

RESPONSE TO THE MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY THE COUNCILLOR CHAPMAN

INTRODUCTION

Lt-General Ngobeni and the entire Provincial management of the S.A Police Service in this province are committed to ensuring that Pinetown is a safer area to live in.

We, however realize that we are involved in a fight in which we cannot be triumphant unless we enjoy your support.

We therefore appeal to you to join forces with us in alienating any threat to peace and harmony.

In responding to the specific concerns raised in your memorandum, we wish to state the following :

Your par. 2

Partnership with SAPS only fulfills a legal mandate. CPF are established to bridge a gap between the police and the community. If the common understanding and collaboration is lacking between partners in their fight against crime, focus gets lost and the enemy will exploit such a gap in his favour. Such disunity could manifest itself in high levels of crime going unchecked until role players who have entered into a partnership to fight crime have a crisis on their hands.

Your par. 3 read with question 1

We are encouraged by noting that you support sector policing and community policing.

In implementing Sector Policing, the object is to operationalise or make practical the community policing philosophy. CPF's have to play a role of monitoring the implementation of projects aimed at dealing crime a deadly blow and nipping it in the bud.

Minimum standards have to be met. Minimum standards are a guideline to determine the capacity required to implement sector policing. SAPS Pinetown falls in a category of 27 priority stations in this Province with a capacity to implement sector policing.

Station Commanders have been directed to consider the amount of resources available when implementing sector policing. We have re-evaluated sector policing in Pinetown and we have come to a conclusion that sector policing can be in place on a 24 hour basis in

2 sectors. In the interim, a phased approach have to be followed when implementing sector policing. In due course sector policing will be rolled out to the rest of the sectors. The rest of the policing precinct will be given special attention through a flexi hour system informed by the crime trends and patterns.

The vital assistance of the community exists. This is evident in the following :

- Reservists employed at this station are from the community of Pinetown
- The community have donated some resources e.g in Kloof
- Informers who have played an invaluable role in shedding light regarding the commission of certain crimes are from the community.

The area where we need to improve is when it comes to expanding the base / data of whistle-blowers who can commit themselves to reporting suspicious movements of people in their neighbourhood.

Management of vehicles

The vehicles that are in the garage due to accidents have been outsourced and are receiving priority attention. A total of six new vehicles have been procured for Pinetown.

Manpower

There are members not physically present at Pinetown Police Station due to factors beyond our control e.g sick leave, pending medical boarding, attending courses, maternity leave. 11 students will report to the station in the next few days from Bisho Police College.

From time to time members are drawn from stations including Pinetown to form Task Teams to specialize in reducing complex crimes and to track down criminals in Pinetown and those who flee to areas surrounding Pinetown.

Morale

The Employee Health and Wellness component at the Provincial Head Quarters have been tasked to investigate the level of morale. If it appears that morale is indeed low, the causes thereof will be identified and a programme to improve morale will be developed.

Removal of the Station Commander

Performance of Station Commanders is assessed continuously through a management tool called PEP.

If it becomes evident that a Station Commander under performs, he has to furnish the supervisor with reasons for under performing.

The supervisor and all Station Commanders agree on a program to be followed to improve performance and the supervisor provides every possible support to the member who does not perform.

We commit ourselves to support the Station Commanders in order to improve service delivery.

Performance is monitored and if during a follow up meeting there is no improvement, the supervisor have to decide whether the poor results are beyond the member's capabilities or whether there is a lack of commitment or any other factors at play which the member has no control over.

It is at this stage that drastic action is considered after a representation has been received from a Station Commander as to why he cannot be transferred or dismissed.

I have found it appropriate to explain this process in order that you may understand that a decision

1. to transfer, dismiss or replace a Station Commander calls for a specific labour agreement to be followed and there are no shortcuts. The agreement I'm referring to seeks to improve poor performance.
2. In line with comment no. 21 of your memorandum and in order to address the levels of crime you are concerned about.

Intervention to curb crime in response to your par. 2 House breaking and car jackings

A Provincial Intervention descended upon the area of Pinetown as from 2010/10/27 until 2010/11/03. A total of 229 members were deployed in this area on an operation for a period of 7 days ending on 2010/11/03. 67 vehicle were used and 1 helicopter.

Activities performed and successes achieved are as follow :

VCP's	64
Stop & search	73
Liquor outlets charged	93
2 nd hand dealers	35
vehicles searched	1430
possession of counterfeit goods	1
possession of explosive devices	1

RECOVERIES

2 firearms, 1 magazine, 14 rounds
34 m / vehicles
1 cellphone
3.3 kg dagga
1 cd, 1 dvd
1 stun grenade

Car jackings were reduced by - 55.6%

Bus. H/B	-16.7%
Res. H/B	- 31%
Contact crime	- 24.5%
Property crime	- 24.2%
Other serious crime	- 12.5%

Comparative stats with same period in 2009 :

Bus. H/B	- 23.1%
Res. H/B	- 51.2%
Contact crime	- 7%
Property crime	- 40%
Other serious crime	- 23%

The rationale behind this step was so that we could show strength in numbers, to achieve deterrence and to flush the thugs out of the Pinetown area while ensuring that we deal with administrative, management and leadership issues within the Pinetown Police Station as experienced by you.

We have however realized that we can make a bigger impact through sustained operations, a stronger partnership with you as the community and an effective implementation of sector policing.

Your par. 3 and 4

We are currently reviewing our sector policing approach, reorganizing the members and resources within the Pinetown Police Station and refocusing.

This approach will address the concern you raised regarding the sub-fora demarcation which is not aligned to sector demarcation. This is work in progress and strides made cannot be finalized without consulting with the CPF. To this end we urge you to join the CPF and to monitor and be co-producers of the positive end results we are guaranteed to achieve and to accept responsibility together with us in the event that we fail. That's the principle underpinning all partnerships.

If we run business enterprises in partnership we share the dividends together whether they are bitter or sweet.

Your par. 5

The true proof of our commitment to effectively discharge our responsibilities have to be experienced in terms of the impact we make in reducing crime, any other commitment which falls short of yielding these results is devoid of its fundamental essence and is worthless. All members subscribe to a code of conduct of the S.A Police Service. They have also vowed to fulfill their obligations of the constitution. Provisions of Disciplinary Regulations are invoked for non-compliance with relevant instructions. Under performance is penalized through PEP.

As a measure aimed at stabilizing the crime situation in Pinetown there shall be operations held. At the same time while the operations are continuing we shall strengthen sector policing by identifying areas generating high volumes of crime limited by the resources available and in order that we may not neglect any community. We shall have members working flexi hours in line with times, days and the nature of crime prevalent in identified areas.

CONCLUSION

I wish to assure the community of Pinetown that we shall always invite constructive criticism leveled at the SAPS in the interest of improved service delivery, more so if this is done at platforms created for the community through the constitution and where we are afforded a chance to arrest any undesirable trend.

Feedback regarding concerns not addressed by the time of responding to your memorandum will be given to the CPF.

We invite the community to join us in the fight against crime by demonstrating a sense / culture of territoriality over their neighborhoods and playing a role as whistle blowers and our eyes and ears. Let us be co-producers of a safer environment for all who live and work in Pinetown.