

COMMISSION 6: RESOURCES OF SAPS AND STUs



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Free State Agriculture Safety Desk



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INTRODUCTION

- 5 865 commercial farmers StatsSA (2017) in FS – primary economic focus agriculture and mining - StatsSA's Agricultural Survey 2018, FS has biggest number of farms (7 951 - 19.8%) of national figure
- Emerging/subsistence sectors also targeted and affected by criminal activity
- National Rural Safety Strategy (NRSS) - farm attacks/murders, property related crimes such as livestock and product theft - impact / extent not yet determined
- Consolidated database of crimes absent as well as comprehensive crime stats?
- Trust relationship and perceptions of farming communities towards police – SAHRC 2017 report recommendations outstanding
- Border issues - more capacity and commitment of key stakeholders/departments needed to assist SANDF in cross border environment
- Capacity of SAPS its manpower, vehicles, equipment in rural areas very problematic, also its STUs
- Roll-out of reservist strategy very problematic – additional measures urgently needed to address it?

RS COORDINATOR – DUTIES PER NRSS

- FS – 93 Urban/rural mix police stations
- 93 RS coordinators with 93 dedicated vehicles, not possible?
- Complement of vehicles in FS (annual police plan – 2100 – 3000?)
- Dedicated RS coordinator/s its job description and duties at 93 urban/rural mix stations
- 11 rural stations RS coordinators perform other ad hoc functions
- Roll-out of RS Units not implemented for past decade
- Rapid reaction teams, higher visibility at high crime stations/areas and border areas?
- Involvement of POP teams

Way-lay duties

Visits to farms

Dedicated vehicle

RS Unit station (2-4 officials)

