



21 September 2010

Attention:

Provincial Police Commissioner (KZN) via email
Provincial CPF Chairman(KZN) via fax

CC:

National Police Commissioner via email
National CPF Chairman via fax
BCC Cluster Commander
Cluster CPF Chairman
Station Commander Pinetown SAPS

REFERENCE: Staff and vehicle shortages at Pinetown SAPS

We write this memorandum at the behest of our Station Commander Brigadier OY Zama and our CPF Cluster Chairman Mr C Sibaca.

Pinetown was again listed at the top of the list of worst performing stations in the province in terms of the rate of crime in its policing area. As a CPF, we have worked closely with the Station Commander and his senior officers to understand why Pinetown SAPS seems unable to reduce crime levels. The following list of issues refers.

1. Staff strength should be 406. Instead, 364 are allocated, of which 37 have been seconded elsewhere, of whom are senior and experienced investigative staff, but still remain on Pinetown's list, and 42 are not available for service and listed under "casualties", also still remaining on Pinetown's list of available staff.

That leaves 285 police personnel available, or 70% of the desired strength.

1.1. In the detective branch, there should be 97 but there are only 63. Further of the 63 available, 34 detectives are considered by the Station Commander to not be capable of performing their duties properly as they are not properly trained in detective procedures. (CPF Meeting 11/09/2010). The Branch Commander of the detectives stated at the CPF meeting of the same date, that each detective is handling a caseload of about 150 dockets or more each a month.

2. Vehicle strength should be 95, instead 87 are allocated of which 9 are boarded and 10 are pending boarding (some pending boarding for 18 months without action from Province) 7 are allocated to Provincial Task Team. At least 12 Vispol vehicles are in the workshop, and others from various departments at the station are also in the workshop, leaving at most 49 vehicles available or 52 % of the desired strength.

2.1. The above means that patrols are limited to 1 or 2 vehicles in each of the 3 sectors in the Pinetown Policing Area. Sectors 1 and 3 are huge areas to cover. Sector 1 covers Kloof,

Wyebank, Emolweni and New Germany. Sector 3, even bigger than the previous sector (15 suburbs) including Westmead Industrial, Motala Farm, Marianhill Industrial, Marianhill Park, Caversham Glen, Ashley, Farningham Ridge, Pinelands, Moseley Park, Sarnia and the whole of Nazareth and Nazereth Island, which is sub economic and informal housing mixed with formal housing.

3. Computers should be 126, but there are 72, with no indication given as to the functional status of the 72 computers. The station communications officer advised us during the meeting he no longer has an E Mail address as his computer was given to another department, thus he has to have members of the community to call him via the telephone. Thus the communications officer of the station with the highest crime rate in KZN has no e mail access.

4. The moratorium on the recruitment of reservists remains in place despite a media statement by the minister to the contrary. Reservists could greatly compliment the staff numbers, assisting the charge office staff and freeing up and contributing numbers to patrols and visible policing. See the two attached documents, one containing the parliamentary question which verifies the lifting of the moratorium and the text of the letter confirming that the moratorium is still in place .

5. Maintenance and cleanliness of the building is poor. In response Brig Zama contended at the CPF meeting 11/09/2010 that he had petitioned DPW in 2007 for painting to which they had responded that there was no budget and that there would be none until 2013/14.

The building is in urgent need of attention and more funds must be allocated to maintenance and cleaning to ensure the station provides a pleasant environment to both the members of the public and members of the SAPS Pinetown.

We hereby request that you urgently investigate the above issues and revert as soon as possible, but before the end of October 2010 at least with feedback and what will be done from a provincial level to improve this poor situation.

Original signed by

B Shole, Pinetown CPF Chairman

K E Goldstone, Pinetown CPF Vice Chairman

on behalf of all the 5 Sub Forums within the Pinetown Policing Area.