

# DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ANTI-CRIME CAMPAIGN FINDINGS REPORT

## **Executive summary**

This report presents an analysis of information gathered during our Anti-crime Campaign of data collected by the Gauteng Democratic Alliance (DA) from SAPS stations across the Province.

This report presents comprehensive findings from assessments conducted between July 2022 and July 2025 at a majority of the 144 police stations in the province, and within difference regions. The findings cover critical challenges facing our police stations such as infrastructure, staffing levels, holding cells, vehicle allocation, community resources, general operational conditions, and the impact of crime on the residents of Gauteng.

The collection of data was through oversight visits, questions that the Party submitted in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (GPL) regarding the state of our police stations, engagements with various community members such as business owners in our Central Business Districts (CBDs), Community Policing Forums (CPFs), members of the community and crime experts and our men in blue. In addition, surveys were conducted by the DA Gauteng Police Watch and the responses are presented in this document.

## **Introduction and background**

As the DA in Gauteng, we express serious concern regarding the current state of policing in Gauteng. It has become evident that police stations, such as the one in Kempton Park, suffer from severe under-resourcing, characterized by an inadequate number of patrol vehicles and an excessive case load per detective, which collectively hinder the effective investigation of crimes.

The absence of visible policing within communities is alarming, as it fosters an environment where criminal activities can flourish, leaving residents feeling vulnerable and unprotected. Prolonged delays in responding to crime reports,

coupled with insufficient follow-up, exacerbate the public's sense of insecurity and distrust.

Furthermore, the backlog of unresolved cases, including investigations into police misconduct, is deeply troubling and indicative of systemic inefficiencies. Corruption and a lack of accountability continue to undermine law enforcement efforts and public confidence.

We are committed to advocating for the adequate resourcing of police stations, the enforcement of accountability measures for officers, and the transformation of policing into a proactive, professional, and community-focused service. Our resolve to pursue meaningful and sustainable reform within the legislature remains unwavering.

### **What has the DA done**

Below is a detailed timeline and findings relating to policing and police stations in Gauteng emanating from the DA Anti-crime Campaign:

### **2022**

- In March 2022, the DA raised alarm about severe violence in Diepsloot linked to criminal activity and lack of adequate police intervention. We called on provincial authorities to urgently engage with national counterparts and brief the GPL on measures to restore peace and safety. We condemned mob justice while urging communities to assist the police to uphold the law responsibly.
- In October 2022, following the election of Premier Panyaza Lesufi, the DA warned that under his leadership, Gauteng residents could expect continued poor service delivery including in policing, due to persistent corruption and political interference limiting effective governance.

## **2023**

- Throughout 2023, the DA conducted multiple oversight visits and police station inspections across Gauteng (e.g., Norwood, Kempton Park, and others). These visits consistently revealed:
  - Overwhelmed detectives, sometimes handling more than 100 active cases.
  - Insufficient patrol vehicles, sometimes only three available for multiple sectors.
  - Poor infrastructure and lack of proper facilities including holding cells.
  - Long response times and frequent lack of follow-up on reported cases.
  - Widespread low morale and a culture of low accountability.
  - Marginalized communities expressing distrust and fear of police.
- We publicly demanded increased resources and called for urgent reforms to restore public confidence and effectiveness in policing.

## **2024**

- February 2024: We launched our Gauteng Rescue Plan, highlighting the urgent need to fill critical police vacancies (ranging from 23% to 45%), improve visible policing, and devolve policing authority to the province to enhance accountability and resource allocation. We underscored the necessity of using technology like CCTV and drones and called for the establishment of an ombudsman to fight police corruption.
- April 2024: We included our comprehensive crime reduction strategy in the Gauteng election manifesto, pledging to halve violent crime and overhaul SAPS client services for better responsiveness to communities.

