



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMENDS OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY K9 UNIT FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL JOINT CRIME PREVENTION OPERATION



Overberg District Municipality

Information Supplied By: Xenophone Wentzel and Compiled By:

Ishaam Davids



Above: K9 Unit School Searches

Left: K9 Unit training sessions

Several Joint Crime Prevention Operations took place between 1- 13 June 2022 in the Overstrand Municipality. The Overstrand Law Enforcement Task Team, K9 Unit and Specialized Services made several successful arrests for various crimes in the Overstrand area.

These arrests amongst others include:

- Illegal possession of drugs with a value of R6870.00;
- Abandoned abalone with a value of R70 583.20;
- Illegal possession of abalone with a value of R238 402.95.

The K9 unit dogs and handlers, have been trained to provide support at integrated law enforcement operations in terms of:

- Preventing the illegal transportation of narcotics, explosives and poaching of marine resources;
- Delivering crime prevention through an integrated multidisciplinary model aimed at combatting and prevention of criminality;
- Ensuring compliance with the relevant legislation including the National Road Traffic Act, the Criminal Procedure Act, Drug and Drug Trafficking Act and Firearm Control Act;
- Increasing coverage through the deployment of K9 resources after hours; and
- Maintaining a high degree of visible policing by means of K9 patrols, deployment to identified areas which includes weighbridges, key points and identified crime hot spots.

A successful partnership is based upon shared objectives like with the establishment and development of the K9 Unit. The partnership derive value and the development is ongoing with increased capacity, access to new knowledge and expertise, including specialised staff and greater resources.

K9 units has been established in the Overberg Municipality, Swartland Municipality and the City of Cape Town, with Mossel Bay Municipality next in line.



A WOMAN OF STRENGTH PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES TAKING THE LEAP TO SUCCESS



Above: Senior Inspector Donna-Lee Lombard. Atlantis LEAP Melkbosstrand / Atlantis Administration Office Westfleur Circle.

Every year, in August, South Africa marks Women's Month, where we pay tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956. The march was a turning point to the role of women in the struggle for freedom and society at large. We remember the protest was against the abusive pass laws. The march was led by Lilian Nyoyi, Helen Joseph, Albertina Sisulu and Sophia Williams - De Bruyn.

Women's Month allows us to gauge how far we have come in transforming society while also focusing on creating a conducive environment which enables women to take control of their lives.

This Women's Month; the Department of Community Safety (DoCS) would like to recognise and celebrate Senior Inspector Donna-Lee Lombard who forms part of the Atlantis LEAP operation for contributing and adding value to the department's goals, priorities, and values.

The Department partners with the City of Cape Town, and co funds the LEAP Project. We had the opportunity to conduct an interview with Inspector Lombard. Here are a few questions and answers received from her.

What role do you play within your community?

"I am a Senior Inspector within the department of Law Enforcement. My role in the community is to ensure safety of all citizens. I ensure that my team is pro-active in the area and that all community complaints are attended to. I work in the LEAP environment, which is more focused on bringing the murder rate down in various areas in the City of Cape Town, where such deployment is found. This type of enforcement is continuous and jointly with SAPS on a daily basis and the presence in various areas reflects the impact made by this unit.

I was also raised in a family that is very driven with volunteer work within the community of Atlantis. My late grandmother started a soup kitchen at home and it's been up and running for more than 35 years. After my grandmothers passing 6 years ago, my mother took responsibility for the running of the soup kitchen. To make Christmas special for the kids that comes to the soup kitchen throughout the year, a "Christmas Party" is held annually on the 16th of December. The soup kitchen solely depends on donations and where there is a lack of donations, the family comes together to ensure meals are prepared in order for the kids to have a meal. As a female working in the enforcement environment, I am exposed to many different situations and very often those situations are harsh and negative. However, being part of something that's positive as such in the community is always heartwarming."



Left: Senior Inspector Lombard debriefing her team.

What message of encouragement can you share with females that would motivate them to empower themselves and reach their goals?

"The opportunities in life are endless when one knows exactly what their hearts desires are and what their true passion is. It is of utmost importance to know yourself and to know your strong points, as well as your weak points. This directs you exactly as to where you need to and want to be. Women should never question their abilities instead take on the challenges and learn from mistakes made or accept constructive criticism to become better. As a female I encourage each one to challenge themselves in their own fears to prove to themselves that anything is possible when you apply your mind and heart to what you want to achieve. Goals are reached when you remain focused on the objective. Challenges comes and character needs to be applied when it does."



Above: Senior Inspector Lombard briefing her team on planned activities for their daily community operations.

Please share any words of wisdom on the importance of Women's Month?

"Women are very special as they play various roles. The history behind women's day has made it possible for women to be recognised in their true capacity. For the past generations women has proven to be more than capable of being part of any organisation and being exceptional in their positions."

I salute all women for their capabilities of being extraordinary in our various roles as mothers, of which some are single mothers, professionals in the workplace, extra murals where community work is done in different forms or leaders in church. To all women engaging in different ways to make a difference, keep on doing what you are doing as the impact in others' lives will always be remarkable."

Interview facilitated By: Chantell Hendricks and

Inputs Received By: Senior Inspector Donna-Lee Lombard.



THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY CELEBRATES LONG SERVICE



Above: Staff of the Department of Community Safety

Safety is everyone's responsibility – but it starts with us!

The Department of Community Safety hosted a staff engagement on 07 – 08 July 2022 and embarked on an organizational culture journey with approximately 270 staff members attending the two-day programme.

