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Bheki Cele
Minister of Police
231 Pretorius Street
Pretoria

Memorandum: DA-led Cape Town rejects Single Police Service and District Development Model

The Democratic Alliance (DA) hereby submits the following memorandum of demands to the Minister of Police as well as to the Cabinet of the Republic of South Africa.

Background

The South African Police Service (SAPS) has over the past three years dramatically reduced the amount of policing resources deployed to protect the lives and livelihoods of the people of Cape Town. In fact, between 2018 and 2021, the number of SAPS personnel in the city decreased by 511, with SAPS cutting the resources deployed to all of the most crime-affected police stations in Cape Town. In fact, Cape Town likely has the lowest police-to-citizen ratio of any big city in the country.

Since the DA values the lives of Capetonians over petty politics, DA-led Cape Town has stepped in to fill this deadly void left by SAPS. Over the past five years, spending on safety and security has increased by 55% in the city, while the R1.7 billion Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) is on track to deploy 1 100 new law enforcers by October 2021. As a result, the arrest rate by law enforcement has already tripled in DA-led Cape Town.

Demands

Given the context of declining SAPS resources, it is simply unconscionable that the national government is intent on hijacking these local law enforcement powers, which is often the only thing standing between



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Capetonians and criminal chaos. Instead of supporting DA-led Cape Town's efforts to expand its local policing powers, the national government seeks to use the Single Police Service and the District Development Model to take away policing powers from the City.

In order to protect the people of Cape Town from the national collapse of SAPS, we demand that:

1. The national government, within the next 7 days, publicly announces the scrapping of its plans for a Single Police Service, as expressed through the draft SAPS Amendment Bill. This scheme would absorb the Cape Town Metro Police Department (MPD) into SAPS, limit the powers of peace officers, move the command-and-control structure away from the city and into SAPS, and take away Cape Town's power to set its own local policing priorities. This scheme will have disastrous consequences for Capetonians, who will lose the ability to have a second option to call on to solve their problems and will make them subject to decisions made 1 500 kilometers away in Pretoria.
2. The national government must also, within 7 days, announce the scrapping the District Development Model. This scheme would complete the hijacking of local policing powers by giving national government officials further powers to unconstitutionally interfere with the functions of municipalities. The Model is premised on the idea of "one plan" and "one budget," whereby cities like Cape Town would lose our power to set our own policing priorities and provide funding to our own law enforcement heroes. The plan has already seen the "deployment" of national government ministers to interfere in the affairs of democratically-elected local governments. You yourself have personally been "deployed" to interfere in Cape Town's affairs. The DA unreservedly rejects this unconstitutional interference in the City's constitutionally-defined powers.



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The Minister of Police has 7 days to respond to this memorandum on behalf of the Cabinet, failing which we will be left with no choice but to escalate our campaign to reject the planned hijacking of Cape Town's policing powers through the Single Police Service and the District Development Model.

Geordin Hill-Lewis

29 September 2021