

From: Paul Hoffman [mailto:phoffman@law.co.za]  
Sent: 11 March 2016 11:42 AM  
To: 'ombudsman@westerncape.gov.za'  
Cc: Felicity Purchase (FelicityAnne.Purchase@capetown.gov.za)  
Subject: FW: The Greater Masiphumele Development Plan - the deceit of a satellite station in Masiphumelele

Dear Advocate,

Please find below an email to the local city councillor for Masiphumelele in which the policing situation in the area is criticised.

As you know, the province is entitled to monitor police conduct in terms of section 206 (3) (a) of the Constitution in conjunction with the powers in sub-sections (b) to (e) of that section.

The overall situation in relation to crime in Masiphumelele is pretty dire, and it is not made any better by the introduction, with much fanfare, of the mobile satellite police station last year.

This vehicle, no larger than a taxi of the bigger kind is parked on the eastern side of the community centre just off Pokela Road, which is the only access road until the road-works on Houmoed Road are completed.

We urge you to make an unannounced visit to it. If your experience is similar to ours, you will find two bored policemen lounging in the vehicle which is manned in two twelve hour shifts a day by only two personnel of SAPS. The long shift is presumably because manning the station is regarded as light duty.

You will also find that the unit has no telephone connection, no computers and no facilities for accepting complaints and opening dockets. Essentially the staff on duty commission oaths for passers-by and act as a conduit to Ocean View Police station. There is also a locked armoured SAPS vehicle in the courtyard which, so we were told, serves as the "get-away vehicle" for the SAPS personnel on duty should any trouble arise, as is likely, given the living circumstances, dangers and over-crowding in the area.

We appreciate that the Ocean View Police Station is relatively nearby for those who have transport, it is impossibly far for those who do not. Most inhabitants fall into the latter category.

To identify the arrangements we describe above as the provision of a satellite police station to prevent and combat crime is, in the circumstances, nothing short of deceitful given the requirements of section 205 (3) of the Constitution.

Please use your powers to investigate the provision of policing in Masiphumelele with a view to establishing whether there is constitutional compliance in the level of service currently on offer and whether there is any need for the province to liaise with the Minister of Police in the manner contemplated by section 206 (3) (e) of the Constitution.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind regards,

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