

Speaking notes for Deputy Minister of Police, Mr. Cassel Mathale on the occasion of the hand-over ceremony of the DPCI vehicles hosted in Pretoria, Gauteng Province, 09 September 2025

2025/09/09

Acting Deputy National Head of the DPCI, Lieutenant General ST Nkosi

Div. Com: National Priority Offences, Operations, Lt. Gen. Patrick Mbotho

Provincial Heads

Component Heads

Distinguished guests

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

Good Morning.

It is always with the greatest pleasure for me to witness and preside over the ceremony of the handing over of new vehicles to the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (the DPCI) - not only because the DPCI plays a critical role in the investigation of national priority offences namely, serious organised crime, serious corruption and serious commercial crimes – but also because vehicles are indisputably a crucial resource in the fight against crime and corruption. Vehicles are generally essential policing tools, without which, investigations are delayed thereby delaying justice and eventually eroding community's trust in our law enforcement agencies.

Resource constraints, especially in mobility, have a major negative impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the DPCI. We therefore, hope these vehicles will empower investigators and ensure they locate, record and process the evidence timely and allow for consultation with relevant stakeholders, witnesses and the Prosecution.

General Nkosi, we are here today to hand over 78 new vehicles of which 14 are armoured vehicles to ensure that your members are enabled to deliver on the mandate of the DPCI.

These are not just cars, they symbolise government's commitment to resourcing the Directorate. They are enablers of faster response, stronger investigations, and visible policing.

Typical of the bird of prey itself, the Hawks (as the Directorate is affectionately known) should be an embodiment of clarity, focus, courage, strength and resolve, among other characteristics. You must typically circle around alleged wrongdoing and gather the

evidence needed through investigations. When the time is right, then pounce and go for the kill by ensuring that you present a watertight case that will stand the test in a court of law.

It is for these reasons that as the Ministry of Police we continue to be very proud of the work that you (General Nkosi), your predecessor (General Lebeya) and your team have and continue to do in stamping the authority of the state.

There is no doubt that some of our best men and women in the South African Police Service are part of this Directorate, and we all want them to do their work effectively and efficiently to achieve the objectives that have been set. We also are aware that in order for them to do so, the right tools and skills-set are required.

We remain committed to capacitating the Directorate, despite the shrinking government purse and we believe that the increased fleet will therefore, improve on response time as vehicles = better reach, faster service, stronger presence as well as broaden the footprint of the DPCI throughout the country.

This hand-over today is a reflection of our commitment to improved service delivery through enhanced operational capacity of the DPCI. These vehicles are therefore intended to strengthen operations against serious and violent crimes such as CIT robberies and police killings, as well as dismantling of syndicates.

As I mentioned earlier, these are more than just cars. They are a step closer towards the restoration of trust and confidence in the Directorate and the whole Criminal Justice System value chain. The deployment thereof must be executed with utmost care and diligence.

I do, however, want to appeal to members who will be using these new vehicles to at all times remember, that access to these vehicles (and other state resources for that matter) is granted to you for you to serve and service our communities. These vehicles are not for your personal leisure and are not to be used outside the scope of your work.

Let me further remind you that the abuse of state vehicles erodes the trust and confidence that we, as the SAPS family are constantly trying to build with the communities we serve.

Such conduct only takes us back as the Department and will not be tolerated.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm confident that these new wheels will assist you to soar higher and bolster your fight against crime and corruption. However, it is your unwavering commitment, your professionalism and your passion for duty that truly makes the difference. Use these vehicles responsibly, to protect the vulnerable and fight organised crime. Stay vigilant, disciplined, and committed to serving with integrity.

Finally, allow me to implore the communities we serve to work with us and all other law enforcement agencies. Effective crime prevention and combating is a partnership, we can only win the battle against criminality and corruption if we all get involved.

This handover is a milestone in building a professional, well-equipped DPCI. It symbolises partnership between government, law enforcement and communities.

Together, we are building a safer, more secure South Africa.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this event and all the best to the DPCI with your endeavours.

I Thank you