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POLICING Policy:

COPE OPTIONS FOR A NATIONAL SECURITY AND POLICING POLICY

January 2014

1. PREFACE

The institutional foundations of the democratic transition in South Africa is premised on a movement from an authoritarian approach to policing to one that has fundamental respect for the human rights of others. For too long the apartheid police institutions played an active role in governing South Africa. Their role was to keep the policies and practices of the Apartheid government intact. In this sense, policing was political and the institution was thoroughly politicised by the old National Party government. The promise of democracy heralded a new approach to policing in South Africa. The South Africa Police Service was created in 1995 after an amalgamation of eleven police agencies made up from the old homeland Bantustans, the South African Police Force and the liberation movement security sections. With the onset of democracy in 1994, the role of the old police was overtaken by the democratic unfolding with freedom. Gone forever was the repressive role that the police was expected to play under apartheid.

Sixteen years into the new democracy, the new role the police as defenders of the democratic constitution is under threat. Policing in South Africa is in the throes



of a moral crisis that threatens the very basis of democracy.

2. Background

Since 1994, South Africa has seen the appointment of a functional police officer appointed as head of the SAPS. General Johann Van Der Merwe was the first SAP Commissioner under a new democratic government and George Fivaz was the first Commissioner of Police under the new Police Act which was finalised in 1995. Both were drawn from the ranks of the SAPS. Jackie Selebi became the first civilian appointed to become Commissioner in the SAPS. He was followed by Tim Williams who acted as police chief. Selebi was eventually dismissed and General Bheki Cele was appointed by President Jacob Zuma. He too, was dismissed and followed by General Riah Phiyega as National Commissioner of Police.

Institutionally, SAPS finds itself in a profound crisis with allegations of corruption, nepotism, involvement in political factions in the ruling party and the implosion of the senior management structure. The Crime Intelligence Division in particular has seen a near complete breakdown of its legitimacy with its former head being charged with numerous offences. The crisis faced by SAPS has consequences for other sections of the criminal justice system, particularly its efficacy and legitimacy.

Lastly, the events at the Lonmin Mine in Marikana where 44 people were killed, 34 as a result of police opening fire on protesting mineworkers, served only to emphasize the depth of the crisis facing policing. The approach of SAPS to the public order strike served only to underline the absolute crisis in training, management and control of the SAPS.

This policy serves to provide a new vision and approach for policing in a democratic South Africa which will take the police into the 21st century with confidence. It spells out our orientation on how COPE will deal with policing and the criminal justice system if it should emerge as the government.

2.1 Legislation

The following pieces of legislation are relevant to this policy:

- The Republic of South Africa Constitution (108 of 1996) as amended
- SAPS Act 68 of 1995 (as amended)
- Inter-governmental Relations Framework Act
- Correctional Services Act (111 of 1998)
- Correctional Service Regulations 2004 as amended 2012
- White Paper on Correctional Services (2012)
- Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977) as amended
- Judicial Service Commission Act, 1994 (Act 9 of 1994)
- Justice Laws Rationalisation Act, 1996 (Act 18 of 1996)
- Magistrates Act, 1993 (Act 90 of 1993)
- Judicial Matters Amendment Act, 1995 (Act 85 of 1995)

3. The State of Crime in South Africa

Crime has for long dominated the social and political landscape in South Africa because of its violent character and our violent past. Violent crimes such as murder and serious assault has created inter-generational trauma for many families in South Africa.



Murder and other crimes against South Africans undermine the democratic dispensation and the Constitution through clamour for stricter laws. These are populist calls and this policy will take a considered approach to dealing with matters affecting the safety and security of all citizens.

The reality is that during the last decade, all indications are that serious and violent crime is making a downward spiral, including murder. Some provinces have particular forms of crime that differs from others. The Northern provinces such as Gauteng, Limpopo and North West have a problem with Trio Crimes, which include house robberies, hijackings and armed robberies. The Western Cape crime profile shows that gangs and drugs are major problems while provinces such as the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal have stock theft problems.

