



Provincial Legislature
Private Bag x0051 or
Independence Ave
Bhisho, 5605

EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
Member of the Provincial Legislature

Retief Odendaal, MPL
(Democratic Alliance Spokesperson on COGTA)



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4 June 2026

TO: Professor Firoz Cachalia
Acting Minister of Police

Dear Acting Minister Professor Cachalia,

RE: POLICE BARRACKS IN ALGOA PARK – GAMTOOS AND STERRENBURG | NELSON MANDELA BAY

I refer to the aforementioned matter.

Kindly note that I have addressed correspondence to the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure regarding the deplorable condition of the SAPS barracks situated in Algoa Park, Nelson Mandela Bay (Annexure A).

The conditions observed at both the Gamtoos and Sterrenberg buildings are deeply concerning and, in my view, wholly unsuitable for members of the South African Police Service. The reported lack of basic services, deteriorating infrastructure, fire safety concerns, and allegations of unauthorised occupation raise serious concerns regarding the wellbeing and safety of the occupants.

I therefore wish to bring this matter to your attention and respectfully request your intervention to ensure that the issues raised are addressed as a matter of urgency.

I look forward to your favourable response.

Sincerely,

Retief Odendaal, MPL
Shadow MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

ANNEXURE A



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3 June 2026

TO: Mr. Dean Macpherson, MP
Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure

Dear Honourable Minister Macpherson,

RE: POLICE BARRACKS IN ALGOA PARK – GAMTOOS AND STERRENBURG

I refer to the aforementioned matter.

Kindly note that this morning I conducted an on-site inspection of the state of the aforementioned buildings. I was horrified to observe the extent of disrepair. The buildings are clearly in a state of decay and pose a potential danger to their inhabitants.

During my inspection, I noted the following:

1. No functioning lifts, notwithstanding the buildings being high-rise buildings.
2. The Sterrenberg building has been without water for weeks on end.
3. A general state of decay and neglect, with numerous broken windows and a lack of maintenance.
4. Garbage scattered throughout the facility, clearly indicating that there is no effective waste collection service in place.
5. A rat infestation, with numerous rodents observed on the premises.
6. Fire safety equipment that is either absent or not in working order, and which has not been serviced in 5 years.

I also engaged with a number of residents, who expressed concerns that the premises are not occupied exclusively by SAPS members and that certain sections may have effectively

been hijacked by unauthorised occupants. Nearby residents have also raised concerns regarding the safety of the buildings and the risk they pose to the surrounding community. I hereby call on you to intervene urgently as I believe that these buildings are a safety hazard to all residents and could quite frankly be condemned.

I await your favourable advice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Retief Odendaal', with a horizontal line underneath.

Retief Odendaal, MPL
Shadow MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs