

Building a United Front Against Crime
Concept Document prepared for MEC T. W. Mchunu,
KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison

PURPOSE:

- To outline a conceptual framework for implementing the MEC's flagship programme to "Build a united front against crime";
- To offer proposals on how resources of the Department of Community Safety and Liaison will be aligned to facilitate the programme.

Introduction

Crime is receiving high priority along with other critical developmental imperatives such as health, education, rural development and the creation of decent work. In line with this, there has been renewed emphasis on the relevance of a united, multi-pronged approach in the fight against crime which combines aspects of crime prevention, crime combating, the improvement of socio-economic conditions and strengthening of human solidarity among citizens.¹

Much work has been done in attempting to create an understanding of the various factors which give rise to the crime levels we see in South Africa today. In the light of what we know about the crime challenges facing KZN, the KZN MEC for Transport Community Safety and Liaison is spearheading a drive to build a united front against crime in KZN. This is a call for the mobilisation and involvement of all sectors of society in a concerted and sustained campaign to significantly reduce crime levels in the Province. This is a deliberate move away from merely seeing the crime challenge as a cause to lament. It is rather, a call to considered, unified and unswerving action. Importantly, it is a call to action equally for government and civil society.

Essentially this is a continuation of the paradigm introduced by the 1996 National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) which remains valid and must be reinforced by our new experience and knowledge. What is important in this approach is a problem-solving framework which:

- looks for multi-agency solutions to identified problems;
- uses a range of methods of crime and violence prevention.

What is driving the high levels of crime in our society?

Crime is intertwined in a complex relationship with the presence of other social problems. It is well known, for example, that the areas with the greatest number

¹ Minister Nathi Mthethwa on the occasion of the release of the Crime Statistics for the 2008/09 Fiscal year.

of inter-personal crimes are also areas which are socially and economically depressed. In terms of their socio-economic profile, these areas tend to have few recreational facilities, high unemployment and families struggle to create healthy bonds. There is usually a high prevalence of alcohol outlets and the levels of substance abuse are very high. As a consequence, youth are inevitably drawn into criminal activities and anti-social behaviour.

Recently released crime statistics showed increases in house robberies, sexual offences, business robberies and car and truck hijackings.

In KZN, the areas presenting the greatest crime challenges are:

Station	Crime Problems
Kwa Mashu	Murder, Rape, Robbery, other violent crimes
Umlazi	Murder, Rape, Robbery, other violent crimes (Attempted Murder, Assault), Drug Related Crime
Inanda	Murder, Rape, other violent crimes
Empangeni	Murder, Rape, other violent crimes
Kwa-Makhutha	Murder, other violent crimes
Phoenix	Murder, Drug Related Crime, Robbery
Kwa-Msane	Murder
Esikhawini	Murder, other violent crimes
Chatsworth	Murder, Drug Related Crime
Verulam	Murder
Durban Central	Murder, Robbery,
KwaDabeka	Assault GBH
Plessislaer	Murder, Rape, Assault GBH, Drug Related Crime
Pinetown	Car Hijacking, Robbery,
Isipingo	Car Hijacking
Newlands East	Car Hijacking
Mountain Rise	Drug Related Crime
Pietermaritzburg	Drug Related Crime
Point	Drug Related Crime
Wentworth	Drug Related Crime
Bergville, Ladysmith, Loskop, Ezakheni, Impendle/Loteni, Ntsikeni	Stock Theft

Given the above scenario, partnerships between the state and civil society must go much further than it is at present. The spirit of civic responsibility and pride which leads citizens to respect and obey the law and value human life must be built in South Africa. Without this, it will be impossible to reduce crime levels.

Elements of a United Front Against Crime

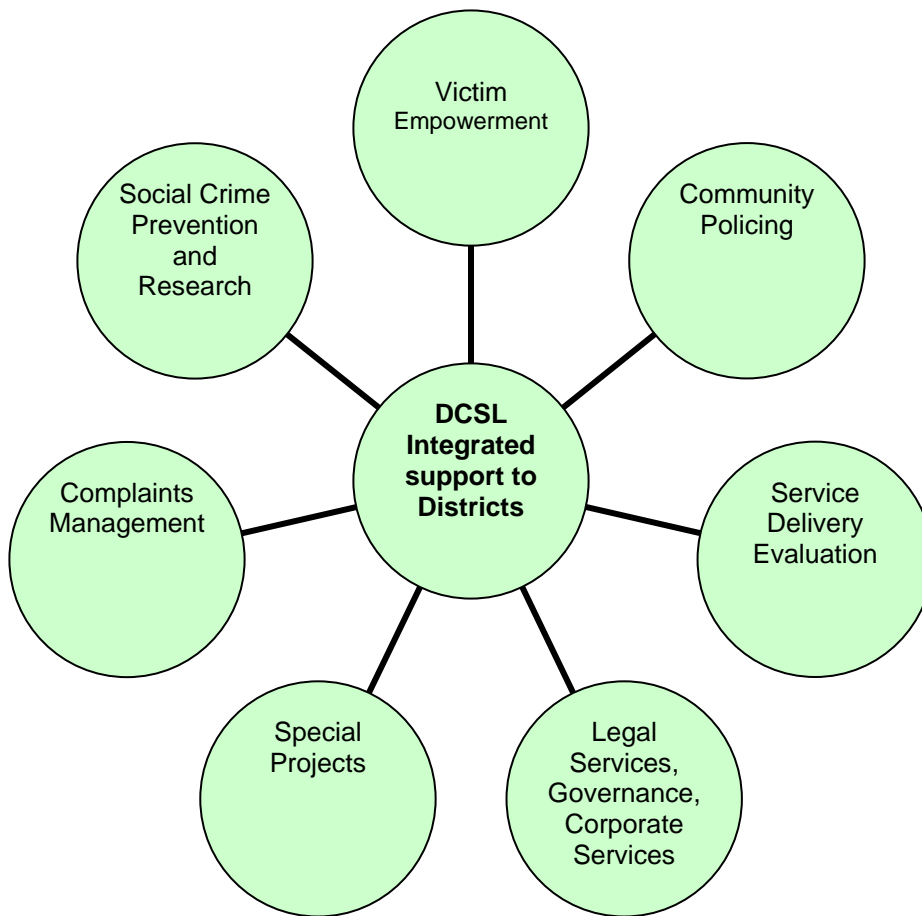
- The family as a basic unit in society
- Responsible citizenship: empowered, aware and caring communities
- Civic mindedness and building of community cohesion
- Crime reporting and information sharing
- Interactive, responsive and caring Government
- Committed and creative civil society formations
- Ethical, involved and generous business community
- Effective community-based crime prevention programmes which protect young people from the dangers that may prevail in their moral and social environment
- Restoring of healthy community life and improvement of the physical and moral environment.

Detailed information on a programme to build a united front against crime follows later in this report. The next part of this report deals with the DCSL's plans to offers an integrated basket of services to supplement and support the programme to build a united front against crime.

DCSL Targeted and Focussed Approach

A concerted drive is underway to streamline and integrate DCSL programmes which will lead to targeted and sustained interventions in identified problem areas. In practice, this will involve identifying problem areas and moving in with relevant interventions involving all Directorates. The Department will implement programmes and remain in the area for as long as necessary to monitor resolutions and ensure that solutions are implemented.

The Department has for a number of years been playing a pivotal role in bringing about closer collaboration and cooperation within the Province's criminal justice machinery. The launch of the Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster is one of the important outcomes of this work. It has also been an active partner with other sector role-players in improving the quality of life for citizens of our Province. It is envisaged that closer alignment and integrated deployment of its services will take its impact to a higher level. The following diagram illustrates the basket of services that the Department has at its disposal in terms of its mandates which can be streamlined for focused deployment into Districts:



As specific problem areas are identified through various means – the District Symposia in the *Building a united front against crime* programme being one of them – these service will be rolled out to address challenges identified. The following proposed roll-out plan – by no means exhaustive – illustrates the possible integrated interventions which can be implemented:

ROLL-OUT PLAN

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES	District Priority Focus Areas (in addition to general crime threats identified)	DCSL basket of Integrated Services
uMkhanyakude	Stock theft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement stock theft strategy and strengthen Provincial stock theft forum • Process SAPS service delivery complaints and discuss critical complaints with SAPS management • Conduct District symposia to encourage communities to participate in policing and crime prevention matters • Address farming community challenges • Communities in Dialogue interventions (CIDP) • CSF establishment and maintenance • CPF support and capacitation • mediate community conflict • youth capacity building • school safety • drug awareness • Traditional Leadership capacity building • support IDP safety plan development • host Provincial Forums • Crime prevention research • victim support networks and programmes • Victim Friendly Facilities • awareness of protective rights • deployment of volunteers • VSCPP control centre • Monitor the SAPS service delivery and make interventions • monitor visible policing of major events • JCPS Cluster sessions in Districts.
Zululand	stock theft, safety of farming communities,	
Amajuba	stock theft (especially at Impendle)	
Ilembe	Drugs	
uThungulu	Stock theft	
Sisonke	Stock theft	
Ugu	Stock theft	
uThukela	Stock theft	
Umzinyathi	Stock theft	
Umgungundlovu	Stock theft, ukuthwala kwezingane ziyoganiswa	
eThekwini METRO	Kennedy Road conflict, Amaoti conflict, hijacking, rape	

DCSL BASKET OF SERVICES: FURTHER DETAILS

Criminal Justice System Support

- JCPS Cluster meetings decentralised to Districts
- Hosting of Provincial Crime Prevention Forum and Youth Crime Prevention hub

Community Policing

- *Ensure existence of CPFs in all Districts:* Facilitate continued functionality, effectiveness and efficiency of CPFs, promote and support crime prevention initiatives by CPFs, facilitate capacity building (basic induction and Provincial CPF training);
- *Facilitate the establishment of Community Safety Forums:* support MEC in conducting briefing sessions and CSF launches at District symposia, facilitate provision of policy directives, formation of interim CSF committees, development of memorandum of understanding, development of Community/District Safety Plans, launch of CSF structures with District Safety Plans, implementation of projects.
- *Proactively facilitate dialogue between and within communities in order to engage on issues of safety;*
- *Facilitate the mediation of community conflicts in collaboration with CSFs*

Social Crime Prevention & Research Directorate

- *Develop and execute social crime prevention programmes in Districts:* youth capacity building, school safety, drug awareness, Traditional Leadership capacity building;
- *Consolidate the Community Safety network structure:* support municipalities in mainstreaming safety plans into Integrated Development Plans, host Provincial Crime Prevention Forum, host Provincial Youth Crime Prevention Co-ordinating Hub with participants representing all Districts;
- *Crime prevention research* focussing on priorities identified by Districts.

Victim Empowerment

- *Facilitate the establishment of victim support networks:* - alignment of Victim Empowerment Forums with district symposia (ongoing process);
- *Conduct interventions to support Victim Friendly Facilities in Districts*
- *Maintain support programmes for victims: conduct consultative stakeholders meetings;*
- *Raise awareness of protective rights amongst the vulnerable groups:* conduct all calendar events, conduct workshops with stakeholders on protective rights issues.

Volunteer Social Crime Prevention Programme

- the deployment and management of volunteers in high risk areas
- improved use of the operational control centre

Service Delivery Evaluation

- *Monitor the improvement in SAPS service delivery through practical recommendations and necessary interventions;*
- *Monitor the visible policing of major events in the Province;*
- *Promote service excellence in the SAPS by recognising excellent services through annual MEC's Service Excellence Awards.*

Complaints Management

- Facilitate the strategy for the prevention of stock theft: maintain and strengthen Provincial stock theft forum through quarterly meetings and ensuring development and implementation of the integrated plan in the Districts affected by stock theft.
- Process service delivery complaints against SAPS to promote efficiency and transformation: conduct District symposia to encourage communities to participate in policing and crime prevention matters; hold quarterly meetings with SAPS management to discuss critical complaints.
- Addressing farming community challenges: improve responses to safety challenges of farming communities.

