20 YEARS OF POLICING IN A DEMOCRACY

OUR 2015 COMRADES WINNER
The SAPS pays tribute to members who lost their lives in the line of duty between the period 16-04-2015 and 15-05-2015 and whose cases have been finalised.

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.
irrespective of prevailing economic conditions.

It was Mao Zedong who once remarked that “it is the youth that are able to spark a revolution”, and it is therefore inherent in each and every member of the SAPS to ensure that we engage, formally and informally, with young people to be part of the vision to make South Africa a crime-free and safe country for all its inhabitants.

I also need to thank all the members who are responding to the clarion call made by the President by participating in Operation Fiela across the length and breadth of this country.

We have seen our activities, in partnership with other government departments and agencies, record considerable successes in this regard and we continue to achieve more through your dedication to making South Africans feel safe in their own backyards.

As members of the SAPS, we have a mandate to help and protect the citizens of South Africa but this can only be achieved with the unwavering support and participation of each and every citizen and resident of this country.

Tabling the Departmental Budget Vote recently before Parliament, Minister Nathi Nhleko announced that R39 billion will be allocated to Visible Policing as well as ensuring that we maximise active community participation in the policing space.

We have a responsibility as the SAPS towards vulnerable groups in society, including women, children and the elderly.

It is therefore key to mention that to upscale our efforts, R840 million has been allocated improve the SAPS’s investigating capacity into crimes committed against women, children and the elderly.

Regarding policing, the Minister said: “Our integrated intelligence-led in the war against crime and corruption” and therefore this section needs to be strengthened.

The Crime Intelligence Section will receive a 7,8% increase in its budget as “policing shall always be intelligence-led in the war against crime and corruption” and therefore this section needs to be strengthened.

“This is a responsibility we all share with the police being the lead agents in this regard. That is why, in the current financial year, we have allocated the bulk of our spending to Visible Policing, which will receive just under R39 billion”.

The Minister also said that about R16 billion had been committed to the Detective Service Division, “which will witness a growth of 5,8% in the medium term”.

Minister Nhleko outlined the success of the Hawks as follows:

- There were 44 convictions for money laundering, resulting in the forfeiture of assets worth R98 million.
- The Cybercrime Unit successfully saved Eskom and the Gautrain R3,5 billion and R800 million respectively.
- Fifty-seven clandestine drug laboratories were dismantled.
- Three hundred and twenty-four suspects were held for drug-related crimes and 98 were convicted.
- Four hundred and thirty-six suspects were held for illegally dealing in precious stones/metal and 56 were convicted.
- One hundred and ninety-two suspects were arrested for hunting endangered species and 68 were convicted.
- Forty-two suspects were arrested for trafficking in humans and two were convicted.
- Two thousand and ninety-two suspects were held for organised crime and 558 were convicted.

“Through our Visible Policing Division, we have ensured national security and territorial integrity for the RSA; through 3 775 crime prevention and combating operations at ports of entry,” the Minister said.

The Minister’s budget vote also indicated changes in the Civilian Secretariat for Police. With effect from 1 April 2015, this body has become an independent entity so that it can effectively discharge its duty of civilian oversight over the police. He also detailed the allocation of R105 million to the Civilian Secretariat, which provides invaluable policy and legislative services.

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The Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Migration (IMC), Minister Jeff Radebe, who spoke at a press briefing held at the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Head Office in Pretoria, reaffirmed Government’s commitment to act decisively and swiftly to clamp down on criminals in our communities. “Operation Fiela-Reclaim is addressing security challenges in a structured and coordinated manner. We are determined to take back the country from criminals and reassert the authority of the State,” said Minister Radebe.

The committee comprises, among others, the Minister of Police, Mr Nathi Nhleko; the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula; the Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini; and the Minister of State Security, Mr David Mahlobo.

“As the IMC, we would like to reiterate that this operation is not targeting law-abiding citizens or law-abiding foreign nationals. We categorically and publicly denounce that Operation Fiela is targeting foreign nationals. Government will never authorise activities that are contrary to our Constitution and the laws of the country. Our operations are intelligence-driven and will continue to target areas, buildings and spaces that are known to be frequented by criminals,” said Minister Radebe.

Minister Radebe indicated that the committee was satisfied with the progress made with Operation Fiela. Operation Fiela amassed the arrest of 3 914 suspects nationally. This includes 1 650 undocumented migrants and 2 264 South African citizens for various crimes.

The operation also scored notable successes in serious crime categories. Two Ethiopian suspects were arrested for alleged human trafficking in Mankweng in Limpopo, and a Zimbabwean male was arrested at the Beitbridge Border Post for being in possession of explosives worth R100 000.00. The Hawks and the National Intervention Unit (NIU) in Durban, raided Ramsgate House and seized about 120 000 readily packed straws of heroin and 8 kg of unpacked heroin worth an estimated R7 million and arrested 10 suspects.

The NIU seized 31 illegal firearms, 415 rounds of ammunition and 25 magazines, and made 31 arrests in the Muden and Greytown areas. The police also seized copper and gold worth R24 304 921, 87 at the Beitbridge Border Post.

