WALK THE TALK
ON A JOURNEY TO A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA
#CrimeMustFall
A marbled sculpture shall rise to their memory, engraved stone shall bear record of their deeds, and their remembrance shall be as lasting as the land they honoured.
year’s activities coincided with the centenary celebrations of the birth of this icon and that of our female struggle stalwart, uMama Albertina Sisulu, who would also have turned 100 this year.

The Mandela Day social responsibility initiatives and the many others we conduct throughout the year, help the SAPS become closer to communities, allowing the public to feel at ease to share their concerns. This allows us to fully embrace our people-centred and inclusive approach to policing, included in our Community Policing Strategy, which calls for people to be at the centre of policing initiatives.

South Africa also recently hosted the BRICS Summit in Sandton, Johannesburg. It was a meeting of the BRICS bloc which comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. This is one of the partnerships that will go a long way in assisting some of these developing economies, following signed agreements among these nations. These are agreements in spheres such as trade and investments, technological developments, culture and tradition, among other things.

The SAPS is pleased that the summit was a huge success and it again proves to all that our country is prepared to be a regional and global political player that is focused on building, revitalising and maintaining strategic partnerships as stipulated in the Immediate Short-term Impact seven: Collaborative and Consultative Approach to Policing of the SAPS’s Turnaround Vision.

Once more and regrettably, the SAPS is appalled by the level of violence that we continue to witness in our country and as an organisation, we will not rest on our laurels until the safety of our people is compromised. The sad and unnecessary loss of lives that we witnessed in KwaZulu-Natal when 12 taxi drivers were ambushed and killed by gunmen on their way from a colleague’s funeral, leaves us shocked. That these perpetrators would open fire, discharging more than 250 bullets, is testament to the brazen nature of violence in our country.

We, as the Police Service, have assembled a 72-hour intelligence-led action plan, which entails the activation of a task team of members from specialized units within the SAPS, including Crime Intelligence, the Directorate for Priority Crimes Investigation also known as the Hawks, the Detective Service, the Special Task Force, among others, to investigate these heinous crimes and bring the perpetrators of violence in that province to book. This action plan, which entails the immediate activation of seasoned officers from multiple sections of the SAPS, has been extended to cash-in-transit robberies and has already led to many arrests.

We are stamping the authority of the State, because such acts of violence are an anathema and we are duty-bound to arrest this scourge. We are fully aware that failure to act on our part would be seen as a failure to act on behalf of our country and our Constitution, which guarantees our people the right to live their lives in peace and security.

Of the money raised, each division was allocated R1 500 and the rest of the money was used for community upliftment projects. The men and women in blue were even physically involved in the construction of a house belonging to a member of the SAPS, who had lost his house in a fire.

“We always encourage SAPS members to assist those less fortunate than them. It always feels good to go home knowing that you have done something for the welfare of others. This was distinctively Madiba’s attribute having spent 67 years of his life as a political activist and servant of the people,” said Colonel Mampane.

The orphanage was identified and adopted by the National Commissioner of the SAPS, General Khehla Sitole, at a recently-held Anti-Police Killings Campaign. It houses 16 children of different ages and the building is not in a good condition.

This initiative is running in its fourth year and the festivities are intended to pay homage to Tata Mandela’s quest to assist needy communities. This year marks Madiba’s centenary, had he lived, and initiatives such as these abound the world over.

Speaking at the event, Colonel Rose Mampane, the Champion for the Women’s Network, said that the initiative managed to raise R46 000 last year, which was used for a good cause.

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She further said that the initiative had raised R48 000 this year. A paltry figure will be divided among all the SAPS divisions and the rest will be channelled toward renovating an orphanage in Soshanguve.

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“This initiative is growing from strength to strength and we are seeing a lot of buy-in from our members. Personally, I am very passionate about assisting the less fortunate and find it heart-warming to do so.

It is purely about the elderly: ‘Charity begins at home’ and we are very optimistic that the initiative will grow further in leaps and bounds,” said Lieutenant Colonel Puleng Motoseneing of Strategic Planning Section in the Forensic Services Division.

She added that it was important to encourage every member of the SAPS to adopt a child, a school or any community structure with the sole purpose of extending a helping hand.

Fellow South Africans from all walks of life, as well as the rest of the global community recently celebrated Nelson Mandela Day on 18 July, in honour of the father of our democratic nation, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

Mandela Day is a day that many of us dedicate to helping those who are less fortunate in our communities, by spending 67 minutes to do humanitarian work – the 67 minutes symbolising the 67 years of Madiba’s political activism.

The South African Police Service (SAPS), like many other organisations and various institutions, held numerous events and activities to highlight the importance of keeping the legacy of Nelson Mandela alive. We adopt the values that he imparted on our society, therefore our clarion call to all SAPS employees is to make every day a Mandela Day. This year’s activities coincided with the centenary celebrations of a child, a school or any community structure with the sole purpose of extending a helping hand.

