Towards democratic, ‘whole-of-society’ policing in South Africa

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Julie Berg
Centre of Criminology
University of Cape Town
The age of the ‘polycrisis’

Interconnected global-local, old and new risks

Complex problems need complex solutions
The age of plurality policing in South Africa (and Africa) has always been plural.
**Plural policing environment**

**Public** (SAPS, Metro, City Law Enforcement, Traffic, SARS, customs and border control, in maintenance of the rule of law etc)

**Private** (businesses, Business Against Crime, City Improvement Districts, private security, insurance companies etc)

**Community** (vigilantes, neighbourhood watch, street committees, community peace committees, traditional justice etc)
The challenge? We want a democratic policing system

• We do not have democratic policing in SA (aspiration)
• We have a range of entities who are involved in policing already
• We want (plural) policing which is in line with the SA Constitution and legitimate
• How to get there?
What is democratic policing?

Policing which is legitimate

1. Democratic participation
2. Accountability
3. Efficiency and/or effectiveness in relation to public goods provision
Criteria for democratic policing?

- equity
- delivery of service
- responsiveness
- distribution of power
- information
- redress
- participation

It is a flexible and dynamic, cooperative relationship among a range of state and non-state entities.
Law enforcement model

Root causes + Motivated offender + Opportunities for offending = Victimization and consequences (insecurity)

Criminal Justice System and support

Prisons
Whole-of-society model

- Root causes
- Motivated offender
- Opportunities for offending

= Victimization and consequences (insecurity)

Enhanced well-being and social cohesion

State and non-state co-ordinated interaction
Hierarchy pyramid
From Dupont (2006) *Delivering security through networks*
Types of whole-of-society arrangements

- Proactive / reactive
- Once-off / regular
- Simple (parent patrol) / complex (2010 FIFA WC)
- Task-focussed (joint operations)
- Spatial-focus (neighbourhood watches, CIDs)
- Crime-specific-focus (tracking device companies)
- All of the above (2010 WC?)

**Pros:**
- Effectiveness and efficiency
- Circular or horizontal accountability

**Cons:**
- Operational
- Democratic
Role of the state police

Specialist or ‘core business’ (back to basics)?

v.

All things to all people/all-purpose problem-solvers?

v.

Or both
Design principles for whole-of-society policing

Clear vision, common purpose and incentives (not perverse)

A fulcrum

Routinisation of contact (CPF, whatsapp group, ops meetings etc)

A functional budget

Built-in redundancy

Horizontal/circular and vertical accountability

Whole-of-society thinking
Democratic policing in South Africa

- an ongoing, practical experiment
- it does not come from a single source
- it is co-produced, on the ground