

Crime Prevention and
Communities Conference Sydney
Australia
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The constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 Act 108 lays down that the South Africa Police Service has a responsibility to :

- Prevent , combat and investigate crime

- Prevent anything that may threaten the safety or security of any community
- Protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property
- Uphold and enforce the law
- Create a safe and secure environment for all people of South Africa.

- Ensure criminals are brought to justice
- Participation to ensure that causes of crime are addressed by all agencies concerned

Community Police Forums

- Establish and to maintain partnership between the community and the Service
- Promoting communication between the Service and the Community

- Improving the rendering of police services to the community at national, provincial, area and local levels
- Improving transparency in the service and accountability of the service to the community

Community Safety Forums (CSF)

Community Safety Forum were created due to inherent problems with community policing. The lack of formal interaction between community police forums and the criminal justice agencies.

- The primary aim of Community safety forum is to create the means of an inter disciplinary and information sharing , coordinated criminal justice processes. This will promote effectiveness and efficiency. More importantly a safer community will emerge.

- I shall argue that corruption and xenophobic violence undermines not only the new democracy in South Africa but it also undermines the principles of community policing.
- First , corruption and the South Africa police has become interwoven and inseparable item in South Africa.

- The image of the South African police has been severely tarnished with the conviction of the national police commissioner Jackie Selebi to 15 years imprisonment for corruption charges.
- General Bheki Cele his successor is also currently been suspended and investigated for alleged offences of corruption

- I shall argue that it will take 30 years at least for the South African police to win back the trust and confidence of its citizens

- The xenophobic attack that took place in South Africa in 2008 is not something South Africans are proud about. But it has been widely reported that the police were complacent in some areas where foreigners were killed. Any police officer who has taking the oath of office to protect all citizens should not allow these type of attack to happen under their watch.

- Conference, the construction and branding of immigrants as responsible for economic our predicament is not a new phenomenon.
- The labelling of immigrants as “economic migrant” is very misleading , although this has become a vote winning political parties slogan in major western countries of the world.

- The police are trapped in arena of public opinion. Get rid of all immigrants our economy will be strong again. The police are human beings and are microcosm of the wider society. What you here sometimes from the police in South Africa is “what do you want me to do” a state of denial and helplessness that xenophobia is a trivial issue.

- We cannot talk about community policing when a section of society is discriminated against, marginalised and not protected by the law.
- Community policing can only succeed where there is a social cohesion and understanding by all members of society.

- South Africa is a beautiful country with a promising democracy that needs to be guarded. The South Africa must first set its house in order by getting rid of corrupt officers who hide behind the uniform. A failure to do so will lead to a lost in police legitimacy to serve and protect the people of South Africa

Practical solutions

- * Pay and salary for officers needs to be reviewed
- * Selection process needs to be more rigorous ensuring that police recruits and senior are properly screen to ascertained credit checks, past history, residential checks, etc.
- * Tougher sentences for corrupt officers
- * Public reassurance of policing
- * Reinstating the values of community policing
- * Assets freezing and confiscation

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