

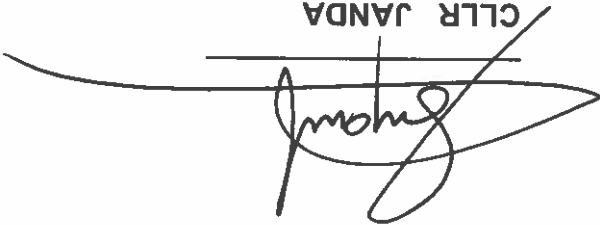
DATE: 06/25
MUNICIPAL MANAGER
MR M NAKO



APPROVED BY:

DATE: 19/05/2025
EXECUTIVE MAYOR

CLLR JANDA



APPROVED BY:



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1. POLICY BACKGROUND

Establishment of Community Safety Forums is made of the Portfolio Head for Community Services shall, in consultation with the mayor, establish a CSF that is broadly representative of local community structures and organs of state, to be located and operate within the Mbhashe Local Municipal boundaries. One of the key priorities of government at all levels of crime within society as well as improving the functioning of Criminal Justice System. National Crime Prevention Strategy and White Paper on Safety and Security sought amongst others, to enhance crime prevention activities. Both created the opportunity for integrated approaches to preventing crime and increasing the efficiency of law enforcement. However, both failed to articulate the methodology and structural arrangements as to exactly how the CSF concept should be implemented.

2. PURPOSE OF POLICY

The PURPOSE of the Safety Strategy is to facilitate the development and implementation of local crime prevention initiatives to create a safer living environment for the community of the Mbhashe Local Municipality.

Within all the local municipalities in ADM the drafting of the strategy was restricted by factors such as insufficient relevant data (cluster reports etc.), poor geographical representation at workshops, non-functional CSFs and CSF members with insufficient understanding of the CSF concept. It is therefore clear that there is a need for a safety strategy that addresses basic priority areas such as institutional framework development and issues related to developing capacity of CSF members.

The strategy outlined below is designed to address these priority common systemic issues and, once these have been addressed Mbhashe will be in a position to develop a detailed activity plan.

3. APPLICATION OF SCOPE

As a broad structure for integrated local crime prevention planning, coordination and implementation, Mbhashe CSF must involve participants from all three spheres of government, as well as community-based organizations and formations.

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa
- IGR Framework Act 2005
- Municipal Systems Act 2000
- Municipal Structures Act 1998
- SAPS Act 1995
- Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy 2022
- White Paper on Safety and Security 2016
- White Paper on Local Government 1998
- White Paper on Traditional Leadership and Governance
- White Paper on Corrections in SA 2005
- Correctional Services Act 1998
- MTSF Outcome 3, Priority 1 and 6

4. LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK

- Faith-based organizations
- Ward councilors as ex-officio members
- Organizations representing the interests of specific groups like Women's Formations
- Traditional leaders
- Business sector
- Other organized community structures such as military veterans

Communities serve as critical role-players in the composition of CSF. In order to give effect to enhancing community participation in the CSF, the continuous presence of organized civil society and community structures or sectors is encouraged. Civil society or organized local communities that could form part of CSF include at least the following:

- Existing CPFs
- Non-governmental organizations working in relevant functional areas (E.g. in respect of child protection, victim support, restorative justice or economic empowerment)

harm.

Mbhashe community safety forum approach to Violence Reduction in Mbhashe with issues that have been consistently voiced at community meetings, with young people and by those directly affected by violence, offenders, victims and families.

- Every person understands the role they can play in reducing violence – Embedding trauma informed practice across local authority, health, schools, colleges, community and voluntary agencies, business sector and criminal justice agencies.

Intensive Interventions and Enforcement – Sets out an intention to offer personalised support for those who are motivated to step away from a life of violence, whilst using the full range of enforcement across all agencies, against those whose behaviour places themselves, those around them, or the wider community at risk of based on clear safeguarding, case management approaches.

Targeted Interventions - It uses the principles of a family centered approach aimed at addressing violence, by looking at the wider family and connected family dynamics,

Community Based Support – Recognises the strength of the Community and Voluntary Sector in Mbhashe local municipality and places them at the heart of Mbhashe public health approach to violence reduction. It promotes combining skills and enabling voluntary and community organizations to support people and families collaboratively.

Preventing Violence before it Occurs - Looks at the periods and key influences in a person's life journey, from pre-birth to adulthood which can increase the risks of becoming involved in violent behaviour and the opportunities when interventions can be most effective.

Using Data to drive our approach- Building a strong evidence base and a common screening tool that can be used across organisations to predict who, where and why individuals and families are more likely to be involved in violent or aggressive behaviours and identifying the interventions that will have the maximum impact.

Mbhashe local municipality community safety forum approach to reducing violence in June 2013 and has since started work to create a violence reduction network to implement it. Several themes and principles were developed, below is the list:

- Developing community-based networks to help those impacted by violence navigate the challenges they face – Identifying and training individuals who have influence in their local area to provide support for young people and families who are at risk of or affected by violence and guide them into support services.

Recognition of the importance of culture and identity for families and young people

- The challenges of culture and identity within families are becoming increasingly relevant in terms of violence prevention. This priority proposes embedding an understanding of culture and identity within the family dynamics within contextual safeguarding and trauma awareness training for the borough and as part of the screening and assessment process for families and vulnerable young people.
- Social media and violence – Set out a series of Prevention and Intervention steps to improve the awareness of the impact of exposure to violent social media content for families, guardians and those working with young people

The above inform the four elements of this new Community Safety Strategy:

1. **Curtail** violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action.
2. **Treat** those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread.
3. **Support** those susceptible to violence due to their exposure risk factors.
4. **Strengthen** community resilience through a universal approach.

This Community Safety Strategy focuses on all the above and seeks to strengthen it by actively involving a greater number of people and partners in our solutions to reduce violence in the borough. We have involved our voluntary sector partners who participate directly in violence and safety work. Our strategy has also been informed by the views of residents and communities.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

The Mbashhe Community Safety Forum still serve its purpose to the Municipality, its communities, and the world around. We are still conducting the operations by making sure that we do meet quarterly to engage, coordinate the development of safety strategy, plan and report about the activities that are in our daily operations using the calendar of events. We have sub structures at Willowvale and Elliotdale that report to the bigger structure at Dutywa.

7. REVIEWAL

The policy will be reviewed yearly.