



**government
communications**

Department
Government Communication & Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- DOSSIER -

National Anti-Crime Campaign

April 2008

This summary of some of South African Government programmes aimed at preventing crime and making the country safer has been prepared by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

This Dossier contains highlights of current government programmes that are contributing towards intensifying the fight against crime (anti-crime campaign) in South Africa

NATIONAL ANTI-CRIME CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT

The JCPS Cluster has embarked on an all encompassing communication campaign to intensify the fight against crime. The purpose of the National Anti-Crime Campaign is to promote and create a safer and more secure South Africa. The campaign has been designed to support and promote the mobilisation of all sectors and communities into an effective partnership and joint effort with government and its law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime.

The communication campaign is premised on the intensification and expansion of work government already underway with various sectors of society, business and communities to prevent and combat crime.

There are several partnership initiatives underway to intensify the fight against crime: *the Anti-Crime Leadership Forum with 4 Working Groups has been established with Business Against Crime; campaigns such as ACT: ACT Against Crime Together; Take Charge; Bambanani; Primedia Crime Stop, which is extending its reach through a partnership with SABC to ensure a national reach; etc.*

THE COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES OF THE ANTI-CRIME CAMPAIGN ARE:

- 1** *To mobilise citizens to practically contribute to the fight against crime by joining Community Police/Safety Forums, becoming a reservist, starting neighbourhood or street committees or volunteering in the local police stations. Members of the public will be encouraged to be a whistleblower against crime and report crime at all times; to desist from creating a market for stolen goods including CDs and DVDs by not buying stolen items; to volunteer in the local police station; to form street or neighbourhood committees and to actively get to know the neighbours.*
- 2** *To emphasise the importance of each citizen becoming an activist in the struggle against crime – through the International Marketing Council's (IMC) Active Citizens campaign which encourages citizens to stand together, to reach out to each other and which reinforces sound positive values in our society. The IMC in partnership with a range of stakeholders, aims to roll-out the campaign during 2008.*

- 3 *To strengthen public confidence in law enforcement agencies by fighting crime through the JCPS ACT campaign, (Against Crime Together) working closely with communities.*

16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children

Campaign was implemented from 25 November to 10 December. This campaign also demonstrates the strong partnerships that government has forged with the NGOs, FBOs, gender-based organisations, business, state-owned enterprises, the media, traditional leaders and all sectors of our society. During 2007 campaign, men and boys were encouraged to play a leading role in the fight against gender-based violence, so as to recognise the role that they can play in turning the tide on abuse. Going forward, the aim is to extend the 16 Days campaign into a year-long 365 Days campaign.

The Victim's Charter, launched on 6 December in Motherwell, Port Elizabeth, sets high aspirational standards for the criminal justice system. Since Cabinet's approval, government has been hard at work ensuring implementation of the Charter. The Victim's Charter and the Minimum Standards on Services for victims of crime are part of government's legal and policy framework to ensure that crimes against the vulnerable, especially women, the elderly and children, continue to receive priority.

To date stakeholder consultative meetings have taken place with various sectors of society, including faith-based organisations, trade unions, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community Policing Forums (CPFs). A recent achievement was a national stakeholders' consultative meeting of all stakeholders, which took place on 27 March 2008 in Pretoria. Traditional Leaders, Political Parties, Gender-based organisations, Arts and Culture/Creative Industries, Sports Federations, Business, Youth, Agriculture, Academic/Researchers and Government departments were amongst the other sector stakeholders who attended the meeting. The meeting was attended by over 77 representatives and the programme reflected Anti-Crime initiatives such as Gauteng Provincial Government's Take Charge campaign, the Active Citizen Campaign, and CPFs.

- The multi-media communications campaign commenced on 7 January 2008 with the radio advert being flighted in all commercial and SABC radio stations. The advert was translated into all eleven official languages. After a month, the radio advert script was revised and re-flighted.
- The creative scripts for four other radio adverts have been developed and this will be aired on the radio near the official launch of the campaign. A billboard advertising campaign was planned, and is in process of implementation. The billboards have been strategically placed to convey specific targeted messages at relevant communities where crime levels are high, i.e. in the 169 priority areas. A print campaign has also been developed and these will be placed closer to the launch of the campaign.

