



PRESENTATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUMS

Msunduzi Municipality

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Preface

- ❑ Our modern world is besieged by the challenge of **security** in an unprecedented manner
- ❑ The ability of the CJS to reduce crime levels in society, without the assistance and support of the society itself, has proven to be nothing short of a pipedream
- ❑ What society needs in addition to the formal CJS is a recognition that crime is a societal problem



Background

- ❑ Within just a few months after the 1994 democratic breakthrough, President Nelson Mandela identified crime as a problem and declared that the war be taken to criminals who “engage in anti-social activities”
- ❑ The response was the development of the NCPS, 1996 and the 1998 White Paper on Safety and Security
- ❑ These documents recognised the need to improve the functioning of the formal CJS, whilst encouraging communities to participate in crime prevention efforts



The genesis of CSFs

- ❑ CSFs are an outcome of the recognition encapsulated in both the NCPS and the WPSS that an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to crime prevention and combating is required for safer communities
- ❑ As a concept, CSFs are intended to address the shortcomings / deficiencies in our community policing model, which focuses on the strengthening of a community-police partnership within a station precinct
- ❑ CSFs are a mechanism through which to bring together persons / institutions responsible for the broader CJS and the delivery of services within the system
- ❑ CSFs operate within the municipal boundary (local, district or metropolitan), which is larger than a precinct



The SAPS Act, 1995

- The democratic Parliament enacted the SAPS Act, 1995 and it provided the functions of CPFs as –
 - Establishing and maintaining a partnership between the community and the Service
 - Promoting communication between the Service and the community
 - Promoting cooperation between the Service and the community in fulfilling the needs of the community regarding policing (*not the entire criminal justice system*)
 - Improving the rendering of police services to the community at national, provincial, area (cluster) and local levels
 - Improving transparency and accountability (in the Service)
 - Promoting joint problem identification and solving (between the Service and the community)



Municipal Systems Act, 2000

- ❑ The purpose of the MSA, 2000 is, *inter alia*, to provide for the participation and involvement of the local community in the affairs of the municipality
- ❑ It places an obligation on local government to consult communities in relation to integrated development planning, which could include crime prevention
- ❑ It is through the IDPs that municipalities contribute to the implementation of national and provincial policies, as well as the advancement of the rights of citizens that are contained in the Constitution
- ❑ It is, therefore, of paramount importance that there be integration of community safety activities and coordination between all spheres



The NCPS and CSFs

The NCPS recognised, *inter alia*, the following:

- ❑ Crime cannot be reduced only by law enforcement and criminal justice responses
- ❑ Better cooperation and integration between the criminal justice departments was needed
- ❑ Government institutions, in all spheres, must work together with civil society to be effective against crime
- ❑ Crimes are different and must be disaggregated, if effective prevention strategies are to be designed and implemented
- ❑ Prevention efforts need to be focused on victims / and or potential victims of crime – not just on the perpetrators
- ❑ The fear of crime and actual crime patterns should be taken into account in developing prevention efforts



The WPSS and CSFs

The WPSS identifies the role of LG as inclusive of the following, among others:

- Coordination of crime prevention initiatives within a municipal area (local, district or metropolitan) to avoid duplication
- Ensuring that developmental projects within the municipality take crime prevention into account
- Working with the local SAPS and CPFs in setting priorities [policing priorities, which process would be informed by section 206 (1) of the Constitution]
- Effective enforcement of bylaws and traffic law enforcement
- Initiation of social crime prevention programmes at local level
- Provision of assistance to crime victims *wrt* support services



Establishment and location of CSFs

The following aspects relating to the establishment and functioning of CSFs are to be borne in mind:

- The responsibility for the establishment of CSFs lies with the MEC responsible for policing / community safety
- The MEC is expected to consult with the Mayors of all municipalities on the establishment of the CSFs
- A properly established CSF shall be broadly representative of the local community structures and organs of state operating with the local, district or metropolitan municipality
- A district CSF shall comprise representatives of the local CSFs under its area of jurisdiction, and shall provide the local CSFs with the necessary technical support to facilitate their integration and effective functioning



Objectives / Functions of CSFs

The primary objectives of CSFs are to –

- Coordinate, promote cooperation and integrate planning / budgeting between government departments on matters relating to community safety and security
- Facilitate the implementation of partnerships between government and communities on community safety matters
- Ensure community consultation and engagement (through organised structures) to enable community participation in local planning and monitoring of safety and security as well as development plans within the municipal area
- Ensure that there is alignment of local priorities and crime prevention (safety and security) plans with those in the provincial and national spheres



Composition of CSFs

Whilst an exhaustive list cannot be prescribed, the following institutions / structures are important:

- Department of Police (SAPS)
- Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID)
- Department of Correctional Services
- Department of Justice / National Prosecuting Authority
- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs
- Department of Community Safety / Provincial Secretariats
- Social Cluster Departments (e.g. Health, Education, Social Development and Human Settlements)
- CPFs / CBOs / FBOs / NGOs
- The South African Local Government Association (SALGA)



Recommendations

Steps with municipality:

- Presented the concept at council meeting
- Conducted workshop in partnership with municipality community services –Joint Meeting with councilors and other Stakeholders to establish CSF EXCO
- CSF can be jointly with other forums such as IDP or Drug Forum etc.
- Plan for CSF Forum Meetings on Quarterly Basis



Question / answer session

Any Questions on CSFs?