

BACK TO BASICS
TOWARDS A SAFER TOMORROW



POLICING OF GANGSTERISM

21 September 2016

#CrimeMustFall

CONTENT



- Background
- Legal Framework
- Integrated approach to deal with gangsterism
- National Crime Combating Forum (NCCF) Instruction to deal with gangsterism
- Interventions by Western Cape
 - Strategy adopted by Western Cape
 - Operational concept
 - Operation Combat
 - Actions executed
 - Arrests
 - Seizures
- Interventions by Eastern Cape
- Conclusion

BACKGROUND



- Gangs exist in various forms and intensity throughout the country and are generally linked to drugs, firearms and organised crime. The South African Police Service has therefore responded by dealing vigorously with drugs and firearms.
- A multi-disciplinary and integrated approach were therefore adopted to effectively address gangsterism through prevention, intervention, assessment and suppression.
- Gangs relate to the social fabric of a community which not only requires combating by the SAPS but also needs to be dealt with by other authorities and civil society in an integrated manner.



- Integrated Task Teams have been established in the SAPS, consisting of Visible Policing, Detective Service and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI), with a life span of 3 to 6 months, to deal with specific issues when required.
- Such task teams have been established in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Free State.
- Western Cape adopted a specialised operational concept that provides for visible policing, investigation, crime intelligence and community mobilisation.



- The Legal framework for dealing with gang related crime and violence include:
 - Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 1998 (Act No 121 of 1998)
 - The Financial Intelligence Centre Act, 2001 (Act No 38 of 2001)
 - The Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2013 (Act No 7 of 2013)
 - The Drug and Drugs Trafficking Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No 140 of 1992)
 - The Witness Protection Act, 1998 (Act No 112 of 1998)
 - The Prevention and Combatting of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004 (Act No 12 of 2004)
 - The Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977)

INTEGRATED APPROACH: DEALING WITH GANGSTERISM



- In 2014, Cabinet tasked the National Intelligence Coordinating Committee (NICOC) to prepare a threat analysis focussing on prison gangs in the context of gangsterism as a national threat.
- At the same time the Civilian Secretariat for Police (CSP) was tasked by the Minister of Police to develop an interdepartmental strategy.
- These two parallel processes were coordinated through a Gangsterism Task Team under the joint leadership of NICOC and the CSP.
- The existing anti-gangsterism strategies of the Free State and Western Cape provinces were incorporated into the National Anti Gang Strategy.

INTEGRATED APPROACH: DEALING WITH GANGSTERISM - *continues*



- Prior to the directive that resulted in the process to develop the Anti-gangsterism strategy, some strategic and operational interventions were already in place, specifically in provinces where gangsterism and gang related crimes were prevalent, led by SAPS and other stakeholders.
- This was mostly prevalent in Western Cape where gangsterism is deeply entrenched in many communities with severe social and crime related problems.
- This included the establishment of three committees dealing with Intelligence, Detectives and Operations with the intention that the committees will continue to work in these disciplines.
- The Technology Committee aims to address the challenges within Correctional Facilities where gangs use technology to influence activities outside of prison.

INTEGRATED APPROACH: DEALING WITH GANGSTERISM - *continues*



- For example, the Intelligence Committee and intelligence structures will provide information to the Operations and Technology Committees to allow appropriate intervention.
- The Anti- Gangsterism Strategy was approved by the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster in December 2015 and further presented to the JCPS Ministers in August 2016, where a draft detailed implementation plan was requested. A Cabinet memorandum on the Strategy has been drafted and forwarded for approval. The Strategy was further presented to the Free State PROVJOINTS in July in order to be incorporated into their action plan.

INTEGRATED APPROACH: DEALING WITH GANGSTERISM - *continues*



- The Strategy was also endorsed by the Social Protection Human Development Cluster, the Economic Sectors Employment and Infrastructure Development Cluster as well as the Forum of South African Directors-General (FOSAD) Management Committee (MANCO) to ensure that the root causes of gangsterism are addressed by the relevant clusters as opposed to a solely law-enforcement approach.

NCCF INSTRUCTION TO DEAL WITH GANGSTERISM



- In order to ensure that SAPS in all provinces act proactively on threats of gangsterism, NCCF instruction 1 of 2014 was issued.
- This requires police stations to act proactively to address gangsterism through targeted policing actions and cooperation with communities, local government and other stakeholders.
- The Instruction further requires that should stations not be able to address gangsterism effectively, the interventions can be escalated to Cluster Crime Combating Forum (CCCF) or Provincial Crime Combating Forum (PCCF) level making use of the Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) processes.
- The existing plans adopted by Eastern Cape, Free State and Western Cape were also presented to an extended NCCF meeting to serve as an example of what is required in this regard.