SAPS MEMBERS RAISE FUNDS FOR MANDELA DAY

By WO Percy Sepela

Photographers by WO Anne Magakoe

With July being observed as the month to commemorate the life of our struggle icon, the late, former president Tata Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela, the South African Police Service (SAPS) recently held a Nelson Mandela Fundraising Sports Day at the SAPS Atteridgeville Academy to help the less fortunate in the area.

The event was organised by the SAPS’s Women’s Network and Men for Change. The day kicked off with a 5 km fun run/walk and included activities such as aerobics, a mini soccer tournament, tugs of war and touch rugby, later in the day.

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**MANDERA DAY CELEBRATIONS**

The Minister of Police, Honourable Bheki Cele and the management of the South African Police Service Head Office and the North West provincial management led by the National Commissioner of the SAPS, General Khehla Sitole, celebrated Mandela Day in the Rustenburg Cluster on 18 July 2018.

The delegation also went to the Tshirologang Primary School where the North West Premier, Professor Teboge Mogkose, the MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Mpho Molthabane, the Rustenburg Local Municipality Mayor, Councillor Mgho Khunuo, and the North West Community Policing Forum (CPF)'s Chairperson, Mr Dixon Ngamlane, joined the Police Ministry and members of the SAPS’s management.

The visit was part of a plan to conduct unannounced visits to 100 police stations to engage with members, and make sure that members are performing their daily duties accordingly and in line with the Batshe Pele principles. During the course of the day, the delegation also visited the Rustenburg Police Station where Minister Cele and General Sitole announced that Warrant Officer Hosia Molefe, who had been a warrant officer for 18 years, had been promoted to the rank of captain.

The delegation also went to the Tshirologang Primary School where Minister Cele and General Sitole were eagerly awaited by pupils and community members. Minister Cele handed over hampers that included blankets and food parcels to 10 needy, elderly persons who had been identified earlier. The delegation proceeded to a crime hotspot near the Olympia Park Stadium where they cleared the bushes, which were deemed to have been a space for perpetuating crime in the area. Thereafter, they went to the Rustenburg taxi rank for a walkabout and engaged with members of the community.

To conclude the day, the delegation went to the Boitekong Community Hall where they engaged with the community of Boitekong and the surrounding areas. In this gathering, members of the community were given an opportunity to ask questions and to inform the Minister and the SAPS’s management about their concerns. Members of the community, among others, complained about the misuse of State vehicles by police employees, the time it took the police to solve cases and the police’s failure to respond to their calls on time.

In his response, Minister Cele requested and encouraged members of the community to work hand in hand with the police. He told the gathering that not all police officials were corrupt and lazy.

“Yes we have bad cops who are corrupt and are not representing this organisation well, but we also have good police officers who are doing their job well,” said Minister Cele. He said that those police officers who were doing a sterling job needed to be encouraged to continue representing the organisation well.

The Provincial Commissioner of the North West, Lieutenant General Bale Motswevane, assured the community that the provincial management was going to start with it by bringing the satellite station back to the community, to make it easier for them to report crime.

The Provincial Commissioner of the North West, Lieutenant General Bale Motswevane, assured the community that the provincial management would also deal with the concerns they had raised. She also said that she was going to make sure that the community members have access to State resources.

The day began with an unannounced visit to the Tlhabane Police Station where the North West Premier, Professor Teboge Mogkose, the MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Mpho Molthabane, the Rustenburg Local Municipality Mayor, Councillor Mgho Khunuo, and the North West Community Policing Forum (CPF)'s Chairperson, Mr Dixon Ngamlane, joined the Police Ministry and members of the SAPS’s management.

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POLICE HAND OVER RENOVATED HOUSE TO KAYA ORPHANAGE

Capt Vincent Mukhathi
Photographs WO Theo Van Wyk

The South African Police Service (SAPS)’s top management officially handed over a refurbished house and new structures to the Kaya Orphanage in Soshanguve on 20 July 2018, as part of celebrating Mandela Day.

The orphanage is home to 17 children of varying ages. The building had been dilapidated and in need of refurbishment. The SAPS and sponsors stepped in to renovate the home for the orphans, after the National Commissioner, General Khehla Sitole, identified and adopted the Kaya Orphanage during the Anti-Poaching campaign held in Soshanguve on 5 June 2018.

The home is now in excellent condition, thanks to the SAPS’s Women’s Network and Men for Change, who organised events for all Head Office personnel and collaborated with sponsors to raise funds for the Kaya Orphanage building project.

Speaking at the handing-over ceremony, the Head Office’s Women’s Network Champion, Colonel Rose Mampane, said that SAPS members were very humbled to be making a difference in the community by contributing to the building of the Kaya Orphanage. She also called on the community members of Soshanguve and the citizens of South Africa to work with the police to stop police murders.

“My coming and giving back to the community, we are showing you that we are one and that we should help each other. We are appealing to the community to play their role in protecting us as the police. Please help and work with the police to arrest police killers and criminals,” said Colonel Mampane.

Speaking on behalf of the sponsors, the Managing Director of HL Baard and Son, Mr Edgar Pardil, said that it had been their pleasure and honour to be involved in the project and that they were looking forward to being involved in similar projects in the future. He also thanked SAPS members for working tirelessly to ensure that the project became a success and was completed on time.

In his keynote address, the Deputy National Commissioner: Management Intervention, Lieutenant General Johannes Schutte, highlighted that the SAPS’s Women’s Network and Men for Change, in collaboration with their partners, lent a helping hand to the Kaya Orphanage in the spirit of the late Nelson Mandela’s Centenary celebration.

“This through this initiative we join hands to share Tata Mandela’s vision of a better future for all, to take action to inspire change, and to make every day a Mandela Day. On 5 June 2018, the SAPS, through the Women’s Network and Men for Change, officially adopted the Kaya Orphanage and pledged to rebuild and renovate this house in collaboration with partners. Through concerted efforts, shared determination and hard work, we aim to improve the lives of these 17 children - our future leaders, one step at a time,” he said.

Lieutenant General Schutte praised the Women’s Network and Men for Change for their willingness to go beyond the call of their official duty to support and alleviate the circumstances of those in need.

“As an organisation, we are immensely proud to have men and women with your selfless character and calibre in our midst. We appreciate your hard work and willingness to be involved in all these initiatives, and urge you to continue to touch and change lives,” he said.

An emotional Ms Lydia Rasimbi, the founder of the Kaya Orphanage, thanked and praised the SAPS members for the great job they had done. “I am so overwhelmed and I have no words to express my thanks to you all,” she said.

After the formal programme, Lieutenant General Schutte officially handed over the revamped house and other new additional structures to Ms Lydia Rasimbi and showered the children with gifts, beds and clothes bought by members of the SAPS.

GOOD MEN EXPRESS FEELINGS AT THE 100 MEN MARCH

Mr Yusuf Abramjee, a social activist and ambassador for Crime Line said, “To highlight the plight of women, should not be a once-off event but should rather be held for 365 days”. He praised government for coming up with this initiative and warned perpetrators that their time was up.

The former Chairperson of the Gauteng Board of the Community Policing Forum, Mr Andy Mashaila, who is now an Interpol Ambassador, said that men need to start looking at themselves as agents of change who can make a difference.

“...and I are on a mission to ensure that we instil good human values in the boy child... to help and protect the vulnerable among us,” he said. Mr Mashaila also urged the Gender Commission on Equality to continue helping victims of gender-based violence.

The day was characterised by the signing of a pledge by government officials and other dignitaries, who committed themselves to working hard to defeat the scourge of violence against women and children. They also lit a torch to sympathise with all the victims and survivors of gender-based violence. Men in unison shouted: “Not in our name!”
South Africa recently held a successful 10th BRICS Summit that was held from 25 to 27 July 2018 in Sandton, hosted by Honourable President Cyril Ramaphosa under the theme: “BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution.”

The Summit was attended by the Heads of State and Government of South Africa, Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRICS), Rwanda, Ethiopia, Angola, Zambia, Namibia, Senegal, Gabon, Togo, Uganda, Jamaica, Argentina, Turkey, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

The BRICS Summit took place during a period when South Africa was commemorating the centenary of the birth of two of South Africa’s struggle icons, uTata Nelson Mandela and uMama Albertina Sisulu. The values they represent served as an inspiration for discussion on key issues affecting the international community, as well as the rich discussions with outreach partners.

The following agreements were signed during the course of the Summit:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and Blockchain Technology in the Context of the Development of the Digital Economy;
- A Memorandum of Understanding on BRICS Regional Aviation Partnership; and
- An Agreement for the Establishment of the Regional Office of the New Development Bank for Americans in the City of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Deliberations concluded with the adoption of the Johannesburg Declaration and Action Plan, which highlighted the great strides that BRICS had made in terms of establishing institutional mechanisms for tangible cooperation.

The theme of this year’s Walk the Talk was “Walking for South Africa”. This theme reflects the theme of the SAPS’s Turnaround Vision: “On a journey to a Safer South Africa”. The initiative saw the National Commissioner and his top management interacting with communities: “On a journey to a safer South Africa – Walking closer to the communities”.

This is the fourth consecutive year that the SAPS has participated in this walk which is in its 17th year of existence. The walk is divided into three categories: 15, 8 and 5 kilometres. It has become customary for the police to participate in the 8 km category which started at 09:00 and was marked by a fly-past by the police’s three aircrafts, two Pilatus Porters and one helicopter MD500.

