

PUBLIC SAFETY AND LIAISON REPORT 2010/2011

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 makes freedom and security an inalienable right for all people within the boundaries of the Republic. In an effort to provide that security government has deemed it fit to provide security services to the citizens.

The South African Police Services in their varying forms provide the necessary security though of course there are rotten apples among them who behave in an untoward manner though the majority of our peace officers deserve the blue they don.

The province is beset by problems yet the police are up to the task.

The report brought to light that some crimes occur in particular areas. Housebreaking tends to be a common phenomenon in towns such as Rustenburg, Brits, Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp, Lichtenburg and even Mmabatho.

Stock theft is common in farming areas with Ventersdorp at the head with other places like Mmabatho, Lichtenburg, Brits, Mogwase, Rustenburg following.

Rustenburg seems to be the Mecca of crime in the province. All efforts have to be mounted to turn this around.

As much as the police should travel to be visible to reduce or do away with crime it is unfortunate that in doing that they end up having exceeded the allocation for transport and thus earn the wrath of the Auditor General. We hope they will strive to strike the balance by keeping crime levels low while also keeping expenditure patterns low.

It has to be borne in mind that the economic situation of people in the country turns them to perpetrators of crime while on the other hand the department is also unable to implement the 24 hour shift system in respect of peace officers similarly because of budgetary constraints.

We in the UCDP would call on the department to hasten educating citizens on the AARTO act. This decade old piece of legislation is lumbering along in the North West while in other provinces it is being experimented on. When people receive tickets of traffic offences they are shown that there is a reduction and a warning on a possible demerit of points. This can prove helpful so that when it does come it should not be introduced *holus bolus* but by degrees.

We have to come out clearly that while there is a decline in farm killings, we categorically state that such crimes should not even be considered in a class of their own. It is despicable to speak and classify such crime in a democracy!

It is as regrettable as it is unfortunate that withstanding efforts by the traffic police to be visible along the N4, this road continues to be the slaughter road of the province. We should equally commend motorists and other road users in the province for keeping accidents down during the Easter weekend. We hope the same will contain even during the forth coming festive season.

While the recent impounding of unroadworthy vehicles is welcome and commended for the good of the passengers the downside thereof is that it results in learners failing to attend or parents not reaching their places of employment. All end up in a catch 22 situation – clean and safe roads but no schooling and work, the result is suffering

We hope a solution will be found as we move forward

The UCDP supports the acceptance of the report