



**INVITATION TO BRIEF THE PORTFOLIO
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND
FISHERIES**

**UPDATE ON THE UPL CORNUBIA WAREHOUSE
INCIDENT**

8 FEBRUARY 2022

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- Update on the status of investigation into criminal aspects, in relation to the Cornubia Warehouse incident
- The SAPS state of readiness to deal with such emergencies, in future



PURPOSE

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- The purpose of the presentation is to present the following matters to the Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries:
 - The role that the South African Police Service (SAPS) played during the incident.
 - Update on the status of the investigation into criminal aspects, in relation to the Cornubia Warehouse incident.
 - The SAPS state of readiness to deal with such emergencies, in future.



BACKGROUND

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- The unrest in KwaZulu-Natal, took place, from 9 to 15 July 2021.
- Due to the vastness of the KwaZulu-Natal Province, the SAPS districts were grouped together into three smaller, manageable zones.
- The SAPS deployment focus areas were as follows:
 - Police stations
 - All National Key Points (NKPs)
 - National roads
 - Other Critical Government Infrastructure
 - Prioritised Critical Economic Infrastructure
- The following strategic SAPS deployments were in the Cornubia area:
 - The N2 Freeway
 - The Gateway Mall
 - The Cornubia Mall
- The UPL Cornubia Warehouse incident was part of the unrest that took place in KZN, in July 2021.

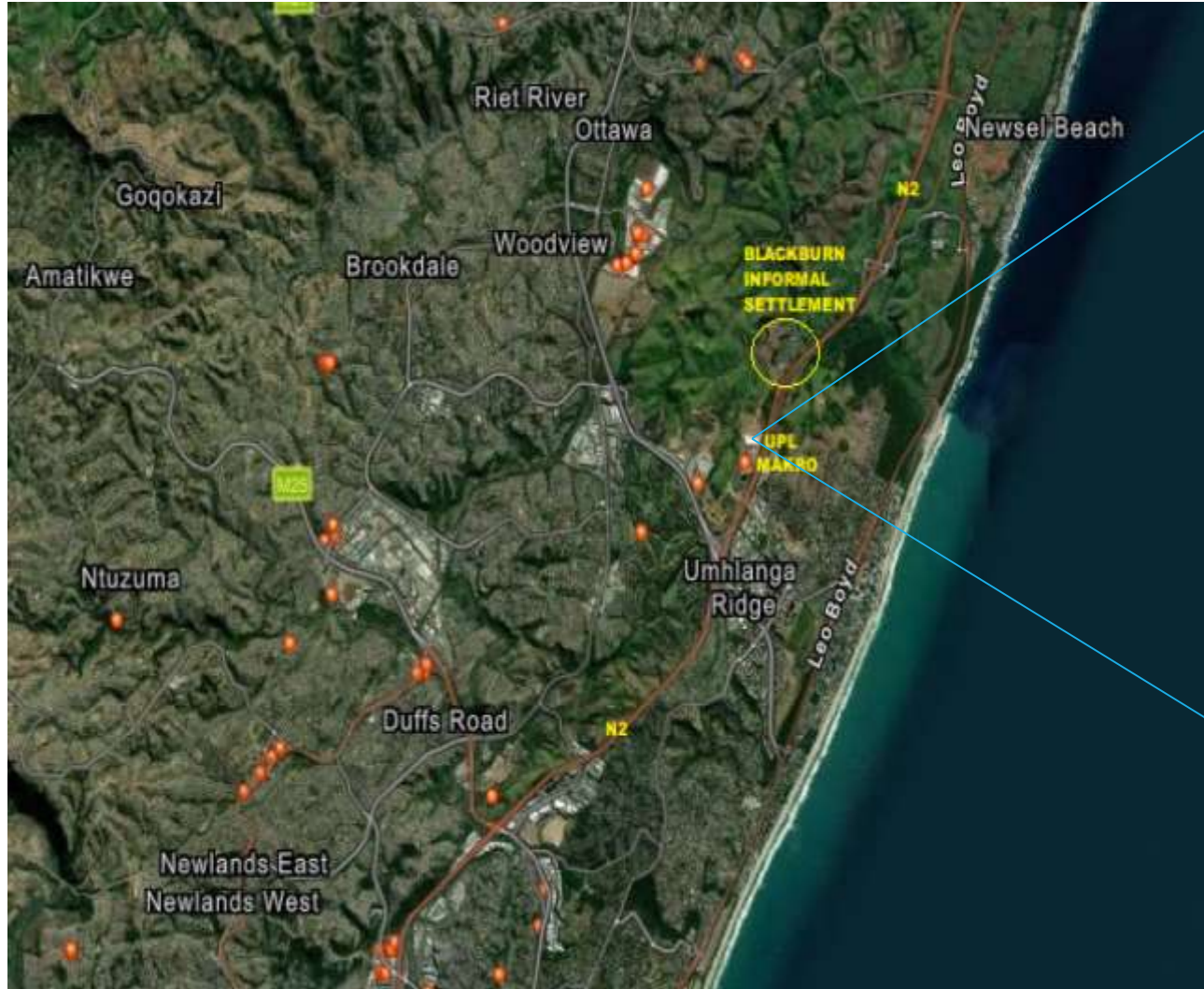


THE ROLE THAT SAPS PLAYED DURING THE INCIDENT

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- The SAPS received a complaint of a fire, at UPL Cornubia Warehouse, at approximately 23:30, on 12 July 2021.
- The Verulam Police Station activated the Ethekewini Metro Fire Department.
- Visible Policing members, from the Verulam Police Station, were immediately dispatched to the scene of the fire at UPL Cornubia Warehouse and they cordoned off the crime scene.
- At the time of the incident, at UPL Cornubia Warehouse, SAPS members were strategically posted to maintain high visibility patrols in areas surrounding Cornubia, Makro, N2 freeway, Gateway and Cornubia Mall.
- On arrival at the scene, the Ethekewini fire department identified that there were hazardous chemicals, which was causing the fire to be excessive and dangerous to the emergency response team.
- A case of arson and burglary at business premises was opened, at the Verulam Police Station and registered, as CAS 231/07/2021 and statements were obtained, as part of the preliminary investigation.
- The SAPS maintained high visibility patrols in the vicinity of the UPL Cornubia Warehouse and Industrial areas.

VISUAL FOOTAGE





**UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF INVESTIGATION INTO
CRIMINAL ASPECTS, IN RELATION TO THE
CORNUBIA WAREHOUSE INCIDENT**

PROGRESS ON CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Two criminal cases were registered and the details are as follows:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verulam CAS 231/07/2021, Arson and burglary at business premises.• Witness statements obtained, however, no suspects have been identified and arrested.• Investigation is still in progress. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case against the UPL COMPANY, as per SAPS Verulam CAS 06/09/2021, charges under the ENVIRONMENTAL ACT for damage caused to the environment by a chemical spill, as a result of the fire.• The Control Environmental Officer: Enforcement: Environmental Impact and Pollution has indicated that there are a number of specialists reports outstanding.• The investigation includes the obtaining of affidavits, from other departments and the case is receiving priority.• Samples were taken for analyses.• No arrests effected and the investigation is still in progress. |
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**THE SAPS STATE OF READINESS TO DEAL WITH
SUCH EMERGENCIES, IN FUTURE**

THE SAPS STATE OF READINESS TO DEAL WITH SUCH EMERGENCIES, IN FUTURE

- Police stations and certain operational units are operational, 24 hours per day, to respond to emergencies, in collaboration with the relevant role players.
- Mobilisation orders are in place and duty officers are on standby after hours, to ensure effective response.
- The capacity and capability of the established emergency response services, ensure that the SAPS is ready to deal with all emergencies.
- Compliance inspections and regular simulation exercises are conducted, to ensure operational readiness.
- Provincial 10111 command centres ensure the activation of the relevant role players.
- Operational Command centres at local, provincial and national level monitor the situation and provide hourly reports.
- PROVJOINTS and NATJOINTS, which comprise all relevant stakeholders and departments, ensure a collaborative, integrated and multidisciplinary approach, to all serious and emergency-related incidents.



THANK YOU