NCCF INSTRUCTION TO DEAL WITH GANGSTERISM - *continues*



- In addition to the NCCF instruction aimed at Policing of Gangsterism, the SAPS crime combating approach articulated in the NCCF instructions is further utilised to address gangsterism and gang related crime, for example:
 - [NCCF Instruction 1/ 2014: Policing of Gangsterism at police station level;](#)
 - [NCCF Instruction 4/2014: OCTA: The role of Crime Intelligence in the OCTA Process;](#)
 - [NCCF Instruction 5/2014: Status of provincial organised crime projects;](#)
 - [NCCF Instruction 7/2014: OCTA Strategy: Nomination of one pilot station per province;](#)
 - [NCCF Instruction 11/2014: Tracing Operation: National and Provincial top 30 most wanted suspects;](#)
 - [Instruction 4/2015: Eliminating Crime in the hot spots;](#)
 - [Instruction 6/2015: Operation Duty Calls period: 6 October 2014 to 31 January 2015;](#)
 - [Instruction 8/2015: Plans to deal with crime that showed an increase;](#)

NCCF INSTRUCTION TO DEAL WITH GANGSTERISM

continues



- Instruction 10/2015: Crime scene management and crime scene reports;
- Instruction 12/2015: Prevention of escapes and inclusion of escaped suspects on the most wanted lists;
- Instruction 14/2015: Conduct at crime scenes: Crime scene management and crimes scene reports;
- Instruction 16/2015: National and Provincial plans to prevent escapes from and death in police custody;
- Instruction 21/2015: Reporting of top 300 most wanted suspects;
- Instruction 22/2015: Murder of SAPS members;
- Instruction 25 of 2015: National Police Safety Plan;
- Instruction 29 of 2015: Opposing bail; and
- Instruction 30/2015: Crime Hotspot Blue Print.

INTERVENTIONS BY WESTERN CAPE



- Western Cape has a law enforcement and criminal justice plan in place (Operation Combat) that is driven by SAPS but involves Local Government, Provincial and National Departments.
- The Western Cape Provincial Government also adopted a provincial “Social transformation, Gang Prevention and Intervention Strategic Framework” in 2008.



Mandate

- To stabilise gang affected areas
- To dislodge and weaken the capacity of gangs
- To disorganise and disable their criminal economy
- To construct prosecution ready dockets, including Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA) cases against gangs/members
- To create security within gang affected communities



Four (4) primary dimensions of the strategy

- Strategic visible policing deployments
- Criminal investigations related to gangs
- Focused gathering and analysis of intelligence
- Mobilisation of communities against gangsterism

OPERATIONAL CONCEPT BY WESTERN CAPE



- Focused intelligence support by providing tactical information.
- Focused integrated visible policing at identified hotspot gang areas.
- Addressing of gang leaders and gang members through focused criminal investigations.
- Monitoring and evaluation of focused integrated operations.
- Conducting community outreach programmes directed at targeted vulnerable groupings, affected communities and role models.

OPERATION COMBAT BY WESTERN CAPE



- Operation Combat comprises Crime Intelligence, Visible Policing, Operational Response Services, investigative capacity and other law enforcement agencies involved in the combating of gang violence.
- Deployed in identified problematic gang areas to stabilise.
- Over and above station and cluster level deployments.

ACTIONS EXECUTED BY WESTERN CAPE



Actions	Combat 1st QTR	Combat 2nd QTR	Total
Vehicle Control Points (V C P)	35	62	97
Stop and Search	247	406	653
Vehicle Control Points (V C P)	35	62	97
Patrol Duties			
Foot (Urban)	353	200	553
Vehicle patrols	857	829	1686
Searches			
Vehicles	219	575	794
Premises related to Illicit Drugs	461	561	1022
Persons	9057	11402	20459
Premises: Residential	103	144	247
Search Warrants Executed	17	27	44

ARRESTS BY WESTERN CAPE



Arrests	Combat 1st QTR	Combat 2nd QTR	Total
Total Arrests	359	337	696
Contact Crimes	5	14	19
Property Related Crimes	2	4	6
Crime Detected as a result of Police Action	236	272	508
Drug Related Crime	220	252	472
Illegal Possession of Firearms and Ammunition	16	20	36
Possession of Suspected Stolen Property	3	9	12

SEIZURES BY WESTERN CAPE



Seizures	Combat 1st QTR	Combat 2nd QTR	Total
Cannabis/Dagga Dry (Grams)	7133.169	19696.99	26830.159
Cannabis/Dagga Plants (Number of Plants)	65	0	65
Crystal Meth(Tik-Tik) (Grams)	1015.951	1935.705	2951.656
Heroin/Thai White (Grams)	25	2	27
Mandrax Powder(Grams)	2.15	1.7	3.85
Mandrax (Tablet)	1346.75	3212.75	4559.5
Firearms and Ammunition			
Ammunition	530	135	665
Complete Firearm	12	17	29

INTERVENTIONS: OPERATION LOCKDOWN: MOUNT ROAD- EASTERN CAPE



- Existing policing practices, mostly conventional of nature has no impact on the situation, hence the Acting National Commissioner has directed an intervention with the achievable objection of successfully combating gangsterism in the area.
- The strategy which was developed and be actualised with effect from 1 April 2016, through an operational plan and daily operational instructions, directed from the Cluster Operational Command Centre.
- The strategy is based on three (3) pillars and operational focus area namely:
 - Detection;
 - Disruption/suppression; and
 - Prosecution.