A massive operation led by the National Commissioner of the SAPS, General Riah Phiyega, and her top management, in collaboration with the South African National Defence Force, the South African Revenue Services, the Department of Home Affairs, the Tshwane Metro Police Department and other government departments was successfully conducted in the Pretoria CBD and Sunnyside. The police arrested 14 persons for driving under the influence of liquor, 17 persons for possessing illicit drugs, four persons for illegally dealing in liquor, seven persons for theft, two suspects linked to a robbery case, 16 undocumented migrants, and recovered a hijacked truck.

Minister Radebe pointed out that in the next few weeks, government would accelerate its efforts to take back public buildings that have been hijacked, either by Government’s Operation Fiela-Reclaim, aimed at combating crime and restoring peace and order in areas affected by violence perpetrated against foreign nationals, has begun yielding positive results across the country.
A new milestone in the South African Police Service history was reached when the SAPS and the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, on 18 May 2015.

The objective of the MOU is to help the police understand the basic human rights of the public when exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of assembly, to form political parties and to function within the context of policing. It is also to ensure that the police must be properly understood, and in its curriculum to also respond to the Constitutional principles which provide an environment to uphold and respect the laws on the Memorandum of Understanding signed during the media conference held at the SA Human Rights Commission head offices in Braamfontein on 18 May 2015.

In his response, the Deputy Chairperson and the Commissioner on Law Enforcement, Dr Danny Titus, said that the police were functioning on a thin line between balancing rights and the responsibilities when performing their daily duties. “We are encouraged by the commitment of the National Police Commissioner and her team to invite the commission to guide them in its work. This collaborative approach because it will enhance the energy and eagerness of the SAPS in working within the confines of the law with an organisation of the SAHRC’s calibre.”

The partnership between the SAHRC, a “chapter nine institution” and the main custodian of human rights, and the SAPS comes in a wake of a series of violent service protests across the country, where the respect of other individuals’ dignity and their right to property was violated and it was a huge concern between the two institutions to foster great respect for life, property, law and order and freedom in the country.

In acknowledging the partnership between the two entities, the National Commissioner of the SAPS, General Riah Phiyega, said: “The MOU we are signing today sends a strong signal that the SAPS is committed to upholding the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and that we are resolute in our aim to conduct all our activities in line with the Bill of Rights. This mutual understanding is important to us as it benefits the public we serve. The collaboration displays that both organisations seek to serve respectfully and with dignity. We look to continually uphold our Constitutional mandate to the best of our ability, by observing the importance of exchanging information and research data pertaining to the protection of human rights within the context of policing, as well as promoting awareness of the public’s rights, duties and responsibilities. The formalisation of this MOU adds to the value chain of our criminal justice system and we are confident that, as the National Development Plan 2030 envisions, we are moving closer to the professionalisation of the SAPS. We therefore welcome this collaborative approach because it will enhance the energy and eagerness of the SAPS in working within the confines of the law with an organisation of the SAHRC’s calibre.”

In the questions-and-answers session, community members stood up and pledged their support against the attacks on foreign nationals while others voiced what they perceived to be the root cause of these attacks, such as frustration caused by the unemployment of the youth, a lack of business skills and a lack of education.

The Deputy Minister closed the imbizo by saying that no amount of anger, hunger, unemployment or poverty should make a person kill another. She said the Department of Justice had been established to establish dedicated courts that will specifically deal with cases of attacks on foreign nationals.

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The Provincial Commissioner of Gauteng, Lt Gen Leleti Motsele, urges residents to utilise the relevant structures if they are unhappy with Police service delivery.

“I want to hear from you, the residents of Alexandra, what it is that we, as government, should be doing to make sure that what happened here, never ever happens again.”

These were the words of the Deputy Minister of Police, Ms Makhosetse Sithole at a recent SAPS Community Outreach Programme against attacks on foreign nationals in Alexandra, south of Johannesburg.

The imbizo followed a spate of attacks against foreign nationals in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

South Africans and foreign nationals were all invited to the imbizo so that the Deputy Minister and the Gauteng provincial leadership, which included the Gauteng MEC for Community Safety, Ms Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane, the Deputy National Commissioner of Policing, Lt Gen Khehla Sitole, and the Provincial Commissioner of Gauteng, Lt Gen Lesela Mthiba could discover the root of the problem that has caused the attacks on foreign nationals.

The Deputy Minister sent a strong message to the community of Alexandra to not just look at themselves individually while committing the attacks, but to think of the country. She emphasised that African countries would close their borders and South Africans would be left isolated like it was under the previous government of apartheid.

“We are a young democracy, still learning how to improve the country. We travel to other countries to learn and we are treated with respect, but these criminal elements are ruining that for us now,” she said.

She told those in attendance that when foreign nationals were attacked in 2008, government intervened and thought that such attacks would never again be seen. “Today the ambassadors present here (from Kenya, Nigeria and Burundi) are witness to the fact that the Government of South Africa does not support this violence,” she said.

Lt Gen Mthiba appealed to the community to “work with us instead of taking matters into your own hands.”

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Gift Kelehe is now a household name. The 33-year-old member of the South African Police Service (SAPS) won his first Comrades Marathon on 31 May 2015. He ran from Durban to Pietermaritzburg in five hours, 38 minutes and 36 seconds. This ultra-distance race of 88 kilometres is gruelling and energy sapping.

Kelehe joined the SAPS in 2004 and works for the Tactical Response Team (TRT) based at the Rustenburg Police Station in the North West. Over the years, he has worked in different disciplines in the SAPS, including Crime Prevention and Service, and has been active as a police officer and as a police volunteer. He says that his passion for athletics started in his formative years at school where he participated in inter-school competitions.

“I started running races as a young boy and since then, my passion has just been growing. In 2001, I started running seriously, because I became my older brother’s running mate,” he said. “I was training with my brother, helping him to prepare for the Comrades Marathon to get his speed and technique right.”

Gift’s older brother, Andrew Kelehe, won the Comrades Marathon in 2001, also at the age of 33.

Gift ran the famous downhill run in 2007 and since then, he has competed in seven races. He has won three gold medals and many experts saw him as one of the best in his age group. Gift Kelehe ran faster than Ethiopia’s Mohammed Husien, who was leading the pack until then. “At that time, I realized that I was only two minutes behind him and I kept the faith. Suddenly, I was just 46 seconds behind him, even though I was running at my own pace,” he said. His coach told him to run at his pace and not exert himself too much, because he was going to catch up with Husien anyway. This strategy paid off. “I know that Ethiopians and Kenyans are good athletes, but they are not the best with ultra-distance races,” he said.

South Africa’s Hatiwande Nyamande was 3rd over the finishing line this year.

Kelehe told the Police magazine that he wanted to win it next year and have back-to-back victories. He plans to compete in future Comrades Marathons because age is still on his side. “I want to run for the next six or seven Comrades and win as many times as I can, to break the records,” he said. He said he was grateful to his brother, his entire family and his coach, Johan Hamlet, for the continued support their continued support.

General Phiyega congratulated Gift and other SAPS employees who tackled the gruelling race. She said: “Gift Kelehe has made the SAPS and the nation proud. His outstanding achievement is an indication of the active role that sports play in the SAPS. We are honoured to share this special time in his life with him and very proud that he is one of our own.”

What challenges have you encountered in preparing for the big day and how do you train? Finding the time to train is definitely the biggest challenge. Secondly, you have to stay injury free and healthy. I try to run every other day with long runs on weekends. On the ‘off’ days, I work on my core muscles and strengthening my legs.

Obviously one has to qualify with a 42.2 km marathon under five hours, or an ultramarathon. Building up to the Comrades, I try to run the 21.1 km Saturday races, with only two marathons in between. This is my personal strategy to stay injury free. I would rather be undetrained and healthy with fresh legs at the start than sick, over-trained, and with worn legs at the start.

Do you belong to an athletic club? I am a proud member of the Pretoria Boobies Club and I have been an ad-hoc member since 1999. Unfortunately do not spend enough time with my running buddies.

Tell us about your emotions during the race. The physical and emotional ups and downs during the Comrades are very tiring. You have to keep your mind on a short leash or negativity sets in. Dehydration, over-hydration, stomach ailments, cramps and injuries are only some of the pitfalls of running. However, God created us to be much stronger than we think and you will never know your strength unless you explore it.

Do you rest after the Comrades? I will not touch my running shoes for at least a month after the Comrades. Your heart muscle and other muscles need to recover. Your body needs to rest and your mind has to find purpose in a new goal.

Do you have advice for people who would like to participate in the Comrades? It is said that it takes two years to prepare for the Comrades. Start training today by using the stairs instead of the elevator and start to train your muscles in small ways. Routine is vital when training and you need to buy the correct running shoes or you will develop injuries long before the Comrades.

Pacing yourself is absolutely key. For every one minute you run too fast during the first 39 km, you will lose at least four minutes per km during the remaining 50 km of the Comrades.

What do you do in the SAPS? For the past 15 years I was the Section Commander of Crime Stop, Harmful Occult Crimes and the Bureau for Missing Persons. I have been the Acting Head for the past six months. In working with occult crimes, you experience things most people do not even know exists and I am way past the point of trying to convince people that the supernatural is very real.

Tell us about yourself. Firstly, I am a dedicated follower of Christ. I grew up in Mpuumalanga, and started my police career in Springs. I turned 18 while I was in basic training and I am blessed to have 30 years’ service in the SAPS. I have been in the work family of the Detective Service for the past 21 years.

What inspires you? My inspiration comes from God and from the people who touch my life. God is my ultimate power source and for me the ultimate prize is to connect with Him with my running shoes on.
We recently celebrated Mother’s and Father’s Day. These days are dedicated to honouring and celebrating parenthood, maternal and paternal relationships and the influence of mothers and fathers in our communities, irrespective of status, culture or religious diversity.

The best way for parents to cultivate healthy relationships with their children, is by spending time with them. Time spent with children helps build relationships that bond families. This will definitely help during tough times.

The stronger the relationship with one’s children, the more likely it is that they will embrace one’s values and beliefs and vice versa.

Eight key activities for building strong and healthy relationships:

1. It all begins with unconditional love for one’s children. Unconditional love means that no fear is created in parent-child interactions. To love unconditionally, simply means that parents accept their children completely, without any restrictions or conditions. There is no spoken or unspoken message making the child think that he or she has to be something other than what he or she is in order to be loved. As believers in Christ, love is the basis of all relationships as “God is love”.

2. Schedule a specific time to bond with children – a time that is convenient for both yourself and your children.

3. When spending time with your children, you should give your children your undivided attention. Do not schedule any other appointments that day or evening. Switch off your cell phone!

4. It is important to make eye contact with children. Using cell phones, surfing the net or social networking, while conversing with children, is not effective communication.

5. Make sure that the communication lines you established while you were spending time with your children remain open, for example, at the dinner table or before bedtime.

6. Show affectionate. While spending time with your children, ensure that there is appropriate, meaningful touch, such as a hug or a pat on the shoulder.

7. Spending time with children is not having a business meeting, but having fun together while enjoying each other’s company, having shared experiences.

8. Also remember to pray together as a parent and children. It is also a way of spending time together, maybe with a little discussion before or after the prayer, concerning something spiritual or a few verses from the Scripture.

Parenthood brings with it the certainty that there will be times when the relationships with your children will go through tough times. There will be conflict that affects the love between the parent and the child. It is not just a matter of knowing how to avoid those times, but of knowing how to navigate through them. God’s plan is not to avoid tough times, but to weather the storms of life.

There is a general tendency to think that conflict is an indication of weakness in a relationship, but nothing could be further from the truth. The strength of a relationship is measured by how well it endures any circumstance or situation of life. Strong relationships do not happen, they must be cultivated. Spending time with children will require constant repair and ongoing maintenance of the relationship, so make sure you spend time with your children. It is worthwhile!

Happy Mother’s and Father’s Day!

A RELATIONSHIP PROGRAMME ON HOW TO ENHANCE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS IS AVAILABLE AND CAN BE PRESENTED BY CHAPLAINS. PLEASE CONSULT WITH YOUR CHAPLAIN OR CONTACT SPIRITUAL SERVICES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION IN THIS REGARD AT 012 393 5327 OR 082 778 5677.
The SAPS is in the process of establishing task teams to investigate forensic DNA leads and take samples from certain categories of persons in efforts to clamp down on serial offenders and fight the scourge of crime through science.

This follows the Criminal Law (Forensic Procedure) Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No 37 of 2014), commonly referred to as the DNA Act, coming into effect on 31 January 2015 and the supporting regulations that were published in the Government Gazette on 13 March 2015. Section 9 of the regulations requires that forensic investigative leads be followed up by the SAPS.

Moreover, the Act provides the establishment of DNA as an investigative tool by establishing the creation of the National Forensic DNA Database (NFDD) whereby comparison searches can be conducted to provide forensic DNA investigative leads.

According to the Section Head responsible for Forensic Database Management, Brig Joe Smith, the NFDD links exhibits from crime scenes to a person. If the person’s profile is already on the database, it will bring up a match. If we do not have the person’s profile, it goes on file and could be matched in a different case at a later stage. This aids the investigating officer immensely and increases the chances of identifying and/or finding perpetrators of crimes.

Brig Smith also said that Provincial Commissioners and Detective Heads are now required to establish task teams based on the regulations published on 13 March 2015, in order to support the implementation of the DNA Act. The task teams must ensure that forensic investigative leads be followed up by the SAPS.

Brig Smith praised forensic investigative leads for assisting investigations and increasing the number of convictions secured for serial offenders. He said that there was an increased number of serial offenders, especially rapists, in the past two years who had been convicted and handed hefty sentences due to forensic DNA investigative leads.

In his welcoming address, the Acting Head of the Detective Service, Maj Gen Pito Ramatsese, said that the purpose of the pre-operation was to deliberate on the threats posed by transnational crime in our regions and find ways to address the challenges and alleviate crime in the two regions. Maj Gen Ramatsese also said: “Through the spirit of mutual cooperation, the EAPCCO and SARPCCO member states will continue to address regional criminal activities through forums of this nature.”

In his remarks, the Head of the Interpol Regional Bureau in Nairobi, Francis Rwego, emphasised that the police should strategically be ahead of the criminals in order to address organised crime. He said: “Organised crime is a big threat to peace and security in both regions. It is the police’s responsibility to eliminate organised crime through intelligence-driven operations such as Usalama II. That is the only way we (the police) can create a safe environment which will also be conducive to investment and growth in our regions. While making his remarks, the Head of the Interpol Regional Bureau in Harare, Dr Chilika Simfukwe, warned delegates that corrupt officials endangered security plans. “These officials share information with criminals before operations are executed. We need to implement strict measures in order to prevent this because the citizens of our countries look up to us to reduce and combat crime,” said Simfukwe.

The Acting Chairperson of the EAPCCO, Mr Francis Muhoro, called on the delegates to address the challenges and threats posed by terrorism and its feeders. “Let us speak to the realities of terrorism on the local, regional, national and international levels,” said Muhoro.

In her keynote address, the Chairperson of the SARPCCO, the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service, General Riah Phiyega, assured the delegates that Government was addressing the attacks against foreign nationals in South Africa. She said: “We are doing everything possible to combat violence perpetrated against our African brothers and sisters. We are leading the operations to ensure that we prevent any further mayhem, protect the innocent, and bring the perpetrators to justice. We are confident that our efforts will yield positive results and the Government has even deployed the South African National Defence Force to assist the police in this operation.”

General Phiyega urged the delegates to contribute toward the legacy of keeping the continent safe and secure by accepting foreigners wholeheartedly.
DYNAMIC POLICEWOMAN LAUNCHES BOOK CLUB4KIDS

Capt Breeda Koopman was the winner of the 2014 SAPS Annual National Service Excellence Awards for her active involvement in addressing the socio-economic causes of crime in the Eersterust community.

Capt Koopman recently launched another project involving the SAPS, community members and sponsors to address one of the root causes of juvenile delinquency – illiteracy. Her most recent brainchild is dubbed the My Kassie Book Club.

The My Kassie Book Club forms part of the 2nd Chanz non-profit organisation which aims to address parents’ appeals for help with their children’s academic needs. Capt Breeda and her team of volunteers structured the activities of My Kassie Book Club around developing critical thinking in children; cultivating a sustainable interest in reading; and grooming productive and accountable young citizens through reading programmes and an understanding of the Constitution of South Africa.

Activities include industrial theatre, debate, team building exercises, sports, discovering the world of Africa. Activities include industrial theatre, debate, team building exercises, sports, discovering the world of Africa. Activities include industrial theatre, debate, team building exercises, sports, discovering the world of Africa.

When asked to explain the values of and the relationship between the non-profit organisation and the book club, Capt Koopman responded as follows: “The My Kassie 2nd Chanz Foundation is a catalyst for lifelong learning capability and an economic social change agent intoaddressing the world of dictionaries and story books, and the development of life skills.

Two years ago, educational experts conducting research at schools described the literacy level of South African Grade 5 pupils as a “national catastrophe”. After five years of “parrot-style” schooling, thirteen per cent of Grade 5’s (11-year-olds) tested, were found to be illiterate and most scored four or less out of 20 on a simple comprehension exercise. (Source: http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/sa-s-shocking-literacy-stats1.1554118:VMUqj(Hh9Knu) Whether a child wants to follow an academic or entrepreneurial path, reading, writing and reasoning skills are a must in today’s technology-driven society.

The Eersterust community members are not the only concern, the drop of public confidence in the justice system and we welcome the results of the survey, as it awakens and motivates us to work even harder as nearly 60% of the polled still have confidence in the police’s ability to fight crime. As leaders, we believe that this partnership will instil confidence in our members and we request that the church continues to pray for us to effectively eradicate all forms of crime so that our communities will be safe.”

In his word of appreciation to the National Commissioner, Pastor Norden said that the church would continue to pray for the police and ask the Almighty to protect them in their line of duty.

“Police officers are also children of the Lord and it was not by coincidence that they found themselves wearing a uniform. It was a divine calling by the Almighty to protect the country from the evils of crime. We will also ask the Lord to provide the leadership of the SAPS with strength and wisdom, and guide them through challenges because I believe that you have not been appointed there by mistake.

Deuteronomy 1, Chapter 15 supports your appointment and the country’s leadership as it tells us that “I took the leading men of your tribes, wise and respected men, and appointed them to have authority over you - as commanders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and tens and as tribal officials. We will continue to ask the Lord to protect you,” said the pastor.

The National Police Commissioner, Gen Riah Phiyega receives blessings from the Living Word Sunday Service Pastor, Rev Nevil Norden (left) and Pastor Werner van der Walt during the church’s Police Appreciation Day.

SAPS STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS WITH CHURCHES

H istory was made when the SAPS and the Living Word Church signed a partnership pledge on the Police Appreciation Day held at the church premises in Brummeria, Pretoria East recently.

The objective of the ceremony, which was presided over by the National Commissioner of the SAPS, General Riah Phiyega and the senior pastor, Reverend Nevil Norden, was to welcome the Living Word Church into the Spiritual Services Subsection of the SAPS’s Employee Health and Wellness Directorate to capacitate the subsection to enable the provision of comprehensive spiritual counselling to SAPS members.

Delivering her words of appreciation to the congregation immediately after signing the pledge, General Phiyega said: “The SAPS is deeply humbled by the invitation from the church and this gesture will enable the organisation to facilitate peace within the country. This is indeed a special day for the police as they are seldom honoured for their good deeds in ensuring peace, stability and ridding our streets of crime. The church plays a critical role in ensuring that the police are protected from the evils of crime while going about their everyday activities, therefore ensuring that our communities are and feel safe. We would like to request the congregation to also pray for the management of the SAPS for strength and wisdom at this difficult time the organisation is going through. We would also like to ask for prayers and strength for the hardworking members who ensure that there is stability in our country. We have noted, with concern, the drop of public confidence in the justice system and we welcome the results of the survey, as it awakens and motivates us to work even harder as nearly 60% of the polled still have confidence in the police’s ability to fight crime. As leaders, we believe that this partnership will instil confidence in our members and we request that the church continues to pray for us to effectively eradicate all forms of crime so that our communities will be safe.”

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PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AT THE TOP OF THE SAPS’S AGENDA

The old African proverb: “It takes two parents to produce a child, but it takes an entire village to raise it” resonates when a little child goes missing without a trace while the whole community is awake and going about its daily business.

According to the latest report by Missing Children SA (MCSA), a child going missing in South Africa every five hours, which means that more than four children go missing per day in this country.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) is working tirelessly to curb this unwanted phenomenon and has made a clarion call to the society to do its part. The National Head of the SAPS’s FCS Unit, Major General Yvonne Botsheleng, says: “As the SAPS, we are committed to ensuring the safety of our children. It is important that parents, family members, teachers and community leaders are familiar with the role that they play in exposing any suspected child abuse or exploitation. It is crucial for all role players to educate children on their safety. It takes a village to raise a child. It is the whole community’s responsibility to take ownership of ensuring the safety of our children.”

As the country and the SAPS observed the National Child Protection Week from 31 May to 7 June, Major General Botsheleng highlighted that her unit had increased its capacity to combat crimes against children. Several innovative community programmes, such as the nationwide Adopt-a-School project, were introduced. In the Adopt-a-School project, at least four of the SAPS’s members are assigned to a school and charged with raising awareness among the teachers and learners on issues such as child abuse, exploitation and crime in general. She added that the SAPS was participating in the campaign to raise awareness of violence against children. She further indicated a decrease in the number of reported cases and a strong conviction record against perpetrators. According to official statistics, crimes against children have decreased year on year from 48 718 reported cases in the 2012/2013 financial year to 45 230 in 2013/2014. The conviction rate has increased by 75%. Since the re-establishment of the FCS Unit in 2010, it has doubled its resources and now has 176 units and close to 2 500 members nationwide. The FCS has secured more than 1 832 life sentences for heinous crimes committed against women and children.

Major General Botsheleng further highlighted that more than half of the crimes against children involved sexual offences. She added that the crimes were aggravated by the electronic media and by the transmission of child pornography. Major General Botsheleng remained resolute and challenged communities to take part in combating the scourge. “We cannot, as the SAPS alone, stop violence against children. We need to work together as a society to protect the future of this country”.

The SAPS is also leading an outreach programme in Diepsloot, Gauteng, where young parents are being educated on good parenthood. In addition, the FCS is working with the Department of Social Development and the Department of Justice to create child protection awareness around the country.

Major General Botsheleng has the following advice to parents on how to safeguard their children:

- Keep a close eye on your child’s cellular phone and Internet usage and who they are communicating with.
- Do a background check on any childminders that you employ and ensure that the day care facilities you send your children to are registered.
- If you are not able to fetch your children from school, ensure that the teachers know exactly who will be collecting them from school.
- Do not ignore abuse or try to handle it internally. Reach out for professional help from the SAPS or the various child protection institutions in your community.
- Establish a close relationship with your children so that they know that they can talk to you about anything, including sexual matters and their protection against criminal elements.
- Know them well enough to know immediately when a change in behaviour is indicative of serious difficulties and a reason for concern.

THE EASTERN CAPE’S INITIATIVES FOR CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

Detective Sergeant Grootboom, who is a seasoned investigating officer of the Uitenhage Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) Unit, approached his commander, Detective Major Zukiswa Sunduza, with the news that he was investigating a rape case of a 13-year-old victim. The young girl fell pregnant after a family member had raped her and she gave birth early in June 2015. Without hesitating, members of the FCS Unit decided to collect money in order to assist the very young mother. Very soon, the small initiative to gather money escalated into a mini project. Various donors made contributions of clothes, blankets and essentials for the baby and the young mother.

On Wednesday, 3 June 2015, Detective Sergeant Grootboom drove to the hospital and waited for the girl and her baby to be released from the hospital. He then asked the girl and her grandmother, who was with her at the time, to accompany him to the FCS Unit’s offices.

A huge surprise awaited them when they arrived at the offices. A small function had been arranged and the clothing and other items were handed over to the young mother and the grandmother of the baby. They both became very emotional and cried when they received the donated items from the police.

Child Protection Week: Aberdeen Police Station initiates Project “Keep me warm this winter”

Members of the Aberdeen Police Station contributed money to fund a project in aid of helping needy learners with winter uniforms. During Child Protection Week, the first phase of this initiative showed results when needy learners of the Luxolo Intermediate School in the Thembalesizwe settlement were presented with uniform pieces. Local businesses are also coming on board with the project and requested lists of required items from the school.

Back from left to right: Detective Warrant Officer Eddie Soosman, Mr Mpho Tleka, Detective Sergeant Mbiliso Grabasbon, the Commander of the Uitenhage FCS Unit, Detective Major Zukiswa Sunduza, Detective Sergeant Lwandle de Vries and Detective Warrant Officer Grant Measures. Front from left to right: Administrative Clerk Mbelo Nqabeni, Detective Warrant Officer Patrick Ndoni and Cleaner Mr Sianza Jose with some of the donated food and baby essentials.

The Personnel of the Aberdeen Police Station in the Eastern Cape presented the learners of the Luxolo Intermediate School in the Thembalesizwe settlement with uniform pieces to ensure that they keep warm this winter.

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It is unfortunate that the youth, who are the majority of our population, are filling prisons due to crime. They are our future leaders and should be spending their time learning, being mentored and shaped to carry the baton forward.

The Free State recently held its Provincial Youth Crime Prevention Summit at Kopano Nokeng in Bloemfontein. The event was attended by the Premier of the Free State, Sekgobelo “Ace” Magashule, Members of the Executive Council, Provincial and Local Government representatives, Deputy National Commissioner for Policing, Lt General Khehla Sitole, the SAPS management team in the Free State and its members and the Community Police Forum, the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO), the business sector, and the youth and civic organisations.

In tabling the purpose of the event, the Provincial Commissioner of the Free State, Lt Gen Simon Mpembe, emphasised the need for society, schools and churches to instil discipline in the youth from an early age. “The youth must be equipped with skills to resist crime,” he said.

Since societal challenges such as gangsterism, drug abuse, rape, poverty and attacks against foreign nationals are multifaceted it was best to bring all role players together under one roof. Involving young people guaranteed that relevant strategies would eventually be formulated and that both classrooms and streets would be reclaimed. The summit, built on the pillars of the National Crime Prevention Framework, was entrusted to ensuring that learning and teaching take place in a safe environment, free from violence. The police cannot be everywhere, which is why we rely on you to give us information about criminal activity so we can eradicate it,” said Col Falita.

The following topics were discussed:

**School safety**

Liquor outlets situated near schools and tertiary institutions is a huge concern. Corporal punishment has been an issue in schools and the Department of Education is dealing with the educators who were still practising it.

**Youth involvement in crime**

People between the ages of 14 and 35 need to be involved in programmes where they can discuss the challenges they encounter and motivate each other to overcome these challenges with the assistance of the police and other relevant stakeholders. Unemployment often results in poverty and it drives young people to the streets.

**Drug and alcohol abuse and gangsterism**

Easy access to alcohol and drugs often lead to substance abuse, gangsterism and other criminal activities.

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Lt Gen Sitole proudly announced that the Free State had made a significant contribution to the overall decline of crime in South Africa. However, he was quick to warn that the work would not be complete until the results of the summit were implemented at municipal level.

He said that local government level was the most critical part and that the community should also be mobilised at this level. The speeches and presentations on the first day paved the way for further engagement.

Youth and leadership

Young people needed to be represented at government level, where important matters are discussed so that they can gain some leadership skills. Government correspondence is often difficult to understand and there is little communication between the youth and local government.

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Adopt-a-School Programme indicates our commitment to ensuring that learning and teaching take place in a safe environment, free from violence. The police cannot be everywhere, which is why we rely on you to give us information about criminal activity so we can eradicate it.” said Col Falita.

In the wake of increased incidents of bullying, drug use, child abuse, missing children and other criminal behaviour in and outside school environments, the police stations in the Krugersdorp Cluster conducted a school outreach programme to educate learners from the Tarlton, Unity and Kwaggafontein Primary Schools on crime awareness, prevention and reporting.

The Cluster Coordinator of Vispol, Col Tshidi Falita said: “Crime has no place in our schools. We urge you to report any form of violence, be it bullying, physical or sexual assault. Report any form of crime, even if it is off the school’s premises, even if it is committed by a family member.”

She said that the SAPS would continue to use all possible means to fulfil its responsibility to create and maintain a school environment in which learners, educators and school principals feel and are safe. “The launch of the Adopt-a-School Programme indicates our commitment to ensuring that learning and teaching take place in a safe environment, free from violence. The police cannot be everywhere, which is why we rely on you to give us information about criminal activity so we can eradicate it,” said Col Falita.

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Social Crime Prevention officer, Sgt Fritz Tereblanche, gave learners valuable information on the dangers of doing drugs and members of the KP Unit of Correctional Services performed crime scene simulations with their canine partners. The cluster also adopted a number of learners and took the opportunity to hand over school uniforms to needy children. All three schools were given toiletries, safety kits, scholar patrol uniforms, stationery, and soccer balls from a number of private and government departments who were part of the day’s proceedings.
**A GLOBAL INTERNET FRAUDSTER TO FACE THE MUSIC IN THE USA**

By Lt Kgabo Mashamaite
Photographs by WO Ndaluneleni Nyammbeni

Rhulane Fionah Hlungwane (24) found out just how long the arm of the law really is when she was extradited to the United States by the Pretoria Interpol Officers at OR Tambo International Airport on 16 April 2015.

Hlungwane was handed over to the United States’ Homeland Security Investigations (U.S. HSI) for her involvement in a global fraud scam. 24 suspects who were indicted on charges of global fraud, were arrested in May 2014 in South Africa, Canada, California, Georgia, Wisconsin, Indiana, New York and California.

Hlungwane, the only South African citizen among 10 suspects arrested in the country, was allegedly involved in multiple, complex Internet financial fraud schemes. The group allegedly obtained the identities of their victims through fictitious online dating sites and send them to international hackers. who then gained access into the victims’ accounts to their own. The arrests made in South Africa were a result of joint efforts by the Interpol Bureau in Pretoria and the USA’s HSI. The investigating officials seized computers, laptops, smartphones, notebooks, and several other items believed to have been obtained through crime. This evidence will be used to assist with the investigations in the United States.