For the SAPS, this platform presented an opportunity for top management and members to interact with the community, young and old, thereby operationalising the organisation’s community policing approach and fighting crime through youth participation. The SAPS has recently hosted the first National Youth Crime Prevention Consultative Summit where youth from various provinces converged to input on the drafting of a Youth Crime Prevention Strategy, which is informed by the Community Policing Strategy.

These strategies seek the involvement of the entire community in order to remove the youth out of reach of criminals and immorality. The SAPS is now working towards mobilising young minds to join in the fight against crime, substance abuse and moral decay.

This opportunity was also used to get first-hand feedback from participants on the strides made by stabilisation operations, launched in early June, to fight crimes like aggravated robberies that instil fear in communities as well as to ensure the people of this country are and feel safe.

The opportunity was further utilised to communicate efforts being made to fight crimes against women and children, and lastly our capability to respond to crime swiftly was showcased through the fly past and display of operational vehicles. At the 1 km point there was an SAPS power zone with the SAPS band playing and members handing out SAPS promotional items to participants.

At the starting line of the walk General Sitole said: “I want to let the community know that their safety is informed by the National Development Plan, and we are ensuring that the measures we have in place to safe guard them are indeed effective and efficient...I want to also urge communities to call on the youth to join the platforms created for them to fight crime, he said.
SAPS MEMBERS FOIL A BRAZEN ROBBERY WITH HELICOPTER

By WO Percy Sepaela

With the recent spike in cash-in-transit heists, the management of the South African Police Service (SAPS) has decided to pull in all relevant structures, including the SAPS Air Wing, to urgently respond to this worrying scourge.

This comes as the SAPS is currently introducing crime intelligence-driven operational strategies to deal with cash-in-transit heists and other forms of violent crime gripping the country.

In May this year, an Operational Response Services Division member, working with Tracker, broadcast an urgent radio message to report an ensuing cash-in-transit heist in Boksburg, Ekurhuleni. This acted as the SAPS’s Johannesburg Air Wing’s timeous response to the call – getting airborne while the robbery was still in progress.

Having realised that they were on the police’s radar, the suspects fled. The helicopter got overhead the crime scene immediately after the suspects’ getaway vehicles had fled the scene.

“The member at the scene provided descriptions for three of the suspects’ vehicles in his broadcast. This activated a member from the Ekurhuleni Metro Police Department (EMPD), who provided a possible sighting of these fleeing vehicles when we got to the scene,” said Colonel JJ Botha, a pilot and the Unit Commander of the Johannesburg Air Wing.

The Airborne Law Enforcement Officer (ALEO), Sergeant Pailman, who was in the helicopter, took control of the vehicle’s sunroof. He also reported that the suspects were shooting directly at the helicopter through their vehicle’s sunroof. However, the police were undeterred and continued chasing them.

Although many members were involved in these activities and certainly some of them displayed fearlessness, what stood out for me about the Air Wing crew was that as soon as the crime scene was secured, their first concern was the safety of the EMPD official and SAPS members whom we had witnessed being fired upon.

It is therefore my contention that the ALEO and pilot acted beyond their call of duty and displayed exceptional acts of bravery in the face of danger, while the crime was still in progress, as well as afterwards,” said Colonel Botha.

This foiled robbery led to the arrest of the suspects, the recovery of a stolen vehicle, explosives and an undisclosed amount of cash, but most importantly, the prevention of the loss of innocent lives.

“I think that we would not have achieved this success without the direct and selfless actions of the helicopter crew,” concluded Colonel Botha.

The reaction time and the collaboration of different law enforcement agencies reinforces the notion of partnering with other stakeholders to defeat the scourge of crime.

SAPS PARTICIPATES IN SPORT AGAINST DRUGS INITIATIVE

By Capt Keitumetse Mmushi

Photographs by WO Ndanduleni Nyambeni

Sport helps keep youngsters active and makes them feel like part of a team, which in turn, can lead to a sense of responsibility toward others along with the desire to be at your healthiest and perform at your best.

This is why the South African Police Service (SAPS)’s Visible Policing (Vispol) Division recently partnered with a number of stakeholders to hold its inaugural Sport against Drugs Programme at the LC De Villiers Sports Centre of the University of Pretoria (UP).

Stakeholders recently invited youngsters from rehabilitation centres and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) around Pretoria, and paired them with members of the SAPS for a soccer and netball tournament.

Speaking to the participants, the Head of Vispol’s Social Crime Prevention Unit, Major General Thokozani Mathonsi, said that the UP’s Family Medicine Department had approached the SAPS in 2017 and raised a concern about stakeholder cooperation in addressing issues of substance abuse.

