



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Portfolio Committee on Police

The Portfolio Committee on Police have held numerous meetings over the last month or so. Here are extracts from the Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG) Minutes of the meetings:

Date of Meeting: 17 Apr 2015

SAPS 2014/15 Budget & APP Hearings: Programme 2: Visible Policing

The SAPS made a presentation of its budget expenditure, administration and visible policing. The SAPS baseline allocation was R86,3 billion growing 6% from the previous financial year. The spending focus over the medium term would be on a provision to maintain personnel capacity, professionalising the police service through skills development, continued strengthening of the criminal justice system and investing in physical resource and capital infrastructure.

Members praised SAPS on a clear presentation and on the introduction of dotpeen marking of guns. Members were concerned that not enough staff had competency in fire arms.

The visible policing programme consisted of crime prevention, border security and specialised interventions. Notable achievements included recovery of 86% lost civilian firearms and 24% state firearms, recovery of 50% of stolen vehicles, confiscation of 283.8 million illicit drugs, 100% police stations offering victim friendly units and 100% operating community police forums.

Members were concerned about

the 24% recovery rate of stolen state firearms which seemed to portray a message that the police were prioritising civilian firearms compared to state firearms. The police was urged to do something with nyaope which was tearing communities apart.

.....*Lieutenant-General Stefan Schutte*, Deputy National Commissioner, SAPS, said.... There would be further spending on investment in capital equipment to support basic policing services such as vehicles; maintaining and replenishing the fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter fleet, including the procurement of requisite physical resources and the replacement of exiting personnel; policing of major events; purchasing critical equipment such as firearms, ammunition and clothing;

....*Gen Phiyega* replied that.... SAPS had been running a program of firearm competency on operational members specify which guns a member was competent in, for instance hand gun, short gun and R5. During training, a person may not use all guns, but after training will be competent in one.

....*Ms Kohler-Banard* said she knew that a quarter of operational staff around 40 000 did not have competency in fire arms and asked if this meant competency in all three guns. She asked if people were deployed with



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a competent certificate so that in the event of shooting, an officer should not be tried without competency of firearms.

It General Mbekele disputed this. There were 150 000 police officers employed under the SAPS Act with operation staff likely to be below 100 000 and a quarter of them was less than 25 000. A person who received a service allowance fell under operational staff.

Ms Molebatsi asked when a police officer booked a gun, did the station commander check if the person was competent for the gun to be given.

It *Gen Sithole* added in basic policing principles, all members to be deployed go on parade for inspection including firearms. Members deployed whether detectives or in stations were all competent in a hand gun. Members declared unfit were removed from the operational wing. The use of firearms was also done in



Continued....Portfolio Committee on Police

terms of Section 102 of the Firearms Control Act....

....Program 2: Visible policing

Lt Gen Sithole said that visible policing consisted of crime prevention, border security and specialised interventions.

The presentation gave an overview of the strategic priorities: reduce levels of serious crime including crimes against women and children; addressing contributors to crime, which looked at the percentage of stolen/lost firearms recovered, the percentage of stolen/robbed vehicles recovered, the quantity of illicit drugs confiscated, and the volume of liquor confiscated; quality service delivery and responsiveness; enhancing partnership policing; and effective border security management, among others.

Notable targets included recovery of 86% lost civilian firearms and 24% state firearms, recovery of 50% of stolen vehicles, confiscation of 283.8 million illicit drugs, 100% police stations offering victim friendly units and 100% operating community police forums.

The expenditure estimates were R29 285, 4 million for crime prevention; R1 659, 8 million for border security; R2 886, 4 million for specialised interventions; R3 212,3 million for facilities;

Mr Mbele asked why the recovery of lost/stolen state firearms was limited to 24%.

Ms Kohler-Banard asked why lost civilian firearms had a recovery rate of 80% compared to the state rate of 24%. Did SAPS members lose firearms or sell them?

Lt Gen Sithole replied that the law was applied equally and across and any force members who were

found to be selling firearms became a criminal. Investigations on firearms were linked to the Firearms Control Act and when state property was lost, a docket was opened. SAPS had other covert operations identifying loss of firearms. It did not have police officers repeatedly losing firearms.

...Mr Maake said that the targets were aimed at reducing crime reporting instead of reducing crime and increase crime reporting. SAPS put the impression that it was not interested in recovering stolen state firearms.

