COMBATING MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH AFRICA

MEETING OF THE HEADS OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION
“Building a Southern Route partnership”

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INTRODUCTION

- Drugs remain a threat to the public safety and health of communities in South Africa.

- Countering the drug problem and transnational organised crime is a top priority for our government.

- His Excellency President Zuma announced on 18 February 2016, in terms of the Back to Basics strategy, the establishment of South African Narcotics Enforcement Bureau (SANEB) within the DPCI.

- Illicit trafficking is a highly fluid enterprise which generally follows the part of least RESISTANCE.

- Drug Trafficking Organisations (DTO) are very dynamic and diversifying their operations by seeking new routes, drug substances and markets (Balloon effect).

- Africa features as a transhipment hub (along the Southern Route) and a growing marketplace for heroin.

- African Coastline and Indian Ocean vulnerable to maritime trafficking.

- Budgetary constraints have limited many countries ability to provide adequate maritime law enforcement assets.
SOUTH AFRICAN COASTLINE FACTS

- South Africa strategically positioned on global maritime routes
- Our coastline stretches almost 3,000 kilometres from the desert border with Namibia on the Atlantic Ocean southwards around the tip of Africa and then North East to the border with Mozambique on the Indian Ocean
- South Africa has 8 commercial seaports
- Durban Harbour is the largest and busiest shipping terminal in Sub-Saharan Africa and the 4th largest in the Southern Hemisphere
- It handles 31 million tons of cargo per annum
- Illegal fishing and other marine resources are also targeted by transnational organised crime groups
OVERVIEW OF MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING

- Over the last decade several significant maritime drug trafficking shipments were detected
- Large quantities of drugs concealed within legitimate container TRAFFIC, making interdiction challenging
- Smaller harbours and co-ordinated drops in the high seas are also occurring
- South Africa is a transhipment hub for cocaine, heroin and hashish for lucrative international markets
- Heroin is typically transported from Golden Crescent region along Southern Route to East/Southern Africa and then onwards by land to South Africa
- Set up front companies to conceal drug shipments in cover loads in maritime containers
- Drug Trafficking Organisations have well established networks, logistical cells and complicit shipping companies to facilitate maritime drug shipments
- Widespread consumption of Nyoape (concoction of heroin mixed with cannabis and other drugs) is contributing to increased heroin trafficking into South Africa
HEROIN ROUTES

NORTH AMERICA

EUROPE

AFRICA

ASIA

GOLDEN CRESCENT

PLANES

DHOWS

SHIPS

LAND BORDERS
CASE STUDY: R38 MILLION HEROIN

On 4 May 2016 officers were acting on information about a vehicle which had smuggled heroin through the Oshoek Border Post. A 33 year old man was arrested with trafficking 38 bags of heroin discovered in a purpose built concealment in his vehicle.
On 1 May 2016 officers were acting on information about a vehicle that was transporting heroin. At Chrissiesmeer in Mpumalanga the vehicle was stopped and searched. The heroin was concealed in the petrol tank and inside the spare wheel. A Mozambican National was arrested.
CASE STUDY: ILLEGAL CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE LABORATORY

On 9 May 2016 officers acted on information. Upon arrival at the premises in Brackenhurst, Alberton, drug manufacturing equipment, 12 kg of crystal methamphetamine and assortment of chemicals worth over R20 million were recovered. Two Nigerian nationals were arrested at the scene.
On 2016-06-04 a shipping container was intercepted at Durban harbour originating from Lagos, Nigeria. During the search 60kg suspected Ephedrine was discovered hidden within sacks of ground pepper.

A subsequent seizure of 140 kg Ephedrine (also concealed in black pepper) from Nigeria.
ORTHOTOLUIDINE IMPORTED ILLEGALLY FROM NAMIBIA

A consignment of Ortho-Toluidine from China to Namibia and then re-routed to South Africa was confiscated at a warehouse in Springs, South Africa. The chemical were imported in two separate shipments. The orders were falsely placed using a Namibian based company’s name. One suspect was arrested. The court case is still pending.
Heroin, the primary psychoactive component, is cut with substances such as sugar, starch, local anaesthetic drugs (e.g. lidocaine, benzocaine procaine), rat poison, bicarbonate of soda and even pool cleaner.
Combating Marine Trafficking in South Africa: Port Elizabeth Ops

- Marine Coastal Management cooperate in an integrated approach with law enforcement in combating Maritime Trafficking,
- During 2013 and 2014 a total of 10 foreign fishing vessels were seized,
- Three (3) foreign fishing vessels Bahari Nusantara 83, Bahari Nusantara 19 and Bahari Nusantara 5, were intercepted during September 2013 during a joint operation by our Sea Fisheries Department and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation;
- Inspection and investigation revealed that there were no vessel licence, fishing logbooks, EEZ and Gear permits,
- It resulted in 7 vessels forfeited to state.
Illegal fishing and its associated criminal activity at sea is an intractable and major international problem. It involves high-profile white-collar crime syndicates that move vast amounts of illegal fish and seafood. But it also involves other crimes, like human and drug trafficking.

Recently, South Africa fined three Chinese fishing boats R1.3 million (about US$91,000 at current rates). They were fined for possessing fishing gear without a permit, non-compliance with the lawful instruction of a fishery control officer and various contraventions of the country’s maritime legislation.
MARITIME POLICING: SAPS
OPERA TIO N SIDEWAYS

Fishing vessel on route to MOZ via Cape Point after picking up cocaine from mother ship in South America – crew dumped cocaine overboard when SA Navy requested boarding
As part of the Back to Basics strategy, the Ministry of Police established special units to deal with drugs and related transnational crimes as well as violence and proliferation of firearms in our society.

The two units are

- the South African Narcotics Enforcement Bureau and
- the National Bureau for Illegal Firearms Control and Priority Violent Crime.

Interim capacity is established at National and Provincial level to address high-level drug trafficking networks.

SANEB National office is the competent authority to facilitate any requests from regional and international police / law enforcement agencies regarding controlled deliveries, joint operations, etc.

Adopted a threat based and integrated approach to more effectively address the entire drug supply chain:-

- Drug outlets
- Cultivation
- Illicit production / manufacture
- Human couriers
- Drug trafficking networks
- Emerging threats
OPERATIONAL FOCUS AREAS

• Combating drugs declared an operational priority in the DPCI Strategic Framework 2015-2019

• Prioritising integrated intelligence-led operations against high level organised crime groups and drug trafficking organisations

• Intensifying frontline enforcement at airports, harbours, border posts and drug hot spots

• Chemical Monitoring Programme

• Border Policing has Sea Patrol Units dedicated to ensuring a secure marine environment

• Naval and Military Assets are also utilised where neccessary
MOVING FORWARD

- Building and improving bilateral and multi lateral partnerships through law enforcement agreements, real-time exchange of information, training and joint operations is essential in reducing drug flow through the region.

- Establishment of the South African Border Management Agency in the pipeline

- Investment in training, resources and dedicated capacity to address maritime trafficking threats
CONCLUSION

- We are committed to ensuring a stable and secure marine environment in South Africa and beyond
- We fully support building a strong and sustainable Southern Route Partnership in countering maritime drug trafficking and transnational organised crime
THANK YOU

EMBRACE A COMMON AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN COUNTERING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM