



The Garden Route District Municipality Report

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



GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

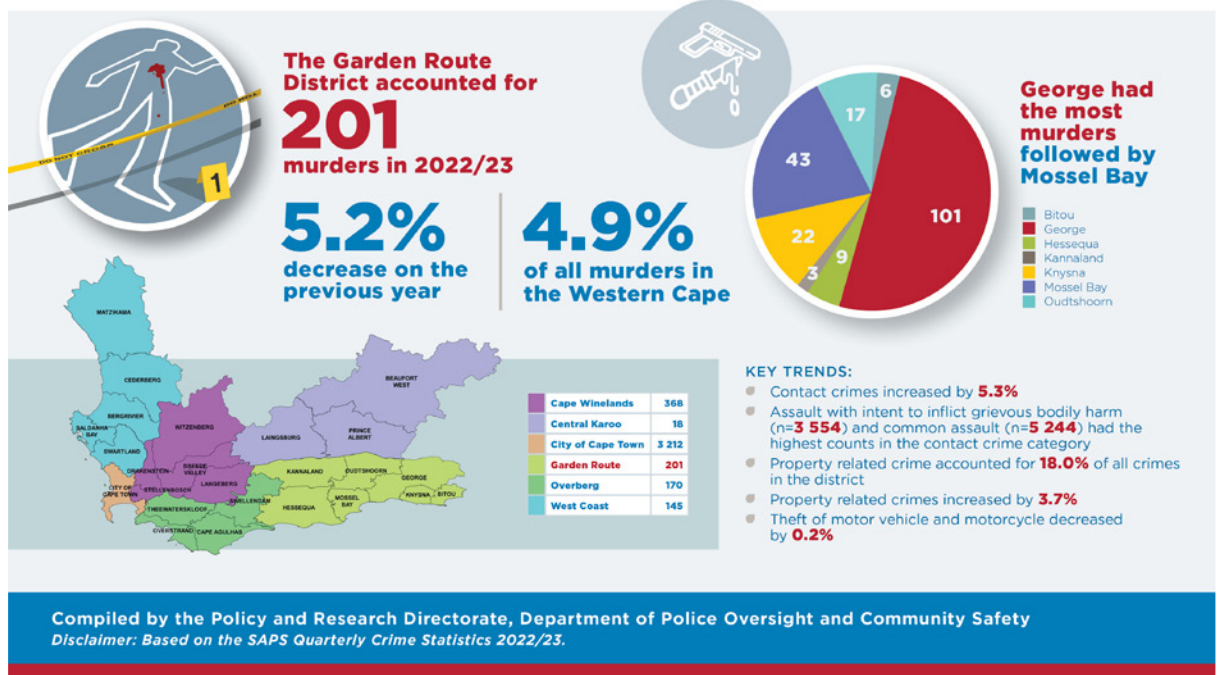
There are seven local municipalities in the Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM), namely, Bitou, George, Hessequa, Kannaland, Knysna, Mossel Bay and Oudtshoorn.¹ The Garden Route District has 21 police stations. The former two clusters (Eden and Da Gamaskop) are, as of August 2022, organised into one police District, which is aligned with the District municipal boundaries.²

¹ Garden Route District Municipality. (2022). *Garden Route Safety Plan 2022/2026*

² Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety. (2022). *Garden Route Municipal Overview*, p. 7.

CRIME OVERVIEW

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



ABOVE: Garden Route District annual crime statistics: 2022/23

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Murder decreased by 5.2% between 2021/22 and 2022/23 in the Garden Route. The most murders were committed in George (101), followed by Mossel Bay (43). The Garden Route District accounted for 4.9% of all murders in the Western Cape.

Contact crimes increased overall by 5.3% between 2021/22 and 2022/23, with assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm and common assault having the highest counts in the contact crime category. In addition, the number of property-related crimes in the District increased by 3.7%. A decrease of 0.2% in the theft of motor vehicle and motorcycle is recorded.

Sexual offences decreased by 11.2% when compared to the previous reporting period.

PNP METHODOLOGY FOR 2022/23 - 2023/24

The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety (POCS) used a mixed methodology for the annual Policing

Needs and Priority (PNP) determination using both qualitative and quantitative methods 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) reports³ 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

³ 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.



ABOVE LEFT: Police precincts in the SAPS Garden Route District and District Municipality

ABOVE TOP: Major Gen Norman Modishana, SAPS District Commissioner, Garden Route

ABOVE MIDDLE: Mr Memory Booyesen, Executive Mayor, Garden Route District

ABOVE: Dr Ivan Meyer, Minister of Agriculture

safety environment of the Western Cape. The leadership in crime prevention/safety 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, Metro Police, 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 Department of 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 October 2022 in George for the Garden Route 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). 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 PRIORITIES⁴

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.

⁴ 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. Insufficient SAPS human and physical resources: A shortage of personnel and vehicles. Vehicles are not fit for purpose in some cases for the work needed to be done. 2. Insufficient Law Enforcement human resources: Insufficient officials and inconsistent allocation of Law Enforcement officials within local municipalities. 3. Drug dealing: Poor policing of drugs and drug lords / houses. 4. Poaching: One of the largest forms of organised crime in the area due to it being a lucrative income generator. 5. Management of parolees: Lack of adherence to conditions of parole partly due to ineffective monitoring of parolees. 6. Neighbourhood Watches (NHWs) challenges: Inconsistency in the way NHWs function. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the SAPS the 21 stations situated in the Garden Route District have a staffing capacity of 95% for Visible Policing, 100% in the Detective Service and 108% in the Support environments, resulting in an overall average of 97%. • A total of 94 Entry Level Constables (ELC) from the recent project "10 000 ELC", were placed at 16 Stations within the Garden Route District. • Both the SAPS and Law Enforcement need to work together to ensure by-law enforcement. Local Law Enforcement needs to work 24-hour shifts. • More integrated roadblocks are required to confiscate drugs/stolen goods. • More unannounced SAPS integrated operations to arrest drug lords/dealers need to be undertaken, rather than focus on stop and search operations. • SAPS reported that it presents awareness campaigns together with stakeholders such as the Department of Social Development, the Liquor Board, NPOs, etc., to educate the community, especially the youth on the effects of the use and abuse thereof, and conducts continuous integrated, focused and intelligence-driven targeting the identified "drug dens". Purposeful stop and searches are also conducted as part of disruptive operations. • There is a need for intelligence-led policing of these crimes, supported by-law enforcement and other stakeholders to tackle poaching. • SAPS reported that it has monitoring systems in place in the district to monitor the movement of potential poaching groups in the area. Areas prone to poaching are monitored and integrated reaction teams consisting of the SAPS Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit, game rangers, local security companies and farm watches are in place to respond to incidents. Partnership meetings are conducted to identify potential high-risk areas and animal movement and operations are planned accordingly. • The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) must inform the SAPS, CPFs, and the Ward Committee and councilors when parolees are released, as well as their parole conditions, to enable better management and monitoring. • POCS should engage with all the NHWs and ensure consistent policies, strategies and funding for them.
SOCIAL COHESION	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drug abuse: Drugs are easily accessible by young people and children. SAPS have insufficient capacity to raid and close drug houses. 2. Lack of parenting skills: Broken family structures resulting in child delinquency. Lack of parental guidance, and neglect of children. 3. Ineffective social welfare system: Limited social welfare services provided to communities and limited support to NGOs from the government. 4. Lack of cooperation amongst stakeholders: Under-reporting of crime by communities due to fear of victimisation, retaliation or retribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen communication between different role players and provide feedback on the implementation of programmes. • The SAPS need to update complainants and victims regarding drug related cases to earn the trust of communities. • Develop strategies to support broken family structures (family strengthening programmes). Implement parental guidance programmes to prevent drug addiction, gangsterism, bullying and school dropouts. Promote and implement community-based solutions to create a culture of caring and provide support for children and youth. • Ensure a whole of government and whole of society approach to deal with socio-economic challenges. • Municipalities must support the NGOs financially to build their capacity to implement child and youth programmes in the community. • Activate Ward Councillors, Ward Committees and Community Development Workers to play an active role in the development of their areas. • Use the EPWP to promote youth participation in community safety.
URBAN DESIGN	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Informal settlement challenges: Poor road infrastructure makes it difficult for Law Enforcement to access crime scenes. 2. Spaza shops and taverns: Lack of proper zoning and regulation. Liquor stores not compliant with relevant regulations regarding operating hours. 3. Load shedding, poor street lighting, cable theft & incompatible CCTV cameras. 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: Insufficient recreational and sports facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make roads more accessible and replace erf numbers with house numbers. Ensure streets have signage and are tarred and accessible. • Municipality must develop the roads, improve transport routes and redesign houses and infrastructure. • All spheres of government should consider taking mobile services to the informal settlement communities to ease access to services. • Due to the design of informal settlements, the LE agencies should have more foot patrols, or make use of modern technology such as drones. • Local Economic Development (LED) departments at municipalities should review/update their by-laws to regulate spaza shops more effectively. Municipal and District LED departments must ensure uniform by-laws that can be applied by all municipalities. Spaza shops need to be monitored in order to make sure they comply with regulations. • Involve the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT) to engage in conversations around zoning at the Community Safety Forum (CSF) meetings. • CCTV cameras need to be monitored 24/7, and they must be linked to police and Law Enforcement for immediate response. • Scrap yards need to be inspected on a regular basis for stolen cables. • Municipality should look at establishing recreational facilities where they are needed. This needs to be supported by the DCAS and community-based organisations.