

9/1/02/14

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE INEFFICIENCY IN KHAYELITSHA AND A BREAKDOWN IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE POLICE IN KHAYELITSHA

AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned, **Sipho Jafta**, an adult male, **44 years old**, residential address: G 266 Kakaza Crescent, Khayelitsha, cell no: 0738845069,

do hereby state under oath in English that:

1. I am employed by the City of Cape Town Department of Health, as Health Promoter, based in Gugulethu, Cape Town.
2. I am the Chairperson of the Lingeletu West Community Police Forum (the CPF). I was elected in November 2010. I have been a member of the CPF since 2008. During this time I have also served as Project Manager of the CPF.
3. Prior to joining the CPF I served in various community structures aimed at creating a secure environment for our families and neighbourhood. We were experiencing high levels of crime relating to:

- 3.1. Shebeens. They created too much traffic at night, closed late, created too much noise in the area which invariably resulted in a lot of robberies, assaults and murders.
- 3.2. Housebreakings were rife.
- 3.3. Drug use among the youth. I could see a lot of youths congregating not far from my house especially in the bushy area behind the SHAWCO building. I would see clouds of smoke and smell dagga on an ongoing basis.
4. It was mainly for these reasons that I became active in the community and began attending community meetings to raise these issues.
5. I initially served as member of the South African National Civics Organisation (SANCO) for my area. In that capacity I often attended community meetings with the SAPS. It was during this time that SAPS introduced sector policing. I was elected Deputy Chairperson of the Sector Committee (Sector 2) and later acted as Chairperson.
6. As acting chairperson I began attending CPF meetings on behalf of sector 2 and it was then that I began participating in the CPF activities.

7. I should like to share with the Commission my experiences as member of the CPF:

Initial CPF experience

8. When I joined the CPF I was immediately assigned the portfolio of Project Manager. My initial experience as CPF member was frustrating.
9. The Station Commander's attendance at our scheduled meetings was sporadic. There was little interaction with the station. As time went on our relationship with the station and the Station Commander improved. We currently enjoy a good relationship with the Lingeletu West Police Station, albeit the community continues to give us feedback of dissatisfaction with some of the service they receive at the police station.

Current CPF relations with the police station

10. The CPF now has regular meetings with Lingeletu West police which are regularly attended by the Station Commander. If the Station Commander is unavailable he sends a senior officer to attend in his stead.

11. We have noticed from the current station statistics that most of the crime takes place in Sector 3 which largely comprises of Ilitha Park. This area is experiencing a high rate of house and street robbery, housebreaking, business robbery and assault.

12. Ilitha Park is an affluent area which has attracted a lot of criminals who prey on its residents. One finds more crime taking place in Ilitha Park than TR Section which is an informal area.

General community feedback on service

13. I outline below some of the feedback I have received from the community on issues concerning policing:

- 13.1. Community members often complain that telephone calls to Lingelethu West Police Station go unanswered. I have first-hand experience of this as it has also happened to me.

- 13.2. The police response time to complaints is too slow.

- 13.3. Police are sometimes seen by complainants as too cosy and friendly with perpetrators of crime. When complainants see this they lose faith in the impartiality of the police.
- 13.4. There is also unhappiness about how Lingeletu police interact with and treat the public- with disrespect. I have noticed that community members generally tend not to immediately complain to the authorities about poor service. The problem of poor service is however not restricted to the police. We have noticed it at health clinics and other government departments.
- 13.5. I have witnessed a lack of passion in the manner in which especially the young police officers do their work or interact with the public.
- 13.6. It seems to me that many junior police officers lack training in various aspects of policing and community relations. This is illustrated by an incident where a gentleman who had been insulted by a woman went to report the incident at the police station. He was told not to register a case but to return home and seek to resolve the matter in the community. This advice from the police was completely inappropriate as this gentleman had approached the police in order to avoid conflict and had thought it best that the formal justice system should take its cause.

Gang violence

14. The Lingelethu West police precinct has seen a lot of gang violence in the past few years. A recent unfortunate incident took place in about August/September 2013 during the matric ball of Masiyile High School where learners belonging to rival gangs engaged in a fight which resulted in the death of a school boy.

15. There are many schools in the Lingelethu area which tend to be attended by children from Harare and Site B areas. We have noticed that most children who reside in the Lingelethu area attend schools elsewhere outside of Khayelitsha. They travel by bus, taxi, train and other school transport and they sometimes get caught up in the gangs fights when travel between home and public transport terminals.

16. I have known a police strategy on how to deal with the gangs.

Crime hotspots

17. As a CPF we identify crime hotspots largely through the information and statistics which we obtain from the police.

18. I am aware that there are many victims of crime who do not report crimes perpetrated on them. Consequently, that information does not feed through to the police and police statistics.

Vigilante activity

19. I am aware of the incident where a young man was killed by a section of the community during May 2012 in B Section. I understand that his relatives have testified before the Commission.
20. When I learnt of the incident I called a meeting with members of that community, trying to find out about their involvement, no one has seen the incident. I warned them against vigilantism and told them that the truth will eventually come out about what happened to that young man.
21. I know of another incident last year where an old man named “JB” was killed. A young suspect was apprehended by the community and hauled before a community meeting. I received information of such a meeting a quickly attended at the house and managed to convince the community to release the suspect. It later transpired that a woman relative of JB was in fact the murder. She was successfully prosecuted at Khayelitsha Court and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment.

Police resources

22. It is my view that Lingelethu West police are not properly resourced. They lack adequate vehicles. However, they sometimes exacerbate the problem of scarce vehicles by failing to repair vehicles parked at the police station and also engaging in reckless and negligent driving on the roads.
23. I have had plenty complaints by community members who say that police drive badly on the public roads and end up damaging the few available vehicles needed in the performance of their duties.
24. It is my view that there are too few police officers for the population of Khayelitsha.


CPF community projects

25. As the Lingelethu CPF we are keenly interested in working with the community which we serve to find solutions that will result in safer communities and feeling of security among community members. It is on this basis that we are currently engaging with VPUU in its programmes to create safe spaces around the Lingelethu area.

26. We are also engaged in the planning of a community programme involving Qhayiya High School which falls within our area. We want to adopt this school for about 6 months and work its teachers, parents, learners and other sectors of the community such as religious leaders. We have identified it because of problems emanating from it involving bad behaviour and gang activity. We hope that our efforts will bear fruit.
27. CPF does not get a support from other organisations. There only thing one will experience is to be blamed by the same organisations or people who are expected to give positive support to CPF.

“I swear/truly affirm that the contents of this statement are true so help me God.”

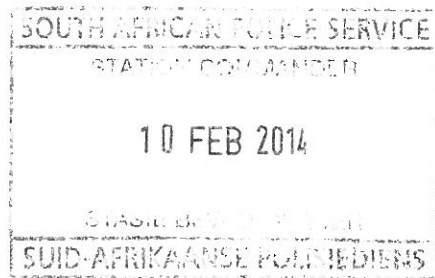
I know and understand the contents of this statement.
I have no objection to taking the prescribed oath.
I consider the prescribed oath as binding on my conscience.



Signature of deponent

I certify that the abovementioned was taken by me in English/..... and immediately translated into English, and that the deponent has acknowledged that he/she knows and understands the contents of this statement. I certify that

regulations contained in GN R1258 have been complied with. This statement was sworn/affirmed before me and the deponent's signature was placed thereon in my presence on 2014.02.10 (date) at NYANGA SAPS (place)



[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Commissioner of oath