

BACK TO BASICS

TOWARDS A SAFER TOMORROW



INFLUENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN & EFFECTIVE POLICING IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

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Section

1

INTRODUCTION

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Introduction

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- ❑ Policing in South Africa has been a debate that is always provoking arguments that are not coming up with answers or solutions and that is why the South African Police Service Research Unit has sponsored this discussion paper. In this paper we are trying to provoke discussion on the issues raised by the subject above and seek for possible solutions.
- ❑ This exercise is being informed by the fact that there is an unending imperative requirement on constant review of policies in the organisation to assist quality.
- ❑ When an organisation is faced with situations where it is supposed to respond on specific challenges that it is faced with, firstly it has to do sole searching so as to be able to respond accordingly to those challenges / questions.

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Section

2

BACKGROUND

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Background

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- ❑ The socio-economic situation that has been created by the past history of this country makes it difficult to police remote areas, high density areas, areas with no proper infrastructure and congested areas. Thus it is imperative for constant self-searching so as to be able to respond accordingly to challenges.
- ❑ The constant complaints from the farming communities together with traditional leaders with regard to high rates of crime in rural and semi-rural areas, also coupled with complaints from civil society, religious leaders and communities both urban and semi-urban areas, is a clear testimony of the fact that there is a problem with crime in our country.

Cont....Background

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- ❑ The recent statistics of the preceding 3 financial years are clearly showing that we are faced with challenges of serious and violent crimes in areas where there is more informal settlements and hostel dwellings - a good example is Nyanga Township in the Western Cape.
- ❑ Also in areas where there are flats we usually experience more drug related crimes, contact and property crimes coupled with gang related crimes that are very violent. This also impacts on the moral fibre of society like Manenberg area in the Western Cape.

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Section

3

**EXPLORATION OF POLICING
CONCEPTS**

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Exploration of Policing Concepts

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- ❑ This discussion paper has been put together so that issues to be raised should assist in various Legislations and Operational Concepts that are supposed to assist Policing in the South African context:
 - ❖ The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No 108 f 1996)
 - ❖ National Development Plan 2030 – (NDP)
 - ❖ National Crime Prevention Strategy
 - ❖ White Paper on Safety and Security
 - ❖ National Crime Combatting Strategy
 - ❖ South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No 68 of 1995)
 - ❖ National Instruction 1/2002 : South African Reserve Police Service

Cont....Exploration of Policing Concepts

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- ❖ National Instruction 3/2009 Sector Policing
 - ❖ The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework, Version1 : July 2009
 - ❖ The South African Police Service Interim Regulation for Community Police Forums and Boards
 - ❖ Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977)
 - ❖ The Protocol for Access to Farms, 2002
 - ❖ Rural Safety Strategy
 - ❖ Rural Safety Plan
 - ❖ Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA)
 - ❖ Intelligence Led Policing
 - ❖ Back to Basics
- The purpose of this discussion is to assist the South African Police Ser to employ new methods of policing taking into account the rural development and rural development and urbanisation of our country. Also to assist policing in both rural, semi rural, urban and semi urban, informal settlement, dwellings and blocks of flats, looking at environmental design.

Cont...Exploration of Policing Concepts

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- ❑ **NOTE:** Intelligence Led Policing is a better policing option in the South African context. We need to do a review of the transformation programme that will be based on a scientific and proper research process so as to allow the government to take informed decisions by establishing colleges / academies for both Detectives and Crime Intelligence as to make the concept of Intelligence Led Policing to be properly understood for better implementation by both components of the SAPS.
- ❑ For the purposes of making our discussion to flow properly we will need to understand as to what are the problems that make policing not to be effective in the following mentioned areas.

3.1 Rural & Semi Rural Areas

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- ❑ A low population density in rural and semi rural areas means that individuals have less constant contact with one another due to its vastness; and that limits communities to have less access to proper policing and quality services to our people on issues that relate to crime. In most instances stations are very small to accommodate specialised services.

- ❑ Farmers, farm workers and residence within these communities are considered soft targets by criminals due to, among other things:
 - ❖ remoteness of farms / localities,
 - ❖ high value of property,
 - ❖ long distances between farms and villages, and
 - ❖ inaccessibility to police because of poor roads and poor infrastructure.