Several engagements with sector stakeholders have been held:

- ➔ **Community Policing Forums (CPFs):** Several meetings took place between the Ministry for Safety and Security and CPF structures at national, provincial and local level from May 2007. The purpose was to encourage participation in **Sector Policing** activities to ensure crime reduction.
- ➔ **Faith-based Organisations:** Meetings were held with the Inter-faith Forum, which is led by the South Africa Council of Churches in June 2007. The Purpose of the meeting was to introduce matters of crime combating generally and the Government/Business initiated National Anti-Crime Campaign. The Community of faith has in response to the Gauteng Provincial Government's "take Charge" Safety Strategy began a process of engaging with the challenges they are faced with regarding Crime and to concretely arrange interventions which are informed by their peculiar experiences in this area and are in support of the Gauteng Government Safety Strategy. This has been broadened for all provincial Inter-faith forums. The Inter-faith plans to their National Anti Crime Campaign later in 2007 or early 2008.

- **Organised Labour (Unions):** The Minister of Safety and Security and Trade Unions (Organised Labour) met regarding the National Anti-Crime Campaign on 4 September 2007, Willow Park Conference Centre. Concerns were raised around white-collar and government's stance on it. The unions also wanted to know about the strategies and plans in place and how they can participate. Concerns were raised about the approach of the CPF's and the issues around how many forums should exist in communities and also the power struggles. The Minister reiterated that the ownership of the CPF's, belong in the communities and communities are responsible for the existence of those in their respective communities.
- **Civil Society:** The Minister of Home Affairs met with representatives from Civil Society regarding the National Anti-Crime Campaign on 5 October 2007 at GCIS. The Minister mentioned a number of challenges a department such as Home Affairs (DHA) is facing, challenges around undocumented persons, easy access to ID documents by foreign nationals. The Minister reiterated his concerns on mass production of green ID documents by and their availability in countries such as UK, Malaysia and Germany and money laundering by syndicates living in remote rural areas using small business as a cover up. The Minister acknowledged other types of crime the country is facing, such as rape, hijacking, murder etc. and but took a particular focus on the challenges faced by her department. The Minister mentioned that this stems from the President's appeal that government together with all sectors of society should form partnerships that bring about changes for the betterment of all in South Africa. Since civil society represent the ordinary man in the street it was seen as critical to engage with them and hear their views and plans they have and how they can work together to fight crime.

GCIS is participating in the Movement for Good, conceptualised by Heartlines, the International Marketing Council (IMC), SABC, First National Bank (FNB), Valued Citizens, City Press, Local Organising Committee, and SA The Good News. The objective of the Movement for Good is to mobilise South Africans to become involved in a good values campaign. The aim is also to integrate stakeholders who are currently engaged in mobilizing South Africans, to ensure coherency and a common thread/theme that ties the campaigns together.

SUPPORTING SOCIAL & JCPS PROGRAMMES

SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVES

Social and economic development that will bring about significant changes in South Africans' quality of life and lifestyle is needed to reduce crime in the country. Around three-quarters of crimes such as murder, attempted murder, rape and serious assault took place in circumstances where perpetrators and victims were known – or related - to one another. Urbanisation, unemployment, poverty, growing material needs and substance abuse are among the conditions that contribute to socially determined contact crimes.

SAPS is collaborating with the departments of Justice, Correctional Services, Social Development, Health and Housing, as well as local government authorities and non-governmental organizations on comprehensive prevention of social crimes. "The only way to prevent social crime is through socio-economic development, and to change the living conditions of people in this country," Dr De Kock. In terms of urban planning and renewal, SAPS works closely with local authorities and the national Department of Housing in the design of new residential areas. This collaboration ensures that public safety features are incorporated in the layout of new suburbs, allowing police and emergency services to reach crisis situations quickly. In older informal settlements, emergency services' access is hampered by poor or non-existent roads and the high density of dwellings. Other initiatives against social crime include a liquor control strategy, a domestic violence programme, a

victim empowerment programme, an anti-rape strategy and programmes for youth and homeless children.

