cape Liquor Authority**

- 3.1. Mr R Kingwill, the Chairperson of the Governing Board of the Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA), commended the quality of the current board membership, as nominated for appointment by the Committee.
- 3.2. Mr S George, Chief Executive Officer, stated that the power afforded by Section 64 of the Western Cape Liquor Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2008) to not allow automatic liquor licence renewals, improved the compliance aspect of the renewal process.
- 3.3. The additional inspectorate capacity to focus on the Section 64 compliance, has had a marked influence on the issuance of liquor licenses.
- 3.4. This resulted in identifying 116 valid liquor licenses as not being eligible for automatic renewal, in terms of Section 64. There were subsequently 109 applications for renewal; seven licence holders opted not to apply for licensing renewals.
- 3.5. The WCLA stated that any amendments to the Western Cape Liquor Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2008) should make provision to capacitate Western Cape Liquor Authority as the sole regulator of liquor in the Western Cape, as well as develop a public health-based alcohol harms reduction (AHR).
- 3.6. The WCLA emphasised the importance of educating liquor licence holders to trade within the parameters of the regulations and the benefits of working within these allowances.

## **4. Request for information from the WCLA**

- 4.1. The Committee requested a comparative breakdown of inspections conducted in township and rural areas to those conducted at established businesses, for the 2022/23 financial year.

## **5. Key points from the discussion on the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety**

- 5.1. The more long-term deployment of Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) officers to the 13 priority areas, has influenced the lowest nationwide increase in the murder rate. Although the murder rate is still significant, the Department reported that the data-led deployment of LEAP officers has stabilised volatile crime-ridden areas.
- 5.2. At the time of reporting, the SAPS' Anti-Gang Unit (AGU) only had 171 actual posts out of 247 granted posts. The Department reported that the AGU has since its inception, not been fully capacitated with respect to the staffing complement. That said, the members of the AGU must meet set training and requirements.
- 5.3. LEAP officers must complete a comprehensive and multifaceted 77-day training programme before they are ready for deployment.
- 5.4. The Department only has oversight over its transfer payments to municipal policing structures, such as the LEAP.
- 5.5. The Community Police Forums (CPFs) budget was allocated to the value of R900 000.
- 5.6. There were 36 SAPS firearms lost or stolen and two from municipal police.

- 5.7. The Department assisted with Gender Based Violence first responder training for Neighbourhood Watches.
- 5.8. The Department has Court Watching Reports to monitor the outcomes of the recommendations in these reports.
- 5.9. The Department recorded 18 resignations for the financial year under review.

## **6. Public input on the Annual Reports of the WCLA and the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety**

Mr L Phitho, a member of the public from Kraaifontein, was afforded the opportunity to make an oral submission. He spoke about the criminality in Kraaifontein and its various suburbs, such as Bloekoembos and Wallacedene, and the lack of adequate policing response time to reported crime. He added that there is a lack of CCTV systems in these areas. The Minister agreed to meet Mr Phitho on a separate occasion to further assist on the concerns raised.

## **7. Requests for information**

The Committee requested the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety to: -

- 7.1. With reference to the Department's Annual Report, page 58 paragraph 5, provide the number of people that attended the 89 Neighbourhood Watch training and capacitation sessions.
- 7.2. With reference to the Department's Annual Report, page 59, paragraph 2, provide the number of Neighbourhood Watch structures that received first responder training.
- 7.3. With reference to the key findings and recommendations of the Policy and Research reports mentioned on page 38, paragraph 1, provide a summary of these reports.
- 7.4. With reference to page 38, paragraph 2, submit the copies of the activity data of the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) programme.
- 7.5. Submit a list of any interventions that are being made in the five areas where the murder rate increased. The areas are Delft, Nyanga, Philippi East, Mitchells Plain and Philippi.
- 7.6. With reference to page 43, paragraph 4, submit the monitoring report/s on the LEAP's financial performance.
- 7.7. Provide a breakdown of the curriculum of the 77-day training programme given to Law Enforcement Advancement Plan officers.

## **8. Resolutions**

The Committee resolved to: -

- 8.1. Schedule a briefing by the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety on the Firearm Harm Reduction Strategy and the Anti-Gang Implementation Plan.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1. The Committee recommended that the South African Police Service presents on how it responds to the findings and reports submitted to them by the Western Cape Police Ombudsman.



**MR G BOSMAN. MPP**

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON POLICE OVERSIGHT, COMMUNITY SAFETY, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT**