



**community safety &  
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## **COMMUNITY POLICING SEMINAR REPORT**

***“RECLAIMING OUR SPACE FROM CRIMINALS THROUGH COMMUNITY POLICING”***

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The KZN Provincial Community Police Board in partnership with the Department of Community Safety and Liaison and the South African Police Service hosted a Provincial Community Policing Seminar on the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2014.

The purpose of the seminar was to create a platform for the community safety structures to engage vigorously on the issues that affected their livelihood and functioning. It further enabled interactions between the experts, practitioners, community safety structures and other relevant stakeholders to broaden their understanding of community policing, merge practice and theory in order to implement impact driven programmes and projects

It was envisioned that the results of the deliberations will give resolutions which will form the basis for the development of a Community Policing Strategy. The Community Policing Strategy is going to be part of the Provincial Safety strategy.

This seminar was attended by the representatives from National Secretariat, National Community Police Board, SAPS (nationally and provincially), Safer-Cities, Cluster CPFs, KZNCC, Departmental officials and academic experts within the field. The total number of participants for the seminar was 340.

Since the time was limited during the seminar, the resolutions were not finalised but a committee which include the Department, Board, SAPS and Safer-Cities was established in order to finalise the resolutions within one week from the seminar. The resolutions were going to be taken from all the discussions and resolutions that came out from commission interactions. Once the resolutions have been finalised they will be published through the Department and SAPS websites. Further to that, the Board will be facilitating a capacity building roll-out session to all the clusters in the province (from mid of September 2014) where these resolutions will be shared for further clarity.

## 2. SEMINAR PROGRAMME BREAKDOWN

### 2.1. Day one: Mrs. Khaladi Mbongwe and Mr. Mbuso Shobede

Time	Activity	Responsible Person
08h00 -10h00	Arrival of stakeholders and registration	Registration Team
	National Anthem	
10h00	Official Opening of the Seminar	Programme Directors
10h10	Welcoming Address	Mr. E. Ramsamy – Acting Head of Department
	Acknowledgement of Guest	Mr. R.L. Goniwe – Senior Manager Provincial Police Oversight and Partnerships
10h20	Setting the tone	Mr. T.W. Mchunu – MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison
11h20	Perspective from the SAPS	Lt. General B.M. Ngobeni – Provincial Commissioner of SAPS KZN
11h50	Perspective from the KZN Community Police Board	Mr. B.D. Mtambo – Provincial Chairperson of KZN Community Police Board
12h15	Message of support from the National Community Police Board	Mr. A. Mashale – PRO of the National Community Police Board
12h40	Message of support from the KZNCCPA	Mr. T. Zuma – Provincial Chairperson of KZN Community Crime Prevention Association
	LUNCH	
14h00	National Development Plan Provision on Safety	Mr. R. Chetty – Researcher from Department of Community

		Safety and Liaison
14h20	Strengthening community Safety partnerships	Mr. S. Maila – Police Oversight Expert from Solomon Maila and Associates
15h00	Creating opportunities through fighting crime – Lessons from the National Community Police Board	Mr. V. Tlou – Member of National Community Police Board
15h40	Sustainable Programmes – lessons from other provinces and countries	Mr. S. Xulu – Crime Prevention and Conflict Resolution Expert
17h30	Closure	

## 2.2. Day two: Mrs. Dorah Sibande and Constable Ngobese

Time	Activity	Responsible Person
09h00	Recap	Programme Directors
09h35	National Perspective on Community Policing	General K.J. Sitole – SAPS Deputy National Commissioner - Policing
11h00	Question and answer	
12h00 -13h00	Commissions	<u>Commission one:</u> The role of community leadership in addressing public protest. Public protest usually ends in criminal behaviour which could be prevented. This includes political killings. (Facilitators: Mr. S. Maila)
		<u>Commission two:</u> Strengthening community safety partnerships – the role and responsibility of different stakeholders. (Mrs. K.

