



Justice and Security Research Cluster

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FEATURED DEPARTMENT: POLICE

PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH UNIT

The role of private security in crime prevention

The private security industry (PSI) is growing worldwide. In many countries, private security officers (PSOs) outnumber the police. In South Africa, there are twice as many PSOs as there are police officers. Private security companies (PSCs) perform many duties that fall within the traditional mandate of the public police and the 'scope creep' of these duties, and public spaces in which they are performed, is increasing. The pluralisation of policing has resulted in the public police developing new approaches to policing. Many international jurisdictions have engaged in collaborative partnerships with the PSI and communities and have outsourced policing duties, such as foot patrols and administrative duties.

In South Africa, the role of the PSI in crime prevention has been outlined in various policy documents, notably the National Development Plan (NDP) that calls for joint operations to be supported and extended. However, there is no formalised policy framework to guide the collaboration between the SAPS and the PSI. This is a major challenge to establishing successful collaborative efforts in crime prevention between the PSI and the South African Police Service (SAPS). There is some informal collaboration between local police stations and PSCs, but such initiatives have not been formalised at a national level, until the Eyes and Ears Pilot Project that was launched in 2019. This pilot brings together the PSI, SAPS and Business against Crime South Africa (BACSA) in a formalised partnership. The success and failures of this project must be studied to inform future (and improved) partnerships.

This paper considers the role of private security in crime prevention. International examples are used to illustrate areas in which collaboration is effective and where the outsourcing (privatisation) of police duties bring about more effective policing and decreased expenditure. However, as private security increasingly enters the securing of public spaces, more emphasis must be placed on improving accountability and transparency. [Read more ...](#)

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Dear Members

This bulletin is the first of a series published by the Justice and Security Research Cluster. It aims to bring topical issues to the attention of Members of Parliament.

Regards
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JUSTICE



PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH UNIT

Parliamentary oversight: Matters sub judice

The “sub judice rule” has confused and impeded committees of Parliament in their oversight function in recent times. It has also provided an excuse for avoiding difficult oversight questions.

“Parliament’s rule on matters sub judice hampers oversight because it prevents Members and committees from considering the merits of matters that are before a court.”

In practice, the rule may discourage inquiry on matters relevant for oversight simply because they are subject to court processes.

This research paper explains the origins of the sub judice rule in the colonial and apartheid era and sets out the reasons why it no longer has any weight in South African law - because of the Constitution and its protection of the independence of the courts, and democratic values such as freedom of expression. [Read more ...](#)

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Liberty not the only loss: Socio-economic impact of Remand Detention in the Western Cape

The report provides results from a study on the socio-economic impact of remand detention on accused persons held at Pollsmoor Remand Detention Facility (RDF) and Pollsmoor Female, in the Western Cape, South Africa. The study relied on interviews with visitors to detainees, on official data relating to inmates and visitors, as well as on Western Cape aggregate remand data. The study found that the number of people detained on remand in the Western Cape is disproportionately high compared to the rest of the country and is on the increase. It is estimated that one in every 50 adult men is admitted to remand detention per year in the Western Cape, bringing with it the attendant social and economic costs.

Further, more than half are detained from only six police stations. This points to targeted and inconsistent policing. The evidence in the study suggests that the criminal procedural system metes out a disproportionate ‘punishment’ in the form of infringement of the socio-economic rights of the families of detainees, regardless of guilt or innocence. The study recommends a number of interventions to seek to ensure that remand detention is used only for short durations or when absolutely necessary, thereby minimising socio-economic harms. [Read more ...](#)

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AFRICAN UNION

ANALYST: GUN FREE SOUTH AFRICA

How SA can help silence the guns in Africa



SILENCING THE GUNS:

Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa’s Development

On 9 February, South Africa assumed chairing the African Union (AU) for 2020. In his acceptance speech President Cyril Ramaphosa prioritised the AU’s *Silencing the Guns* agenda as a strategy to creating conducive environments for Africa’s development.

President Ramaphosa’s championing of the *Silencing the Guns* agenda contrasts sharply with our national context: South Africa has one of the highest rates of gun-related violence and gun stockpile levels on the continent and is the largest exporter and importer of small arms and light weapons in Africa. [Read more ...](#)

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DEFENCE



PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH UNIT

South Africa has a robust defence industry that adds to the country’s military capacity and provides potential economic growth through the export of defence products. However, given the destructive capabilities of such defence products, this sector requires careful control and oversight. Central to this process is the National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC).

National Convention Arms Control Committee

Since its inauguration in May 1994, the South African Government has committed itself to a policy of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control, which covers weapons of mass destruction and extends to concerns relating to the proliferation of conventional weapons.

A primary goal of South Africa’s non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control policy is to reinforce and promote South Africa as a responsible producer and possessor of, and trader in defence-related products and advance technologies.

“The export of arms, especially those of mass destruction must be monitored.”

Crucial to this is the role of the NCACC that regulates the import and export of conventional weapons. This brief provides an overview of the NCACC and its responsibility to Parliament. [Read more ...](#)

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