



Private bag	No:	Fax X302 Pretoria
Privaatsak	No:	012 393 2193 Faks

Your reference/My verwysing:

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Enquiries/Navrae:

Tel:

THE DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER
DIE AFDELINGSKOMMISSARIS
DETECTIVE SERVICE
SPEURDIENS
PRETORIA
0001

2012-08-21


- A. ALL DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONERS
- B. ALL PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS
- C. All Heads
HEAD OFFICE
- D. All Commanders
SAPS COLLEGES AND TRAINING CENTRES
- E. ALL DEPUTY NATIONAL COMMISSIONERS

INVESTIGATION OF HARMFUL OCCULT-RELATED CRIMES: INVESTIGATION SUPPORT CAPACITY

- A-D. 1. The South African Police Service recognizes and respects the fundamental right of individuals belonging to a cultural and religious community to enjoy their culture and practise their religion. The right to join and maintain cultural and religious associations must be done in a manner that is consistent with the Bill of Rights enshrined in the Constitution.
2. The enjoyment and exercising of these rights, duties and freedom enshrined in the Constitution, however, do not justify ignoring or transgressing the laws of South Africa or the violation of its criminal laws.

3. Recently Provincial Commissioners nominated two detectives per province who received specialised training in the investigation of harmful occult-related crimes. They are also able to render first-responder crisis-victim support to primary and secondary victims of destructive occult practices. As the crime is usually committed in secrecy and expert knowledge is required to solve it, these selected members of the South African Police Service have been assigned to assist with the investigation and prevention of harmful occult-related crime. (Please see Annexure A.)
4. Harmful occult-related crimes include crime that relates to or emanates primarily from an ostensible belief in the supernatural that formed a driving force in the forming, planning and execution of a crime. This type of crime is usually characterized by certain *modus operandi*, and rituals. Therefore, having expert knowledge of such crimes often facilitates the solution of the crime.
5. For a crime to be considered a harmful occult-related crime, the elements of legality, conduct, unlawfulness and culpability have to be present and the motive must be rooted in the supernatural. It is important to note that people who practice a belief that is, for example, rooted in satanic doctrine, do not commit a crime. However, it is considered criminal if the rituals performed are in violation of legislation.
6. Investigating officers are invited to approach the trained individuals in their respective provinces if they need assistance or guidance with the investigation of an alleged harmful occult-related crime. Categories of crime can include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Witchcraft-related offences, including black magic, witch finding and witch purging
 - Traditional healers involved in criminal activities rooted in the occult
 - Curses intended to cause harm
 - The practice of voodoo intended to cause harm
 - Vampirism and joint infringement of the Human Tissue Act
 - Harmful cult behaviour that infringes on the rights of members of the movement
 - Spiritual intimidation, including astral coercion

- Vandalism/graffiti leaving evidence that the motive is occult related
 - Suicide leaving evidence of occult involvement
 - Ritualistic abuse in a cult setting
 - Allegations of rape by a tokoloshe spirit
 - Animal mutilation and sacrifice leaving evidence of occult involvement
 - Murder/human sacrifice leaving evidence of occult involvement
 - Interpretation of occult "signatures" and paraphernalia at a crime scene
 - Poltergeist phenomena (unexplained activities by paranormal disruptive entities)
7. The investigation of harmful occult-related crimes demands a great deal of spiritual and emotional balance. Investigating officers are invited to contact trained colleagues when they experience strain related to the investigation of this type of crime.
8. It is important for members of the SAPS to remain neutral during investigations and their focus must remain unbiased regarding the occult-related criminal discourse.
- E. 1. For your information.


Lieutenant General
Divisional Commissioner: Detective Service
V. Moonoo
DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER: DETECTIVE SERVICE