

***The effectiveness of Community Policing Forums (CPFs) in addressing crime
at local level: Practical perspectives***



INTRODUCTION

- SAPS Act 68 of 1995, legislated that Community Police Forums (CPF) as the only recognised consultative forum designed to permit communities to make their policing concerns known to the police.
- Community Policing Forum is a platform where community members, organizations (CBO's, NGO's, Business, FBO's, youth organizations, women organizations, SGB's), other relevant stakeholders (provincial government, local government, traditional authority and parastatals) and the police meet to discuss local crime prevention initiatives.



WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE PARTNERSHIP

- Promotion of accountability of the local police to the community, and cooperation of the community with the local police.
- Monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of the police serving the community.
- Examination and advice on local policing priorities.
- Evaluation of the provision of services such as:
 - Distribution of resources
 - The way complaints and charges are handled
 - Patrolling of residential and business areas

Keeping records, writing reports and making recommendations

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- The establishment of CPFs was provided for in section 221(2) of the Constitution and section 19(1) of the South African Police Services (SAPS) Act 68 of 1995.
- CPFs + Business together with the police should establish and maintain a partnership with the community, promote communication between the police and the community, promote cooperation and ensure that the police fulfil the needs of the community in respect of policing, improve the service of the police to the community, improve transparency and accountability of the SAPS and promote joint problem identification and problem solving.

CHALLENGES - SAPS

- **There are differences between black and white CPFs particularly in relation to the police behaviour**
- **The relationship between black people and the police has never been good – history tells us.**
- **CPF's were left out of the final constitution in 1996 but the 1995 Police Service Act refers back to the interim constitution**
- **SAPS not understanding the partnership and joint problem-solving between communities & SAPS".**
- **SAPS Station Commanders, Vispol Heads & Sector Managers unwillingness to work with their local communities. (some Provincial Commissioners)**
- **SAPS training and workshops on community police relations at local level**

CHALLENGES – CPF JOINTLY

- CPF have no constitution as basic tool of existence-local level(cluster)
- CPF groupings not using approved CPFs logo
- CPF Patrollers turned vigilante group as results of no leadership or against leadership
- Political aligned thus forgetting their roles
- Internal infighting of positions
- Little or no continued training at local level
- CPF's Chairpersons becomes gate keepers
- Youth crime prevention desk not utilized
- FBO, SGB not a bigger part of the partnership
- Social crime prevention campaigns lack off or misdirected

SOLUTIONS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

- It remains important that the Station Commander is supportive to be supported (Pro CPF)
- The Provincial and Local Government support is very crucial so that not everything is left with SAPS.
- CPF at local station should have the participation of all law enforcement agencies at all time
- Establishment of stakeholders forum under the CPF's umbrella
- Business involvement and business crime initiates with local communities to help SAPS, but also the same community. (Community + Business+ Police = Justice
- Continued Community izimbizo's and sector gathering using technology today-
new technology innovations

THE WAY FORWARD

- **The Civilian Secretariat for Police must lead a process for the implementation of payment of stipends to CPF structures and formalise the Expanded Public Works Programme for sub-forums.**
- **A funding model should be developed and it must be inclusive of the non- state organs in the fight against crime.**
- **Focus must be given to the development of portable skills for the benefit of CPFs to building safer communities;**
- **A National Instruction must be issued on: improving the quality of SAPS participation**

THE WAY FORWARD (CONTINUED)

- **CPFs must be engaged on responding to and educating communities on the impact of protest action particularly where this protest action results in violence and destruction of community centres and infrastructure,**
- **The CSP must develop a concept to engage CPFs on oversight of SAPS at station level. (This will assist the Civilian Secretariat for Police considering that there are 1137 police stations and will allow a footprint at each of these).**
- **Drafting of a national CPFS/Boards Constitution**
- **A national patrollers policy be developed; and**

THE WAY FORWARD (CONTINUED)

- **A strategic planning session must be held for the National Community Police Board.**
- **The CSP must develop a concept to engage CPFs on oversight of SAPS at station level. (This will assist the Civilian Secretariat for Police considering that there are 1137 police stations and will allow a footprint at each of these).**
- **Drafting of a national CPFS/Boards Constitution**
- **A national patrollers policy be developed; and**
- **An evaluation tool for functionality of CPFs is urgently developed.**
- **The Minister of Police is requested to endorse this document and direct the South African Police Service and the CSP to ensure that all issues raised as per recommendation, herein, are complied with and must be implemented**