“So they came up with the idea to start a project to raise awareness of the downfalls of drug use and to rehabilitate drug users, through sport, so that instead of being arrested, they can be helped to stop using drugs. The programme also raises awareness among the community and our members on the ground, to understand that there are health practitioners who can assist drug users as part of the treatment programme, so they should use their services,” said Major General Mathonsi.

According to Mr Sasha Laala from the Community Oriented Substance Use Programme funded by the City of Tshwane and UP, the health practitioners offer primary health care services for people who use drugs.

“It is a good initiative because today our clients, substance users, feel like part of the community. This encourages young people to see the police for who they are: Heroes in our communities. When looking into the future instead of aspiring to be drug dealers or drug lords, they can aspire to become police officers,” he said.

There is a National Drug Master Plan, which focuses on three critical areas: Dealing with drug demand, harm reduction and arresting suppliers. The SAPS focuses on the demand and supply through law enforcement measures.

It took five years of imprisonment for robber and attempted murderer Zeyn Geldien to realise that drugs were taking him on a downward spiral. Today, Zeyn has been clean for a year and is a volunteer at an NGO where he motivates youngsters to stay away from drugs and uses his life as an example of the danger of becoming involved in drugs.

“They are so lucky that programmes like this one exist, this is a really good initiative and I have been saying this for the past three days of this tournament. Drugs are ruining the lives of the youth. We really need to win this battle against drug use,” he said.

The Mamelodi team took first place in the netball tournament, while the Hercules team won the soccer.
CLASS OF ’88 AWARDED 30-YEAR LOYAL SERVICE MEDALS

By AC Amos Ndelo

I t was in 1988, when three female platoons (27, 28 and 29) reported to the South African Police Service (SAPS) Hammanskraal Academy for their police training. Thirty years down the line, the three platoons paraded again to receive their 30 Years Loyal Service Medals at a prestigious ceremony held at the SAPS Academy in Hammanskraal.

The aim of the event was to acknowledge and recognise the officers of the three female platoons, who were trained from July to December 1988, and commemorate the platoons’ 13 members who had lost their lives.

Speaking at the event to celebrate the women in blue who were pioneers of the SAPS in their own right, the National Commissioner of the SAPS, General Khehla Sitole, commended and acknowledged the members’ commitment, hard work and contribution to the growth and development of the police.

“We are here to applaud our members who have given their lives to serve the people of South Africa. The organisation, like the Public Service, has undergone numerous changes and experienced many challenges over the past three decades, and inevitably, capable persons changed careers and left the SAPS. However, those whom we are celebrating today, defied the odds and stood the test of time, and for their loyalty and hard work, we are proudly recognising them today,” said General Sitole.

General Sitole further said that the patriotic and selfless women who had committed themselves to the SAPS over the past 30 years, understanding that a fully capacitated SAPS and a fully-fledged professional service translated to a safe and secure South Africa.

“When you serve selflessly, knowing that no nation can claim a successful democracy without peace, safety and security. Your patriotic contribution to the achievement of a more broadly representative organisation driven by excellence and accelerated by positive service delivery, cannot be overemphasised,” he said.

General Sitole also urged the medal recipients to impart their knowledge, wisdom, as well as their sense of patriotism and selfless service to young police officials tasked with the creation of a safe and secure environment that will turn South Africa into a crime-free zone that will be conducive to socio-economic stability in support of a better life for all.

KIMBERLEY SAPS SEIZES DRUGS

O n Sunday, 29 July 2018 at approximately 13:15 vigilant and alert police members from Kimberley Visible policing D-relief attended to a complaint of assault at Samaria Park which is an informal settlement on the Samaria / Boshoff road.

While attending to the complaint, the complainant indicated that the 46-year-old male suspect who allegedly assaulted him was selling dagga.

The police proceeded to the suspect’s shack where they discovered 41 poking of dagga, 10 mandrax tablets and 4 straws of TIK. The members, Sergeant Dikledi Masiya, Constable Samuel van der Linde, Constable Kagisho Leshage and Constable Masago Moses also found empty plastic bags that are used for packaging the dagga.

The 46-year-old suspect was arrested for Assault, Possession of dagga and dealing in dagga and will be appearing soon in the Kimberley Magistrates Court.

POLICE SET TO SMOKE PEACE PIPE WITH HERMANUS RESIDENTS

E fforts to mend relations between the police and Hermanus residents have to be placed high on any agenda for future engagements as it is important in the fight against crime.

This came out during the meeting with the Police Minister Bheki Cele and the 12 leaders of Zwelihle Renewal which represent the people of Zwelihle.

The meeting which was held in Zwelihle Stadium dressing room on Tuesday 24 July 2018 occurred at a time when the relations between the police and the community members were at all time, after the incidents of lawlessness which had engulfed the township. This has resulted to bitter clashes between the police and the residents including the arrests of some leaders and those who were linked to the violent crimes and the stealing of police firearms.

Leaders of the Zwelihle Renewal used the meeting with the Police Minister to ventilate their anger and the frustrations in the manner in which they were treated and suffered in the hands of the police as they were fighting the lack of service delivery and their rights which they think were trampled by the local councillors and the local municipality.

However in the end, both the police and the local leaders of Zwelihle agreed that working together was the only way crime can be defeated. One of the Zwelihle leaders Sicelo Gxamasei pointed out that the relations with police were starting to look good especially on the Youth day on 16 June 2018 where the police and local youths had jointly hosted a Sport Against crime in the township.

But after the hard-hitting deliberations and community engagements with the minister cordial relations were notable in the air as the meeting came to an end. Allegations about the deaths of new-born babies due to teargas suffocation, brutal beatings of the residents by the police, unpalatable food that was used by angry residents, attacking a police member with an axe, stone-throwing protesters, stealing a police firearm, burning and vandalising state properties and the private businesses, children not attending school and people not going to work were among the unfortunate happenings which occurred during the protests in Zwelihle.

As part of the SAPS’s Turnaround Vision, General Sitole called upon all members in all ranks to embark on a journey to a safer South Africa, by

• enforcing and asserting the authority of the State,
• thoroughly and responsively investigating every crime,
• efficiently using resources in support of the investigation of crime,
• using crime intelligence in support of proactive and reactive policing
• approaching policing in a collaborative and consultative way.

The 60 members were decorated with medals and received trophies for their 30 years of loyal service in the SAPS.

The members who executed the arrests.
You have worked hard. You have stayed late. You have been a team leader. You have applied for the promotional post and you have received that promotion. Now what?

Build that team, train and guide your team members to ensure great results. That is what it is all about. Yes, it is significantly different from the job you were used to doing. As the first three months are a critical period for developing relationships and building momentum, a structured approach needs to be followed for a seamless transition.

The prism of William Bridges’ Transition Model can be very helpful when coping with these challenges. It is made up of the following three parts:

• Accept that the status quo has changed and say goodbye to what was.
• Expect discomfort and accept that when you start the change, there will be many questions, but few answers. Understand that this is a temporary situation. It is a period in which you are going to be tested. Reflect, be flexible and move forward, despite the uncertainty.
• Cherish the past and embrace the new.

The change in your relationship with yourself

• How you see yourself must change in order to be effective in your new position.
• Explore your own emotions about your new position.
• Examine the mindset you have about yourself.
• Be physically fit enough for the demands of your new role.

Your relationship with your team

• Being promoted within the ranks, may involve growing pains from your former peer group as you will become the one who has ‘changed’ now that you are in this position. Always remember that you are supposed to be in this role.
• Set a vision for how you want to work with your team. Make deliberate choices about your relationship with them. Be clear with yourself about what you do and do not want.
• Share the details of your new role with those you lead. Explain to them what is expected from them and what you will do. Make sure they know you hear them. You may not agree with every suggestion they make but validate their opinions and thoughts.
• Decide how physically close you want to be to your direct subordinates, especially if you are sharing an open office space.

Your relationship with your work

• You chose your career because you like doing the actual work and what it entails. However, in a leadership position, the relationship to your work changes and your focus shifts. Be goal orientated. Accept that you are in this new career phase for many years to come. Set yourself a measured pace for implementation.
• You may experience a feeling of aloneness. Trust in yourself that you are doing all right, otherwise you would not be where you are.
• Remember that you always represent the organisation. How you physically groom yourself is important. Show leadership potential by being passionate, trustworthy, decisive and confident. Become irreplaceable and indispensable to your new team by becoming the person to go to for specific work-related matters and advice, and naturally stand out as someone people are always looking for and up to you.

The nature of your work or demands in periods of change, it remains your responsibility to socially and emotionally take care of yourself.

Always remember:

Whatever the nature of your work or demands in periods of change, it remains your responsibility to socially and emotionally take care of yourself.

Reach out for help if you cannot cope!

References:
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Social Work Services, Movement Desk:
079 880 5966 or 082 301 2138

Lieutenant Colonel JANSE van Rensburg:
JansvanRensburgM@saps.gov.za

Lieutenant Colonel VALENSKY:
ValenskyTrevor@saps.gov.za

Captain Khubeke:
Kuhbekemd@saps.gov.za

Captain Sambas:
Sambasvakan@saps.gov.za
The Eastern Cape held its second Annual Men’s Health Seminar from 25 to 27 July 2018 at the South African Police Service (SAPS)’s Provincial Office in Zwelitsha, Eastern Cape. The three-day seminar was conducted under this year’s striking theme: ‘Adding value to life holistically’.

Initiated in the 2016/2017 financial year, the seminar focuses on issues such as sexual, financial, physical, mental and men’s health holistically. At this year’s seminar, topics included the drafting of a will, estate planning, the Government Employee Pension Fund (GEPF)’s benefits, labour relations issues, family planning, as well as health care.

