It is indeed an honour for me to be part of this 5th year in celebrating the success of this festive season. Five years ago the government said to the people of the Western Cape we have the ability to bring crime down. Together in partnership with you in protecting our communities and ensuring safety for our children. During 2007/08 in our festive season program we have demonstrated that together we will achieve the objective of a Safer *Home for all*. Communities have shown their spirit of Volunteerism in this province that indeed makes all of us very proud, we will continue to increase our commitment to dealing with crime and above all ensuring that resources are made available to communities to fight crime. Our police services have shown their commitment. The hard work that many have made in this festive season makes us very proud.

2009 will indeed be a very challenging year for us as we ensure that our programs and projects in our fight against crime continue to gain momentum. I want to ensure that provincial government under Premier Rasool will continue to engage communities in how best we fight crime. We will support our police services under Commissioner Petros and we will act against criminals and crime bosses.

On Behalf of government I want to thank you for your support and above all partnering with government to fight crime. Let us dedicate 2009 as the year of mobilisation to build a caring society, one which is safe, for all to live in.
True to this statement, Minister Ram-attakane once more channelled ener-
gies towards the mass mobilisation of resources and capacities in a collec-
tive effort directed at combating crime during the festive season. The SFS programme is part of the Depart-
ment of Community Safety’s Bamba-
nani Against Crime initiative, and was
initiated in 2003 as a campaign to
create awareness on crime, reduce
tolerance levels towards criminal ac-
tivities, and ultimately reduce the lev-
eels of crime over the festive season.
The 2007/2008 festive season pro-
gramme marks the fifth annual Safer
Festive Season (SFS) Programme the
Department of Community Safety
(DOCS), the South African Police
Service (SAPS) have conducted in
partnership. The objective of the Pro-
gramme is to ensure that all inhabit-
ants of the Province, as well as the
local and international visitors, enjoy
an incident-free festive season.
One of the greatest threats to our
growing democracy, and indeed, to
the basic rights to freedom and secu-
rit y of all our people, is the threat of
violence and crime within our society.
2007 has once more ushered in new
hope to regain our power as commu-
nities in claiming back our rights to
walk freely without the fear of falling
victim to crime, particular during the
festive season. Already, the pro-
gramme has resulted in change at the

Message from the Provincial Commissioner
Mzwandile Petros

We did it once more. We reduced Contact Crimes by 11.1% and
managed to have yet another safe Festive Season period. Our gratitude
therefore goes to all SAPS members, Bambanani volunteers, Reservists and
other law enforcement agencies for going that extra mile in making the
Western Cape safe and secure for all. When everybody else was enjoying
the holiday season, they sacrificed time meant for their families in order to
deliver a service to the people of this province. Your efforts and dedication
will not go unnoticed.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the communities of the Western Cape,
local and international visitors who descended on our shores for
respecting the rule of law. There is documented evidence that the absence
of liquor on our beaches, public places, tourist attractions and celebrations
contributed to successes we have achieved during this period.

When people transgressed integrated law enforcement made sure the
law was upheld. We have come a long way since the launch of the Safer
Festive Programme. During the 2002/2003 festive season period a total of
13 943 incidents of Contact Crime were recorded. I am pleased to report
that in the 2007/2008 Festive Season Period 7 981 Contact Crime incidents
were recorded. All of that is due to interventions of the Programme.

With the commitment that one experiences, coupled with the integrated
approach to policing, I am convinced that we are on the right path in the
fight against crime.

While some may argue that Shebeens offer a source of recrea-
tion in an environment where little or no leisure activity is avail-
able, especially in disadvantaged areas, some shebeen activi-
ties have been proven to have a direct impact on the levels of
crime and criminal activity within the communities, and in the
Province. According to studies by the National Injury Mortality
Surveillance System (2004), the leading cause of non-natural
death in the Western Cape was violence, and positive blood
alcohol concentration was found in 58.4% of the victims of
violence.

