BACK TO BASICS
TOWARDS A SAFER TOMORROW

**Briefing to the Portfolio Committee on the SAPS's Joint Meeting with Higher Education, PSIRA & SASSETA on University Security
20 June 2017**

#CrimeMustFall

OVERVIEW

→ Purpose.

→ Background.

→ Measures implemented.

→ Challenges from a security point of view.

→ Recommendations.

Purpose

→To brief the Portfolio Committee on Police on:

- The policing strategy adopted to address the recent #FeesMustFall protest; &

- Highlight the challenges that are facing institutions of higher learning, from a security point of view.

Background (1)

→ #FeesMustFall is a student led protest movement that began in mid-October 2015, in response to an increase in fees at South African universities.

→ Protests started at the University of Witwatersrand (WITS) & spread to the University of Cape Town, the University of Pretoria & Rhodes University, before rapidly spreading to other institutions of higher learning across the country.

→ Although the protest was focused on a rise in fees, a number of other factors formed the background for the protest, from a lack of funding for poorer students, a lack of social transformation, to broader socio-economic & racial inequality issues.

Background (2)

→ Student protests were accompanied by violence, including assaults, intimidation, arson & damage to property.

→ Recent protests suggest that sections of the student movement are competing with one another to "claim" victories.

→ Added to this, has been the fact that major national political parties appear to be more active in trying to exert control over "their" students.

→ As a response to the situation, the JCPS Cluster & affected departments implemented a four pillar, integrated, Interdepartmental Intervention Plan:

- **Pillar 1** - **Community & Stakeholder Engagement;**

- **Pillar 2** - **Legal & Regulatory Framework & Intervention;**

- **Pillar 3** - **Safety & Security; &**

- **Pillar 4** - **Mass Communication.**

→ **Pillar 1 - Community & Stakeholder Engagement:**

– To pursue, lobby, mobilise & influence stakeholders in support of government's interventions.

- Minister of Higher Education engagement:
  - Vice Chancellors;
  - Student leaders;
  - Parents;
  - Faith based organisations; &
  - The Nelson Mandela Foundation mediation with South African Police Service (SAPS), Wits Medical School, Institute for Security Studies, International Red Cross, addressing student health care during protest.

→ **Pillar 2 - Legal & Regulatory Framework & Intervention:**

- Application of all relevant laws & legal procedures in support of peace & stability, through:

    - Interdicts, criminal actions to be prosecuted in normal courts, but in a prioritised manner;

    - Bail to be opposed while investigations are underway & prosecution-guided investigations;

    - Civil remedies to be followed - claims against organisers & those who cause damage;

    - The Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) was consulted in determining the role & function of private security companies during student protest – guidelines were drawn up taking into consideration the PSIRA act as well the Regulation of Gatherings Act; &

    - PSIRA to engage with Safety & Security Sector Education & training Authority (SASSETA) in developing training standards & training materials in line with the private security company mandate-, i.e. "Asset protection & the protection of individuals".

→ **Pillar 3 - Safety & Security:**

– The SAPS will fulfil its constitutional mandate by maintaining public order & addressing crime at all campuses, through:

  • Enhanced police visibility;

  • Working jointly with other security agencies to enhance effectiveness, with clearly established **roles & responsibilities, reporting lines, command & control**; &

  • Monitor & co-ordinate operational deployment.

→ **Pillar 4 - Mass Communication:**

– Mass communication campaign through electronic media to create dialogue & mobilise all sectors of the South African society to support government interventions.
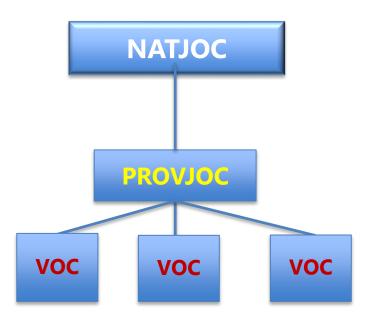
- The following co-ordination mechanisms were activated in support of Pillar 3 – Safety & Security:

National Joint Operational Committee

Provincial Joint Operational Committee

Venue Operational Centres

NATJOC

PROVJOC

VOC   VOC   VOC

Measures Implemented (6)

→ **The following security measures were implemented:**

– Activated **intelligence** gathering network;

– Conducted **analyses** & risk assessments;

– Prepared & distributed **early warnings**;

– Coordinated safety & security **inside** the universities; &

– Appointed **liaison officers** at institution-level to engage with relevant stakeholders.

→ **Daily Deployment & Response:**

  – SAPS capabilities:

  - Public Order Policing (POP);

  - Crime Intelligence (CI);

  - Detectives; and

  - Visible Policing.

  – Private Security.

  – Campus Security.

Measures Implemented (8)

→ **Case Management Approach:**

- The management of all criminal cases generated during unrest incidents by all stakeholders, including but not limited to, dedicated investigation teams, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Dept. of Justice & Constitutional Development (DoJCD), Department of Home Affairs (DOH) & dept. of Correctional Services (DCS);

- Efficient utilisation of video cameras for the purpose of evidence in future;

- Dedicated investigators to be deployed during the operation.

- Analysis of cases received, cases under investigation, cases forwarded to the Senior Public Prosecutor (SPP) for a decision, cases to court, guilty verdicts, not guilty verdicts, cases withdrawn in court & cases closed as undetected;

- Ensure the continuous updating of the system to capture actual accurate information;

- Ensure the effective management of exhibits, optimising the utilisation of forensic evidence & leads;

- Strong evidence-based approach used in bail applications; &

- Feedback monitored at provincial & national levels.

Challenges from a Security Point of View

→ **Access to Institutions:**

- – Lack of a **uniform approach** by the institutions with regard to SAPS's access to institutions (SAPS deployed differently from one institution to the next).
- – Delays in obtaining **court orders.**
- – Ineffective **access control management** employed by certain institutions.

→ **Inadequate cooperation with the SAPS:**

- – Role players reluctant to cooperate fully with the SAPS in jointly ensuring safety & security.

→ **Withdrawal of cases:**

- – Institutions adopt a different approach in order to ensure minimum conflict with the student population.

→ **Lack of support by the institutions to the criminal investigations:**

- – Institutions prefer to distance themselves from criminal investigations against the students, which has impacted negatively om the SAPS's ability to present quality case dockets for prosecution.

Recommendations

- To ensure that the SAPS is effective in executing its mandate the following is needed:

    - *Total commitment, dedication & support from all affected departments;*

    - *Emphasis to be placed on mass communication regarding government responsibilities in order to ensure effective, pro-active measures; &*

    - The initiative between the SAPS, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) & the WITS Medical School, regarding health care during student protest, be adopted as a best practise & be implemented at all institutions in the country.

THANK YOU