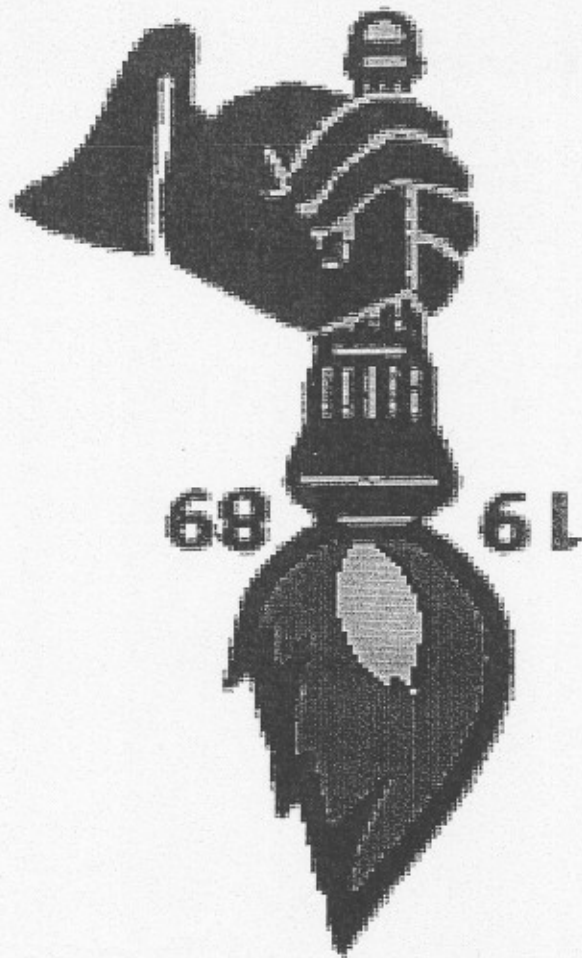


JUSTICE FOR ALL

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POP CRU

POPCRU SUBMISSION TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE:

SAPS STRATEGIC PLAN AND BUDGET VOTE 2010/ 2011

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of the portfolio Committee, Leadership of the South African Police Service, Leaders of organized labour, Ladies and gentlemen.

The Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union appreciates the opportunity given so that we can raise our views and opinions around the departments' strategic plan and budget vote 2010/2011. We take it that this invite is a reflection that POPCRU is recognized as the important stakeholder in the advancement of the strategic imperatives of the department. It further encourages our continued relationship as a labour movement operating within the South African Police Service.

This invitation was met without hesitation, but with gratitude. To elucidate on our understanding of our duty as POPCRU, we are not only responsible and accountable to our members, but also to the society at large. Thus it is incumbent that in our submission we do not single out the department and its performance only, but also ascertain that our members who are employed by the department are indeed fulfilling their duties to ensure that the mandate bestowed to them is fulfilled.

Honourable Chairperson, it needs to be noted that processes of this nature must not be used as a formality. Inputs and concerns that are raised by the 2010/2011 budget vote must be treated with a degree of respect that they deserve. We shall not be happy with a situation whereby we raise the same issues over and over again without seeing any positive change on areas where change is required, as it happened in the past.

On that note, Chairperson, the first thing I would like to do today is to register, on behalf of the great majority of our people, sincere appreciation to the members of the South African Police

Service, of the sterling work they do to create the conditions that are a prerequisite to make our country safe and secure. This acknowledgement is appropriate given our full understanding of the difficulties that attend the mandate of the men and women in blue. Our police officers place their lives in harm's way as they undertake their duty of confronting the scourge of crime within the centre of the South African population. Many have paid the ultimate price with their lives and have perished in the line of duty. We must honour these unsung heroes and heroines with an unwavering commitment to intensify the fight against crime.

At an occasion such as this one, perhaps one should start from the beginning. More than twenty years ago, some of the Rivonia trialists, among them, Walter Sisulu, Elias Motsoaledi, Raymond Mhlaba and others were released from prison and were followed by the world icon – Madiba [whom his release was celebrated country wide on the 11th February 2010]. These heroes have been incarcerated for upholding and fighting for the achievement of a society based on the democratic values enshrined in the Freedom Charter. Their crime had been to assert that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people".

That beacon of hope, the Freedom Charter, still remains one of the most famous documents in the history of the freedom struggle. The aspirations contained therein, including peace, security and comfort, define the tasks that we must accomplish. The preamble of our constitution reasserts the profound statement that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it." It further binds us to work to "improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person."

It is a well-known fact that on its accession to power the Government of National Unity inherited a society marked by deep social and economic inequalities, as well as by serious racial, political and social divisions.

To fulfill that role effectively, the service – South African Police Service included - needed to be transformed into a coherent, representative, competent and democratic instrument for implementing government policies and meeting the needs of all South Africans. In moving towards its vision of a public service which is representative, transparent, efficient, effective, accountable and responsive to the needs of all, the government identified eight **priority areas** for the transformation process:

- (a) Rationalisation and restructuring to ensure a unified, integrated public service.
- (b) Institution building and management to promote greater accountability and organisational and managerial effectiveness.
- (c) Representativeness and affirmative action.
- (d) Transforming service delivery to meet basic needs and redress past imbalances.
- (e) The democratisation of the state.
- (f) Human resource development.
- (g) Employment conditions and labour relations.
- (h) The promotion of a professional service ethos.

These transformation areas were priority areas in 1994 and it is our contention that they are the priority areas today in 2010. We should not be comfortable with them accumulating dust within government archives. These areas should get a share from the budget which we are engaging with here today.

