



**Report: Mpumalanga Police Station**

**25/02/20**

<b>Police Station Details</b>	
<b>Name of Police Station</b>	<b>Mpumalanga Police Station</b>
<b>Name of Municipality</b>	<b>Durban Metro</b>
<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Colonel Nkomo</b>

**Background, objectives and purpose of the visits**

The report seeks to source out information on the functionality of the police station as to evaluate and assess whether there is efficient and effective policing taking place at Hammarsdale/ Mpumalanga police station. In line with the approved annual oversight plan (AOP) the Committee for Community Safety and Liaison Portfolio Committee was tasked to conduct an oversight visit at Hammarsdale/ Mpumalanga police station as an activity of the Portfolio Committee in executing its oversight mandate over the Department of Community Safety and Liaison (CSL).

The aims of the oversight visit were to:

- Evaluate and assess on the functioning of police station.

- Explore issues related to infrastructure, tools of trade, human resources and the general working environment.
- Ultimately, the visit aimed to ensure that effective and efficient policing is taking place in the community.

#### **Mpumalanga Police Station- Presentation by the station Commander - Colonel Nkomo**

- The Commander reported that they will be applying for satellite station. The Community Service Center is functioning as mobile whilst waiting for the approval. The resignation to be implemented will result in the station left with 1 CSC commander. The Nombokazi satellite station was reported too far, not easily assessible. The available day shift 6 police can cover minimal policing and it's a challenge. There are major problems emanated stock theft as the area rural. The station was reported to has 117 members of those only 8 detached to the cluster services.

#### **Mpumalanga Police Station- CPF**

The Chairperson of Community Police Forum Mr. Mpanza tabled the following challenges that the station is currently facing. He noted and appreciated the work conducted by the SAPS at this station taking into consideration of shortage the man power. And tabled the following points:

- He reported that station has a shortage of vehicles, which affect the community negatively in the fight against crime.
- The station requires an infrastructural upgraded as a matter of urgently, as this affects service delivery.
- The area of policing has many developments around the community and the police are required to be more visible.
- The station has no visible signage which indicates the location of the station.
- The CPF structure is also reported to be hands on even in the maintenance and ensuring the grounds are cleaned, cutting of trees and maintain an overall clean environment.

- The Community Policing Forum requires training and workshop on judicial system and its function and what the role of the Community Police Forum, also some members are illiterate and need to be assisted.
- When the recruitment processes occur, the SAPS should consider the internal structure such as youth desk to assist in the fighting of crime as they are mostly involved in the crime.
- Crime stats have increased when checking the statistics of this station and cases have increased.

#### **Crime background on the station**

- Murder, taxi violence and drug related crimes.
- The station however did note that as an intervention all those cases are now investigated by the province.
- Drug issues are mainly contributed by the area called George Dale, where many criminal activities occur. As an intervention to address the OCC members deployed 16 members allocated to the station.
- It was reported that this intervention has assisted and the other place which requires the same strategy is the mini town area at the mall.
- There are people that have been arrested when applying this strategy.
- It was reported that the station has a progressive relationship with the community. The ward Councilor has partnered jointly to assist in the fight against crime and have created a crime prevention group. A cellphone number line has been created to allow people to report crime in confidence, hence one of the crimes was facilitated through that process.
- It was reported that there are many resignations at the station due to age and replacement process causes a challenge and affects the already strained manpower allocation.
- The station further noted that they have a drug strategy that was created which is working rehabilitation. A committee was formed and there are progress and meetings to be convened to address those issues around.
- The other problematic area noted was Nsunduzi and Ntshanga which is mainly affected by taxi violence.

- Station reported that they facilitated campaigns conducted at schools and the Community Police Forums is involved during those movements.

## **Hammarsdale Station**

### **Human Resources**

- There is a shortage of resource physical and human resources at the station.
- The area of policing is an urban area, which has a lot of influx of people seek employment and those numbers are not accounted for and only have one van to police the station. This affects the allocation of the station in terms of manpower and the ranking of the station.
- There are lot of development in the area and one of them is Zibuse which is identified a hotspot area. It was noted that most people residing in that area are there mainly for work and don't reside there permanently.
- The station cannot patrol due to the shortage of vans, only one operating 24 hours.
- There are 4-members servicing at the station per shift.
- The station was reported to have opened in 1966 however, currently still operating as a Captain in terms of rank.
- There are no cells at the station and utilizing Mpumalanga Police Station cells.
- The station has only one cleaner when they try to intervene, the report back indicates that they are small station.
- There a two court at the Hammarsdale station and only two members attend court instead of 6.
- The station is left to operate with only two members.
- The station is operating with only a total number of 10 vehicles.

### **Community Policing Forum**

- It was reported that Hammarsdale police station reported to have very vibrant and active members.
- The station has no resources to function effectively.

- The strength of the station does not tally to the demand of catchment area of the station.

### **Crime prevalence**

- Murder, business robberies
- Drugs- in the area, crime intelligence to assist the station.
- George dale and Zibuso are the hotspot areas.

### **Response by Cluster commander**

- Mpumalanga station was identified as one of the hotspot and a concern by the national minister, identified it for drastic intervention and evaluation.
- The station will have to be relooked as well to align and creating a balance on the members.
- Initiative on drugs “drug master plan” provincial joint committee” to assist with addressing the drug issue.
- The commander noted that most of assistance required the province cannot addressing it’s the competence of national.

### **Response Deputy Provincial Commissioner**

The matter will be discussed further and device a way forward on how to assistance this station. Detachment by province (Mpumalanga)of members to George dale, to create an alignment with Hammarsdale. The station profile requires to be standardized. Issues of personnel needs to be considered by the province as recommendation he further noted that there is a need to strengthen the communication to the community and invite all the relevant role players.

## **Recommendation**

- The station profile requires to be standardized and the Issues of personnel needs to be considered by the province SAPS office.
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