

CIVILIAN SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE SERVICE



CONCEPT NOTE:

SUMMIT ON SUPPORTING THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS: EMPHASISING IMPLEMENTATION

AUGUST 2017

1. Background

Sexual violence is a persistent problem that cuts across all races and age groups. It does not only violate human rights but also leaves deep psychological and emotional scars which may pose a challenge to public health, and economic and social development. It is a complex problem in all communities in the country. Research indicates the effects of violence against women and children are lasting, harming communities and families. Research has also identified the lack of nurturing parenting, including parental absence, childhood abuse, witnessing domestic violence and alcohol abuse, as risk factors with respect to the perpetration of physical and sexual violence.

While the state has the primary responsibility for addressing violence against women, a study notes that few countries have the policy, legal and service infrastructure to respond to, or influence social, justice and health services to address Gender Based Violence (GBV) effectively. GBV is also said to be one of the most expensive public health problems globally, estimated to cost South Africa between R28.4 billion and R42.4 billion per year (1.3 per cent of GDP annually)¹.

Moreover, the disproportionate numbers in social workers to law enforcement officers raises serious questions as to safety and security priorities. The country employs approximately 12 000 social workers, 200 000 police officers and 500 000 private security members.

Statistics show that for the period April 2016 to September 2016, a total of 60 003 domestic violence related cases were registered on the SAPS Crime Administration System. From April 2016 to December 2016, there were 37 630 reported cases of sexual offences. Of these, 30 069 (80%) were reported cases of rape which showed a decrease of 6.5% from the previous year's trimester. South Africa also records a high

¹ KPMG study. 2014.

number of serial rape & serial murder cases. In the 2014/15, the SAPS DNA Database identified 982 unsolved series.

Sexual violence is a persistent problem that cuts across all races and age groups. It is a complex problem in all communities in the country and the educational institutions, more especially, tertiary institutions with residential facilities. What is unique about crime in the education sector is its potential to disrupt and interfere with the education and development of learners, students and the youth, thus impacting adversely on the production of future generations of leaders and citizens who will contribute to the socio-economic transformation of South Africa. For this reason, it is of vital importance for the South African Police Service to form a strategic partnership with the various stakeholders, including the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), towards the development of safety protocols and sustainable programs towards the creation of safe learning institutions that are conducive for learning, development and success.

A number of research studies have been commissioned by various higher education institutions with the aim to come up with interventions that will assist in curbing the scourge of sexual violence and the seeming deficiencies in handling of these issues within these institutions. Most of these studies culminated in development of policies and setting up of sexual harassment or gender offices in most Universities around the country. However this has not stopped the scourge of these crimes in educational campuses.

Significant under-reporting of sexual offences and domestic violence has become a norm in South Africa. Research has found that there are various barriers to reporting these crimes to the police, and one of the reasons given for not reporting these crimes is the perception that nothing meaningful will result from engaging with the criminal justice system.

In order to address the challenges highlighted above, Minister Fikile Mbalula has declared *“rape, femicide, infanticide and all gender based-violence as a fundamental*

threat to national security, and has instructed SAPS to deal with these crimes as priority crimes”.

The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service (CSPS) has, in partnership with a broad range of departments across the JCPS cluster and civil society, developed a policy that aims to put in place a coherent process for reducing barriers to reporting incidents of domestic violence and sexual offences. The CSPS has also developed a policy on the investigation and management of serial rape and serial murder. Both policies are aimed primarily at addressing challenges related to gender-based violence, albeit from different perspectives.

2. Objectives of the event

Over the years, there have been various studies and debates on the causes and risk factors of sexual offences and domestic violence. One of the critical levers is advocacy towards sustainable policy implementation and recognition of the need to fast-track implementation of policies. Of key importance is the participation of the relevant implementing departments. The Summit therefore aims to address the implementation challenges in dealing with sexual offences and domestic violence.

The key objectives of the Summit are:

- To support the plight of women children and vulnerable groups
- To launch and promote the two policies and highlight the importance of addressing matters of gender based violence
- To ensure that the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Act of the Department of Justice, which is highlighted in the policy is fast-tracked
- To ensure SAPS improves services to women, people with disabilities, children and the elderly at police station level – deliberate on mechanisms to empower police to response promptly and efficiently to violence against vulnerable groups

- To secure the buy-in of the Department of Social Development in employing more social workers
- To mobilise Civil Society Organisations and other relevant stakeholders to take a coordinated approach and a formalised working partnership / agreement that will help in prevention of violence against vulnerable groups and provision of support to victims and their families
- To create space for intensified awareness raising on the scourge of human trafficking (trafficking in persons) in the country
- To promote a culture of safety amongst learners, students and staff in institutions of learning
- To forge partnerships against crime between the SAPS, institutions of learning and the communities
- To develop a framework for the collection and publication of crime statistics in schools, colleges and universities

3. Key stakeholders

The Summit is aimed at role-players responsible for serving victims of sexual offences and domestic violence, namely, the SAPS, Social Development, IPID and the National Prosecuting Authority. The Academia and Civil Society Organisations such as People against Women Abuse, The Teddy Bear Clinic, Commission for Gender Equality, Sonke Gender Justice, also play a key role in supporting victims and are invited to participate in the Summit.

