

3.5. INTERVENTION OF THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT

The role played by the Provincial Secretariat has improved the functionality of the CPFs. This includes capacitating them with training and intervening in SAPS and CPF Executive conflicts.

3.6. STIPEND FOR UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS OF CPF EXECUTIVE

There is a general complaint about the provision of the stipend for the unemployed members of the Executive Committees. This is premised by the fact that some of the Government Departments do provide stipends to the volunteers, e.g. Transport, Health and Expanded Public Works Program. This has led to some of them leaving the CPFs for these other programs, which impacts on the functionality.

3.7. DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE CPFs

In general, the CPFs are constituted by the elder people and mostly men. The program has not attracted the youth whom it has been proven that they are the majority in communities and in unemployment statistics. It has also been established that most of the Executive Committee members are the unemployed, which presents a serious problem of expectation for employment.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Whilst CPFs might be faced with unique provincial challenges, most of them are generic nationally. It is therefore recommended that;

- *SAPS Act be speedily amended so as to resolve the question of location and resourcing of the CPFs*
- *A clear program for capacitation/ training of the CPFs should be developed. The training program should be accredited so that the trained members can be empowered by such training*



THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY POLICE FORUMS

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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY POLICE FORUMS

1. BACKGROUND

The enactment of the South African Police Service Act in 1995 laid the foundation for the establishment of Community Police Forums at each police station in South Africa. The Community Police Forums constitute one of the means to ensure that the provision of the policing service to the people is participatory, people-oriented, and democratic.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The establishment of Community Police Forums (CPF) is governed by Chapter 7 of the South African Police Service Act, 1995, and the 2001 South African Police Service Interim Regulations for Community Police Forums and Boards.

In terms of the SAPS Act, 1995, the objects of CPFs are to:

- a. *Establish and maintain a partnership between the community and the Police Service;*
- b. *Promote communication between the Police Service and the community;*
- c. *Promote co-operation between the Police Service and the community in fulfilling the needs of the community regarding policing;*
- d. *Improve the rendering of police services to the community at national, provincial, area and local levels;*
- e. *Improve transparency in the Police Service and accountability of the Police Service to the community; and*
- f. *Promote joint problem identification and problem-solving by the Police Service and the community.*

3. CHALLENGES

- 3.1 SAPS MANAGEMENT AND CPF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RELATIONS
- 3.2. RESOURCES
- 3.3. CPF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS
- 3.4. CPF INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUMS
- 3.5. INTERVENTION OF THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT
- 3.6. STIPEND FOR UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS OF CPF EXECUTIVE
- 3.7. DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE CPFs

3.1 SAPS MANAGEMENT AND CPF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RELATIONS

It has been established that the relationship between SAPS Management and the CPF Executive varies from one station to the other. It depends on the relationship of the Chairperson and the Station Commander or the Community Policing Officer. This then impacts on the provision of the tools of trade for the CPFs.

The main contributor to this is the difference in understanding of the role of the CPF. A general understanding from SAPS is that CPFs are the eyes and the ears of SAPS and focus on, amongst others, Section 18 (a) of the SAPS Act that states that the objects for the establishment of the CPFs is to establish and maintain partnerships between the service, meaning SAPS and the community, whereas the CPFs understand their role to be that of overseeing SAPS, basing their argument from section 18 (e) that speaks of improving transparency in the Service and accountability of the Service to the community . Interpretation of what this means has become a serious problem that has to be attended to as it has created tensions between the two partners.

This is aggravated by the fact that the CPF Executive depends on SAPS for resources, including attending meetings.

3.2. RESOURCES

There is a general complaint about lack of resources. The resources identified are the tools of trade, like access to telephones and office equipment. As stated above, transportation to the meetings is also a huge challenge as in some Police Stations the vehicles would be shared with other units due to the limitations of the number of them at that station. SAPS would prioritise other functions that CPF.

3.3. CPF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Whilst some CPFs do call community meetings, it has been established that most of the CPFs do not call community meetings. This has caused tensions in some areas where the CPF Executive has become distant from the community. In some areas CPFs are perceived to be representing SAPS against the community rather than the representatives of the community.

3.4. CPF INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUMS (CSFs)

The establishment of the Community Safety Forums caused some confusion in CPFs in general. The CPFs, especially the unemployed amongst them, viewed CSFs as a threat. Due to the intervention of the Provincial Secretariats tensions have subsided to a greater extent. This has led to the CPFs participating in the establishment and attending the meetings of the CSFs.