



# civilian secretariat for police service

Department:  
Civilian Secretariat for Police Service  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X922, PRETORIA, 0001 Van Erkom Building, Van Erkom Arcade, 7th Floor, 217 Pretorius Street  
PRETORIA, Tel: (012) 393 2500/2/3, Fax (012) 393 2536/8, WEB: [www.policesecretariat.gov.za](http://www.policesecretariat.gov.za)

Enquiries: Martha Molepo  
122561

## SUBMISSION

<b>TO:</b>	<b>MR. AP RAPEA SECRETARY FOR POLICE SERVICE</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>MS. B OMAR</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>08 DECEMBER 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE RESEARCH BRIEF</b>

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this submission is to request the Secretary for Police Service to approve the research brief on "SAPS Interventions for Trio crimes: A Five-year Trends Analysis".

### 2. BACKGROUND

The submission requesting the approval of the research brief, and dated 13 November 2020 bears reference. The Secretary for Police made comments on page 3 of the submission requesting that 'Figure 2: Provincial breakdown of Trio crimes between 2014/15 to 2018/19' should be simplified. Subsequently, the graph was replaced with a detailed one that shows the statistics of each respective Trio crime.

The Research sub-directorate planned to facilitate the implementation of the White Paper on Safety and Security (WPSS) for the 2020/21 financial year (FY). However, Covid-19 containment measures resulted in a refocus of the 2020/21 Annual

Performance Plan, as was approved by the Minister of Police and Parliament. The facilitation of the implementation of the WPSS was subsequently replaced by three (3) research briefs namely, (i) a trends analysis of SAPS' cases of discipline related to assaults and torture; (ii) a five (5) year analysis of Trio crimes and (iii) an analysis of negligent loss of state firearms.

Herewith attached is the second research brief for 2020/21, focusing on "SAPS Interventions for Trio crimes: A Five-year Trends Analysis".

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

It is hereby recommended that the Secretary for Police Service approves the attached research brief on "SAPS Interventions for Trio crimes: A Five-year Trends Analysis".



MS. M MOLEPO

DIRECTOR: RESEARCH

DATE: 08/12/2020

Recommended/ not recommended



MS. B OMAR

CHIEF DIRECTOR: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

DATE: 08/12/2020

~~Approved/ not approved/approved with amendments~~



MR. AP RAPEA

SECRETARY FOR POLICE SERVICE

DATE: 15/12/2020



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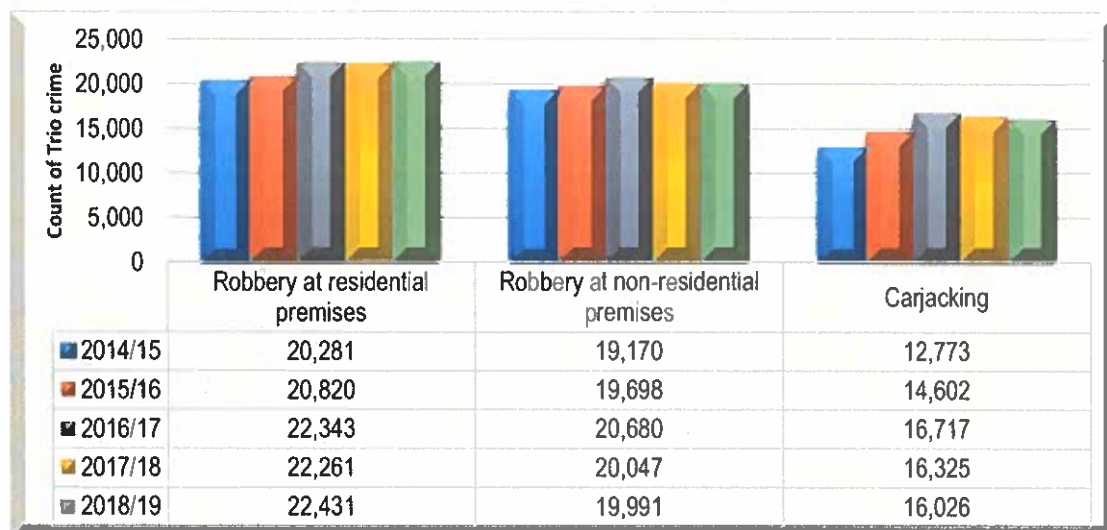
## **SAPS INTERVENTIONS FOR TRIO CRIMES: A FIVE-YEAR TRENDS ANALYSIS**