- August 2024: Following the release of official crime statistics, we insisted that although there have been crime reductions, Gauteng remains the epicentre for violent crime. We highlighted an 8.2% rise in kidnappings, among other worrying trends, and called for a dedicated MEC for community safety to replace Premier Lesufi's centralized approach. Police stations such as Johannesburg Central, Jeppe, Roodepoort and Alexandra are among the top 40 for violent crime.
- October 2024: We publicly welcomed reports on rising extortion but called for urgent and decisive action to protect critical sectors like construction from criminal rackets.
- November 2024: Responding to Q2 crime stats, we acknowledged some progress but stressed that many communities remain lawless, reinforcing the need for intensified efforts to fill police vacancies, strengthen discipline, and improve investigations.

## **2025**

- March 2025: We called for a comprehensive overhaul of SAPS client services amidst reports of poor service delivery, citing a need for professionalism, accountability, and community engagement at police stations across Gauteng.
- July 2025: We launched the DA Anti-crime Campaign which was aimed at showcasing the impact of crime on businesses, people and infrastructure.

We led a field assessment in the Johannesburg CBD to evaluate the impact of rising crime on business and the adequacy of police station capacities. Our findings from the walkabout along the incomplete restoration of Bree Street, Carlton Centre, and Small Street while engaging shop owners and culminating in an oversight inspection of the Johannesburg Central Police confirmed inadequate staffing and resources hampering crime fighting in the economic heart of Gauteng.

Moreover, we conducted an oversight visit to the Akasia Police Station which is facing critical challenges due to severe resource shortages that are undermining the effectiveness of dedicated officers committed to crime-

fighting. According to the Department of Community Safety, the station is supposed to have 48 vehicles. However, the reality is that the station has 24 vehicles. Of those 24 vehicles, only 13 are currently operational, with just 5 allocated for visible policing across approximately 150 square kilometres. One of these vehicles is often unavailable as it is used to transport suspects to other stations due to the complete lack of holding cells at Akasia. This lack of holding cells has been attributed to the police station not having a cell block.

Furthermore, the station is overcrowded with around 242 staff members housed in an aging, dilapidated building presenting significant health and safety risks, and it lacks a victim empowerment centre. This situation has severely impacted staff morale, with some officers being hospitalized for depression. Akasia ranks among the top 40 police stations for high rates of serious crimes such as attempted murder and sexual offenses, yet the absence of proper facilities and under-resourcing obstructs effective crime prevention.

We have demanded the immediate suspension of police officers implicated in serious criminal conduct, stressing that officers charged or arrested must be removed from active duty to preserve trust.

- August 2025: Our oversight visit to Kempton Park Police Station confirmed the crisis: six sectors but only three patrol vehicles; detectives swamped with over 100 cases each; and no meaningful response to residents' concerns. We presented these findings to the Gauteng Provincial Legislature demanding urgent intervention.

Our visit in Boksburg, Ekurhuleni, further revealed how the Gauteng Provincial Government has failed to protect critical infrastructure, causing frustration among residents and discouraging business operations. The DA oversight inspection uncovered widespread deterioration of infrastructure, minimal visible policing, and escalating lawlessness.

The Rondebult sinkhole, a major road defect on a key provincial route serving about 40,000 vehicles daily and connecting crucial highways, remains unrepaired for nearly three years. What started as a small hole expanded into

a massive crater over 20 meters deep, largely due to illegal mining activities creating underground tunnels.

The sinkhole poses significant public safety risks, including the recent discovery of a body dumped in the crater, while the government engages in blame-shifting over repair responsibility. The resulting road closure disrupts regional connectivity and economic activity, with repair estimates escalating to over R100 million from what could have been addressed for a much smaller cost.

In the month of August, we also visited families and communities affected by crime- from Kameeldrift to Orange Farm to the tragic court case hearing of the death of a minor at the Protea Glen Magistrate Court.

We also hosted a podcast session with representatives of CPS units from Erasmia, Garsfontein and Boschkop. In this engagement we were able to gather that police visibility, issues of capacitation in police stations and a lack of resources remain a leading issue even for crime-fighting stakeholders. Moreover, while members of crime-fighting bodies such as the CPS have expressed a desire to do more, they do not feel adequately empowered to assist in combating crime. In most instances, the CPS has a faster response time and arrives at crime scenes 30 to 60 minutes before SAPS. This points to the critical need for better coordination between crime combating stakeholders and the police.

Furthermore, following intelligence-led operation successes in Mamelodi targeting gun violence, we called upon Premier Lesufi and SAPS leadership to increase police visibility in high-crime areas, pledging a formal audit of hotspots and tailored resourcing.

### **Key statistical findings from oversight visits and available crime statistics (2022–2025)**

- In 2023/2024 Q3, sexual offenses numbered 3,066 and rape cases were 2,441, showing high and concerning rates of sexual violence. Carjacking cases were also alarmingly high at 2,232 incidents.

- Gauteng remains the epicentre of violent crime with rising kidnappings (2,367 in Q3 2023/2024, up from 1,974 in prior year) and other serious offenses. There were 77 cases of kidnapping for ransom, 7 for extortion, and 1 for human trafficking.
- Between October 2024 and December 2024, Gauteng contributed 5% to gang-related murders in the SAPS Third Quarter of 2024-2025 Financial year. Second only to the Western Cape which accounted for 89%. Gauteng also accounted for 3% of gang-related attempted murders, placing the province third after the Western Cape and the Eastern Cape. And in the case of assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm, Gauteng accounted for 20% (4 out of a total of 20)
- Gauteng recorded 1,439 murders in the fourth quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year, a 10.8% decrease from 1,614 murders in the same quarter of 2023/2024, but still the second highest contributor to murders nationally at 25.1%. Of these, 765 murders occurred in public places using firearms, highlighting a lack of deterrence.
- Between January and March 2025, 5,727 people were murdered (an average of 62 per day), 6,985 attempted murders were recorded (75 per day), and 10,688 rapes were reported (116 per day), showing persistent and severe violent crime.
- Commercial crime increased by 4.7% in the fourth quarter of 2024/25, with Gauteng reporting 12,074 incidents, one of the highest numbers nationally.
- Despite significant deployment of crime wardens "Amapanyaza," crime indicators such as contact crimes, sexual offenses, and robberies continued to rise in 2023, revealing inadequacies in current preventative efforts.
- Police stations monitored by DA oversight often suffer from severe resource constraints such as excessive caseloads (some detectives managing over 100 cases each), insufficient patrol vehicles, and lack of proper holding cells—especially at crisis stations like Kempton Park and Akasia.
- High rates of sexual offenses continue to be a grave concern, with many cases occurring at educational premises and residences. The DA repeatedly

advocates for intensified interventions addressing gender-based violence and femicide.

- These findings reflect a province grappling with high levels of violent crime, resource constraints in policing infrastructure, and the urgent need for improved accountability and targeted crime prevention strategies led by the DA.
- Average waiting times at police stations exceeding one hour, with many complainants experiencing no follow-up on reports.
- High incidence of requests for more visible policing as communities report increased gangsterism and illegal firearms possession.

### **Key findings from replies received from the Gauteng Department of Community Safety**

#### **1. Satellite/Mobile Police Stations**

- Gauteng currently has 12 satellite police stations
- Gauteng currently has 30 mobile police stations, with 1 currently in workshop

#### **2. Holding Cells**

- 24 of 145 Gauteng police stations lack holding cells (Akasia, Olivenhoutbosch, Doornkop)
- 52 of 145 Gauteng police stations lack holding cells for juveniles (Evaton, Lenasia South, Mohlakeng)
- Kliprivier has only one holding cell which is used for both men and women

#### **3. Community Policing forums**

- All Gauteng police stations have functional CPF



- 113 CPF were last supported with resources in the 2022/23 financial year

#### 4. Illegal mining-related crimes

- Between 2022 and 2025, 261 crimes were related to illegal mining in Gauteng
- Top ranking locations are Carltonville coming in first, Kagiso second, and Germiston third.

