



October 2006

Community Safety News

Organise against Crime



MESSAGE

Ebrahim Rasool
Premier of the Western Cape

Crime is one of those issues that should affect every single citizen in the Province. It is important to understand that there is no single cause of violence and crime but many factors that contribute towards the levels of crime and violence in our communities and in society.

Some of these factors include poverty and unemployment, overcrowding, social and economic problems in families, low levels of education and the absence of childcare and youth recreation activities. Other factors that also contribute to crime

are poor anger management and conflict resolution skills, early life experiences of violence and exposure to gang culture. Of great and continued concern is the grip that alcohol, drugs and firearms have taken in our communities. Our families and communities are all too aware of the physical and emotional trauma suffered by them resulting from the use of alcohol and drugs, as these give rise to more violence, both inside and outside our homes. As a caring government, we have been involved in a number of community initiatives seeking to address some of these challenges.

Despite the reduction of contact crime by 17% in the Western Cape, much more work needs to be done. Government alone cannot deal with matters of crime. What is required is more vigorous combined community and government action to bring down crime even further in the Province. It is of utmost importance that communities not only know what practical steps they can take to address crime, but recognise that long-term solutions to reduce crime will require all communities and crime fighting agencies to work together.

One of the practical ways in which to tackle crime is for

ordinary people to become organised citizens and join networked community structures, both to protect and to serve their communities. We have noted significant successes when organised community structures work together to solve problems that directly affect them. The Department of Community Safety through "Bambanani Against Crime" volunteers has shown the remarkable courage and fearlessness of a people in the fight against crime. In addition, our government is committed to creating job opportunities so that many of our unemployed people can find work and thus create stable families and unified communities.

It is therefore my hope that we will all continue to build integrated communities that have the strength and ability to tackle the different forms of crime that we face, in our commitment to building a Safer Home for All.

Kind regards

Ebrahim Rasool
Premier of the Western Cape



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Crime statistics are generally regarded as indicators of the trends of different crimes in a society. Therefore, crime statistics are an important source of information for communities to understand the extent and type of crime in particular areas. Crime statistics also serve to influence the design of suitable crime prevention strategies by communities and law enforcement agencies.

It is usual to cluster crime statistics into three broad categories namely:

- Violent or contact crime (crimes that occur as a result of the use of force against a person). These crimes include murder, attempted murder, rape, all forms of robbery and serious assaults
 - Property related crimes (crimes that result in the theft or damage to property)
 - Police dependent crime (crimes that depend on police action)
- Some of the on-going challenges faced by communities in the province include:
- Drug trafficking, this includes the manufacture, storage and sale of drugs
 - The rise of gangsterism in townships, in particular boys are forming rival groupings that terrorise people
 - Shooting incidents within the taxi industry
 - The ongoing violence against women and children
 - Continuing activities of illegal poaching of abalone

In acting on its commitment to fighting crime, the Department of Community Safety has undertaken to build partnerships with communities through strengthening and training community safety and security structures:

- Farm Watches
- Community Watches
- Community Policing Forums
- Bambanani Volunteers

For the current year the Department has trained 1392 community volunteers in the field of safety and social crime prevention, and it is the efforts of these volunteers who will help us to build peace and stability in our communities.

Indeed, the significant 17% decline in contact crime for the past year in the Western Cape is the direct result of the involvement of the millions of law abiding citizens, the numerous dedicated and selfless volunteers and our law enforcement agencies. So, let us all pledge to continue working together.



CRIME D

In September this year, the people of the Western Cape had good reason to feel proud and recognise that the combined efforts of communities and law enforcement agencies have resulted in a dramatic 17% reduction in contact crime. In addition to this positive reduction over a three-year performance from 2003/04 to 2005/06 contact crime has consistently come down in the Western Cape by 7.5% in 2003-2005 and by 17% in 2005-2006.

This years decrease is of particular significance given in that the National Government target is a reduction of 7-10%. When focusing on the reduction of contact crimes, it must be seen within the context that the South African Police Services has prioritised the following eight violent crimes for reduction:

- Murder
- Attempted murder
- Robbery with aggravating circumstances
- Indecent Assault
- Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm
- Common assault
- Rape
- Common robbery

These crimes are referred to as violent contact crimes as they occur as a result of the use, or the threat of the use of force, by at least one person against another.

