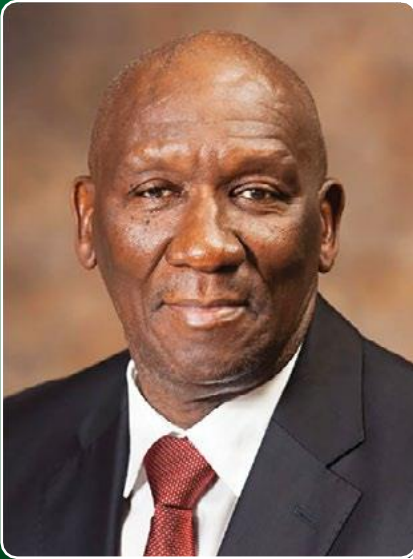


EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY STATEMENT



GENERAL BH CELE, MP

At the start of the five-year planning period, we placed particular impetus on the consolidation of gains made in terms of our development trajectory as a country, and on focusing on implementation as we geared towards Vision 2030. We could not have anticipated that a pandemic of colossal proportions would soon inverse the world as we knew it. During this period, the effectiveness of our policing approaches, safety strategies and various other plans was put to the ultimate test as Government and the country at large navigated the storm that was COVID-19. Tumultuous as it has been, the past two years have provided us with the opportunity to reapply our minds with regard to transformation and what is truly meant by a transformed and accountable police service. We have also had time to reflect on our approach in terms of facilitating that transformation in the South African Police Service (SAPS) through effective oversight as the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service (CSPS) and maximising on the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic, subsequently prompting a review of the CSPS strategic orientation.

The CSPS has thus embarked on a theory of change process to strengthen its resolve in contributing in earnest to ensuring that communities feel and are safe, by focusing all efforts on impact and results. The emergent theory of change still finds its premise on Chapter 12 of the National Development Plan (NDP) and Priority 6 of the revised Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), and seeks more to enhance rather than change the direction to which we committed ourselves in 2020/21. In addition to the outcomes identified at the beginning of the planning cycle, the revised strategy now also centres around the need to strengthen the relationship between the SAPS and the CSPS in order to ensure responsive policing and strengthen coordination between the CSPS and its key role-players in general to affirm its people-centred mandate, particularly given that an approved Partnership Strategy and Framework is now in place and ready for implementation. My specific emphasis to the management of the CSPS in this respect is that the change we want to see must first and foremost be felt by the people we serve.

The civil unrest of July 2021 has brought particular attention to some of the weaknesses in the Police Service that need to be addressed if we are to truly fulfil our obligation to create a conducive environment for economic recovery post COVID-19 by maintaining law and order and employing more strategic, evidence-based approaches to policing and safety. It is clear that, among other key reforms, a comprehensive policy instrument is required that will guide the posture, doctrine and philosophy of policing in this country. The CSPS will thus utilise the remainder of the medium-term period to focus on the development of a National Policing

Policy (NPP), informed by various research that it has conducted over the years, including on whether or not SAPS is fulfilling its Constitutional mandate. The NPP will also complement those provisions of the South African Police Service Amendment Bill that speak to the development of programmes and interventions that will facilitate and hold the SAPS accountable.

Although the events of July 2021 have also brought into question the issue of coordination and collaboration within the Security Cluster as a whole, COVID-19 has shown us that the propensity and capacity for us to work and rally together towards a common goal is inherent in the Government machinery and need only be strengthened. The foundation has thus been set to institutionalise and entrench the integrated approach to crime and violence prevention through the implementation of the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS), which, once approved by Cabinet, will replace the National Crime Prevention Strategy as the primary coordinating mechanism for crime prevention efforts. Effectively dealing with some of the social ills in communities, including the abhorrent treatment of women, children and vulnerable groups evident through the ever-rising number of gender-based violence and femicide cases, clearly requires all hands on deck, and the ICVPS provides a blueprint for government and civil society alike to ensure that this happens.

Essentially, the work of the CSPS must provide an early warning system in terms of critical issues which, if not adequately attended to, could contribute to increased levels of criminality. I have thus reiterated the importance of strengthening the monitoring and evaluation function in order to enhance the role of oversight in addressing these burning issues. I have also emphasised the need for the CSPS to cohere particularly to the mandate of monitoring service provision by the police and to continue to advise me on matters that require rapid intervention.

The CSPS must reassert itself as a centre of excellence in terms of the advancement of a transformative agenda for the Police Service, and become agents of real change as we heed the call from the President to ensure that the police become embedded in the communities they serve. I have full confidence in the ability of the Secretariat to implement this five-year strategy towards the achievement of the new outcomes over the remainder of the medium-term period, and as such, I hereby endorse the revised 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service.