Legal Services, Governance, Corporate and Support Services

- Support of JCPS Cluster sessions held in Districts;
- Policy and legal support.

BUILDING A UNITED FRONT AGAINST CRIME

Who will form part of the united front, and what will their responsibilities be?

- **Individuals and families supporting and guiding each other to become upstanding citizens:**
 - rejecting stolen goods
 - investing in young people
 - preventing teenage pregnancies
 - men excelling as fathers and role-models
 - women and children protected and safe
 - addressing alcohol and drug abuse
 - promoting respect for life and property
 - volunteering information to help police track wanted and missing persons

- **A well functioning criminal justice system (CJS)**
 - improved cooperation between CJS and other role-players
 - improved conviction rates
 - provision of better resources and building capacity across the CJS
 - greater CJS accountability
 - CJS eradicating absenteeism, laziness and tardiness
 - corruption within the system rooted out
 - better investigations, prosecutions and rehabilitation of offenders
 - address case backlogs
 - improving services to victims

- **Cohesive and caring communities**
 - create a caring and humane society underpinned by human rights
 - encourage social harmony and closer communal life
 - mutual support and encouragement for people to participate in the life and decision-making of the community
 - better coordination of partnerships between communities and the police
 - mediation of community conflicts
 - support for street committees
 - leave no hiding places for criminals
 - providing support for vulnerable persons, especially children, youth, elderly and the disabled
 - improving tolerance of difference and preventing xenophobia

- **Schools**
 - effective places of teaching and learning
 - safe environments for learners and educators
 - respect for rights

- supported by communities to achieve success
- a valuable role for parents
- **Youth**
 - finding solutions and creating opportunities
 - supported by families and communities with programmes to develop and achieve their potential
 - seeking and acquiring skills
- **Faith-based Organisations**
 - promoting morality, ethical behaviour and respect for human rights
 - engaged in community building and development
- **Business**
 - promoting ethical behaviour
 - socially responsible
 - alignment of the work of the private security industry with the South African Police Service (SAPS)
 - supporting crime prevention initiatives
 - creating a foundation to fund-raise
- **Civil society organisations**
 - playing a developmental and supportive role to families and communities
 - playing a role in promoting values of positive living
 - identifying wrongdoers
- **Government**
 - interactive, responsive, caring and serving with excellence
 - Municipalities providing adequate services to communities.

Provincial Implementation Strategy

Symposia and Launch of VSCPP Call Centre: 9 December 2009

A Provincial Symposium will be held involving all relevant role-players. Drawing on the Province's collective wisdom, this will be a platform for debate and conceptualisation of what needs to be done to build a united front against crime. A key output will be a briefing and call to set up Community Safety Forums (CSFs) in all 11 Districts. District Symposia will follow the Provincial Symposium.

Provincial Symposium

300 delegates: SAPS, CPF, Mayors, Municipal Managers, Safer Cities, political party reps, youth sector, women's sector, children's sector, labour, OTP, Government (all provincial and relevant national departments, including JCPS members), education sector, Faith Based Organisations, Business, men's sector, CBOs. NGOs, tertiary institutions, research institutions, national crime prevention organisations, Traditional Leadership – National and District, legal fraternity, unemployed people's representatives, Provincial Forums, Chambers and Networks, veterans, media, taxi industry, security industry, Metro police, RTI, SAFA (KZN reps), Athletics SA, parastatals/state-owned enterprises, SANDF, state security agencies, ICD, KZN Tourism.

Overall Theme: *Building a United Front Against Crime*

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Plenary

- . HOD: Programme Director (introduces breakaways, introduces the MEC)
- . **MECs opening address: Setting the tone:** (expectations, why are we here, Overview / purpose of the Symposium, report back on Official Launch of the VSCPP Call Centre)
- . Overview of crime in KZN: SAPS
- . Research perspective on Crime Prevention: (presenter to be confirmed. Possibilities include HSRC (Dbn), academics, CSIR)
- . Legal Perspective on curbing crime and ensuring criminals face the law.
- . **Address by Premier**

Breakaway Groups and Topics:

Breakaway 1: Sector: Families and Communities

(This sector will include, among others, Traditional Leadership, CPFs, CBOs, FBOs, youth sector, women's sector, men's sector, children's sector, Councillors and other community representatives)

Topic: "Communities Know Best - How Can We Show Solidarity in Building a United Front Against Crime"

Questions:

1. *What are the foremost safety challenges being experienced by communities?*

2. *What role can communities play in building a united front against crime?*

Breakaway 2: Sector: Organised Structures

(This sector will include, among others, labour, Business, NGOs, tertiary institutions, research institutions, crime prevention organisations, legal fraternity, Provincial Forums, Chambers and Networks, veterans, media, taxi industry, security industry).

Topic: What role can organised structures play in building a united front against crime?

Questions:

1. *How do organised structures play a developmental and supportive role in community safety, including financially resourcing initiatives?*
2. *How do we promote ethical behaviour, social responsibility, and support for crime prevention initiatives, including curbing public violence and community conflict?*

Breakaway 3: Action by Government

(This sector will include, among others, SAPS, Mayors, Municipal Managers, Safer Cities, political party reps, all provincial and relevant national departments, education sector, Metro police, RTI, parastatals/state-owned enterprises and state security agencies).

Topic: *How can government better integrate our services for improved community safety?*

Questions:

1. *How do we improve collaboration in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and between state and civil society partners?*
2. *How do we support Community Safety Forums (CSFs) in Districts in a proactive and strategic manner?*
3. *How do we link with and support Municipalities in responding to local crime and safety challenges?*

Outputs:

- Consolidate discussions, present and draft Provincial Plan of Action
- Initiate process of establishing Community Safety Forums in all 10 Districts and Metro, including securing commitment of District champions for putting in place processes for the setting up of CSFs in all Districts
- All sectors and structures take ownership of the fight against crime within the confines of the law, with a priority on programmes targeting the youth.

Launch of VSCPP Call Centre

Linked to the Provincial Symposium will be the official launch of the VSCPP Call Centre. Following a project review in October 2009, a weakness in the structure and reporting of the project was identified that left gaps in the span of control and inadequate critical operational resources to support the core project objectives. A high level turn-around plan was developed. This included the:

- development of micro deployment plans; and
- set-up of a call centre and mobile tracking devices.

These items are seen as critical for the volunteers to perform their crime prevention functions and for the District Field Officers (DFOs) and Project Co-ordinator to monitor the whereabouts of the volunteers.

The official launch of the Call Centre has been scheduled to take place on 9 December 2009, immediately prior to the Provincial Symposium. The launch will take a form of a visit to the call centre where the MEC and dignitaries together with media will explore how the system works and cut a ribbon to mark the official opening of the centre. The MEC will then proceed to the Provincial Symposium to address the invited stakeholders responsible for crime prevention on the importance of the initiative, the VSCPP Project as a whole, matters related to the festive season and 2010 and officially open the Symposium. Invited stakeholders include: Safer Cities, Ward Councillors, SAPS, CPF members, Metro Police, Business Against Crime, Chamber of Business, ICD, KZN Tourism and all JCPS members.

Purpose of Community Safety Forums (CSFs)

The CSFs will serve as an engagement mechanism between communities and the criminal justice system and all other relevant role players. It will also serve to promote local government responses to safety and security issues. It will be the central hub of facilitating and monitoring criminal justice service delivery to the community and the implementation of crime prevention programmes, with a priority on programmes targeting the youth.

The establishment of Community Safety Forums addresses the *State of the Nation* address imperative of working together to strengthen all institutions, integrate the CJS, develop a shared value system based on the spirit of sustainable community building.

District Symposia and CSF Launches

Following a similar format to the Provincial Symposium, the District Symposia will culminate in the launch of Community Safety Forums in all Districts. Specific issues of concern within particular Districts will be incorporated and dealt with at

District Symposia as priority focus areas. The symposia will be rolled out to rural areas first. It will link up with the MEC's programme of SAPS Cluster visits.

