

PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY & LIAISON, MR TW MCHUNU ON JUSTICE CRIME PREVENTION AND SECURITY CLUSTER IN THE SOCIAL COHESION CONFERENCE ON THE 27TH OF NOVEMBER 2012.

Protocol observed

I am pleased and humbled by this opportunity to share with you some of our achievements as well as plans for the future as the Department of Community Safety and Liaison.

To start with, Sections 206(1), 206(3) and 206(5) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and sections 17 and 19 of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act, 2011 require the Department of Community Safety and Liaison to –

- a) monitor and evaluate the implementation of policing policies and directives;
- b) monitor and evaluate all police service units in the province to determine their level of efficiency and effectiveness;
- c) address complaints against police service delivery;
- d) review police practices, methodologies and performance and make recommendations in respect thereof;
- e) conduct research into the policing needs of the province and make recommendations in respect thereof;
- f) develop community safety models, initiatives and monitoring tools;
- g) develop and maintain community safety structures (e.g. Community Police Forums, Community Safety Forums, community crime prevention associations) and harmonize their activities;
- h) develop community safety partnerships to facilitate the implementation of community safety models and initiatives.

Responding adequately to these functions required firstly the repositioning of the department's strategic focus. Central to this re-positioning process has been the drive to 'Build A United Front Against Crime' (BUFAC).

This is a call for the mobilization and involvement of all sectors of society in a concerted and sustained campaign to significantly reduce crime levels in the Province. The department is driving this overarching departmental strategy through our vehicle 'Operation Hlasela', whereby government departments, safety structures and the community are being drawn together to collectively oppose crime.

Operating within a Vision of a "Crime Free South Africa" and a Mission that seeks to harness the positive energy of the nation, the Department has developed an inclusive crime prevention

strategy which incorporates Community Policing and Community Safety Forums as partners in combatting and preventing crime.

Provincial Community Police Board

The province of KwaZulu-Natal has formed the Provincial Community Police Board. The Board held its Annual General Meeting after a number of consultations with all CPF Cluster Boards in the development of their Constitution.

The final KZN Provincial CPF Board Constitution was tabled and adopted by 24 CPF Cluster Board Chairpersons. This was followed by the elections which were facilitated by the Independent Electoral Commission.

The following members were elected in the meeting:

- The Chairperson is Mr Desmond Mntambo- Plessislaer Cluster
- Deputy chairperson, Mrs Celiwe Magayiyana- Kokstad Cluster
- Secretary, Mr Mbuso Shobede- Inanda Cluster
- Deputy Secretary, Mrs Lindiwe Khumalo- Jozini Cluster
- Treasurer, Mr John DeJesus- Pietermaritzburg Cluster
- Public Relation Officer- Mr Linda Gumede-Umlazi Cluster
- Additional members, Mrs Cynthia Mqwebu- Margate Cluster
- Additional member Mr Vusi Gcabashe- Greytown Cluster
- Additional member, Mr MF Zikhali- Newcastle Cluster

The establishment of Community Safety Forums & Street Committees

It remains our responsibility to support all safety initiatives in order to fight the scourge of crime in our province. The department has established street committees in some areas within the province.

Street Committees replicate safety initiatives at local level. Whereas Community Safety Forums have also been established throughout the Province. These structures have cited good results in most areas, such as Chatsworth, where an Environmental Forum was effectively changed to a Community Safety Forum to address the environmental crime at Silver glen.

The Pinetown South and CBD Community Safety Forums have also been established and so as other districts.

We were pleased by the community of Bluff who organised a walk to raise awareness against crime recently. We want to commend this community and further encourage other communities of all races including minority groups across the province to take such initiative.

These Community Safety Forums serve in the coordination of safety initiatives by all government departments, including the local Councillors, NGOs, NPA, Security agencies as well as other relevant stakeholders at local level.

Launch of Community Crime Prevention Associations

The Department of Community Safety & Liaison is mandated to build the relationship between the police and the community and has escalated a mission that seeks to harness the positive energy of all crime prevention structures within the community.

This has culminated to the development of an inclusive crime prevention strategy which incorporates community policing and community safety structures as partners in crime combatting and prevention.

Subsequently the KwaZulu-Natal Community Crime Prevention Association has been established as a Force-Multiplier in detection and surveillance of criminal activities within the community.

