



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thari Ya Tsela le Tšhireletso Ya Setšhaba

Official **NEWSFLASH** of the Limpopo Department of Transport & Community Safety

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2025/2026

4TH QUARTER CRIME STATISTICS

MEC VIOLET MATHYE SALUTES MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING CRIME IN LIMPOPO



MEC Violet Mathye (centre), flanked by Head of Department, Stephen Matjena and Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe and SAPS members during the presentation. **Photo: Sello Sebele / LDTCS**

Sello Sebele

Polokwane - The MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Violet Mathye, has commended the men and women in blue for their unwavering commitment and dedication to fighting crime and ensuring safer communities across Limpopo Province. Last Wednesday, MEC Mathye and the Head of Department, Stephen Matjena, joined the Provincial Commissioner of Police, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, at the SAPS Limpopo Provincial Headquarters in Polokwane for the release of the 2025/2026 fourth-quarter crime statistics.

The statistics reflected encouraging progress in the province's fight against crime, with an overall reduction in reported criminal activities.

These positive results are a testament to the relentless efforts of law enforcement officers who



Provincial Head of the Crime Registrar, Brigadier Sonnyboy Kgotloana Manthata presenting official crime statistics for the province. **Photo: Sello Sebele / LDTCS**

continue to work tirelessly in police stations, on patrol, and within communities throughout Limpopo. While welcoming the improvements, MEC Mathye

noted that the report also highlighted areas that still require focused attention, emphasizing that building safer communities remains a collective and ongoing responsibility.

According to the report, Gender-Based Violence and related crimes remain a priority. The Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) Unit secured twelve life sentences for rape, with additional rape convictions resulting in a combined 565 years of imprisonment.

The province also recorded notable reductions in several serious crimes. Murder cases decreased by 2.2%, rape by 5.2%, attempted murder by 10.9%, and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (GBH) by 3.7%. Property-related crimes declined by 1.9%, while stock theft dropped significantly by 27.6%, bringing much-needed relief to farming communities across all districts of Limpopo.

Furthermore, every category of aggravated robbery recorded a decrease. Car hijackings were reduced by 3.5%, truck hijackings also declined, while cash-in-transit robberies remained stable. Notably, the province recorded zero bank robberies during the

reporting period, a significant achievement in the fight against organised crime.

MEC Mathye also commended law enforcement agencies for their efforts in combating crime through targeted operations, which led to the arrest of 8,032 motorists for driving under the influence of alcohol and the arrest of 3,686 undocumented foreign nationals during crime-combating operations.

"The progress reflected in these statistics demonstrates the commitment and hard work of our law enforcement officers. We acknowledge that challenges remain, but these achievements give us confidence that we are moving in the right direction towards creating safer communities for all residents of Limpopo," said MEC Mathye.

The MEC and the Provincial Commissioner further paid tribute to the women in blue whose courage, professionalism, and dedication continue to strengthen the frontline of policing and contribute significantly to maintaining law and order throughout the province.



The advertisement features the South African Police Service (SAPS) logo on the left. The main text reads "if you SEE something | SAY something". Below this, it provides the contact numbers: "SAPS CRIME STOP 08600 10111" and "SAPS EMERGENCY LINE 10111". It also promotes the "MYSAPS MOBILE APP", stating it is a free crime tip-off application available on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. On the right, there is an image of a smartphone displaying the app's interface. At the bottom, there are social media handles and the website: "African Police Service", "@SAPoliceService", "MySAPS App", "sapoliceservice_za", "SAPoliceService", and "www.saps.gov.za".

A LEGACY OF COURAGE: HONOURING LT. GEN. THEMBI HADEBE AND A SAFER LIMPOPO

When history looks back on this moment in Limpopo, it will record more than just numbers on a crime report. It will record a turning point, and it will record the name of a woman who led that change with quiet strength and unwavering resolve.



South African Police Service (SAPS) Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe. Photo: SAPS



MEC Violet Mathye

Polokwane - On Wednesday, 27 May 2026, we stood together as the SAPS in Limpopo presented the Fourth Quarter Crime Statistics for the 2025/2026 financial year. This was not just another quarterly briefing. It was Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe's final presentation before she exits the service at the end of June, after 40 years of dedicated service.

