Implementing the National Anti-Gangsterism Strategy
Summary of 2016 national policy document

Even the graphic looks like a Roman courtroom = top-down control
Problems with the strategy

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• However this is an opportunity for the Province to take a lead in national policy development.
Problems with the strategy

Definition of gangs is vague

Warrior?
Merchant?
Syndicate
Organised crime?
Transnational crime?
Corporate?
Government?
Problems with the strategy = limited scope

- Transnational organised crime groups/syndicates
- Prominent leadership figures
  - Firm/Americans Gang
- Local gang leaders
  - Leadership figures in different areas
- Street level
  - Inter-gang violence in different areas
Gang types in the Western Cape

- Playgroups
- Warrior gangs
- Girl gangs
- Local syndicates
- Transnational organized crime
- Corporate racketeers
- State officials
- Type 2 Girl gangs
- Merchant gangs
We need to ask the right questions

Causes of gang formation?

- Poverty
- Family breakdown
- Drugs
- Education
- Absence of grandparents
- Community fragmentation
- Policing
- Imprisonment
- Absent fathers
- Lack of youth resilience
We need to ask the right questions

Family issues?

- Poor prenatal care
- Poor mother health
- Alcohol/drug use during pregnancy
- Absent fathers
- Attachment problems
- Single parent stresses
- No strong role models
We need to ask the right questions

Health issues?

- Prenatal epigenetic stress
- No natal nurse visits
- Stress management
- Drug counseling
- Alcohol counseling
We need to ask the right questions

Justice system?

Inadequate policing
Conruption
Police untrained in gang issues
Are CPFs working?
Courts overworked
Prisons overfilled + violent + poor inmate life preparation
Are neighbourhood watches working?
We need to ask the right questions

Education?

- Getting to school scary
- At-school safety issues
- Are subjects offered appropriate to their lives?
  - High pupil numbers per class
  - Poor use of schools after hours
  - Poor after school care
We need to understand the spheres of influence

Solutions need to be focused within these three spheres.
Public action needed
- Prison number networks
- Trans-turf gangs
- Contaminated prisons
- Dangerous infrastructure
- Inappropriate schooling
- Low conviction rates
- Poor policing
- Syndicates
- Drug trade

Transform public systems
- On the streets
- Dangerous
- Drugged up
- Violent
- Killers
- In gangs
- Not in school
- Coloured/Black

Individual action needed
- No positive heroes
- Needs mentoring
- Poor/no work
- Low self esteem
- Poor social skills
- Poor education
- Unemployable
- Sexually peaking
- Needs image stuff
- In a gang
- Uses drugs

Develop youth programmes
- Prenatal damage
- FAS possible
- Dopamine problem
- Stressed mother
- Emotionally deprived
- Absent father
- Poor concentration
- Troubled masculinity
- Problem peers
- Need for respect

Manage public perception

Manage health issues
How do we go about it?
We need to understand the nature of the problem at each level to find appropriate solutions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of structure</th>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prenatal context</td>
<td>Epigenetic stress</td>
<td>Raised level of later violence and drug use</td>
<td>Care of pregnant mothers. Education. Nurse visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play groups</td>
<td>Emulate gangs</td>
<td>Groomed for gang life</td>
<td>More childhood projects &amp; play centres. Incorporate grandparents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrior gangs</td>
<td>Low self esteem = hyper masculinity posturing. Violence &amp; drug use.</td>
<td>High levels of violence and high school dropout</td>
<td>High-energy sport, effective engagement. Contact sport training EG. Karate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison gangs</td>
<td>Long incarceration with other damaged/criminal influences. High levels of violence and forced sex. Emotional brutalisation.</td>
<td>Angry, unemployable people with higher violence potential.</td>
<td>Make prison an educational and psychologically healing institution. Reduce imprisonment of non-violent offenders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate crime</td>
<td>Undermines economy, feeds corruption</td>
<td>Avoids taxes and bleeds state resources</td>
<td>Greater political accountability and tax control. Curb state/corporate overlaps and bribery, kickbacks and corruption.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State crime</td>
<td>Failure of delivery of essential services, depressed economy &amp; sense of hopelessness.</td>
<td>Danger of state capture by corporates and failure of economy.</td>
<td>Crack down on all State corrupt practices. 'Clean' investigators and judiciary: Charge and jail perpetrators</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to refine the strategy

• Get together those people we think are best at addressing the gang problem.

• Engage the communities – parents, NGOs, social workers, health workers, teachers, pupils, gangs, police etc – to ensure buy-in.

• Highlight fulcrum areas.

• Identify key people and start action plans – get in the mavericks – the thinkers.
Engage with those on the ground

- Surf School
- Chrysalis
- School principals
- Grandparent groups
- Amandla EduFootball
- Housing groups
- Men’s groups
- Mother nurse visits
- MOD centres
- NGO programmes
- Prenatal support groups
- ProvJoints Priorities Committee
- Neighbourhood watches
- Pupil groups
- Peace committees
- Universities
- CPFs
- Drug counseling groups
- Bosasa
- VPUU
- Pollsmoor
- Nicro
- Gang members
- Provincial departments
- Gang Strategy Planning Group
- MOD centres
- Surfschool
Create planning teams

Gang Strategy Planning Group

- Family health
- Schooling
- Adolescent crisis
- Employment
- Policing
- Drug markets
- Organized crime
- Gang definition
Define focus areas

Gangs

Family health

Schooling

Adolescent crisis

Employment

Policing

Drug markets

Organized crime

Gang definition

Family structure

Absence of fathers

Poverty

No family support

No role models

Wrong type education

Poorly trained teachers

No preschool preparation

No role models

Drug use

Poor self esteem

No social capital

Poor education

Teen pregnancy

No skills training

Education deficit

Depressed economy

Poor training

Leaving syndicate bosses untouchable

Gang collusion

Links to Organized crime

Huge profits

Youth recruitment

Gang warfare

Decriminalization?

Corporate linkages

State linkages

International networks

POCA unworkable

What are we talking about?

Gang definition

Organized crime

Drug markets

Policing

Employment

Adolescent crisis

Schooling

Family health

Define focus areas

Gangs
Invite stakeholders & specialists

Gang Strategy Planning Group

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Invite stakeholders & specialists
Engage in research & development

End silo isolation
Rethink early child development
Strengthen community resilience
Rethink education
Build better after-school care
Rethink the War on Drugs
Rethink and reform policing
Resource the Child Justice Act
Rethink imprisonment
Develop personal resilience
Plan life paths beyond programmes
Understand personal transformation
Document everything to ensure sound policy development
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- DO IT!
Let's be creative, innovative and daring