

SAFER SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDATION

REPORT

15-19 June 2015



8th NATIONAL CONGRESS

POLICE
AND
PRISONS
CIVIL RIGHTS
UNION



SAFER SOUTH AFRICA
FOUNDATION



SAFER SOUTH AFRICA

FOUNDATION

The Safer South Africa Foundation exists to mobilise under-resourced communities to build awareness and ability to work together in the 'fight against crime'. The Foundation fosters a better understanding of community safety issues and improve relationships between the community and the law enforcement agencies. In addition to its work with communities, the Foundation seeks to actively contribute to the national discourse on crime and community safety matters by undertaking research, advocacy and campaigns.

Vision

South Africa – a safer place to work, rest and play'

Mission

'To help build safe, confident and empowered communities'

Values

- We acknowledge and honour the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals.
- We act with honesty and integrity, not compromising the truth.
- We are committed to creating and maintaining an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages and experiences.
- We will not accept funding from or work with any organisation that demands we compromise our values in any way.
- We are committed to effective partnerships and we seek opportunities to form alliances with local community and voluntary organisations.

Strategic Aims of Safer South Africa Foundation:

- To mobilize and empower local communities to join hands in the fight against crime in order to contribute to the improvement of their community.
- To promote an enhanced level of security in South Africa's communities by providing an independent perspective on community policing, road safety and successful reintegration of offenders to curb reoffending.
- To work in partnership with all community based formations and others to help improve safety in communities.
- To educate the public about the criminal justice system, encourage and support research to inform community based crime prevention strategies.

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— FOUNDATION —

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The successful establishment of the Safer South Africa Foundation (SSAF) would not have been possible without the support and assistance of many individuals and organizations.

First and foremost the Safer South Africa Foundation would like to extend its gratitude to the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (POPCRU) and POPCRU Group of Companies (PGC) who supported the call for the establishment of the Foundation and provided financial and administrative support.

Appreciation goes to the members of the steering committee seconded from POPCRU, PGC Group and Civil Society for doing a sterling job in their oversight role during the initial steps of the establishment of the Foundation.

Gratitude is extended to international organizations and individuals in the United Kingdom who provided valuable guidance.

Acknowledgement is also extended to government departments in the Criminal Justice System and the Department of Social Development and the Gauteng Department of Education for endorsing and supporting the Foundation and for their invaluable contribution to the success of its programmes.

The SSAF is indebted to Non-Government and Community-based Organizations such as UMUZI Photo Club; Kgorogo Social Investments; Dream Team Foundation; Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Trust; and Nacham Wellness Consultancy for believing in the Foundation's vision and for their willingness to form partnerships.

The confidence demonstrated by the Tshwane University of Technology in the Foundation, by placing final year students from the Faculty of Humanities to conduct their Corporate Social Investment project under the guidance of SSAF, is highly appreciated.

Without the cooperation of the community members, parents, teachers and learners, the Communities and Justice Programme would have been inconceivable, thus a big thank you goes to them.

Gratitude also goes to the volunteers and consultants who contributed tremendously to the successful implementation of the Foundation's programmes.

Gratitude is expressed to business and individuals for their support and generous donations for the prizes for the programme participants.

The SSAF is thankful to the former CEO, Mr Paul Wilson for his contribution to the establishment the Foundation and to Mrs Carol Wilson for capturing the salient features of the programmes through photography and video recording.

Finally SSAF is indebted to the board members for their continued guidance, support and encouragement.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2011 a vision of the establishment of a charitable foundation was presented and endorsed at the 7th POPCRU National Congress. This was followed by wide consultation and the Roundtable Discussion, whose recommendations shaped the formation of the Safer South Africa Foundation.

The Safer South Africa Foundation (SSAF), a registered non-profit company, was established in 2012 in order to mobilise under-resourced communities to build awareness and ability to work together in the fight against crime.

The Foundation fosters a better understanding of community safety issues and good relations between communities and law enforcement officials. It also seeks to actively contribute to the national discourse on crime and community safety matters and the reform of the criminal justice system by undertaking research, advocacy and campaigns.

In order to ensure accountability and provide necessary support a board of directors was established, the board continues to make an important contribution to the growth of SSAF.

In line with its vision of South Africa as a 'safer place to work, rest and play' and its mission of helping to 'build safe, confident and empowered communities,' the Foundation has embarked on several programmes and has worked in this regard, with various agencies of the criminal justice system, relevant national and provincial government departments, municipalities, non-government organisations, tertiary institutions, and communities and youths and learners in particular.

Through its various programmes and activities, especially the Communities and Justice Programme that is intended to empower communities on the roles of the various law enforcement officials and their agencies in order to encourage their participation in community based crime prevention initiatives, the Foundation has reached out to hundreds of learners and youth in three provinces directly and many more indirectly and has established good and solid partnerships with criminal justice system agencies, government departments and various communities.

These relations will help to ensure and sustain the long-term impact and contribution of the Foundation in helping South Africa to have a transformed and a more effective criminal justice system that will protect human rights and defend the country's constitution and democracy.

The Foundation has and continues to receive financial and administrative support from POPCRU Group of Companies (PGC Group). The Foundation would not have made the progress and contribution it has made and continues to make without the support of all the partners and stakeholders nationally and internationally.

The Foundation hopes to extend its programmes and continue to mobilize and empower the youth, the future of the nation, to become ambassadors in community based crime prevention initiatives.



INTRODUCTION

Public participation is regarded as pivotal to crime prevention as it provides an opportunity to members of the community to contribute to the protection of their society.

On the occasion of the 8th National Congress of the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union, this report presents policy makers and practitioners, who supported the vision of the establishment of a charitable Foundation aimed at mobilizing and empowering local communities in the fight against crime, with an account of the work and accomplishments of the Safer South Africa Foundation since its establishment in 2012.

The report provides a brief background of the groundwork leading to the establishment processes of the Foundation; an account on governance and management; the programmes and beneficiaries, acknowledgement and appreciation of the support and valuable contributions of all stakeholders, nationally and internationally; and finally outlines its future prospects.

BACKGROUND

In keeping with the vision and commitment to a transformed and effective criminal justice system, Paul Wilson, retired, with thirty years' experience from the London Metropolitan Police Force, in the United Kingdom, was invited to make a presentation at POPCRU's 7th National Congress in 2011 on ideas around the establishment of a Foundation.

The 7th National Congress, following this presentation, resolved to support the establishment of the foundation and Paul was later asked to help in this regard.

The vision presented at the congress resonated with the values espoused by the founders of POPCRU. The establishment of POPCRU on 5 November 1989 was a response to a criminal justice system that was not designed nor oriented to protect and promote the rights of the majority of the people of our country but was rather at the forefront in their oppression and exploitation in fulfilment of apartheid and colonial policies.



The courageous police, traffic and prison officials who formed POPCRU in full knowledge of the brutality of the system they were challenging and the consequences for their actions, wanted a criminal justice system that would be a true protector of our people and that would create a safe and secure environment for them.

They wanted a transformed and effective criminal justice system that would enjoy the confidence and co-operation of the people of South Africa.

POPCRU and the POPCRU Group of Companies (PGC) have both played a central role in the establishment of the Safer South Africa Foundation in 2012, whose vision in line with our constitutional values and principles is a South Africa where everyone is safe to work, rest and play.

The strategic objectives of the Foundation are to:

- Mobilise and empower communities to join hands in the fight against crime
- Provide an independent perspective on policing, reintegration of offenders and road safety
- Work in partnership with community based formations and others to help improve safety
- Educate the public about the functioning of the criminal justice system and support research to inform community based crime prevention strategies
- Initiate programmes to improve road user safety

ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFER SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDATION

The process to establish the Foundation led to a Roundtable Discussion hosted by PGC with the support of POPCRU in December 2011.

It was during this Roundtable Discussion organised under a theme, *“Local Communities Taking Centre Stage In The Fight Against Crime”* that a decision to establish the Foundation with a focus on crime prevention and on community empowerment and engagement was supported.

Fifty participants with expertise in the field of crime prevention from various departments in the Criminal Justice System and from the Department of Transport, the Metropolitan Police, the labour movement, business, academia, and civil society including ex-offenders, took part in the Roundtable Discussion.

A Steering Committee was appointed in February 2012 to give effect to the recommendation to establish the Foundation and give guidance, support and advice in this regard. The Steering Committee included amongst others, representatives of POPCRU led by Mr Nkosinathi Theledi (General Secretary of POPCRU), Mr Mdletshe (Group Chief Executive of PGC) and Dr Farisani.

Mr Nkosinathi Theledi was the initial chairperson of the Steering Committee but later handed over this role to Dr Farisani. The Steering Committee made a presentation on its work to the POPCRU leadership on 31 August 2012.

In April 2012, the Foundation’s proposed name, Safer South Africa Foundation, was registered. During the same month, the Foundation was also registered as a Non-Profit Company (NPC) with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) and as a Public Benefit Organization (PBO) with the South African Revenue Services (SARS) 2014.

The Foundation’s logo was developed in July 2012 and its letterhead in August 2012.

A study tour to the UK was taken by some members of the Steering Committee in May 2012 in order to examine how organisations doing similar work envisaged for the Foundation operated. The delegation comprised of Mr Zwilenkosi Mdletshe (PGC Group Chief Executive Officer), Mr Themba Matsane (former PGC Group Chairperson) and Ms Jabu Sishuba (Group Business Consultant).

The visit helped members of the Steering Committee to consider different approaches, best practice and information pertaining to how these organizations dealt with issues that the Foundation will focus upon and address.

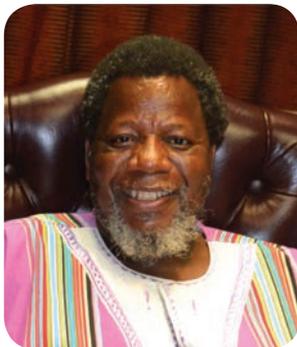
The Foundation was registered with the Department of Social Development in October 2014 as a non-profit organisation – an idea that developed in 2011 eventually germinated into an important stakeholder in the quest for a safer South Africa.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Board of Directors

The Foundation's Board of Directors, necessary to ensure accountability and provide necessary support for the Foundation's work, was established in October 2012. The Board, chaired by Dr Farisani, comprising of representatives of POPCRU, PGC, and members from business, government, academia and civil society, has played a significant role in this regard and has made an important contribution towards the continuing growth and impact of the Foundation in the promotion of safer South African communities.

The current Board Members of the Foundation are:



Dr Farisani
(Chairperson)
Former member of Parliament (ANC), community and religious leader.



Prof Monique Marks
Research professor in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment at Durban University of Technology.



Mr Tshaka Mdiya
Managing Director of Workers Life at PGC Group and former provincial chairperson and secretary of POPCRU.



Brigadier Palesa Oliphant
Senior official in the South African Police Service.



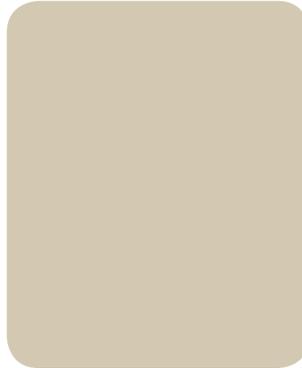
Mr Azwihangwisi Nesengani
A senior official in the Department of Correctional Services.



Ms Saira Khan
Chief Executive Officer of Stop Hunger Now: Southern Africa.



Mr Boas Mogale
Served two terms as the National Deputy President of POPCRU and a former Executive Director of PGC.



Ms Nancy Ncube
Corporate Affairs Manager, Sun City Resorts.



Mr Rankin Vikela
Currently the Managing Director of Motorola Solutions (SA).



Ms Shireen Motara
Executive Director of Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre.

Management of the Foundation

Paul Wilson, appointed as the first chief executive officer of the Foundation in 2012, played a great role in the establishment of Foundation and helped to initiate many of its programmes.

He helped to lay a solid foundation that will help the Foundation to make its mark as a significant stakeholder and contributor in the quest for a safer South Africa.

He was replaced in January 2015 by Advocate Tseliso Thipanyane who brings a strong and much needed human rights background into the Foundation.

Jabu Sishuba, who was part of the Steering Committee formed to help establish the Foundation, has been with the Foundation since its establishment. She brings tremendous expertise and experience in the Foundation and continues to play a great role in its growth.

PROGRAMMES: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTION



Several programmes and activities in line with the Foundation's business plan have been introduced and implemented by the Foundation in order to give effect to its strategic objectives.

These programmes and activities include:

- Anti Gangsterism Campaigns
- Communities and Justice Programme
- Joint Anti-Crime Activities with Tshwane University of Technology
- Anti-rape campaign
- Youth for Safer South Africa

Anti-gangsterism campaign

The Foundation implemented anti-gangsterism campaigns in the North West Province at Khuma, Ventersdorp and Leeudoringstad, Klerksdorp in 2012 and 2013 in partnership with UMUZI Photo club.

The purpose of the campaigns was to raise awareness on the impact and consequences of gang culture and encourage the youth not to get involved in gang activities. Presentations in the workshops were made by ex-gang members and ex-offenders to the youth in the respective communities.

The campaign culminated in a poster competition on the impact and dangers of gang activities. Prizes were awarded to the best three posters at a ceremony held at Kgakala Township, Leeudoringstad on 16 March 2013.

Communities and Justice Programme

The programme was initiated in 2012 and was piloted in April 2013 at Dirang ka Natla Secondary School in Khuma Township (where gangster activities were said to be in the rise), in the Matlosana Local Municipality, North West Province and enjoyed the support of law enforcement officials in the area.

The pilot project was a great success and the certificate ceremony was supported by the Executive Mayor and his team, the school governing body, government departments and various community based formations and youth groups.

The programme was then implemented at two schools in the Gauteng Province, Lancea Vale Secondary School in Eldorado Park (at the time when a letter on drug use among the youth, written by a distraught parent to the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency JG Zuma was still topical in the community) in September 2013, and at S.G. Mafaesa High School in Kagiso in March 2014.

The programme is intended to mobilise and empower communities on the functioning of the criminal justice system in order to encourage community participation in crime prevention and the advancement of safer communities.

Learners that participate in the programme are exposed to all agencies of the criminal justice system and are taken to courts and correctional centres as part of an experiential and interactive learning.

The impact of this program and its potential in addressing issues and concerns pertaining to school safety led to the Gauteng Department of Education getting into a partnership with the Foundation to implement the programme in schools in the Gauteng province.

A Partnership Agreement in this regard was signed in June 2014. Under this agreement, the Foundation has implemented the programme at Katleho-Impumelelo & Residensia Secondary Schools, Sebokeng (November 2014) and will wrap up its implementation of the programme at Ephes Mamkeli Secondary School and Wordsworth High School, Ekurhuleni North, at the end of June 2015.

The Foundation will then implement the programme in Johannesburg Central (Soweto) in August and then proceed to Tshwane South.

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The Foundation and the Gauteng Department of Education have agreed to extend the Partnership Agreement to 2016 and the Foundation will implement the programme in more schools in the Gauteng Province going forward.

The Foundation has produced reports of the implementation of the programme in five schools and has also produced and published a training Manual on Communities and Justice Programme in December 2014 that has been found to be very helpful by law enforcement officials working with the Foundation in the implementation of the programme.

Over two hundred learners have participated in the programme and the Foundation has enhanced its relations with relevant agencies of the criminal justice system and many law enforcement officials that make presentation of the work of their agencies in the programme.

The Communities and Justice Programme, has become the most successful programme of the Foundation. It has played a great role in the growth of the Foundation and in enhancing its credibility and effectiveness in the realisation of its vision, mission and strategic objectives. It has the potential to extend and entrench the Foundation's footprint in the rest of the country and beyond.



Communities and Justice Programme Activities:
Criminal Justice Officials Engaging Learners





Learners acquire knowledge on the basic functioning of the South African criminal justice system in an interactive manner





Joint Anti-Crime Activities with the Tshwane University of Technology

In recognition of its work, the Foundation was approached in 2013 by the Tshwane University of Technology with a proposal to place six third year students from the department of Public Relations and Business Communication in the Foundation in order to fulfil their final year corporate social investment academic requirements.

In terms of their academic requirements in this regard, the students were expected to:

- Use real life scenario to apply the knowledge gained in the classroom while still receiving guidance and supervision from experienced professionals in preparation for employment.
- Contribute and invest in immediate communities.
- Acquire an in-depth understanding of the strategic aim of the Safer South Africa Foundation

Anti-Bullying Campaign

In fulfilment of the requirements of their assignment, the students conducted a community based campaign on anti-bullying, under the supervision of the Foundation.

The campaign was intended to bring awareness to the problem of bullying and to empower learners, parents and teachers in dealing with this phenomenon.

The campaign included research to determine the existence of bullying; workshops and counselling sessions by Childline and referrals to the Christelike-Maatskaplike Raad for ongoing intervention; a poster competition.

The campaign ended with an event where a report on the campaign was presented to parents and teachers about its achievements and the presentation of prizes for the best anti-bullying posters. Speakers from various organisations also made presentations on bullying and its impact and dangers during the event.



Anti-Drug Campaign

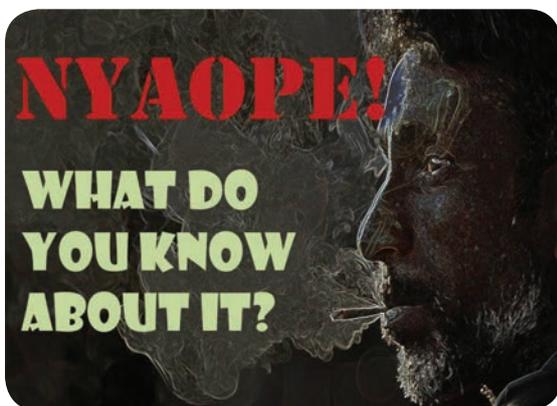
Encouraged by the success of the first placement of its students in the Foundation, Tshwane University of Technology placed an additional seven students in the Foundation in 2014 as part of their final year corporate social investment assignment.

The students, this time around, identified the use of drugs amongst youth as a challenge in the community and decided to embark on anti-drug campaign in order to mobilize the community to combat the use of drug among youth, particular 'Nyaope' (a mixture of heroin and dagga), in the Pretoria area.

Under the campaign, the students teaming up with the Second Chance Recovery Centre in Mamelodi to raise funds for rehabilitation, held a public debate where guests from SAPS, SANCA, Second Chance Recovery Centre and SSAF and learners from Veritas College addressed the public and facilitated a debate on the use of Nyaope among youth.

The open air public debate was held at Sammy Marks Square in Pretoria on 28 May 2014 and a video on interviews with tertiary students on drug usages was also produced. A planned Drug Awareness Fun Walk did not materialise due to logistical challenges.

The anti-bullying and anti-drugs campaigns initiated by the Tshwane University of Technology students informed and enriched the Foundation's Communities and Justice Programme.





Anti-Rape Campaign

In partnership with the Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Trust, the Foundation held anti-rape workshops in three villages of Thulamela municipality of the Vhembe district in Thohoyandou in April 2014. Ninety young men participated in the workshops designed to raise awareness on the implications and consequences of rape.

The participants designed posters on anti-rape messages and were encouraged to create compelling and imaginative artworks on basic human rights and gender equality issues.

Prizes were awarded to the best posters and adjudication was done by three local artists including the acclaimed Avhashoni Mainganye who works tirelessly as a mentor to unearth potential talent.

Youth for Safer South Africa

In a quest to find ways to sustain the momentum of the Communities and Justice Programme, the youth were invited to come up with suggestions and the Youth4safersouthafrica alumnus was born out of this initiative.

The programme was launched in 2014 in order to complement the Communities and Justice Programme and provides a forum/platform where learners that have participated in the Communities and Justice Programme, and the youth in general, can continue their engagement with issues of crime prevention and safety and security. A dedicated Facebook page has been set-up in this regard: facebook.com/SaferSouthAfricaFoundation

The Foundation's website - www.safersouthafrica.org - also plays an important role in providing information on the work of the Foundation and developments pertaining to the criminal justice system and safety and security issues.

Impact of the Foundation Programmes

The Foundation's programmes implemented since 2012 have had the following impact and outcomes, especially on young people, the future of our nation:

- Young people as ambassadors in crime prevention initiatives in the local communities
- Valued criminal justice practitioners feel closer to the community and excel in executing their duties of enforcing law and order
- Bringing the Criminal Justice System to the community
- Providing a platform for face to face interaction between communities and law enforcement agencies
- Empowering communities with regard to individual rights and obligations
- Encouraging the upholding of the rule of law
- Encouraging community participation in crime prevention
- Building a firm foundation for access to justice.
- Building a foundation for enhancing trust and confidence thus improving the relationship between the community and the law enforcement practitioners
- Raising awareness amongst young people on career opportunities in the Criminal Justice System

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Communities and Justice Programme

The Foundation hopes to extend this programme to more schools in the Gauteng province and to schools in others provinces and will pay special consideration to schools in rural areas. There are good prospects to extend the implementation of the programme to neighbouring states.

The programme will also focus on general human rights issues and on areas such as rape, drug usage and addiction (Nyaope in particular), anti-bullying and anti-gang activities and road safety.

Youth for Safer South Africa

There are plans to maintain and keep the Foundation's website and Facebook more updated in order to support activities under this programme.

There are plans to engage relevant structures and stakeholders in getting the youth more involved in crime prevention activities and discussions will take place with the Gauteng Department of Education in relation to their Youth Camps, and the South African Police Services in relation to their Youth Crime Prevention Desks.

Anti-rape, anti-drugs, anti-gangs, anti-bullying are some of the activities the Foundation will embark upon under this programme in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

Policy and Research

There is a pressing need for the Foundation to enhance its policy and research capacity in order to make necessary inputs in the workings and reform of our criminal justice system and to be able to realise its strategic objectives in this regard.

Key areas of concerns such as drug usage, policing of community protests, corruption and criminality amongst law enforcement officials, ex-offender rehabilitation and integration in communities, road safety, attacks on non-nationals, increasing private security and other issues pertinent to safety and security in South Africa will be looked into.

The Foundation has begun discussions with the Justice Department officials in relation to the drafting, adoption and implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and the implementation of the *Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2013*, once this statute comes into operation.

SAFER SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDATION: MEDIA



a safer south africa

The Safer South Africa Foundation is an NGO recently established to help in the government's fight against crime. Its mission is to help build safe, confident and empowered communities. We talk to Paul Wilson, its founder and CEO.

You have over 30 years' experience of policing in the UK, where you served with London's Metropolitan Police Force. How has that experience assisted you in developing the Safer South Africa Foundation?

