Dear fellow citizens

It is good news for us all in the Western Cape that serious violent crime in our province this festive season came down by 12.3% compared to the previous year! This is reason to be really encouraged that together as Government, the SAPS, Bambanani, the Western Cape Youth Commission, SANCO, communities and business we are succeeding in building safer communities. Thank you to all who made sacrifices to help us make another improvement this festive season. In this thirteenth year of our precious democracy we are still confronted daily by the damaging impact of policies and actions from our past that created conditions for crime and violence to become the sore-point of our lives today. We need to make the choice to stop all forms of crime and we need to be united in working for peace, stability and safer places to live and work.

In doing this we must make the principle of ubuntu (being and becoming a person through other people) a basic part of what inspires and motivates us in the Western Cape. Ubuntu focuses on community and family life as critical elements of personal development, security and fulfillment. If we are guided by this way of thinking we will lead more responsible and caring lives.

Join hands with us all as Government and all South Africans to continue the struggle against crime and for a better future for all!

A crime against one is a crime against all!

Ebrahim Rasool
Premier of the Western Cape

MESSAGE
Ebrahim Rasool
Premier of the Western Cape

Picture courtesy of Independent Newspapers

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY - WESTERN CAPE

Community Safety News

January 2007

UPBEAT about crime down during festive season

Picture courtesy of Independent Newspapers

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Volunteerism strikes a chord with disadvantaged communities, creating a Safer Home for All

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Strategic and creative mix of media captures the audience
The Department of Community Safety’s Safer Festive Season campaign 2006/2007 has surpassed all expectations by dramatically reducing contact crime over the festive holiday period by 12.3%. These crime categories include murder, attempted murder, rape, assault GBH, assault common, robbery aggravated (attempts included) and robbery common (attempts included).

Rape decreased by 12.3%, robbery common decreased by 24.9%, assault GBH decreased by 17.1% and assault common decreased by 10.2%. Community Safety MEC Leonard Ramatlakane initiated the Safer Festive Season (SFS) programme in 2003 as a campaign to create awareness and bring crime down over the festive season. The key partners in this campaign are the South African Police Service (driver of the programme) and the communities of the Western Cape Province. The idea of running focused safety programmes with the intention to drastically increase police visibility over the festive season, proved to be successful over the past 3 years. The SFS programme is considered as one of the most important interventions in an attempt to bring down crime by 7% - 10% as set by President Mbeki in his opening of Parliament address on 11 February 2005. This programme is also considered as one of the Department of Community Safety’s major programmes to build social capital as defined in the Ikapa Elilhumayo (the Growing Cape) strategy. Therefore, the objective of getting the government and the community (Bambanani volunteers) together to fight crime embraces the Bambanani (unite against crime) philosophy.

In the Premier of his State of the Province Address in 2005 set a target of reducing contact crimes by 7% and to reduce road fatality by 5%.

The projects within the SFS programme that contributed to the reduction in crime are Community Based Activities, Depopularisation of Gangs and Drugs, Safety on Train

The 2006/2007 SFS programme achieved inter alia the following:

- Contact crimes were reduced by 12.3%;
- Road fatalities were reduced by 15.5%;
- Nine out of ten missing children were found;
- 4207 Bambanani volunteers in total were deployed in joint safety projects;
- 2006/2007 Safer Festive Season contact crimes reduced by 18%;
- 2005/2006 Safer Festive Season contact crimes reduced by 27%;
- 2004/2005 Safer Festive Season contact crime was stabilised by 2%;
- 237 Bambanani volunteers were deployed at train stations;
- 335 Bambanani volunteers were deployed at supermarkets; and
- 492 Bambanani volunteers were deployed at beaches.

The past four SFS programmes successes can be summarised in terms of crime statistics as follows:

- 2003/2004 Safer Festive Season contact crimes reduced by 18%;
- 2004/2005 Safer Festive Season contact crime was stabilised by 2%.

The Department of Community Safety believes that in order for youth to strive towards higher ideals and goals, we need to create an enabling environment and make a concerted effort to fight the challenges facing youth.

In so doing during 2006/2007 the Department launched projects that aims to create awareness and wean youth away from drugs, alcohol and gang activities. These projects namely the Choose 2 Live and StreetSmart Youth, aims to counteract the demand for drugs and joining gangs. The projects also create awareness of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA) and indentified and trained 60 youth leaders to mobilise youth in communities. The Department also empowers young people with life skills by working closely with and funding the Chrysals Academy.

This festive season the Department placed special emphasis on youth at risk. Several strategic and programmatic initiatives were implemented starting off with the support of launch of the Youth Crime Resilience Campaign in Khayelitsha 2006. Among the highlights were the Youth Beach Activities programme that was launched at Camps Bay on 26 December and a door to door anti-tik drive campaign in Worcester under the “Choose to Live” project banner.

In the spirit of Bambanani, there was also a Certificate Ceremony on 12 January for 40 youth who were recruited in collaboration with SAPS Khayelitsha. They were given life skills training, including conflict resolution and citizenship training. The training also had a particular crime prevention focus. During the upcoming months the 40 youth members will be integrated into the Department’s Youth Volunteer Programme and others will join the 3 month Chrysals Academy training programme and the Chrysals Youth clubs in Khayelitsha.

The volunteers, who are youth at risk because of the circumstances in communities they call home, were from areas including Khayelitsha, Mitchell’s Plain, Gugulethu, Nyanga, Brooklyn, Pinelands, Ellies River and Mitchell’s Plain.
The SFS programmes had a great success mainly because of the intergovernmental co-operation of different key stakeholders namely:

- The South African Police Service
- The Department of Cultural Affairs, Sport and Recreation (355 project at beach activities)
- Law enforcement agencies of the City of Cape Town and other Municipalities
- The Department of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation (HOCO)
- Community Police Forums
- Local Municipalities
- The Bambanani volunteers
- Community Based Organisations. For example the Concerned parents for missing children (CPMAC), Harare Ward 98 Youth Development Council.
- The Department of Community Safety

They were trained in conflict resolution, crowd control, communication and discipline, events management, sports coaching and to raise crime and drug awareness by promoting a crime-free lifestyle.

Youth today are exposed daily to crime, domestic violence, drugs at schools and socio-economic conditions, which leads to a poor self-image.

During the Youth Beach Activities campaign, thousands of youth from impoverished communities were afforded the opportunity to enjoy drama performances to educate them about drugs and gangs, singing and dancing, as well as indigenous games and sports, including Beach Dibeki, Beach Jukseki, Dodge Ball, Rope Skipping. Tug of War, Swing Ball, Suikerkaskenade, Beach Volley Ball, Beach Soccer, Calypso Cricket, Frisbee Golf, Tag Rugby and a Jumping Castle.

Road fatalities down by 15,5% over festive season

This year 2006/07 the Arrive Alive campaign, part of the Department of Community Safety’s, SFS project has reduced the number of deaths on our roads over the festive season by 15.5%. The campaign has surpassed the 5% reduction expectations, through the dedication and sacrifice of all those involved. The campaign focuses on traffic violations (driving under the influence of alcohol, speed violations, seatbelts, visibility, fatigue, overloading and pedestrian safety). The statistics for 2006/07, compared to 2005/06, include:

- a decrease of crashes by 14.2% and fatalities by 15.5%
- A decrease in pedestrian fatalities by 24.4 %, passenger fatalities by 8.3% and driver fatalities 9.1%
- 133 criminal cases recorded at roadblocks during the Arrive Alive launch; and
- 92 Bambanani volunteers deployed at Arrive Alive events during the campaign.

Nearly 45 000 vehicles were stopped and checked, while 453 drivers were charged for overloading. A whopping 8 621 drivers were tested for alcohol.

An analysis of the fatal crashes reported revealed that 28 vehicles overturned and 8 vehicles drove into fixed objects. There were six sideswipe crashes and six head-on collisions. Among the other fatal crash statistics were the following:

- 78 single vehicle collisions and 9 head-rear collisions;
- 35 bakkies were involved in crashes;
- 18 mini busses were involved in crashes;
- 12 heavy vehicles were involved in crashes of which 4 resulted in pedestrian fatalities and 1 tractor overturned on a gravel road;
- 7 hit-and-run (pedestrian fatalities) and 6 persons fell off vehicles (of which one fell off a tractor).

Further positive trends include a reduction in moving violations, an improvement on the loading of goods on trailers of minibuses and busses and an improvement in public transport vehicles complying with legislation. No busses were involved in fatal crashes.
Bambanani message is in the media

The right mix of media coverage pays off, resulting in a Safer Festive Season 2006/07

The media played a key role over the Safer Festive Season campaign, highlighting key events and unpacking what the Bambanani model of志愿服务 has meant in terms of building a Safer Home For All.

The press and radio and television stations truly became a strategic partner in our campaign – giving further life to Bambanani.

