



Story Details

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Province:	Free State
Heading:	PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE VISITS SMITHFIELD CLUSTER
Story:	<p>The Portfolio Committee of Police, Roads and Transport visited Smithfield Cluster Police on Tuesday the 21 February 2012 at the George Rantee Hall in Smithfield. The purpose of the visit was to interact with the Cluster Station Commanders and to establish whether there are any challenges that face the individual police stations and also to check if performance is up to standard. The assistance rendered by the accounting office was also evaluated.</p> <p>Accounting police stations that fall under the Smithfield Cluster include Goedemoed, Rouxville, Zastron, Van Stadensrus, Wepener, Dewetsdorp and Smithfield. The respective commanders of Van Rooyensgate Border Police, Sephaphu Border Post and Makhaleng Border Post also form part of Smithfield Cluster were there to present their challenges too.</p> <p>The challenges the station commanders raised, included vehicles taking too long to be repaired at the SAPS garage, vehicles not conducive to the terrains at most police stations, not enough senior police members at some shifts, deteriorating police buildings, including awaiting trial prisoner's cells and an alarming rate of absenteeism by some police members.</p> <p>It was not only the challenges of the stations that were discussed. Stations were evaluated according to their presentations and where poor performance was identified, the particular Station Commander was instructed to ensure that the situation is turned around as soon as possible. According to the Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Ms M.A Schepers, follow-up visits as well as visits to the respective police stations will be done.</p> <p>These challenges however do not stop the dedicated policemen and –women to effectively and efficiently perform their duties of squeezing crime to zero. The Portfolio Committee's chairperson has promised to give attention to the Cluster's misfortunes and where possible, ensure a turn-around. The other Clusters are to be visited soon on the same mission.</p>
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