



**Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement
Western Cape Provincial Parliament
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT TO
THE MILNERTON POLICE STATION CONDUCTED ON 22 FEBRUARY 2017**

The Standing Committee on Community Safety, having conducted an oversight visit to the Milnerton Police Station on 22 February 2017, reports as follows:

The Committee as part of its oversight mandate and in complying with the Committee Programme, resolved to undertake an oversight visit to the Milnerton Police Station, hereafter Milnerton South African Police Service (SAPS). The Committee undertook this visit in order to gain a better understanding of the functions, successes and challenges of the Police Station.

The Delegation

The delegation of the Standing Committee on Community Safety included the following Members:

Ms MM Wenger (DA) (Chairperson and leader of the delegation)

Mr FC Christians (ACDP)

Ms TM Dijana (ANC)

Ms PZ Lekker (ANC)

Mr DG Mitchell (DA)

The following parliamentary official accompanied the delegation:

Mr W Matthews, Committee Co-ordinator

Apology

An apology was rendered on behalf of Mr BD Kivedo (DA).

See Annexure A for a list of persons in attendance.

1. Welcome

There were brief introductions by all present. The Chairperson provided a context for the visit. The Station Commander, Brigadier BM Stander, led the presentation.

2 Presentation by Police Station

2.1 Key findings pertaining to the geographical policing area

The Milnerton SAPS polices four sectors which spans 28km². Sector 2 includes Dunoon and Killarney Gardens. Sector 3 consists of Milnerton, Milnerton Ridge, Lagoon Beach, Woodbridge Island, Sunset Beach, Brooklyn and Rugby. Areas in Sector 4 include Sanddrift, Summer Greens, Century City and Tijgerhof. Sector 5 consists of Joe Slovo, Phoenix and Montague Gardens. There is no Sector One following the reduction of the precinct from five to four sectors.

Brig Stander stated that the population, based on Census 2011 figures, is approximately 88 529 with a current estimation of 94 482. There are 18 schools in the precinct and 12 informal settlements. In terms of public transport points, there are three taxi ranks.

Each sector is patrolled 24/7 with an allocation of at least one vehicle per sector per shift. He added that most of the Station's resources are often allocated to the Dunoon and Joe Slovo areas.

2.2 Key findings pertaining to Domestic Violence related crimes and Victim Support

According to Brig Stander, Domestic Violence related cases account for as much as 30% of the overall crimes in the Milnerton precinct. The Milnerton SAPS conducted 299 awareness campaigns during 2016

with approximately 10 campaigns scheduled before the end of March 2017. The awareness campaigns address issues related to domestic violence projects, crime against women and children, substance abuse, sexual offences, community safety and school safety. Brig Stander reported that all 18 schools in the precinct are linked to the Milnerton SAPS. He added however, that the partnerships with all these schools need more consistency.

There is one volunteer and one social worker on duty during office times. The Station's victim support database contains 20 trained volunteers, who are on 24 hour standby. The current social worker will be leaving to Woodstock SAPS station; however there should be a replacement. An organisation known as Community Intervention Centre provides assistance to victims who have experienced traumatic and crisis situations. The support includes home visits to those affected by traumatic experiences, and the services are available to areas in the Milnerton precinct.

2.3 Key findings pertaining to Drug and Gang related crimes

Brig Stander reported that the hotspot areas for drug related crimes are Brooklyn, Joe Slovo and Dunoon. In order to combat the crime in these areas, the Milnerton SAPS has partnerships with various religious structures, most notably churches, as well as with Neighbourhood Watches (NHWs). Over weekends, SAPS officers are assigned to assist NHWs that patrol in these areas, particularly Dunoon, given that it is a densely populated area.

Crimes linked to foreign nationals are more common in the Brooklyn and Rugby areas. Brig Stander stated that there needs to be better law enforcement of by-laws in respect of dealing with derelict buildings as these buildings are often hotspot areas for various criminal activities.

According to Col A Els of the SAPS Crime Intelligence division, conviction rates for alleged offenders of drug related crimes are generally high. However, several cases are dismissed where the alleged perpetrators are not found in possession of drugs and as a result they are not convicted.

Brig Stander reported that there are not enough registered crime informants for especially hotspot areas in the precinct as the members of the public generally fear for their safety.

2.4 Key findings pertaining to Staffing Structure

The Milnerton SAPS has a total of 264 granted posts of which 233 are currently filled. The Visible Policing (VISPOL) unit has 133 of the 136 granted posts filled, the Detection unit has 49 of the 66 granted posts filled and the support staff has 53 of the 66 granted posts filled. Figure 1 below reflects the staffing structure since 2010 until January 2017. The Station Commander holds the rank of Brigadier whereas the VISPOL Commander, the Detection Commander and the Support Head, are all Colonels. Brig Stander reported that the 10 students based at the station might be re-allocated to other stations.

	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
	JAN	JAN	JAN	JAN	JAN	JAN	JAN
VISPOL	129	117	118	105	101	111	131
DETECTIVES	48	47	47	48	44	39	49
SUPPORT	47	44	49	47	48	51	53
TOTALS	224	208	214	200	193	201	233

Figure 1 Milnerton SAPS Staffing Structure as at January 2017

number of officers deployed to other areas is not determined by the Milnerton SAPS but by its line function. Presently 28 officers from the Station are on duty arrangements at other stations or units. In terms of vehicle fleet, there are 18 allocated to the VISPOL Unit and 22 to the Detection Unit. The number for vehicles booked in for maintenance and repair fluctuates. In terms of police reservists, there have been no new applications. None of the seven reservists currently registered at the Station are active.

3. The Department of Community Safety input

Mr L Brown represented the Department of Community Safety and reported on the Milnerton SAPS' compliance to the Domestic Violence Act register, also referred to as the DVA. He stated that during public engagement in the precinct in September 2016, domestic violence related crime was highlighted as very problematic. He also indicated that following an audit of the Milnerton SAPS on its DVA compliance, it was found that the Station was compliant. He added that there is a need for the Community Police Forum (CPF) to build sustainable partnerships with relevant role players. He stated though that this need for sustainable partnerships is not unique to the Milnerton precinct but a pervasive need for CPFs.

4. Community Police Forum input

The Chairperson of Milnerton CPF, Ms L Lippert, reported that the CPF is compliant with the Expanded Partnership Programme (EPP). She stated that there are some difficulties though in submitting the online spreadsheets. Ms Lippert informed the Committee that due to most resources being allocated to the Dunoon and Joe Slovo areas, there is a lack of VISPOL officers in other areas across the precinct.

5. Inspection of the Police Station

The Committee inspected the holding cells, the Victim Support Room as well as the Community Service Centre.

6. Acknowledgements

The Chairperson thanked Brig Stander, his staff, Ms Lippert of the Milnerton CPF and Mr Brown of the Department of Community Safety, for their respective input during the oversight visit.



MS MM WENGER, MPP

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

ANNEXURE A



WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
 STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY
ATTENDANCE REGISTER FOR DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS
 AND VISITORS

Date: Wednesday, 22 February 2017
 Venue: Milnerton SAPS

NAME AND SURNAME	DESIGNATION/RANK/POSITION	DEPARTMENT/ORGANISATION	CONTACT NO	EMAIL ADDRESS
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