VICTIMS CHARTER

- In 2004, the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit was given priority by SA Police Services (SAPS).
- Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) established four multidisciplinary rape care centre, Thuthezela Care Centres in 2004.
- Launch of National Directory on Services for Victims of Violence and Crime in 2004. Directory is updated every year.
- R36 524 million allocated to victims of crime who participated in criminal cases as witnesses in 2006. This was only for NPA and does not include budget allocated for witness protection by SAPS.
- 52 new Correctional Supervision Parole Boards established in 2005. For the first time ever in South Africa, victims can make presentation to the Parole Board and attend parole hearings.
- The Victims Charter and Minimum Standards translated to all official languages and Braille, and also made available on audio-cassette in 2005.
- 54 Sexual Offences Courts established with average conviction rate of 62% thus ensuring justice for victims of sexual violence.
- Child victim/ witness rooms have been created in 35 courts with one-way glass partitions in 2005.
- 178 closed-circuit systems have been installed in 2005 to protect victims who testify in court, thereby ensuring the right to privacy and protection.
- 4 237 Train-the- Trainers trained on the Victims Charter in 2005.
- 9 000 officials from all departments in criminal justice system trained on the Victims Charter in 2005.
- 6 300 Department of Justice personnel trained on the Victims Charter in 2005.
- Establishment of a special Directorate in Department of Justice to deal with victims in court – the Victims Support Directorate in 2005.
- With implementation of Victims Charter, improvement recorded in 2005 in number of days to complete case in Sexual Offences court – previously from 285 to 142 days, thus ensuring justice for victims.
- 50 000 victims prepared for court by 66 court preparation officers in 2006.
- Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of all Parole Boards trained on the Victims Charter in 2006.
- R600 000 donated to the establishment of one-stop centres in Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Free State and Gauteng by Transnet Foundation, working with Department of Social Development in 2006.
- Five one-stop shelters established in 2006 for victims of crime. The shelters offer victims place to recover and thus address the right to assistance.
- 583 victim friendly facilities established in police stations in 2006. The facilities allow all victims of crime who want to give statements in private to do so. (The rights to protection, dignity, assistance and respect).
- **Safer Schools Programme**, a partnership between SAPS and Department of Education, introduced in 2006 to address violence and drugs in school and teach about Victims rights. The Tiisa Thuto Programme reached 1240 097 learners in Gauteng.
- 387 police officers trained in Victim empowerment and the Victims Charter in 2006.
- New Parole office opened in Grootvlei in August 2007, thus increasing number of victims who can make submissions in parole hearings.
- Stakeholder Summit held in Kwa Zulu Natal, 2007 on implementation of the Victims Charter and Minimum Standards. Summit attended by 150 delegates representing NGOs and Government departments.
- National Workshop on Challenges of Training on the Victims Charter held in 2007. 60 Trainers from all government departments, at national and provincial level attended.

- Public consultation on implementation of the Victims Charter was done in 2007. Submissions received from 50 organizations and individuals, on how to implement Victims Charter.
- Provincial consultations held with all government departments on national implementation plan held in 2007.

VICTIMS RIGHTS

A victim of crime is a woman, man, child, youth, elderly person or a relative of the accused, or a dependent of the person who suffers harm through acts or omissions that break the law. This includes physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of his or her fundamental right.

It doesn't matter whether the perpetrator is identified apprehended prosecuted or convicted. It also doesn't matter if the person who commits the crime is a family member. This means that anyone who suffers as a result of a crime, such as robbery, hijacking, assault, rape, domestic violence and house breaking, is a victim.

Interestingly, victims could include those who intervene to assist and witnesses to a crime. If a victim of crime dies the following may also be regarded as victims:

- Immediate family
- Close relatives
- Close friends
- Parent or guardian if the deceased is a minor.

The Victim's Charter states that, if you are a victim of crime, you have the following rights, in terms of the law and the Constitution, in your contact with the authorities - including the police, court officials, and members of any government body dealing with or providing a service to you.

The right to be treated with fairness and respect for dignity and privacy. This includes the right to be attended to promptly and courteously, and treated with respect for your dignity and privacy. As part of this, the authorities are to take steps to minimise inconvenience to you - among other things, by conducting interviews with you in your language of choice and in private, if necessary.

The right to offer information during the criminal investigation and trial. The authorities must ensure that any contribution that you wish to make to an investigation, prosecution or parole hearing is heard and taken into account in the making of decisions.

This means you have the right to:

- Participate (if necessary and where possible) by attending the bail hearing, trial, sentencing proceedings or parole board hearing.
- Make a further statement to the police if you realise that your first statement is incomplete.
- Make a statement to the court, or give evidence during the sentencing proceedings, where appropriate, to bring the impact of the crime to the court's attention.
- Make a written application to the chairperson of the parole board to attend the parole hearing and submit a written input.

The right to receive information

You have the right to be informed of:

- Your rights and how to exercise them - with explanations in your own language of anything you do not understand.
- All relevant services available to you.
- You can request:
- Information regarding court dates, witness fees and the witness protection programme.
- Notification of proceedings which you may attend.
- To be informed of the status of the case, whether or not the offender has been arrested, charged, granted bail, indicted, convicted or sentenced.

