

# BACK TO BASICS

TOWARDS A SAFER TOMORROW



## CASE STUDY ON VUWANI DEMARCATION PROTEST

30 June 2016

#CrimeMustFall

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# Background to Vuwani case study



Vuwani is situated in Vhembe District under Makhado Municipality.

During July 2015, the Demarcation Board announced the proposed new demarcations of the municipalities and establishment of the new municipality which will include Malamulela, Tshikonelo, Mulenzhe, Piet boy and Khakhanwa which are presently under Thulamela Municipality and Masia, Mashau, Vyeboom, Tshino, Davhana, Tshimbupfe, Ramukhuba, Masakona presently under Makhado Municipality.

Traditional Leaders and community structures from Vuwani area formed a Task Team called Pro-Makhado Task Team [PMTT] to fight against the decision of the Municipal Demarcation Board [MDB]. They don't want to form part of Malamulela. They convened several meetings to establish strategies to fight against the decision of the Demarcation Board



## Background to Vuwani case study cont's

▶ 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015

- Commencement of the protest actions in Vuwani

▶ 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015

- Premier of Limpopo to address all affected communities.

▶ 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015

- Deputy President addressed Vuwani affected communities.

▶ 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

- MDB announced the final decision on all demarcations

▶ 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015

- High Court proceedings commenced and the case was remanded to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016

▶ December 2015

- IEC was refused to establish an IEC office to prepare for LGE 2016 in Vuwani

▶ 5/6 March 2016 and 9/10 April 2016

- Voter registration phases for LGE 2016

▶ 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016

- Application to set aside the decision of the MDB was dismissed

▶ 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016

- Violent protests commenced



## Prediction analysis

- During the previous violent actions by Vuwani communities, their targets were Government buildings around Vuwani town, blocking of major roads and attacking the police.
- Several confrontations between the police and the protestors took place when the protestors were attempting to burn Government structures in Vuwani town.
- During the investigation on Malamulela incidents of burning of schools, criminal elements were discovered and laptops & computers stolen before burning the school Administration Blocks were recovered. Suspects were arrested and the cases are still pending in court. The incidents were not due to demarcation protests.



# Analysis of the situation



Stages	Situation	Interventions
Peaceful	<p>Peaceful meetings and marches about the proposal of the Wards demarcation by the MDB were conducted</p>	<p>Provincial Government &amp; SAPS – stakeholder meetings</p>
Caution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015 non-attendance by the Premier to the community meeting and violence erupted</li><li>• Pro-Makhado declared a shutdown</li><li>• In December 2015, IEC officials were refused to operate in Vuwani</li></ul>	<p><u>Stakeholder engagements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015 Premier ,MECs and SAPS</li><li>- Awareness campaigns</li><li>- Dep. President &amp; Vuwani communities</li><li>- PMTT called at the Presidency for the feedback</li><li>- 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 the matter was taken to court</li></ul>



# Analysis of the situation



Stages	Situation	Interventions
<p><b>Violent</b></p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application to set aside the decision of the MDB was dismissed in court</li><li>• Pro-Makhado addressed affected communities at Vuwani Sports Ground</li><li>• Violence erupted in the form of blocking of roads, damaging and burning of government property and attacks to specific community members &amp; police</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Community engagements:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SAPS &amp; Community structures</li><li>- Inter-Ministerial Committee [IMC]&amp; Technical Team [TT] established</li><li>- IMC ,Venda King, Traditional leaders, Pastors Forum, Civic Society &amp; other community structures</li></ul></li><li>• Security at clinics were beefed up and community guarded their schools</li><li>• A Council took a resolution to declare Vhembe, a local Disaster</li></ul>

# Analysis of the situation



Stages	Situation	Interventions
<p><b>Violent</b></p>  	<p>- <b>Community members became leaderless and intensified violent actions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>72 Mobile classrooms delivered to 19 schools</b></li><li>• <b>Counselling services were provided to families, teachers and children.</b></li><li>• <b>Catch-up programme to assist Grade 12 learners commenced on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016.</b></li><li>• <b>Interventions still continues</b></li></ul>





# Factors impacting on the behaviour of the protestors

**The following factors were obtained by interviewing protestors at different affected villages:**

- Fear of the unknown – contesting for positions
- Fear of being led by Tsonga speaking people
- Lack of knowledge for the locality of the new Municipal offices
- Community service delivery programmes and developments
- Anticipation of loosing business opportunities
- Minimum job opportunities for Venda people

# People of Vuwani's perception about the new municipality



- Premier and the Government consider Malamulela as important and better than Vuwani people
- More attention was given to Malamulela people, they also demand Government attention
- The Government was able to reverse the decision of the MDB for Malamulela and therefore, they can do it for Vuwani
- Lack of proper consultation by the MDB
- The new Municipality will be situated in Malamulela
- Tsonga people will take charge of the new Municipality
- No services will be taken to Venda people

# Police responding to the community protest in Vuwani



## Pro-active

- Early warning regarding violent protests was provided
- Pre-deployment of police
- Community mobilization
- Educational campaigns
- Intelligence driven operations

## Re-active

- Additional deployment
- Tracing of suspects [41 people arrested]
- Stakeholder engagements
- Sharing of resources
- Implementation of integrated Communication plan
- Crime Prevention operations

## Normalization

- Intelligence driven operations
- Deployment still continues until the situation is back to normal



# Lessons learnt



POSITIVE	FUTURE DO's
Improved cooperation and commitment by other Government Departments	Government interventions should not wait for incidents or violent protests.
Due to joint efforts with NPA, public violence cases are receiving attention	Prediction analysis should be properly done by Security Cluster
Joint stakeholder interventions, community engagements and the police implementing re-active and pro-active measures, the unrest situation is stabilized over a shorter period	Once there's a possibility of the Government or any property to be burnt/damaged during violent protest, Intelligence should infiltrate to prevent more properties being damaged or loss of life
	Maximum deployment of police once the possibility of violent actions by protestors is detected

# Conclusion



An integrated approach by Security Cluster Departments, is yielding very positive results in terms of decreasing incidents of crime and bringing stability in all identified unrest areas.

Community engagements and mass communication regarding government responsibilities and programmes will ensure the effectiveness of pro-active measures.

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Thank you

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