		Mbongwe)
		<u>Commission three:</u> Improving community policing through community oversight and intelligence. This means proactive measures should be in place to assess and use community intelligence to divert/mitigate probable conflict from being destructive. (Mr. I. Nxumalo)
		<u>Commission four:</u> The role of community safety structures in preventing police killings. (Advocate Ngceza)
		<u>Commission five:</u> How to use crime prevention through environmental design strategies to prevent possible crime scenarios. (Ms. N. Shembe)
13h00 – 13h30	LUNCH	
13h30	Presentation from Commissions	
14h30	Vote of thanks	Mr. B.D. Mtambo – Provincial Chairperson of KZN Community Police Board

### **3. OVERVIEW OF KEY ISSUES THAT WERE ARTICULATED BY SPEAKERS AND DELIGATES**

#### **3.1. Setting the tone by the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison – Mr. T.W. Mchunu**

The MEC highlighted the following in his address:

- He applauded the Community Police Board for this initiative because it aimed to strengthen community policing as a concept and CPFs as a structure;
- He mentioned that as a country we have good policies which inform the existence and functioning of the CPFs but there are numerous challenges in the implementation of these policies;
- This is because the structures lack the capacity and he stressed that it is unfair to give structures good policies but leave them to fend for themselves;
- He applauded the presence of academics because they will assist the Department in evaluating the strategies that have been adopted like the policy of CCPA's which created a platform for the Department to strengthen the fight against crime by inducting these structures with legal framework to improve their functioning for a just cause;
- He stressed that the seminar must look and evaluate the relationship between the CPFs and other community safety structures. He expressed a view that since the CPF is a forum and the CCPA an association within the same community – will there be a problem if the association broaden the representation of the CPFs by affiliating in them (this question needed to be debated and resolve);
- He raised the issue of community boundaries in the fight against crime. This led to the question which he posed to the delegates of whether its ok for all the other government activities to be aligned to municipality and ward boundaries but the police precinct use different boundaries;
- He explained the in detailed the Holistic framework which the Department is facilitating in pursuance for an integrated approach to crime fighting;
- He stressed the importance of community safety structures to serve in WAR ROOMS;
- He tasked the seminar to find ways and define roles of different stakeholders when it comes to addressing public protest;
- He raised concern about the increase in police killings and asked the question of “who protect the protectors?”

- He applauded the presence of national delegates and the fact that their presence will help guide us as a province if we are addressing something that is particular to our province or that is common in our country and therefore should be addressed together with national;
- He pleaded with the community structures present to facilitate a campaign that will empower community to stop worshipping criminals and crime;
- He thanked the police for protecting the citizens because they arrested 270 000 criminals per year but warned the community that they produce these criminals;
- He wished the delegates productive engagements for proper resolutions.

### **3.2. Perspective from SAPS: LT General Ngobeni**

The PC applauded the commitment by the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison. She further informed the delegates that KZN were pioneers in that even the Minister of Police – Mr. Nhleko, noted with appreciation the KZN programme of “Building a United Front Against Crime”, in such that he encourage other provinces to learn from our province (this was during his budget speech).

The PC further shared the following:

- Gave an overview and crime trends of 21 priority crimes;
- Presented an overview of crime for past five years;
- Reflected on factors influencing the stability of the province;
- Recommended the route of integrated, joint identification and joint problem solving by all role-players; and
- Encourage that the seminar really look on measures that will strengthen collective action against criminal elements.

### **3.3. Community Policing Perspective from KZN Provincial Community Police Board: Mr. Mtambo**

The provincial chairperson shared the following:

- He applauded the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison for affording the structures such a platform to engage on such crucial issues;
- He highlighted the NDP which articulates clear that having a safe environment is a precondition for an economically sound country.
- The NDP states the “when people feel unsafe it make it harder for them to develop their capabilities, pursue their personal goals and to take part in social and economic activities.”

- South Africans needs to feel safe everywhere and have faith in the Criminal Justice System to protect them and act swiftly and effectively when required to do so;
- He asked a question of whether we are dealing with the root cause of crime, social ills and moral fibre like unemployment etc.;
- He shared a couple of cases (recent) that depicted the brutality and violent nature of the crime in our country;
- He stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships and mobilising communities in order to deal with the scourge of crime;
- He encouraged the delegates to seek for answers vigorously during their commissions so that we can really deal with crime but not fiddle with it.

### **3.4. Message of support from the National Community Police Board: Mr. Mashaile**

Mr. Mashaile explained the distinct levels of CPF from local to national. He elaborated on four points which were:

- Integrated approach towards crime fighting;
- Real life experience on crime fighting,
- The role of CPF in Sector policing; and
- The intensification of communication about the good practice on community safety and crime prevention.

In his closing remarks he applauded the Board and the province for such a great initiatives. He hoped that in future when he is invited, he will be addressing the masses and be part of finding solutions for real problems.

### **3.5. Message of support from the KZNCCPA: Mr. Zuma**

- He explained the rational for the formation of voluntary crime prevention associations; and
- He emphasized the importance of integration within community crime prevention structures and between structures and police.

