

Civilian Secretariat for Police Service in conjunction with SAPS and Department of Transport and Community Safety hosted a positive stakeholders' engagement in Vhembe District

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Media Statement

POLOKWANE - The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service in conjunction with Department of Transport and Community Safety together with the South African Police Service in Limpopo under the leadership of Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General, Thembi Hadebe conducted a stakeholder engagement at Vhembe District on Friday, 16 May 2025.

The event was hosted at Healing Ministry Church, Thohoyandou policing precinct under Thulamela Municipality. The engagement was aimed at reinforcing trust between law enforcement and the community in combating crime within four hundred and sixty one (461) villages in Thohoyandou policing area.

The event commenced with a courtesy visit to Vho Thovhele Vho Gole Mphaphuli Traditional Council led by the District Commissioner, Major General Eddie Van Der Walt in company of the Thohoyandou SAPS Station Commander, Brigadier Mukwevho.

Other dignitaries comprised of Director - General of Civilian Secretariat for Police Service, Mr ST Sibuyi together with Mr Steve Matjena, Head of Department of Transport and Community Safety and other stakeholders with an interest on safety.

The entourage was welcomed by Vho Thovhele Vho Gole Mphaphuli who deliberated about Traditional policing and elaborated about crime trends in the area while complimenting the relentless efforts continuously executed while policing such a large number of villages.

Afterwards, the masses proceeded to the main event at the church for the stakeholders' engagement and various speakers rendered messages of support such as the District Community Policing Forum (CPF) Chairperson, Mr Ndlovu and Community Safety Forum (CSF) District Chairperson, Mr Malisa who pleaded with the members of the community not to accommodate illegal immigrants and criminals.

Afterwards, the members of the community were afforded an opportunity to raise concerns about critical issues, clarifications and inputs in relation to service delivery rendered by the police.

The issues included reaction time, feedback from registered cases, visibility of police at all times especially at CBD and remote areas, corruption, gender based violence and femicide, establishment of new satellite police stations, adequate resources and personnel.

In response, Lieutenant General Hadebe introduced the Deputy Provincial Commissioner's Major General Jan Scheepers responsible for Policing and Major General Samuel Manala responsible for Crime Detection together with the District Commissioner, Major General Eddie Van Der Walt and Thohoyandou SAPS station management.

"I agree that there are issues that should be put in place like additional personnel for policing matters and new satellites police stations. I assure you that I will open the satellite that has been long closed. I

will also provide a third truck for Traditional policing because Thohoyandou precinct is too wide consisting of more than four hundred villages to police and you must appreciate your police officers for that because they work under tremendous pressure to render good service delivery to you and the community at large" she said.

Moreover, "I have also noted issues of ritual murders, these cases will be prioritised and attended to as a matter of urgency. In addition, police strategy will ensure that criminal elements are seriously tightened and Major General Manala will deal with the cases that were reported but not thoroughly followed by the detectives".

"The arrogance of the men and women in blue should come to an end because we were appointed to serve you in line with the Code of Conduct and those ones on the wrong side of the law will be harshly dealt with and face the consequences. I have faith in the District Commissioner and Station Commander because they are committed in serving and keeping you as citizens safe. You as the public should become observant and also implement neighbourhood watches without police involvement to combat crime before it takes place. We are also indebted to our Traditional Leaders for playing a significant role by giving effect to traditional policing model," stressed Lieutenant General Hadebe.

The Provincial Commissioner called on the community members to join hands with the police to end the scourge of gender based violence and femicide that has ravaged Vhembe district.

She also urged the police to heighten visibility at all times as it is a game changer, acting as a deterrent in the fight against crime.

Director-General, Mr Sibuyi encouraged good relations and positivity from the public towards the police as they have picked up discrepancies in the policing environment. "You should display a positive gesture with the police and assume an active role for the betterment of the services in crime reduction within Thohoyandou policing area. Fighting crime is a collective responsibility"

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