

PUBLIC ORDER POLICING

Briefing to the Portfolio Committee on
Police

4 September 2014



Introduction

The SAPS Act (68 of 1995) makes provision for the establishment of a Public Order Police (POP) Unit by the NASCOM

Public Order Policing (POP) Units were decentralised by the previous NASCOM in 2006

Since 2006, members of the POPS were decentralised and sent to stations across the country

Public order protests have increased dramatically since then

Recent protests have seen the unit re-established nationally by the current commissioner

Mandate of POPs

The Mandate of the POPs is determined by Section 205(3) of the Constitution.

The SAPS through POPs are responsible for the maintenance of Public Order and the policing of public protests

Section 7(1) of the SAPS Act (68 of 1995) makes provision for the establishment of the POPs Unit nationally

Previously Standing Order 262 regulated the procedure for police intervention with crowds

This has now been replaced with National Instruction 4 of 2014

Regulation of Gatherings Act (205 of 1993)

Snapshot of POPs

According to the SAPS 2012/13 Annual Report, there were:

28 POPs Units Nationally

4563 members deployed (4 314 operational, 249 support service)

12 399 crowd related incidents of which:

10 517 peaceful incidents

1882 violent incidents: service delivery protest, labour disputes etc.

3680 arrests

Key Policing stats

Type of incident	Number of incidents 2010/11	Number of Incidents 2011/12	Number of Incidents 2012/13
Peaceful incidents	11 680	10 744	10 517
Violent incidents	971	1 194	1 882
TOTAL	12 651	11 938	12 399

Policy on Public Order Policing

The Secretariat developed a policy framework for Public Order Policing in 2011

Policy and Guidelines: Policing of Public Protests, Gatherings and Major Events

Promote ideal crowd control and management capacity within the police in order to secure public trust and maintenance of safety during public gatherings;

Provide a framework and facilitate the development of appropriate guidelines by the SAPS on the use of force in relation to crowd control and management that adheres to internationally accepted standards;

Establish the principle of intervention in controlling public protest in order to proportionate the means of force that can be applied by the police; and

Facilitate the introduction of appropriate training initiatives which must, amongst others, address the principle of 'first responder', guide SAPS operational planning and response, resource deployment and physical execution.

Key Issues

Increase in levels of violent protests

National Command and Control of Unit

Interference with Commanders

Role of Councillors and Executive Mayors

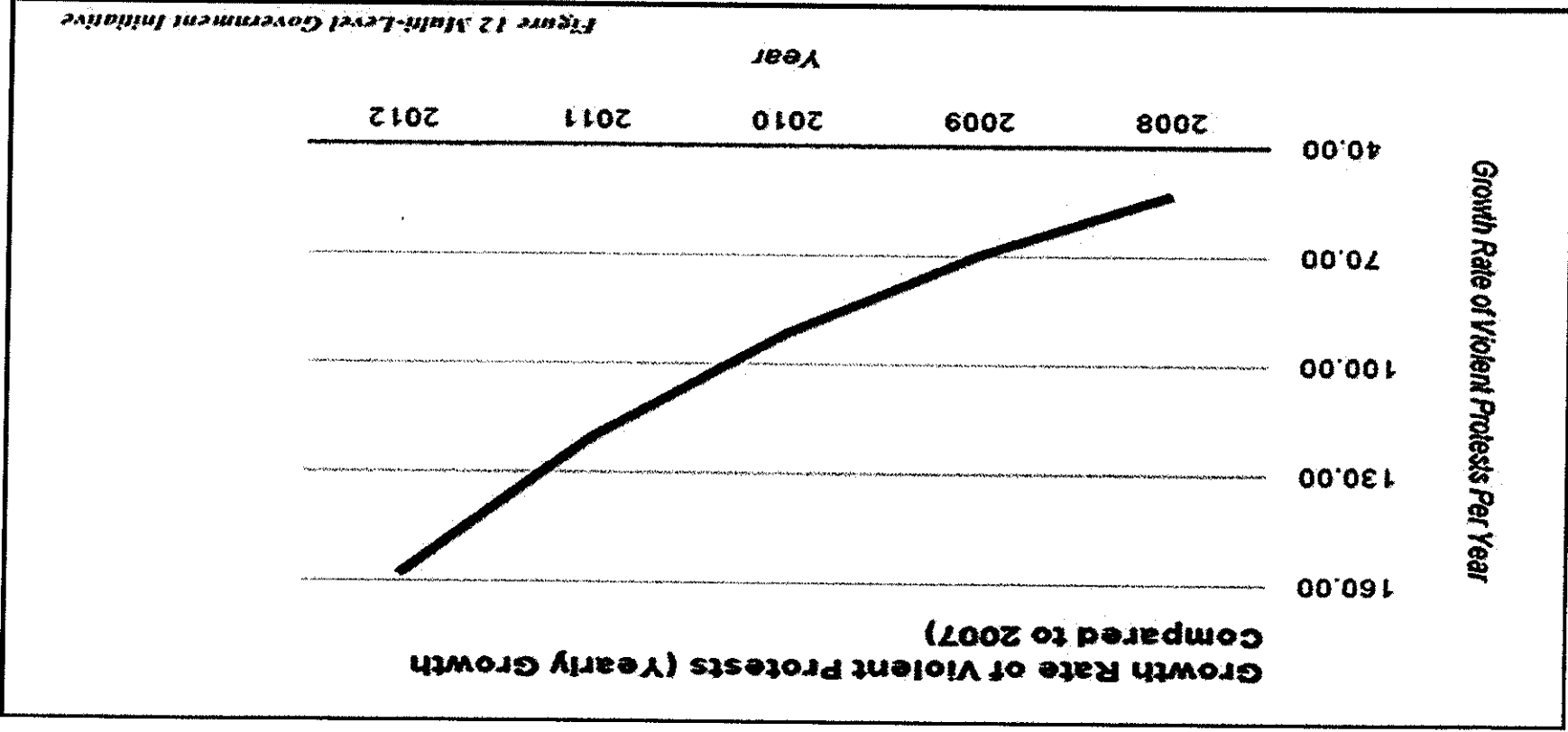
SATAWU Judgement

Politicising the role of the police

Use of POPs members to do Crime Prevention and Protection duties

Equipment and use of lethal weapons

Growth of Violent Protests



Conclusion

POPS new intervention by Nascom

Reestablishment of National Unit

Effectiveness of co-ordination – travelling to scenes of protest

Support from local police stations

Role of Metro Police to be examined

Training and Resourcing of Regional Units

Approach and implementation of Ministerial guidelines