While many shebeen owners are taking the responsibility to
regulate their business in partnership with government, illegal
shebeens are control points of drug syndicates and gangs, are
havens to harbour criminals and are a marketplace for stolen
goods. These shebeens operate 24 hours a day, and sell alcohol
and drugs to children during school hours.

Communities have been riddled with the foul consequences
of these activities for far too long. In recognition of their plight,
the Department of Community Safety has initiated the Liquor
Control Project. Started in 2003, the major objective of the
Project is to provide the adequate and appropriate regulation of
shebeens to ensure the safety of communities; and a reduc-
tion in related criminal activities.

The success of the Project is hinged on partnerships forged
between the Department of Community Safety, the
SAPS, community struc-
tures and shebeen owners
themselves.

2007/2008 ushered in the 5th year of the Projects
operation, with an exten-
sion of this Programme that
aims to build on its success
of the past years. The objectives of the Project include:

• Encouraging shebeen owners to practise
responsible liquor trading, and
• The increase in public awareness on alcohol
abuse in the communities.

The new liquor policy seeks to encourage the self-regulation
of shebeens to promote the safety of their surrounding com-

communities and their patrons. The licensing of shebeens will
assist in ensuring responsible liquor trading, and shebeen
owners will be provided training that will skill them in be-
coming socially responsible e.g. the first step to positive change
is to create an awareness of the consequences of one’s actions.
Awareness will therefore be raised on the social and more
importantly, legal consequences of selling liquor to persons

Festive season ushers in new hope for the
or Control Project

under the age of 18, as well as raising awareness on what the liquor policy says.

The Project has been implemented in Atlantis, and strives to create a best practice model in the area.

The Project employs one (1) sensible drinking coordinator in the area, whose primary role is to raise awareness among the youth by engaging with student governing bodies and other student associations. Through the Project, shebeen owners are trained in sensible drinking, responsible trading, and the dangers of alcohol abuse. Information on the Project has been disseminated through the distribution of print materials, such as “The Code of Conduct” on Liquor Trading and various other brochures.

The vision of the Project is to create an environment where shebeen owners recognize and take up their role in promoting responsible liquor trading and essentially regulate their own actions in accordance with the liquor control policy.

Therefore, one of the milestones for the Project has been the establishment of 6 liquor forums largely constituted by shebeen owners. The forums ensure that shebeen owners regulate themselves by encouraging members to practise sensible liquor trading, to abide by the Code of Conduct on liquor trading, and to cooperate with the SAPS when dealing with illegal shebeens.

The project included the following strategies:

- 224 neighbourhood watch volunteers being deployed in 25 areas for a period of 14 days - from 16th December 2007 to 2nd January 2008
- 11 000 “sensible drinking” pamphlets distributed to shebeen owners and the public.
- 1500 breathalysers distributed at 4 road blocks,
- 2336 shebeens visited over the period

The direct results of the Project include the following:

- 750 codes of conduct signed by shebeen owners
- 1652 shebeens complying with the code of conduct and
- 215 having applied for a license
- 231 arrests for liquor related crimes in the Province
- 102 arrests at priority stations
- 708 lines, to the value of R326 630-00 issued in the Province
- 164 lines, to the value of R194 750-00 issued at priority stations
- 2 657 174 litres of liquor confiscated in the Provincial and
- 330 552 litres of liquor confiscated at priority stations

consistent success over the past four years, and poses as one of the most important interventions underpinning objectives of reducing contact crime by 7-10%, as envisaged by the National Cabinet. In fact, in the 2007/2008 year, the Programme exceeded this target with the maximum SAPS personnel, 2086 reservists and 3880 volunteers participating in 11 projects resulting in a decrease of 11.1% in contact crime in the Western Cape.

A resounding word of thanks goes to each and every committed partner, member and supporter of the Bambanani Safer Festive Season (SFS) Programme, whose tireless and courageous efforts continue to bring the hope that together, we can... building safer communities.