- Reasons for a decision that has been taken in your case on whether to prosecute or not.
- The prosecutor to notify your employer of any proceedings which necessitate your absence from work.

The right to protection, You have the right to be free from intimidation, harassment, tampering, bribery, corruption and abuse. With this right comes a responsibility: anyone who witnesses such threats must report them to the police or senior state prosecutor.

As part of this right:

- In certain circumstances, the court may prohibit the publication of any information (including your identity), or may order that the trial be held behind closed doors.
- The police will, if you comply with certain requirements, apply for you to be placed in a witness protection programme.
- You can request Correctional Services to inform you if the offender has escaped or been transferred.

The right to assistance

You have the right to request assistance and, where relevant, have access to available social, health and counselling services, as well as legal assistance which is responsive to your needs. As part of this:

- The police will assist you by explaining police procedures, informing you of your rights, and making the appropriate referral to other relevant service providers.
- The office manager or head of office at the court will provide for the services of an interpreter.
- The prosecutor will ensure that special measures are employed in relation to sexual offences, domestic violence and child support or maintenance matters, and that, where available, such cases are heard in specialised courts.
- If you have special needs, the authorities will take all reasonable steps to accommodate you and ensure that you are treated in a sensitive manner.

The right to compensation

You have the right to compensation for loss of or damage to property suffered as a result of a crime. "Compensation" means an amount of money that a criminal court awards a victim who has suffered loss or damage to property, including money, as a result of a crime.

As part of this:

- You can request to be present at court on the date of sentencing of the accused and request the prosecutor to apply to court for a compensation order.
- The prosecutor will inform you if a compensation order has been granted, explain its contents and how to enforce it. The clerk of the court will assist you in enforcing it.
- You can institute a civil action against the accused if a criminal court does not grant a compensation order. (This usually happens where the damages are not easily quantifiable in financial terms, for example, in the case pain and suffering.)

The right to restitution

You have the right to restitution in cases where goods or property have been unlawfully damaged or taken from you. "Restitution" refers to cases where the court, after conviction, orders the accused to return or repair the property or goods. The prosecutor will inform you what restitution involves and the clerk of the court will assist you in enforcing this right.

WHERE TO COMPLAIN IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED

If you are not satisfied with services provided or your rights are not being observed by police, prosecutors, magistrates, clerks of the court, social workers, doctors and nurses and parole officers (correctional services personnel), you can complain to the particular government department.

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS

How is SAPS geared to deal with social crimes?

The Social Crime Prevention Programme includes a specific focus on crimes against women and children.

- One of the pillars of this programme is the Anti-Rape Strategy which covers the prevention of rape, the criminal justice system's processing of rape complaints and support to survivors.
- Preventive actions include partnerships with local authorities and social services aimed at addressing the factors contributing to rape, and through the visible policing of areas likely to have a high incidence of rape, such as liquor outlets that are linked to areas where incidents occurred.
- Partnerships with religious leaders, traditional leaders, local authorities and other (usually male) community figures are used to motivate positive behaviour.
- The training package contains a social context module aimed at broadening insight into the complex dynamics involving the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.
- The training is geared at sensitising SAPS members to victims' needs and promoting empathy and a positive service attitude. It provides practical skills that members can use in providing services for victims of domestic violence.
- The Captain Crime Stop and Adopt A Cop programmes have continued undertaking school visits and presenting programmes to young children and youth. These programmes raise awareness of crime and crime prevention at places where children are found.
- The Homeless Children's Programme was launched in July 2004 following concerns that the situation of children living and working in the streets renders them vulnerable to involvement in crime, either as victims or offenders.

In addition, the cluster of Cabinet departments in which Safety and Security is located, is working more closely with the Social cluster of Government to ensure that new residential settlements are designed with improved safety in mind.

In this regard, police assess development plans to determine whether these provide for the location of police stations, street lighting, clear street names and other reference points that would ease policing and improve response times.

This approach supplements existing rural and urban development programmes aimed at improving people's lives and providing employment and other economic opportunities through the upgrading and development of physical infrastructure in designated areas.

Criminologists, socialists and other social scientists universally agree that especially socially determined contact crime – such as sexual offences, assault and murder – cannot be combated by means of conventional policing alone.

An integrated approach to combating these crimes has been adopted by government as a necessary strategy.

In addition, communities are being mobilised to participate in initiatives such as the 6 Days of No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign.