

SUBMISSION TO PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE FOR POLICE: PPS STOP FARM KILLINGS (NPC) - FARM ATTACKS AND MURDERS IN RSA



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CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- **Constitution is the supreme law of Republic with SA citizenship where everybody has equal rights, privileges and benefits its section 3**
- **“Stop farm killing” – myself as Director/president of Rural Safe Guard Alliance and the team – stop farm killing before it happens and try to combat it**
- **A farm attack or crime against a farm is an attack on foundation of South African Economy – Parliament bound by Constitution must act as obligated its subsection 4**
- **Bill of Rights – section 12 right to freedom and security – Chapter 11 of Constitution defines mandate of SAPS e.g. prevent, combat, investigate crime, maintain public order, protect and secure inhabitants of country and their property**

CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- **Constitutional objects be performed diligently and without delay ito section 237**
- **Security services must act in accordance of Constitution and the law , including customary international law and agreements binding the RSA – section 199(5)**
- **“We as people/citizens contribute to the best of our abilities, at all times, at all levels to the promotion and achievement of African Unity (African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights) – I will allow each member of the team to contribute the stopping of farm killings in our country – we are activists and concerned citizens”**
- **I thank you – May God protect our people**

CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- *Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic with SA citizenship where everybody has equal rights, priveleges and benefits in section 3*
- *Stop farm killings – myself as Director/president of Rural Safe Guard Alliance and the team*
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- *Constitutional objects be performed diligently and without delay – section 237*

INTRODUCTION

- **Aim – cooperation / collaboration to ensure safe South Africa as guaranteed in Constitution in rural areas**
- **Rural Safety important to ensure Food Security in South Africa and avoid anarchy in future**
- **Imagine – waking up and no food for breakfast – reason farms cannot produce and provide to supermarkets for consumers/public - Outcome – anarchy, violence, increase in criminality**
- **One farm attack, is one too many – it is being performed *in a terrorist style on vulnerable farming communities***
- **Attack disrupts farming activity and production**

INTRODUCTION

- **SACCI determines 2012 took 5 - 8 years after farm attack/murder to restore productivity on a farm (R5 million lost annually to economy) – farm workers affected that cannot support their families**
- ***Lack of political will to enforce safeguarding of rural communities and bring perpetrators to justice – rural communities are crime scenes of terrorist and organized crime syndicates***
- ***Global Organized Crime Index rate SA as 7th of 193 countries highest crime rate in world***
- ***650 page document victims of farm murders in RSA – hand over to Parliament – 1990 – 2020?***

PROBLEM STATEMENT

CRIME AGAINST FARMING COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.



RURAL SAFETY CRISIS

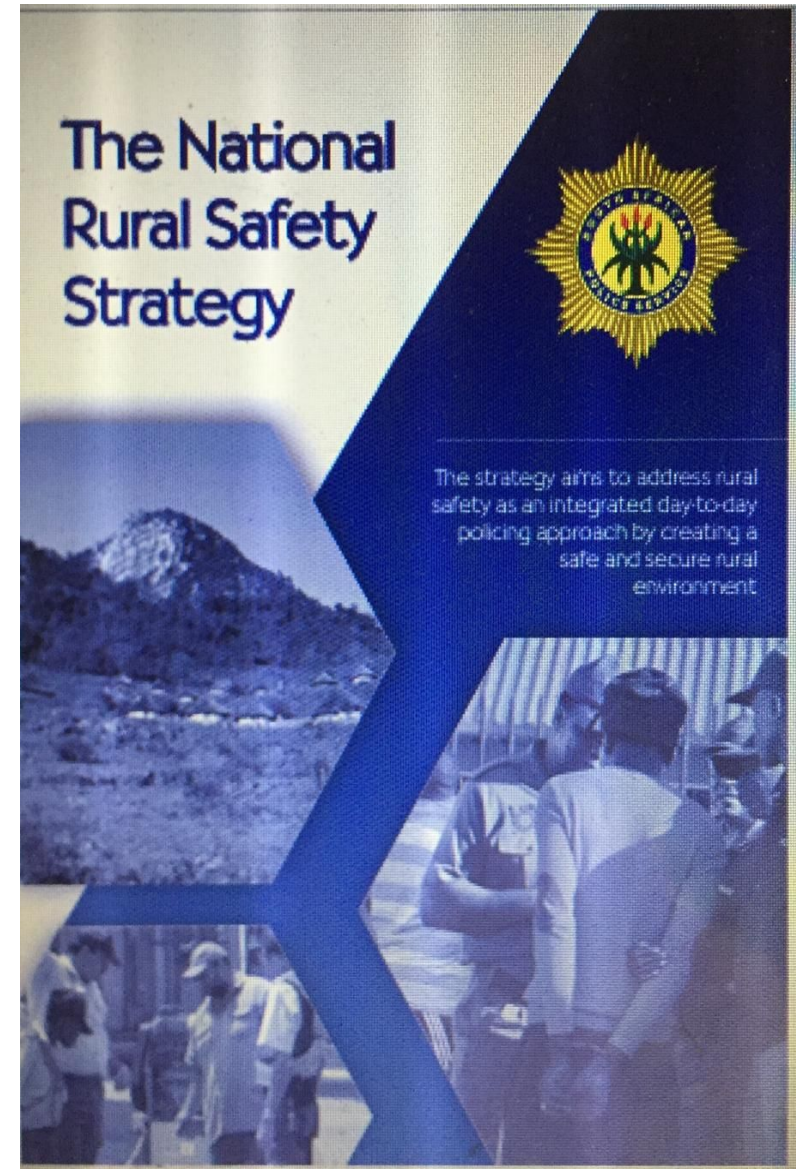
- Farmers are suffering from all crimes in all areas such as serious and violent crimes and property related crimes, e.g. infrastructure theft and damage, stock theft, produce and crop theft, damage to property, arson, assaults, robberies and murders, trespassing, etc.
- Farming communities at breaking point - in some case communities took law into their own hands due to poor police support and intervention at local level - *victims are being apprehended and arrested when conducting citizen's arrest on perpetrators*
- *Attackers use high calibre firearms – declaration of war on law-abiding citizens that ensure food security in the country who are also tax payers*
- *Rural communities are stripped from their basic human right to live and produce crops/livestock, need protection from government / police*