### **3.6. Presentations that were given for further deliberations**

The following presentations were given by researchers, experts and practitioners:

1. National Development Plan Provision on Safety – Mr. Chetty ([CHETTY 2\\_NDP.pptx](#));
2. Strengthening Community Safety Partnerships – Mr. Maila ([Strengthening community safety partnerships August 29, 2014 Version 2.pptx](#));



3. Creating opportunities through fighting crime – Lessons from the National Community Police Board – Mr. Tlou ([KZN COMMUNITY POLICING SEMINAR NW.pptx](#));
4. Sustainable Programmes – lessons from other provinces and countries – Mr. Xulu ([Sustainable Programmes CPF Seminar.pptx](#)); and
5. National Perspective on Community Policing – General Sithole ([COMMUNITY POLICY SEMINAR KZN GEN SITOLE.pptx](#)).

These presentations are attached for more details. The presentations created a platform for delegates to pose questions to the members before they went to commissions. Some of the questions that were posed and responded too were the following:

- The issue of stipends for community safety structures. This question was asked in relation to the VSCPP volunteers that are already receiving a stipend.
- The fact that partnership at station level between the police and the community safety structures is none existent.
- The issues relating to the understanding and proper implementation of crime prevention legislation by different stakeholders.
- The issue that the police lack the proper understanding of community policing.
- The role of municipality in community safety and crime prevention.
- The lack of trust between the police and the community. It is perceived that some police members' partner with criminals instead of the community.
- The challenges of integration of community safety and crime prevention initiatives at grass-root level.

The panel which was represented by the Provincial Commissioner and all the presenters responded to these questions to the best of their ability. It was noted that because of the time factor that the Community Police Board must facilitate these sessions in their clusters and incorporate all other functional community safety structures in order to address these issues. Further to that, it was alluded that once the resolutions of the seminar have been finalised, they will be available to all the stakeholders to interrogate.

## 4. COMMISSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

The commissions took about an hour and half. The groups were given an opportunity to present their problem statement in relation to the commission and the resolution thereof. The delegation was informed that since the seminar did not have an opportunity to fine tune the resolutions from the commissions, a task team which was to include the Department, Board, Police, Safer-Cities was to meet to look at the resolutions and write them in a manner that they responded to the pertinent issues raised within the commission. Each commission was tasked to make available their discussion notes so that the task team will work on them. The delegation was made aware that the final resolutions will not replace the resolutions from commissions but rather present them in a format that will clearly articulate the seminar discussions.

### 4.1. Resolutions:

1. The seminar noted the increase and violent nature in public protest in KZN which results in criminal behavior (destruction of the property and social cohesion); it further noted that the reason and key drivers behind these protest are complex, at times having to do with the issues of service delivery but also at times they are political in nature and content. The seminar further examined the role of community safety structures such as CPFs and other crime prevention associations in ensuring that these protest are held peacefully and within the law (Section 17 of the Constitution, Gatherings Act).

Noting the above premise, the seminar resolved the following:

- CPFs must be broadly representative of the communities they serve;
- The relationship between CPFs, other community safety structures, traditional authority, and local government (councillors) should be strengthened in order to deal with public protest;
- The Community Police Board in partnership with DCSL and SAPS should develop a mechanism for the accurate recording of public gatherings and demonstrations in order to direct future interventions;
- The DCSL in partnership with COGTA should workshop the different stakeholders (community leaders) on their roles and responsibilities with respect to public gatherings and demonstrations;
- The police capacity to gather intelligence on public gatherings and demonstrations should be improved by police management (intelligent management for proactive intervention);
- Public gatherings should be a standing agenda item on the CPF meetings;

- CPFs in partnership with other community safety structures should convene community educational campaigns in order to sensitise the community of the legislative framework, different roles of the various government departments and entities with regard to public gathering;
- The Multi-Party Committee should convene community dialogue sessions in priority areas where political conflict are envisioned;
- In the event that there is a public protest brewing or manifesting, the CPF in partnership with other community safety structures, SAPS and local councillors should facilitate information and mediating dialogue session in order to curb the gathering from being destructive;
- Crime fighting organisations need to partner with the police to look for initiatives to deal with the eruption of violence during mass protest;
- Explore measures to make communities to be custodian of law. Make them to appreciate that rights goes with obligations and limitations;
- Municipal councillors must be educated on the role of CPFs;
- CPFs must strengthen their respective Community Police Sub-Forums in order to improve their community information management; and
- Care should be taken that the leaders of the public protest are made to undertake responsibility of ensuring that these protest are conducted peacefully and within the parameters of the law. Should they fail to do so clear punitive measures should be explained to them.

2. The seminar noted that there are several organizations and structures involved in initiatives to mobilize communities to fight against crime. However, these initiatives are not coordinated and therefore are less effective in improving community safety. Further, on the seminar debated the measures that could be taken to strengthen these initiatives and partnerships so that they have more desired impact for the community. The seminar resolved the following:

- There should be a broader alignment of all the effort directed at fighting crime and there also should be a platform for all community safety structures to be able to share information and create synergies on all initiatives and efforts to achieve a noble objective of a crime free KZN. The seminar noted that such partnership and cooperation has a potential to enhance the effectiveness of these initiatives, thereby avoiding duplication.

- CPFs must be broadly representative of the communities they serve which means the incorporation of other community safety structures, government entities and community structures;
- The Community Police Board should advocate for the reviewal of the housing CPF with the Department;
- The participants resolved in the unity of action against crime therefore the integration of all crime fighting structures under one umbrella body within the province of KZN should be promoted.

3. The seminar noted that there was a lack of the flow of credible intelligence from communities to police/crime fighting structures. This was largely, the seminar noted, because of suspicions largely brought about by the legacy of apartheid which tendered to create few suspicions between the community and the police. Further on, the seminar noted that the lack of this free flow of information resulted in police/ community fighting structures being unable to take proactive measures against crime. In order to address this challenge, the seminar resolved as following:

- Intensive effort should be embarked upon to build trust between the community and the police;
- In situation where there is lack of trust in the service, the community must be encouraged to liaise with the Department in relation to the community information. The community must NOT keep quiet just because they do not trust the recipient of the information.
- Encourage and promote community information networks through community safety structures (CSS);
- Building and strengthening of community safety structures so that they understand their role as community information agents;
- The DCSL must have a capacity building plan for the CSS which will deal with the issues of Code of Conduct, Patriotism, Roles and responsibilities;
- The seminar defined community oversight as the role which is played by the CSS (more so the CPFs) over the effective functioning of the service (how they can promote the service in order to improve its relationship and functioning). Community intelligence is defined as the coordination of community information networks. Intelligence information is confirmed as such after it has been processed but it doesn't mean that community information must not be utilized;

- The community safety structures (CPFs) must mobilize communities to play oversight role over the service in order to improve its functioning and promote information sharing by the community.

4. The seminar noted with concerns the increasing trend of the attack on police in KZN. This has had a tendency on impacting negatively on the morale of the police, who see these attacks as representing a rejection by the community they are trying to protect. In the light of this disturbing development, the seminar resolved the following:

- The Community Police Board in partnership with DCSL resolved to launch a high profile (one million signatures and voices against police killings) campaign to encourage communities to appreciate, work and partner with the police;
- Embark on societal education to appreciate the role of police;
- To work intensively with the police and communities to eliminate the historical suspicions that communities have over the police;
- To lobby the Department of Police to consider launching a massive campaign aimed at improving the image and presenting the police as the agent of change for the democratic South Africa;
- Engage the police management with the view of exploring innovative safety measures to protect police members while on duty;
- Launch a deliberate campaign which will highlight a positive role of police in particular where they have made heroic attempts in serving the community i.e. KZN Community Hero's Awards;
- To highlight to communities the importance of the role of police in ensuring safety environment in KZN which is critical for the development and progress of the province.

5. The seminar noted that the apartheid spatial planning which allocated security, resources unevenly, has left the majority of people of South Africa exposed to crime and criminality. This apartheid spatial planning was reflected in the environmental design which made the majority of South Africans to be vulnerable to crime. The seminar resolved the following:

- In future developments, security issues should be placed at a centre stage;
- CPF and other community safety structures should participate, engage and influence decisions at IDP forums;
- Advocate for the implementation of infrastructure to address related challenges in rural and urban areas;

- Advocate for the use of technology (CCTV, social networks) to address the current spatial factors;
- The Community Police Board should lobby for the reviewal of police station boundaries to be in line with municipal and ward boundaries in order to optimize service delivery.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The seminar was a great success which yielded great resolutions. The resolutions will be utilized to form a Community Policing Strategy and it will be evaluated against national directives and prescripts. Some of the programmes from the resolutions will be implemented during the safety month.