Through publicity surrounding our programmes and events the media served to unite all people and partners against crime. In so doing, the coverage enhanced relations between the police and the communities and people more actively embraced their role in crime prevention. The media coverage was overwhelming and we have chosen to highlight only some of the key moments that were captured for the consumption of the broader public.

Both print and broadcast media attended several events. At the launch of the Youth Beach Activities campaign on 26 December, SABC news and radio ran on-the-day coverage, highlighting the fact that 60 youth at risk have undergone training to do the facilitation of activities and to act as agents of change and peace building throughout the beach activities programme.

MEC Leonard Ramatlakane also used the Camps Bay event to highlight the deployment of police officers and Bambanani volunteers at tourist hubs and spoke in depth to the media, resulting in positive coverage in newspapers like Die Burger, Cape Times and the Cape Argus the next day. The MEC and the Department of Community Safety also used other events to highlight law enforcement warnings to potential law-breakers – specifically around the ban on drinking on beaches and other crimes. The media also regularly reported on traffic blitzes in the run-up to New Year’s Day. The Arrive Alive coverage included articles and broadcasts around the proposed forfeiture of vehicles driven by drunk drivers and unroadworthy buses being targeted.

On 27 December the Safer Festive Season again received positive coverage with several radio and print media doing telephonic interviews with the MEC about the door-to-door tik awareness campaign in Worcester. On 29 December the Safer Festive Season campaign was once again prominently displayed in the media when there was extensive radio and print coverage of the Safety on Trains graduation ceremony which took place at Bellville Civic Centre on 28 December. Die Burger, KFM radio station, the Cape Argus and the Cape Times were among the media that reported on the initiative, jointly sponsored by the Department of Community Safety and Metrorail. Among the key issues raised was that 150 volunteers have managed to get employment with security companies, while 140 volunteers have registered as reservists.

Other issues enjoyed coverage including the role of Bambanani volunteers in securing mountain trails and other tourism hotspots. Police deployment at these hotspots was also highlighted as in the Weekend Argus on 31 December. A live broadcast of the 31 December Youth Beach Activities campaign at Harmony Park in Strand by Heart 104.9fm was another highlight, with MEC Ramatlakane being afforded an opportunity to explain the Bambanani concept and the purpose of the Safer Festive Season campaign to hundreds of thousands of listeners.

The media also highlighted other aspects of the Safer Festive Season campaign, including the Cape Times coverage of wreaths being laid and crosses erected at two spots where a three-month old baby was found dead and a six-year-old girl was killed in Samora Machel late last year.

“The anti-crime campaign was held a day after Thabo Mbeki urged communities to come together in the fight against crime, during his statement at the ANC’s 95th anniversary celebrations in Witbank,” the Cape Times reported on Monday 15 January. Amanda Gaju, project manager of the department of community safety’s Hands off Our Children (HOOC) campaign, was quoted as saying that the campaign was part of the department’s vision to fight crime in partnership with the community. “The community policing forum (CPF) has come up with the programme. Children are dying from car accidents, some go missing and are found dead and some are just killed. (Mdingi) for instance was found strangled and dumped in the rubbish dump),” said Gaju. She said there was a need to have similar campaigns in communities on a frequent basis. The Cape Times also quoted MEC Ramatlakane speaking at a HOOC media briefing late in 2006, where he condemned crimes against children, calling them “barbaric.”

MEC Ramatlakane was also quoted in the Cape Times in relation to the drownings that occurred over the festive season. The media also covered anti-crime activities like raids on shebeens in Khayelitsha, re-enforcing the growing perception that the Safer Festive Season campaign and its call to partnership between communities and government to tackle crime effectively had been a rousing success.

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 of Community Liaison, P.O Box 5346, Cape Town, 8000 or phone 021-483 5590

In recognition of Bambanani Volunteers for their outstanding service during the 2006/07 Safer Festive Season

Harmony Pack
Beach
1. Fina Karelse
2. Joseph Wilbur
3. Riad Abrahams
4. Cheslyn Arendse
5. Mogamat Zain Amanradien

Compliments to/ Complaints Against the Police?

Western Cape Police Service Charter

Policing Complaints Centre at

Call the Department of Community Safety

Or Write to us: Department of Community Safety, P O Box 5346, Cape Town, 8000
Or Fax us: (021) 483 6026
Or e-mail: policingcomplaints@pgwc.gov.za
Or visit: www.capegateway.gov.za/policing_complaints

Are the police officers at your local police station helpful? Did your case get the proper attention? Any advice on how your police station can operate better? What good things happen at your local police station?