A cursory look at the crime stats shows us the main emerging trends of crime in the country since 1995.

3.1 Violent Crime since 2003/04

With exception of sexual offences, South Africa's crime rate is showing consistent decreases, but remains unacceptably high. There are many other categories of crime that have also shown steady decreases in crime rates, but the point is that when compared internationally, remain extremely high and unacceptable as a young democracy. In particular sexual offences which include rape and child abuse are completely unacceptable and must be arrested.

Finding the source of managing the problem relates to the institutional capacity of the state to develop the capacity to fight crime. This is directly attributable to the manner in which policing is developing and is

managed in the country. As already indicated, we need to address the inconsistencies in policing throughout the country by examining the policing institutions that provide services to communities and citizens throughout South Africa.

Any new policy must talk to these developments and find ways of dealing with these matters.

4. State of Policing in South Africa

According to section 205 (3) of the Constitution, the mandate of the South African Police Service is to:

- To protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property
- To maintain public order
- To uphold and enforce the law
- To combat and investigate crime
- To prevent crime

Policing occurs at three levels within the country. The SAPS is a national competency and is a unitary structure that operates at the national, provincial and local levels. Chapter 12, section 64A to 64Q, of the South African Police Services Act (as amended), 68 of 1995 provide for municipal policing. According to the Act, metro or municipal police are expected to:

- Police traffic law enforcement
- Police By-Laws
- Do crime prevention

Central to any understanding of policing is an acute awareness of the crises that the police face. The management of SAPS is in deep crisis and SAPS have not been able to effectively deal with a number of crisis that have permeated the landscape. These are the growth in service delivery protest, crime intelligence



and the problems of corruption facing the senior management. It is clear that the police are in the throes of being drawn back into the role it occupied prior to the political transformation.

There are a number of indicators that the current government, by not being able to respond effectively to service delivery protests, has allowed the police to replace its political obligations by meeting political resistance and dissent through violent means. Firstly, a COPE government will not allow such a role reversal to take place. It is clear that after the demilitarization that took place in 1994, has been replaced by a re-militarization of SAPS. It has placed SAPS on a war footing with its own people. This despite the fact that the violent crimes appear to be decreasing.

Secondly, senior managers within SAPS have become involved in disputes with each other through their support and involvement with the Ruling Party. The events at Crime Intelligence and the Mdluli affair bear witness to these issues.

Thirdly, the police appear to have lost legitimacy in the eyes of ordinary South Africans due to the brutality displayed by certain of their units, such as the Tactical Response Team (TRT) and the National Intervention Unit. The legitimacy issue has been exacerbated by the allegations of corruption that was made against the former national commissioners Jackie Selebi and Bheki Cele. Selebi was convicted of corruption as head of SAPS (and Interpol) while Bheki Cele was relieved of his post and duties after the Public Protector found him guilty of maladministration when he dealt with the police head-office lease saga.

Lastly, the Marikana shootings have confirmed the leadership crisis in SAPS and appear to cemented the public distrust in the police and lots of work now has to be done to repair the damage caused by police actions.

4.1 Back to Kragdadige Policing

To compound the problem, there are clear indications that the current ANC government has shifted rightward in their approach to policing. This is really a kragdadige approach to policing which have been witnessed with the Apartheid Police. In the 2007 Polokwane conference, the ruling party delivered a resolution calling for a single police service. The intended amalgamation of the SAPS and the Metro police spells danger for all South Africans because it clearly aims at consolidating policing resources into a single, powerful agency. When there is such an amalgamation, it creates problems for ordinary citizens because it concentrates power into higher echelons of the leadership structure. Currently the diversity in approach between Metro and SAPS policing creates competition and the public can only benefit from such an approach.