Therefore this reduction in contract crime by 17% is very important as it is a major factor that helps to save the lives of the people in the Province, particularly when attempted murder was significantly reduced by 25%. However, the murder rate in the Province is still unacceptably high. We have to accept that government alone cannot stop this cycle of violence. What is needed is the combined efforts of all of us, families, communities and the government in partnership to build the peoples contract. We as individuals and communities must play an active role with government in preventing violent crime and in particular hate killings and domestic killings, as these killings are almost always the result of the abuse of alcohol and drugs.

It is therefore clear that communities and government together must act to reduce crime through our existing community structures and programmes. We must be seen to report crime and corruption to the police.

We cannot fail our ch

Minister Ramatlakane calls on all parents to always:

- **Know where your child is at all times.**
- **Keep your child in your sight.**
- **Never send your child alone anywhere.**
- **Never leave your child alone.**

"The first call of responsibility lies with the parents and the lasting solution lies within the family unit and communities." (Reference: CRRU pamphlet.)

Yes, mine and yours. As a community we must take collective responsibility for all our children, as in this way there will be trusted and caring adults who will always be looking out for the safety of our children. We must not tolerate the

abuse and killing of our children by remaining silent about these crimes. We must not provide a safe haven or protect those men and women who think nothing of killing and raping our children.

Everyday we hear that our children are our country's most important and valuable assets precisely because they represent the future generation of adults. Yet, we still read and hear about the rape and killing of our children. Why are we as the mothers, fathers, grandparents and elders, namely the protectors of children, failing our children as they become yet another violent crime statistic? Has our lack of caring for their personal safety made them more vulnerable to those who prey on defenseless

and innocent children? Children should beware of strangers we say. Yet, the shocking truth is that most children who are raped and killed have suffered these crimes at the hands of someone they trust- a father, brother, uncle, grandfather, teacher, a next door neighbour. Our most important task is to ensure that our children are safe wherever they are - in their homes, in the neighbourhoods, at schools, in the parks, in churches, in mosques and in communities.

Children's safety first, this must be the rallying call that comes from local communities across our Province. Even if this means that a family member or friend may end up going to prison. If they have abused and injured our



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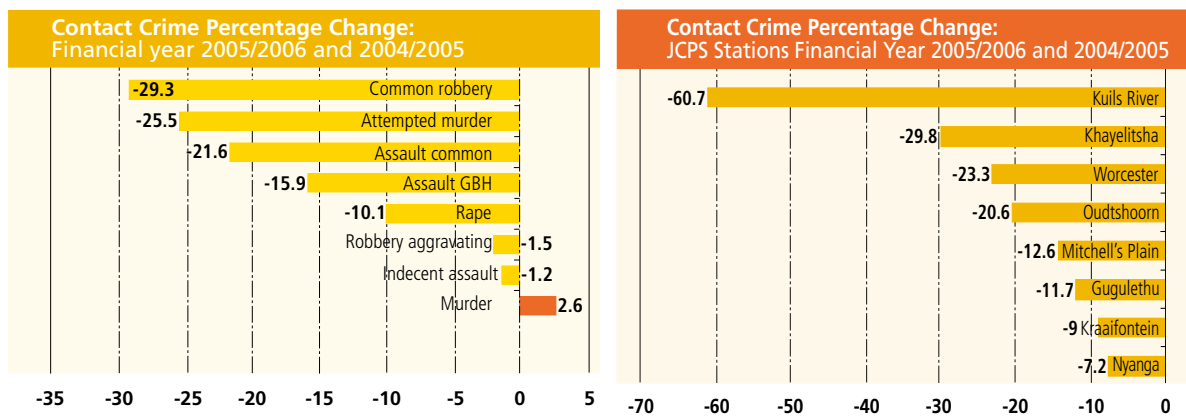
The Department of Community Safety as part of the peoples contract has committed to undertake to provide information to communities about crime prevention activities, who to contact and how to make local communities safer.

In empowering our communities to tackle crime, it is our responsibility that we increase our knowledge about the factors that contribute to crime, as well as activities we must undertake to prevent crime from happening. It is important for our communities to increase our participation in crime prevention initiatives, and to build the strength of our communities to effectively take action against crime.

The MEC for Community Safety is therefore making a clarion call to the millions of law-abiding citizens in our Province to take up the challenge that the 17% reduction in contact crime is only the beginning of our collective journey to stop violent crimes in our communities and to strengthen the contract between government and communities.

Together we will continue to fight crime in our Province especially the abuse of women and children, rape, violent crimes, drugs and gangsterism. The more families and communities that join the ranks of the thousands of Bambanani volunteers, the stronger we will face up the challenge that we will change the tide against crime.

We once again thank our policemen and women and Bambanani volunteers who have so selflessly protected our homes, schools and communities in making the Western Cape a Safer Home for All.



Message from the Provincial Commissioner Mzwandile Petros



The South African Police Services continues to give priority to all the different kinds of crimes, but especially bringing down crimes against women and children. The focus on women and children includes the Hands off Our Children programme that has been accelerated within the integrated Child Rapid Response Unit, with the Bambanani Volunteer programme playing a very important role.

Since it was established last year the Child Rapid Response Unit has achieved remarkable success in finding missing children. Of 215 reports received of children going missing 207 were found and returned to their families.

In its fight against the widespread availability of drugs, the South African Police Service through its continued partnership with communities confiscated drugs with a combined street value of R6 million in May 2006 alone.

The South African Police Services has also established fully-fledged police stations in a number of areas as well as operational rooms and crime offices in crime areas where crime is likely to be high. These operational rooms are currently fully functioning in:

Khayelitsha, Mitchell's Plain, Nyanga, Kraaifontein, Philippi, Bellville Wynberg and Cape Town.

Among the challenges in bringing down crime is the fact that the many youth who lack skills and are therefore unemployed are vulnerable and more likely to commit crime when they form part of gangs. This seems to show the break-down in the family structure and the resulting failure of families and communities to protect our children and our youth. We must therefore do more by becoming partners with the police and in so doing be better able to protect our children and young people.

The training of 2000 community members by the Department of Community Safety is therefore very timely, as this will include training of 200 youth at risk in leadership development. In addition to this, 600 women will receive training in victim counseling, while the remaining 1200 will be trained in citizenry, social crime prevention and security.

It is therefore fitting to pay tribute to these volunteers and those of you who will join us, as well as the police officers who fight so tirelessly to make sure that our communities become safer places.

Children

children, they do not deserve our sympathy or concern. Rather, we should let justice take its course.

We know all too well that the laws and policies to protect children are in place, yet the violence against our children continues. We as adults the primary and most important protectors of children, have to

remain very aware of the need to protect our children. Parents, care-givers and communities must act now, and they must act with determination.

We must listen to them and take them seriously when they tell us about things that make them afraid or unsafe. We must also become actively involved in activities in our communities that aim to protect our children.

Let us all find out more and take part in the Department of

Community Safety's Hands off our Children Project and the Child Rapid Response Unit (CRRU) in partnership with Community Police Forums.

Let us as communities strengthen our partnership with government and make a united and firm commitment to our children and provide them with the safety and protection that they so richly deserve.

Child Rapid Rapid Resonse Unit Successes. In September 2005, the Premier of the Western Cape Mr. Ebrahim Rasool and the MEC for Community Safety, Mr. Leonard Ramatlakane announced the establishment of a Child Rapid Response Unit (CRRU), to create awareness in communities and find children that are reported missing children with immediate action. During Minister Susan Shabangu, The Deputy Minister of Safety & Security's visit at the launch of the National Safeguarding of Children on 30 May 2006 in Delft, she gave recognition to the sterling work of the CRRU. To date the CRRU has established 10 community units comprising of 20 Bambanani Volunteers each in the Metro. An additional 400 volunteers will be trained and recruited to establish units in 20 rural areas, bringing the total volunteers to 600 for the current year. Through the combined efforts of the CRRU and SAPS, 207 out of 215 missing children were found alive, 3 were found dead and 5 are still missing for the period 27 September 2005 to 27 September 2006.



BAMBANANI AGAINST CRIME



Missing Children

Western Cape Minister for Community Safety, Leonard Ramatlakane has declared:

"It is our commitment and responsibility to create Safer Communities in our local areas this Festive Season. All the people of the Western Cape, especially our families, women, elderly and visitors must enjoy a peaceful 2005/06 Festive Season in the Western Cape"

Let us respect and protect our children by fighting this sickness together to guarantee our future

Emergency Numbers to Remember

All Emergencies	107
Ambulance	10177
Child Line	0800 055 555
Red Cross Hospital	(021) 658 5111
Concerned Parents of Missing Children	(021) 371 1149
Somerset Hospital	(021) 372 7500
Child Protection Unit	(021) 425 5245

The safety of our CHILDREN is a priority for the Provincial Government of the Western Cape. Together with communities we will ensure a Safer Home for All.

Western Cape Minister for Community Safety:
Ismail Abdurizak, Shahieda Abrahams, Faazil Abrahams, Andre Adams, Alfonso Arnold, Max Bruintjies, Elrenso Carolis, Simia Carolis, Petunia Cottle, Nonkosi Dapula, Wendy Foster, Nokwalele Gontsana, Chantal Gordon, Zahier Hardien, Renata Ismail, Natasha Jafta, Marika Jansen, (Deceased)

Baden Keet:
Florentia Langenhoven, Mewnski March, Lulamela Matshebe, Shevonne Matthews, Nokhango Moya, Kayla Ningo, Lebohag Nkentie, Asheegah Noordien, Matthew Ohlsson, Henry Plaatjies, Michelle Plaatjies, Zonele Sitwauana, Rashanda Smith, Novellen Solomons, Lolwe Sphenathi, Cavarri-Lee Waldeck, Carlton V D Berg







Together with your support, we can make the Western Cape **Safe** this Festive Season

Issued by The Department of Community Safety, 15 Wale Street, Cape Town, Tel: 021 483 3747, Fax: 021 483 3479.

Make the festive season 2006 safer

We are rapidly approaching that time of the year called the festive season when schools are closed and many families are on holiday, either traveling in the Province, going to the beach and children and youth are involved in numerous out of school activities. For many families this is also the time when bonuses have been paid and money may therefore be more freely available.

Unfortunately this is also the time, when most people are focusing on holiday festivities and crime awareness, crime awareness may not be as high as may normally be the case outside the festive season.

It is for this reason that the Department of Community Safety continues to build and strengthen the Safer Festive Season Programme that was started in 2003. This programme forms part of the campaign to create awareness among communities and to reduce crime during the festive season.

These programmes see more police visibility and Bambanani volunteers over the festive season, and have proved to be very successful in reducing crime over the past three years.

As we go into the festive season it is important to note the successes that were achieved by the Safer Festive Season programme last year, as this will tell us what more we need to do in the coming festive season to bring these numbers down even further:

- Contact crime was reduced by 27%
- Road deaths were reduced by 8%
- 10 out of 11 missing children were found

A total of 4560 Bambanani volunteers were used at different sites, including trains and shebeens

Many more Bambanani volunteers are needed to become involved in the Safer Festive Season programme for the upcoming festive season as some of the very important activities include:

- Safety on train stations
- Safety on beaches and beach activities
- Youth Activities
- Safety on farms
- Monitoring of shebeens
- Liquor control
- Safety of women and children
- Dangers of gangs and drugs
- Arrive Alive

It is also during the festive season that the Hands off Our Children project and the Child Rapid Response Unit work very closely with the Women and Children Bambanani Safer Festive Season programme as together these programmes focus particular attention on creating awareness on eradicating crimes against women and children.

One of the problems that all communities need to focus on during the festive season is that of missing children. The Department of Community Safety's Child Rapid Response Unit makes sure that there are quick and organized community responses to missing

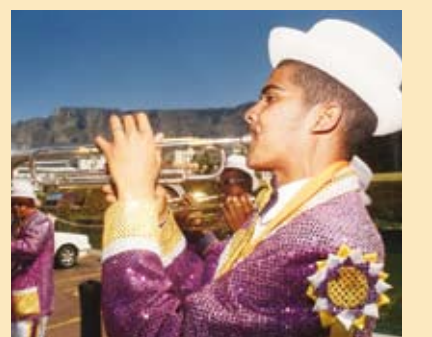
children, and therefore aims to reduce incidents of missing children.

The Child Rapid Response Unit has had great success in finding missing children in the areas where they have been set up:

- Mitchell's Plain
- Steenberg
- Nyanga
- Khayelitsha
- Delft
- Atlantis
- Kraaifontein
- Kuils River
- Blue Downs
- Philippi

This clearly shows the major success of what happens when the police and Bambanani volunteers work very closely together to find missing children and reunite them with their families.

Let all of us as law abiding citizens of the Province therefore make a commitment to make our upcoming festive season even safer than last year by becoming a Bambanani volunteer, and therefore participating in the Safer Festive Season Programme. In this way we will become actively involved in activities that aim to make our communities safer places for all of us, but more particularly for all our children. Let us recommit ourselves to build Safer Local Communities.



A PLAN TO BUILD PEACE & STABILITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES JOIN US!

YES!

I want to be a Bambanani Volunteer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Complete above form and sign up as a Volunteer.
Post to the Department of Community Safety,
Directorate: Community Liaison, P O. Box 5346, Cape Town, 8000
Tel. 483 5590 Fax. 483 3484