

PPS Stop Farm Murder and Stock Theft

"March Copy"

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Dated: 10/10/2023

MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER OF POLICE

SUBJECT: The protection of farming communities and safeguarding of communities in rural areas of the North West Province Brits area, and the SAPS not having proper resources to enable them to assist the community.

ISSUE: The farming communities in rural areas are under attack and left vulnerable for criminals and attackers get the overhand to ransack properties of private individual as there is no attendance of police in these cases and cases of attacks escalate in this area.

BACKGROUND:

The Honorable President of South Africa does acknowledge that farm murders and attacks occur in SA and even deny it exist. A recent questioning session in parliament when the President was asked to address the concern of the increasing of farmers under attack, he disregards and disrespect the life of people by commenting "what about people that died under apartheid". It is a total and blatant disregard for human lives as is infringed in the Constitution of SA section 11. " Life-everyone has the right to live". This statement gives the impression that it is acceptable for criminals to attack farmers and their workers as it is a



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“revenge” for the injustice of the previous regime. This memo serves as a reminder that there was the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation committee that addressed the

injustice of the past and its aim was for South Africans to move forward in a democratic dispensation where the rights of every citizen is protected (including farmers and farm

workers).

A second point of concern in a press statement the Honorable minister of Police

acknowledged that 7000 cops were arrested in the last five years of only which 680 was

found guilty. There were also incidents whereby police officers were alleged in farm attacks.

In that statement you promised to improve and cover the ground especially in intelligence

and overall, the better coordination of intelligence of the specialized units and better

deployment to hotspots. There is a culture created within the police that committing crime

is acceptable.

A third point of concern is the slow pace whereby crime is investigated, committed against

farmers. A recent report dated 12/09/2023 from Afriforum stated that 95 % of crime

against farmers are not investigated. “Out of the 1 402 farm attacks and farm murder

incidents recorded by the South African Police Service (SAPS) in the past four years (from

2019 to 2022), convictions have so far been made in only 66 cases. This means that more

than 95% of all these atrocities are still unsolved. These and other shocking figures

regarding the arrest and prosecution of suspects involved in farm attacks and farm murder

incidents that took place from 2019 to 2022 are contained in an Afriforum report that was

released today during a media conference in Pretoria.” This is poor/deliberate lack of

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investigation by the police.

A fourth point of concern is that lives of Chinese are more valuable than these of ordinary

South African citizens. More is done to protect Chinese nationalities than South Africans

that pay tax and has the right to be protected according to the Constitution of SA "section

205 (3) which stipulates the object is to prevent, combat and investigate crime to maintain

public order, to protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and THEIR property and

to uphold and enforce the law." It is alleged that 13 Chinese police station exists in South

Africa, but ordinary South Africans lives does not matter.

A fifth point of concern is that there is an excuse from police officials that they cannot

attend to crime scenes or response to crime as it happens due to unavailability of vehicles.

While there is R100 million rand of police vehicles that were bought by the SAPS Crime

Intelligent Unit but never collected. There is a mismanage of funds and lack of priorities by

your department concerning availability of resources.

A sixth point of concern is the poor manning of emergency call Centre number 10111 which

results in poor / no response from the police. There is a no caring attitude from your

department to conduct their duties to "servamus et servimus" we protect and we serve.

Also there is a very big problem reaching the different SAPS stations for assistance as there

is either no answer or lines are down.

That slogan is almost "non-existing" at the moment.

A seventh point of concern is the alleged almost 20 000 hand weapons that is reported

missing and millions of rounds of ammunition that is not recovered nor investigated. This

while police members are also involved in crime syndicates as your honorable minister had

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acknowledged. Is there a special task team that investigated these losses and held culprits accountable for the gross negligence?

An eight point of concern is whereby victims of crime in rural areas were arrested when apprehend criminals that allegedly involved in stock theft. Alleged criminals were released and victims were arrested. This create a culture whereby victims are afraid to conduct civil arrest and send out a message to criminals that they can continue their crime without the fear of the powers of civil arrests.

A ninth point of concern is the failing of the police national rural safety strategy that was implemented but no evidence of success in the Brits area. More transparency is needed to implement the success thereof. Can the minister communicate any success of it as crime in rural areas are not under control and rural safety is of high concern as farmers in the Free State is allegedly selling their life stock to leave the agricultural business. Although some successes are reached, sustainable protection and law enforcement needs to be implemented in order for farmers not to leave the agricultural environment because of stock theft. It will jeopardize food security and availability of meat produce in South Africa.

The tenth point of concern is the insensitivity towards victims of crime by you Honorable Minister and some of your colleagues in the police. The DA report on 02 August 2022 the following, that you said on national television that a 19-year-old was lucky to be raped by one man while other were raped by 10 men. The DA Shadow Deputy Minister of Women, Youth and people with disabilities called for your resignation. It was alleged that you were referring to the rape of 8 women in Krugersdorp. We want to remind you Minister that you

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lay down a oath under section 243 (5) schedule 2 page 85 of the Constitution of South Africa 108 of 1996. You are appointed to serve the citizens with dignity and respect and not disrespect victims of crime. Remember the preamble of the South African Police Service act 68 of 1995.

“ AND WHEREAS there is a need to provide a police service throughout the national territory to - (a) ensure the safety and security of all persons and property in the national territory; (b) uphold and safeguard the fundamental rights of every person as guaranteed by Chapter 3 of the Constitution; (c) ensure co-operation between the Service and the communities it serves in the combating of crime; (d) reflect respect for victims of crime and an understanding of their needs; and (e) ensure effective civilian supervision over the Service;

ACTIONS: (CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS)

1. We as activist standing up for the rights for the protection of our farmers and farmworkers in rural areas request a confession from the Honorable President and you Minister that farm murders do occur and an apology to the families of victims and an acknowledgement from Executive members from the State that crime is out of control. In a civilized society if you want respect is needs to be earned. Honorable Minister if you can not acknowledge a problem or concern, how is it possible to address it.