Cont... Rural & Semi Rural Areas

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- ❑ The conditions and the nature of crime that is taking place in the rural areas, necessitates that there should be an effective and efficient way of implementing the following existing concepts ie:
 - ❖ National Rural Safety Strategy Concept
 - ❖ Sector Policing Concept
 - ❖ Community Policing Concept
 - ❖ Integrated Development Plan – (Local Government Plan)

- ❑ Also we need to take note of the following inhibiting factors that are applicable in these types of areas.

con/... Rural, Semi Rural Areas

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❖ Environmental design

- No proper communication
- Houses are not numbered
- Roads are in bad condition
- There is no proper lighting

❖ Travelling distance from localities and the station

- Houses are scattered far from the Police Station
- Distance in between when responding to complaints
- Lack of mode of transport to the station

cont... Rural, Semi Rural Areas

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- ❖ Poverty and unemployment
 - People are committing crime under the pretext that they are hungry
 - People idling unemployed thus they are committing crime

- ❖ Relationship between commercial farms and rural community
 - Very bad
 - Commercial farmers do not recognise the existence of rural communities with all the traditions and culture, also rural community does not recognise commercial farmers.

Cont...Rural, Semi Rural Areas

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- ❖ Non participation of local authority
 - Not being recognised by government structures
 - They are not keen to participate
 - Tribal authorities lack understanding for the amount of authority they have; and how to use it to influence decision making.

- ❖ Unavailability or lack of specialised units
 - They are a distance away from rural stations
 - Limit numbers at the stations

- ❖ Community involvement in policing in structures
 - Lack of participation due to illiteracy
 - Cases are not reported because they avoid to go to court
 - Non participation in community based structures
 - Unable to provide proper statements therefore I will not report the case

Cont...Rural, Semi Rural Areas

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❑ POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

❖ Environmental design

- Engage local authorities to address localised issues
- Seek for integrated solutions to the problems

❖ Travelling distance from localities and the station

- Satellite Policing station locate to Headmen areas; or
- Integrate it with government structures in that particular locality; or
- Establish nodal points in the farming communities

❖ Poverty and unemployment

- Create jobs that will bring about poverty alleviation.
- Social Crime prevention should participate in programmes with other stake holders in trying to create opportunism for our people

❖ Relationship between commercial farms and rural community

- Strong CPF structures
- Social Crime Prevention convene in Imbizo's and other related activities

Cont...Rural, Semi Rural Areas

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- ❖ Non participation of local authority
 - Engagement at local government level
 - Role of the station commander in convening other stake holders
 - Participation in JOINT structures at cluster level
 - Involvement of traditional leaders at local activities

- ❖ Unavailability or lack of specialised units
 - Built capacity at station level
 - Put more personnel – review of RAG

- ❖ Community involvement in policing in structures
 - Establish forums where awareness programmes are being conducted - social crime prevention programmes, imbizo's etc

❑ While this hardly means an absence of conflict, the dynamics of rural crime and violence often necessitates different police practices.

3.2 Urban & Semi Urban Areas

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- ❑ Urbanisation is defined as a percentage of the country's population living in urban areas which are mainly cities and towns.

- ❑ The majority of the population in South Africa live in our cities and towns and it is here in these areas that the vulnerability to crime and all its related negative features is most felt. These high levels of crimes are prevalent due to different risk factors which are common in urban and semi-urban areas and they include:
 - ❖ Unemployment
 - ❖ Substance and alcohol abuse
 - ❖ Availability of guns
 - ❖ Broken families

cont...Urban, Semi Urban Areas

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- ❖ Extensive commerce, trade and businesses contribute to crime problems in urban areas.
- ❖ Urban areas are different from semi urban and rural areas in that they have a greater population density and generally have a higher concentration of economic activities.
- ❖ The presence of banks and other institutions for securing cash and valuables can lead to large and small scale robberies like
 - CIT's,
 - ATM Bombings
 - Business Burglaries etc.

cont...Urban, Semi Urban Areas

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- ❖ These financial and commercial institutions make urban areas ideal places in which to profit from the sale of illegal goods such as narcotics, illegal firearms and stolen goods. The dense and unemployed population is used to sustain such illegal activities which then lead to syndicated activities posing serious challenges to effective policing.

