CRIME - GENERAL

1996 -

JANUARY - DEC.
Fivaz warns: 'SA risks becoming a gangster state' (34)

PRETORIA. — An increase in the police budget is the main factor in demonstrating a determination to curb crime this year, says Police Commissioner George Fivaz.

He appealed to the government to give the highest possible priority to providing the SA Police Services (Saps) with the necessary crime-fighting resources in 1996.

Commissioner Fivaz said unless the Saps were given every means necessary to fight crime, South Africa would risk becoming a 'gangster state' where hijackers, druglords, muggers and other criminals will trample hard-won democratic rights into the dust.

This included addressing the 'disgracefully low' salaries of police officials.

"If crime goes on unhindered this year, the possibility exists that certain areas could fall into anarchy. We must avoid this at all costs," Commissioner Fivaz said.

Efforts would be made to root out corruption and racism in the Saps and to increase the performance, productivity and discipline of all members.

Strengthening community confidence in the Saps through quality policing was important, as was an improvement in the welfare and morale of police members.

"Saps already has geared itself, with its available resources, to intensify the struggle against crime in 1996," he said.

Commissioner George Fivaz added that the police planned to deploy more undercover spies in KwaZulu-Natal in a bid to stop political violence there.

"We are stepping up the intelligence base, especially in the southern region of KwaZulu-Natal," he said. He said this meant sending in secret agents.

"To be in a position to preempt, to be in a position to anticipate what is going to happen in certain areas, you have to infiltrate certain groupings and the activities of certain individuals.

"We have to infiltrate where there are visible signs of certain persons or groupings are busy with crime-related activities," he said. "We have to get on top of it."

At least 189 people were killed in criminal and political violence in KwaZulu-Natal in the week ending on December 30, said police.

In the worst incident, 19 people died on Christmas Day when more than 600 men rampaged through the Shobashabane area, near Port Shepstone.

About 14,000 people have been killed in the past decade in fighting in the province between supporters of the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

— Sapa-Reuters.
Crime takes a beating

More community police soon?

The new and innovative community police force project has drastically reduced crime in the city centre and Sea Point, claims city councillor Chris Joubert.

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Staff Reporter

WITH its innovative community police force now cracking down on the muggers, and other criminals, Cape Town may be on its way to becoming one of the safest tourist destinations in the world.

The project has taken the city by storm and crime has dropped drastically in the city centre and Sea Point, says Chris Joubert, city councillor and co-chairman of the Interim City Centre Police Board.

He said the board had been inundated with offers — from small and big businesses who were prepared to donate money — to sustain a community police force which would make the city a safer place.

A similar scheme is run in Sea Point, where 10 community police officers have been employed. More than 1 000 people applied for these positions, of which more than 200 were trained police reservists.

Over 80 community police officers have already been deployed in the city centre and more than half of the R300 000 needed to pay the salaries for a planned contingent of 120 community policemen has been raised.

Now Mr Joubert plans to put forward an innovative plan to make Cape Town one of the safest cities in the world.

"I would like to propose to the city council a scheme which will ask rate-payers to make a voluntary donation of R10 a month to support our community police project.

"People can add this extra R10 to their electricity bill and the money will enable us to employ sufficient community policemen in our city to stamp out crime once and for all.

"We believe this is a community project and have already found a tremendous spirit of support from individuals and small and big business.

"If we can get this voluntary scheme off the ground, we will not only make Cape Town a safe city, but will also create jobs which go hand in hand with the RDP."

Mr Joubert said the benefit of having a safe city also ensures that property values are maintained. In other cities in the country where crime has spiralled out of control, there has been a marked drop in property values.

Mr Joubert stressed that the South African Police Services will continue their normal police duties and the community police will simply strengthen the crime combating capability of the city.
In a state of fear, any country in peace time. (34)
been experienced by the like of which has seldom
a violent crime explosion, South Africa is in the midst of

Robert Block of the

Insight

Robert Block of the

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Insight

Insight
DEREK WILSNAGH
Racing Editor
London News is hugging the Argus Guineas headlines and all else is being bullied into the background...but following this flow at the betting window could prove dangerous!

Ask Dave Payne, who saddles 5-1 second-favourite Ganser Machter.