And what a way to close the chapter. The figures from this last quarter depict a tenure of hope. **Contact crimes against the person are down by 5.8%. Murder has declined by 2.2%. TRIO crimes have dropped by 18.3%. Property-related crimes are down 11.9%. These are not abstract statistics.** They represent mothers who returned home safely,

children who walked to school without fear, and families who slept without the sound of sirens in the night.

I am especially heartened by the progress in the Vhembe District. Thohoyandou, once among the highest contributors to contact crime in the province, recorded a 16.3% decrease in contact crimes against the person. That is the result of targeted policing, visible operations, and communities that refused to normalise violence. It shows what is possible when police and people work as one.

None of this happened by accident. It happened because of leadership.

This quarter's results are a fitting farewell to General Hadebe, the first woman to serve as Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo,

appointed in 2021. Under her command, **Limpopo maintained the lowest murder ratio nationally at 3 per 100,000 inhabitants, compared to the national average of 8.2.** She championed intelligence-driven operations through Operation Shanela, pushed for high-density policing in hotspots, and strengthened the partnership between police and Community Policing Forums, Farm Watch structures, and traditional leaders.

The results speak for themselves: **528 livestock recovered, 204 suspects arrested for stock theft, and 57 convictions secured. A counterfeit goods syndicate in Musina dismantled, with goods worth R80 million seized. Twelve life sentences secured by the FCS Unit in rape-related cases, and 565 years of combined imprisonment handed down to offenders of gender-based violence and crimes against children.**

General Hadebe led with the understanding that policing is not only about arrests. It is about restoring dignity, protecting the vulnerable, and making sure that no woman, child, or elderly person feels forgotten by the system.

As MEC for Transport and Community Safety, I have seen firsthand her commitment to collaboration. She

never operated in isolation. She brought together the JCPS Cluster, civil society, the CPF Board, and community leaders, because she knew that safety is a shared responsibility.

To General Hadebe, ***I say thank you. Thank you for 40 years of service. Thank you for breaking barriers as the first woman Provincial Commissioner in Limpopo. Thank you for making your final presentation one that gives the people of this province hope for the road ahead.***

To the men and women of the SAPS in Limpopo, and to the communities who stood with you, this decrease in crime belongs to you too. The fight is not over, but we have proven that when we work together, crime can and will be pushed back.

Let us honour General Hadebe's legacy by continuing the work. Let us keep reporting crime. Let us keep protecting our children. Let us keep rejecting criminality in all its forms.

Limpopo is safer today because of you. And Limpopo will be safer tomorrow because we refuse to go back.

RELEASE OF CRIME STATISTICS

4th Quarter 2025/2026

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Behind every percentage decrease is an arresting officer who ensured a perpetrator faces court. The Q4 arrest tally includes:

- 161 suspects for murder
- 272 for rape
- 1,964 for assault GBH
- 53 for aggravated robbery
- 293 for residential burglary
- 740 for malicious damage to property
- 361 for shoplifting
- 124 for fraud. "Statistics mean nothing if they are not matched by accountability."

#Arrests #PerpetratorsBehindBars #MurderArrests
#RapeArrests #Accountability #DayInCourt #Q4Arrests

RELEASE OF CRIME STATISTICS

4th Quarter 2025/2026

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The barometer of public fear is bending downward. In Q4 2025/26, every high-profile aggravated robbery category in Limpopo recorded a reduction:

- Carjacking down 35.6%
- Robbery at residential premises down 26.8%
- Robbery at non-residential premises down 5.0%
- TRIO crimes down 18.3%
- Truck hijacking reduced to just 5 cases
- Cash-in-transit robberies stable at 1 case
- Bank robberies: 0

These outcomes were not accidental. They are the product of intelligence-led operations, technology integration, and the courage of Tactical Response Teams.

LIMPOPO TRAFFIC LAUNCHES AUTOMATED NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION (ANPR) VEHICLE

Polokwane - Friday morning on the N1 just outside Polokwane looked like any other busy travel day. Taxis weaving between lanes, trucks hauling goods to Gauteng, families heading home for the weekend. But this time, Limpopo traffic officers had something new watching every plate that rolled past: an Automated Number Plate Recognition, or ANPR, vehicle.