Training Curriculum

Profiling

Digital photos - linkages

VCPs, other ops

Technology



Awareness campaigns

Monthly meetings

White/blue light patrols

Simulation exercises

Compliance inspections

Preliminary investigations

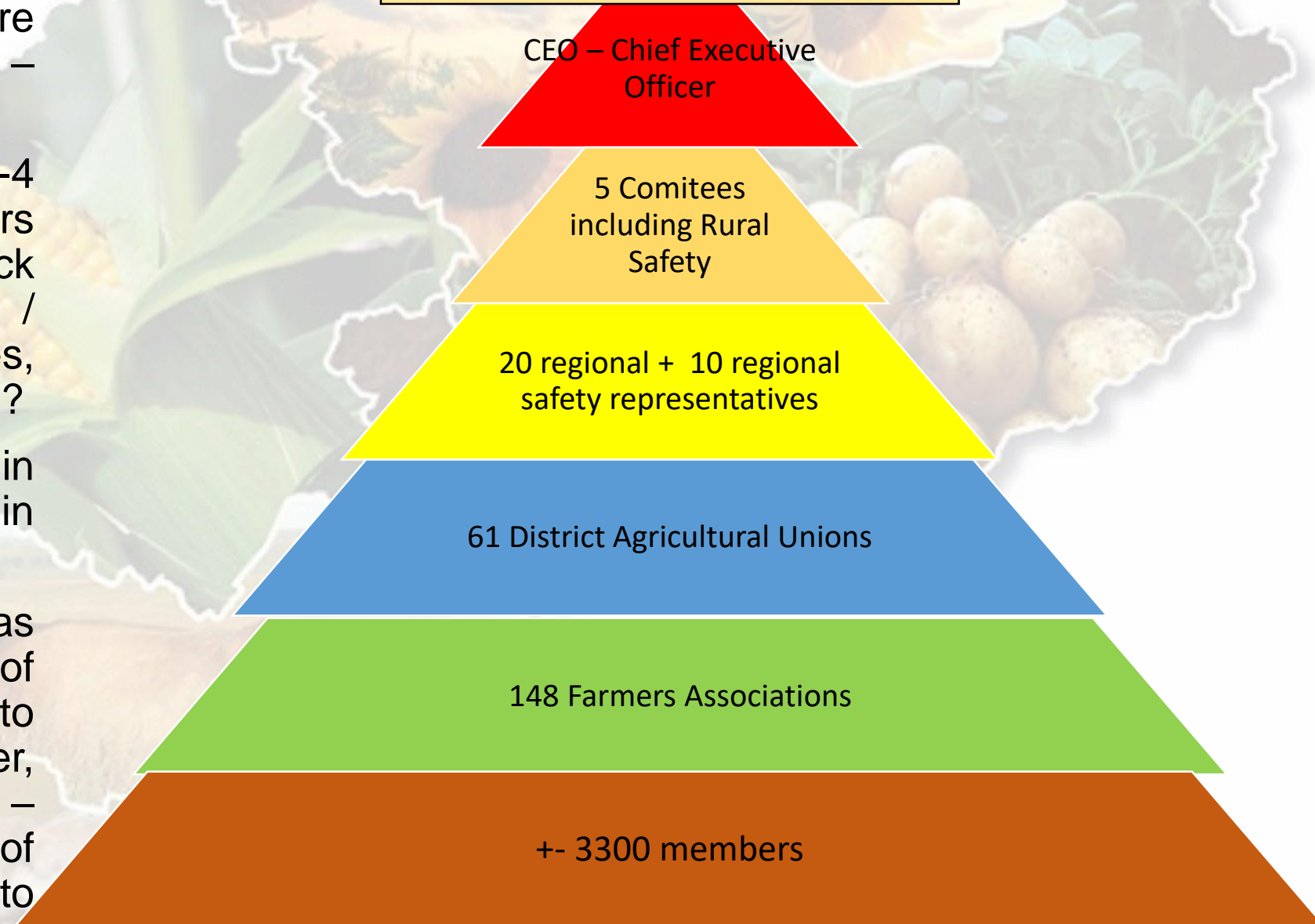
Apps/ Databases

Arrests/ successes

RESERVISTS ROLL-OUT WITHIN NRSS

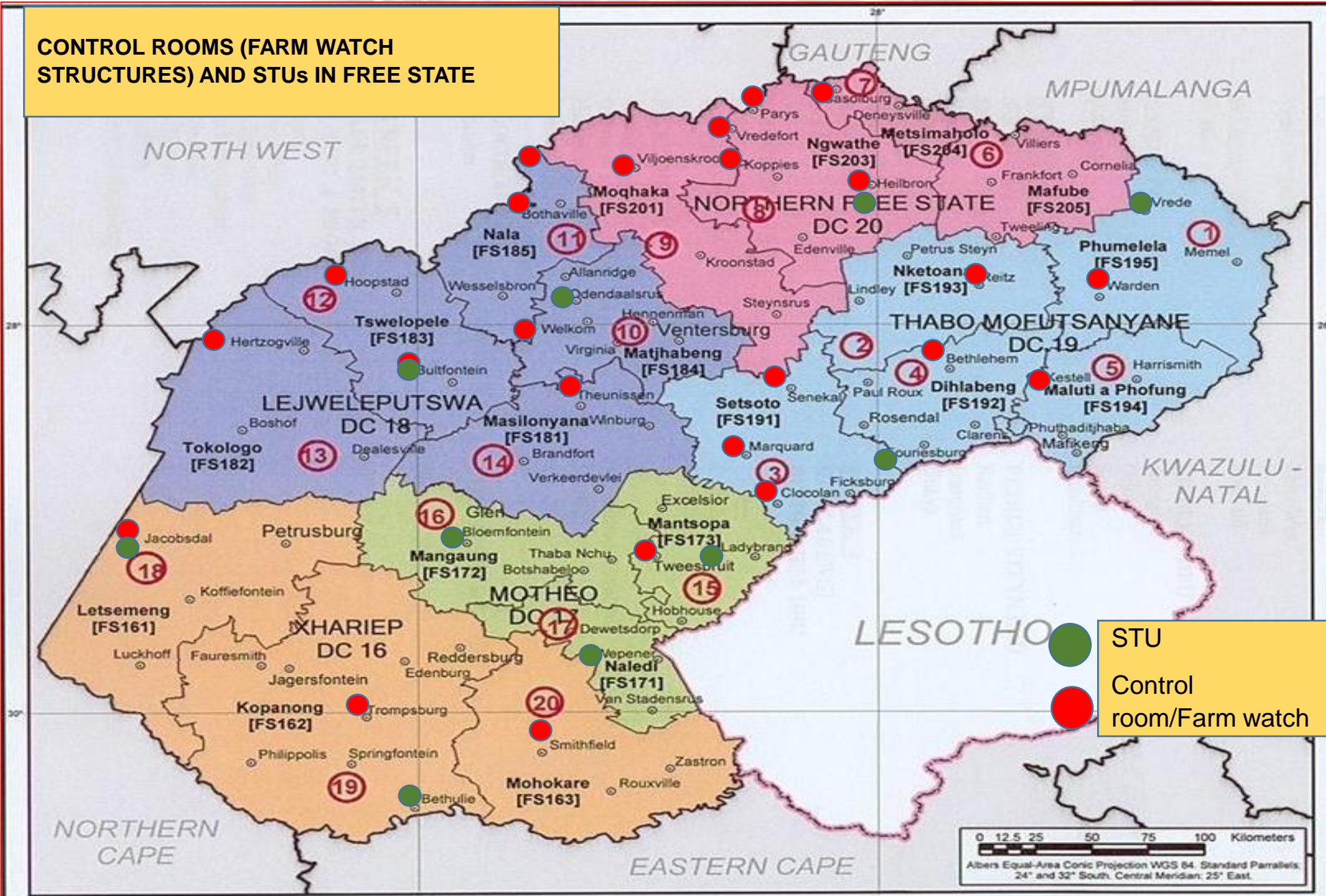
- Very limited / no roll-out of reservists for past decade – more than 3000 patrollers in FS – reservists?
- Option 1: 2-4 reservists/Community Patrollers at FAs to movement of livestock and other risks/crimes = 296 / 592 – own uniform, own vehicles, induction training, own branding?
- Farming communities are in support and want to assist in combatting crimes
- Option 2: Private security as “reservists” – specific level of training /induction – no costs to SAPS to vehicles, manpower, firearms, salaries, etc – monitoring of movement of livestock theft and compliance to legislation

FREE STATE AGRICULTURE (FSA)



STUs AND CONTROL ROOMS (FARMERS)

- 11 STUs servicing 104 rural/urban mix stations at 88 towns/farming communities and communal areas
- 3500-4200 cases reported p.a.
- Focus on livestock theft, endangered species and illegal hunting with dogs
- Huge shortage of manpower 1-3 personnel, 1 vehicle or none – 3-4 days to attend some crime scenes
- 24 Control Room (Farm Watches - PSIRA) in support of STU/SAPS – training as reservist detectives

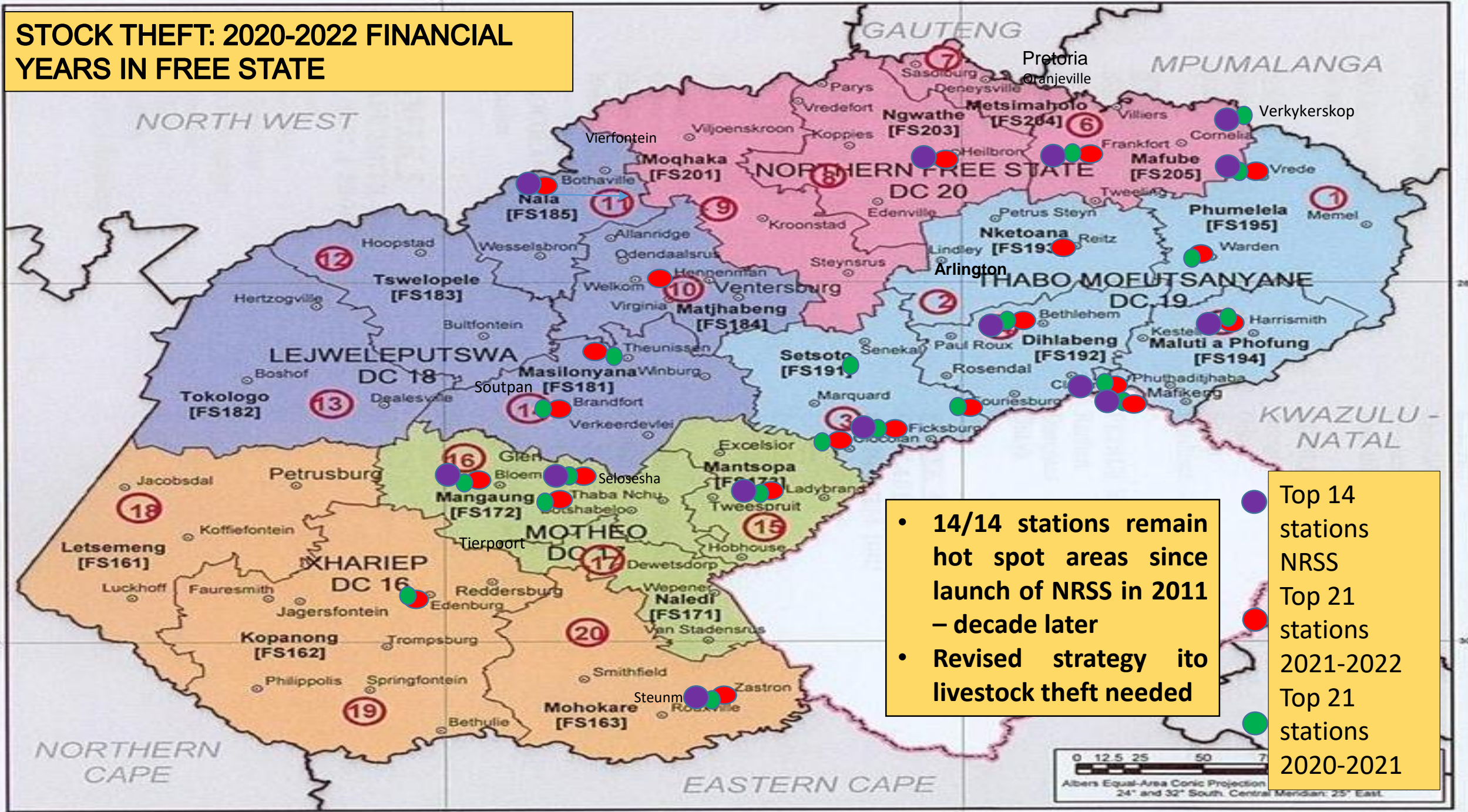


STUs AND FARM WATCH/CONTROL ROOMS

- Estimated loss to agricultural sector p.a. R1-R3 bn FS
- Top agricultural crime = livestock theft (52.80%) with 26,715 incidents vs 3677 cases SAPS 2017 stats
