



DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE EASTERN CAPE
Provincial Chairperson Hon. Yusuf Cassim MPL
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DO OUR LIVES NOT MATTER RALLY

MEMORANDUM

TO:	PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA AND ACTING POLICE MINISTER FIROZ CACHALIA
FROM:	DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE
SUBJECT:	MEMO: DO OUR LIVES NOT MATTER?
DATE:	MONDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2025

Today we gather in front of the Gelvandale Police Station in Gqeberha to hand over a memorandum and ask the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, and the Acting Police Minister Firoz Cachalia one question on behalf of the people of the Northern Areas: Do our lives not matter?

During his 2026 State of the Nation Address, President Rampahosa, announced that he will deploy the military to the Western Cape and Gauteng to support the police to deal with gang violence.

Communities, alongside the Democratic Alliance (DA), have long called for priority intervention to fight out of control gangsterism in the Northern Areas, yet the President turned a blind eye to our people when announcing military intervention.

What makes the President's snub even harder to swallow is that Acting Minister Cachalia visited Nelson Mandela Bay in January this year and said the gang violence in the Northern Areas mirrored the crisis in the Western Cape.

Although army intervention can only bring short-term relief and is not a solution to the carnage, it would bring much needed stability.

In July last year, Parliament adopted a report arising from a DA petition submitted, calling for urgent national priority intervention in the gang violence crisis in the Northern Areas. The report directed the SAPS to address the collapse of the Anti-Gang Unit and Crime Intelligence capacity in Nelson Mandela Bay, with required progress reports and strengthened national oversight. These were binding parliamentary resolutions reflecting the severity of the crisis - yet nothing followed.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.



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The DA demands that President Ramaphosa acknowledges that the lives of the people of the Northern Areas do matter by deploying the army on a short-term basis to create stability, and that he commands Acting Minister Cachalia to enforce Parliament's resolutions without delay.

We request of the President and the Acting Minister to give feedback on how this memorandum will be actioned within the next 14 days.

The DA can no longer allow the residents of the Northern Areas to live in constant fear of gangsters and the criminal element, who murder their innocent children and have them living in constant fear for their lives.

Their lives do matter!

Yours Sincerely,

Hon. Yusuf Cassim
Provincial Chairperson – DA Eastern Cape
Chief Whip of the Official Opposition – Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
Constituency Leader – PE Northern Areas