



NMB FREEDOM DAY CRIME MEMORANDUM

NMB NEEDS EFFECTIVE LOCAL CRIME FIGHTING SOLUTIONS

TO:	BRIGADIER TREVOR SMITH: ACTING NMB METRO POLICE CHIEF
FROM:	DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE EASTERN CAPE
SUBJECT:	NMB MUST HAVE PRIORITY CRIME FIGHTING INTERVENTIONS NOW
DATE:	28 APRIL 2025

Today we demand that our constitutional right to safety and security be protected and enforced in keeping with the fundamental right to freedom, which is enshrined in the constitution. Communities that do not experience safety in their homes and streets can never feel free.

We have gathered here today to express our outrage at the high rate of violent crime in Nelson Mandela Bay, but also to provide solutions to this crisis. Our citizens are being held hostage by gangsters and criminals who seem to operate with impunity, turning Nelson Mandela Bay into a war zone. We cannot allow this to continue.

Effective local crime fighting solutions in Nelson Mandela Bay is non-negotiable. We must have priority crime fighting interventions now.

To assist with rescuing Nelson Mandela Bay from violent crime, the municipality must make the following interventions:

- Fill all the critical NMBM Safety and Security vacancies with competent officials. This directorate cannot function without the critical staff to implement what needs to be done.
- Empower Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) groups. The DA submitted a successful motion to the NMBM Safety and Security Portfolio Committee in October 2023 to have a Neighbourhood Watch policy implemented and make budget available to assist our NHW groups by 1 July 2024, but this has not been done yet.
- Repair and deploy the mobile surveillance vehicle. This is a crucial tool in monitoring and responding to criminal activities in real-time.



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- Implement ShotSpotter technology. This will enhance our ability to detect and respond to gun-related crimes in real-time where installed.
- Fix our CCTV cameras across the city. This will significantly improve our surveillance capabilities and relay important information to responding units.
- Implement state-of-the-art drone technology to assist in crime fighting.
- Establish a 24-hour Joint Operations Centre. It cannot be business as usual while our city is the murder capital of the country.
- Bring together representatives from Armed Response companies, Metro Police, SAPS, NMBM Security Services and other key safety and security role players to coordinate efforts that will ensure a rapid and combined response to threats as they happen.

The DA-governed Kouga Local Municipality is deploying state-of-the-art drone technology to fight crimes such as gangsterism, abalone poaching, cable theft and vandalism of municipal infrastructure.

The cutting-edge Kouga Incident Command Centre in Humansdorp has the capacity to monitor more than 300 cameras – with municipal and private security cameras feeding into the system. Various social media and community messaging groups are also monitored to report information regarding incidents to the relevant authorities.

By investing in modern technology, improving coordination between law enforcement agencies, and empowering local communities, Nelson Mandela Bay can also take the necessary steps to combat crime effectively and restore the freedom of the metro's long-suffering residents.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.