

Have your say on SAPS Amendment Bill

The Police Secretariat has invited the public to comment on the South African Police Service Amendment Bill following Cabinet approval and gazette publishing last week. In a statement, the Secretariat said the draft Bill aims to amend the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No. 68 of 1995) and establish a legal framework for policing aligned to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The draft also lays down principles in the 2030 National Development Plan to align the Act with the 2016 White Papers on Policing and on Safety and Security, as well as the Community Policing Policy and the Policy on a Single Police Service, in order to contribute to the effective and efficient combating of crime.

“The Constitutional Court judgment in

the matter of the Helen Suzman Foundation v the President and Others and Glenister v the President and Others, found certain sections of the South African Police Service Act, 1995, unconstitutional and in the Mlungwana judgment, found provisions of the Regulation of Gatherings Act, 1993 (Act No. 205 of 1993) unconstitutional. The deletion of these sections and amendments to the last-mentioned Act are proposed to address the concerns raised by the Mlungwana judgment,” reads the statement.

The Bill provides for the establishment of the Intelligence Division of the Police Service in terms of the South African Police Service Act, 1995. The Bill also provides for integrity testing of recruits to the Service, as well as lifestyle audits in respect of members of

the Service and conflict of interest. The penalty for certain crimes relating to the abuse of police equipment is increased through the Bill.

The Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service Act, 2011 (Act No. 2 of 2011), and the White Paper on Policing necessitated the transfer of the provisions relating to community policing from the South African Police Service Act, 1995, to the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act, 2011. All interested persons and organisations are invited to submit written comments on the draft Bill no later than 14 November 2020 by –

(i) e-mail to: comments.bill@csp.gov.za

(ii) posting comments to: Secretary for Police Service, for attention of Dr. PC Jacobs at:

Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Private Bag X922, Pretoria 0001

(iii) hand delivery at the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service at Van Erkom Building, Van Erkom Arcade, 7th Floor, 217 Pretorius Street, Pretoria. Kindly provide the name, postal and e-mail address, telephone and fax number of the person or organisation submitting the comments.

Enquiries regarding access to a copy of the draft Bill may be made to Lornah Legomo at telephone no. (012) 393 4658 or by email

lornah.legomo@csp.gov.za – SAnews.gov.za

Free State Asbestos Project labelled daylight robbery

The South African Communist Party (SACP) in the Free State Province has called on the Hawks to give attention to several other alleged scandalous deals in the province.

The party mentioned deals such as Estina Vrede Dairy, apple farm, housing, and roads constructions. “The reality is that there are several other scandalous deals such as the Estina Dairy deal, apple farm deal, housing and roads construction deals etc in the province that require immediate attention of the Hawks,” said SACP in the Free State.

The statement of SACP follows the arrest of seven people last week in connection with R225 million asbestos deal in the Free State. Former MEC and ousted Mangaung Executive Mayor, Olly Mlamleli, is among those arrested.

“South African Communist Party (SACP) in the Free State Province welcomes the arrest of former MEC, current and former senior departmental administrators and businesspersons by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks). The arrested individuals are allegedly linked to the scandalous R225 million asbestos deal in the Free State,” says the Party's Provincial Secretary, Bhekile Stofile. He said that the SACP in the Free State still believes that this scandalous asbestos deal – as is the case with several other deals – is a product of a well machinated daylight robbery orchestrated by a well connected patronage network.

“Any misuse of public resources, including through corruption, disadvantages communities, especially

the poor working-class families who are robbed of much needed development and services.

The SACP in the Free State maintains that those responsible for misappropriation of public resources by commission or omission must be held legally responsible and liable. In this regard, the SACP welcomes these latest arrests and urges the Hawks to work meticulously until successful finality of these matters,” he said.

Stofile said the revelations at the State Capture Commission, which the SACP in Free State follows keenly, give a glimpse of the depth to which public resources were mishandled with impunity over the years.

The SACP in the province appreciated the effort of individuals who voluntarily appear before the Zondo Commission to

provide information helpful to the purpose of the State Capture Commission, without being unnecessarily evasive.

It said the decision of the President to allow the use or disclosure of evidence provided at the commission to law enforcement agencies is plausible and progressive. It also urged the Hawks to follow this avenue and access all information related to all scandalous deals in the province and move speedily with concurrent investigation.

Stofile said the SACP in the Free State supports all anti-corruption efforts aimed at decisively draining the swamp by successfully arresting and prosecuting those involved in any wrongdoing.

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