PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

==========

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

==========

WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL 2026

TABLING

The Speaker:

Tabling of document in terms of section 71(7) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003):

Minister of Finance

Local Government: Quarterly municipal consolidated statements as at 31 March 2026.

Copy attached.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport, having conducted an oversight visit to the Traffic Management Centre in Goodwood, on 17 February 2026, reports as follows:

The delegation

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Police Oversight, Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport included the following Members:

Democratic Alliance

Van Minnen, B (Chairperson)
Booysen, M
Johnson, P

African National Congress
Ngqentsu, B

Patriotic Alliance
Stephens, D

Apologies

Cassiem, A (EFF)
Kaizer-Philander, WF(DA)

City of Cape Town Safety and Security Directorate

Mortimer, A (Head: Technology and EPIC integration)
Schuller, B (Director: CCTV, Radio Communication, Camera Response & Video Unit)

The link between the oversight visits and the priority strategies

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament strives to uphold its mandated duty of conducting oversight over the provincial departments, the national departments and related agencies. It also aims to effect socio-economic upliftment for the citizens of the Western Cape.

The oversight visit to the Traffic Management Centre was important as it ensured that the Committee engaged with municipal structures that seek to combat crime and also implement crime prevention measures. The focus of the visit was to interact on the City's CCTV capabilities, and the use of integrated technology.

1. Background

The Committee has previously engaged with the South African Police Service (SAPS) on several matters. The Committee noted, with marked concern, that the use and functionality of CCTV for policing purposes, has not always rendered positive results in the broader criminal justice process, and the promotion of safety for citizens. Municipal CCTV systems are used for traffic, law enforcement and policing services, as well as others where applicable. This shaped the Committee's resolution to meet with the City to not only learn of its CCTV systems, but also explore the technologies used on a municipal level.

2. Purpose of the visit

The purpose of the visit was for a briefing on the City's technology capabilities, CCTV operations and Emergency Policing and Incident Command (EPIC) system, and a tour of the facilities.

3. Overview

The City of Cape Town presented a comprehensive briefing on its Safety and Security Directorate, focusing on technological innovations, current operational structures, CCTV capability, the EPIC integrated incident management system, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), commonly referred to drones, and the development of a Real-Time Crime Centre (RTCC). The visit also explored intergovernmental cooperation challenges, particularly involving SAPS data integration and conviction-related concerns.

4. EPIC System and its Core Operational Model

Mr Mortimer presented on current and future technology, and future strategic structures.

The following are key points from the discussion.

4.1. The EPIC system improves efficiency, and response time, limits human error and maintains chain-of-evidence integrity. Some of its key features include call-taking and dispatch, resource tracking, the use of mobile field apps for officers, and, an automated routing to applicable response and emergency service agencies.
4.2. EPIC serves as an incident management system and is the central platform for integrating operational data, incident workflows, and real-time public-safety responses. The system enables coordinated decision-making across multiple enforcement and emergency-response units, thereby strengthening the City's intelligence-led policing capability.
4.3. The Directorate operates on a Prepare → Prevent → Respond → Resolve → Support → Rectify cycle, applying both proactive and reactive approaches to public safety.
4.4. Proactive operations are planned and include visible policing, event planning, and data driven hotspot interventions.
4.5. Reactive responses are unplanned and are initiated by calls for assistance, CCTV alerts, sensor detection, and app-based tip-offs.
4.6. Since its inception in 2016, the EPIC system recorded 2.9 million incidents, 400 000 annual dispatches. There are 1.5 billion historical records archived.
4.7. Since 2016, there have been 6,000 employees on the system. Also, approximately 3000 vehicles have been tracked.
4.8. The City is transitioning toward data-led policing, using large datasets for spatial analysis, hotspot identification, and resource allocation. The historical records potentially contribute to any of the above listed types of monitoring and analyses.
4.9. The 107 Emergency Call Centre continues to serve as a primary point of incident reporting, providing the City with rapid access to emergency-related information.\A range of sensors, including gunshot-detection and environmental-monitoring systems, contributes to timely identification of threats and disruptions.
4.10. Citizen-driven platforms allow for crowdsourcing of incident reports, ensuring that communities remain active participants in public-safety efforts.
4.11. A trusted-partner mobile application enables neighbourhood watches to submit verified information that supports operational responses.