The seminar was well attended by delegates from the provincial office, all 21 clusters and external stakeholders, including the Department of Safety and Liaison, the Department of Correctional Services and the Independent Investigative Directorate.

In his presentation, Mr Zingisa Khunju from the GEPF, encouraged members to become knowledgeable about what the benefits from the GEPF entails and to continuously check all other information concerning it, including the details of their beneficiaries to avoid problems in the future.

“It is important for our clients to be aware of our fund and all other information concerning it, including the details of their beneficiaries. Checking details captured on our system, can greatly assist one to plan accurately for the financial freedom of all their beneficiaries.

In terms of the South African Constitution, it is compulsory for a member to nominate all his or her children, even those who are born out of wedlock. By doing so, the member ensures that their family is taken care of in the event that they pass on,” he said.

In his vote of thanks, the Provincial Commander of Employee Health and Wellness, Colonel Christopher Joseph, highlighted the seriousness of sexual harassment in the workplace. He sensitized members to note the different forms of this crime and its negative effects.

“Colleagues, we must not take this matter lightly. People have lost their jobs because of sexual harassment – it is serious. As male employees of the SAPS, we must be vigilant of how we interact with our female counterparts because some of the actions we take for granted, might land us in trouble,” he warned.

During the seminar, the following services were also provided:

- Health Care/VCT by nurses from a local clinic
- Financial assistance and guidance from Old Mutual, Sanlam and Liberty.

Members were also encouraged to take care of their health in order to remain productive at work and to live a healthy and rewarding lifestyle.

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The Cluster Commander of Brits, Major General M菩提gaarelwne Mosimaneape, commended the two investigating officers from the Brits Cluster brought the South African Police Service one step closer to ensuring that perpetrators preying on the most vulnerable, in society, who are women and children, are removed from the community. Six accused were sentenced to life imprisonment for their hard work.

Detective/Sergeant Anna Mashigo who is stationed at the Brits Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit, raised the plight of two women who had been raped by two males on 21 February 2015 while on their way to their respective homes in Letlhakane at about 23:30. The victims were dragged into the bushes where the accused took turns raping them. A case of rape was then opened at the Letlhakane Police Station.

At a later stage, the victims identified the suspects around the Mabola village. The suspects were then apprehended on 16 March 2015. Detective/Sergeant Mashigo did a splendid investigation and opposed bail for both the accused, who were remanded in custody and later found guilty on all counts of rape. The duo was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Brits Regional Court on 10 July 2018.

Another outstanding performance in the call of duty was performed by Detective/Captain Tshepo Mosweu from Makapanstad Detectives, who ensured that four criminals accused of rape and murder, were sentenced to life imprisonment by the Mahikeng High Court 22 June 2018.

The accused were apprehended on 18 June 2014 at Makapanstad. Additional charges included attempted extortion, theft, fraud, aggravated robbery and defeating the ends of justice. According to Detective/Captain Mosweu, thorough investigation and maintaining good relations with the community attributed to this successful and positive outcome.

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LT GEN MGWENYA TALKS TOUGH ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

By Capt Vincent Mukhathi
Photographs WO Ndanduleni Nyambeni

The South African Police Service (SAPS) remains committed to ensuring a culture of zero tolerance with regard to sexual harassment and that all resources at its disposal are used to fight sexual harassment in the workplace.

This was stressed by the Deputy National Commissioner for Human Resource Management, Lieutenant General Bonang Mgwenya, when she was officially opening the two-day work session on the management of sexual harassment in the workplace, held on 16 and 17 July 2018 at Tulbach Park, Pretoria.

Lieutenant General Mgwenya told the sexual harassment officers in attendance that the SAPS had a clear-cut Sexual Harassment Policy which was reviewed in 2011, aiming at combating sexual harassment in the workplace.

“A member who contravenes the policy shall face stern action. Sexual harassment is one of the most heinous forms of misconduct that plagues the workplace and it will not be tolerated,” she said.

The purpose of the policy is to promote a safe and secure work environment free from sexual harassment, a workplace where the dignity of all persons is respected. The policy provides measures to address and eliminate sexual harassment by employees of the SAPS against co-employees and third parties of the same or opposite sex.

In addition to the Sexual Harassment Policy, the SAPS has a code of good practice to combat sexual harassment in the workplace. It states that sexual harassment is defined as unwelcomed conduct of a sexual nature, the unwanted nature of sexual harassment distinguishes itself from behaviour that is welcomed and mutual.

Lieutenant General Mgwenya also sent a stern warning to members of the SAPS who lend themselves to acts of sexual harassment, saying that they would face harsh punishment, if found guilty.