Lt Gen Sithole replied that reporting of crime in police language was linked to prevention. Any police stations found hiding crime statistics would have committed a crime. Some crimes could be prevented whilst others were only reactionary

Ms Susan Prenooer, Head: Crime Prevention, SAPS, replied that even if state firearms were recovered, state markings would have been removed and a large number were therefore not identified.

Date of Meeting: 29 Apr 2015

Civilian Secretariat for Police Annual Performance Plan 2015/16; responses to xenophobia & Draft White Paper on Police: Civilian Secretariat on Police briefing

Ms Reneva Fourie, Acting Secretary, Civilian Secretariat for Police,.... The following police legislation was a priority

- White Paper on Safety and Security
- South African Police Service Bill

- Animal Movement and Produce Bill
- Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist Related Activities Amendment Bill
- Firearms Control Amendment Bill

The total budget was R103 million, which was divided into R36 million for administration, R22 million for intersectoral coordination, R23 million for legislation and oversight, and R22 million for civilian oversight, monitoring and evaluation.

Ms Fourie replied that....The Firearms Control Bill would be ready by June,....

SAGA's Comments:

As it is already the end of May SAGA does not believe that the Amendment Bill will be ready by June. This has been partially confirmed by the committee Secretary in a response to our request for dates for oral submission:

The Bill has not yet been referred to the Committee by the department. I don't when the bill will be processed.

*Kind regards,
Babalwa Mbengo,
Committee Secretary*

As soon as we have an update on the Amendment Bill, we will let you know.

Please note: these extracts have been lifted verbatim from the minutes and the email.

Speech by Francois Beukman, MP

Extracts from his speech have been taken from the PMG Minutes and appear below:

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police

Police and IPID (Independent Police Investigative Directorate) Budget Votes

15 May 2015, National Assembly, Cape Town

Honourable Speaker; Minister of Police Hon Nhleko and Deputy Minister of Police Hon Sotyu; Members of Cabinet and Deputy-Ministers; MEC's of the Nine Provinces; Honourable Members; The Accounting Officers of the Police, IPID, Civilian Secretariat and Director of PSIRA; Fellow South Africans

The Portfolio Committee on Police received briefings from the South African Police Services on their 2015-2016 budget and annual performance plan on 15, 17 and 21 April 2015. Briefings were also received from the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) on 23 April 2015 and the Civilian Secretariat for Police on 29 April 2015. The briefings were preceded by inputs from civil society, research institutions and trade unions on 14 April 2015. The reports dealing respectively with the three entities were adopted by the Portfolio Committee on 7 May 2015 and published in the A.T.C. on 11 May 2015.

In the findings and observations the committee specifically focussed on the importance of stable leadership and effective financial management in SAPS, IPID and the Civilian Secretariat....

I want to thank all members of the committee for their contributions during the process, and also the Deputy Minister of Police for her valuable contribution during the

budget hearings. The recommendations support the Building Safer Communities vision in the NDP, namely: In 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe at home, at school and at work, and they enjoy a community life free of fear. Women walk freely in the streets and children play safely outside. The police service is well-resourced and professional, staffed by highly skilled officers who value their work, serve the community, safeguard lives and property without discrimination, protects the peaceful against violence, and respect the rights to equality and justice".

The Portfolio Committee will monitor the responses and implementation plans of the three entities relating to the adopted resolutions. If the need arises additional hearings will be scheduled during the Parliamentary year to evaluate progress.

The ANC recorded in the January 8 the Statement 2015 the following:

"We are now seeing a gradual, but steady decline in serious crime. However, crime still remains a major social and economic challenge. Communities are urged to participate fully in the various community safety forums and work with the SAPS and other law enforcement agencies to fight crime.

It is only by working together that we can eradicate crime from our communities and also hold the police accountable should they act outside the boundaries of the law.

We condemn, in the strongest of terms, the killing of law enforcement officers and urge communities to work with the police to eliminate this scourge. The ANC condemns the violent crimes

against women, children, the elderly and members of the LGBTI community. These attacks are despicable and they must be stopped.

The January 8th Statement also highlights the role of civil society in ensuring safety in our communities, community education on laws, rights and duties of South African citizens and furthermore for responsible citizens to respect one another, our laws, public property and the authority of the state. Members of the community are also urged to participate in campaigns against all forms of violence and also to report, to law enforcement agencies, any knowledge regarding these attacks."