- FSA (Nov 2020) survey - livestock theft largest property-related crime to agricultural sector (94.59%)
- StatsSA 2014 - recovery rate livestock theft 13,82% - not sure now?
- Minister of Police in Parliament (April 2022) – detection rate livestock theft 29% in FS? vs conviction rate? Could be much lower?
- Agri SA NACS 30.56% not reporting
- Agri SA NACS 2017 main reasons: - disbelief in police's ability to address crimes effectively (19.1%), negative experiences with Criminal Justice System (14.4%), criminals who committed crimes not arrested (66.7%)



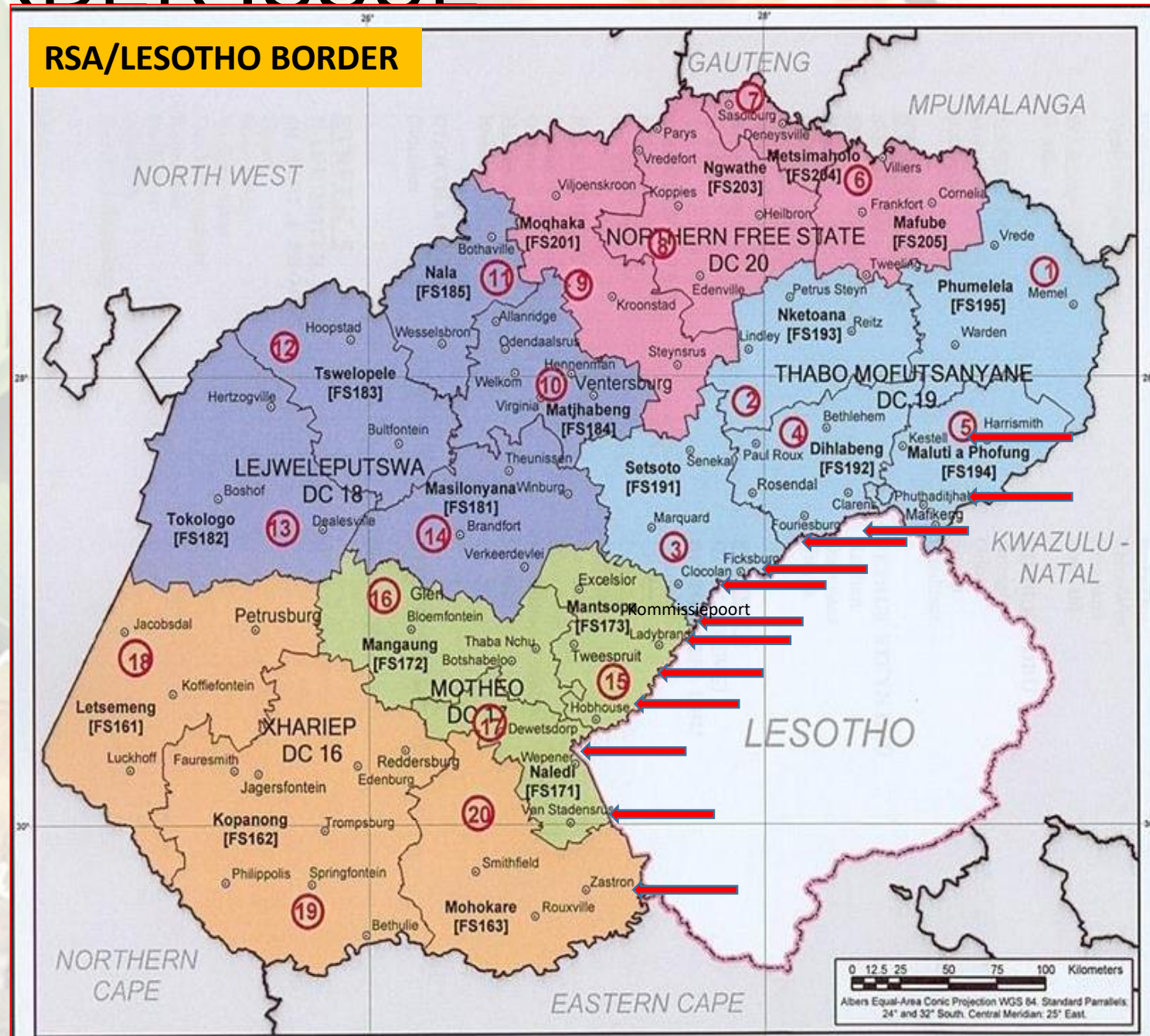
STOCK THEFT: 2020-2022 FINANCIAL YEARS IN FREE STATE