CRIME AND RURAL CRIME IN RSA

- *ISS report – performance of SAPS declined since 2012 – lowest detection rate 12,5% - organized crime, serious and violent offences increased, public perceptions on safety decreased and citizens lost trust and confidence in SAPS*
- *Failure of SAPS to investigate crime, slow pace of prosecution whereby 1,8 million police dockets send back to detectives on enquiries by prosecutors*
- *Cost of rural crime can easily exceed billions of rand per year especially stock theft, produce (maize theft) and other property - AgriSA (Bureau of Market Research UNISA) 2017 determined farmers lost annually R7,7 billion per year due to crime*
- *Land expropriation without compensation – false narrative of land which was stolen that place risks on farmers for attacks*
- *Criminal Justice System send wrong message to criminals that crime does pay*

CURRENT STATUS QUO ITO NATIONAL RURAL SAFETY STRATEGY (NRSS)

- National Rural Safety Strategy (NRSS) – 8 pillars whereby 5 of 8 pillars focus on manpower and capacity of SAPS
- Rural Safety (RS) coordinators appointed in all provinces at rural, rural/urban mix police stations – rural policing sectors established
- Rural Safety plan drafted for every farming community
- Functions/duties of RS coordinators – visit farms, profiling of inhabitants living on farms/smallholdings, facilitate white/blue light patrols/operations, awareness campaigns, monthly RS Priority Committee meetings, bi-monthly or quarterly in every province and



CHALLENGES TO RURAL SAFETY

- **NRSS not fully implemented at police stations**
RS co-ordinators only attend 10-30% of time to rural safety – perform ad hoc functions, e.g. transport prisoners, act as court orderlies, attend meetings on behalf of station, fill in for shifts, DPO official at station, etc.
- **Vehicle allocated/dedicated for rural safety, used to transport prisoners, attend other meetings, used by shifts if their vehicle broke down, poor road conditions contribute vehicles end up more in state garages for reparations - limited or no vehicle available to perform rural safety functions**
- **Need for RS units comprising of reservists and volunteers – perform functions as neighbourhood watches under Community Policing – training provided**

CHALLENGES..... continues

- **Radio networks and technology (drones) through control rooms – dedicated channel for farming areas – communication problematic due to poor cell phone signals in rural areas**
- **Shortages of Stock Theft Units (detectives, vehicles and equipment) very big – recovery of livestock, follow up info, investigation cases**

PREVIOUS HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS

- Meeting with former Minister of Police on 2020-08-30 on Rural Safety
- Former Minister called National Rural Safety Summit 27 & 28 June 2022 at Parys, Free State - Ministerial Rural Safety Task Team appointed
- Task Team compiled an action plan with objective and action steps – very limited action steps implemented yet
- Former Minister never met with Task Team after formation – *it was a paper exercise, lack of political will and incompetency of previous Minister*

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Government ensure that NRSS gets implemented at all levels with necessary support structures**
- **Ministers of Agricultural and Police / Deputy Ministers meet regularly with Task Team to monitor and evaluate implementation of NRSS – also with provinces and Priority Committee meetings**
- **Establishment of district and provincial RS units and dedicated Rural Crime Intelligence – training of RS coordinators / units, more specialized and dedicated detectives especially at Stock Theft Units (STUs), liaison of information and follow up is important**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Farm attacks be classified as priority crime – all other rural crimes prioritized - allocation of more dedicated resources by SAPS – the countries' most valuable asset is farmers and farm workers**
- **Collaboration between all stakeholders, organized agriculture, private security companies servicing the agricultural sector, SAPS, neighbourhood watches, activists, NGO's,etc**
- ***Agriculture is backbone of economy and food security – hungry nation is an angry nation - time for action is now!***
- ***Referral to BRICS – Russian Federal Law no 35_FZ Counter Terrorism Protection – epidemic of farm attacks to hide rural crime under the mattress***

THANK YOU

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