

CRIME

Calls to reduce firearm crime

YOGASHEN PILLAY
yogashen.pillay@inl.co.za

A RIGOROUS analysis of firearm crimes, strengthening the Central Firearms Registry and a better system to report lost guns were among the factors that needed to be considered to reduce crime and violence in the country.

This was said yesterday during a Institute for Security Studies (ISS) seminar titled ‘Targeting Firearm Crime to Reduce Violence’.

It was noted in the seminar that there are between 15000 and 16000 firearm deaths every year in South Africa and over 17000 firearm-related injuries reported in 2023/2024.

It was revealed that firearms have played a major role in increasing femicide, with more than 27000 murders reported between 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.

David Bruce, an independent researcher on policing and consultant to the ISS, said that crime mapping with a focus on where firearm crime was taking place was important.

“Mapping can enable police resources to be used in a precise and efficient way. Due to the amount of firearm crime, mapping should be prioritised in Gauteng, Western Cape, KZN, Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga.”

Bruce said that the police must introduce an integrated firearm crime reduction strategy.

“They need to optimise the collection and synthesis of information on firearm crimes. The analysis needs to be used to support the strategic management of police resources. The recording of reported crime and ballistic testing needs to be strengthened. Community relations need to be improved so that the public is encouraged to provide information and feel safe to do so.”

Bruce said that there needed to be a rigorous implementation of the Firearms Control Act.

“This includes digitalisation and other measures to strengthen the Central Firearms Registry. The SAPS can significantly impact the crime problem if it diligently implements a focused firearm violence reduction strategy. Major reductions in firearm crime are essential if SA is to become a safer country.”

Jenni Irish-Qhobosheane, researcher at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime, said that the illicit firearm market in South Africa was a problem.

“On average, 34 people are murdered with firearms each day. Firearms are the currency of the underworld, and the demand for firearms is growing as organised criminal networks mushroom,” Irish-Qhobosheane said.

“One of the things that we need to address is looking at the sources of firearms. Firearms still do come across borders but not to the extent of the late ‘90s.”



D-DAY FOR Cape Town's homeless outside the Castle of Good Hope. A group of homeless individuals living near the historic site must vacate following a Western Cape High Court order. The area is heavily polluted with debris, including plastic bags and human waste. The eviction was initiated by the Public Works Department in June 2024.

1 HENK KRUGER
Independent Newspapers

GOVERNANCE

Knysna Municipality denies looming crisis amid funding woes

CHEVON BOOYSEN
Chevon.booyesen@inl.co.za

THE Knysna Municipality has denied that a sanitation crisis is looming, saying that plans were afoot to get funding for 897 chemical toilets in informal settlements.

The municipality said it has approved a budget funding plan and was in the process of identifying internal savings to fund chemical ablation facilities.

According to DA caucus leader in Knysna, Levael Davis, a “looming sanitation crisis” was highlighted during a recent Integrated Human Settlements Section 80 Committee meeting.

“The DA in Knysna will be writing to the executive mayor and acting

municipal manager to request their plan to avert the looming sanitation crisis.

“At the meeting, we learnt that the current budget for chemical toilets (would be) depleted by the end of September 2024. An additional R2 877 932 is required to maintain this essential service for the remaining seven months of the 2024/2025 financial year. This situation is unacceptable and demands immediate attention.

“Our residents deserve better. The ANC coalition’s silence on this matter is deafening, and their lack of a clear plan is deeply troubling,” said Davis.

Knysna Municipality said while there is no crisis, the municipality recognised the challenge of funding shortages.

“We are working on identifying alternative funding sources to ensure uninterrupted service delivery, as outlined in the budget funding plan.”

Knysna United chairperson Ralph Stander said the municipality is responsible for proper sanitation.

“The blue toilets are expensive; I suggest that while the municipality pays a supplier for these toilets, they should also invest in installing flush toilets for households. There are already sanitary issues with the sharing of the toilets,” said Stander.

ANC spokesperson in Knysna, Moyisi Magalela, said they noted a water shortage with concern and they have not been resting on their laurels to address the issues.

“Knysna is not immune to drought

experienced across South Africa. We also welcome the restriction issued by the municipality and urge the communities to adhere to the restriction.

