

SECTION 3: THE SOCIO ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

3.4 THEME: SAFETY AND SECURITY

OVERVIEW



According to the MCLM IDP: Public Safety Strategy (2002), safety and security is a major concern in most cities and municipalities throughout the country. Mogale City acknowledges the challenge and has taken the initial steps towards the achievement of the vision of a desirable place to live, invest and visit through their Public Safety Strategy. This strategy presents a practical plan for the Municipality in implementing the mission of a safe and secure city.

The overview of the crime situation in Mogale City shows that over the past six years, the most prevalent crimes are property related (this includes general thefts, theft of cars, theft out of cars, burglaries, etc.). The Krugersdorp police station has the highest levels of these property crimes, followed, by Kagiso. There has been a significant increase in these property crimes since 1998.

Kagiso police station presents the highest levels of interpersonal violent crime (common assault, murder, rape, etc.). Whilst the overall picture of this category of crime has shown a steady decrease for the MCLM, as a whole, since 1997. The year 2000 presented a marginal increase, and therefore, a reversal of that trend. Kagiso, which is a major contributor to this category, has been experiencing a steady and significant increase in interpersonal violent crime.

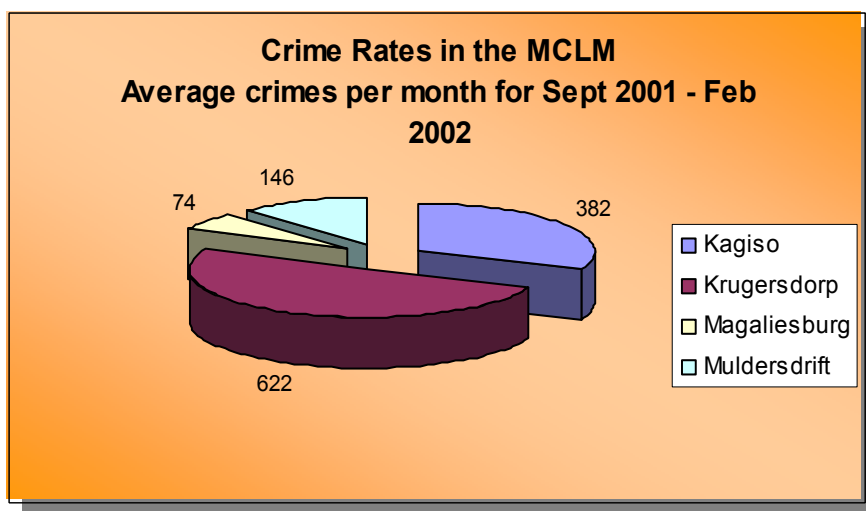


Figure 29: Crime rates in the MCLM

In the rural areas, the crime levels are significantly lower than the city and the major township areas. Muldersdrift exhibits significantly higher crime problems than Magaliesburg. In depth interviews and analyses have pointed towards the presence of large informal settlements partly within the policing area, as well as the larger settlements neighbouring the policing area to the north and to the east. Other problems in the rural areas seem to arise from the problems of overcrowding, poor infrastructure, poverty and community dislocation in areas known for “shack farming”.

The strategy tries to focus on defined hot-spots for specific crime-types in order to target resources and effort in these areas to achieve the safety objectives.

WHAT ARE THE PRESSURES?

There is a range of pressures, which together, have created high levels of crime. These include poor urban design, high levels of unemployment, capacity problems in the justice system and an 'uncivil' society resulting from South Africa's turbulent political past.

3.4.1 ISSUE: MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGY



WHAT IS THE STATE?

- Public safety and crime prevention activities in Mogale City are characterised by a lack of co-ordination and integration.
- The local SAPS do not appear to have adequate contact with Municipal officials. There are some joint operations between the Public Safety Department and the SAPS. These are of *ad-hoc* nature because there is no long-term shared strategic vision. Interaction between the two is limited to irregular management meetings to plan operations and share information.
- Both the West Rand District Municipality and MCLM have managed to initiate their crime prevention strategies. However, neither of the processes are sufficient, nor were they developed in conjunction with each other. Despite the lack of co-ordination, there are some efforts being made to correct this situation.
- The proposed District Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee would include representatives from both Provincial Office of the MEC for Safety and Liaison, District and the four Municipal level Public Safety Departments as well as representatives from the SAPS at the Area level.

WHAT IS THE RESPONSE?

- The MCLM developed a Public Safety Strategy (2002-2004) with the following objectives:
 - To facilitate the development and implementation of an integrated Local Public Safety Strategy with other sectors both inside and outside government;
 - To facilitate the prioritisation and re-orientation of Social Crime Prevention within the Law Enforcement Agencies in the Municipal area;

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- To create an environment that is conducive for economic growth;
- To determine and finalise a suitable management and organisational structure that will drive the Public Safety Strategy and Sectoral Programmes for the city; and
- To amalgamate the various components of Public Safety into one centrally managed structure with decentralised operations to cover the entire area of jurisdiction.

3.4.2 ISSUE: SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY POLICING

WHAT ARE THE PRESSURES?

To date, Council has provided no funding for Victim Empowerment Centres or social Crime Prevention Programmes. The Municipality should provide a budget allocation for these activities and also facilitate the tapping into the Provincial Grants to fund and support the Victim Empowerment, Community Policing, Youth and Women development programmes.

WHAT IS THE STATE?

- There is an effort to integrate Ward Committees and Community Police Forum structures, and possibly to align them with the area policing sectors. MCLM is currently taking a lead and is playing a more active role in integrating these structures.

WHAT IS THE RESPONSE?

- Project 1: Victim Empowerment
- Project 2: Community-Police Forums
- Project 3: Youth Empowerment
- Project 4: Crime Awareness Campaign
- Project 5: Rural Safety
- Project 6: Unemployment and Poverty Alleviation



3.4.3 ISSUE: SAFETY THROUGH DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

WHAT ARE THE PRESSURES?

There is a range of pressures, which together have created high levels of crime. These include poor urban design, high levels of unemployment, capacity problems in the justice system and an 'uncivil' society resulting from South Africa's turbulent political past.

WHAT IS THE STATE?

There are several areas where environmental design has threatened public safety in Mogale City's area of jurisdiction. Environmental and infrastructural design concerns include:

- The general disrepair and lack of security at Coronation and other Parks in Mogale City;
- Bushes and high grass in several areas that require trimming;
- The lack of proper lighting in townships and informal settlements, particularly in the passages, where crimes frequently take place;
- The state of some buildings and neglected spaces in and around Kagiso Old and Green Hostels requires improvement;
- Unclear marking of street names and house numbers in informal settlements; and
- General mushrooming of informal settlements.

WHAT IS THE RESPONSE?

- Project 1: Cctv Cameras and Car Watch
- Project 2: Improved Hostel Safety
- Project 4: Safety Lighting
- Project 5: Street and House Markings
- Project 6: Environmental Management
- Project 7: Municipal Development Planning

Current manpower and financial resources are insufficient to ensure adequate policing throughout the area. Strategies to curb crime emphasise the involvement of the community. Community policing forums were established to facilitate liaison between the police and communities of various neighbourhoods.

Several specialist police units have been created to deal with issues such as child and drug abuse. Special operations are occasionally planned to curb crime.

Inadequate policing has led to a boom in private security firms and neighbourhood watch initiatives. Many households are taking preventative measures to avoid crime. A national survey in 1997 indicated that about 40% of all households have installed burglar bars. High

walls or fencing, burglar alarms and security gates have become common features of the high- and middle-income neighbourhoods.

Despite the high level of dissatisfaction with policing, people who report crime are generally satisfied with the manner in which the police deal with the matter. One area of concern is corruption within the police force, which is dealt with by a special anti-corruption unit.

The MCLM Public Safety strategy seeks to build on the current municipal functions in the areas of traffic and bylaw enforcement and goes beyond this role by defining new areas of focus where the municipality will work closely with the SAPS, the community and other stakeholders in coordinating and supporting crime prevention activities.

The MCLM Public Safety strategy acknowledges that different types of crimes take place in different parts of the city and that these have a variety of causes. In executing its overall mandate of being a developmentally focused local government, the municipality recognises the crucial contribution that it can make in equally addressing the causal problems of criminality as it focuses on the improvement of the quality of life of its people.

WHAT ARE SOME OF OUR PROPOSED INDICATORS?

1. *Total property-related crimes (burglary and theft, including stock theft)*
2. *Total social crimes (for example rape, assault, domestic violence)*
3. *Number of private and civil security personnel per 100 000 people*
4. *Murders per 1000 people*
5. *Drug pushing (crimes per 1000 people)*
6. *Homicides (crimes per 1000 people)*
7. *Recruits trained by the end of October 2001⁶*
8. *Recruits to be trained within 2002/2003 financial year⁶*
9. *Ward-based Neighbourhood Watch System in place by December 2001⁶*
10. *Partnerships established by October 2001⁶*
11. *Established CPF's by December 2001⁶*
12. *Strategy and plan in place by July 2002⁶*
13. *Improvements completed by June 2002⁶*
14. *Partnership relations created by December 2001⁶*

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Be alert and aware at all times.
- Report criminal activity to the authorities.
- Participate with local police forums and support community policing.
- Rally against crime by promoting the "Stand Together - Zero Tolerance against Crime" policy, which is necessary for all South African.

⁶ Indicators according to the Mogale City Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan - 2002-2006, June 2002