5. Features of the rightward shift of the state

The defining features of the state have been its ability to retain a democratic cloak immediately after 1994. The Constitution, the separation of powers in the three levels of government, a free press and an independent judiciary were all important hallmarks of democracy at work. However, there are clear indications that the current government is undoing all those gains because it is politically expedient to protect those in its midst who have made themselves guilty of corruption. What we see is a steady erosion of those institutions meant



to protect the democracy by this government taking a sharper rightward shift to protect its own interest. This is dangerous for the country because it leads to the undoing of the democratic institutions. The militarization of the SAPS, the tinkering with press freedom in the information bill, the move to make judges accountable to the Ministry and Department of Justice, all smacks of political opportunism and a clear rightward shift. These moves all erode the fundamental tenets of democracy which was hard fought and long won rights.

5.1 Remilitarization of SAPS

As part of the approach of the new commissioner's approach of getting tough on crime, SAPS have been remilitarized in 2010 with a new rank structure which essentially is the old SAP rank structure dressed up as a new one. The changes to the rank structure were meant to encourage and re-instill discipline in SAPS. Included in the changes were salutations for senior officers from juniors, new protocols and forms of address which was complemented by language exhorting police members of being 'tough on criminals' and 'shoot to kill'. Included in the changes was the creation of the Tactical Response Teams (TRT) which was meant to deal with situations which have escalated to violent confrontations. The TRT is a unit that has been created which South Africa just cannot afford.

This has had disastrous consequences for the police institution. Police officers have been responsible for more deaths since the militarization and the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) are already reporting that the deaths as a result of police actions have increased. The militarization of the police has also allowed junior officers to disrespect the rights

of suspects and accused persons. Violations of people's human rights have taken place under the "new approach".

The old apartheid policing approach was demilitarised precisely because of its intolerable abuses that was committed in its name. After several cases of abuse by the old police (they were involved in bombings, kidnapping, assaults and assassinations) the old SAPS was demilitarised, including their rank structure.

Under this democratic government, we now have a situation where the police have been remilitarised and are increasing been drawn into the political agenda of the Ruling Party. This is a dangerous development because as a liberated people we require the police to be a professional organisation that is loyal to the country's Constitution. The police cannot and should be used to resolve political problems through the use of force. Recently we have seen the police being drawn into such deadlocks where the Ruling Party is not able to deal with its failure to provide services at local and provincial government levels. This has led to thousands of service delivery protests throughout the country. The police are drawn into resolving a political deadlock through force. The Marikana killings are another case in point. When governments instructs the police to become involved in forcefully resolving political problems then we will have a politicised policing agency as SAPS have become under the current government.

5.2 Centralisation of Policing

The Metro Police has been established in five metropolitan municipalities: Ekurhuleni, Durban, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Tshwane. The Swartland has established a municipal police department. Metro



policing provides the county with a different array of policing services at municipal. The responsibility of the Metro/municipal police is to enforce bylaws; police traffic violations and to conduct crime prevention. The current government intends to integrate Metro police with the SAPS to create a single police agency. These moves points toward a centralisation of policing and it does not augur well for our young democracy. COPE believe that the Metro police has played a crucial role as a force multiplier in operations with the SAPS. Our understanding is that Metro policing does have some problems when it comes to discipline, impact and delivery of services. What we have witnessed from Metro police officers has been a disjointed approach when it comes to policing public order events. Metro police and SAPS officers have responded differently to the public service delivery protests that have struck the country. It is our firm opinion that these approaches from Metro police officers have to work from the same professional approach when it comes to crowd management. There are dire consequences for its inability to professionally manage crowds in particular. There have also been allegations of brutality against Metro police officials. At the very least, Metro police officials must all undergo the same training with respect to crowd control management.

While we have our reservations about the efficacy of the Metro police, we have no illusions that the impending merger with SAPS only spells bad news and a return to authoritarian forms of policing. Centralisation of policing will only encourage greater abuses of human rights of suspects and lead to greater levels of distrust and fear of the police. We require a very strong foundation of respect for human rights and the agencies that are meant to protect those rights cannot be found wanting when doing that. We can ill-

afford such an approach. COPE endeavours to resist the centralisation of policing into a single police agency.