**NOVEMBER 2020**

## National and provincial picture of Trio crimes

Figure 1 below provides the total number of recorded Trio crimes nationally from the years 2014/15 to 2018/19. A total number of 284 165 cases of Trio crimes were recorded in the period under review. All the sub-categories of Trio crimes had a significant percentage contribution to the overall Trio crimes. Robbery at residential premises contributed 38% (108 136) to the total number of cases, followed by robbery at non-residential premises with 35% (99 586) and carjacking cases contributed to 27% (76 443) of the overall Trio crimes.

Figure 1: Total number of recorded Trio crimes between 2014/15 to 2018/19



CSPS diagram using the SAPS Annual Reports and crime statistics (2014/15 to 2018/19)

The five-year trend shows that Trio crimes nationally has been steadily increasing since 2014/15. Carjacking cases increased by 25.5% from 12 773 in 2014/15 to 16 026 in 2018/19, followed by robbery at residential premises, which recorded an increase of 11% (20281 cases to 22 431cases), and robbery at non-residential premises increased by 4% (19170 to 19991 cases).

Specific to this is the significant increases in the crimes recorded between **2015/16 and 2016/17**. Carjacking increased by 14.4%, followed by robbery at residential premises with a 7.3% increase, and robbery at non-residential premises increased by 4%.

## What are the stats saying about the SAPS?

Trio crimes are crimes that are intended for the acquisition of property. Criminals benefit through obtaining vehicles and items such as electronics and jewellery. During the commission of the crimes, violence becomes the associated feature. While Trio crimes may be opportunistic, in most cases it is organised. Organised crime means the availability of weapons, grand schemes, easier and faster communication, abundant resources and movement of finances.

Trio crimes have been plaguing the SAPS over the years as the statistics show. As mentioned, the SAPS has implemented various strategies to deal with Trio crimes with little success. This raises questions about the effectiveness and sustainability of the Trio crimes strategies and interventions.

One such strategy is 'hotspot' policing or the high intensity stabilisation and normalisation strategy, which is premised on evidence-based policing; utilising crime analysis to deploy resources, and involves targeting people, places and behaviours that are commonly associated with crime.<sup>4</sup>

Hotspot policing is resource intensive. SAPS have deployed desk based SAPS Act administrative and senior officers to the streets to conduct crime operations in provinces with the intention to reduce Trio crime.<sup>5</sup> Despite these costly operations, there were slight decreases in Trio crimes over the years.

Some authors argue that hotspot policing alone is not sufficient to significantly reduce crime; rather a combination of proactive policing with problem-oriented policing conducted to comprehensively understand the area and its problems is more effective.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Edelstein, I., Arnott, R and Faull, A. 2020. Hotspot Policing for Murder and Robbery: A Cape Town Case Study, Institute for Security Studies

<sup>5</sup> South African Police Service. 2018. Speaker Notes by the Minister of Police, Minister Bheki Cele on the Stabilization Approach on the Crime in South Africa, 20 October 2020; Available at: <https://www.saps.gov.za/newsroom/msspeechdetail.php?nid=16018>

<sup>6</sup> Edelstein, I., Arnott, R and Faull, A. 2020. Hotspot Policing for Murder and Robbery: A Cape Town Case Study, Institute for Security Studies

**OFFICIAL SIGN-OFF**

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Submitted by: Ms. M. Molepo

Signature: 

Title: Director: Research

Date: 30/11/2020

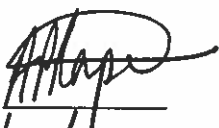
Recommended by: Ms. B. Omar

Signature: 

Title: Chief Director: Policy Development  
and Research

Date: 03/12/2020

Approved by: Mr. A.P. Rapea

Signature: 

Title: Secretary for Police Service

Date: 15/12/2020