#### 5. GBV or Victim rooms

- All Gauteng Police stations have victim rooms
- 110 Police stations do not have private toilets; they use the same as SAPS members

#### 6. Vehicle shortages

- SAPS currently has 5563 vehicles, of which 691 (12.4%) are not serviceable.
- Of these, 41.65% are sedans, 50,13% are light commercial vehicles, and 4.46% are minibuses.
- SAPS Mamelodi has a total of 55 vehicles, of which 12 are not serviceable, serving a population of 314 909. One vehicle per 7300 people.
- SAPS Silverton has a total of 32 vehicles, of which 10 are not serviceable, serving a population of 138 405. One vehicle serves over 6200 people.

#### 7. Staffing Shortages:

- Some stations have detectives overwhelmed with high docket caseloads, with each detective handling an average of 50 or more cases, indicating capacity gaps.
- 26 police stations in Gauteng are reported to have critical vacancies. Of these vacancies, 29 posts have been vacant for more than 8 months. And in the

case of the Brooklyn police station, the post of the Support Services Commander has been vacant since 01 July 2023.

- 4 police stations in Gauteng have Station Commander vacancies

#### 8. Infrastructure and Maintenance:

- Common issues include dilapidated buildings, broken toilets, water and sewage problems, cable theft, and outdated communications equipment. Some stations regularly experience power outages, affecting service delivery and officer safety.

#### 9. Police station leasing

- Of the police stations that lease their properties, only 6 stations have clear lease periods. The other 21 stations either have month-to-month lease periods (17) or no lease agreements in place (4).

### **Findings from the DA Anti-Crime 2025 Survey**

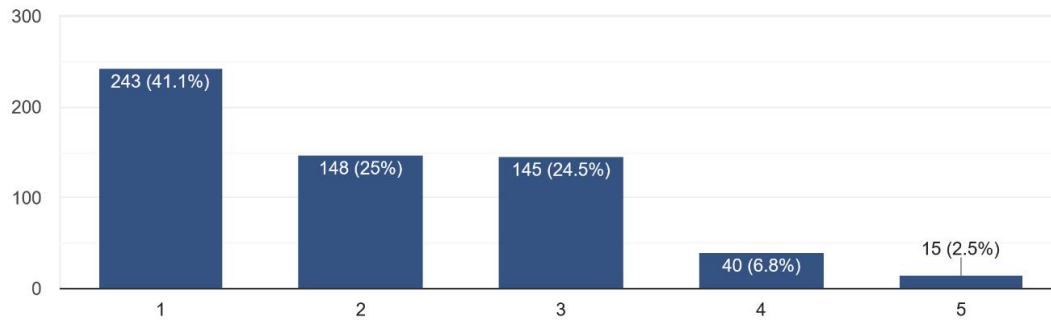
The analysis of the survey data on Gauteng SAPS services as experienced by residents of Gauteng reveals the following:

#### 1. Service Quality Ratings:

- Most respondents rated the overall service poorly: 243 gave a rating of 1 (very poor)
- 148 respondents gave 2
- While only 15 rated service as excellent (5).

Overall Service Quality: How would you rate the overall service you received the last time you interacted with a SAPS station in Gauteng?"

591 responses

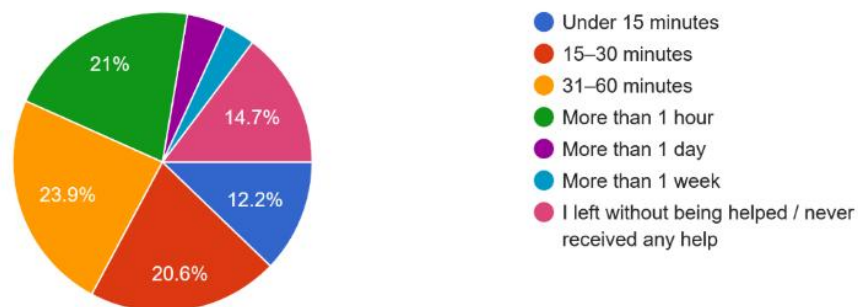


## 2. Waiting Times:

- Waiting between 31 to 60 minutes was most common (141 responses), followed by waiting more than 1 hour (124) and 15 to 30 minutes (122).
- 87 respondents note that they left police stations without being helped at all.

Waiting Times Approximately how long did you wait before an SAPS assisted you, either at a SAPS Station or after logging a call on 10111?

