



Publication: People's Post Woodstock - Main
Title: Dilapidated police station issue noted
Publish date: 22 Apr 2025
Page: 4

Reach: 25000
AVE: R 47120.06
Author: KAYLYNNE BANTOM

Dilapidated police station issue noted

KAYLYNNE BANTOM

To address challenges faced at police stations across the country, Parliament's Standing Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests will engage with police and the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI).

People's Post recently reported that the Kensington Police Station has not been functional for some time, at least three years.

This was revealed by Ward 56 councillor Cheslyn Steenberg in a letter to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Police, expressing his concern.

He pointed out because of this detainees are held at Maitland Police Station, about 5 km away.

Ian Cameron, chair of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Police, said the Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests intended engaging with the police and the DPWI to ascertain the extent of the problem across the country.

He said the committee recently visited KwaZulu-Natal and conditions experienced at Verulam and Durban Central were similar to that of Kensington.

"The committee intends to enhance its oversight over the infrastructure challenges facing the police and

KENSINGTON POLICE STATION HAS NOT BEEN A FUNCTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR SOME TIME

through this intensified oversight we are confident something positive will arise.

"But we are also cognisant of the strained fiscal position facing government currently, but are of the opinion that repair and maintenance of police stations can be done incrementally," shared Cameron.

He said the conditions of service for South African Police Service members were of grave concern to the committee.

"The challenges are multifaceted and range from the inability of the DPWI to provide adequate infrastructure that will enable police officers to do their jobs without hindrance, to the inability of police to provide adequate tools of trade, such as vehicles to enable officers to respond timeously to acts of crime," he said.

Cameron believes this can lead to the erosion of morale among police officers who are willing and commit-

ted to doing effective policing.

"It also leads to the erosion of trust between police and communities as police are unable to respond adequately to acts of crime and investigations take time due to the current workload facing detectives."

Cameron explained there were solutions, but they must be enforced.

"It just requires prudent use of resources to ensure that the little resources appropriated are used for what they were intended for.

"Also, we need to remove the scourge of corruption from all government procurement because a lot of wastage happens as a result of corruption, which redirects much needed resources to nefarious activities."

Cameron said the committee had been steadfast in its approach, adding there was a need for a skills audit within the service.

"There is a continued disregarding of critical infrastructure points to dereliction of duty on the part of the people employed in the police. Also, the DPW must come to the party and provide an effective service to government departments as they remain the custodian of all government buildings."

The department did not respond to *People's Post* enquiries at the time of going to print.