It was the official launch day for the province's first ANPR patrol vehicle, a high-tech traffic unit fitted with cameras that scan, read, and verify number plates in real time. No more manual checks. No more "let me see your license disc" delays. In seconds, the system flags expired licenses, unlicensed vehicles, and most importantly, motorists with outstanding traffic fines and warrants of arrest.



Senior Provincial Inspector, Ramavhunga Audrey (seated) behind the camera during the operation. **Photo: LDTCS**



Motorists awaiting to settle their traffic fines. **Photo: LDTCS**

Matome Taueatsoala

242 WARRANTS, COUNTLESS LESSONS

The ANPR vehicle was immediately put to work during a major roadblock operation targeting fine compliance. By midday, 242 motorists had been issued with warrants of arrest for unpaid fines. Others chose to settle on the spot, turning what could have been a court date into a quick payment and a lesson learned.

For Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety officials, the numbers tell a bigger story. This is not just about catching offenders. It is about changing behaviour. The department has been intensifying law enforcement operations across

the province, and the ANPR vehicle is the newest tool in that fight.

"Obey the rules. Respect the law. Save lives," the department reminded motorists during the operation. The message is simple, but the technology behind it is not. The ANPR system allows officers to focus on high-risk vehicles and drivers who repeatedly ignore road laws, instead of stopping every car at random.

MORE THAN JUST FINES

While outstanding fines were the main target on Friday, the vehicle's capability goes further. It can identify stolen cars, vehicles linked to crime, and drivers without valid documentation. For traffic officers who spend hours on the N1, it means less time on paperwork and more time on actual policing.

A senior officer on scene said the launch marks a shift from reactive to intelligence-led traffic enforcement. "We cannot be everywhere at once, but this vehicle helps us see more and act faster. Compliance is not optional. It saves lives."

A CALL TO ALL ROAD USERS

The department is urging all motorists to check their fine status and settle outstanding amounts before they find themselves facing arrest. Continued non-compliance, they warn, can lead to fines, arrest, and even imprisonment.

As the ANPR vehicle moved along the N1, its cameras flashing with each passing car, the message

was clear: technology is catching up with those who think they can outrun the law.

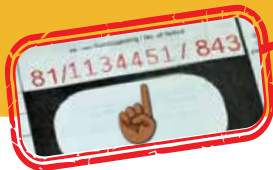
For thousands of Limpopo motorists who use the N1 daily, Friday's launch was a reminder that road safety is everyone's responsibility. The new vehicle won't be on the road every day, but the lesson it delivered will linger long after the cameras switched off.

Check your fines. Pay on time. And drive like someone's life depends on it - because it does.



THE LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CALLS ON ALL MOTORISTS TO SETTLE THEIR LIMPOPO TRAFFIC INFRINGEMENT FINES PROMPTLY AND CORRECTLY!

To ensure that payments are allocated to the right case, the reference on any EFT or ATM transaction must be the **summons number** printed at the **top right corner** of the traffic fine notice.



- **Do not** use your vehicle registration number, name, or surname as the reference.
- **Payments with an incorrect or missing reference will be regarded as not paid**, and the infringement will remain outstanding on the National Traffic Contravention Management System (NTCMS).

If you have already made a payment with the wrong reference, please visit your nearest provincial traffic station with:

- Proof of payment (bank statement or receipt), and
- The original traffic summons.

Staff will update the system and clear the debt, preventing any future stops or enforcement actions for non payment.

By using the correct summons number, you help us keep records accurate, avoid unnecessary delays, and maintain smooth traffic law enforcement across the province.

Operating hours: Monday to Friday, 08h00 - 15h30

Enquiries - Revenue Management Unit, Tel: 015 294 1213

Email: makwarelam@dtcs.limpopo.gov.za

DTCS EXTENDS 'TAKE A CHILD TO WORK' PROGRAMME TO VHEMBE



Learners listening attentively to lessons at Polokwane International Airport. **Photo: LDTCS / Sello Sebela**



Each learner received a tablet and lunch bag. **Photo: LDTCS / Sello Sebela**

Sello Sebela

Polokwane - The Department of Transport and Community Safety continued its 'Take a Child to Work' programme on Thursday, 29 May 2026, opening the doors of its Head Office to learners from Tshilala Secondary School and Niani Secondary School in the Vhembe District.

