

**BACK TO BASICS**  
TOWARDS A SAFER TOMORROW



## **Briefing to the Portfolio Committee on Police**

**Report back from the South African Police Service management on the issues raised during the KwaZulu-Natal oversight visit.**

**14 November 2017**

**#CrimeMustFall**



- Section 1: Introduction.
- Section 2: Police stations and units visited by the Portfolio Committee on Police.
- Section 3: Recommendations and responses.



- The Portfolio Committee on Police (PCoP), conducted an oversight visit to KwaZulu-Natal, from 31 July to 4 August 2017.
- The purpose of the oversight visit, was for the PCoP to evaluate the compliance of specialised police units and police stations in KwaZulu-Natal and also evaluate policing management and service delivery in the deep rural areas.



→ The following police stations were visited:

- the Richards Bay Police Station;
- the Hlabisa Police Station;
- the Nongoma Police Station;
- the Chatsworth Police Station; and
- the Umlazi Police Station.



→The following units were visited:

- the Pietermaritzburg Public Order Policing (POP) and the Tactical Response Team (TRT);
- the Provincial 10111 Radio Control Centre;
- the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI);
- the Provincial Detective Service, Durban;
- the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPIID); and
- the National Intervention Unit (NIU).



→ The Glebelands Hostel was visited.



→ A total of 17 recommendations were made by the Portfolio Committee on Police, in their report, dated 13 September 2017.



- **The PCoP recommended that the SAPS provincial management immediately appoints a Head of Support at the Hlabisa Police Station.**
- Warrant Officer Danca was appointed as the Support Head reported at the station on, 23 October 2017.



- **The PCoP recommended that a new telecommunication system be installed at the Hlabisa Police Station, to enable complainants to communicate with the SAPS and the station with its members. The Committee viewed this as an immediate priority, given the fact that the station is in a deep rural area and its members need to be protected.**
- The Tele-communication at the station is old and outdated as a result the telephone lines were not working. The telephone lines that were faulty during the visit of the Portfolio Committee on Police were attended to by Telkom and have since been rectified.



- Technology Management Services, is in the process of replacing the current dimension data system (analogue), with a new system (digital).
- The quotation from Telkom has been issued and signed by the station on 2017-10-19, and the order for delivery of the service was issued to Telkom.
- The installation of the new PABX system, is scheduled to take place, on 2017-11-13.



→ **The Committee recommended that a review of the state of the SAPS garages in KZN be undertaken and a full report be made available to the Committee by the acting National Commissioner. The Committee expects that the operational vehicles available to stations and specialised units should be over 80%.**

→ **Status report on vehicle availability:**

→ **Hlabisa Police Station (unannounced visit):**

*"The Committee made an unannounced visit to Hlabisa Police Station. The station is in a deep rural area in KwaZulu-Natal and is led by a Colonel. The station has 43 staff members of which 11 are Public Service Act members and 32 SAPS Act members. The population is 40 000 people in the station area. The Cluster Commander is based at Mtubatuba and the Hlabisa station has two sectors. There are 14 vehicles of which five are operational and nine are in the SAPS garage. Twelve are 4x4 vehicles and one has been in the garage for longer than one year."*

→ **Response:** as on 2017-11-07, the status of vehicle availability at the station, is as follows:

- Actual = 13 vehicles (active = 09 (69.23%) vehicles and in the garage = 4 (30.77%) vehicles).
- Thus far no vehicles were found to be at the garage for more than 2 months.



## → **Nongoma SAPS:**

- *"Some vehicles were in for repairs for between 2-3 years"*

→ **Response:** as on 2017-11-07, the status of vehicle availability at the station, is as follows:

- Actual = 46 vehicles (active = 33 (71.74%) vehicles and in the garage = 13 (28.26%) vehicles).
- Thus far, no vehicles were found to be at the garage for 2-3 years, for repairs.

## → **Chatsworth SAPS:**

- *"The downtime on vehicles at the SAPS garage is 36 days."*

→ **Response:** as on 2017-11-07, the status of vehicle availability at the station, is as follows:

- Actual = 88 vehicles (active = 82 (93.18%) vehicles and in the garage = 6 (6.82%) vehicles).
- The downtime was caused by the updating of the systems (WAS) and the implementation of the electronic SAPS 298 and the matter was rectified.



## → SAPS Garages KZN

- *“The Regional Commissioner for Management Intervention reported that the KZN SAPS has 7463 vehicles, of which 82.4% are available and active. 7% of the KZN vehicle fleet are in garages for repair. A total of 776 vehicles are in garages, that are outsourced in terms of the RT-46 Agreement, while another 519 are in the SAPS garage.”*
- **Response:** as on 2017-11-07, the status of vehicle availability was standing at **83.38%** for KZN province, which is in line with outsourced vehicles versus in-house vehicles.



→ **The Committee recommended that all outstanding vacancies in the detective environment be filled and the stations receive the necessary support.**

- 7 Posts for re-enlistment of detectives have been approved and members took up their posts as from the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2017.
- 13 Advertised posts have been approved and the appointed members took up their posts on 1 November 2017. The vacancies at detective,s will continuously receive attention by way of re-enlistment, lateral transfers and recruitment process.



→ **The Committee recommended that the station management team at Umlazi, be rotated, to give a new team the opportunity of reducing the killings and solving the murders, at the Glebelands hostel.**

- The investigation of serious crime at Glebelands hostel is conducted by the specialised task team, which consists of members from outside the SAPS Umlazi precinct and who perform duties under the leadership of Brigadier Mbele, the Provincial Head: Organised Crime.
- In respect of Visible Policing, this aspect is managed at the level of the Cluster office, under the leadership of Colonel Wales. The deployment consists of members from Visible Policing, Public Order Policing, National deployment , the Metro Police as well as Private Security.



- There is a total of eight full time members dedicated to investigate Glebelands cases.
- Five additional members were allocated after the Portfolio Committee on Police visited Glebelands. (three commissioned officers and two non-commissioned officers).
- There is also a total of six vehicles used by these members.



→ **The Committee recommended that the Portfolio Committee on COGTA and Human Settlements be asked to address the matter of the upgrading of the Glebelands hostels, with the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).**

- Two letters have been forwarded to the MEC of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison and the MEC: COGTA, to address the issues of bed allocation and administration at the hostel. This matter is receiving attention.



→ **The Committee recommended that the outstanding murder cases at the hostel be finalised and the murderers and hitmen be brought to justice, as soon as possible.**

- A total of 73 murder cases were reported. 56 Murders were committed inside Glebelands, 14 outside Glebelands and three outside Umlazi, related to Glebelands. 26 Arrests have been made so far.
- The team is investigating and have made a break-through in some of the cases. One accused, in Umlazi CAS 545/05/2015, has been convicted for murder and sentenced on 15 September 2017, to life imprisonment.
- In the case, Umlazi CAS 317/06/2015, the accused was convicted of attempted murder and was sentenced on 15 September 2017, to 12 years imprisonment.
- Umlazi, CAS 591/04/2014 and CAS 142/08/2015, both attempted murder cases, were finalised by means of ADR, on 30 March 2015 and 17 November 2015.
- The other cases are still being investigated.



- **The Committee recommended that the POP's, TRT and the NIU be commended for their professionalism in the face of a shortage of resources, especially vehicles to continue their operations.**
- A letter of commendation, was forwarded to the Provincial Head in respect of POP, TRT and NIU units, for their professionalism, on 5 October 2017.



→ **The Committee recommended that the vehicles of specialised units be supplied and vacancies be filled as a matter of priority.**

- In the current recruitment process and re-enlistment, the specialised units are prioritised and the province is the process of addressing this challenge. A total of 30 posts for re-enlistment have been allocated to the specialised units. There is a total of 121 student constables, at the academy, who are earmarked for POP units.
- The ideal vehicle allocation for the POP units, is 263 vehicles. Currently, 234 vehicles are allocated. The shortage of 29 vehicles is being addressed. 23 New vehicles have been ordered and will be distributed as soon as they are available.
- The ideal vehicle allocation for TRT units, is 55 vehicles. Currently, 91 vehicles are allocated to the nine TRT units in KZN. The units, therefore, have a surplus of 36 vehicles. The TRT units have adequate vehicles with a percentage surplus to cater for contingencies in instances where vehicles are at the garages.



→ **The Committee recommended that a special session be held with all Cluster Commanders in the province to review their efficacy and support to stations.**

- National Management Intervention visited the province of KwaZulu-Natal, on 27 September 2017 and addressed the Cluster Commanders on this matter.



- **The Committee recommended that the SAPS provide the necessary technical and logistical support to the DPCI with respect to securing its premises and replacing all stolen equipment.**
- The following equipment was stolen during the break-in and replaced to date by the Division: Technology Management Services:
  - Four laptop computers were stolen, of which three been replaced.
  - Ten desktop computers were stolen. Loan computers were provided to the DPCI during the processing of the applications. The process was concluded and delivery of the ten computers are awaited.
  - The order for the replacement of all cell phones, for Lieutenant Generals and Major Generals, has been placed and is awaiting delivery.



- Permission has been granted by the Department of Public Works (DPW), for the SAPS to conduct all the security upgrades at the Promat Building.
- The scoping of security measures, are currently in progress between the DPCI and DPW, eg. scanners (The type and quantity of scanners required).
- A request was forwarded to DPW for the registration of a project to include the installation of perimeter fencing and generators



- **The Committee recommends that the SAPS appoints a permanent Provincial Commissioner in KwaZulu-Natal as soon as possible.**
- The post of Provincial Commissioner: KwaZulu-Natal post is *temporarily* vacant and cannot be filled as the actual incumbent of the post is on suspension/facing disciplinary process.



→ **The Committee recommended that the SAPS provide training and mentoring support to all station commanders in the KZN province.**

- There are 28 Station Commanders in KwaZulu-Natal, that have not yet attended the six weeks Station Management Learning Programme. These Station Commanders will be prioritised for training. The training of the Station Commanders will take place from the next quarter, January 2018. It must be noted that the province is only allocated two seats per course.
- The province is in the process of identifying mentors and arranging a mentorship course to address this matter. The mentoring support will be provided to all Station Commanders, who require such support.



## → **The Committee recommended that the SAPS National Office undertakes a review of the specialised KZN units and thoroughly review the role of Cluster Commanders in KZN.**

- All the established specialised units of the SAPS are reviewed annually and capacity is built, where there is an expressed prioritised need. Currently, in the SAPS Annual Performance Plan (APP), there are targets sets for the capacitation of the units prioritised. Note that specialised units are being capacitated and new ones established, under stringent constraints. The SAPS does not have an additional budget for additional staffing and such capacity is taken away from police stations in the main. Almost all police stations in KZN, as in other provinces, are resourced below their minimum requirement. The consequence of such capacity building, is opening a staffing gap at police stations, which is not desirable. A concept of multi-tasking is being explored as the only last option, should the budget constraint worsen than it is.
- The cluster commander structure, came with clear roles and responsibilities and if there are issues which are not clarified, the commander must address this at the provincial management forum. Management Intervention had meetings with most of the cluster commanders and in the meetings they emphasised the clarification of roles and responsibilities. This was discussed and presented at the National Management Forum (NMF) and circulated to all provinces. If the question relates to the role and responsibility of cluster commanders, toward specialised units, note that we are only in the first phase on implementing the cluster structure.



→ **The Committee recommended that the SAPS and IPID makes presentations to the Moerane Commission of Inquiry.**

- Legal Services and a Senior Council are currently preparing the SAPS presentation to the Portfolio Committee. The SAPS is most likely to present their evidence, early March 2018.



- **The Committee recommended that a joint meeting takes place on the general state of member accommodation between the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and the Portfolio Committee on Police.**
- For the Portfolio Committee on Police to schedule to this meeting.



→ **The Committee recommended that the provincial and station level detectives increase their low conviction and detection rate statistics.**

- A turnaround strategy has been crafted and implemented, with the following priorities:
  - Improve and measure the investigation and management of case dockets.
  - Ensure continuous updating of data on systems.
  - Regular docket age analysis.
  - Focusing on the arrest of wanted suspects.
  - Minimize the closure of dockets as undetected and withdrawn.
  - Optimise the utilisation of forensic evidence and leads.
  - Ensure the taking of buccal samples.
  - Track and trace dismissed appeals.
  - Operationalise the Organised Crime Threat Analysis (OCTA).
  - Auditing of undetected dockets from the archives.



- There is evidence of consistent improvement in the detection and conviction rate on priority crimes as follows:
- Detection rate for serious crime increased from 34.67% in April to 36.33% at the end of October 2017.
  - Conviction rate for serious crime increased from 88.75% in April to 88.98% at the end of October 2017.

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Thank you

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