



January 2007

Community Safety News

UPBEAT about crime down during festive season



Picture courtesy of Independent Newspapers



MESSAGE

Ebrahim Rasool
Premier of the Western Cape

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



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Picture courtesy of Independent Newspapers

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Editorial from the MEC Leonard Ramatlakane



Picture courtesy of Independent Newspapers

In 2002 President Thabo Mbeki threw down the gauntlet to civil society and spoke in passionate tones of the spirit of volunteerism.

He implored us as South Africans to recapture the community spirit of Letsema. President Mbeki urged us to focus on the mobilisation of our people to engage in the process of continuing to be their own liberators, of occupying the frontline in the popular struggle for the reconstruction and development of our country.

In early 2007, at the African National Congress's 95th anniversary President Mbeki renewed his call for communities to work together to combat the scourge of crime.

Here in the Western Cape we heeded the President's call and have put in place an anti-crime model which has for the past few years enabled us to make giant inroads into reducing contact crime specifically over the festive season.

Bambanani Against Crime, which started out as a mere concept, has now become an enduring example of a successful relationship between government and the community. The Bambanani concept of active community participation in policing is modeled along the lines of a Cuban model in which millions of residents take responsibility for their neighbourhoods.

The call for volunteers to help build a winning nation has truly struck a chord amongst disadvantaged communities, where many people signed up as police reservists, offered to clean up schools and clinics and have generally given their time, skills and labour to improve the quality of life of those around them.

In terms of the Safer Festive Season campaign, the Bambanani model has cemented the reality of a journey toward a Safer Home For All.

We now have nearly 6 000 Bambanani Against Crime volunteers who epitomise the spirit of volunteerism and have joined hands with the police and other crime-fighting agencies to make the Western Cape a Safer Home For All, for tourists and locals. Our Safer Festive Season campaign, which has seen a dramatic decline in contact crime, fatalities on Provincial roads (N1, N2, and N7) and property related crime during the present and past festive seasons, has become a symbol of what is possible when we join hands together.

I have since the inception of the project expressed my admiration for the volunteers who work hard for no financial reward at their local communities.

They are from all ages, races and creeds and remain a shining example in a society where, especially the youth, sometimes feels disheartened and discouraged.

We have been able to draw on the Bambanani volunteers at every turn and they have re-inforced the growing perception that there is a life outside the suffocating circumstances of crime and other social evils.

We have also managed to document the success of this programme and we have brought out two editions of the Improved Service Delivery Methodology. We have had delegation after delegation from other Provinces which had visited our Department with a view to gain first-hand experience of the workings of our Bambanani Programme and now this programme is gradually being launched in other Provinces.

The combined effort of the people made it possible for them to achieve results, which no individual family could achieve on its own. These are the values, in the President's words, that we seek in an effort to restore all our communities, while engaging in socially uplifting work.

I would like to thank the SAPS, Bambanani Volunteers and Traffic Law Enforcement Officials for their hard work during this period.

CRIME DOWN

Yes its official – a patient yet determined build up combined with the sustained efforts of all law enforcement agencies and the Bambanani Volunteers translated into a significant 12.3% reduction in crime over the critical 2006/07 holiday period.

The Department of Community Safety's *Safer Festive Season* campaign 2006/2007 has surpassed all expectations by dramatically reducing contact crime over the Christmas 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 Elihlumayo (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.

The Premier in 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
- 237 Bambanani volunteers were deployed at train stations;
- 335 Bambanani volunteers were deployed at shebeens; and
- 492 Bambanani volunteers were deployed at beaches

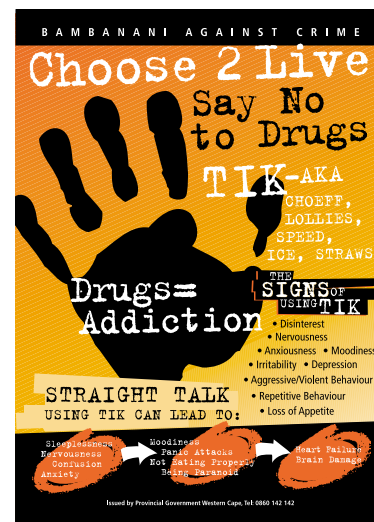
The past four SFS programmes successes can be summarised in terms of crime statistics as follows:

- 2003/2004 Safer Festive Season contact crimes reduced by 18%
- 2004/2005 Safer Festive Season contact crime was stabilised by 2%
- 2005/2006 Safer Festive Season contact crimes reduced by 27%
- 2006/2007 Safer Festive Season contact crimes reduced by 12.3%

Enabling youth to

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 Chrysalis 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 citizenry 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 Chrysalis Academy training programme and the Chrysalis 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, Elsies River and Mitchell's Plain.

