

Nomvula outlines her plans

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VIOLENCE against women and children must stop, Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane said yesterday.

She was giving her state of the province address at the Gauteng Legislature in Joburg.

She called on men and women to "make Gauteng and our country a safer place for girl children and women".

Mokonyane said sexual offences were a social problem and needed a social solution.

The province would boost its support for family violence, child abuse and sexual offences police units, and also for victims and their families.

Serious crimes fell 8,1% in the province. Murders were down 11% and attempted murders 16,3%.

Mokonyane said Gauteng unemployment fell from 28,2% in the first quarter of 2011 to 23,7% in the last quarter of the 2012 financial year.

Gauteng created 22 000 permanent jobs, 44 000 temporary jobs and 151 000 people were

employed through the expanded public works programme.

By the end of last month, 5 421 government vacancies were filled.

In 2013/14, the province intended to create 196 000 work opportunities through the programme at provincial and municipal levels.

Also 51 000 temporary and permanent jobs would be created.

Where health was concerned, the province implemented a turnaround strategy, with special focus on Chris Hani Baragwanath, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Dr George Mukhari and Steve Biko hospitals.

Cosatu spokesman Norman Mampane said: "The question is ensuring services are provided, corruption is cleaned up and investigated, and jobs created for all.

"The more important thing is the rejection of the e-tolls system which we regard as a form of privatisation. Further pickets will follow in March to ensure Cosatu's concerns are realised and addressed."