591 responses

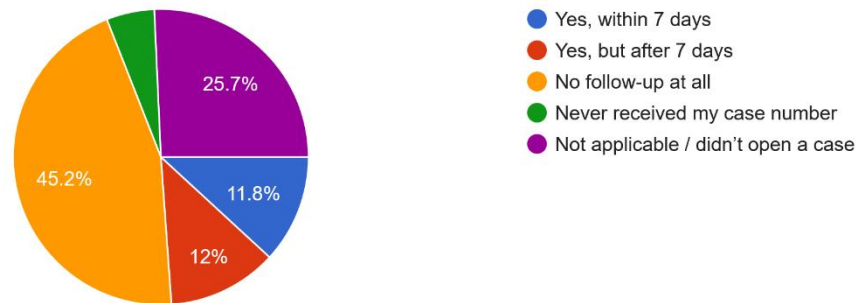


## 3. Response & Follow-Up:

- The majority (267) reported no follow-up after reporting a case.
- 152 respondents did not open a case.
- Only 70 received follow-up within 7 days.

Response & Follow-Up After you opened a case or reported an incident, did SAPS provide updates or follow-up within a reasonable time?"

591 responses



#### 4. Improvements that residents want to see

##### 4.1. Increased Police Visibility and Patrols

- Many residents want more visible policing with regular foot and vehicle patrols in their communities.
- Calls for police presence day and night, to be proactive rather than reactive.

##### 4.2. Better Service and Responsiveness

- Residents seek faster response times to crime reports and follow-ups on cases.
- Requests for efficient, timely, and consistent updates on case progress.
- Reduction in long waiting times at police stations.

##### 4.3. Improved Professionalism and Attitude

- A significant number of responses call for police officers to be courteous, empathetic, respectful, and non-discriminatory.

- Desire for police who treat complainants with dignity rather than arrogance or dismissiveness.
- Requests for officers to be better trained and more professional in their duties.

#### 4.4. Increased Staffing and Resources

- Many mention the need for more officers on duty and better-equipped police stations.
- Specific demands for more patrol vehicles, functional infrastructure, and adequately staffed stations.

#### 4.5. Accountability and Anti-Corruption

- Calls to address corruption, bribery, and dishonesty within the police service.
- Requests for disciplinary action against officers involved in corrupt or criminal activities.
- Desire for transparency and trustworthiness from police officials.

#### 4.6. Improved Infrastructure

- Requests to upgrade dilapidated police station buildings and improve facilities.
- Need for clean, safe, and well-maintained police premises.
- Calls for better administrative systems, including digitization of reporting and case management.

#### 4.7. Community Engagement and Communication

- Residents want police to listen genuinely and engage with community concerns.

- Calls to treat all community members equally and to improve communication skills.
- Desire for approachable staff who effectively assist and guide complainants.

#### 4.8. Specialized Services

- Some responses mention the need for victim empowerment centres and better handling of cases related to gender-based violence and domestic abuse.

### Call to action

The DA promises to:

1. **Conduct Regular Oversight:** Continue comprehensive inspections of police stations and criminal justice processes to ensure transparency and accountability.
2. **Advocate for Adequate Resourcing:** Ensure proportional allocation of patrol vehicles, detectives, and infrastructural resources, tailored to specific community risks identified through audits.
3. **Improve Police Visibility:** Push for increased boots on the ground, especially in high-crime and neglected areas such as Mamelodi and Diepsloot.
4. **Combat Corruption:** Demand immediate suspension and prosecution of officers involved in criminal conduct; strengthen oversight bodies like IPID to finalize investigations and uphold ethical policing.
5. **Enhance Service Delivery:** Overhaul client service protocols at police stations to improve responsiveness, respectfulness, and follow-up, restoring community trust.
6. **Support Community Safety Initiatives:** Promote integrated approaches with local communities, Hawks, and other agencies; facilitate crime prevention education and victim support services.

7. **Promote Legislative Accountability:** Use the Gauteng Provincial Legislature platform to hold SAPS officials and provincial authorities accountable for service delivery failures and misuse of resources.