

# **REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT; COMMUNITY SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON ON OVERSIGHT VISITS, 13 - 22 JUNE 2012**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Roads and Transport and Community Safety, Security and Liaison (the Committee) conducted oversight visits to projects of the Department of Community Safety, Security And Liaison (the Department) as a means to hold the executive accountable for its actions and for ensuring that it implements plans and policies in an effective manner, according to the allocated budget for the relevant financial year as well as to robustly monitor the executive to ensure good governance.

This report serves to give an account and to reflect the Committee's interactions on the oversight visits as conducted by the Committee from 13 to 14 June 2012 at ThabaChweu Local Municipality, 19 to 20 June 2012 at Lekwa Local Municipality and 21 to 22 June 2012 at PixelyKalsakaSeme Local Municipality to various projects in accordance with the legislation.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE SITE VISITS**

The objectives of the site visits were as follows:

- To determine the performance of and the support provided by SAPS to the following police stations:
  - Sabie
  - Pilgrim's Rest
  - Sakhile
  - Morgenzon
  - Volkrust

## **3. METHOD OF WORK**

The oversight visits were conducted in the following municipalities:

### **3.1 Ehlanzeni District: ThabaChweu LocalMunicipality**

- Sabie Police Station
- Pilgrim's Rest Police Station

### 3.2 Gert Sibande District: PixleykalsakaSeme and LekwaLocal Municipalities

- Morgenzon SAPS
- Sakhile SAPS
- Volksrust SAPS

## 4. REPORT ON THE OVERSIGHT VISITS

### 4.1. THABA CHWEU MUNICIPALITY

#### 4.1.1 SABIE POLICE STATION

The Committee visited Sabie Police Station on 13 June 2012. There were no briefings offered by relevant stakeholders due to failure by stakeholders to attend the meeting. The committee noted that; although invitations were forwarded to the Provincial Commissioners office, the Provincial Commissioner, cluster commander, POPCRU and SAPU did not attend the meeting. The Committee also noted that the staff members delegated to represent the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison were not in senior management positions. The Committee received the briefing from the Legislature research unit and thereafter decided to conduct a site inspection to the police station.

Below are the findings and resolutions from the previous visits. The progress that was also noted during the follow-up visit:

<b>FINDINGS 2010</b>	<b>RESOLUTIONS 2010</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORTED</b>
The accommodation for the Sabie Police is very limited and there is a need for expansion in the near future.	The Provincial SAPS Head office should investigate the possibility to expand the current Sabie Police Station and report the findings to the Committee as soon as concluded.	Upon visit, the station reported that they were promised four movable offices; however, they were not given. The offices were meant for the CSC commander, Information centre, Sector manager and Communication officer.
The holding cells were found to be in a dilapidated state and are in severe need of maintenance.	The envisaged renovation of the holding cells should be fast-tracked by the Provincial SAPS head office and a progress report in this	The holding cells were renovated, painted but poor workmanship was noted especially on the wall painting.

	regard should be submitted to the committee before 30 November 2010.	
The strong room where the firearms that should be destroyed in the near future, is not adequately secured and the management of the firearms is poor.	The Station commander should immediately engage with the provincial supply management to improve the existing strong room where firearms for destruction are kept and report to the committee on the matter before 30 November 2010.	There was some improvement on the strong room, the door was fixed, firearms were properly kept in a trunk and the excessive ones were reported to have been destroyed. There was a concern that the windows are too big and a strong room should not have a window at all.
As a result of the rapid expansion of the informal settlements in the Sabie area, the accessibility and darkness put a lot of strain on the resources in the station.	The SAPS through MAM must engage the municipality to put up high mustlights in the informal settlements.	The municipality has now put high must lights in some of the informal settlements.
The shortage of key personnel at the station impacts negatively on the day to day operations of the station.	The provincial SAPS Head Office should engage with the Sabie Police management to ascertain the stations needs in terms of the shortage of key personnel at the station.	They have now appointed the station commander and the head of support.
The training of detectives and other specialised units should be prioritised and promoted.	The Provincial SAPS Head Office should engage with Sabie SAPS to ascertain the training of specialised units.	No progress reported
The majority of the vehicles allocated to the station are old and the mileage is more than 200 000km.	The station must request suitable vehicles from the provincial commissioner.	Out of four requested vehicles, the station has received only one 4x4 van.
There is a shortage of 45 bullet proof vest, handcuffs, torches, side firearms, and pepper spray, first aid kits for vehicles, road block equipment and blue lights for vehicles in working	The Provincial SAPS Head Office should engage with Sabie SAPS to ascertain station's needs with regards to operational equipment.	The station reported to have enough bullet proof vests. However upon the visit, the Committee noted that Members were not wearing their vests.

order.		
The CPF has an inadequate budget to implement its programmes and a shortage of operational equipment.	The Provincial SAPS Head Office should engage with Sabie SAPS to ascertain the station's needs with regards to CPF budget and operational equipment.	CPF still had an inadequate budget for operational equipment. They reported to have all received reflector jackets.
The local municipality is not involved in CPF activities.	Councillors at the local municipality should actively engage in all police related matters so that the challenges currently experienced by the CPF and the police can be addressed.	There seems to be an improvement with regards to the involvement of local municipality as they reported to hold meetings with them.
The fact that police members are appointed in terms of different acts, namely the Public Service Act, 1994 as amended and the SAPS act, 1995, creates dissatisfaction amongst members since it leads to inconsistent conduct towards them by management.	The Provincial SAPS Head office should investigate the reasons why some members feel that there is an inconsistency of conduct between members who are appointed in terms of the Public Service Act, 1994 as amended and the SAPS Act, 1995 and a progress report on these matters should be submitted to the Committee before 30 November 2010.	No progress reported
The new ranking structure poses challenges for some members.	The Provincial SAPS should investigate the negative impact on members due to the implementation of the new ranking structure.	The status quo remains.
There is a serious need for some members to be re-trained on the Batho Pele principles.	Members who are in need of re-training on Batho Pele principles should be identified and trained.	The training was conducted.
The Department of Safety, Security and Liaison's intervention to act against liquor outlets that do not adhere to regulations is welcomed.	The Department to ensure it deals with all liquor outlets that do not adhere to regulations.	The station is dealing with the illegal liquor outlets.

Although the verification process of the reservist database in the province has been finalised, the moratorium on the recruitment of reservists has not been lifted up.	Due to the shortage of personnel in the station, the Provincial SAPS must consider lifting the moratorium on reservists.	No progress reported
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## Findings

- The chef was still paid using the tea club system;
- Domestic Violence documents were not found inside the police vehicles;
- The furniture in the CSC was not in a good standard;
- Members of the police force were not wearing their bullet proof vests;
- The station did not have a proper strong room;
- The Sabie station had a Victim support centre, which is in a good state and clean;
- Empty liquor bottles were seen around the residential area of police officials.

## Recommendations

- The Provincial SAPS office must fast track the permanent appointment of the chef;
- The Sabie Police station must adhere to the Domestic violence Act by ensuring that the relevant documents are readily available in their vehicles at all times;
- The Provincial SAPS must review their priority list in terms of the provision of office furniture in the stations in order to accommodate the most needy stations like Sabie;
- Members must adhere to the directive of wearing their bullet proof vests;
- Sabie Police station must maintain the cleanliness in the Victim support centre;
- The station to ensure that it has a proper strong room without windows;
- The station and the officials must ensure that they lead by example, by ensuring that there are no liquor bottles around the residential area of police officials.

### 4.1.2. PILGRIM'S REST POLICE STATION

The Portfolio Committee visited Pilgrim's Rest Police Station on 14 June 2012. Briefings were received from the Station Commander, Cluster Commander, and Acting Deputy Provincial Commissioner as well as representatives from the CPF, POPCRU and SAPU.

With regard to the previous visits, the following findings, recommendations and progress were noted:

<b>FINDINGS 2010</b>	<b>RESOLUTIONS 2010</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORTED</b>
There is a shortage of senior level SAPS staff members.	The Provincial SAPS must ensure that SAPS Pilgrim's Rest is adequately resourced and that when promotion posts arise, internal members should be prioritised.	Although they have appointed a station commander, the station still does not have enough personnel.
The patrol vans are not suitable for the arduous farm roads.	The DCSSL and the Provincial SAPS office must ensure that the station is provided with suitable patrol vans.	The station reported to have eight vehicles; however they are not suitable for the arduous farm roads.
There are insufficient tourist safety monitors.	The department must ensure that they appoint sufficient safety monitors.	They have appointed 10 safety monitors; however this is still insufficient. The Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison reported that this is because they do not have sufficient budget. Another problem is that safety monitors do not have sufficient reflector jackets and communication tools. Safety monitors currently receiving a stipend of R 1595.00 monthly.
The monitors do not have transportation and	The department must ensure that Safety	The department reported that they

mode of communication with the SAPS.	monitors are properly provided with transport and mode of communication.	sourced out a sponsor to buy two way radios, however the radios were ineffective. The station is responsible for transporting the Safety Monitors.
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Among the issues that were discussed, is the issue of shortage in the personnel at the station, which was a concern to all stakeholders. The acting deputy Provincial Commissioner indicated that the station must recruit personnel from the local community, to avoid the challenge of accommodation for police staff members. The Committee noted with concern that there was two CPFs operating in the area. One CPF constituted of the white community and the other was said to be the legitimate structure. The acting deputy Provincial Commissioner indicated that there must only be one CPF per police station and in the community; therefore, the two structures need to be integrated.

## Findings

- Keys to the section 13 stores were not available;
- There was no fencing of the station;
- The station is not properly provided with resources such as vehicles and personnel;
- There are two CPFs operating in the area.

## Recommendations

- The department and Provincial SAPS must meet and sort out the resources issue and review the turnaround time that vehicles must be fixed and serviced;
- The station must ensure that keys to the section 13 stores are always available at the station;
- The Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison and Provincial SAPS must engage the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport and make sure that the station is properly fenced. In case the fencing would be against Heritage dictates, an explanation must be given to the committee on how the safety around the station is ensured;
- The Provincial SAPS must ensure that the two CPF structures are integrated and only one CPF structure is operational.

## 4.2. LEKWA AND PIXLEY KA ISAKA SEME MUNICIPALITIES

### 4.2.1 STANDERTON SAPS CLUSTER

The Committee met with the Cluster Commander for the Standerton SAPS Cluster, the Sakhile and Morgenzon Station management; representatives of the CPF, SAPU and POPCRU, the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison and Councillors at the Standerton Town Hall. The Cluster comprises of the following seven stations: Standerton, Sakhile, Amersfoort, Volksrust, Wakkerstroom, Morgenzon and Perdekop.

The Committee considered the following progress which was reported from previous findings and resolutions of the committee:

<b>FINDINGS 2010</b>	<b>RESOLUTIONS 2010</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORTED</b>
The Standerton Cluster borders with various entry routes from other provinces that increase cross border crimes.	The Cluster must come out with a plan to deal with cross boundary crimes as the Cluster borders with various entry routes from other provinces	The Cluster Commander reported that this was still a problem. The cluster is struggling to deal with drugs and dagga from other provinces.
Males still dominate the police environment on management level, hence the 50/50 gender equity has still not been achieved.	The Cluster must employ more female officials on management positions to reach the 50/50 gender equity.	The Cluster commander reported the cluster has not reached the 50/50 gender equity on Senior Management positions. She further reported that the cluster has the following officials in management positions:  1) Cluster commander – Brig. A Selepe 2) Standerton Station commander – Col. E Mac Kenzie 3) Sakhile Station Commander – Major Monene 4) Sakhile Vispol head –

		Capt. Mtsweni 5) Amersfoort Detective Commander – Lit. Mavuso
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#### 4.2.2 MORGENZON POLICE STATION

The Committee considered the following progress which was reported from previous findings and resolutions of the committee:

<b>FINDINGS 2010</b>	<b>RESOLUTIONS 2010</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORTED</b>
The station did not have trained personnel on the Firearms Act.	The station to ensure that it has trained personnel on the Firearms Act.	Warrant Officer J.B Manana appointed and trained on Fire Arm Act.
The station does not have enough personnel.	The station must motivate for the increase in the number of reservist and personnel to cover those on sick leave.	The station commander has written a letter to the provincial commissioner and permission has not been granted for the replacement of people who are in longer sick leave. Currently they are short of 14 members according to the 2009 RAC. The process of recruitment of new reservist was put on hold by National SAPS and some were permanently recruited and currently at training colleges. Currently they have four active reservists.
There was no functional sector policing.	The station to ensure that it implements sector policing and that it functions well.	The station indicated that the functioning of sector policing can be fast tracked if only they have enough personnel

		and cars, which for now they do not have.
The CPF was not functional.	The department must ensure that a new CPF structure is nominated and fully functional.	A new CPF structure was established. The CPF is fully functional and sub forums were also established and functional.
The vehicles were not suitable for the areas in which they are supposed to patrol.	The Provincial SAPS and the Department of Safety, Security and Liaison must ensure that the station is provided with suitable vehicles.	The Provincial Commissioner has allocated suitable vehicles for the area to the police station. They received five more cars, of which two of them are sedans. In total the station has 9 vehicles.

The Committee noted that the CPF is not properly provided with resources. The Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison indicated to the Committee that it is awaiting a proposal from the police station with regards to the resources that are needed by the CPF. The department indicated that it is willing to assist the CPF with resources. The committee noted with concern that the department does not visit the police stations on a regular basis and that the last time that the department visited Morgenzon police station was three years ago.

It was noted that station operates its Victim Care Centre from 6:00am to 6:00pm. It was reported that victims who report after the above mentioned operating hours; the police station contact staff members that are on standby for first-hand consultation. Thereafter, the victims are then transferred to Standerton Police Station.

## Findings

- Morgenzon police Station had a one bedroom Victim Care Centre that is not properly furnished;
- The station has a shortage of staff including management staff that they even get personnel from the cluster office to come and help;
- Members were wearing their bullet proof vests.

## Recommendations

- The Department of Safety, Security and Liaison must make sure that the Victim Support Centre is properly furnished and functional;
- The department must also review the criteria they use to support the stations and make sure the station is provided with enough personnel;
- Members to continue wearing their bullet proof vests at all times.

#### 4.2.3. SAKHILE POLICE STATION

The Committee considered the following progress which was reported from previous findings and resolutions of the committee:

<b>FINDINGS 2010</b>	<b>RESOLUTIONS 2010</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORTED</b>
The station did not have trained personnel on the Firearms Act.	The station must ensure that it employs personnel that are trained on the Firearms Act.	They now have one trained personnel on firearms Act.
They did not have a victim support centre.	The Department of Safety, Security and Liaison must ensure that the station has a Victim Support Centre that is well furnished.	Victims are still taken to Standerton as there is no Victim Support Centre in Sakhile.
The vehicles are not suitable for the areas they need to operate.	The Provincial SAPS and the Department of Safety, Security and Liaison must ensure that the station is provided with suitable vehicles.	The station has received four new cars and one of the cars was involved in a car accident, they are now left with three cars. In total there are 14 cars in the station.
The CPF in non-functional and there were no sub forums.	The department must ensure that a new CPF structure is nominated and sub forums are also functional.	The CPF is now functional and the sub forum was also established.

With regard to the Sakhile Police Station, it was noted that station does not have a Victim Support Centre. Victims are transferred to Standerton Police Station. Sakhile Police Station still operates in a building that was donated to the station. The building is very small and not suitable for a Police Station.

## Findings

- Officers did not wear their bullet proof vests;
- Although the building was renovated by the newly appointed station commander, the committee noted with concern that the building was not suitable for a police station;
- A section 13 wardrobe was at the CSC instead of a proper safety building to accommodate Section 13 goods.

## Recommendations

- Officers must adhere to the directive of wearing their bullet proof vest at all times;
- The provincial SAPS must ensure that a fully flashed Police Station is built for Sakhile;
- The station also needs a proper Section 13 storeroom.

### 4.2.4 VOLKRUST POLICE STATION

The committee visited Volksrust police station on the 21 June 2012. A briefing on the following progress of previous committee resolutions was presented by the Vispol Commander Captain D.J Kleingeld:

<b>FINDINGS 2010</b>	<b>RESOLUTIONS 2010</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORTED</b>
There are foreign business owners who use their shops as their residential area and keep big amounts of cash at their shop premises and are vulnerable for robberies.	A campaign must be launched to educate foreign business owners on how to improve on their own safety.	A campaign was conducted but there were challenges due to language because most of them do not understand English nor the local language.
Relevant stakeholders do not meet on a regular basis to ensure that policing in the area improves.	All relevant stakeholders must meet on a regular basis to ensure that policing condition in the area improves; especially when it comes to the functionality of Multi-Agency-Mechanisms.	Stakeholders are now meeting on a regular basis, policing in the area has improved. The station has received an annual rating of 67.73% which is an acceptable three star in terms of national rating.
The Volksrust Station experiences shortages in	The Provincial SAPS must ensure that the	The station has a total of 75 actual members

terms of personnel and vehicles.	station is provided with enough personnel for the well-functioning of the station.	versus 85 according to the RAC. There is a need of 10 more members. The station received two new vehicles; in total they have 16 vehicles.
The Volksrust Station is divided into three sectors but has difficulty to operationalize effectively and efficiently due to the shortages of personnel and vehicles.	The Provincial SAPS must ensure that the station is provided with enough personnel.	The station reported that with the members that they currently have; it is impossible to fully implement the sector policing. They further reported that sector 1 and 2 are functional.
There is still a concern of incidences of racism according to POPCRU.	The case of racism must be investigated by the station.	The case of racism which was reported previously, it was addressed by the POPCRU executive members, management and the concerned members.

## Findings

- Although the building was re-painted, the committee noted that the building had cracks on the walls;
- The station has a Victim Support Centre that is functional and well-furnished but it was observed that it was dirty outside;
- The truck parking area is not fenced hence trucks part anywhere in the streets.

## Recommendations

- The Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison to give a report within a month on their interactions with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport regarding the cracks on the walls;
- The Station to maintain the cleanliness and well-functioning of the Victim Support Centre;
- The Cluster Commander must engage the municipality and make sure that the truck parking area is fenced.

### **4.3. Support provided by the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison**

The Department of Safety, Security and Liaison reported that, with regards to the support that is provided by the department to the police stations; trainings have been provided to CPF members in the three police stations. According to the department, the CPF structures in all the police stations are active and functioning well. The department further reported that they have resourced the CPF structures with diaries, notebooks and pens. The committee indicated to the department that diaries, pens and notebooks are not proper resources that will ensure effective functionality of the CPF structures. They further indicated that the CPFs need to be resourced with reflector jackets, torches and whistles. It was noted that budget allocated for CPF amounts to R 209 000. The budget covers activities of the 37 Community Police Forums and 6 Community Police Forums clusters.

### **4.4. CROSS-CUTTING RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following Cross-Cutting Recommendations were made by the committee on the previous visits. These matters were not discussed on the follow-up visits because the office of the Provincial Commissioner did not attend the briefing sessions.

- ❖ All future documentation presented to the Committee should be of professional quality.
- ❖ The lack of resources provided to CPFs must be discussed at Cluster level and should include all relevant stakeholders; this can ensure that CPFs at Station levels are provided with adequate resources.
- ❖ The Provincial Commissioner must attend to the following matters:
  - a. Ensure that the CPF are provided with the necessary resources (human – and financial) to comply with the SAPS Act.
  - b. Investigate allegations of racism in the Province and submit a report to the Committee.
  - c. Ensure that the Clusters are fully equipped; especially the Tonga SAPS Cluster to ensure that they can effectively and efficiently control the borders and deal with cross border crimes.
  - d. Investigate the possibility of a stipend payable to reservists and submit a report to the Committee.
  - e. Ensure the improvement of the working-relationship between Cluster – and Station management with labour unions.

- f. Ensure active involvement of CPFs at Provincial –; Cluster – and Station level.
  - g. Adhere to the Employment Equity Act by ensuring that females are appointed at management level.
  - h. Must engage with the lead departments in the CRDP to ascertain to what extent the Police can become involved in rural development.
  - i. Must ensure the abolishment of casual employees remunerated on a contract basis out of the tea club. Such employments must be formalised and employees be permanently employed.
- ❖ All stakeholders (to include the local municipalities, relevant departments, CPFs and Police) must cooperate in terms of all community safety matters, and to include the following:
- a. Establishment and/or revival and sustainability of MAM structures
  - b. Establishment and sustainability of CPF structures
  - c. Improvement of infrastructure in policing areas (i.e. fixing of potholes, telephone lines and lighting of streets)
  - d. By-laws to strengthen the Police's hands to enhance policing; for example to regulate businesses i.e. one such as where shop owners use businesses as residential arrears and those that keep cash in their shop premises and are victims of robbery.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson, Hon JL Mahlangu thanked Hon Members of the Portfolio Committee and all stakeholders that participated during the site visits for their valuable inputs made. The Portfolio Committee urges the House to adopt the report with its recommendations for implementation and report back by not later than 31 May 2013 by the MEC of the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison to the Honourable Speaker of the Legislature.

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**Hon JL Mahlangu**

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**Date**

**Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Public Works,  
Roads and Transport and Community Safety,  
Security and Liaison**