My career has been in the public service for probably 30 years with many diverse experiences that enabled me to serve in a great variety of roles. My passion for the work we do at the Safer South Africa Foundation was enhanced by my direct "street-level" experience in the professional context. It really began when, as a captain being engaged in 2005, I was selected to go to the East Coast Community Unit of New Zealand, where I became responsible for setting and introducing a new police staff governance structure. This experience led to my frequent awareness of racial discrimination within the police force and it was during this period that I also became involved in the formation of the UK's first Black Race Awareness (BRAs) established primarily as a support network and advisory organisation to address discriminatory conditions experienced by police personnel from African or Asian backgrounds.

Another influential role was in my professional and personal involvement with the South Institute for Policy Studies (SIPSt) in 2006, which led to my involvement in the London Strategic Response Initiative. This was a case study on police involvement in the Metropolitan Police. As Chairman of the SIPSt at the time of the study, I conducted

and submitted written evidence and was subsequently called to give oral evidence. The concluding advisory report, for the first time in the history of UK policing referred to "institutional racism" as an outcome of the Metropolitan Police's relationship with London's black and minority ethnic communities.

However, it was a later post appointment in the UK government's Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) in 2007/2008 that allowed the understanding of social exclusion and the challenge, and efforts required to tackle conditions of multiple deprivation as the primary consideration. The NPU was an extension of the three-tiered, Tony Blair's initiative, entitled "100,000 new jobs between poor neighbourhoods and the rest". The experience of working in the NPU was a significant turning point in my understanding of how to engage and involve citizens and communities in their own safety.

Following my appointment to government, I successfully completed my BA degree in Community Safety with a dissertation entitled, "Policing the Souths Exclusion".

In 2008 my career took a different trajectory when I was selected as Fulbright Professor for the

University of Chicago, where I conducted comparative policing and law enforcement in India and various other communities being in Chicago, San

Agustine, Miami and New York. On my return to the UK, I was selected to a board position for the large and respected environmental NGO, ENCAPS.

How has your "Black British Day" involvement in government in 2009 and involvement for a year in London's youth centre, provided any of the most challenging and environments in terms of the need to improve the quality of the work environment, strategic planning, setting, engagement, both internally and externally, and ensuring that London's Police Home Communities recognised the benefits of a community policing model. This model has challenges and delivery approach



- To intensify education and awareness for communities and other stakeholders on Cyber-crime.
- To ensure that the current laws and legislations are strengthened and enforced to deal with corruption within the Public Service.
- To develop a position paper dealing with multi-dimensional issues including law enforcement agencies.
- To reaffirm the Polokwane resolutions on establishing and reviving Committees and Neighbourhood Watch structures to inculcate a culture of whistle blowing to enhance trust by and for the communities.
- The development of a legislative framework to promote and enforce the objectives of an integrated and co-ordinated criminal justice system.
- The development of a White Paper on access to Justice.

The resolutions of this National Crime Summit will be shared and for implementation by all concerned and mandated to deal with the scourge of crime in South Africa. This declaration was adopted by all participants at the National Crime Summit on the 30th May 2012 at Birchwood in Boksburg – Gauteng Province.

CAN WE ACHIEVE A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA? PAUL WILSON ASKS.....



In achieving a safer South Africa we must all recognise that the challenge is considerable but not insurmountable as South Africa has witnessed considerable improvements in community safety over the past few years. Effective and efficient policing is one of the key pillars necessary to drive down crime however it must also be recognised that the police alone cannot address all the social inequalities that so often fuel high levels of crime in South Africa. For example police are not responsible for the delivery of decent housing, water or electricity however when these services fail local communities it is often the police that are the

recipients of the frustration and anger.

Engaging, involving and working with all our communities is essential if we are to begin to restore the trust and confidence that is so necessary for the effective and efficient delivery of a fair and equitable policing service. However, in my experience, police, in common with other statutory service providers, often do not have the capabilities, skills, resources or time to engage with what are often perceived as "hard to reach" communities or indeed understand the often complex needs and difficulties experienced by these communities. This is where NGOs such as Safer South Africa Foundation

can help in the implementation of policy, by facilitating community involvement and engagement, helping communities better understand the workings of the criminal justice system and furthermore, if NGOs are enlisted by the statutory service providers in the design and delivery of services then this can only aid the much needed transformation of public services such as the police.