Led by Minister Reagen Allen and the Head of Department (HOD), Adv Yashina Pillay, with all staff partaking in a conversation of organisational culture and change. It is truly remarkable to have experienced the passion and commitment from our staff and to also celebrate the work they have done over the years. We will use the inputs over the past days as a launch pad for our cultural journey.

Minister Allen said: "I'd like to commend the staff for picking up the baton and being leaders in creating a safer community. There is a clear understanding and appreciation for the task at hand, but the desire to live in a safer environment is reverberating throughout the department. We've committed to holding each other accountable and will make it our business to encourage sister departments, relevant stakeholders and society at large to embark on this journey with us. Safety is after all everyone's responsibility." The two-day programme

concluded with the Minister and HOD, together with staff members acknowledging the long service of colleagues who worked in the public service for 10, 20 and 30 years, respectively. Minister Allen added: "I'd also like to congratulate all staff who were awarded long service certificates. Some have been on the safety journey for 10, 20 and 30 years, and it is important that we acknowledge the achievements of these public servants. What pleases me most is that they're still committed to being on the journey of

creating a safer Western Cape for all. If we're to overcome crime, we need to pull in the same direction, be united and resilient in our efforts. By doing this, we'd be well on way to reducing the murder rate by 50% by 2029. Criminals are determined, but they should know that they've got nothing on us, as we will not rest until our communities are safer for all to live in", Minister Allen concluded.



Left: Head of Department (HOD), Adv Yashina Pillay; Centre: Director: Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Bhekithemba Simelane receiving his 20-year service award, Right: Minister Reagen Allen.



Department of
Community Safety
and Agriculture part-
ners to strengthen
Rural Safety

On 6 July 2022, Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, Dr Ivan Meyer, chaired the Western Cape Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) quarterly meeting on Rural Safety at Elsenburg, Stellenbosch.

The committee received progress reports on integrating systems to optimise technology, support and recognition for neighbourhood and farm watch use. Additionally the partnership and collaborative nature in which SAPS, the Western Cape Government and community structures are working towards advancing rural safety is admirable.

The key message emerging was that collaboration and partnerships were the key ingredients to fighting crime.



Above: From right, Minister Allen welcomed by Minister Meyer to his first IMC on Rural Safety.

A further 174 Neighbourhood and Farm Watches have been accredited, bringing the total to 498 operating across the Western Cape. At the same time, safety partners, including the Provincial and District Disaster Management Centres, private security umbrella associations and organised agriculture, are actively engaged in enhancing rural safety.

Said Minister Meyer: "The Western Cape has worked hard to implement the Provincial Rural Safety Plan, which requires the government to form partnerships with the South African Police Service, Neighbourhood and Farm Watches, the private sector and any other structure that can contribute towards making our rural communities safer."

The Western Cape is the only Province to have developed and implemented a Provincial Rural Safety Plan. In addition, the plan is actively developed and supported by the Western Cape Department of Agriculture.

This partnership reflects a commitment to building safer rural communities in the Western Cape.

Western Cape Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, Reagen Allen, who attended the meeting for the first time since his appointment, said:

"The IMC also received progress reports on the Court Watching Briefs (DoCS Programme) involving rural and farm attacks in the Western Cape. We have systems to ensure that justice will be served in cases involving farm attacks and murders. Rural communities will never be regarded as the Western Cape Government's stepchild, which is part of why we're working closely with the Department of Agriculture. We want to assure residents that we will continue prioritising the rural safety agenda."

DoCS presented to the committee how technology can be used to share information at municipal level. Feedback was shared with regards to how far we have progressed with visiting the municipalities to determine what type of technology they currently use. DoCS committed to complete the audit by March 2023. The Rural committee endorsed the project.

Minister Allen added: "We've seen that as we address crime in one area, it's displaced to another, particularly rural areas. Currently, 47% of the so-called 'known drug houses' are located outside the Cape Metro. We've been informed that drug dealers who might be in the spotlight are making rural communities their new homes. All criminals throughout our Province should feel uncomfortable. I want to call on our rural communities to join us in the fight against those seeking to commit any crime. Through joint efforts, like we're doing with the Department of Agriculture, we're working hard to ensure that we meet our main goal: to halve the murder rate by 2029 as obligated by the Western Cape Government (WCG) Safety Plan .



Above: From right the Head of Department for Community Safety, Adv Yashina Pillay in attendance at the IMC on Rural Safety.

Minister Meyer said: "As the Minister of Agriculture in the Western Cape, I, with the support of my colleague, the Western Cape Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, Reagen Allen, am taking a firm lead in ensuring that rural communities are safe. For this reason, we have developed technologies such as our rural safety desk and our rural safety monitoring dashboard."

Information Supplied By: Marcellino Martin, Media Liaison Officer to the Minister of Community Safety and **Compiled By:** Ishaam Davids

"The next step is integrating the various safety/security technologies to support rural safety. I am pleased with the progress in this regard, as an integrated digital platform between all law enforcement agencies will improve the coordination of rural safety," adds Meyer.



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Department of Community Safety Newsletter

AUGUST 2022

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NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

We hope that you will enjoy the first edition of the **Municipal Newsletter**, scroll through to see what is inside this edition.

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Images: Sourced from the DoCS photo bank and received from DoCS Project Coordinators and Municipal Chief Communications Officers

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STAKE-
HOLDERS**

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TOGETHER**

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