The projects within the SFS programme that contributed to the reduction in crime are:

- Commuter Safety
- Youth Safety
- Tourists and Visitors’ Safety
- Safety on Farms
- Woman Safety
- Liquor Control
- Victim Support
- Arrive Alive
- Child Rapid Response Unit
- Hands Off Our Children (HOOC)
- Youth Activities at Beaches

The 2007/2008 SFS Programme achieved the following:

- 3880 Bambanani volunteers in total were deployed
- 2086 members formed the deployed Reservist core
- Contact crimes were reduced by 11.1%.
- Of 36 children under the age of 18 years who were reported missing, 33 were found alive
- There was a 50 % decrease in Robbery with Firearms within railway operational environment
- 2 657 174 litres of liquor were confiscated in the Province with
- 330 552 litres of liquor confiscated at priority stations

fundamental level of behaviours and attitudes of our society, indicated by a demonstration of more responsible behaviour by members of the community in public spaces – the use of alcohol on the beaches, for example, is now the exception rather than the norm.

In the area of building strong, effective partnerships, the Programme boasts many strengths including the engagement of a large number of community volunteers, SAPS reservists, Community Police Forums and Neighbourhood Watches. The willingness of major community and Departmental players in the area of addressing crime indicates an increased awareness of the shared responsibility we all have in eliminating this scourge in our societies and within our communities. It is through the growth and continuation of committed partnerships facilitated by programmes such as the Bambanani SFS Programme that inroads towards our target of the large scale reduction of crime will be forged. The Programme facilitates the collaboration of different law enforcement agencies, government Departments and the community.

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The Programme has demonstrated...
The media speaks

And the message spoken this Festive Season resonates the commitment of the Department to promote a safe, secure and crime-free society, particularly for the most vulnerable groups in our society, namely our women and youth.

The contribution made by the media in increasing the profile of activities aimed at reducing crime and raising awareness around public safety has aided in the collaborative struggle to improve the holiday experience for residents and visitors. This Festive Season saw a renewed focus on issues that affect our communities most.

Domestic and gender violence poses one of the greatest threats to the safety, security and freedom of South African Women. In recognition of the extent of this scourge and the important role and responsibility the Department has to play in ridding society of abuse, Minister Ramatlatkane supported the opening of the new victim support unit in Linglethu in Khayelitsha. The Cape Argus (21 January 2008) reported that the unit would help "manage" the problem and focus on confidential counseling with 15 trained volunteers that would be available 24 hours a day. The Minister appealed to witnesses and victims of abuse to speak out, stating that unless abused women, and neighbours who were aware of the ill treatment "broke the silence", the oppression would continue.

The Minister further encouraged service providers, survivors and the communities to continue to strive against abuse, stating that it is important to bring hope despite the difficulties and challenges that communities face. He continued in saying that we must build and heal our nation. The (new victim support) unit was one of the bricks.

The "Choose 2 Live" campaign was frequently featured in the media, particularly community media, which ensured the accessibility of information on these important initiatives. On the 15th January 2008, the People's Post featured the Anti-Tik drive of the Department, targeted at venues where learners from Grades 5-9 – often the group most susceptible to the influence of drugs. The programme has been a resounding success, reaching over 100 000 learners at 100 schools during 2007 alone. The beneficiaries of the campaign are reported to primarily be learners from Grades 5-9 - often the group most susceptible to the influence of drugs.

The Heartbeat of Our Communities

"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it." (Marianne Williamson)

The Department of Community Safety would like to acknowledge the contribution made by the ordinary men and women who selflessly and courageously sacrifice their time, and of themselves, in building our communities, and in creating a safer environment and home for us all.

Our Bambanani Volunteers play one of the most important roles in our society as they support and animate our vision of the creation of safe spaces for women, children and society at large. These men and women selflessly assist in promoting the reclaiming of our fundamental rights to freedom and security, and have come to live and understand the true meaning of success.

We pay a special tribute to our Bambanani Volunteers who consistently strive for success, with dedication and commitment; who have rendered their outstanding service during the 2007/2008 Festive Season; and who continues to constitute the heartbeat of our communities...

In recognition for outstanding service we salute insert names of list of 21.