



MEMORANDUM

SAPS EC MUST INTERVENE IN KOMANI SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS

TO:	MAJOR GENERAL RUDOLPH ADOLPH: DISTRICT COMMISSIONER OF THE SAPS CHRIS HANI DISTRICT
FROM:	DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE EASTERN CAPE
SUBJECT:	URGENT INTERVENTION: SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS IN KOMANI
DATE:	8 AUGUST 2025

On this Women's Day, we are reminded that celebrating the integral role of women in our society rings hollow when they remain the primary victims of rape, assault, and domestic violence in the Eastern Cape.

The Democratic Alliance (DA) marks this day by gathering here in Komani to demand immediate intervention by the South African Police Service (SAPS) in the Eastern Cape to shield the women of this town from the epidemic of sexual assault and domestic violence that has reached crisis proportions in the area.

Although hard-working police officers are doing their best under trying circumstances, sexual assault and domestic violence in Komani are spiralling out of control.

When statistics from the three police stations serving the town of Komani - Ezibeleni, Komani, and Mlungisi - are combined, they show that 158 rapes were reported between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. This translates to a rape every two days in a province already grappling with the highest rape rate in South Africa, at a staggering 24.7 incidents per 100 000 people.

The Komani police are severely hamstrung by critical staff shortages, an aging workforce, and a shortage of operational vehicles. This crisis is further exacerbated by rampant alcohol abuse and local taverns serving alcohol to minors, which compounds the challenges faced by law enforcement.



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Additionally, many areas in Komani are left in perpetual darkness due to the inability of the Enoch Mgijima Municipality to fix broken and failing street lights.

The DA hands over this memorandum, demanding that SAPS in the Eastern Cape takes immediate action to address staffing shortages and vehicle maintenance, ensuring the women of Komani are protected from abuse.

We commit to partnering with the local police to raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol abuse and underage drinking, and to press the provincial government and the Enoch Mgijima Municipality to address lighting issues, illuminating dark and vulnerable areas.

Women and girls who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence require sustained government support, beyond token gestures on Women's Day. It is time for meaningful, systemic change and not just rhetoric.