In addition various stakeholders involved in the education sector will also be invited to take part in the summit. These include the Department of Basic Education, Department of Higher Education and Training, South African Union of Students, Congress of South African Students, South African Further Education and Training Student Association, Student Representative Councils (SRC) of Colleges and Universities, South African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association, National Association of School Governing

Bodies, Campus Protection Society of South Africa and the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority

It is further proposed that in the week leading up to the Summit, the Minister and Deputy Minister embark on a media campaign in order to create awareness of the policies and the Summit. This would entail a series of interviews on two mainstream radio stations (e.g. 702 and Power FM), three community radio stations (e.g. Jozi FM, Alex FM and Eldos FM), and a television interview on Morning Live (SABC2).

4. Project Phases

Phase	Activities	Period
Planning	Develop and finalise the plans Secure the venue Send out invitations to delegates Confirm speakers and facilitators Finalise all logistics – travelling for delegates, catering, report writing	June to 3 rd week August 2017
Implementation	Dialogue on 30 -31 August 2016 as per agenda	4 th week of August 2017
Handover	Final report compiled Handover the report to relevant stakeholders <i>Implementation of resolutions by the implementing bodies</i> <i>Continued monitoring and evaluation by CSPA / Provincial Secretariats</i>	September 2017

5. Project Steering Committee

A Steering Committee made up of representatives from the Police Ministry, CSPA and SAPS should be set-up. The role of the Steering Committee will be to approve the plans & budget, allocate resources, authorize expenditure, provide guidance to the organizing team and approve the final report.

6. Related projects

Due to the scourge on gender based violence in the country, there has been a number campaigns and seminars/workshops dealing with issues around violence against women and children. In the recent past the following departments conducted similar events: Department of Women in conjunction with the Department of Social Development, and the Department of Justice and Correctional Services.

7. Summit Outputs

The summit should be focused on coming up with practical ways of implementing the many strategies that have been developed in the past and were either not implemented or partly implemented. This will ensure that the Summit does not replicate what has already been done or deteriorate into another talk show without any real impact in the fight against the scourge the country is going through. It is therefore envisaged that upon conclusion of the Summit the following outputs will be realized:

- Consolidated report with recommendations that will guide
 - Development of the action plan to improve police response and to enhance awareness raising
 - A Protocol that will be formalized between the Departments of Police, Social Development, Justice and Correctional Services and the Civil Society Organisations
 - The enhancement of HET institutions' policies on sexual violence.
 - The implementation of the policies and related strategies
- Signed agreement or MOU between DHET, South African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association, South African Union of Students and SAPS on dealing with crime in university campuses and reporting on crime statistics

8. Financial Implications

The projected cost is calculated based on the following assumptions:

- The summit will be hosted in Gauteng
- Estimated 400 people will participate in the summit
- Accommodation for participants coming from outside the hosting city
(Invited students may be accommodated depending on the distance between their place of residence and the venue for the summit).
- Travel costs for invited students and speakers only
- Each of the 25 public universities will be represented by 2 students
- Administrative costs for event planners and coordinators will be covered under their core business

Projected budget

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Accommodation	DBB for 50 students, 118 Cluster commanders, 9 PCs, 73 (speakers, CSO members, etc.)	250 x 2 days	1 400	700 000
Conferencing package	Venue, food, drinks & stationery	400 x 2 days	300	240 000
Transport	Air for 30 students & 10 speakers	40	5 000	200 000
	Land – airport shuttles, 20 students from the 10 inland universities & 10 speakers from inland	30	1 000	30 000
Audio Visual Equipment	PA system	1 x 2 days	2 000	4 000
	overhead projector	1 x 2 days	1 000	2 000
	Video recorder	1x 2 days	2 000	4 000
Communications (Media, Advertising, Posters)	advertising (print, radio & digital)	10 days each	5 000	150 000
	Posters & flyers	400 each	20	16 000
Publications	Summit materials for each participant	420	100	42 000
	Reports	200	200	40 000

Miscellaneous			10%	142 800
Total				1 570 800

Cost to be shared between the CSPS and SAPS

9. Conclusion

In light of recent developments particularly with the rise in incidences of domestic violence and the killing of spouses by partners as well as rape incidents, it is hoped that the Summit will create awareness in terms of the options and rights that citizens have in these instances, and will also encourage members of the police service to handle these cases with the necessary care and sensitivity.

Summary of the Policy on Reducing Barriers to Reporting on Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence

The policy on Reducing Barriers to Reporting on sexual offences and domestic violence is aimed at addressing the challenges citizens encounter when reporting crimes of domestic violence or a sexual offences nature. This policy also intends to detail the training and other related issues required to ensure police officers and volunteers are able to provide support and assistance to victims of crime, while displaying great care and competency. Training programmes will have a particular focus on dispelling an unhelpful, victim-blaming mythology that encourages prejudiced attitudes towards victims of sexual offences and domestic violence, as well as discriminatory treatment of people with disabilities, LGBTI persons, documented and undocumented migrants, sex workers and homeless people, amongst others.

Summary of Policy on the Investigation and Management of Serial Rape and Serial Murder

Recent changes in the manner in which DNA evidence is managed in South Africa has led to a dramatic increase in both the number of rape and murder series identified by the Forensic Science Laboratory. DNA is no longer seen purely as an evidential tool, but also as an intelligence tool. Series often involve multiple policing areas and are sometimes cross provincial, or are dealt with by different types of investigative units depending on the crimes accompanying the rape. The Policy on the investigation and management of serial rape and serial murder aims to address these and other unique challenges relating to serial investigations by dictating a consistent manner throughout the country, on how series are to be dealt with. Such a policy will span the criminal justice process from the initial identification and investigation of a series to the prosecution thereof, where legal principles such as similar fact evidence can be used to assist in securing convictions where limited forensic evidence is available.