INTERVENTIONS: OPERATION LOCKDOWN: MOUNT ROAD- EASTERN CAPE - *continues*



Detection

- Involves the collection, co-ordination of all information and intelligence, and the collation and investigation of all gangsterism related cases within the Port Elizabeth Metropolitan area. This will include the investigation, in a co-ordinated form, under a single investigation group, colloquially referred to as the Gang Unit, on an individual basis.
- The goal of the case investigations is the prosecution of perpetrators linked to each case. Due to the high level of intimidation of “warm body” witnesses and the proclivity of gangs to assassinate both witnesses and potential witnesses, it is has become essential that greater emphasis be placed on the maximum exploitation of forensic evidence. This dictates a more focussed and complete approach to the handling of crime scenes, and the consequent handling of evidence, including the prioritisation of all gang related cases as urgent.

INTERVENTIONS: OPERATION LOCKDOWN: MOUNT ROAD- EASTERN CAPE - *continues*



Disruption / Suppression

- Involves the daily deployment, under the command and direction of the Cluster Operational Command Centre, of dedicated operational (uniform) assets to disrupt the daily activities of the gangs, maintain suppression operations to prevent further acts of violence where tactical early warning intelligence indicates it will occur, and serving as support for the investigators to hunt down and apprehend individuals wanted on mature gangsterism cases.
- The strategic intent is to deny gangs time, space and opportunity to ply their trade and conduct criminal activities.

INTERVENTIONS: OPERATION LOCKDOWN: MOUNT ROAD- EASTERN CAPE - *continues*



Prosecution

- As a consequence of investigations, the prosecution of cases by a dedicated team of prosecutors, with the concurrent function of identifying cases and evidence that can also possibly later be utilised for POCA cases.
- From a command and control perspective, greater emphasis has been placed on the co-ordination of activities of the two operational pillars, including a singular command structure with daily operational meetings, specific intelligence and investigation informed and directed tasking's.
- The daily planning and operational/activity/feedback regime has also enhanced to enable better monitoring of the operations.

INTERVENTIONS: OPERATION LOCKDOWN: MOUNT ROAD- EASTERN CAPE - *continues*



- The priority within the focus areas is the removal of both “shooters” and weapons from the affected operational areas.
- Ultimately the intention is to enable an environment where the community feels safe, an absence of fear, restoration of trust in the SA Police Service and albeit unrealistic, the total eradication of gangsterism.

OPERATION LOCKDOWN SUCCESSES AND RECOVERIES



Operation Lockdown Lockdown successes include the following:

- Arrests: 567
- Firearms: 82
- Ammunition: 1040

DRUG CONFISCATIONS



CATEGORY	TYPE	QUANTITY
DAGGA	Dagga zolls	309
	Dagga packets	646
	Dagga Weight (grams)	24569.46g
	Dagga bompies	1381
	Dagga plants	20
	Dagga envelopes	416
MANDRAX	Mandrax tablets full	7663
	Mandrax tablets half	245
	Mandrax tablets quarter	154
	Mandrax powder bankie	7
TIK	Tik packets	1096
	Tik pipe	1787
OTHER DRUGS	Cocaine (packets)	18
	Rocks (pieces)	69
	Concoctions (packets)	27
	Schedule 5 medicine (tablets)	37337

IS THERE AN INCREASE IN GANG VIOLENCE AND GANG RELATED INCIDENTS?



Gang violence fluctuates month to month or even year to year. It started as a fight over “turf” and then results in intimidation, revenge attacks and alliances. At present, thirty-five [35] known gangsters are awaiting trial at St Albans Prison of which some orchestrate hits on witnesses and other gang members. This also contributes to an increase in gang related cases.

The hot spot areas expand week by week due to the following:

- Lack of income [drug trafficking, routes been policed and closed]
- Displacement of gang related crime due to increased police presence
- Need for legal fees, etc. for court cases, leads to gangsters committing other crimes, eg. Robberies, carjackings, etc.
- Modus Operandi of gangs are constantly changing due to the increase pressure of the police

Currently there are about seven hundred (700) known gang members affiliated to between sixteen (16) to twenty-one (21) identified gangs. This figure has increased over the years due to constant recruitment.

CONCLUSION



- It must be noted that, whilst these policing interventions are being implemented, the scourge of gangsterism is deeply-seated in many, poorer communities and will require a complete all-of-government response to address the implications.
- Policing is but a part of the solution. Special attention will also have to be given to the prison gang structure which feeds the systematic adoption gang culture.

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Thank you

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