Schedule of District Symposia:

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES	Hosting of District Symposium											District Priority Focus Areas
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
uMkhanyakude	X											Hijacking, robbery, murder, drugs, rape, domestic violence
Zululand		X										Stock theft Safety of farming communities, Domestic violence, rape, drugs
Amajuba			X									Rape, domestic violence, stock theft (especially at Impendle)
Ilembe				X								
uThungulu					X							Stock theft, domestic violence, rape
Sisonke						X						Stock theft, domestic violence, rape
Ugu							X					Stock theft, domestic violence, rape
uThukela								X				Stock theft, domestic violence, rape
Umzinyathi									X			Stock theft, domestic violence, rape
Umgungundlovu										X		Stock theft , domestic violence, rape, ukuthwala kwezingane ziyoganiswa
eThekwini METRO											X	Stock theft, domestic violence, rape

DISTRICT SYMPOSIA	
Participants	Similar to Provincial Symposium delegates – relevant persons at District level.
Themes	Similar to Provincial Symposium – add specific issues relevant to each District.
Outputs of District Symposia	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . District Safety Plans . Launch of Community Safety Forums - Mayors to Champion and support. 	

Conclusion

This is a call for greater innovation and commitment in our partnerships and joint initiatives. For such an approach to succeed, it is needless to say that it is imperative that all sectors of society take joint responsibility for addressing crime. Our response to crime can only succeed if we are able to harness every possible resource to address the challenges which face us.

Most importantly, individuals, families and communities can and must play a greater role in building the type of society we want to live in and bequeath to the next generation.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW OF PROVINCIAL SYMPOSIUM

Overall Theme: *Building a United Front Against Crime*

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: DCSL HOD: Ms YE Bacus

Plenary

9:00 Programme Director begins proceedings

9:10 Prayer

9:15 HOD Introduces MEC

9:20 MECS OPENING ADDRESS:

- Setting the tone: expectations, overview of the crime challenge, purpose of the Symposium
- Report back on earlier Official Launch of the VSCPP Call Centre – with photos/video footage aired

10:00 Presentation by SAPS: Overview of crime in KZN

10:20 Research perspective on Crime Prevention: (presenter to be confirmed: Possibilities include HSRC (Dbn), academics, CSIR)

10:40 Legal Perspective on curbing crime and ensuring criminals face the law.

11:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY PREMIER

11:45 – 13:00 BREAKAWAY DISCUSSIONS

Breakaway Groups and Topics:

Breakaway 1: Sector: Families and Communities

(This sector will include, among others, Traditional Leadership, CPFs, CBOs, FBOs, youth sector, women's sector, men's sector, children's sector, Councillors and other community representatives)

Topic: "Communities Know Best - How Can We Show Solidarity in Building a United Front Against Crime"

Questions:

1. *What are the foremost safety challenges being experienced by communities?*
2. *What role can communities play in building a united front against crime?*

Breakaway 2: Sector: Organised Structures

(This sector will include, among others, labour, Business, NGOs, tertiary institutions, research institutions, crime prevention organisations, legal fraternity, Provincial Forums, Chambers and Networks, veterans, media, taxi industry, security industry).

Topic: What role can organised structures play in building a united front against crime?

Questions:

3. *How do organised structures play a developmental and supportive role in community safety, including financially resourcing initiatives?*
4. *How do we promote ethical behaviour, social responsibility, and support for crime prevention initiatives, including curbing public violence and community conflict?*

Breakaway 3: Action by Government

(This sector will include, among others, SAPS, Mayors, Municipal Managers, Safer Cities, political party reps, all provincial and relevant national departments, education sector, Metro police, RTI, parastatals/state-owned enterprises and state security agencies).

Topic: *How can government better integrate our services for improved community safety?*

Questions:

4. *How do we improve collaboration in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and between state and civil society partners?*
5. *How do we support Community Safety Forums (CSFs) in Districts in a proactive and strategic manner?*
6. *How do we link with and support Municipalities in responding to local crime and safety challenges?*

13:00 LUNCH

13:45 Plenary reports from Breakaways

15:30 MEC announces resolutions

15:45 Closure