

6 September 2022

To: Saldanha Bay Municipality IDP

Safety and Security / Law Enforcement**Ward 6 and Ward 14****Request:**

- Law Enforcement's mandate be expanded to include Langebaan resident's safety and security.
- Law Enforcement staff contingent to be expanded to provide 24/7/365 service and support for the expanded mandate.
- Law Enforcement to assist with patrolling especially from 00h00 to 06h00 to discourage criminals.
- Law Enforcement officer's skills should be upgraded to ensure professional and courteous public engagement.
- Establish decentralised SBM Law Enforcement control room and camera monitoring in Langebaan.
- Traffic and Law Enforcement Officers to be permanently stationed in Langebaan.

In the 2021 Local Government Election Manifesto, the DA stated the following: "A DA government will invest in localised law enforcement and tackle the local conditions which give rise to crime in the first place."

Motivation:

There is a great need for Municipal Law Enforcement to be much more vigilant, visible and active in a positive manner. This is underscored by Langebaan being identified as the coastal town with the 3rd highest crime rate in South Africa.

The fact that the municipal Law Enforcement services are not available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year for the enforcement of applicable law, is of great concern to residents. It is requested that the Law Enforcement mandate is expanded to allow for a fully functional, fully operational municipal law enforcement service that operates for 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. It is further requested that the municipal Law Enforcement actively support SAPS and assist the neighbourhood watch with patrolling the town at night in order to reduce crime.

Furthermore:

- a) It is requested that the Law Enforcement Officers are given regular refresher training programmes that includes a program on how to deal with the public, given that Langebaan is a tourist destination. The decentralisation of the municipal emergency services due to Langebaan's extended response time, and lack of SBM traffic and Law Enforcement presence must be addressed. Having traffic officials and Law Enforcement officers based and operational in Langebaan 24 hours per day, 365 days per year will contribute to managing the crime in the town.
- b) It is requested that the municipal control room and camera monitoring project is urgently decentralised. It is requested that space be allocated inside Langebaan municipal buildings where the town's cameras can be monitored by a person that knows or can learn to recognise the repeat criminal offenders in Langebaan, and that such a person is empowered with suitable equipment and training to direct SAPS and TLNHW to the position of offenders. This is not possible in a single Saldanha Bay Municipal multi-town control room. Langebaan needs its own unique approach to fighting crime. It is unreasonable to expect a person from another town to recognise all the known repeat offenders and criminals in the different towns/area or observe unusual behaviour in every town.
- c) It is requested that "human form recognition" cameras and spotlights be installed at strategic places on greenbelts, which are activated when humans are detected inside the greenbelt areas of Langebaan. The Greenbelts are major access route for criminals and burglars and reducing their ease of movement will have a positive impact on the reduction of crime. Response by law enforcement agencies and crime fighting volunteers to identified human form movements within the designated areas will reduce criminal occurrences and activities.

- d) It is requested that the municipality increase municipal oversight and safety management of all abandoned and derelict buildings within the town of Langebaan, regardless of the owner (state or private). As an example, the old Tolhuis is being used by vagrants and known criminals. Wild animals have been slaughtered inside the Tolhuis and the building is filthy inside, strewn with waste, human excrement, drugs, and broken bottles.
- e) It is requested that safety and security driven, robust maintenance program is implemented (which includes preventative maintenance and frequent inspections) for the existing street lights of which many are currently not working at all for long stretches, for example from LCE to Spar, all along the pedestrian walkway.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. H. Bleeker', written in a cursive style.

On behalf of Langebaan Ratepayers and Residents Association