



# EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE  
**Office of the Democratic Alliance**  
Hon. Yusuf Cassim, MPL



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22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024

Hon. Ian Cameron  
Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Police  
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

Dear Hon. Cameron

**RE: Request for the ongoing gang-violence in the Northern Areas of Nelson Mandela Bay to be added to the Agenda for the Portfolio Committee of Police**

I hereby write this Letter in my capacity as the Constituency Leader of the Port Elizabeth Northern Areas of Nelson Mandela Bay. I write this to express my concern about the scourge of gangsterism, violence and killings that has racked Nelson Mandela Bay and particularly the Northern Areas. The most recent incident, in which four men were brutally shot and killed at a house in Bethelsdorp on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024, highlights this grave issue.

We have been advocating for a National Intervention to address the persistent gang-violence, which is a very serious issue, for a very long time.

Last week the Minister of Police, Minister Mchunu had visited Nelson Mandela Bay and hosted a Community Imbizo and made certain commitments. Whilst we appreciate that the Minister has finally visited the City and demonstrated commitment to addressing the issue, we believe that Parliament, as the representative body of the people, has the responsibility to ensure that it engages with our community. It is essential for Parliament to ensure that the Executive's interventions are appropriate and that the Minister's commitments are correct and properly implemented. In the past, when violence has escalated, there have been politicians that have made grand commitments, that ultimately failed to resolve the underlying issues.

I hereby request, that as the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police, that you kindly include this matter on the Committee's Agenda. Further to this, I would like to request that you visit the Northern Areas of Nelson Mandela Bay to conduct an Oversight and engage with the community. This will help to ensure that the interventions that we have called for are expressed and implemented in a meaningful way, in order to combat the situation where our communities are under siege.

I trust that you will consider this with the matter of urgency that it deserves and look forward to your favourable response in this regard.

Thank you.

Kind Regards

**Hon. Yusuf Cassim, MPL**  
**DA Eastern Cape: Provincial Chairperson**  
**Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature: Chief Whip of the Official Opposition**  
**Constituency Leader: PE Northern Areas**