

SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMMES: GOOD PRACTICES

KZN COMMUNITY POLICING SEMINAR:
RECLAIMING OUR SPACE FROM CRIMINALS
THROUGH COMMUNITY POLICING

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SALUTATIONS

- The Member of the Executive Council (MEC) responsible for Transportation, Community Safety and Liaison,
- KZN Police Commissioner, Lt General Ngobeni,
- Chairperson of the National CPF Board, Mr. Andy Mashaile,
- Chairperson of the Provincial CPF Board, Mr. B. Mntambo
- Chairperson of the KZNCCPA, Mr. TZ Zuma,
- The National Secretariat for the Police led by Mr. Nyathi,
- The Acting Head of the Department of Community Safety and Liaison, Mr. Eric Ramsamy,

SALUTATIONS

- Members of the academia,
- Management of SAPS,
- Management of the Department,
- Business, and civil organizations present,
- Leaders of the Community Crime Prevention Associations,
- Seminar Organizers
- Amakhosi AseNdlunkulu,
- All protocol observed.

SCOPE OF THE PRESENTATION

- This presentation will cover the following:
 - What is Community Policing?
 - Key Components of Community Policing
 - Descriptive Analysis Framework
 - Best Practices: Establishing Goals and Objectives

SCOPE OF THE PRESENTATION

- Good Practices: Engaging in a Local Context
- Good Practices: Amplifying Message Through Engagement
- Good Practices: Providing Training to Practitioners
- Good Practices: Evaluating Effectiveness
- Summary
- Conclusion

WHAT IS COMMUNITY POLICING?

- Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

KEY COMPONENTS OF COMMUNITY POLICING

- Community policing is comprised of three key components:

Partnerships: Collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police.

KEY COMPONENTS OF COMMUNITY POLICING

Organizational Transformation: The alignment of organizational management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem solving.

Problem Solving: The process of engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop effective responses

DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

- General background information on the project
- The structure of the projects
- Analysis and problem definition
- Objectives and responses
- Outputs and outcomes of the initiative
- Sustainability and mainstreaming

GOOD PRACTICES

Establishing Goals and objectives

- *Good Practice Number 1: Approach community engagement and community-oriented policing as a long-term, sustained strategies, not short-term tactics, and do requisite research in order to understand local problems and grievances so that a local community is not targeted for security reasons but is engaged for its own benefit. Community engagement requires building trust between officials and community members in order to establish a relationship of collaboration.*

GOOD PRACTICES

Establishing Goals and Objectives

- *Good Practice Number 2: Establish the methods with which to build trust in the community.* Trust is an integral part of community engagement and community-oriented policing, but one that does not occur naturally and without concerted efforts. Engaging officials need to be accessible to communities when communities need them.

GOOD PRACTICES

Establishing Goals and Objectives

- *Good practice Number 3: Ensure that engagement efforts are broad based and fully inclusive, not solely focused on one community or one specific ideology.* It is important to counter all ideologically-motivated crime, taking into account that the appeal to committing violent actions by an individual in a community is based on a violent ideology that justifies these actions.

GOOD PRACTICES

Engaging in a Local Context

- *Good Practice Number 4: Take a holistic approach to community engagement and community-oriented policing that involves all sectors of the society in order to find the right partners and sustain the engagement.*

It is important to incorporate community influencers who are not formal leaders into any engagement plan to ensure that engagement reaches a broad cross-section of individuals within the community.

GOOD PRACTICES

Engaging in a Local Context

- *Good Practice Number 5: Engage women as positive change agents in their communities.* Research has shown that women, especially mothers, carry authority within their families and communities which can translate into positive influence against violent extremism. Women are gatekeepers in their communities and should be involved in creating and maintaining public safety initiatives.

GOOD PRACTICES

Engaging in a Local Context

- *Good Practice Number 6: Engage the youth and leverage schools for positive messages.* Research on youth and radicalization to violence focuses on the age group of 15 – 25 as the most targeted group for recruitment by violent criminal and political extremists. Community-oriented policing initiatives should specifically involve youth input and inventiveness. The youth should be involved hands-on to help develop projects and messages that will resonate with their peers on the dangers of violent extremism.

GOOD PRACTICES

Engaging in Local Context

- *Good Practice Number 7: Designate a specific individual to be the point person for engagement with the community.* Dedicated community liaison officers can focus solely on developing programs that build trust with the community and ensuring that the police are aware of any crime reported in a community.

GOOD PRACTICES

Amplifying the Message Through Engagement

- *Good Practice Number 8: Empower communities to develop a counter narrative to the violent crime narrative and amplify the alternative message through all forms of media.* In order to counter radicalization to violence and recruitment most effectively, officials should work with local communities to highlight the specific locally persuasive counter-narratives that refute or negate the narrative advocating violence as the answer to perceptions of injustice inflicted on self, family or community.

GOOD PRACTICES

Amplifying the Message Through Engagement

- *Good Practice Number 9: Engage both former violent criminals and victims of violent crime to communicate counter narratives at both the local and national level. Using formerly radicalized violent political criminals can add legitimacy to the narrative that violence is not the answer. Victims of violence have innate credibility because they are a testament to the violence and suffering that violent crime can wreak.*

GOOD PRACTICES

Providing Training to Practitioners

- *Good Practice Number 10: Tailor community engagement and community-oriented policing trainings to address the issues and dynamics of the local community and to instill awareness of potential indicators and behaviors.*

To maintain the trust and respect integral to community engagement and community-oriented policing, practitioners should be trained properly on the parameters of engagement and how it relates to the local contexts where they are engaging.

GOOD PRACTICES

Evaluating Effectiveness

- *Good Practice Number 11: Build assessment metrics into projects during concept development.* Though it is inherently difficult to prove causality, there are ways in which to measure community perceptions before, during, and after a given community engagement or community-oriented policing initiative. Such measures can take the form of polls, surveys, focus groups, or community round-tables.

GOOD PRACTICES

Evaluating Effectiveness

- *Good Practice Number 12: Recognize that community engagement and community-oriented policing involve establishing, developing and sustaining relationships. Devise concise metrics appropriate to measure effectiveness at each stage of that process.*

SUMMARY

- This presentation began with a brief definition of community policing, which may well have described the features of good community policing. The account examined national, regional and international community policing initiatives, mainly, in the United Kingdom, France and US on the international front, the SADC region on the regional platform, the Western Cape and Gauteng on the home front. A descriptive analysis framework has been used to to identify programmes for review and good practices have been drawn from various programmes.

CONCLUSION

- I am of the view that the information presented today will assist the seminar in interrogating local programmes and identifying gaps and weaknesses in the planning, execution and evaluation phases and answer the Question: “ Are we on the right track?”

I thank you.