



RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE MINISTERIAL CRIME PREVENTION IMBIZO: THUSANG VILLAGE, ROEDTAN

11 December 2023

The GI Advisory appreciates the invitation to the Ministerial Crime Prevention Imbizo held in the Thusang community of Roedtan. The community expressed several concerns to the Deputy Ministers of Police and Justice. These concerns included the need for an improved working relationship with the SAPS, the alarming 70% unemployment rate in the area, the slow response to reported crimes and violent incidents, and concerns about racism and illegal immigration.

The GI Advisory would like to make a few recommendations.

1. The GI Advisory notes the effective management of the station by the current Station Commander. The GI Advisory acknowledges the announcement made by the Provincial Commissioner of Limpopo regarding the allocation of two extra vehicles and four additional police officials to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement in the community.
2. The GI Advisory respectfully recommends that the high unemployment rate in the area be dealt with by working together with other government departments and the business sector. This can include encouraging local farmers to consider local people for employment opportunities and providing career guidance to the two schools in the area. As part of its Peace Education theme, the GI Advisory will consider offering its peacebuilding services that encompass career guidance.
3. The GI Advisory acknowledges that although it is important to condemn communities for aiding illegal immigration, many community outreach efforts have not produced positive results due to perceived bias and a lack of consideration for the concerns of host community members (South Africans). One drawback of this approach is that it perpetuates tensions and incidents of violence between foreign nationals and South Africans. Consistent with the National Action Plan to combat Racism, Racial

Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance¹, the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy², the Global Compact on Refugees³, and the Global Compact For Safe, Orderly And Regular Migration⁴, the GI Advisory recommends honest and evidence-based approaches to addressing issues of racism and illegal immigration. Collaborative efforts with other stakeholders in the fields of violence prevention and social cohesion have the potential to produce positive results.

End.

¹ <https://www.justice.gov.za/nap/docs/NAP-20190313.pdf>

² <http://www.policesecretariat.gov.za/downloads/reports/Final%20Approved%20Integrated%20Crime%20Violence%20Prevention%20Strategy.pdf>

³ <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/sites/default/files/201912/Global%20compact%20on%20refugees%20EN.pdf>

⁴ https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf