



The Central Karoo District Municipality Report

CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

There are three local municipalities in the Central Karoo District Municipality (CKDM), namely, Beaufort West, Laingsburg and Prince Albert. The Central Karoo District has 5 police stations. The former Beaufort West cluster is, as of August 2022, organised into one police District which is aligned with the district municipal boundaries.¹

CRIME OVERVIEW

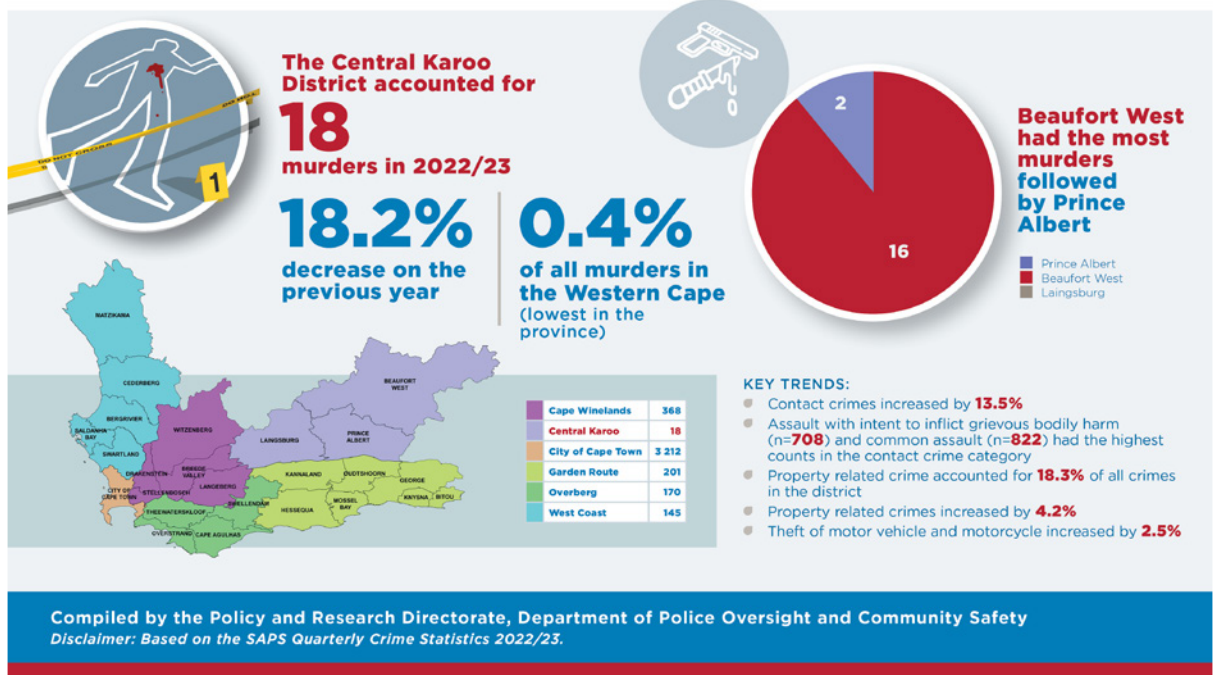
South Africa has been referred to as one of the most homicidal, violent and dangerous countries. The South African Police Service release crime statistics quarterly and this is a summary of the crime statistics for 2022/23, derived from combining the four quarterly releases.

¹ Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety. (2023). Central Karoo District Municipal Overview. p. 6.



Minister for Police Oversight and Community Safety, Mr Reagan Allen addressing stakeholders at the Central Karoo PNP engagement.

Murder decreased by 18.2% between 2021/22 and 2022/23, from 22 to 18 murders recorded in the Central Karoo. The most murders were committed in Beaufort West (16), followed by Prince Albert (2). The Central Karoo District accounted for 0.4% of all murders in the Western Cape, making it the lowest in the province.



ABOVE: Central Karoo District annual crime statistics: 2022/23

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Contact crimes increased overall by 13.5% between 2021/22 and 2022/23. Assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm and common assault had the highest counts in the contact crime category. In addition, the number of property-related crimes in the district increased by 4.2% from 992 in 2021/2022 to 1 034 in 2022/2023. Property related crime accounted for 18.3% of all crimes in the district.

Sexual offences decreased by 19.3% when compared to the previous reporting period. In 2022/2023, there were 67 sexual offences compared to the 83 cases reported in 2021/2022.

PNP METHODOLOGY FOR 2022/23 - 2023/24

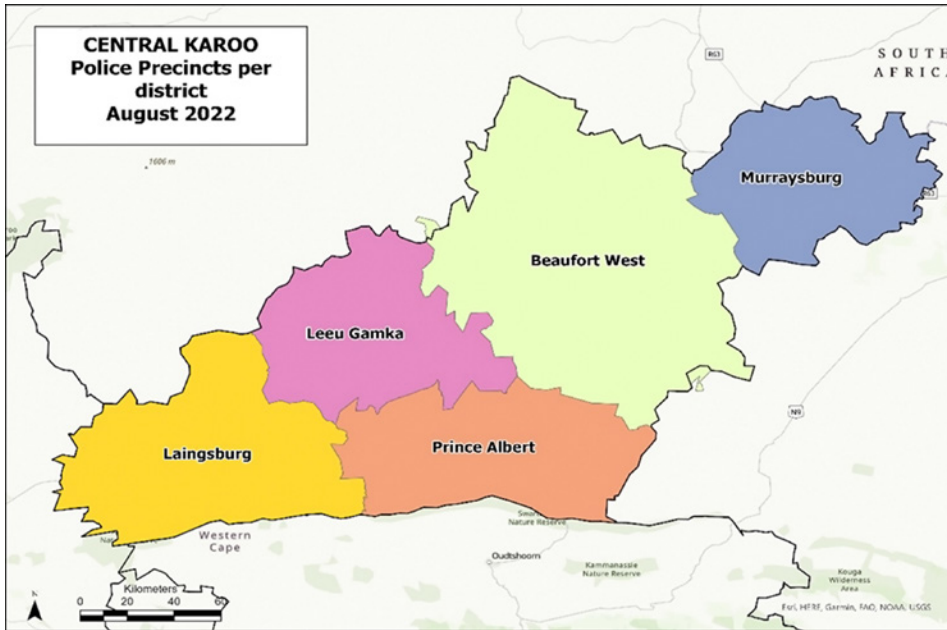
The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety (POCS) followed a mixed methodology for the annual Policing Needs and Priority (PNP) determination that yielded both qualitative and quantitative results for the 2022/23 - 23/24 financial years. A

desktop analysis was conducted of key policing and safety concerns and issues in the province, as well as developments during the year. Secondary and relevant literature sources such as the SAPS Annual Report, the previous PNP reports, internal POCS reports, Victims of Crime Survey, media reports, Provincial and Municipal Economic Review and Outlook (PERO and MERO) reports² were reviewed to augment the findings amongst others. The SAPS Crime statistics on reported crimes were also used to augment the findings and to give some crime perspective and context.

The qualitative methodology involved a public consultation in each district and two in the Metro. The district consultation was held over two days, dedicating day 1 to Rural Safety and day 2 to the Policing Needs and Priorities.

The target group for the PNP consultations were people who were believed to be representing the key stakeholders in the safety environment of the Western Cape. The leadership in crime prevention/safety

² The MERO report is intended to be used in the municipal integrated development plans (IDPs); spatial development frameworks (SDFs); local economic development (LED) strategies; and budgets for evidence-based decision-making, as well as implementation of the Joint District and Metro Approach to socio-economic development across the Province. Western Cape Government. 22/23 MERO Report, p. 5.



field was invited to attend, such as the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and Farm Watch (FW) Chairpersons, members of the Provincial Standing Committee on Community Safety, members of Cabinet, SAPS District and Station Commanders, MetroPolice, all Provincial, cluster and local CPF chairpersons, National and Provincial Government Departments, District and Local Municipalities, District and Local Municipal Mayors and Municipal Managers, Mayco members for Safety and Security, IDP Coordinators and Managers, Heads of Disaster Management, Law Enforcement (LE), Traffic and Protection Services, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Correctional Services and Justice, safe schools managers, councillors for safety and the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs), Agricultural organisations, Business Sector and the media.

At the PNP consultation, focus group discussions (FGD) were held along the three broad themes of Law Enforcement, Social Cohesion and Urban Design. Facilitators and scribes were sourced and briefed for the session. A facilitation guide was used to structure the

discussion. FGD notes were captured and then coded.

The Department hosted the PNP engagement in January 2023 in Prince Albert for the Central Karoo District. The PNPs started off with presentations setting the scene, followed by questions and answers which were directed to the presenters. Thereafter, the participants were given an opportunity to determine their policing needs and priorities by participating in focus group discussions (FGDs) where they were randomly assigned to groups to brainstorm and discuss their policing needs and priorities. Input was captured on a template developed by the Department which was later analysed to identify key issues and common themes for inclusion in the report.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE POLICING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES³

On the next page follows a summary of policing needs and priorities through the lenses of Law Enforcement, Social Cohesion and Urban Design that was extracted from the focus group discussions.



ABOVE LEFT: Police precincts in the SAPS Central Karoo District and District Municipality

ABOVE TOP: Col Ayanda B Zimba, Beaufort West Station Commander

ABOVE MIDDLE: Mr Gideon Pietersen, Executive Deputy Mayor, Central Karoo District Municipality

ABOVE: Ms Sharna Fernandez, Minister of Social Development

³ The broader findings and recommendations are available in the 2023/24 Western Cape Policing Needs and Priorities Report which will be published in due course.

BELOW: Summary of policing needs and priorities through the lenses of Law Enforcement, Social Cohesion and Urban Design

LAW ENFORCEMENT	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stock theft: Although under-reported, stock theft is a major problem in most of the farm areas in the district. 2. Insufficient SAPS human resources: Under-resourcing in police stations is an issue that has worsened over time and is affecting all police stations. 3. Insufficient SAPS physical resources: Under-resourced police stations (equipment, vehicles, facilities) is an issue that has gotten worse over time and is affecting all police stations. 4. Insufficient SAPS visibility: Absenteeism impacts on already stretched available resources. 5. SAPS service delivery issues: Reaction time of police officers is slow due to a lack of resources, poor infrastructure (bad roads) and long distances that must be travelled. 6. SAPS recruitment: SAPS applicants must write exams in set locations instead of the areas where they reside, resulting in unnecessary financial burden on applicants who often do not have the funds to travel. 7. Lack of collaboration amongst law enforcement agencies. 8. SAPS management are not on duty over weekends when most crimes occur or available after hours. 9. Neighbourhood Watches (NHWs) challenges: Lack of proper training. NHWs are not adequately equipped and not at all funded in the CKD. 10. Insufficient and lack of proper utilisation of Law Enforcement officers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipality should install licence plate recognition (LPR) cameras in rural areas and on routes leading to it. Murraysburg is identified as a hotspot for stock theft. The SAPS Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit conducts regular operations in the area and surrounding farms. Patrols were increased and waylay duties were performed. Crime intelligence, flying squad and rural safety all play an integral part to reduce and address the crime. • The SAPS must recruit and train police reservists to bolster their ability to address crime and improve relationship with NHWs, block committees and farm watches. • SAPS reported that the five stations situated in the Central Karoo District have an average establishment of 96% of Visible Policing, 92% in the Detective Service and 92% in the Support Environments, resulting in an overall staffing average of 93%. 25 Entry Level Constables (ELC) from the recent project "10 000 ELC", were placed at five stations within the Central Karoo District. • The SAPS must address infrastructure issues as it severely impacts service delivery and already stretched resources, especially the lack of holding cells. • The SAPS responded that the CPFs and NHWs increase visibility over weekends according to the crime pattern analysis. Partnerships with security companies was established for visibility in the CBD area. The CPU and K9-unit increase visibility and patrols from Thursdays to Sundays. • Basic SAPS protocols are outlined in a national instruction (N113/2019) to deal with abuse of sick leave. • All complaints received through the 10111 Call Centre are redirected to respective policing precincts (police stations in the Central Karoo) with policing jurisdiction in the respective area. Calls are attended to by the respective station CSC or switchboard operator. • The SAPS reported that it assists applicants as far as possible during the recruitment process. • The SAPS responded that it will engage with the municipality to strengthen the working relationship with law enforcement agencies. Station Commanders and Detective Commanders will ensure that monthly case-flow meetings are attended and that issues raised are addressed and conveyed to members. These engagements include matters related to the GBV (Protection Orders etc). • POCS must strengthen the NHWs, FWs and street committees in the CKD. • The municipality must ensure Murraysburg is allocated the necessary Law Enforcement and traffic officers.
SOCIAL COHESION	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Availability of drugs and drug abuse by youth (primarily dagga, tik). 2. Availability of alcohol and its abuse (shebeens). 3. Insufficient stakeholder engagement: Participation and empowerment is needed among stakeholders so that they can contribute more meaningfully. 4. Youth and crime: Young people are often involved in crime. There are not enough youth programmes to build resilience, empower young people and offer alternatives to crime. 5. School safety: There are no local schools in some areas resulting in children having to travel to other areas. There is a lack of safety at schools and hostels. Bullying in schools is an issue. 6. Lack of parental skills & guidance: Relationships between children and parents needs improvement. Parenting skills development is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSD needs to design and implement a comprehensive drug prevention programme; prioritise a rehabilitation centre for the CKD and provide outpatient treatment programmes. • Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA) inspectors must inspect liquor outlets. • Municipalities should put in more effort into stakeholder engagement, participation and empowerment to ensure municipal legitimacy. • Department of Social Development to review their support of mental wellness of the youth. • The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) to consider building more high schools in local areas to prevent youth having to stay in hostels; while hostels and schools should address bullying. • Parenting programmes should be provided.
URBAN DESIGN	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfenced/unsecured houses and bushy areas. 2. Load shedding and inadequate street lighting. 3. Poor road infrastructure. 4. Problematic buildings / Unused properties: vacant houses used for criminal activities. Vandalism and looting of unused infrastructure. 5. Vagrants: An increase in the number of street children and homeless people. 6. Youth: Lack of recreational and sports facilities. 7. Vandalism of infrastructure and existing facilities. 8. Service Delivery: Houses not properly numbered. 9. Integration of safety technology: There is a lack of integration/partnership in the planning and utilisation of technological systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities (parks, the LED) and the Department of Transport and Public Works (DTPW) Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) must plan regular scheduled maintenance by cutting back dense bushes to increase visibility and prevent this crime. • The SAPS, POCS and local municipalities should implement neighbourhood community safety campaigns. A possible WhatsApp reporting line per ward should be introduced. • Reliable public transport with adequate lighting is required. Ward councillors must be proactive. Introduce and install solar-powered lights. • National, provincial and local stakeholders must ensure that the roads are maintained as Beaufort West is the gateway to the Province. The issue of speed humps should be tabled at the Joint District Forums. • Public education is required and the Council and NGOs such as the SPCA must put concerted effective measures in place to curb the abuse of animals. • Establish economic hubs and in the short term, government services (mobile units) should be provided in closer proximity to the people. • The municipality should apply to the Province for funding for the Regional Socio-economic Programme (RSEP) to create recreational facilities in areas where they will be the most effective. The Council and the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation should devise a plan to provide sewage/borehole water for recreational facilities such as sports fields. • The community needs to be educated regarding vandalism and scrap dealers to be closely monitored. • The Department of Local Government and the district and municipalities should prioritise project funding for their safety plans, the law enforcement and social funding to provide numbers for houses for easy identification. • The DoA, district municipality and POCS should coordinate other stakeholders and facilitate integration of safety technology in the district.