

INPUT OF THE NCPCF AT THE NATIONAL RURAL SAFETY SUMMIT 2022

The Community Policing Strategy and the Community in Blue Concept, were launched, on 20 October 2018, to enhance community-police partnerships in the fight against crime through multidisciplinary collaboration with the focus, amongst others, on building community-resilience to crime. This would be done with the intention to contribute towards the operationalization of collaborative policing as envisaged in Vision 2030, the National Development Plan, through the involvement of all rurally identified areas of our community in the fight against crime.

One of 3 points of the Strategic Intent of the current Rural Safety Strategy says there will be "the Mobilisation of communities for the implementation of a successful community policing strategy that must involve members of the community." There definitely exists a strategic link between the Rural Safety Strategy and the Community Policing Strategy which is governed by the National Community Policing Consultative Forum (NCPCF) which I am the Chairperson of.

Thus, our Community Policing Forums (CPFs), as Strategic Stakeholders gives rise as an integral part of realising the implementation of the National Rural Safety Strategy, especially at the basic structure of Government's service delivery level - the individual sector within a Station Commander's precinct. Discussions at the rural safety committees, community policing forums and sector policing forums usually addresses the incidences of violence and lack of respect for life and private property, as normally experienced in parts our country and these are issues that impact negatively on community safety, stability, confidence and development. A lot has been done up to now but we can for now not say it is enough until the space for criminals is totally squeezed.

The community policing strategy must be implemented, with the aim of gaining the trust of the community and to secure their full involvement in the fight against crime.

The farming community, farmers and farm workers must participate in Community Policing Forums, at station level. Rural Safety Plans are in place in the provinces, as a tool to assist police stations to prevent crime in the rural and farming community, as part of the Rural Safety Strategy. National and local joint rural safety command centres are also avenues to be explored where such exists.

Experience has taught us that some communities are less willing to participate in partnerships with the police, when they are located far away from police stations, due to time and costs involved. Extensive distances from police stations and limited resources also hamper the rendering of effective policing services to many rural communities and has negatively impacted the policing of some of these areas.

Active citizenry in the fight against crime has the potential of being achieved by a user-friendly Reservist System, the appropriate and suitable structuring of CPF's and the fully fledged establishment of the capacitated and uniform Community in Blue Patroller initiative – this will all be in support of the local police, added as effective force multipliers.

We further advise that implementation of police stations or service points be done in serving a rural area of the whole area or a part thereof which must meet the following:

- a. an area which is typical consisting of land which is devoted to agriculture.
- b. an area which lacks infrastructure or infrastructure development such as tarred roads , public transport and adequate sanitation.

Can this Summit also remind each one of us that in the strategic positions we occupy in society can we extend a helping hand to each other, since we play different roles of linking the chain. Criminals, especially the drug lords will never find expression in our society, by this we say at Local Government level let Local Councillors and Mayors join, at District Government level let District Councillors and Mayors join, at Provincial Government level let the Premier and the MECs join and at National level we plead with the President and the Ministers to please take our structures serious by meeting us half way in our volunteering services we are all executing. We are all more than ceremonial, we are workers, involve us at the planning phase of events and not invite us to make up the numbers avoiding wasteful and fruitless expenditures.

The NCPCF on behalf of all the CPFs supports this summit and commits to participate in the execution of its resolutions.

SIYABONGA! DANKIE! ENKOSI! REALEBOGA! THANK **YOU!**