Democratic Alliance Speech by

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DA Gauteng Shadow MEC for Community Safety

Gauteng's safety: time for action, not lies and empty promises

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Madam Speaker,

This is the third year I have participated in the debate on the annual report for the Department of Community Safety during the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children in this house. Yet, the story remains grim. Women and children are brutally attacked, crime is rampant, and our communities live in fear.

Not much has changed over the past year. Three months ago, an 80-year-old Gogo was raped in Mabopane, and the perpetrator has still not been prosecuted. Two weeks ago, a pregnant woman was brutally raped with a glass bottle shoved up her vagina, and her unborn baby was brutally killed in the process. Last week, another woman with a baby was brutally shot in Riverlea; the mother passed away, while the baby suffered severe injuries. 2096 rape cases were registered in Gauteng in the last three months, and yet the MEC is quiet on these matters.

The annual performance plan, with its promises of panic buttons and safety wardens, offered false hope. The grand plans have failed to translate into tangible results; this is evident through the rising crime statistics and the deteriorating state of police stations.

Oversight reports reveal significant challenges: poor police visibility, low detection rates, and inadequate by-law enforcement. Despite receiving 50 new vehicles to improve visibility, 22 have already been crashed by safety wardens. This begs the question: are we prioritising resources over competence?

The MEC has the power to change the culture, address crime, and restore trust between the community and the police. She needs to have the political will, passion, and drive to do this. It is clear that both the MEC and Premier Lie-Sufi have lost the fight against crime and are merely waiting out their term to pass the problem on to the DA to bring about real change.

The MEC must actively fight for more resources and devolve policing power to provincial and local levels. We need a "blue force" to deter criminals and restore community trust. This requires not only performance targets but also political will and a passion for safety.

The current government has failed to address crime and has merely promised change without action. The DA, when elected in 2024, will focus on tangible solutions, not empty promises. We will change the culture within the department and work with the minister to implement effective solutions.

Madam Speaker,

We cannot play with people's lives. One life lost is one too many. This must be the last annual report devoid of real progress.

The DA has done its oversight inspections of the police stations and understands exactly the challenges and what needs to be addressed. We are willing and ready to engage the Minister of Police to find a way to stop crime and bring back safety in Gauteng.