6. Holding Government to Account

6.1 Strengthen the role of the MEC's

It is important, that through civil society and political opposition, that government is held accountable for its actions. There are a number of ways that this can be done. In view of the fact that we are a constitutional democracy, COPE believes that we have to fulfill our role as an opposition that holds government accountable for its actions. COPE believes that it is important that the accountability of government be improved through oversight.

A COPE government will see a greater level of oversight responsibility placed in the hands of the MEC's when it comes to the provision of safety for all people. Currently the policy for police is determined by the Minister of Police after consultation with the MEC's. This does not allow for greater oversight because the Minister currently alone determines policing policy. We are of the opinion that this must change and that MEC's must have a greater say provincially when it comes to the oversight of policing in the provinces.

6.2 Accountability to the Legislature

As indicated earlier, a COPE government will see to it that there is greater accountability to the national and provincial legislatures. It is our firm belief that the police as an institution should be held accountable for their actions. Making sure that the Minister and MEC's



as well as heads of departments report to the legislature is a necessary and critical step towards thorough oversight of departments. In this respect, COPE will consider amending legislation to give MEC's a greater say over the provincial police priorities.

6.3 Demilitarize the Police

In view of the undemocratic manner in which the previous Commissioner and Minister Mthethwa militarised the police, a COPE government will clearly reverse this approach and de-militarise the police. The intention of the police to reinstall discipline clearly has not worked because it created bigger problems with command and control in SAPS. It is our firm belief that militarisation of SAPS have only created bigger disciplinary and accountability problems within SAPS. The war talk from SAPS leaders must be stopped as this has only given rise to a more determined core of criminals. Such talk also has the unintended consequence of criminalising large sections of the population, as we have seen with migrants from other African countries. Police should ultimately be seen as Peace-Builders if they want to win the trust of the people of South Africa. We have to move the police away from war-talk because it only serves to create an enabling environment in which police abuse and excesses takes place.

6.4 Training of Police

A lot more need to invested into the training of police. Police detectives are not effective when it comes to investigations of crime. They lag behind criminals committing cybercrime because they work from archaic systems which require upgrading to keep up with the latest technological developments. In addition, training for detectives has seen that few detectives

have been trained in the recent pieces of legislation such as the Child Justice and Children's Acts.

Out of a total of 21000 detectives, over 4000 have not undergone the basic detectives training course. This is an indictment on the management of SAPS and indicates that huge investment and spending priorities for the police must take place. In addition specialised police units working on women and children must receive more resources and communication devices. Computers and mobile-phones are a necessity for investigators and currently there is a critical shortage of equipment and vitally needed resources for investigators.

A COPE government would make available to detectives the necessary equipment and tools of the trade to effectively deal with crime.

In addition, investigation of certain crimes such as violent, cyber and commercial crime require specialised skills. A special effort must therefore be made to create specialised training course for detectives investigating such crimes. The more specialised training is made available, the greater the opportunity for succeeding against criminals.

In addition, the Directorate of Priority Crimes Investigation (DPCI) would also be decoupled from the police as it is required to investigate corruption which has become insidious inside the South African Criminal Justice System. Specialised training to members of the DPCI will become a necessity and agreements will be entered into with other countries to exchange skills and expertise as far as organised crime and corruption is concerned.



6.5 Community Police Forums

There are 1117 community forums in the country attached to police stations. These structured are legislated for in the South African Police Service Act. According to the chapter 7, section 18 of the SAPS Act 68 of 1995, the functions of community police forums are to:

- establishing and maintaining a partnership between the community and the Service;
- promoting communication between the Service and the community;
- promoting co-operation between the Service and the community in fulfilling the needs of the community regarding policing;
- 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; and
- promoting joint problem identification and problem-solving by the Service and the community.

However, there are serious problems with community policing around the country. The development Community Policing Forums (CPF's) around the country have been uneven and combined. In the deep rural areas in particular, there are signs that the CPF's are not working as well as it should. Secondly in urban areas, there is competition amongst leaders of the CPF's as many of the leaders use it to launch political careers. In this respect CPFs area also not playing their role when it comes to crime prevention and assisting the SAPS. Lastly, may station commissioner's use CPF's for their own purposes,

especially when they need promotions and need to deal with certain of their colleagues in management.