• 14/14 stations remain hot spot areas since launch of NRSS in 2011 – decade later
 • Revised strategy into livestock theft needed

RSA/LESOTHO BORDER ISSUE

- Consistent cross border criminal activity at identified hot spot areas for decades
- Farm attacks/murders at 13 border stations = 30-40% p.a.
- Livestock theft at 13 border stations = 25% of FS figure p.a.
- Restricted communication, working relationship and capacity at border stations and SANDF + SAPS – limited operations at hot spot areas
- Absence fence/accessible 4x4 road at SA side border – no actions from DAFF / DPW
- Appropriate/custom vehicles for border stations – patrols/ops
- Regulation, control of communicable diseases problematic in cross border environment (DAFF) – pounds



OTHER PROPERTY/CRITICAL CRIMES

- Product theft (maize, soja beans, sunflowers, etc), diesel from tractors/harvesters/bakkies, scrap metal and copper cable theft of pivots, infrastructural theft, theft of farm tools and equipment increase – losses to agricultural sector in FS could be more than R3 bn p.a.
- 79 356 crime incidents on agricultural land 2017 in FS - total RSA 668 000 incidents 2017 – Minister releases only 26 000 livestock theft incidents statistics p.a.?
- Critical infrastructural theft of parastatals e.g. batteries of cell phone towers impact on communication in farming communities - loadshedding restricted cellphone coverage and functioning of radio communication networks (Eskom transformer theft and copper cables) – Transnet overhead cables, copper cable theft – all huge risk to safety of farming communities
- Illegal hunting with dogs problematic in 60-70% farming communities
- Theft of diesel theft increase from farms – bt R30 to R70 million p.a. estimate losses
- Maize theft estimated at more than R234 million losses p.a.

SUMMARY - RECOMMENDATIONS

- Effective implementation of NRSS lacking – capacity in manpower, vehicles and resources of Vispol, STUs (investigators), reservists, and border stations relates to economic sabotage of agricultural sector
- Serious consideration should be awarded to options available and how it should be speedily implemented – sustainability of the agricultural sector and food security is severely threatened
- Revised strategy needed especially in livestock theft and other property related theft from agricultural sector
- More capacity and commitment from key stakeholders to improve situation in rural areas / farming communities
- Cross border environment, accessible 4x4 border road for patrols/operations - interventions urgently required from lacking departments
- Improved reporting of crimes needed from farming communities via an integrated system e.g. App – improvement in trust relationship need to address under reporting
- Monitoring of reporting crimes and case flow should improve
- Engagement with identified investigators needed to address allegations of police corruption – definite feedback lacking to farming communities



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THANK YOU

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