- ❖ The presence of good road networks and ports of entry facilities can turn many urban areas into entry / exit points for the facilitation of contraband and make it easier for international drug smuggling to thrive.
 - Harbours
 - Airports & Small landing strips
 - Land borders

- ❖ Other facilities such as bus terminals, railway stations and taxi ranks assist in the furthering of criminal activities locally, provincially and nationally.

cont...Urban, Semi Urban Areas

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- ❖ Large populations of desperate and poverty stricken people can generate conditions that will support drug abuse and human trafficking.
- ❖ High population concentration of people can also contribute to demonstrations and political violence due to the closeness of media offices which can create conditions attractive to those wanting to engage in acts of violent protests. It is very easy to attract large crowds due to the dense population in urban areas as opposed to semi urban and rural areas.
- ❖ Cities and towns are major centres of national political life, and protests can easily turn into riots during difficult service delivery agitation which again poses challenges to policing.

cont...Urban, Semi Urban Areas

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- ❖ Urban areas often have a comparatively extensive police presence like:
 - Flying Squad & Highway Patrol
 - Airwing & Waterwing
 - K9
 - TRT
 - POPS

- ❖ Policing in semi urban and rural areas may not be able to reach crime scenes quickly and may not be able to establish a regular presence. Often the only police presence is a small rural police station with very few resources.

cont... Urban & Semi Urban Areas

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- ❑ The areas of Gelvandale and Bethelsdorp in the economic hub of Port Elizabeth in our province can be described as urban. These areas are plagued by gang violence, drug proliferation and a general defiance of laws.

- ❑ In these areas, several socio-economic factors are prevalent and they add to these types of crimes mentioned above:
 - ❖ Unemployment
 - ❖ Perpetual poverty
 - ❖ Low education levels
 - ❖ Alcoholism

cont... Urban & Semi Urban Areas

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- ❖ Drug Abuse
- ❖ Overcrowded households
- ❖ Lack of housing
- ❖ Child headed households
- ❖ Breakdown of families
- ❖ Teenage pregnancies
- ❖ Inadequate recreation facilities

cont... Urban & Semi Urban Areas

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- ❑ These are ideal breeding grounds for drug lords and gang leaders to cause entire communities to become dependent on them.

- ❑ It is quite clear that only an “integrated total government approach” would be able to address the drug and gang problem in this specific area. Key to addressing this scourge is prevention through environmental design where all spheres of government are involved viz:
 - ❖ Department of Social Development
 - ❖ Department of Education
 - ❖ Departments in the Justice Cluster
 - ❖ COGTA
 - ❖ Department of Sports and Recreation

3.3 Hostel Dwellings

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- ❑ In direct contrast to the informal settlements, hostels pose different policing challenges. Historically the hostels exist as a direct result of urbanisation or forced removals for the purposes of labour markets that see people from different backgrounds, cultures, languages, sharing one building and in some instances one big room.
- ❑ Structural design of hostel buildings is making them fertile grounds for manifestation of opposing youth groupings that identify with different building blocks and end up fighting each other. In closed community hostels where drugs and illegal firearms exchange hands easily amongst the youth, it is a breeding ground for faction fights and gangsterism.

cont... Hostel Dwellings

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- ❑ This is where gangs fight over drug dealings in the form of sporadic shootings and planned assassinations. These barbaric activities deprive the hostel communities of day-to-day normal way of life which civilized communities enjoy elsewhere like schooling and going to church.

- ❑ To counter or reverse this situation, you need to combine all the four methods or techniques of crime prevention, namely
 - ❖ Visible policing
 - ❖ Patrols
 - ❖ Roadblocks
 - ❖ Raids

- ❑ But the main challenge is sustenance as this requires a lot of police resources otherwise these criminal acts flare up whenever the police leave the area.

- ❑ In addressing these challenges one needs to take into account the following issues viz:

con/... Hostel Dwellings

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- ❖ Environmental design
 - Convert hostels into proper structures and turn them into family units
 - Ensure that there is proper lighting
 - Design the units in such a way that there is proper access control – easy to gain access

- ❖ Improve relationship between the police and hostel community
 - Involvement in CPF structures
 - Have anti-crime activities
 - Involve them into social crime prevention structures
 - Recognition of induna's

- ❖ Address the issue of unemployment
 - Create job opportunities
 - Develop programmes that will make them employable

- ❖ Partnership with other government departments
 - Address the issue of cultural differences
 - Address the issue of faction fighting
 - Address the culture of violence

3.4 Informal Settlements

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- ❑ This is not an easy area to police because of challenges of environmental design. These are the areas where most of the serious and violent crimes and other contact crimes are being generated.
- ❑ However in the informal settlements, the lack of infra-structure in the form of formal streets, street lights and formal demarcation render some of these techniques almost impossible. For instance: -
 - ❖ Visible Policing refers to the constant presence of the police in the community and on the streets.
 - ❖ The community must be aware of the presence of the police officials while they are performing their policing functions.
- ❑ Crime Prevention to be effective requires an environment where its four methods ie Visible Policing, Patrols, Roadblocks and Raids are possible to implement.
- ❑ Visible Policing includes but is not limited to:
 - ❖ enforcing the law at street level by arresting criminals
 - ❖ becoming familiar with specific areas - which will allow the police officials to identify criminal activities.
- ❑ But lack of accessibility to informal settlements does not make this easy.

con/... Informal Settlements

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- ❑ If a policeman on patrol is required to communicate or interact with members of the public so as to source information pertaining to criminal activities and perpetrators thereof, the challenge in this is any person seen as associated with police in such areas is treated with suspicion and in some instances might be targeted.
- ❑ This is exacerbated by service delivery protests which are the order of the day in the informal settlements where in some instances lead to confrontation and running battles with the police.
- ❑ The aim of a roadblock is to:
 - ❖ restrict movement of criminals
 - ❖ transportation of prohibited goods (drugs, illegal firearms, etc); and
 - ❖ stolen property.
- ❑ However due to lack of formal access roads, setting up of roadblocks is not practical in such areas.



- ❑ Serious and violent crimes are committed in these areas which becomes a huge problem by entities such as:
 - ❖ Gangs
 - ❖ Shebeens
 - ❖ Vigilantism groups

- ❑ An integrated approach in addressing issues of informal settlements is required : -
 - ❖ Environmental design
 - Address the issues of shacks which are cramped together – no spaces in between
 - Create an environment so that there is easy access for vehicles to these localities
 - Make sure that CCTV cameras work well and are serviced
 - Ensure that there are visible numbering of shacks and street names

 - ❖ Crime Prevention to be effective
 - Create an environment where its four methods are possible to implement ie Visible Policing, Patrols, Roadblocks and Raids
 - More interaction with the communities bring trust, respect, understanding, confidence; complaints/ information given freely – Police on the beat
 - Ensure that liquor outlets, shebeens, brothels conform to regulations and by laws and the policing of criminal activities ie: firearms, narcotics etc.

3.5 Block of Flats

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- ❑ In contrast to the informal settlements and hostel dwellings, block of flats pose different policing challenges. Historically these exist as a result of urbanisation and for the purposes of labour markets that saw people from different backgrounds, cultures, languages, sharing homes in one small area.
- ❑ Because of economic prospects and lack of affordable accommodation in the urban areas, blocks of flats have become a focus area which is exploited for easy living conditions - hence overcrowding
- ❑ Living in overcrowded areas with inadequate ventilation and ablution facilities causes a breeding ground for diseases because of the unhygienic conditions. This also causes an extra living and financial burden on the occupants.
- ❑ The psychological effects of living in these confined areas and not having access to wide open spaces / privacy aid in the manifesting of problematic scenarios eg:
 - ❖ Domestic Violence
 - ❖ Alcoholism
 - ❖ Child Abuse
- ❑ Structural designs of blocks of flats makes them fertile grounds for manifestation of opposing youth groupings that identify with different flats and end up fighting each other.
- ❑ This type of living becomes a breeding ground for gangsterism as drugs, alcohol and firearms exchange hands freely amongst the youth.



- ❑ One needs to take into account the following issues In addressing these challenges viz:
 - ❖ Environmental design
 - The construction of recreational facilities and parks for the use occupants
 - Ensure that there is proper lighting
 - Have adequate parking facilities
 - Design the units in such a way that there is proper access control – security
 - Create more affordable accommodation in urban areas
 - ❖ Improve relationship between the police and flat community
 - Involvement in CPF structures
 - Have anti-crime activities
 - Involve them into social crime prevention structures
 - ❖ Address the issue of overcrowding
 - Proper regulated block of flats in reference to occupancy
 - Regular inspections by landlords / state agents
 - ❖ Partnership with other government departments
 - Address the issue of cultural differences
 - Address the issue of faction fighting
 - Address the culture of violence
 - Address the problem of substance and family abuse
 - Address the unhealthy living conditions

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Section

4

CLOSING REMARKS

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Closing remarks

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- ❑ Solutions to the policing challenges do not solely lie on the door step of the South African Police Service.
 - ❖ Interaction with partners and other stake holders are key:
 - GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
 - BAC
 - SABRIC
 - AGRI SA

- ❑ To be successful or effective policing requires involvement and commitment of all stake holders. Yes, the police must play a leading role by:
 - ❖ Fighting corruption within the institution
 - ❖ Involvement of communities in fighting structured crime.

- ❑ Partnership is the key where the police form partnerships or cooperation with community, the business sector (Business Against Crime), non-governmental organisations (NGO's) interested groups, churches, individuals and other government departments. This could be seen as being similar to community policing.
 - ❖ Review the role of CPF's in crime fighting.
 - ❖ Availability of resources at station level.
 - ❖ Proper allocation of resources

con/... Closing remarks

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- ❑ The role of Traditional authorities, Chiefs, Headmen and Induna's should be recognised as well as aligning the National Development Plan 2030 with the Polices' long term plan.

- ❑ To enhance existing crime prevention police techniques a three pillar approach must be developed focussing on the criminal justice system, environmental design and education.

❖ PILLAR 1

The criminal justice must provide a sure and clear deterrent for criminals and reduce the risks of reoffending by:

- Professionalism in speciality areas – detectives, community policing
- ensuring heavier and longer sentences on criminals
- reviewing law enforcement policies to compliment judicial system – human rights, by-laws etc.
- constant broadcast/ communication on convictions of criminals transgressing the law of the country

con/... Closing remarks

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❖ PILLAR 2

Reducing crime through environmental design focuses on designing systems to reduce the opportunity for crime and make it easier to detect and identify criminals.

- convert hostel dwellings into family homes
- leading role by local government
- installation of CCTV cameras
- well lit up areas - storage areas, dumpsters, recycling areas, recreation areas, pathways, roads
- maximum use of open spaces – non use of spaces attracts opportunity for loitering, squatting and vandalism
- utilization of intelligence – important in both operations & investigations

con/... Closing remarks

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❖ PILLAR 3

Public values and education initiatives aimed at changing the way communities react to crime and violence. This approach involves programmes that educate and inform the public in order to facilitate meaningful public participation in crime prevention.

- community based policing – CPF's, Sector Policing, Reservists
- outreach & awareness programmes – Imbizo's, Promotional ventures

- ❑ Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a multi-disciplinary approach designed to deter criminals and they should ideally be coordinated by local government in collaboration with the SAPS. Research has shown that a person can be prevented from committing crimes by making changes to the physical environment which eventually leads him making changes to his behaviour.

con/... Closing remarks

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- ❑ Therefore CPTED is:
 - ❖ Changing the way communities / environment are designed to make it difficult for criminals to operate.
 - ❖ Redesign / upgrade existing designs with the intent to reduce opportunities for crime such as to ensure potential problem areas limited.

- ❑ In the end, however, our success will be measured on how partnerships are developed with stakeholders - the communities we work in and who will eventually evaluate our work.

- ❑ I am sure and confident, that plans put forward can work only with “**buy in**” and enforcement from everyone.

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Thank you

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