Other problem that has beset the CPF is their relationship with other organisations in the community and how they deal with programmes to fight crime. Very few CPF's have real programmes in the communities to fight crime. This is because many of the CPF's are not well resourced. Provincially and nationally, provinces are doing their own thing with some provinces paying for the administration of the CPF activities, meetings etc. Other provinces do not become involved with running the CPF's. According to S6 (2) (c) (vii) of the new Civilian Secretariat for Police Act, 2 of 2011, the Secretariat must:

- develop frameworks and strategies to ensure uniformity, accountability and enhancement of community police fora and associated structures

This places a responsibility on the Civilian Secretariat for making sure that CPF's are accountable, but does not give it responsibility for initiating and establishing CPF's. In terms of the SAPS act, that responsibility still rests with SAPS.

Trust Building is Peace Building

If SAPS really want to win back the trust of the communities, then it has to actively engage in conflict resolution and other peace building approaches in order to restore the trust and confidence that people once had in the new South African Police Service. That means that SAPS has to become involved with communities and invite the civil society organisations back into training the police. It would provide a signal to the broader South African public that SAPS is embarking on a change process that cannot be turned



back. Therefore all police stations must play a significant role in defusing tensions within communities because if it is not dealt with, crime is the result.

6.6 Community Safety Forums

Community Safety Forums (CSF's) have been resuscitated by the Civilian Secretariat. In terms of the policy, CSF's are meant to:

- Provide a local social crime prevention capacity
- Conduct a safety audit and develop a Local Crime Prevention Strategy and Plan (LCPS).
- Facilitate linkages of the LCPS with municipal Integrated Development Plans.
- Oversee/ manage /monitor and evaluate the implementation of LCPS programmes or projects.

These structures are crucial for work across the criminal justice cluster because the police cannot do it on their own. However, these structures have not been rolled out and the draft policy does not speak to which department has the responsibility to do this.

A COPE government would make the Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs responsible and accountable for the administration and roll out of CSF's. Resources for its operation would have to be budgeted for within the Departmental budget. The Department must play a co-ordinating role when it comes to other government departments that all have a role to play.

7. Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) is a vital cog in the criminal justice system. The Integrated Justice System review proposals have been implemented and it is taking quite some time to see the required results. Amongst others, the automatic fingerprint identification system and the Home Affairs National Identity System (HANIS) are outcomes that are supposed to be integrated with other criminal justice cluster departments. The IT solutions required to make the criminal justice system departments talk to each other has not provided the necessary integration between departments over a ten year period. Perennially long court roles clog up the system and this has the affects victims and offenders access to justice.

COPE's policy would provide the following to the Justice Department:

Appointment of more prosecutors. More prosecutors will be appointed around the country if a COPE government is in power

Training of specialists prosecutors to deal with certain types of crime such as crimes against women and children; commercial crime and fraud; and violent crimes.

The integration of the criminal justice system will be driven with more resources being made available to ensure better convictions

Making courts safer places for the public would also become one of the priorities for COPE



Making magistrates work longer hours in order to hear cases so as to reduce court backlogs

Increasing the conviction rate targets for special categories of crimes. Certain categories of crimes require high conviction rates to impress on other would be criminals that crime does not pay. Low conviction rates provide other messages to offenders and everything will be done to change the low conviction rates.

8. Correctional Services

The Department of Correctional Services is a misnomer. It is one of the weakest and dysfunctional departments in government and indeed in the Criminal Justice Cluster. In terms of the Annual Report of the Department of Correctional Services, there are 241 correctional centres countrywide of which 129 were for males, eight for females, 91 mixed, and 13 for youth. The total capacity catered for was 118 000, but the actual inmate numbers were 160 000. There have been unnatural deaths with 900 recorded for 2009/10 and officials of the department have attributed the deaths to suicides and gang activity. It is a well known fact that the department is weak when it comes to administration and project management. Reported of fraud and corruption in the Department is serious. There have been 143 corruption cases reported in 2008/09; 87 in 2009/10 and 172 in 2010/11.

