

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS, IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF POLICING FOR THE PEOPLE

COMMUNITY POLICING SEMINAR, THREE CITIES
HOTEL, UMHLANGA, DURBAN

KWAZULU-NATAL

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SOLOMON MAILA &
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Contents

- Introduction / preface
- Background
- Strengthening partnerships
- Police image and public support
- Crime prevention – what is it?
- Types of crime prevention
- Comparisons with health sector
- Social crime prevention
- Contributory crime risk factors
- Crime prevention and the NDP
- Fundamentals of community policing
- Trio crime: Provincial Picture
- Trio crime in South Africa



Contents cont...

- All sexual offences
- Ruling party policy positions on community policing and partnerships
- Words of wisdom
- Contact details
- The end



Introduction / preface

- It is globally accepted that the prevention and combating of crime cannot be the sole responsibility of the formal Criminal Justice System (CJS) – there is need to pursue non-criminal justice responses to the crime problem facing all nations of the world, not just SA
- Whilst a well-resourced CJS is a necessity in crime fighting, simply throwing more resources towards the CJS cannot be the solution – if more money was the answer, there would be no crime in the USA
- Crime is a multifaceted societal issue – it requires a wide range of ideas found in society as well as a multidisciplinary approach in the form of partnerships



Background

- In the period before the 1994 democratic outcome, the police were essentially a law unto themselves – answerable to no one and having no regard for community input into policing
- The SAP and its counterparts in the former ‘homelands’ were largely viewed as ‘the enemy’, especially in our villages and townships, as they represented an extension of the repressive arm of the apartheid state
- Democratic SA now has a duty and responsibility to ensure that this unpalatable history is not repeated and that a solid partnership is maintained between the police and all communities, rich or poor, urban or rural, in the prevention and combating of crime



Strengthening partnerships

- The description of police officers as ‘law enforcement officers’ is actually misleading – it suggests that the police and ‘policed’ are adversaries or that the relationship between the police and the public should involve ‘inherent conflict’
- The starting point should be an acceptance that the police don’t spend all their time ‘chasing people or locking people up’ – they spend most of their time assisting people / citizens in distress
- Police activities are governed more by ‘popular morality’ than legal provisions in law – the police carry out a responsibility assigned to them by the community they serve [police officers essentially are responsible for protecting people against themselves]



Police image and public support

The following are some of the obstacles to a functional partnership between the police and communities:

- **Police brutality** – The topmost ‘demolisher’ of the police/community partnership is the use of excessive force by police officers
- **Rudeness** – How the police treat members of the public when they report or call for police assistance
- **Corruption** – Perceptions of police corruption
- **Authoritarianism** – This can be a problem when it comes across as too strong, especially in situations where public cooperation is needed
- **Political meddling** – The police must be ‘apolitical’



Crime prevention – what is it?

- The NCPS, which was approved by President Mandela’s Cabinet in May 1996, recognises that “crime casts fear in the hearts of South Africans from all walks of life and prevents them from taking their rightful place in the growth and development of our country.”
- The WPSS, 1998 defines crime prevention as “all activities which reduce, deter or prevent the occurrence of specific crimes, **firstly**, by altering the environment in which they occur, **secondly**, by changing the conditions which are thought to cause them and, **thirdly**, by providing a strong deterrent through an effective CJS



Types of crime prevention

Within the realm of criminal justice, we distinguish between the following three areas of prevention:

- **Primary crime prevention** – This has to do with the conditions of the physical and social environment that provide opportunities for or precipitate criminal acts. Examples in this regard would be ‘environmental design’ (e.g. addition of lights or locks and the marking of property for ease of identification), the deployment of private security, increased police visibility through patrols (which makes an area less attractive for criminals), neighbourhood watches and public education



Types of crime prevention cont...