He agrees that London News is the surprise but muses that he cannot understand why Ganser Machter is drifting in the betting.

"Our horse could not be any better," he said this morning. "He is working very well, there is no problem with soundness, his blood pictures are perfect. We take some money?" he joked.

Payne quotes any rumour that Doug Whyte had the choice between London News and Ganser Machter.

"I no longer employ a firm stable jockey," he said.

"I find owners prefer using their own jockey nowadays and I fit 1992 and what they want." Anton Marcus has won on Ganser Machter before and was the logical choice as Anthony Delpech was committed to Harmony Pofferer and Glen Hatt to the filly Diane Every Day.

But Payne is not overawed by London News. He is top class and has done all they have asked of him. He has raced at five different centres.

DEREK WILSNAGH
LADBROGES and Jack Jaffees have had more success with racehorses than one would dream about, and the Argus Guineas is one of their favourite hunting grounds.

This year was especially keenly contested. The 1992 and 1993 Guineas winners, Hercules and Capri, are both owned in partnership, also bred Cape Hunt by Bush Telegraph out of their mare Cape Jade.

They sold them for national sales and the new races in the colours of Miss Xenia Ponnaradis for trainer Kobus Vorster.

And watching one of the Jack Jaffees entries, it is certainly tucked the part. There are three Bush Telegraphs in the film and all have realistic chances.

They are London News, Cape Hunt and Ashtown, whom Davy Ferraris expects to put in a much improved performance this Saturday.

TALK about the classics and you are talking about great races such as the Guineas, the Derby, the St Leger and the Oaks, all of which race with specific characteristics, and all stemming from England, the birthplace of modern-day horseracing.

It was back in 1766, when racing was already going strong at Doncaster in England, that the local town council decided to improve the course.

Attendance, and the racing, improved accordingly and after two years Doncaster introduced a new race for colts and fillies.

The Marquis of Rockingham proposed that the race should be run after his friend, St Leger, and the proposal was accepted.

But that race was not run over the traditional course of 1 m. 6 f. (1600m).

Epsom was meanwhile inspired by the success of the St Leger and Lord Derby and other members of the Jockey Club got in touch in time to make it possible.

The first race was run over one mile (1600m) but switched to its new standard 1 mile 1 f. (2000m) in 1879.

What is more "normal" triple crown of Cape, and then a...
SA’s lawlessness a major stumbling block for RDP

UNLESS lawlessness was brought under control and the lives and property of South Africans were protected, the noble principles enshrined in the RDP would become dead letters, the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry warned this week.

In its latest Business Bulletin the chamber said it would support an action programme where the priorities and needs of civil society were re-assessed. This included re-examining the approach to the RDP.

Fighting crime and violence had to be elevated to top RDP status. Improving police pay, training and infrastructure were more urgent concerns than even education and health.

The police should become “the heroes of society” backed up by a streamlined criminal justice system. Once a semblance of law and order had been established with law breakers strongly vetted, the task of restructuring society as outlined in the RDP could be given renewed attention, the chamber said.

Frustration among chamber members was mounting over the government’s reluctance to take decisions, particularly at a regional and local level, the bulletin said.

Some vacillation was understandable as local government elections had been delayed and Cape Metropolitan elections not yet held.

However, the lack of predictability and certainty, essential ingredients to any business, was harming the economy.

Most of the chamber’s members were in the formal sector which, instead of being viewed as the engine which would grow the economy, often appeared simply to be judged as “white business” — at best a cash cow to be milked, the chamber said.

This situation had been further aggravated by the removal of the “business vote”, for many years a feature of Cape Town, although the business sector continued to shoulder the largest share of the rates burden.

The failure to pass by-laws in regard to street trading and hawking stood out as a glaring example of the inability to govern and a lack of political will, the bulletin said.

Uncontrolled street trading is causing enormous disruption to the commercial activity within the heart of Cape Town and in many of its major surrounding commercial trading centres.

“A continued lack of control runs the risk of setting in motion a process of urban decay from which it will be extremely difficult to recover.”

Effective government meant taking often difficult decisions — no decision was far worse and ran the risk of feeding “a state of anarchy”.