It is a better known fact that the department is not in the business of its core business, rehabilitation of offenders. Some of the allegations that the department faces include the following:

- There are corrupt officers and warders and it cuts across the management of the department
- Tenders are awarded in a corrupt manner
- Prisoners are not rehabilitated while inside prison
- Gangs runs certain prisons
- Custodial sentencing options are not managed effectively

There is insufficient space inside prisons to accommodate South Africa's growing long term prison population.

There is clearly a great need for a turnaround strategy for the Department of Correctional Services and it would do well to invite civil society to assist with training and development of staff and inmates. Life strategies for inmates as well as vocational skills training must be mainstreamed and become part of training curriculum of all prisons.

Strategies such as integrity testing to deal with corrupt warders must be implemented to prevent the recruitment of corrupt warders and weed out those that are already in the system. Prison gangs and the management of control strategies must be developed in order to regain control of prisons where these gangs exist.

9. Inter-Sectoral Co-ordination in the JCPS Cluster

Access to justice for all people improves when there is real and effective co-ordination in the departments that make up the criminal justice system. Currently, there are delivery agreements that Ministers have signed with the President, but the public is not privy to these



agreements and the intended outcomes. Information must be made available to the public to ensure public accountability of public officials and COPE would have to consider making public such agreements where it does not compromise the safety and security of the public and the country.

In addition, the manner in which officials of the different departments in the criminal justice cluster work with each other in an integrated fashion also have to stand the test of public accountability. The Director's-General (DG's) of the JCPS Cluster have been meeting to work in an integrated fashion. There have been many advances, but the agreements that they have made on that level have yet to filter down to the courts, police stations and prisons. When this happens, our people will have better access to Justice Services.

10. What a COPE government will expect to achieve?

As a government, COPE will expect to create opportunities for radical improvement in delivering criminal justice services to victims and perpetrators of crime. COPE would take its lead from the Constitution and make available the resources to the police, especially the detectives when it comes to the investigation of crime. Criminals must know that there are real consequences for their actions and one of the only ways that they will know is if they are actually found. COPE will make sure that the SAPS in particular display the levels of professionalism that is required from a modern police agency.

COPE will endeavour to completely professionalise the SAPS and put it on footing where it is able to effectively deal with crime without violating the human rights of others and without sacrificing its

professionalism in doing so. Secondly, we will end the levels of corruption in SAPS throughout the organisation. Thirdly, we will ensure that greater training of members of SAPS and the DPCI happens regularly. The approach of peace-building as a strategy will be adopted and written into the strategic plans of the SAPS to force them to engage constructively with communities. We will do this by involving civil society in the training of SAPS members. Cope will also demilitarise the SAPS and return its former rank structure in line with the Constitution.

Fourthly we will uncouple the DPCI from SAPS and make it accountability straight to parliament and the Minister for Police. This will give it a greater impetus to fight organised crime and corruption.

In the Department of Justice, we will ensure that there are more public prosecutors appointed to courts across the country. We will also ensure that much more is done to enhance the quality of public prosecutors, especially those in specialised courts. Joint training with members of SAPS to ensure that high level court ready evidence is presented to court, will be undertaken. This approach will be extended to all integrated multi-skilled teams from across the criminal justice cluster that deals with organised crime.

In addition, the COPE will review the training modules that prosecutors of specialist courts receive, especially those who deal with specific categories of crime such as crimes against women and children, organised crime, fraud, corruption and those dealing with organised violence.

In the Department of Correctional Services, COPE proposes a complete overhaul and refocus of the Department to that of rehabilitation and reintegration.



Too much of the Department's focus appear to be on bureaucratic decision making and medical parole for friends of the current government. COPE proposes to change this by making all warders change their working systems.