“We are not surprised with the DA playing politics. It is not true that the coalition is quiet about these issues.

“(The municipality) is still engaged and committed to the section 154 intervention by national and provincial governments.

“The national department visited the municipality in the previous week to assess the progress, and they were happy with progress made by the municipality. This coalition remains committed to service delivery and will not be defocused by the DA who has no interest in service delivery,” said Magalela.

COURT

Tax practitioner acquitted of fraud charges by SCA

CHEVON BOOYSEN
Chevon.booyesen@inl.co.za

A TAX practitioner has been acquitted of all charges after he turned to the Supreme Court of Appeal following his conviction for defrauding SARS of

more than R2 million.

Seshin Naraidu appealed against his conviction and six-year imprisonment sentence handed down by the Gauteng Regional Court. His sentencing was handed down without the option of a fine.

Naraidu was convicted on three counts of fraud, and three alternative charges under the Value-Added Tax Act.

According to court documents, Naraidu was accused of having “unlawfully, and with intent to defraud, misrepresented to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) that Serghony Shoes Fashion CC (SSF) had incurred expenses and was entitled to refunds”. SSF and its sole member, were the two other accused in the matter. The sole member had not returned to court for sentencing.

According to court documents and the State’s case against the accused, they “knew that SSF was not entitled to any such refunds and that the information submitted to SARS was false”.

However, even if Naraidu is held accountable for what he wrote in the emails, it does not follow that resubmitting the documents meant he knew they were fictitious invoices or that the claim was fraudulent, the SCA found.

The refund sought was substantial, amounting to R2 748 037.

“The SARS witnesses were unable to say who had accessed the e-filing system to make the claims on behalf of SSF. But, even if Naraidu must be held to what he wrote in the emails, it does not follow that because he resubmitted the documents in support of the claim,

he had any knowledge that these documents were fictitious invoices and that the claim was fraudulent,” court documents read.

SCA Justice David Unterhalter said: “There was no direct evidence of this. It was the investigations undertaken by SARS that uncovered the fraud. This was done by verifying whether there were true sales that the invoices purported to record. There were not. But there was no evidence that Naraidu knew this to be so. It cannot be inferred that because he submitted the documents on behalf of SSF, he thereby represented that they recorded transactions that supported the VAT refund, knowing that they were fictitious. Once that is so, the State failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Naraidu had the intent to defraud SARS.

“That Naraidu acted recklessly is plainly the case. He lent his efforts to secure the payment of a fraudulent claim. But absent proof beyond reasonable doubt that he knew the claim to be fraudulent, he cannot be said to have made himself party to the fraud. There is an absence of proof that Mr Naraidu had the intention required to be guilty of fraud. His conviction on the charges of common law fraud... must be set aside,” said Judge Unterhalter.



NATION

Discover Africa's finest at Coffee and Cocoa Week

STAFF WRITER

AFRICA is celebrated as the birthplace of coffee, offering some of the world's most exceptional varieties, while around 70% of the global cocoa supply comes from four West African countries.

With the rising demand for specialty and origin-specific products, particularly in urban areas, Coffee and Cocoa Week 2024 provides an exciting opportunity to boost intra-African trade and bring unique African brands to the forefront.

The event aims to unite Africa's coffee and cocoa industries into a single, interdependent market at Youngblood Africa in Cape Town from October 24-26.

“There is increasing enthusiasm across Africa for locally sourced coffee and chocolate. Coffee and Cocoa Week promotes the idea that the development of these industries should not be limited to exports alone. By enhancing local consumption, we can significantly improve the livelihoods of the farmers cultivating coffee and cocoa and shift the narrative from Africa being seen as merely a source of raw commodities,” organisers said.

“The event encourages the growth of African coffee and chocolate industries from within, one farmer, one cup, and one bar at a time.”

Attendees can look forward to a rich experience, receiving a complimentary chocolate gift on arrival. Visitors will also have the opportunity to taste chocolates, cocoa, and coffee from over 20 African brands.

“This three-day event will gather African producers, chefs, chocolatiers, and key industry leaders to showcase the continent's finest coffee and chocolate. Guests will enjoy tastings and learn more about African brands. Industry partners will have inter-African networking opportunities and explore unique culinary collaborations with luxury lodges and hotels across the continent.