5. Technology resources

5.1. The City uses drone technology, body-worn and dash cameras, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) /Licence Plate Recognition (LPR)cameras, in its surveillance and operations.
5.2. Drones are deployed to provide aerial overwatch of scenes, offering enhanced visibility for ground teams during operations.
5.3. Drone-based tactical support assists with suspect tracking, situational awareness, and coordinated tactical deployments.
5.4. Drone mapping is used to detect and monitor illegal land-invasion activities, enabling preventive enforcement.
5.5. Thermal-imaging drones support wildfire detection and response by identifying hotspots and movement patterns.
5.6. Drones play an important role in capturing evidentiary material during operations, thereby enhancing investigative outcomes.
5.7. Operational challenges persist, including restrictive aviation regulations, limited staffing within drone teams, and there are also high procurement costs of approximately R450,000 per unit.
5.8. Body-worn and dashboard cameras provide accountability and protection for enforcement officers engaged in field duties. Technologies have a demonstrable de-escalation effect during public interactions.

5.9. Camera footage continues to serve as strong evidentiary material in court proceedings, contributing to successful prosecutions. The use of such devices has resulted in a marked reduction in false complaints against officers.
5.10. The City has established an integrated digital-evidence management system that aligns fully with chain-of-evidence and legal-compliance requirements.
5.11. The City operates approximately 450 mobile vehicles equipped with Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems.
5.12. The City uses a plethora of fixed ANPR cameras, to supplement these mobile capabilities.
5.13. These systems play a crucial role in identifying stolen vehicles, tracking hijackings, and executing warrant-related enforcement.
5.14. ANPR/LPR systems have directly supported high-profile arrests and successfully contributed to several major investigations.

6. CCTV Network Operations

6.1. The CCTV network comprises 1,169 City-owned cameras and 450 Licencel-Plate Recognition cameras.
6.2. Additional partner networks include Freeway Management, MyCiTi, SanParks, neighbourhood watches, SAPS stations, MetroRail, the University of Cape Town, and several private-sector contributors.
6.3. The CCTV operations are supported by two major monitoring centres and five satellite centres. There is a total of 144 surveillance staff provide continuous 24/7 monitoring of the network.
6.4. CCTV footage is frequently accepted as admissible evidence in court, with operators testifying when required. Between 2023 and 2025, CCTV and LPR systems supported 943 successful arrests.
6.5. Daily performance reporting indicates an average camera-uptime rate of 93 percent.
6.6. The City complies fully with national evidence-handling standards. There is, however, a risk associated with the possible misuse of private-sector LPR networks, necessitating stronger regulatory controls.
6.7. Strong operational collaboration exists between the CCTV centres and SAPS detectives, particularly regarding the acquisition and use of footage.

7. Data Integration and SAPS Engagement Challenges

7.1. The City reported that SAPS does not currently provide real-time operational data to the City. Some limitations contributing to this include SAPS technology constraints, institutional reluctance, and policy-related barriers.
7.2. This absence of data integration negatively affects hotspot prediction, crime-prevention initiatives, and prosecution outcomes.
7.3. The City has proactively developed a SAPS-dispatcher role within the EPIC system to facilitate operational integration.
7.4. The City remains fully prepared to share data through an Application Programming Interface (API), similar to the arrangement already in place with EMS.
7.5. SAPS systems are currently unable to consume the available data, limiting the benefits of potential integration.
7.6. The City reiterated that its mandate ends at the point of evidence delivery. Subsequent investigation and prosecution processes fall under SAPS and the justice system.
7.7. Weaknesses in those downstream processes directly undermine conviction rates, despite the City’s strong evidence supply. Its chain of evidence and archival capacity are referenced earlier in this report.

8. Strategic Developments

8.1. The City reported plans for the establishment of a National Key Point operational hub at the former MWEB building.
8.2. The planned facility will house a Real-Time Crime Centre, an integrated multi-agency control room, a digital-evidence unit, and both proactive and reactive operational capabilities.
8.3. District-aligned command structures will be incorporated to streamline regional responses.
8.4. The facility will include solar-power independence and robust backup-power systems.
8.5. The estimated completion timeframe is September 2026.