In addition, all tenders in the Department will be thoroughly reviewed with a view to cancel all those that have been entered into in a corrupt manner. While not proposing to completely re-invent the wheels, COPE proposes to change the current tender adjudication system in the Department.

Lastly, in order to create a new culture of caring for inmates and contributing to the rehabilitation of offenders, all warders will be licensed once a year. The purpose of the licensing is to ensure that only genuine warders with integrity are allowed to work in prisons. It also helps to get rid of corrupt warders. Warders will also be evaluated during the licensing processes to ascertain whether they have contributed to rehabilitation processes.

11. How we will go about it?

11.1 SAPS

Firstly, COPE will ensure that SAPS will be subjected to a State of Policing research process that examines everything from the crime fighting strategy, resources, training, uniforms, equipment, structures, culture and operational matters. The state of policing process will also examine how many police officers have convicted criminal records. All these officers with convictions still serving in SAPS will immediately be dismissed and prosecuted administratively.

Secondly, all recommendations from internal and external audit reports will be implemented. The recommendations from the State of Policing report will be implemented in all stations, provincial and national office.

The numbers at national police head office will be reduced to ensure that there is greater leadership at the stations. COPE will also ensure that the police station at local level is capacitated in order to serve the community effectively.

We will also institute a new regime for station commissioners, particularly if they want to manage stations that have a high level of human and material resources. Our reasons for this are very simple. We do not believe that individuals with a minimum level of education can effectively manage a police station with millions of rand worth of equipment and people resources. We believe that station commissioners who manage large stations must have a university degree. There will be degrees of education that would people qualify to manage certain stations. We pledge to do this within the first five years of a COPE government in power.

Lastly, the training of SAPS members will be reviewed with an emphasis on quality of detectives and other police officers. Members, who are initially recruited, will not be offered employment contracts until they have completed the two years of basic training modules. Only then will they be offered employment contracts.

We will also develop provincial training stations in all provinces with a view of attracting skills and expertise to train and mentor at the stations. There will be up to five provincial training stations set up in all the



provinces that will be properly resourced and capacitated.

11.2 Justice

We will accelerate the proposed changes in Justice by investing much more money in training and appointing much more prosecutors at courts. In addition, we will develop expertise in specialised courts and increase such expertise in opening more specialised courts, especially those for crimes against women and children, organised and violent crimes and corruption.

In addition, we will open partnership agreements with other sectors of the CJS and civil society for prosecutors to attend joint and better legal training courses.

Case loads of prosecutors will also be reduced if more prosecutors are appointed. Magistrates will be working longer hours to reduce the court backlog of cases. Specialist prosecutors will be attached to courts that have particular crime profiles that it hears, in order to fast-track such matters.

We will also review the role of the Judicial Services Commission streamline its functions so that it is able to support the role of the Minister in coming to decisions relating to judges and magistrates far more expeditiously than the current time it takes.

11.3 Correctional Services

As already indicated a COPE government will radically reposition Correctional Services so that it plays a rehabilitation role on the lives of all inmates, especially new inmates. We are under no illusions that it is difficult to rehabilitate habitual offenders, therefore out

focus will be on reducing the opportunity of new offenders re-offending. In order to do this, all sentenced prisoners who have been served long term sentences will be housed in specialist prisons while new and intermediate offenders will be housed in different prisons to reduce the likelihood of recruitment of such offenders into gangs.

Secondly we will set up a Council for Correctional Affairs (CCA) that will help to adjudicate matters relating to rehabilitation, parole applications and medical parole. This will take matters that are controversial out of the hands of officials who have been accused of corruption. The CCA will be comprised of members appointed by the Minister for Correctional Services and include expertise from social work professions, criminologists, training and human behaviour specialists and legal experts.

12. Conclusion

The proposals contained in this policy are part of the deliberations of the COPE policy indaba on safety and security. It is open for discussion by all members of COPE during the forthcoming months. The final policy will be decided when all provinces have provided their comments and inputs.