The government also urgently needed to address the culture of entitlement, where rent and service boycotts continued. “Having moved from a state of euphoria following the elections, South Africa is now in a state of informed pessimism and the challenge must be to move to a state of informed optimism.”

In his New Year message chamber president Geoff Ashmead said it was government’s unequivocal responsibility to provide business with the infrastructure which the business community required in order to prosper.
TOYOTAS ARE TOP OF THE 'MOST WANTED' HITLIST

BY DON ROBERTSON

ONE in three vehicles hijacked in the first 11 months of last year was a Toyota — not a luxury Mercedes-Benz or BMW as one might have expected.

This is in the findings of the National Crime Information Centre, which disclosed statistics for hijacking in Gauteng only after considerable briefing between representatives of the motor traders, insurance companies and the police — all of whom have been reluctant to make the figures public.

The centre said that more than 8 400 vehicles were hijacked in Gauteng in the first 11 months of last year.

In October alone, 37 vehicles were hijacked a day. Forty-nine people lost their lives and 67 others were injured.

A spokesman said some of the injured may have subsequently died, but their details had not been reported to the centre.

Toyota accounted for 34.6 percent of all vehicles stolen in Gauteng, the highest market share of any company in the province.

While Toyota said more vehicles in South Africa than any other manufacturer, the hijacker favours undoubtedly the largest market share in terms of sales.

The number of vehicles sold by the firm in the first 11 months of last year was 28,303, a 17.3 percent increase over the previous year.

The figure for BMW and Mercedes-Benz was held steady at 12 percent.

Explaining the apparent disparity between Toyota's market share and the incidence of hijacking cases, a spokesman said that the company was a major supplier of vehicles to the high-risk taxi industry and that about 50 percent of its sales were commercial vehicles.

It also had a high profile in company fleets, most of which were in the Gauteng area.

The spokesperson said that while the company had enjoyed a good year in terms of sales, it had not been able to reduce the number of hijacking cases.

The spokesman said that the company was now looking into ways of reducing the number of hijackings, including the provision of security guards and the installation of security devices in vehicles.

TOYOTAS ARE TOP OF THE 'MOST WANTED' HITLIST

January - November 1995, Gauteng

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make of Vehicle Hijacked</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Toyota</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. BMW</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mercedes-Benz</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Honda</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Nissan</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
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<td>6. Audi</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Land Rover</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Subaru</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. MINI</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Oldsmobile</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
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The hijacking of Toyota vehicles has been a major concern for the National Crime Information Centre, which has been working closely with the police to combat the problem.

The centre said that it had been successful in reducing the number of hijackings in recent months, but that there was still a long way to go.

Chachalia retracts car theft fraud claim

By PETER Du JOHNO

SAFETY and Security secretary Asgar Chachalia has retracted his claim that up to 17 percent of reported car hijackings were not legitimate for insurance purposes.

Mr Chachalia, who took up his post this week as the minister of safety and security, said he was "regretful" and would provide further information on the hijacking statistics created by the National Crime Information Centre (NCIC) in an article in the Sunday Star last month.

He said the article was "misleading" and that the NCIC had not released official statistics on the number of hijackings.

Instead, Mr Chachalia wrote that "many reported hijackings are based on the number of insurance claims submitted for cars.

This week, however, Mr Chachalia admitted that the police did not have the necessary data to substantiate the claim that up to 17 percent of reported car hijackings were not legitimate for insurance purposes.

"I was not trying to play down the problem or calm people's fears," Mr Chachalia said.

"We have made hijacking a national priority crime and I wanted to open an analytical debate on the issue," he said.

"I would rather have more hijacked vehicle owners report their vehicles to the police and reduce the number of claims.

"The number of hijackings has been declining in recent months and it is a good sign that the police are taking the issue seriously," Mr Chachalia said.

"However, we need more information from the NCIC to assess the extent of the problem and to determine the impact of our efforts," he said.

"I urge the police to provide accurate statistics on the number of hijackings and to work with us to reduce the problem."
Niehaus takes tough stand on criminals

BARRY STREW

A CLEAR message must be sent to all potential criminals that crimes will not be tolerated, ANC MP Mr Carl Niehaus said yesterday.