“Coffee and Cocoa Week aims to foster inter-African collaboration, promote fair trade, and champion sustainable practices across the continent,” organisers said.

Kenya Airways will feature African-sourced coffee and chocolate on their duty-free platform and offer tasting experiences in select airport lounges.

In collaboration with Travel Africa Network, Kenya Airways will also profile coffee, cocoa, and chocolate destinations, showcasing farm-to-table experiences and tours that highlight tourism opportunities in these regions.

Luxury lodges and hotels across Africa will incorporate locally sourced coffee and chocolate into their culinary offerings, promoting fair trade, and fostering sustainable tourism.

Each ticket purchase automatically enters attendees into a draw to win a three-night stay for two at Victoria Falls, with return flights from Cape Town provided by Kenya Airways.

Children under 10 can enter for free when accompanied by a ticket-holding adult.

For more information, visit coffeeandcocoaweek.com

LITTLE MOWBRAY AND ROSEBANK IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NPC (AGM)
NPC 2016/311084/08
2 Raleigh Road, Little Mowbray 7700
Info@lmrid.capetown www.lmrid.capetown

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Little Mowbray and Rosebank Improvement District NPC (LMRID) will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM). All stakeholders are invited to a review of the year's activities and planning for 2025/26.

Date: Thursday 14th November, 2024
Time: 19h00 (registration for meeting), 19h30 (meeting commence)
Venue: Mossop Hall, cnr Cheltenham and Roseberry Roads, Little Mowbray.

Resolutions presented at the AGM may only be voted on by bona fide members of the LMRID. Membership is free of charge to all owners of property within the LMRID footprint who are liable for the additional rate (additional rate payers), but they must be registered before 7th November, 2024.

To register as a member or access further information and documentation go to: www.lmrid.capetown, email: info@lmrid.capetown or phone 08610 56743

Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Groote Schuur Community Improvement District NPC (GSCID) will be hosting an AGM. All stakeholders are invited to a review of the past financial year's activities and to approve the extension of the CID term.

Date: 2024-11-14
Time: 16:30
Venue: Belmont Conference Centre

Resolutions presented at the meeting can only be voted on by bona fide members of the GSCID. This membership is available free of charge to all owners of property within the GSCID footprint who are liable for the additional rate (additional rate payers), but they must be registered before 2024-11-05.

Any additional rate payer opposed to the application to extend the CID term may submit a written objection within 30 days of the conclusion of the AGM whereafter Council may approve the application if written objections have not been received from at least 51% of additional rate payers.

Members of the local community (including property owners, residents, tenants, body corporates, civic organisations and non-governmental, private sector or labour organisations) may submit written comments on the new five-year business plan within 30 days of the conclusion of the AGM.

To register as a member or access further information and documentation go to www.gscid.co.za (CID web page). To submit a written objection or comment e-mail info@gscid.co.za or call 021 685 8185

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AIRPORT INDUSTRIA CITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NPC
Registration Number 2004/007225/08

Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Airport City Improvement District NPC (AICID) will be hosting an AGM. All stakeholders are invited to a review of the past financial year's activities and to approve the extension of the CID term.

Date: 14 November 2024
Time: 12h00
Venue: Hotel Verde, 15 Michigan Street, Airport Industria 2

Resolutions presented at the meeting can only be voted on by bona fide members of the Airport City Improvement District NPC (AICID). This membership is available free of charge to all owners of property within the AICID footprint who are liable for the additional rate (additional rate payers), but they must be registered before 7 November 2024.

Any additional rate payer opposed to the application to extend the CID term may submit a written objection within 30 days of the conclusion of the AGM whereafter Council may approve the application if written objections have not been received from at least 51% of additional rate payers.

Members of the local community (including property owners, residents, tenants, body corporates, civic organisations and non-governmental, private sector or labour organisations) may submit written comments on the new five-year business plan within 30 days of the conclusion of the AGM.

To register as a member or access further information and documentation go to www.airportcid. To submit a written objection or e-mail airportcid@mweb.co.za or call 021 386 8403

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