

12 police officers deployed to boost crime-fighting in Ngcobo

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POLICE Minister Bheki Cele has implemented his promised plans to strengthen the Ngcobo police station where five police officers were gunned down earlier this year.

Provincial police spokesman Captain Khaya Tonjeni said Cele announced that 12 officers have now been sent to the police station to replace the slain five.

“The Ngcobo station is one of 30 rural police stations that are on the provincial commissioner’s [Major-General Liziwe Ntshinga] priority list.

“This list was compiled after the provincial commissioner visited all the stations in the province to see for herself some of the places and challenges faced by the members,” said Tonjeni.

The five officers were shot dead by a group of men who stormed into the

station in the early hours and opened fire before stealing guns and ammunition in February.

Tonjeni said a lot of work had been done to improve police stations in the province, some of it in collaboration with other departments such as public works.

The minister made the announcement during a recent visit to the community, which was left traumatised by the massacre, as well as the ensuing events at the nearby Man-

coba’s Angels Ministry Church.

Cele also promised that a public order police unit would be opened in Ngcobo, which would help with additional human resources.

During Cele’s visit, Nolulamile Mbini told the minister that many people lived in far-flung villages where police visibility was minimal and access difficult because of the distance.

Cele then announced that a new mobile unit was coming to the area

to help Ngcobo police with the long distances and improve service delivery. He said plans to reinforce other police stations were also under way and CCTV cameras would be installed at the Ngcobo station “within a month”.

Tonjeni said a seasoned colonel, with vast experience in crime fighting, had been appointed as the visible policing unit commander to help with policing of this area. — ziphon@dispatch.co.za