WN over SFS 06/07



Picture courtesy of Die Burger

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 (SSS project at beach activities)
- Law enforcement agencies of the City of Cape Town and other Municipalities
- The Department of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation (HOOC)
- Community Police Forums
- Local Municipalities
- The Bambanani volunteers
- Community Based Organisations. For example the Concerned parents for missing children (CPMC), Harare Ward 98 Youth Development Council.
- The Department of Community Safety

Stations, Safety on Beaches, Safety on Farms, Safety of Woman and Children, Special Deployment of Bambanani volunteers, Liquor Control, Victim Support, Arrive Alive, Child Rapid Response Unit, HOOC, Youth at risk and Youth activities at beaches

Acknowledging the efforts of all contributors, Ramatlakane said: "Our men and women in uniform

joined hands with over 5 000 Bambanani volunteers ensuring that our people were safe during the festive season. The end result was a drop in crime," he said. "We thank the community voluntary workers who assisted in the fight against crime and most importantly the police officers, traffic and metro police who sacrificed family time.

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.

Choose 2 Live

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 Jukskei, 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.

The youth volunteers, who facilitated the activities for their peers at all the Youth Beach Activities events throughout the Province, trained at Chrysalis Academy in Tokai and the Certificate Ceremony was held there.

The MEC for Community Safety and his Department emphasized throughout the Safer Festive Season campaign that socio-economic improvement of youth in our townships was a long-term process.

However, in order to reduce this crisis we must work towards decreasing the levels of crime and violence in communities throughout the Western Cape by "inculcating a culture of peace and non-violence".

The Department wishes to thank all youth who participated in the Safer Festive Season campaign, in particular the youth volunteers.

Message from the Provincial Commissioner Mzwandile Petros



Picture courtesy of Die Burger

At a time when the thoughts of the majority of our Province's citizens and the thousands of local and international tourists were on holiday fun and partying, the South African Police Service and its strategic partners have kept us in relative peace and security over the festive season.

For me to start any message about the Safer Festive Season campaign without acknowledging this sacrifice and dedication would be a travesty.

I want to acknowledge the dedication of members and sacrifices made. I have witnessed firsthand how our members have surpassed themselves.

I have witnessed firsthand how our strategic partnerships in the form of the 5 800 Bambanani volunteers, our neighbourhood watches and other community structures have laboured to make the Western Cape safe over the festive season.

I congratulate them not only as Provincial Police Commissioner, but as a citizen of this great city, Province and country.

The reduction in crime shows that our strategies and in particular the Peoples Orientated Sustainable Strategy (POSS) based on the partnership approach is bearing fruit. We will therefore continue with our focus on community orientated policing in the Province. We have watched this constructive partnership grow over the years and as time have passed we have fine-tuned the relationship between the Police and civil society together.

This past festive season has seen a dramatic decline in crime and the figures contained elsewhere in this newsletter bears out this fact. But statistics cannot capture the full impact of the Safer Festive Season campaign on the people of the Western Cape.

Families have been made safe, tourists and locals have been made to feel secure at our beaches and other tourism parts, as well as on our roads and in our communities.

Although levels of crime may not be where we would want them to be, we believe that this campaign was a success and the results are a base from which we can improve, as we have done consistently. We must therefore continue on this path of cooperation and partnership.

My sincere congratulations to the MEC for Community Safety and his Department for the sterling work they have done and continue to do. And once again, thank you to the members of the South Africa Police Service for the contributions made in crime reduction. I am proud of having the privilege of leading you here in the Western Cape. My appeal to you is to thank your families for the sacrifices they made over the festive season. I appreciate it. To the communities, thank you for your assistance and compliance over the festive period. We call on you to continue in doing so.

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; and

- 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 volunteerism 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



Pictures courtesy of Independent Newspapers and Die Burger

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 with police.

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 President 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 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!

SPECIAL MENTION

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

Harmony Pack Beach	1. Fina Karelse
	2. Joseph Willbur
Strandfontein Beach	3. Riad Abrahams
Table Mountain	4. Cheslyn Arendse
	5. Mogamat Zain Amaardien

COMPLIMENTS TO/ COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE?

Call the Department of Community Safety Policing Complaints Centre at **(021) 483-4332**

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

Western Cape Police Service Charter

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?

Building Safer Local Communities