“Those members who are perpetrators of sexual harassment must know that we are not going to be hesitant in ensuring that they get dismissed. Sexual harassment officers will play a crucial role in ensuring that perpetrators are dismissed. We are going to be relying mostly on your work to ensure that we get rid of those elements that might be subjecting our members to sexual harassment as it is unacceptable,” she said.

With the implementation of the Sexual Harassment Policy and in efforts to eradicate various forms of sexual harassment, the SAPS has appointed sexual harassment officers at divisions, provincial offices and stations to ensure that all reported cases are dealt with promptly and fairly with the required sensitivity and confidentiality.

Lieutenant General Mgwenya urged sexual harassment officers to not fail the organisation, to address the problem of sexual harassment accordingly, and to support the victims of sexual harassment in the workplace.

“Sexual harassment officers must ensure that sexual harassment is uprooted in the organisation. Practices of sexual harassment prevent members from reaching their full potential when performing their duties, therefore preventing innovation and creativity, which is required to grow the full capacity of the organisation in the fight against crime,” said Lieutenant General Mgwenya.

Concluding her address, Lieutenant General Mgwenya urged all victims of sexual harassment to speak up as complaints of sexual harassment are considered as serious.

“To those who are subjected to this form of victimisation, speak up freely. Sexual harassment officers must also encourage victims to speak up and not to suffer alone in their little corners,” she said.
GEPF INTRODUCES A NEW CHILD PENSION BENEFIT

Issued by Government Employees Pension Fund

The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) Board of Trustees has approved the introduction of a Child Pension benefit replacing the previous Orphan’s Pension benefit with effect from 1 June 2018.

The introduction of the Child Pension benefit addresses the exclusion of children from qualifying for an Orphans Pension benefit because they had a surviving parent, that is, the previous Orphans Pension requirement was that if a GEPF member or pensioner dies and there is no surviving parent (natural or adoptive) to take care of the eligible child/children, the child/children can then only qualify for the Orphans Pension up to the age of 18 years and up to the age of 22 years if still a full-time student.

The new Child Pension does not require for both parents to have passed away in order for the child to qualify for the pension.

“This positive development is aimed at bridging the gaps that have been identified in the implementation and processing of the previous orphan’s pension. The concern for orphan’s pension application was that both parents had to be deceased in order for the child to qualify for the pension. This was considered to be exclusionary, particularly in the situation of single parents whose partners could not be traced or confirmed either dead or alive,” explained GEPF Principal Executive Officer, Mr Abel Sithole.

It is important to note that similar to the Orphans Pension, the Child Pension is only applicable for those eligible children whose parent(s) were members of the Government Employees Pension Fund prior to their death.

In order to not negatively impact on those children currently receiving the Orphans Pension, the GEPF has automatically converted such beneficiaries to child pensioners. There will be no need for these beneficiaries to apply for the Child Pension benefit as their benefits will be recalculated in terms of the new rules, but only from the date on which the new legislation comes into effect (1 June 2018).

In terms of the Child Pension rules, most of the new orphans will now receive a higher monthly pension up to the age of 22 years regardless of whether the child is a student or not, and qualifying disabled children will also receive Child Pension regardless of their age.

As with the previous Orphans Pension, payment to minors will be made to the guardians of the children and the GEPF will notify the guardian to change banking details three months prior to the 18th birthday of the child. If the banking details are not changed, payment will be suspended as Section 21 of the GEP Law prohibits the payment of benefits to a third party. Children between the ages of 18-22 years will receive payment into their own accounts.

Payments for a child that is a major (over 18 years) and cannot administer their affairs, requires a curator or guardian to be appointed by the High Court and the Master of the High Court must issue an appointment certificate.

Child Pension is a taxable benefit. If the child does not have a tax number, the GEPF will register the child as a taxpayer with the South African Revenue Services and inform the child/guardian of the tax number. Tax certificates will be issued annually by the GEPF.

Child Pensioners will also qualify for a child funeral benefit if they pass away. The standard funeral benefit rules will apply, which means that a child between the ages of 18 and 22 years, who is full-time student will qualify for a funeral benefit.

The new Child Pension application form (CHP1) is available on the GEPF website at www.gepf.co.za and at all GEPF Offices.

For more information please contact:
Matias Matias: Communications
Tel: +27 (0) 12 426 7315/379 1910 757 and
Mack Lelewa: +27 (0) 12 319 2563/082 505 5074 or
Dentse Boapi: +27 (0) 12 319 126/078 2055 124
E: Matias.matias@gepf.co.za

For more information please contact:
Matias Matias: Communications
Tel: +27 (0) 12 426 7315/379 1910 757 and
Mack Lelewa: +27 (0) 12 319 2563/082 505 5074 or
Dentse Boapi: +27 (0) 12 319 126/078 2055 124
E: Matias.matias@gepf.co.za
The South African Police Service requests urgent assistance from members of the public in tracing the following alleged perpetrators wanted in connection with various criminal offences committed countrywide.