



**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS TO THE FREE STATE  
LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE PETITION OF RESIDENTS OF HEIDEDAL  
UNION VERSUS SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY SAFETY, ROADS AND TRANSPORT**

**21 AUGUST 2025**

## **REPORT PROFILE**

**Title of Report:** Report of the Committee on Petitions to the Free State Legislature regarding the Petition of Residents of Heidedal versus South African Police Services and Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport

**Responsible Committee:** Committee on Petitions.

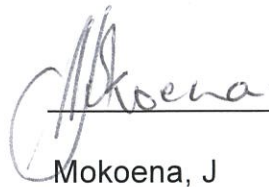
**Report Compiled by and on:** Nomsa Qayiso on 02 May 2025

**Report checked and edited by:** Ciska Williams, Manager Petitions Unit

**Report for Tabling in the Legislature on:**

**TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE  
FREE STATE LEGISLATURE**

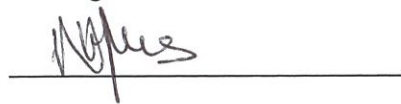
The Committee on Petitions herewith tables its report regarding the Petition of Residents of Heidedal versus South African Police Services and Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport. The Committee on Petitions could not have presented this report without valuable contribution by the Petitioner, Officials of the South African Police Services and Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport, Hon. Members of the Committee on Petitions, as well as support services rendered by the Support Staff from the Free State Legislature.

  
Mokoena, J

**CHAIRPERSON**

**MEMBERS:**

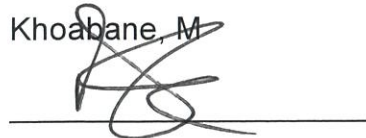
Ndungane, N



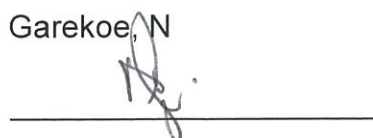
Meeko, T



Khoabane, M



Garekoe, N

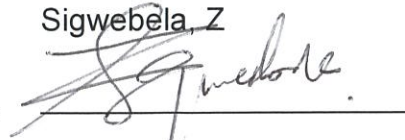


Cloete, A



Msimanga, M

Sigwebela, Z



Foko, M



Masoeu, D

Mkhabela, M

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Committee on Petitions considered the Petition of Residents of Heidedal versus South African Police Services and Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport as per the provisions of Standing Rules and Orders of the Free State Legislature and Free State Petitions Act No 2 of 2008

## **2. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

*The Committee comprises the following members:*

Mokoena, J	(Chairperson)
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Cloete, A	(Member)
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Foko, M	(Member)
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Garekoe, N	(Member)
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Khoabane, M	(Member)
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Masoeu, D	(Member)
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Meeko, T	(Member)
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Msimanga, M	(Member)
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Ndungane, N	(Member)
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Sigwebela, Z	(Member)
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### **3. PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE**

On 10 April 2025, the Committee on Petitions convened to consider the Petition of Residents of Heidedal versus South African Police Services and Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport

### **4. CONSIDERATION OF THE PETITION**

**4.1. Residents of Heidedal versus South African Police Services and Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport**

#### **4.1.1. Background – Residents of Heidedal**

This Petition is about the Heidedal residents who were dissatisfied with the kind of services the South African Police Services (hereinafter to be referred as SAPS) at the Heidedal police station was providing to them. They complained that the police are not doing enough to curb crimes such as drug trafficking and drug abuse in Heidedal. They argued that the SAPS had not met with them even after they have requested a meeting several times, this is even after they have given them a memorandum. To make matters worse, the community guards were being victimised, including by imprisoning some under falsified evidence. In addition, the police does not work together with the community guards. The Residents of Heidedal also claimed that the Members of the SAPS at this police station do not wear their name tags as they should. It was also alleged that the ward councillor was in cahoots with the police in deciding who gets to be investigated.

#### **4.1.2. Relief sought by the Petitioner**

That the station commander should resign (Mr. Itumeleng Pule) and that the police should work hand in hand with community guards to fight against crime in Heidedal.

#### **4.1.3. Findings**

Mr. Tsoai from the Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport submitted a presentation that in April 2023, the MINMEC delegation conducted oversight visits to twelve police stations in the Free State Province, including the Heidedal Police Station. The visits aimed to assess operational conditions and community relations. A

standardized National Tool was used to collect data to the itinerary on the day of the visit.

#### Key challenges identified at Heidedal Police Station

- Language and representation barriers- the station predominantly serves a Coloured, Afrikaans-speaking community, yet fewer than two SAPS members are fluent in Afrikaans. This led to the allegations of community members refusing assistance from non-Afrikaans speaking officers.
- Dysfunctional Community Policing Forum (CPF)- The CPF executive committee is inactive, and sector meetings lack SAPS participation. The CPF's name is misused to convene unauthorized meetings with external organizations. Members of an adversarial Non-Profit Organization (NPO) hold dual roles in the CPF, undermining trust in SAPS.
- Operational and community relations issues- community complaints (Mr Johnny Jansen and Ms. Sophie Swartz) remain unresolved and cases (e.g 161/03/2022) are reportedly poorly investigated. SAPS faces staffing shortages with only one Officer managing the CPF office. There are allegations of SAPS inaction against drug peddling, illegal shebeens and criminal hotspots (e.g. Gatvol area). Tensions escalated when CPF members protested SAPS operations such as the seizure of dagga during Operation Tom Swart.
- Governance concerns- donations (e.g. from Coca Cola) and assets linked to the CPF lack transparency and accountability. A CPF office operates outside the station without SAPS oversight, while designated on-site office remains unused.

#### Findings and interventions

- CPF initially functioned post-election in 2021 but deteriorated due to leadership conflicts and poor communication. The Provincial Secretariat mediation led to the following resolutions: regular meetings between the Station Commander and CPF Chairperson; revival of sector forums and development of a CPF operational program; direct Provincial Secretariat oversight for three consecutive CPF meetings.



- Parties demonstrated increased willingness to collaborate after mediation. The Provincial Secretariat confirmed improved functionality during three monitored CPF meetings.

Continued monitoring by the Community Relations Unit is critical to sustain progress. Key next steps include resolving staffing shortages, clarifying CPF governance and ensuring accountability for donations and operations. The Heidedal Station will be targeted for unannounced visits by the Secretariat officials over the weekends to observe behaviour of members and availability of resources.

Col. Francis from SAPS alluded that the Station Commander, Mr. Itumeleng Pule is no longer in that position. Regarding staffing there were twelve new Constables who were assigned to the Heidedal Station to address the shortcomings identified in the petition as well as transfers. Language barriers is a prevalent issue and is a constant issue that should be addressed and improved. There is a continuous operation in Heidedal to combat crime than previously. Col. Fouche, the current Station Commander at Heidedal, received a letter that the Station has been assigned with two Constable Detectives and there is a Domestic Violence Coordinator that speaks Afrikaans as domestic violence is prevalent in Heidedal. There are high density operations to also combat drug and liquor crimes. The Station Commander also reassured the Committee that the Station is not only Afrikaans Speaking but there are also Sesotho speaking Officers to assist the community of Heidedal.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport and South African Police Services (SAPS) produce a consolidated report on the progress made on the challenges mentioned and report to the Committee in the next month of May 2025 in order to close the matter.
2. That the Report of the Residents of Heidedal be adopted by the House.



