



To: Hon Jane Mananiso
The Chairperson
Select Committee on Security and Justice
National Council of Provinces

Subject: Urgent Request for the Minister of Police to Account to the Select Committee on the Failed Rollout of SAPS Body-Worn Cameras

Dear Chairperson,

I write to you in my capacity as a Member of the Select Committee on Security and Justice to formally request that the Minister of Police, Firoz Cachalia, be urgently summoned to appear before the Committee to account for the failure to implement police body-worn cameras, as previously committed to Parliament.

Over recent weeks, KwaZulu-Natal has witnessed a series of police operations resulting in the fatal shooting of suspects. In each instance, public statements have indicated that suspects allegedly fired first. While such claims are serious and must be properly investigated, the growing number of lethal encounters—occurring in the absence of independently verifiable evidence—raises legitimate concerns about transparency, accountability and oversight.

Parliament was publicly assured that the rollout of police body-worn cameras would commence from April 2025. That deadline has now passed. Despite repeated engagements and questions raised in this Committee, there has been no substantive briefing to Parliament on the status of procurement, funding, pilot implementation, operational readiness, or revised timelines.

This lack of accountability to Parliament is unacceptable, particularly given the implications for public trust, police safety, and the integrity of criminal investigations.

As Members of this Committee, we carry a constitutional responsibility to exercise oversight over the executive and to ensure that policing in South Africa is conducted in a manner that is lawful, transparent, and respectful of human life. The continued absence of body-worn cameras undermines this

mandate and leaves both police officers and civilians vulnerable to contested versions of events when lethal force is used.

I therefore respectfully request that the Select Committee urgently convene a dedicated meeting at which the Minister of Police, supported by SAPS management and National Treasury where necessary, is required to account on:

- The reasons for the failure to meet the April 2025 implementation commitment;
- The current status of body-worn camera procurement and funding;
- Any pilot projects underway or planned;
- Revised, binding timelines for national rollout; and
- Measures being taken to ensure accountability and evidence preservation during high-risk SAPS operations in the interim.

Given the seriousness of the matter and its direct bearing on public confidence in policing, I believe this engagement cannot be delayed any further. Parliament must be properly informed and empowered to exercise its oversight function effectively.

I trust that you will give this request your urgent consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Mzamo Billy, MP
DA NCOP Member - KZN
Select Committee on Security and Justice