Safer South Africa Foundation also recognises that reoffending (a person repeating criminal behaviour following a sanction by the Courts) rates in South Africa make a significant contribution to our overall crime statistics and is therefore an area in urgent need of

Pupils learn through prison and court

Khuma - A total of 37 learners of Dirang Ka Natla Secondary School received certificates after participating in a Safer South Africa Foundation Life Skills programme, to expose young people to prison and courts of law, so as to encourage them to become upstanding citizens.

Paul Wilson, CEO of Safer South Africa, told the audience at the Communities and Justice Certificates Awards Programme that pupils had a learning experience when they were exposed to jail conditions at the Klerksdorp Correctional Centre and magistrates court.

"They even had the opportunity to speak to inmates in a controlled manner. In court they had a chance to observe how the court functions when officials conducted a mock trial for them," he said.

Wilson explained that the law enforcement agents in the criminal justice in Stilfontein and Klerksdorp support the notion and volunteered their services.

Speaking at the function, Ka-

giso Khumoe, mayor of Matieland said: "The municipality regards engaging and interacting with young people as imperative so that we are able to develop and ensure hope is maintained by the youth.

"This will ensure that we help young people to know the meaning of respect.

"It is a known fact that our communities are ravaged by ever increasing social ills, which not only happen in the streets but also in our homes and schools. We have a challenge as government on how to address safety in our society because our youngsters are now perpetrators of social crimes."

"When you expect them to be at school to get education, they are busy forming gangs and stabbing each other in school yards. But do we just turn a blind eye on such activities. I don't think so...", Khumoe said.

The ceremony, which was also attended by parents who had braved the rainy and chilly weather, was held at the Ballroom Hall on Friday night 19 April.



Documentary proof... Some of the learners who received certificates after attending the Safer South Africa Life Skills Programme with the mayor, Kagiso Khumoe, and CEO of Safer South Africa, Paul Wilson.

CONCLUSION

Since its establishment, the Foundation has made an important contribution towards a safer South Africa where all our people should be safe and feel safe in their homes, their streets, and at work and places of recreation and a South Africa where our people will have full confidence with the criminal justice system and give it necessary support and co-operation as it transforms and become more effective.

The work of the Foundation in this regard, is in line with the vision that informed the formation of POPCRU in 1989 and is in line with the aims and objectives of POPCRU's Constitution adopted at the 7th National Congress, these being, amongst others:

- Promoting a positive image and improving the relationship between Union members and the wider community in a democratic South Africa in order to enjoy the confidence and co-operation of our communities.
- Work with all interested parties in the communities in order to maintain and improve the quality of services rendered by its members to our people and nation
- Promote and encourage the active participation of members of our communities in activities of the police, Correctional Services and Traffic departments
- Work towards the creation of a safe and secure environment for all members of the South African community
- Conduct research into new methods of policing, rehabilitation and traffic processes
See clause 7 of POPCRU's Constitution

The Foundation thus sees POPCRU and all likeminded stakeholders as important allies and partners in the realisation of its strategic goals and achievement of vision of making South Africa a safer place our people. See clause 7 of POPCRU's Constitution

The Foundation is, however, concerned about the high levels of inequality between the rich and poor in our country, the high number of young people involved in crime as perpetrators and as victims, the worrying levels of corruption and of criminal conduct amongst many of our law enforcement officials, and current leadership challenges in some of our key criminal justice agencies.

The Foundation is also concerned about high levels of crime and the general perception of ineffectiveness of our criminal justice system that have led to a mushrooming of private security which will lead to the challenges already seen in privatised health care and education services where only the wealthy enjoy basic and fundamental rights.

All these concerns affect the vision and aspiration for a safer South Africa and deprive our people of their right to safety and security enshrined and entrenched in our constitution.

The Foundation is committed to address these challenges and looks forward to a meaningful partnership and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in this regard.



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