2. The act 68 of 1995 makes provision for Reserve Police without compensation,
3. “48. (i) The National Commissioner may determine the requirements for recruitment, resignation, training, ranks, promotion, duties and nature of service, discipline, uniform, equipment and conditions of service of members of the Reserve



- Police Service and any other matter which he or she deems necessary in order to establish and maintain different categories of members of the Reserve Police Service." We humble request your co-operation to re-instate the Reserve Police and to gather information about the details of Reserve Police members to ensure the availability, trained, screened and deployed operations in "hot-spot" areas where there is a shortage of "standing force" members. Police reservist is also another availability of voluntary members. It is unacceptable honorable Minister to say that you don't have sufficient man power if the act accommodates for this problem. Reservist can be trained, briefed, screened and then deployed to critical areas without any compensation. No members with previous convictions should be considered.
4. The act 68 of 1995 also makes provision for the implementing of "Establishment of area community police boards
5. Section 20. (1) A Provincial Commissioner shall, subject to the directions of the member of the Executive Council, be responsible for establishing area community police boards in all areas within the province. 40 (2) An area community police board shall, subject to subsection (3), consist of representatives of community police forums in the area concerned designated for that purpose by such community police forums.
- (3) Subject to section 23 (1) (b), the area commissioner and the members designated by him or her from time to time for that purpose, shall be members of the area community 45 police board concerned. "
6. The act provides for the following as well in section 22, Functions of Forums and Boards. (2) The Minister shall, in consultation with the executive coordinating committee, make regulations to ensure the proper functioning of community police

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7. The immense speedup of investigation on outstanding dockets under investigation, to bring a closure to victims of crime. 95% of dockets OUTSTANDING on farm RELATED attacks is not acceptable. The Directorate of the Police Service do outstanding work and investigation officers should be disciplined who are deliberately dragging feet with investigation of crime.
8. To patriotically transfer the "visible policing" in the hands of civilians that is capable and trained to do so by bringing back the "commando" system in conjunction with the SAPD. It was an effective system that was abolished by former Minister of Defense Mr. Lekota. This will result in criminals being arrested on the spot. No compensation will be paid as it will be voluntary service by members of the public with uniform so that they can be identified.
9. We as activists also humble request the disclosure of contact details of the foreign ministers and ministers of agriculture of BRICS nations to elaborate and communicate with them on issues concerning rural safety and obtaining information about safe guarding of rural communities and farming communities in irrespective countries.
10. We as activists also humble request feedback on incidents regarding arrest of victims of crime and the reason for the released of alleged perpetrators. It is in the interest of justice and human rights that victims should not be treated as criminals without any bias.
11. It is in the interest of justice that we humble request feedback/report on lost or

stolen police weapons and ammunition.

12. We humbly request an accountable system that is transparent and proper manned

of emergency number. Victims need to be assisted and have an receptive ear to call

in case of an emergency call. None complaint officers should be held accountable

and be disciplined if found neglecting the people of South Africa.

13. Victims are often left with nothing or no one to turn to. We humble request a task

team to assist victims of rural and farm attacks where the state failed to prevent

crime or lack of interest to safeguard them. Funding should be done to restore

victims of crime for emotional / material lost. They should be incorporated in the

National Disaster funds as crime is now a "national disaster" that could have been

prevent by proper policing and law enforcement. The Constitution of South Africa

makes it clear what the functionality of the police is terms of safeguarding

communities in section. "205. Police service. --(1) The national police service must be

structured to function in the national, provincial and, where appropriate, local

spheres of government. (2) National legislation must establish the powers and

functions of the police service and must enable the police service to discharge its

responsibilities effectively, taking into account the requirements of the provinces. (3)

The objects of the police service are to prevent, combat and investigate crime, to

maintain public order, to protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and

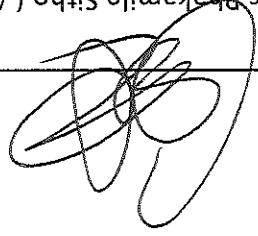
their property, and to uphold and enforce the law". Failing the people of South

Africa, need mandatory compensation. If the Road Accident fund can refund victims of
motor accidents, then the Member of parliament should compensate and draft an


act to compensate victims of crime too.

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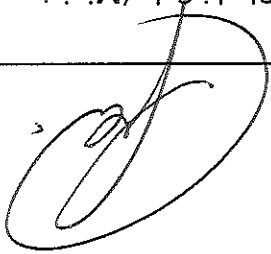
We Petrus Phakamile Sitho and Adrie Fernandez thank you for your attendance and accepting our memorandum on behalf of the victims of farm/agricultural environment attacks.

Petrus Phakamile Sitho (Activist)

 SIGNATURE _____
 DATE 20/10/2023

I Adrie Fernandez thank you for your attendance and accepting our memorandum on behalf of the victims of farm/agricultural environment attacks.

Adrie Fernandez (Activist)

 SIGNATURE _____
 DATE 10-10-2023

RECEIVED MEMORANDUM FOR ACTION BY HONORABLE MINISTER BEKE CELE.

Mr. Bheki Cele (Minister of South African Police Services)

 SIGNATURE _____
 DATE 15/11/2023

