

College of Law

WEBINAR: The policing of public protests in the absence of intelligence: Mission [im]possible?

Date: 31 August 2022

Time: 10:00 – 12:30

Platform: MS Teams

In 2021, South African society experienced a level of civil unrest, disobedience and blatant criminality, unequal to anything they had seen before. The provinces of Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal were particularly impacted. Daily, via national news networks and on many social media platforms, citizens were able to view live feeds of large-scale looting and damage to property. While there were calls for police action and intervention, the resultant response seemed like a drop in the ocean.

Civil societies were asking questions like: Where were the Public Order Police units? Where was crime intelligence? Did nobody see this coming? Calls for calm were on the order of the day – but calm was a long way off. Using the 2021 July unrest, this Webinar seeks to answer the following question:

Is it possible to effectively police civil unrest in a society such as South Africa, in the apparent absence of intelligence?

The Department of Police Practice will host a Webinar on 31 August, to discuss this theme.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

https://teams.microsoft.com//meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZmJhZWQyODgtNzlhNy00YTVhLThiYmltZjEwNzExOWYzODY2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ca9a8b8c-3ea3-4799-a43e-5510398e7a3b%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228fd37374-0106-45d1-9549-8548e1138ab3%22%7d

Please find the programme below.

Programme Director: Ms M Maboia (Lecturer: Department of Police Practice)

10:00	Opening and context Prof SA Mabudusha (Acting Chair: Department of Police Practice)
10:10	Welcome note Prof O Kole (Acting Executive Dean: College of Law)
10:20	1. Theme: Public protest: the control of mass demonstrations in South Africa Maj General N Mkhwanazi – The Divisional Commissioner Visible Policing and Operations South African Police Service
10:40	2. Theme: Categorising, analysing and predicting the nature of protest: current practice and future prospects Mr D Bruce Independent researcher on Policing and related matters
11:00	Questions and Answers
11:15	3. Theme: Service delivery challenges and the burden on policing Ms B Omar Chief Director: Policy and Research Civilian Secretariat for Police
11:35	4. Theme: Democratic decline and the future of protests Professor S Africa Deputy Dean: Teaching and Learning University of Pretoria
11:55	Question and Answers
12:10	Closing and Vote of Thanks Dr L Morodi (Director: School of Criminal Justice)