....The Police Vote represents 11 per cent of the total national budget which is the second largest allocation to a single vote.

We firmly believe that the National Commissioner, Genl R Piyega and her management team should ensure that the allocated resources are distributed fairly across police stations country-wide, more especially to previously disadvantaged and less affluent areas. All citizens are entitled to receive the same level of service. Rural and high crime areas should receive special attention. We welcome the commitment by the SAPS Management to investigate and implement alternative methods of resource distribution.



Continued Speech by Francois Beukman

bution and to improve access to police service points.

Police stations are the backbone of the SAPS. If a station commander is ineffective and the station fails it fails the community. The constant up skilling of station commanders is an essential prerequisite to ensure that junior members receive the necessary mentoring and relevant in-house training to become successful law enforcement officers. The Committee resolved that the leadership of SAPS must be stabilised and that accountability should be increased at all levels of the organisation.

....One of the critical areas to be addressed over the medium term is the professionalization of the police service. A police service that wants to be trusted by the community should be professional at all times.

...The President of the Republic, his Excellency, pres JG Zuma made the following remark in the 2015 State of the Nation Address: "We have to continue working harder together to fight crime and to create safer communities."

Speaker, this effort is therefore not restricted to state actors only. It involves the total community.

The recent National Fire-Arm Summit that was held in Parliament brought stake-holders, role-players and ordinary South Africans - from SAFA to the Hunters Associations- to embark on a dialogue on the kind of society we wish to live in and enjoy in the context of gun control. All stakeholders agreed that all have a role to play in ensuring effective measures to regulate the ownership and distribution of guns and the prevent and reduce the impact of gun violence on society

We once again want to call on all citizens to assist in removing illegal fire-arms from society. Let us work with the SAPS, CPF's and community organisations in this important endeavour.

The Committee will keep a close eye how the police management transform and re-engineer the Central Fire-arm Registry to a more effective organisation and the strategy of punitive measures against Commanders and Members who are negligent in losing their firearms.

.....Oversight over the police is entrenched in Section 206 and 208 of the Constitution of the Republic where provision is respectively made for the Independent Police Investigative Directorate and the Civilian Secretariat for Police.

The Committee believes that the IPID under the leadership of the Acting Executive Director Mr Israel Kganmanyane should take IPID services closer to the people; enhance integrity and quality of investigations and re-prioritise the fight against corruption and systemic corruption.

The Civilian Secretariat headed by the Acting Secretary Ms Reneva Fourie have an important role to play to improve the effectiveness of policing in South Africa through regular monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the SAPS.

The promotion of crime prevention partnerships and the hosting of dialogues on community safety and crime prevention could significantly contribute to the reduction of crime.

Please note: these extracts have been lifted verbatim from the Minutes

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

SAGA Winners/ SAGA Wenners

We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the first two winners in our quarterly Membership Draw: Mr Peacock from Umbogintwini and Mr Van Niekerk of Sundowner.

Mr Peacock is the lucky winner of a hamper of 30 Year items, and Mr Van Niekerk has won a 30-Year Drimac jacket.

Ons will graag gebruik maak van die geleentheid om vir Mnr Peacock van Umboginitwini en Mnr Van Niekerk van Sundowner geluk te wens as die eerste twee wenners in die kwartaallikse Lidmaatskap Werwing trekking.

Mnr Peacock is die gelukkige wenner van ons geskenkpak wat van ons 30 Jaar items bevat en Mnr van Niekerk wen 'n 30 Jaar herdenkings Drimac Baadjie.

Remember, all you need to do it sign up a new member and to supply your name and contact information with their application. Membership forms are available from the office or applications can be done via our website at www.saga.org.za

Onthou, al wat jy hoef te doen is om iemand wat jy ken te kry om aan te sluit en jou naam en kontakbesonderhede te verstrek wan-

neer hulle aansoek doen. Lidmaatskapvorme is beskikbaar by die kantoor of aansoeke kan gedoen word deur ons webwerf by www.saga.org.za.

East Cape HuntEx 29-31 May 2015

Just a reminder that this weekend will see the first East Cape HuntEx will take place at Mentor's Country Estate, Jeffreys Bay from 29-31 May 2015.

Show times will be 9:00 - 17:00

Cost: Adults: R80

Members of accredited hunting associations and students: R40

Children under 10: Free

SAGA will have a table at the show so come along for memberships, leaflets and to see and buy the special 30-Year insignia.