The day began at Polokwane International Airport, where learners watched an aircraft land and gained insight into how the terminal and runway operate as one integrated system. It was an early lesson in how transport connects people and places far beyond their district.

From there, the group moved to Phamoko Towers for the formal programme. Learners received career guidance focused on opportunities in the transport sector and were encouraged to remain in school and pursue their goals.

To support their learning journey, each learner received a tablet and lunch bag from the DTCS, a practical reminder that their future matters.



Corporate Management Services Chief Director, Ngoako Mangena. **Photo: LDTCS / Sello Sebela**

"Beyond promoting safety on our roads, the department remains invested in the futures being shaped in classrooms at schools like Tshilala and Niani. By bringing learners into spaces where policy becomes practice, the DTCS affirms that every child's potential is as important as every journey's safety" said Chief Director for Corporate Management Services, Ngoako Mangena addressing learners.

SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT ‘TAKE A CHILD TO WORK’ PROGRAMME

On 21 May 2026, 12 learners from Fetakgomo Secondary School in Mhlaletse visited our offices as part of the ‘Take a Child to Work’ programme. The learners toured Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL), where they observed flight arrivals and departures and gained insight into the wide range of careers in the aviation industry.

To support their schooling, GAAL donated school bags to the learners, while Old Mutual and the Department of Transport and Community Safety, Sekhukhune District provided stationery. The department also engaged the learners on career opportunities available within the transport and community safety sector.

The programme aims to inspire young girls to pursue their ambitions and consider careers in traditionally male-dominated fields.



Fetakgomo Secondary School Learners at Polokwane International Airport. Photo: Boniface Mashabela



Fetakgomo Secondary School Learners listening attentively to lessons. Photo: Boniface Mashabela

VHEMBE & WATERBERG DISTRICTS HOST 2026 COMMUNITY SAFETY DEBATE COMPETITION



Learners from selected schools representing Waterberg District at the Debate Competition. **Photo: Laura Mabasa**



Learners from selected schools representing Vhembe District at the Debate Competition. **Photo: Laura Mabasa**

Mohube Mokgoatsana & Dumisani Nghomani

The Department of Transport and Community Safety recently hosted the third rollout of the 2026 Community Safety Debate Competition in the Vhembe District and the fourth rollout in the Waterberg District.

In Vhembe, learners from Livha Combined, E.P.P. Mhinga Combined, Muthuhadini Combined, Elim High, Thengwe High and Maneledzi Secondary Schools participated. In Waterberg, learners from Mabalane Seleka Technical High, Seoketseng Nokonkwetlou Secondary, Mazwe High, PT Matlala Secondary and Bela-Bela High Schools took part. Both districts debated the motion: “**Cyberbullying is more damaging than face-to-face bullying.**”

Opening speakers for the proposition argued that cyberbullying is more damaging because it never stops. While face-to-face bullying ends when the school day ends, online harassment can follow learners home and continue 24/7.

The first speakers for the opposition countered that face-to-face bullying is more damaging due to its

physical and immediate nature. They noted that physical assault causes real, immediate pain and injury such as a black eye or broken arm and that cyberbullying cannot inflict. They further argued that in face-to-face bullying, the bully sees the victim’s reaction and can escalate until the victim breaks down, whereas online, a victim can log off or block the bully.

The debates were engaging and showcased strong research and public speaking skills from all participating schools. The events concluded with the selection of the top five learners from each district who will advance to the Provincial Community Safety Debate Competition in August 2026.

Vhembe District Winners:

1. Funanani Khakhu – Thengwe High School
2. Risima Mathonsi – E.P.P. Mhinga Combined School
3. Orifuna Nendzhelele – Thengwe High School
4. Ripfumelo Shibambu – E.P.P. Mhinga Combined School
5. Blessed Shikwambana – Elim High School



The top 5 winners who will represent Vhembe District at the Provincial Community Safety Debate Competition. **Photo: Mohube Mokgoatsana**



