



Western Cape Provincial Office
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DA Western Cape Memorandum to empower capable municipalities to make our communities safer.

For Attention:

The Honourable Minister of Justice and Correctional Services:

- Minister Mmamoloko T Kubayi

AND

The Honourable Acting Minister of Police:

- Minister Firoz Cachalia

Dear Honourable Ministers Kubayi and Cachalia,

It is common cause, and there would be little argument that South Africans have been held hostage by the scourge of crime.

Gang shootings, children caught in the crossfire, small businesses extorted into financial ruin, are a routine experience for too many. The Western Cape is no exception.

In the past year, **302** children have been murdered. **882** lives lost to gang violence.

The Western Cape government and many of its municipalities have been fighting for safer communities, innovating where we govern, supporting SAPS within the legislative framework.

However, local government and their enforcement officers are constrained by national legislation. This is a handbrake on justice.

The purpose of this memorandum, supported by the undersigned, is to call for capable municipalities to be empowered with the policing powers necessary to make communities safer.

Noting that:

1. There are only **12 908** Active SAPS Personnel (May 2025) in the Western Cape. This is a 22% reduction from **16 224** in March 2024. The Ratio of SAPS to residents in the Western Cape has routinely been below the national average.

2. There are only **2 616** detectives operational (May 2025) in the Western Cape, the majority with caseloads of over 200 dockets per investigating officer, which is 333% above the 50-60 norm. The shortage of well-resourced detectives results in hundreds of cases being withdrawn from serving before court, denying justice for affected victims and families.
3. There are over **4000** trained and active municipal enforcement staff including LEAP officers, in municipalities across the Western Cape, actively working with SAPS and ready to fill the resource gap. An additional **810** Metro Police graduated in Cape Town on the 9th September 2025.
4. Municipal law enforcement are often first responders, arresting suspects, securing crime scenes, have well established working relationships with SAPS but this collaboration is artificially limited as law enforcement is not allowed to investigate crimes.
5. Many municipalities and affected stakeholders have written to Ministers in the past, articulating the case for additional powers for capable municipalities.
6. Joint cooperation agreements, between SAPS, the WCG and Municipalities exist. These are encouraging and must be implemented, but without powers, are toothless.

On the basis of the above, the DA in the Western Cape, with the support of the undersigned, requests both your agreement and support for the following amendments to two Acts, to enhance and improve the delivery of policing services in South Africa, and materially contribute to the reduction of crime:

1. **SAPS ACT** – Requiring the addition of two words
 - **Request:** Amend section 64E (c) “the prevention **and investigation** of crime”.
2. **Criminal Procedures Act** – “**Replace one schedule**”
 - The proclamation made on 19 October 2018 by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, in terms of Section 334 of the Criminal Procedure Act, in the Government Gazette 41982, Government Notice 1114 refers.
 - **Request:** Replace Schedule in Government Notice 1114, with Annexure A below.

South Africans are entitled to a policing system that works, that is capable, effective, responsive, and takes into account the unique circumstances of their specific communities.

This memorandum is addressed to you after detailed consideration as to what roles capable municipalities can play in curtailing crime for our communities.

DA-led municipalities have the ability and willingness to take this task on, to support SAPS in the task they face, but currently, the law forces us to stop halfway. These changes if granted, would benefit **all** municipalities across South Africa, and help make all South Africans living in municipalities safer, regardless of political affiliation.



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Delaying this rational and necessary decision, can only lead to the further needless loss of life. With a stroke of a pen, you have the power to make communities safer.

Yours faithfully.