According to the indictment documents of the United States’ District Court of Mississippi’s Southern Division, Hlungwane personally benefitted from the illegal proceeds as she received two fraudulently purchased smartphones and more than US$ 1 000 (approximately R12 000), that was transferred to her between 2001 and 2012. Hlungwane and her co-acquitted were held at the Kipsi Mampuru II Correctional Facility and were later transferred to the Brooklyn Police Station’s holding cells before she was extradited to the USA.

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The fugitive, Rhulane Fionah Hlungwane is handcuffed by the INTERPOL Pretoria National Coordinating Bureau detective before being handed over to the United States Homeland Security Investigations officials during her extradition.

**PLEASE HELP US LOCATE THEM...**

**MISSING PERSONS**

**ANDZILE NSIKELELO KUNENE**

(15) Male
Last Seen: 2015-05-05

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.

Nelspruit CAS 5/5/2015
Investigating Officer: Sgt N Khoza
Tel: 013 759 1000

**RAGIEM LAWRENCE**

(20) Male
Last Seen: 2015-03-20

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.

Sophia Town CAS 6/5/2015
Investigating Officer: WO SJ Potgieter
Tel: 011 670 6393

**PEABO VUSI SITHEMBISO SIBIYA**

(25) Male
Last Seen: 2015-05-03

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.

Nelspruit CAS 5/5/2015
Investigating Officer: Sgt N Khoza
Tel: 013 759 1000

**MELUSI LEBOLO**

(31) Male
Last Seen: 2015-04-30

Missing person left home and has not been seen since.

Vanderbijlpark CAS 3/5/2015
Investigating Officer: Const TT Mpolokeng
Tel: 016 940 9005

**SAKI PHINEUS MAKWELA**

(45) Male
Last Seen: 1999-02-02

Missing person left home and has not been seen since.

Loate CAS 6/11/2014
Investigating Officer: WO DD Phathshwane
Tel: 073 062 1018

**BAREND HENDRIK RICHTER**

(55) Male
Last Seen: 2015-01-31

Missing person left home and has not been seen since.

Nelspruit CAS 6/5/2015
Investigating Officer: Sgt N Khoza
Tel: 013 759 1000

**JOHN CLOETE**

(65) Male
Last Seen: 1999-10-03

Missing person left the hospital and has not been seen since.

Bishop Lavis CAS 4/3/2009
Investigating Officer: WO DS Sample
Tel: 021 934 1031

**AN MPOLOKENG**

(20) Male
Last Seen: 2015-07-04

Missing person left home and has not been seen since.

Randfontein CAS 2/5/2015
Investigating Officer: Sgt OM Monama
Tel: 011 767 2300

**MAMIELODI EAST CAS 5/5/2015**

Investigating Officer: Const HE Dwebu
Tel: 012 815 7107

**MIAMENE SIBIYA**

(15) Male
Last Seen: 2015-05-03

The missing person left home and has not been seen since.

Mamboleo East CAS 5/5/2015
Investigating Officer: Sgt HE Dwebu
Tel: 012 815 7107

**KABOKWANI CAS 3/5/2015**

Investigating Officer: Const MN Lekhuleni
Tel: 078 619 9621

**LOATE CAS 6/5/2015**

Investigating Officer: Sgt N Khoza
Tel: 013 759 1000

**MAMALUVU CAS 5/5/2015**

Investigating Officer: Sgt N Khoza
Tel: 013 759 1000
The South African Police Service (SAPS) request urgent assistance from members of the public in tracing the following alleged perpetrators wanted in connection with various criminal offences committed countrywide.

WANTED FOR DEALING IN ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

Wanted: Alan Sykes
Investigating Officer: WO TD Makobela on 011 977 5467 or 082 822 6332

WANTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING

Wanted: Mervin Philander
Investigating Officer: Const GN Titus on 022 972 8000 or 079 894 1824

WANTED FOR ROBBERY

Wanted: Lebohang Jeremiah Macayeni
Investigating Officer: Lt Col AN Simons on 011 747 0031 or 082 333 5071

WANTED FOR ROBBERY

Wanted: Abel Smal Dziviti
Investigating Officer: WO LE Tlhasi on 018 299 0900 or 082 319 9687

WANTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING

Wanted: Lucky Klaas Magole
Investigating Officer: WO A Makakasi on 012 797 0900 or 082 319 9687

WANTED FOR MURDER

Wanted: Mzingi Macarius Dlomo
Investigating Officer: WO TB Nhleko on 013 293 9020 or 072 172 2427

WANTED FOR DEALING IN ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

Wanted: James Itai Sibanda
Investigating Officer: Const Ramakuela on 011 977 5476 or 082 822 6332

WANTED FOR FRAUD

Wanted: Janet Amoako
Investigating Officer: Const SM Masuku on 011 977 5475 or 082 822 6332

WANTED FOR THEFT

Wanted: Khetha Ntini
Investigating Officer: Sgt EP Fouche on 058 481 6213 or 082 301 9719

WANTED FOR POSSSESSION OF DANGEROUS WEAPONS

Wanted: Sanele Ngcobo
Investigating Officer: Const FC Neethling on 031 405 7204 or 082 411 6387

WANTED FOR THEFT

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