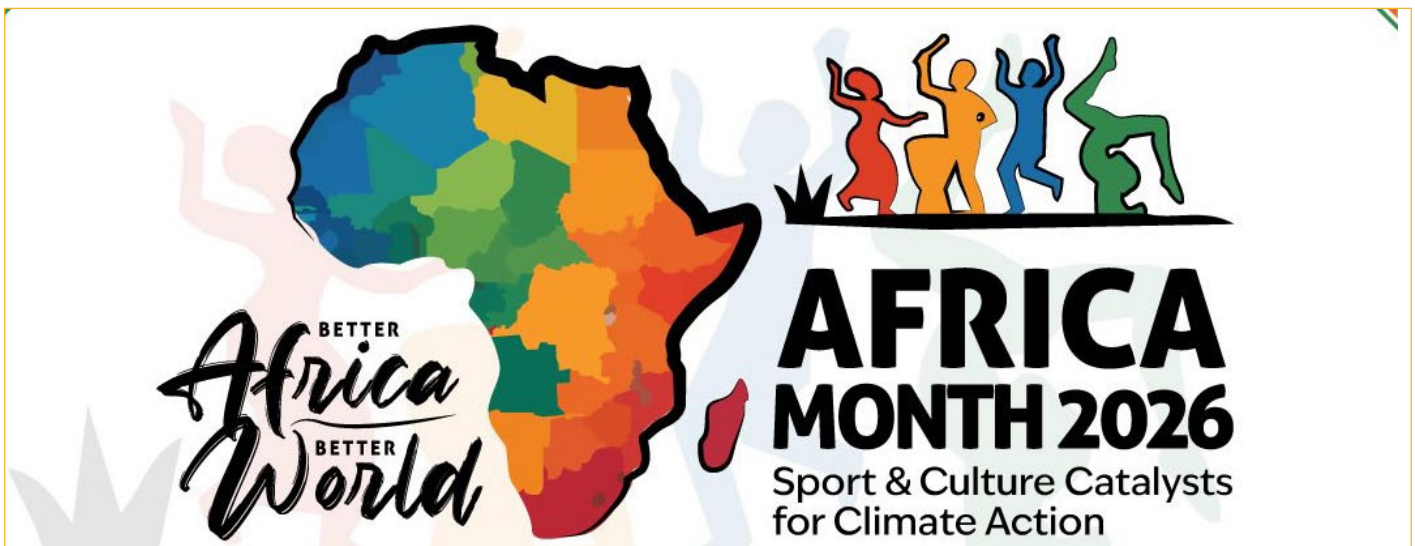
The top 5 winners who will represent Waterberg District at the Provincial Community Safety Debate Competition. **Photo: Dumisani Nghomani**

Waterberg District Winners:

1. Mika Mdlalaze – Mabalane Selek Technical School
2. Thlogi Mokoena – Mabalane Selek Technical School
3. Kaas Phuti – Mabalane Selek Technical School
4. Kolotsi Ramasela – Nokonkwetlou Secondary School
5. Seemole Bopape – Nokonkwetlou Secondary School

Mopani District will be the final district to host the competition on Saturday, 6 May 2026, at Xilumani Hotel in Giyani.





MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Violet Mathye(far right), formed part of the official delegation. **Photo: OTP**

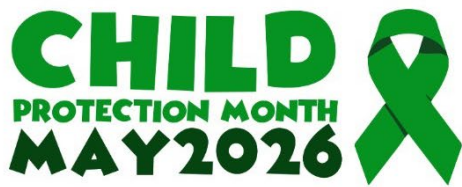
Tshifhiwa Dali

Mankweng -The 2026 Africa Day Commemoration held at the University of Limpopo in Polokwane brought together government leaders, international delegates, traditional leaders and members of the public in celebrating African unity, culture, and solidarity at the Great Tiro Hall, University of Limpopo on Monday, 25 May 2026.

The proceedings were attended by several Members of the Executive Council (MECs), including MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Violet Mathye, who formed part of the official delegation. The event featured a carnival walk, cultural performances, exhibition viewing and food tasting.

Speaking on behalf of the Premier of Limpopo, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, MEC for Social Development, Florence Radzilani, conveyed messages of African unity, cooperation, and development during the formal proceedings.

The commemoration was further strengthened by the presence of international representatives from SADC countries, including Zimbabwe and Mozambique, highlighting the importance of regional collaboration and continental integration. A message of support was also delivered by the Gaza Province delegation from Mozambique during the formal programme



29 May - 5 June 2026

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