



Remarks at the SANAPS AGM, 2024 by Advocate Mandla Mathaphuna, the Chairperson of the South African Board for Sheriffs, on 09 November 2024, Polokwane

Programme Director, The members of the organising committee! Members of SANAPS; a special acknowledgement to the SANAPS Chairperson, Sheriff Mashigo, thank you for the courteous invitation and the wonderful hospitality; to you and members of the SANAPS Executive Committee, we truly appreciate the support and collaboration shown to the SABFS Board; my fellow Board members; the Presiding Regional Court President, we also acknowledge past members and executives of the Board, may they stand and we give them a round of applause, they laid a solid foundation and we will call on you colleagues for your institutional knowledge. Members of the LGBTQI plus, gentlemen, leaders in invited CSO and others.

Colleagues:

1. When one considers the ostentatious decorum of this event, one can only surmise, you Sheriff's know a thing or two about getting down to business, hey?
2. But seriously, we came into the current Board in June 2024 at an important era in our country. The elections results had almost been announced and there MKP had entered the political scene with some significant rumble.
3. The question of where we turn to as a society, was similar to that asked in the Apocryphals by Apostle Peter to vision of Christ: "Quo Vadis Domine?" (Where are you going, Master?)
4. Considered generally, the nation chose in the franchise of May 2024, a path of Unity and gave no single party overall dominance.
5. Chairperson, the SANAPS is a voluntary association housing a significant portion of our Sheriffs Profession.
6. Your Constitution states, at clause 8:

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Association shall be: -

8.1 To promote the interest of the Sheriffs nationally, and internationally.

8.2 To improve the quality of the service of the profession at national level.

8.3 To represent its members in all matters of the common interest in negotiations with the South African Board for Sheriffs, Government, The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, The Rules Board of South Africa, NGO's and all Courts, and other professional association/s societies, and any other body or institution where its member's interests may be relevant.

8.4 To research any matter that may be of interest to members and provide members with the result of such research.”

7. The South Board for Sheriffs, which I have the momentary honor in terms of section 4(a) of the Sheriffs Act to lead, was established with a complementary, but legislated objective. The Sheriffs Act 90 of 1986, as amended on 3 April 2024 by the Judicial Matters Amendment Act 15 of 2023, sets the following key objectives of the Board;

“a) the maintenance of the esteem of, the enhancement, of the status, and the improvement of the standards of training of and functions performed by sheriffs;

b) the development and implementation of appropriate measures, including support programmes, for purposes of issuing fidelity fund certificate to the sheriffs who have the potential to establish and operate an office of a sheriff successfully and

c) the development of guidelines for the appointment of deputy sheriffs.”

8. The Board is vested with disciplinary authority in cases of reported improper conduct of Sheriffs.

9. The Board serves also as the Appeal Authority. (S18)

10. Chairperson, the financial obligations of Sheriffs to the Board include payment of annual levies, payment of levies from acting sheriffs are also obligatory. In addition, Sheriffs are required to honour the fidelity requirements including section 22(4) interest to the Fund.

11. The Board thus is solely funded by yourselves as Sheriffs and derives other prescribed income other than from the national fiscus.

12. The Board members, I pause to mention Chairperson, are required to dedicate themselves with honour, highest levels of ethics, and proficiency. They receive meeting fees determined in line with the Treasury Regulations, I believe the latest amount is around R3500 per meeting. That amount, by comparison with what Sheriffs make regularly in their work, is a sheer sacrifice.
13. Colleagues, the Board has had to do a strategic analysis of its functional space. Allow to detail elements our span of control:
14. Number of Sheriff's nationally is 210.
15. There are 816 Deputy Sheriffs nationally
16. Acting Sheriffs nationally are currently 90 acting sheriffs. We have recently processed new acting positions, as we await the filling of the recently advertised posts.
17. The number of Sheriff vacancies currently stands at 157.
18. The Board has its own accredited training programmes, delivered in collaboration with the Brigitte Mabandla Justice College, mainly the Sheriffs Introductory Course saw over 310 Sheriffs having been trained by 2023.
19. Other programmes such as the Bookkeeping Course (2023) – 289
20. Number of Sheriffs in disciplinary processes is currently only three (3)
21. The Board has adopted a new strategic trajectory which is anchored on Innovation, Sustainability, Professionalism, Integrity, and Consultation.
22. I have outlined these imperatives Programme Director, not to be parabolic, but to give perspective on some of the Board's work. We shall be engaging soon with the stakeholders including the LPC, and the Rules Board on a number of crucial issues affecting Sheriffs.

23. These cannot be explored in this AGM, will require a workshop or conference. Rest assured we have the desire to influence policy and to revise such areas as the non payment of fees by attorney we call on Sherifs to submit their age-analysis (we looking at developing a central collections desk) for you. There is the issue of a customised medical aid, provident fund, indemnity cover, and other business support programmes which seek to achieve the very essence of upholding the status and image of the office.

24. Before, I loose your attention colleagues, allow me to say the Board is not only on a new and different pathway, but cannot traverse a new strategic direction without a united, a cohesive and a vibrant SANAPS.

25. We have outlined where the Board is, and where it seeks to launch into the future. The question for you as SANAPS, remains Quo Basis SANAPS, Quo Vadi!!

BeKNene!