The third tenet of the department's response to its revised mandates, i.e. the creation of a holistic community liaison platform through which it can reach partners, develop partnerships, develop safety models and drive safety initiatives is through the envisaged : KwaZulu-Natal Council Against Crime

KwaZulu-Natal Council Against Crime

On a provincial level, the Department currently uses the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS), voluntary crime prevention structures, specific interest group forums and *ad hoc* platforms to form partnerships and drive crime prevention. However, these platforms have obvious limitations.

The JCPS is confined to government departments, specific interest group forums are focused narrowly and *ad hoc* platforms are mostly set up to deal with specific issues and are temporary in nature in any event.

There is therefore no existing permanent platform at a provincial level which could be used as a structured engagement vehicle between the Provincial Government, Civil Society and the national

structures in pursuance of all the mandates of the department and to improve the scope and effectiveness of its programmes.

A permanent advisory and consultative platform at a provincial level is therefore required to remedy this systemic defect. The establishment of a KwaZulu-Natal Council Against Crime (KZNCAC) is considered to be the most appropriate way to meet this need.

The KZNCAC will comprise representatives of the following:

Premier	MECs
JCPS	House of Traditional Leaders
Religious Leaders	Business Leaders
Youth Formations	Organized Labour
Provincial Community Police Board	KZN Community Crime Prevention Association
Leaders of the Private Security Industry	

The Council would meet twice per annum. Participation on the council, in respect of non-governmental organisations or formations, will be on a voluntary and non-remunerative basis. In respect of governmental organisations, participation is compulsory.

District Community Safety Coordination

On a district level, the role of the KZNCAC will be fulfilled by District Community Safety Forums (CSFs), which are structures founded on the principles of the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

CSFs are multi-agency structures established at a district level to ensure the coordination of community safety efforts by government and civil society to address the specific needs of each district.

The composition and terms of reference of the KZNCAC will be replicated in respect of District CSFs to ensure that they perform the role of coordination centres of district community safety networks and the function of driving the production and implementation of the safety components of Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).

District CSFs will meet once per quarter and will submit reports on their activities to the KZNCC twice per annum.

Voting District Safety Teams and Ward Safety Committees

As indicated above, on a district level the department uses CSFs to form partnerships and drive crime prevention. On a local level, the department uses Community Police Forums (CPFs).

However, these platforms have the following challenges:

- a) the effectiveness of some of these structures have been less than optimal due to the lack of a holistic community liaison framework;
- b) some of the representatives do not represent all the constituents in all communities;
- c) not all constituents of communities are therefore reached through these structures;
- d) there is no direct link between these structures and constituents at a ward and voting district level;
- e) planning at local as well as ward level cannot therefore be done accurately through these structures.

A holistic community safety liaison framework at a district and local level which is directly linked to ward and voting district levels is therefore required to remedy these challenges.

A model framework is proposed whereby the residents in each voting district shall form a safety team of approximately 10 members and elect from among themselves a coordinator.

The terms of reference of the Safety Team would be to identify community safety needs, report challenges, provide input in the decision making process of the department and contribute to war room operations and IDPs in respect of community safety matters.

The coordinators of all the safety teams in each ward would constitute a ward safety committee. The safety coordinator designated by the ward committee would coordinate the ward safety committee.

The ward safety coordinator would attend the ward war room and ensure that the safety issues raised by the safety teams are tabled at the war room.

The ward safety committee coordinators would form part of the CPF boundary within which they fall. There are 185 CPFs in the Province.

All the ward safety committee coordinators in a local municipal area would constitute the local municipal safety committee of which the coordinator would be the safety representative of the Exco of the Municipal Council.

All the local safety committee coordinators would form part of the Cluster Community Police Boards within which area they fall. There are 25 SAPS Clusters in the Province.

In turn, all the safety representatives in a district municipality would constitute a district safety committee. The district safety committee would form part of the district Community Safety Forum where other stakeholders in the criminal justice system are represented.

Similarly all district safety committee coordinators would constitute a provincial safety committee, which would be represented at the KZNCAC.

Conclusion

Through this holistic community liaison framework structured at a provincial, district and local level, the principle of public ownership and involvement advanced by Operation Sukuma Sakhe supported by the 'Building A United Front Against Crime' programme would be entrenched.

I thank you