Honourable Chairperson, allow me to further streamline the areas that need attention from this budget, at the same time, we would like to acknowledge strides taken by the department in improving service delivery. The aspects are as follows:

Organizational structure

We have indicated to this committee in the past and we are doing it here today that the SAPS' organisational structure is top heavy. We have previously demonstrated in terms of monetary terms what this structure cost to the tax payers whilst impeding service delivery. We shall not rest or abandon this input until we are taken serious and this aspect is attended to.

A flatter organizational structure is required, rather than the many layers of command and control, currently in existence, for better service delivery to the South African citizens. Restructuring of the organisational structure is necessary as a way forward to better policing and improved services, using the local police stations as the crucible of such service. The revised structure should incorporate the advantages of decentralization of work and authority, along with specialized skills that will be available at station level – not what has happened the past two years which was waste of tax payers resources under the pretext of restructuring.

The focus of restructuring is directed towards reducing the provincial and national structures to improve co-ordination and the provision of functional policing and the support services. Redeployment to station level of certain specialized operational policing functions will ensure that crimes are investigated where they occur. Moving of skilled/specializing personnel to stations will increase the leadership, management, decision making and skill levels at stations to deal with the stations' unique crime challenges, empower station commissioners to render a comprehensive service and effectively manage all resources and amend accountability frameworks effectively to assess the performance of station commissioners in terms of standardized performance indicators. The management, monitoring and evaluation of the police stations are the key to success in combating crime.

As we stated in the past, the SAPS Head Office should be regarded as the policy making body. A policy making body does not require a bloated structure that we currently have

because its role is merely to consume bigger chunk of the budget allocated to the department. More needs to be done to ensure that improved portion of the budget is removed from that level and be allocated to the station level where actual activities takes place at over stretched resources.

Action from the community

Honourable Chairperson, as we put these priorities before you, it is worth to remember that in 2004 the government set the target of reducing crime by 7 to 10 percent per annum. It is internationally recognized that crime prevention is not solely a criminal justice issue.

Crime prevention is most likely to succeed when it is tackled by range of role players, including government departments such as department of Health, Education and Social Development, local government, non-governmental organisations [NGOs] business sector and the public at large.

POPCRU, as an organization operating within safety and security environment, need, as a matter of urgency, the strengthening, management and appropriate funding of the Community Safety Forums [CSF]. Community Safety Forums must monitor and coordinate the functioning of the Criminal Justice System at all levels, i.e. monitoring mechanisms system should start from the inception of the case [when the case is reported], preliminary investigation of the case, visiting of the crime scene, identification of physical evidence and witness that need to be interviewed, the expert called on the crime scene to identify some exhibits like fingerprints, footprints, broken classes, any bloodstains on the scene for DNA testing. After everything has been recorded in the docket, its movement should be monitored and that should be recorded in the database and the station commissioner should monitor progress and the quality of the docket, statements inside the dockets and the possibility of prosecution in the court of law.

There should be a smooth handing over of work, from the police to justice and corrections without any blockages. The system of monitoring the cases will lead to the police, courts and the prosecutors concluding the cases within a required period without any hassles/delays. Not the privatisation of services discharged by the Forensic Science Laboratory that was envisaged with the provisions embodied within the Criminal Law Amendment Bill in 2008.

A quality management system should be introduced and adopted by all departments within the Criminal Justice Cluster to ensure that the turn-around time in terms of the whole circle of prosecution including examinations by the forensic science laboratory is up to the acceptable standards

The success of policing is also reliant on active community participation, which gives effect to sector policing. The effectiveness of the sector policing [to ensure closer co-operation and integration with the community] entails a resource intensive exercise and the establishment of local partnerships. Therefore, redeployment of experienced and senior police officials at level of sector policing and police stations is of paramount importance.

The involvement of the South African youth in a massive programme of community policing and safety must be implemented and stipends be paid by government as part of the National Youth Service [NYS] to instill the value of service and protect the community and public property. Youth must be mobilized and organized into a mass based community programme to assist in visible policing and safety and security. Therefore a reasonable portion of budget should be allocated to youth development and training in policing, safety and security.

Training and Development

Chairperson, it is our view that the leadership of SAPS must ensure that sufficient funds are invested in the field of training and development of officers at all levels, including managerial

level. We need to have sufficiently skilled and properly trained officials to be entrusted with the responsibility of making sure that those who are in conflict with the law are taken care of within the relevant prescripts.

The police, whose function is to create conditions for safety and security, are expected by government to be an effective service in which all citizens can have the fullest confidence. For this to happen, the police must be well trained and competent, and work well with members of the communities they serve. In other words, they have to define themselves into the progressive programmes of the people by word and deed.

While we acknowledge the remarkably significant progress that has been made in relation to transformation issues, we strongly feel that the budget proposal has to be rather more vocal in terms of the principles that guide transformation agenda. A transformed SAPS will be judged by one criterion above all, its effectiveness in delivering services which meets the basic needs of all citizens in terms of safety and security.

2010 FIFA World Cup

Honourable Chairperson, 2010 FIFA World cup is one of the biggest infrastructure investment projects in our country. Government is using its investment in the world cup to speed up growth and development in the country so that it leaves behind legacy that will benefit generations of South Africans to come.

During this event, attention must increasingly be focused on the pervasive crimes expected to accompany the boom in the South African tourism industry: human trafficking and drug smuggling. This kind of crimes will be rife at this juncture as perpetrators of this nature of crimes will be looking at making lucrative profit.