9. Future plans

9.1. The City intends to expand its fibre-network footprint into underserved areas such as the Southern Peninsula and Rondebosch East.
9.2. Artificial-intelligence-assisted CCTV analytics and robotic-process automation will be introduced to enhance detection and response times.
9.3. Improvements to mobile applications and partner-integration platforms will strengthen community and agency collaboration.
9.4. The enactment of a CCTV by-law will help regulate private camera networks and prevent misuse by certain private-security operators.

10. Cape Town Metropolitan Police Department's capacity technology modernisation and Data-Driven Policing

Director B Schuller presented this segment of the engagement.

10.1 The City's extensive CCTV network provides continuous visual surveillance that supports incident detection and evidentiary processes.
10.2 Public safety operations now depend signficantly on advanced and integrated technology ecosystems that enhance both strategic and operational effectiveness.
10.3 The EPIC system currently contains more than 29 million records and supports approximately 6,000 personnel and 3,000 vehicles, making it a central hub for intelligence-led policing and coordinated service delivery.
10.4 The policing environment is further strengthened through mobile field-enablement tools, business-intelligence insights, and digitised incident-management workflows that allow for more accurate decision-making and efficient responses.

11. Surveillance, CCTV Infrastructure, and Command Centres

11.1 The City has expanded its surveillance infrastructure considerably and now operates more than 1,169 cameras monitored by 1,444 trained surveillance officials.
11.2 These cameras collectively generate over 1.8 petabytes of video data, demonstrating the scale of monitoring and data-processing requirements.
11.3 Planned improvements toward 2026 include the establishment of a Fusion Centre, the consolidation of control rooms, and the enhancement of fibre-optic networks and analytical capabilities.
11.4 Camera deployment strategies are informed by SAPS hotspot information, community input, and bylaw enforcement trends to ensure optimal placement and maximum public-safety impact.

12. Incident and Justice Lifecycle Management

12.1 The justice and incident-management lifecycle has evolved significantly from 2010 to the present, and future projections highlight an increasing reliance on technology and intergovernmental collaboration.
12.2 Key innovations include expanded drone usage, advanced CCTV analytics, and wider deployment of ANPR systems.
12.3 A Citizen Engagement Mobile App is being developed to enhance communication between communities and law-enforcement authorities and to strengthen reporting mechanisms.
12.4 The City highlighted that legislative reform and cooperative governance remain essential to sustaining these improvements.

13. Air Support and Tactical Response Units

13.1 Air-support operations play an increasingly critical role, with helicopters equipped with infrared and thermal imaging, real-time streaming functions, and specialist first-responder capabilities.
13.2 Tactical Response Units, valued at approximately R201 million each, are actively involved in narcotics interdiction, abalone-poaching enforcement, ammunition seizures, and search-and-rescue missions.
13.3 The Committee notes that cost pressures are substantial, particularly given that Special Tactical Response (STR) operations cost roughly R176,000 per day to sustain.
13.4 Engagements with national ministers are ongoing to secure expanded enforcement powers that align with operational requirements.

14. Governance, Oversight, and Community Structures

14.1 The Joint Operations Centre (JOC) continues to perform a central coordinating role, ensuring seamless collaboration among enforcement agencies and maintaining operational independence from political influence.
14.2 The JOC works closely with SAPS detectives, manages access to surveillance footage, and upholds accountability and evidence-management protocols.
14.3 Persistent governance challenges include procurement inconsistencies, inflated pricing, malfunctioning CCTV hotspots, and gaps in neighbourhood-watch accreditation, with only 15 of 47 structures currently accredited.
14.4 Broader safety concerns include border vulnerabilities, smuggling routes, and illegal land occupations, which are increasingly countered through enhanced drone monitoring.

15. Tour of facilities

The Committee then proceeded to a tour of the facilities that included the operational hub of the various transport, safety and emergency services. The Committee also interacted briefly with staff and spent time viewing the footage monitoring the transport routes, and the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) officer real-time deployment.