



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON
KWAZULU-NATAL
UMNYANGO WEZOKUPHEPHA NOKUXHUMANISA
UMPHAKATHI**

The Department of Community Safety and Liaison is a Provincial Government Department responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of Police Services in KwaZulu-Natal.

Our goals are:

- To monitor police efficiency and effectiveness
- To promote good relations and establish partnership between the police and the communities;
- To facilitate the development and co-ordination of social crime prevention initiatives;
- To promote and support Victim Empowerment;

COMMUNITY SAFETY SPOTLIGHT 2010 AND BEYOND

The Department of Community Safety and Liaison has been given a mandate to recruit and train crime prevention volunteers as part of the KwaZulu-Natal's strategy to build a popular front against crime.

The programme known as the Volunteer Social Crime Prevention Project was announced by the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr Bheki Cele in his budget speech for the 2007/2008 financial year. He said the project is aimed at establishing a community engagement mechanism for law enforcement agencies with the key objective of driving social crime prevention.

"The invariable outcome of this project would be a reduction in social crime, a corresponding reduction in the fear of crime and the ultimate promotion of KwaZulu-Natal as a safe place for communities, tourists and businesses.

Already 1200 volunteers have been identified and vigorously trained under the able leadership of a team from the UK's Greater Manchester Police. This number will further increase to 2100 over the build up to 2010.

HOW THE VOLUNTEERS ARE CHOSEN

The volunteer identification process was a result of extensive workshops held with the relevant stakeholders in all the district municipalities in the province where the volunteers will be ultimately deployed.

The nomination of the volunteers is done in consultation with the community structures such as the Community Policing Forums and are then approved and appointed by the Department. It is important to note that the volunteers will be reimbursed or expenses incurred in performing their voluntary engagement functions.

TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

All nominated volunteers have since been trained on basic first aid, self defense and local context by the training officials from the Greater Manchester Police. The training took place in the Ethekwini, Ugu and Umgungundlovu Districts within the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

This is done in consultation with the South African Police Service as the deployment will take place in areas with the highest levels of criminal activities.

THE ROLE OF THE VOLUNTEERS

The selected volunteers are not members of the South African Police Service, Community Policing Forums or police reservists. They are ordinary citizens performing contractually defined functions of social crime prevention, distinct from the object of the Community Policing Forums. No powers of arrest or detention will be afforded to the volunteers however a member of the police will be assigned to each team of volunteers to address any possible matters of immediate conflict or where danger might unexpectedly arise.

The volunteers will be easily identified by their uniforms which have been carefully designed by the Department.

The Volunteer Social Crime Prevention Project is not unique to KwaZulu-Natal but has been borne out of careful and extensive study of similar initiatives currently drawing success in the London Metropolitan Police, Canada and in the Western Cape province of South Africa. All this has resulted in the province's own model designed and suited to respond to the social crime challenges of KwaZulu-Natal.

Issued by the Department of Community Safety and Liaison's Communications Unit.
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"DEFENDING THE WEAK"