

Remarks of MEC VR Shongwe on the Strategic Plan of the Department of Community Safety Security and Liaison held at Nutting House on the 12th of July 2012.

The Head of Department, Mr Thulani Sibuyi

The General Manager: Crime Prevention and Community Police Relations, Ms Nonsundu Ndonga,

The General Manager: Traffic Management, Mr Sibandiso Nkuna

Major General Phahla - SAPS

Regional Heads,

Senior Managers and Managers,

Officials,

Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning.

HOD thank you very much for the opportunity and let me hasten to emphasize that we are at a strategic planning session of the Department and we are expected to come out with a plan to address outcome number 3, which is for "All people in South Africa are and feel safe".

I have signed a service delivery agreement with the Premier in which I committed to ensure that the people of the Province are and feel Safe. In the Service delivery agreement I committed to deliver specific output in order to realize the outcome number 03.

Today we are starting our strategic planning for the financial year 2013/2014 and this meeting will produce the first draft. The cabinet took a decision to have all strategic plans meeting sitting before the end of July every year so that by the end of November every year, all Departments will have concluded their plans for the next financial year.

Ours has come and I am happy that it takes place within the period that Cabinet recommended. It is proper therefore that we must commend the Planning Section for adhering to cabinet resolutions by convening us today.

Our seven point plan covered the following areas,

- Improvement of the human and finance resource capacity
- Provide Civilian oversight over SAPS
- Improving the provision of security services
- Reduction of contact crime by 4-7% per annum
- Establishment of community and institutional structures and mobilization
- Management of departmental systems and structures
- Provide Traffic Management and Road Safety in the Province

This seven point plans are geared towards making it a point that we achieve our quest to ensure that the people of the Province are and Feel Safe.

However, i would like this Strategic Planning session to understand that there are specific outputs that must guide our work and as a department we will be measured on the extent on which we have achieved.

We have a responsibility to record a reduction in the overall crime and reduce contact crime as well as the trio crimes in the Province.

We are expected to improve the effectiveness and ensure integration of the Criminal Justice system.

We must manage the perception of crime amongst the population.

We are expected to guide and ensure effective management of our borders.

We are, ladies and gentlemen expected to design and come up with programs that will secure the identity and status of citizens.

All of the above requires concerted effort and proper planning from us to ensure that we remain relevant and do, in the real meaning of the word, make the people of the safe and also feel that they are safe.

As we begin the planning cycle for the financial year 2013/2014, I want to draw the attention of management to specific issues that we must also consider.

While executing our task of performing oversight on the police, we must deepen our community mobilisation into the fight against crime. We have an unreasonably high number of tarvens and sheebens in our communities.

This problem is worse in township and villages. There is not a single street that does not have a tarven or sheeben. For as long as this situation persists, we must also intensify our operations there, because researches have proven that most of the contact crimes emerge from there. We must and are obliged to intensify our social crime prevention awareness programs.

If we agree that tarvens and sheebens are amongst the major contributors to the levels of crime and road accidents in our Province. The questions become that, what are we doing with the tarven and sheeben owners?

What are our stakeholders doing about this situation because it is clear that some of the licenses are illegal? As we strategise, let us also look into ways at which we are going to hit at the root cause of our problems rather than to always fight the symptoms'.

Colleagues, we have covered a lot of ground now, however, it is my feeling that we must now as well pay a more detailed attention to School Safety.

We must deliberate and find the most effective ways to practicalize the campaign. This should involve taking those schools which would be found to be riddled with criminal activities and expose its learners to real prison life.

We did it before when we took learners Barberton Prison. However, I would have like a situation where these visits are informed by the results of our raids. We must raid private boarding schools so that we send a message that no one is untouchable.

HOD, Rural Safety as well must now find profound expression in the plans of the Department. We must have more programs that would also take us to rural areas because they too, deserve to live in a crime free zones and only be scared of animals and insects.

As part of the plans, there should be an active, dynamic and action driven relationship with all our stakeholders. As a Department, we have recruited Tourist Safety Monitors and it is my view that, these foot soldiers, who are responsible for the safety of our tourist in the Province must be engaged from time to time to keep their spirits high.

We should have programs that will turn them into a highly discipline force on the ground so that communities in their areas of operation could feel their presence.

I know that this will require additional resources, but the point I am raising here is that we should have plans and quality programs about them. Part of the plans should be about our envisaged exit opportunities for them.

The same goes to CPF's, our Road Safety Councils and all vulnerable groups and sectors of society that we make contact with. We should make it our motto that everything we touch shines brighter. Those that have gone through processes with us, must be different all together when they exit.

When we visited Mozambique, the authorities there raised issue of abuse of their citizens in our country. As we sit today to plan and strategize around how to best achieve our mandate, let us be mindful of the responsibility of managing crime perception. We have a responsibility of ensuring that we are not perceived as a Province crime ridden and very hostile to foreigners.

The service delivery protest that has mushroomed all over the Province undermines our efforts to improve relations between SAPS and Communities. This is so because all these protests end up with a confrontation between the police and community.

We cannot keep quiet about this, we must now find ways and means to educate our people on the importance of having good relations with law enforcement officers because failure will result in the rolling back of the gains we have achieved to this far.

Some of our problems are emanating from lack of buy in by municipalities in the fight against crime. There are no street names, there is lack of access to certain areas, businesses are not in demarcated business areas and Municipal Safety Plan are not being implemented in those municipalities that has them.

There are no buy-laws to guide law enforcement officers in the execution of their duties. I have already proposed that we should have standard bylaws that are the same throughout the province for all the municipalities.

Roads safety and how we win the battle on our roads must gain momentum and by December we must be at full speed, ready to crush road fatalities to achieve a double digit reduction.

Lets intensify our planning and also deal with the issues that are constantly manifesting themselves here and there about divisions amongst traffic officials. This has a potential to again reverse all the gains we have scored to this far.

There should be increased attention given to young drivers on our roads. We must find a way of putting pressure on the new drivers and those that are buying cars for the first time because, they obviously like speeding and showing off. We must hit them hard so that we save lives including theirs. They are also likely to be found drinking and driving.

The processes of introducing the third shift in the traffic section must be expedited. We should be on the road, monitoring how people are driving 24/7. We should forge ahead with our attempt to get the third shift.

The incentives that we give to our staff should be equal to the work that they are doing. A Department that is rated so highly by the Presidency must be doing something right and that work is surely performed by warm bodies, who should be promoted and be given proper incentives in order to keep the spirit high.

I know that Management has attended a team building exercise and while I am well aware that there are resource constraints, there should be signs which shows that there is commitment for the other staff members to attend such things.

This is not luxury but an essential activity to keep the staff motivated and performing at maximum potential.

As I close HOD, let me appeal to management of the Department to desist from involving themselves in business with the Department and also for management to note that all business related presentation should be made through the office of the HOD.

I will now allow anyone to make an appointment with me to make a business presentation. The HOD is the overall head of administration and all administration issues should be directed to his office. The line of command is clear and it needs no interpretation hence it should be followed as such.

With those very few words, I wish you a fruitful, successful and progressive Strategic Planning Session.

I thank you.