

SARPCCO Chair visits Zimbabwe

The current Chairperson of Southern Africa Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO), who is also the National Police Commissioner for South Africa Police Service (SAPS), General Khehla John Sitole recently made a four-day visit to Zimbabwe as part of his mandate to check on the implementation of SARPCCO and INTERPOL resolutions, and also assess the challenges faced by member countries in combating transnational crime.

General Sitole toured the INTERPOL Sub-Regional Bureau, Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe and the SARPCCO Centre of Excellence School. He also paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Cde Kazembe Kazembe at his Mkwati offices in Harare, and witnessed a skills demonstration from ZRP Support Unit's Sub-Aqua Unit at Aqua View, Lake Chivero.

Addressing senior officers at Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Headquarters, General Sitole expressed gratitude to Commissioner General Matanga, for his wise leadership and commitment in fulfilling the agreed resolutions as the previous SARPCCO Chairperson. He said this was the reason why he decided to embark on a tour of SARPCCO member states starting with

— By Resistant Ncube —

Zimbabwe. General Sitole added that his priority was to see a regional integration of SARPCCO countries in the fight against transnational crimes.

"I want to commend the Zimbabwe Republic Police for carrying out SARPCCO operations and making sure that the organisation's resolutions are fulfilled. My regional priority that I am emphasizing at regional level is an integrated resource strategy. Criminals do not respect boundaries, as criminal operandi suggests that criminals are now identifying and exploiting those member countries that do not have enough or sufficient ability to provide a timely response from a resource point of view. They will use that as a base to attack other countries. If Zimbabwe is exposed, South Africa will also be exposed. Hence, the need to work together in employing the latest technologies in fighting crime," said General Sitole.

The SARPCCO Chairperson emphasised that victims of online crime are increasing daily, as many countries do not have Online Policing Units. He said, he is also advocating for the training and development research in this aspect in order to bring the region together to fight online crimes.

"We are together in this fight. Criminals have lifted the crime scene into space. Therefore, one of my other priorities as SARPCCO Chairperson is embarking on training and development research review. This training will help us to have police of officers who would be able to analyse criminal operandi. During my visits, I am also checking on how member countries are complying with the directives of Police Chiefs and the implementation of the resolutions and also listen to the challenges faced by member countries and give guidance," he added.

In his remarks, Commissioner General of Police, Tandabantu Godwin Matanga also thanked General Sitole for visiting Zimbabwe and assured him that Zimbabwe fully supports SARPCCO's decisions and INTERPOL resolutions.

"Let me state that Zimbabwe is an integral member of community of nations, hence we tirelessly endeavour to contribute to sustainable world peace, a crime free society and prosperity of humanity. More importantly as a country we always religiously implement SARPCCO decisions and INTERPOL resolutions. We thus humbly place ourselves before you honourable SARPCCO Chairperson for assessment and esteemed guidance," he said.



The Chairperson of SARPCCO, General Khehla John Sitole (standing right) and Commissioner General of Police, Tandabantu Godwin Matanga (centre) being taken through the Security Surveillance System process by Takesure Bembe, CAAZ Security Officer at Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport