



January 2008

Community Safety News

A SAFER WESTERN CAPE the plan to keep our province safer comes together over festive season



SFS 2007/08 opening ceremony, Conville, George



EDITORIAL

MEC L Ramatlakane
Department of
Community Safety

It is indeed an honour for me to be part of this 5th year in celebrating the success of this festive season. Five years ago the government said to the people of the Western Cape we have the ability to bring crime down. Together in partnership with you in protecting our communities and

ensuring safety for our children. During 2007/08 in our festive season program we have demonstrated that together we will achieve the objective of a Safer *Home for all*. Communities have shown their spirit of Volunteerism in this province that indeed makes all of us very proud, we will continue to increase our commitment to dealing with crime and above all ensuring that resources are made available to communities to fight crime. Our police services have shown their commitment. The hard work that many have made in this festive season makes us very proud. 2009 will indeed be a very challenging year

for us as we ensure that our programs and projects in our fight against crime continue to gain momentum. I want to ensure that provincial government under Premier Rasool will continue to engage communities in how best we fight crime. We will support our police services under Commissioner Petros and we will act against criminals and crime bosses. On Behalf of government I want to thank you for your support and above all partnering with government to fight crime. Let us dedicate 2009 as the year of mobilisation to build a caring society, one which is safe, for all to live in.



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Message from the Provincial Commissioner Mzwandile Petros



We did it once more. We reduced Contact Crimes by 11.1% and managed to have yet another safe Festive Season period. Our gratitude therefore goes to all SAPS members, Bambanani volunteers, Reservists and other law enforcement agencies for going that extra mile in making the Western Cape safe and secure for all. When everybody else was enjoying the holiday season, they sacrificed time meant for their families in order to deliver a service to the people of this province. Your efforts and dedication will not go unnoticed.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the communities of the Western Cape, local and international visitors who descended on our shores for respecting the rule of law. There is documented evidence that the absence of liquor on our beaches, public places, tourist attractions and celebrations contributed to successes we have achieved during this period.

When people transgressed integrated law enforcement made sure the law was upheld. We have come a long way since the launch of the Safer Festive Programme. During the 2002/2003 festive season period a total of 13 943 incidents of Contact Crime were recorded. I am pleased to report that in the 2007/2008 Festive Season Period 7 981 Contact Crime incidents were recorded. All of that is due to interventions of the Programme.

With the commitment that one experiences, coupled with the integrated approach to policing, I am convinced that we are on the right path in the fight against crime.

Festive season ushers in new hope for the **fig**

“During the course of 2007, we need to make every possible effort decisively to tackle this challenge (of crime), drawing on the resources and capacity of all sectors of society in a united front against crime...” (President Thabo Mbeki; January 8th Statement, 2007)

True to this statement, Minister Ramatlakane once more channelled energies towards the mass mobilisation of resources and capacities in a collaborative effort directed at combating crime during the festive season. The SFS programme is part of the Department of Community Safety's Bambanani Against Crime initiative, and was initiated in 2003 as a campaign to create awareness on crime, reduce tolerance levels towards criminal activities, and ultimately reduce the levels of crime over the festive season. The 2007/2008 festive season programme marks the fifth annual Safer

Festive Season (SFS) Programme the Department of Community Safety (DOCS), the South African Police Service (SAPS) have conducted in partnership. The objective of the Programme is to ensure that all inhabitants of the Province, as well as the local and international visitors, enjoy an incident-free festive season.

One of the greatest threats to our growing democracy, and indeed, to the basic rights to freedom and security of all our people, is the threat of violence and crime within our society. 2007 has once more ushered in new hope to regain our power as commu-

nities in claiming back our rights to walk freely without the fear of falling victim to crime, particular during the festive season. Already, the programme has resulted in change at the

Combating contact crimes continues to be the priority in the Western Cape. Crime categories include: Murder, Attempted murder, Rape, Assault GBH, Common Assault, Indecent Assault, Robbery Aggravated and Robbery Common

The SFS programmes were successful mainly because of the intergovernmental co-operation of different key stakeholders namely:

- The Bambanani volunteers
- The South African Police Service
- Community Police Forums
- Bonteheuwel Mothers of the Cross Fire Killings
- Bonteheuwel Multi-purpose Centre Management
- Metro and Municipal Police - City of Cape Town
- Provincial Traffic – Provincial Government
- Cape Town Traffic Department
- South African Revenue Service (Anti-Smuggling Unit)
- The Department of Home Affairs - Immigration
- Community Based Organisations
- NGOs – National Sea Rescue Institution, Western Cape Life Saving Association, SANCA
- Churches, Religious leaders, members of the Muslim Judicial Council
- Nature Conservation
- Local Municipalities
- South African National Defence Force (SANDF)
- The Department of Cultural Affairs, Sport and Recreation (beach activities)
- The Department of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation (HOOC)
- National Youth Commission and
- The Department of Community Safety

Cleaning up through the Liquor

While some may argue that Shebeens offer a source of recreation in an environment where little or no leisure activity is available, especially in disadvantaged areas, some shebeen activities have been proven to have a direct impact on the levels of crime and criminal activity within the communities, and in the Province. According to studies by the National Injury Mortality Surveillance System (2004), the leading cause of non-natural death in the Western Cape was violence, and positive blood alcohol concentration was found in 58.4% of the victims of violence.

While many shebeen owners are taking the responsibility to regulate their business in partnership with government, illegal shebeens are control points of drug syndicates and gangs, are havens to harbour criminals and are a marketplace for stolen goods. These shebeens operate 24 hours a day, and sell alcohol and drugs to children during school hours.

Communities have been riddled with the foul consequences of these activities for far too long. In recognition of their plight, the Department of Community Safety has initiated the Liquor Control Project. Started in 2003, the major objective of the Project is to provide the adequate and appropriate regulation of shebeens to ensure the safety of communities; and a reduction in related criminal activities.

The success of the Project is hinged on partnerships forged

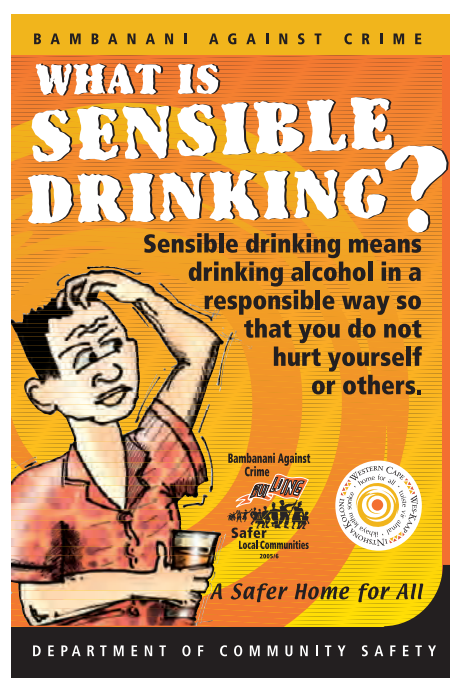
between the Department of Community Safety, the SAPS, community structures and shebeen owners themselves.

2007/2008 ushers in the 5th year of the Projects operation, with an extension of this Programme that aims to build on its success of the past years.

The objectives of the Project include:

- Encouraging shebeen owners to practise responsible liquor trading, and
- The increase in public awareness on alcohol abuse in the communities.

The new liquor policy seeks to encourage the self-regulation of shebeens to promote the safety of their surrounding communities and their patrons. The licensing of shebeens will assist in ensuring responsible liquor trading, and shebeen



owners will be provided training that will skill them in becoming socially responsible e.g. the first step to positive change is to create an awareness of the consequences of one's actions. Awareness will therefore be raised on the social and more importantly, legal consequences of selling liquor to persons

ht against crime



fundamental level of behaviours and attitudes of our society, indicated by a demonstration of more responsible behaviour by members of the community in public spaces – the use of alcohol on the beaches, for example, is now the exception rather than the norm.

In the area of building strong, effective partnerships, the Programme boasts many strengths including the engagement of a large number of community volunteers, SAPS reservists, Community Police Forums and Neighbourhood Watches. The willingness of major community and Depart-

mental players in the area of addressing crime indicates an increased awareness of the shared responsibility we all have in eliminating this scourge in our societies and within our communities. It is through the growth and continuation of committed partnerships facilitated by programmes such as the Bamanani SFS Programme that inroads towards our target of the large scale reduction of crime will be forged. The Programme facilitates the collaboration of different law enforcement agencies, government Departments and the community.

The Programme has demonstrated

The 2007/2008 SFS Programme achieved the following:

- 3880 Bamanani volunteers in total were deployed
- 2086 members formed the deployed Reservist core
- Contact crimes were reduced by 11.1 %
- Of 36 children under the age of 18 years who were reported missing, 33 were found alive
- There was a 50 % decrease in Robbery with Firearms within railway operational environment
- 2 657 174 litres of liquor were confiscated in the Province with 330 552 litres of liquor confiscated at priority stations

consistent success over the past four years, and poses as one of the most important interventions underpinning objectives of reducing contact crime by 7-10%, as envisaged by the National Cabinet. In fact, in the 2007/2008 year, the Programme exceeded this target with the maximum SAPS personnel, 2086 reservists and 3880 volunteers participating in 11 projects resulting in a decrease of 11.1 % in contact crime in the Western Cape.

A resounding word of thanks goes to each and every committed partner, member and supporter of the Bamanani Safer Festive Season (SFS) Programme, whose tireless and courageous efforts continues to bring the hope that together, we can . . . building safer communities

The projects within the SFS programme that contributed to the reduction in crime are:

- Commuter Safety
- Youth Safety
- Tourists and Visitors' Safety
- Safety on Farms
- Woman Safety
- Liquor Control
- Victim Support
- Arrive Alive
- Child Rapid Response Unit
- Hands Off Our Children [HOOC]
- Youth Activities at Beaches

Message from the Provincial Board Chairperson Rhoda Bazier



The celebration of the 5th successful Safer Festive Season (SFS) Programme coincided with National Police Day, held on the 27 January 2008. The programme has aided in the realisation of common goals to such a measure that it has given new meaning to the Bamanani slogan "Together... through Partnership".

The past few years have seen these partnerships growing from strength to strength. The Safer Festive Season (SFS) Programme has led to the development of close relationships between partners, government, communities and the police have become a strong force against crime. The partnership has also borne fruit on so many other levels.

Through the Bamanani Strategy, more communities have joined hands with the police and local law enforcement agencies in creating safer neighbourhoods, and safer homes. Today we celebrate this partnership and trust between Police and Community, and acknowledge the role that it has played in improving our lives. Above all, the development of community involvement and participation in crime and the key role in the consistent reduction of crime over the past ten years.

Progress, however, has not been achieved without sacrifice. Today we also honour and commemorate our fallen heroes: police - men and women; volunteers and crime-fighters, who have paid the ultimate price in the name of safety, freedom and security; who have lost their lives in the line of duty to ensure that we all have a safer home, and a better life.

We must ensure that their lives and their sacrifice are not in vain. The pain and loss of their loved ones is the pain and loss of the community as well. When we, as communities, are confronted with obstacles and difficulties, our actions should not be that of despair and hopelessness, but rather, it should inspire us and strengthen our efforts in building a strong community – resolute, unshaken and united against crime.

We, as communities, will never have the capacity to play a meaningful role in the fight against crime if we do not build strong community structures, such as CPF's, Neighbourhood Watches, Street Committees, Farm Watches, Business Watches, and Youth Structures, to name but a few. It is only through commitment and dedication that we will jointly achieve our goals, for the benefit of our communities, now and in the years to come. None can demonstrate such dedication better than our Bamanani Volunteers. During the festive season programme, these volunteers have once more proven that by working hand-in-hand with the police, we will be able to become the driving force against crime.

I wish to salute each active community police forum (CPF) member, police member, neighbourhood watch member, volunteer, youth member, community based organisation and non governmental organization for their sterling efforts and willing participation in making our communities, the Western Cape, and South Africa a safer home for all.

Rhoda Bazier
Chairperson:

- 4 firearms and rounds of ammunition confiscated
 - 704 illegal shebeens closed down
- The Project does not only focus on shebeen owners. The public are also informed of the importance of practicing sensible drinking, and in-

cludes educating communities not to drink during pregnancy, and tips to minimize alcohol consumption smartly. The Department of Community Safety gladly welcomes any questions from the public on its education and awareness programmes.

or Control Project

under the age of 18, as well as raising awareness on what the liquor policy says.

The Project has been implemented in Atlantis, and strives to create a best practice model in the area.

The Project employs one (1) sensible drinking coordinator in the area, whose primary role is to raise awareness among the youth by engaging with student governing bodies and other student associations. Through the Project, shebeen owners are trained in sensible drinking, responsible trading, and the dangers of alcohol abuse. Information on the Project has been disseminated through the distribution of print materials, such as "The Code of Conduct" on Liquor Trading and various other brochures.

The vision of the Project is to create an environment where shebeen owners recognize and take up their

role in promoting responsible liquor trading and essentially regulate their own actions in accordance with the liquor control policy.

Therefore, one of the milestones for the Project has been the establishment of 6 liquor forums largely constituted by shebeen owners. The forums ensure that shebeen owners regulate themselves by encouraging members to practise sensible liquor trading, to abide by the Code of Conduct on liquor trading, and to cooperate with the SAPS when dealing with illegal shebeens.

The project included the following strategies:

- 224 neighbourhood watch volunteers being deployed in 25 areas for a period of 14 days - from 16th December 2007 to 2nd January 2008
- 11 000 "sensible drinking" pamphlets distributed to

shebeen owners and the public,

- 1500 breathalyses distributed at 4 road blocks,
 - 2356 shebeens visited over the period
- The direct results of the Project include the following:
- 750 codes of conduct signed by shebeen owners
 - 1652 shebeens complying with the code of conduct and
 - 215 having applied for a license
 - 231 arrests for liquor related crimes in the Province
 - 102 arrests at priority stations
 - 708 fines, to the value of R326 630-00 issued in the Province
 - 164 fines, to the value of R194 750-00 issued at priority stations
 - 2 657 174 litres of liquor confiscated in the Province, and
 - 330 552 litres of liquor confiscated at priority stations

The media speaks

And the message spoken this Festive Season resonates the commitment of the Department to promote a safe, secure and crime-free society, particularly for the most vulnerable groups in our society, namely our women and youth.

The contribution made by the media in increasing the profile of activities aimed at reducing crime and raising awareness around public safety has aided in the collaborative struggle to improve the holiday experience for residents and visitors. This Festive Season saw a renewed focus on issues that affect our communities most.

Domestic and gender violence poses one of the greatest threats to the safety, security and freedom of South African Women. In recognition of the extent of this scourge and the important role and responsibility the Department has to play in ridding society of abuse, Minister Ramatlakane supported the opening of the new victim support unit in Lingeletu in Khayalitsha. The Cape Argus (21 January 2008) reported that the unit would help 'manage' the problem and focus on confidential counseling with 15 trained volunteers that would be available 24 hours a day. The Minister appealed to witnesses and victims of abuse to speak out, stating that unless abused women, and neighbours who were aware of the ill treatment "broke the silence", the oppression would continue.

The Minister further encouraged service providers, survivors and the communities to continue to strive against abuse, stating that it is important to bring hope despite the difficulties and challenges that communities face. He continued in saying that we must build and heal our nation. The (new victim support) unit was one of the bricks.

The 'Choose 2 Live' campaign was frequently featured in the media, particularly community media, which ensured the accessibility of information on these important initiatives. On the 15th January 2008, the People's Post featured the Anti-Tik drive of the Department, targeted at venues where the highest critical mass of youth could be



accessed, namely, the local malls. Westridge Mall was full of activity on Tuesday, 8 January 2008, when marchers, police, and volunteers descended on the mall. The gathering was held to herald the 'Choose 2 Live' Programme - an event which rocked the foundations of the mall with music and performances which echoed one clear message for the youth - Choose 2 Live, Say 'NO' to Drugs!

Earlier that day, Morgenster Road was temporarily blocked by the marchers, who were flanked by members of the SAPS and Bambanani Volunteers from the Department of Community Safety - who were not present to monitor the march, but to join it! The Plainsman (16 January 2008) reported that the Western Cape Department of Community Safety was putting its money where the problem was by tackling drug abuse head on, commending the Choose 2 Live Programme.

The TygerBurger (16 January 2008) reported in its coverage of the campaign that the programme has been a resounding success, reaching over 100 000 learners at 100 schools during 2007 alone. The beneficiaries of the campaign are reported to primarily be learners from Grades 5-9 - often the group most susceptible to the influence of drugs.

The Plainsman (16 January 2008) further highlights the successes of the Departments Child Rapid Response Unit (CRRU). Reports indicated that in last year, 145 children went missing in the Western Cape. Of this 145, 140 were found and reunited with their families. The CRRU was directly credited for the successful recovery of the missing children. The CRRU was stated to make an instant difference to the problem of child abductions with abusive intent, by dispensing with the policy of a waiting period for reported missing children. During the festive season, the CRRU deployed their Bambanani volunteers at 30 beaches and major tourist attractions throughout the province. To report missing children, contact the CRRU on 021 483 4332, or 082 858 0096.

VOLUNTEERISM: The Heartbeat of Our Communities

"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it." (Marianne Williamson)

The Department of Community Safety would like to acknowledge the contribution made by the ordinary men and women who selflessly and courageously sacrifice of their time, and of themselves, in building our communities, and in creating a safer environment and home for us all.

Our Bambanani Volunteers play one of the most important roles in our society as they support and animate our vision of the creation of safe spaces for women, children and society at large. These men and women selflessly assist in promoting the reclaiming of our fundamental rights to freedom and

security, and have come to live and understand the true meaning of success

We pay a special tribute to our Bambanani Volunteers who consistently strive for success, with dedication and commitment; who have rendered their outstanding service during the 2007/2008 Festive Season; and who continues to constitute the heartbeat of our communities...

In recognition for outstanding service we salute insert names of list of 21.

**IN
MEMORIUM**

In loving memory of
our dearly departed
Bambanani Volunteers

Andile Mojela
KRAAIFONTEIN

Amsoerah Rajap
HANOVER PARK

Mfundelwe Lizo
KHAYELITSHA

Ncamile Ntlombe
KHAYELITSHA

Richard Olifant
GRABOUW

Simphiwe Mnyakala
THEMBALETHU

Babalwa Tshethsa
KHAYELITSHA

YES!

**I want to be
a Bambanani
Volunteer**

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Complete above form and sign up as a volunteer,
Fax to 021-483 3484 or post to
Department of Community Safety, Directorate
Community Liaison, P.O. Box 5346, Cape Town,
8000 or phone 021-483 5590
Issued by The Department of Community Safety,
35 Wale Street, Cape Town

JOIN US!