- **Secondary crime prevention** – It relates to the early identification of potential offenders and seeks to intervene prior to the perpetration of an illegal activity. It is closely related to, but distinct from, primary prevention. A classic example of a secondary crime prevention programme would be the targeting of **drug use** (the *nyaope* problem in the Umlazi township and elsewhere) as an indicator of criminal propensity.
- **Tertiary crime prevention** – This type focuses on the actual offenders and involves intervention to prevent them from committing further crimes. This is when the formal criminal justice responses kick in through arrests, prosecution, incarceration and rehabilitation in prisons



Comparisons with the health sector

The following comparison with disease prevention (e.g. the rare but deadly Ebola) in the health sector is relevant:

- **Primary prevention** – It would relate to actions taken to avoid the initial development of the disease, e.g. travel bans, public education on the virus, avoidance of contact with blood / body fluids, etc
- **Secondary prevention** – It moves beyond the point of general societal concerns and focuses on those individuals or situations that exhibit early signs of disease, e.g. screening tests for Ebola
- **Tertiary prevention** – It’s when the disease has already manifested itself. Activities are about elimination of the disease and inhibiting a possible recurrence



Social crime prevention

- **The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), based in Montreal, Canada, defines social crime prevention as “anything that reduces delinquency, violence and insecurity by successfully tackling the scientifically identified causal factors [of crime].”**
- **It focuses on addressing the socio-economic causes of crime and situations presenting an opportunity for crime**
- **It is informed by a global acceptance that the ‘tough’ approaches to crime reduction have failed in spite of the soaring rates of incarceration**
- **SA has the highest prison population on the African continent. It is ranked 9th in the world, with about 160 000 inmates (30% of whom are awaiting trial)**



Contributory crime risk factors

The following risk factors are among those that contribute to high crime levels in communities around the world:

- **Poverty and joblessness, especially affecting the youth**
- **Dysfunctional families, with uncaring parental attitudes, family violence and /or parental conflicts**
- **A social acceptance of a culture of violence**
- **The proliferation or ease of access to firearms and drugs**
- **Discrimination and exclusion based on gender, race, sexual orientation, etc**
- **Degradation or dilapidation of urban environments (e.g. neglected buildings) and social bonds**



Crime prevention and the NDP

The NDP envisages a situation where, in 2030, people living in SA feel safe and have no fear of crime. For this to be realised, it recommends the following:

- **Build safety using an integrated approach** – The fundamental causes of criminality should be tackled. This requires mobilising a wider range of state and non-state capacities and resources at all levels as well as active involvement of the populace
- **Build community participation in safety** – Civil society organisations and civic participation are critical elements of a safe and secure society. The establishment of community safety centres should be considered by local government (partnerships)



Fundamentals of community policing

- The Constitution entitles the Provincial Government (through the DCSL) to promote good relations between the police and all communities in the province
- The Provincial Commissioner establishes CPFs and Boards, subject to the directions of the MEC
- The Provincial Government is empowered by the Constitution to ‘investigate’ any complaints of police inefficiency or a breakdown in relations between the police and any community in the province
- The position, *supra*, has since been confirmed by the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry, which released its report on Monday, August 25, 2014



Community policing cont...

- **The Manual on Community Policing Policy, Framework and Guidelines, 1997 defines community policing as “a philosophy of or an approach to policing, which recognises the interdependence and shared responsibility of the police and the community in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all the people of the country”.**
- **“Community policing aims to establish an active and equal partnership between the police and the public through which crime and community safety issues can jointly be determined and solutions designed and implemented”.**



Community policing cont...

- **The approach to community policing is based on a response to the following factors, among others:**
 - **A growing demand for more responsive and client-oriented policing in the country;**
 - **An increase in the socio-economic stimuli of crime;**
 - **Growing evidence of the shortcomings of the traditional policing approach in providing a long-term answer to crime and problems of disorder; and,**
 - **The growing realisation that, in the absence of community support, neither additional financial resources, more personnel, better technology, nor increased authority will enable the police to shoulder the monumental burden of crime in the country.**



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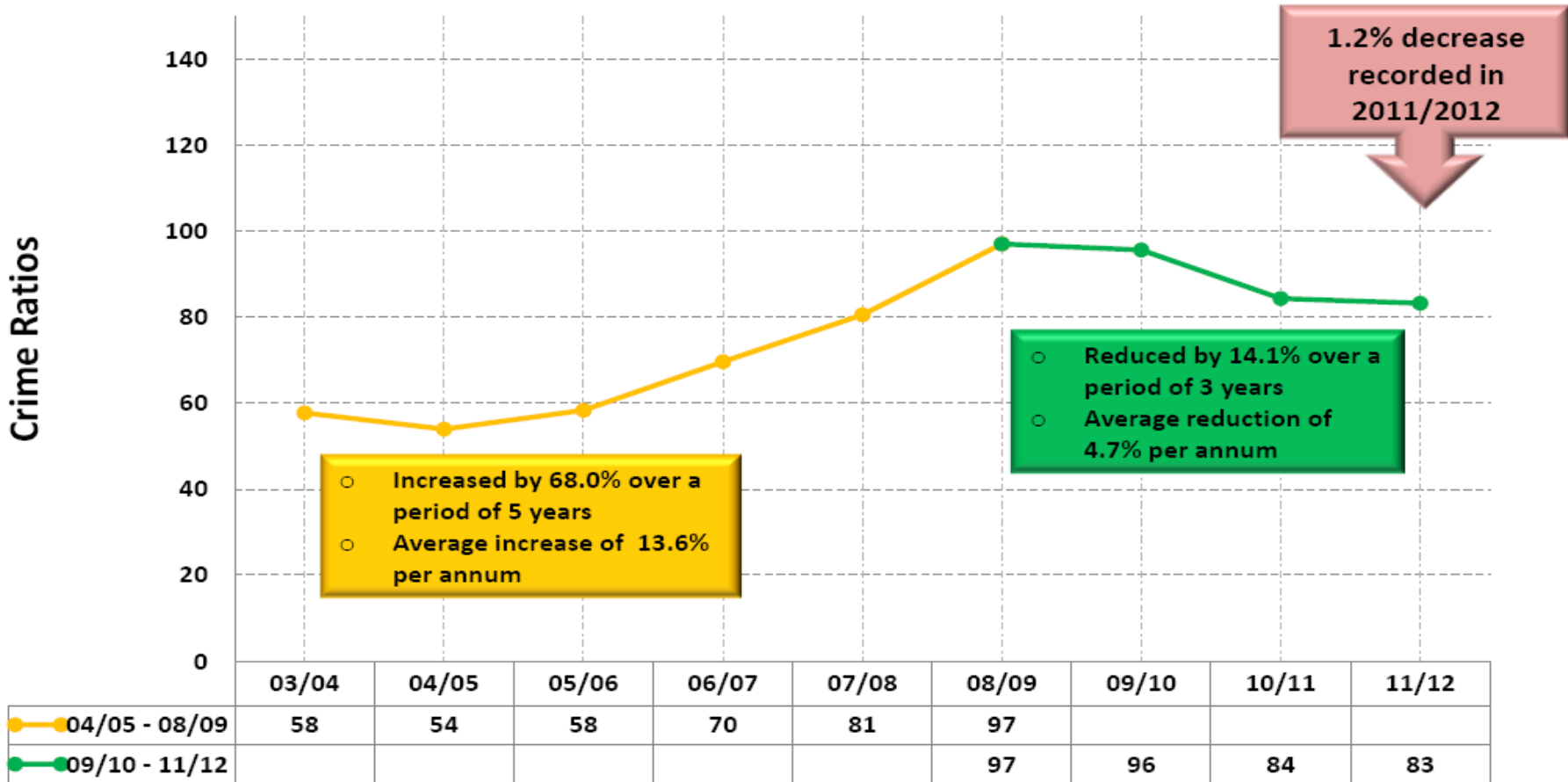
Trio crime: Provincial Picture

PROVINCE	<u>2003/4</u> Baseline	<u>2004/5</u>	<u>2005/6</u>	<u>2006/7</u>	<u>2007/8</u>	<u>2008/9</u>	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>2010/11</u>	<u>2011/12</u>
Eastern Cape	29.4	27.9	19.9	17.3	25.4	46.7	52.4	55.5	66.8
Free State	6.1	10.8	7.8	8.4	22.6	53.2	59.4	67.1	74.3
Gauteng	183.0	163.0	178.0	205.9	206.2	211.5	207.7	165.6	145.2
Kwazulu Natal	48.7	46.2	55.0	72.8	92.8	110.5	99.2	80.4	72.9
Limpopo	8.9	9.2	7.7	8.2	15.5	25.3	28.0	26.9	36.9
Mpumalanga	20.3	26.5	28.0	38.0	51.8	83.3	82.8	71.2	80.6
North West	17.1	20.9	25.5	35.4	51.8	63.8	66.7	69.5	76.2
Northern Cape	3.0	2.2	1.6	2.7	6.4	15.4	19.5	19.2	28.2
Western Cape	32.1	28.3	32.5	37.2	48.6	51.9	52.3	57.1	65.3
RSA	57.8	54.0	58.4	69.7	80.6	97.1	95.7	84.4	83.4



Trio crime in SA

Periods: 2004/5 – 2008/9 & 2009/10 – 2011/12



Trio crime increased by 44.3% from 2004/5 to 2011/12 (8 years)



All sexual offences

<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>2008/09 Baseline</u>	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>2010/11</u>	<u>2011/12</u>	Deviation 08/09 - 11/12	Deviation 10/11 – 11/12
Eastern Cape	143.7	136.1	139.1	135.3	-5.8%	-2.7%
Free State	157.2	157.8	171.3	178.5	13.5%	4.2%
Gauteng	174.0	148.6	125.0	109.6	-37.0%	-12.3%
Kwazulu Natal	131.4	127.0	120.2	113.6	-13.5%	-5.5%
Limpopo	88.6	93.8	89.8	102.4	15.6%	14.0%
Mpumalanga	130.8	127.6	122.8	111.9	-14.4%	-8.9%
North West	146.6	137.9	147.0	152.8	4.2%	3.9%
Northern Cape	170.3	160.8	169.2	158.5	-6.9%	-6.3%
Western Cape	166.7	180.7	178.0	173.1	3.8%	-2.8%
RSA	144.8	138.5	132.4	127.5	-11.9%	-3.7%



Ruling party policy positions

- The ruling African National Congress (ANC) has, over the years, taken the following policy positions, especially on community policing:
 - **Ready to Govern, 1992** – “The security institutions shall be accountable and answerable to the public”.
 - **Policing the Transition: Transforming the Police, 1993** – “Communities themselves need to be empowered to meet the challenge of community-police partnership. Communities must be **encouraged and assisted** to play an active role in crime prevention and in the policing of their own areas”. It’s about ‘consensus’ policing.



Ruling party policy positions cont...

- **49th National Conference in Bloemfontein, December 1994** – The ANC noted “the essential need to involve the community in the process of policing and the positive moves undertaken by the Ministry of Safety and Security to base policing on the principle of community policing”. Conference resolved to support representative and inclusive CPFs.
- **Resource provision** – Conference also resolved that the ANC “should call upon the Ministry of Safety and Security to provide CPFs with the resources necessary for community structures to play their rightful role in these forums.”



Ruling party policy positions cont...

- **50th National Conference** in Mahikeng, December 1997 – The ANC noted “the successful manner in which crime combating has occurred in those areas where CPFs are operational”, and expressed the belief that “CPF’s are a necessary instrument to achieve the goal of a society where members of the public are active participants in deciding matters of safety and security, and where there is **accountability** of the law enforcement agencies.
- **51st National Conference** in Stellenbosch, December 2002 – It reaffirmed “the broad approach embodied in the resolutions of the 50th National Conference and endorsed by the NGC held in July 2000.



Ruling party policy positions cont...

- **52nd National Conference in Polokwane, December 2007** – The ANC noted that “CSFs are established to monitor and coordinate the functioning of the CJS at the local/municipal level” and resolved that “CSFs must be located within the provincial safety departments.” Conference further resolved that “young people must be involved in a massive programme of community policing and safety that would include night street patrols and have stipends paid by government as part of the national youth service to instil, among the youth, the value to serve and protect the community as well as public property.



Ruling party policy positions cont...

- **53rd National Conference in Mangaung, December 2012**
– The ANC noted that the resolution of the 52nd National Conference on the establishment of street committees in order to help fight crime has not been implemented. Conference then resolved that the “incoming NEC should be urged to ensure that its structures implement the resolution.”
- **NB!!** The 53rd National Conference also noted that “the conditions of service in the SAPS are not satisfactory and need attention at the lower levels.” It resolved that the Department of Police should review the conditions of service applicable to non-commissioned officers



Words of wisdom

“The NDP envisages a state where the police work closely with communities and the root causes of crime and criminality are addressed before they pose a major threat to our society.”

**Mr Nkosinathi Nhleko, MP
Minister of Police**



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The end

Nkosi Sikelel’ iAfrika

God bless Africa

Hosi katekisa Afrika