

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, PRESENTATION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONER

1 July - 31 December 2007

Domestic Violence Report 1 July - 31 December 2007

Sect 18(5)(d)(i) of the Domestic Violence Act:

The number and particulars of reports received by the SAPS of failures by its members to comply with obligations imposed on them in terms of the Act or the National Instruction, disciplinary proceedings instituted as a result thereof and the decisions which emanated from such proceedings, steps taken as a result of recommendations made by the Independent Complaints Directorate.

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Domestic violence incidents reported to the Service: 50 497

- Gauteng 12 978 Western Cape 9 093
- KZN 6 419 Eastern Cape 5 747
- Free State 4 738 Northern Cape 4 121
- North West 2 764 Limpopo 2 291
- Mpumalanga 2 256

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Out of the 50 497 domestic violence incidents reported, 11 641 resulted in criminal cases being opened. This means that in respect of only 23% of all reported domestic violence incidents, the victims are willing to lay criminal charges.

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	2/2007	1/2007
• Total number of complaints dealt with	70	118
• Unfounded	22	16
• Remedial counselling	3	4
• Verbal warning	4	3
• Written warning	1	1
• Disciplinary hearing	1	0
• Under investigation	20	42
• ICD - no disciplinary action	11	23
• ICD - awaiting decision	8	29

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	POLICE	ICD
• Total number of complaints received	70	57
• Unfounded	22	17
• Remedial counselling	3	
• Verbal warning	4	
• Written warning	1	8
• Disciplinary hearing	1	
• Under investigation	20	34
• ICD - no disciplinary action	11	-
• ICD - awaiting decision	8	-

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Training on Domestic Violence:

- To ensure compliance with the Act and National Instruction; and
- To develop the necessary skills to enable members to deal with incidents of domestic violence in a sensitive, professional and efficient manner

Training (Basic Training)

- Training on domestic violence is included and forms an integral part of the Basic Training Programme for new recruits since 2000.
- During the reporting period 5 671 new recruits underwent the Basic Training Programme (which included training on domestic violence).

Training (FCS specialists)

- A total of 146 members specializing in the investigation of cases of Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FSC) completed specialized training (including training on the handling and investigation of cases involving domestic violence).
- This training course was extended from 3 to 4 weeks to enable more in-depth focus on the relevant topics.

Training (In-service)

As part of In-service Training, more than 4000 members were trained during the reporting period in the handling of domestic violence incidents.

Training (Station Management)

At present all station commissioners and provincial commanders are receiving further refresher training on their specific roles in respect of domestic violence.

The training of all station commissioners and provincial commanders in the Free State, Gauteng and the Eastern Cape have been completed in this regard. Currently, station commissioners in the Western Cape are being trained.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- In respect of each case reported to the SA Police involving domestic violence, a detective is designated to conduct a full investigation and present the docket to the Public Prosecutor.
- **Non-compliance by members:**
 - Failure by a member to comply with an obligation imposed by the Act constitutes misconduct.
 - Disciplinary proceedings are instituted against members who fail to comply with their obligations UNLESS the ICD directs otherwise.

Monitoring and Evaluation (Continue)

National Evaluation Services are conducting inspections at station level on a regular basis to ensure compliance by members with, inter alia, the obligations imposed by the Act and National Instruction.

Challenges: Domestic Violence

- Training is still required to ensure that members deal with domestic violence incidents properly. This is currently being addressed by In-service training
- Gender sensitivity is required to properly deal with domestic violence incidents. This is currently being addressed by continuously presenting workshops on diversity and gender issues

Challenges (Continued)

- Community not yet fully aware and sensitized about the protection afforded by the Act.
- Communication and Liaison Services has developed a communication strategy which focuses, inter alia, on the raising of awareness of the protection afforded to victims of domestic violence. This includes posters, printed material and promotional items, radio-talks, imbizo's etc.

Challenges (Continued)

- Proper coordination between different state departments, NGO's and community initiatives is essential to properly deal with domestic violence incidents