It was essential that criminals were brought to book and punished if found guilty, he said in a speech in Cape Town to the Institute of Citizenship.

The historic judgment of the Constitutional Court on the death penalty told people what crime experts and criminologists all over the world had stressed, that “the only effective deterrent against crime is the knowledge and certainty in the mind of potential offenders that, if they commit a crime, they will be apprehended, prosecuted and serve a full sentence”.

Mr Niehaus, who is chairman of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services, said he believed the call for the death penalty was not the call of a society baying for blood, but a call for help by frightened people.

“The death penalty has never been a deterrent against crime. Calls for a return to the death penalty, therefore, divert us from our main task — the implementation of ways and means to defeat the ends of the criminals that threaten us all. No one arm of government can do it alone. Nor can government solve the crime problem without the active participation of society.”
Crime forces government
to reconsider rights bill

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

The government is being forced to look "very critically" at certain areas of the Bill of Rights after failing to anticipate the crime wave bedevilling the new democracy.

African National Congress MP Willie Hofmeyr said yesterday the government's revisiting of contentious issues relating to the criminal justice system — such as bail, limitations clauses and imprisoning juveniles — should not be construed as an attempt to water down the Bill of Rights.

He was speaking after a panel discussion on crime, justice and the Bill of Rights hosted by the Human Rights Committee at the University of the Western Cape.

"The issue of crime is a vital one. We cannot simply ignore these concerns. Otherwise populist demands for tougher action against criminals will eventually sweep away all the rights for which we have fought so hard in this country," said Mr Hofmeyr.

Earlier, the government was roundly criticised by the gathering of legal academics and human rights workers for releasing a draft bill of rights for public scrutiny and comment in November while simultaneously "continually amending" it through political party negotiation in the Constitutional Assembly.

In a statement, the Human Rights Committee said the delegates to the conference which preceded the panel discussion had "criticised the freedom of expression clause and rejected the provisions restricting freedom of expression, like those relating to hate speech".

The group felt the general limitations clause was sufficient in allowing appropriate regulation.
Curb crime and we'll spend R1 bn
says motor giant

Business Reporter

BMW is to spend R1 billion on investments in South Africa during the next four years — provided crime can be contained.

In a statement read out on his behalf at a briefing in Cape Town today, the chairman of BMW in Germany, Bernd Pischetsrieder, said the motor giant would make a major investment in the upgrading of its manufacturing plant in Rosslyn, near Pretoria.

But, he said, there were strings attached to the investment.

The company remained deeply concerned at the level of crime in South Africa, particularly vehicle theft and hijacking.

"While we are aware of efforts to contain crime, we remain conscious of the fact that should crime continue to escalate as it has in the past year, it will undoubtedly force us to reassess the considerable investment we intend making during the next four years."

In the statement, read by Rainer Hagemann, managing director of BMW SA, Mr Pischetsrieder said the investment would be used to upgrade and increase capacity of manufacturing facilities — by as much as 20 percent — in order to meet increased domestic and export demand.
Crime threat to BMW investment

Samantha Shaffa

CAPE TOWN — German car manufacturer BMW warned yesterday that its plans for a R1bn investment in BMW SA would be scrapped if crime continued to escalate.

Announcing the four-year investment programme, BMW said the investment would be used primarily to upgrade and increase the capacity of SA manufacturing facilities to meet increased domestic and export demand.

But BMW AG chairman Bernard Peterschmied said a continued escalation in crime, especially car thefts and hijackings, would "undoubtedly force us to reassess the considerable investment we intend making over the next four years".

"However, we are optimistic that crime levels will be suitably addressed and we are prepared to play our part," he said.

BMW SA has supplied police in Gauteng with 100 cars worth R22m.

BMW SA MD Rainer Hagemann said the capital injection would raise SA manufacturing capacity by about 20%, although production levels were running at only about 50% of their potential. This meant BMW SA's manufacturing staff complement was unlikely to show a substantial increase, especially given the group's drive to enhance productivity.
 Custums chief caught in a crossfire

Search for smuggler-trap

MAUREEN MARUD  
Business Reporter

CAUGHT in the crossfire between powerful lobby groups, Commissioner of Customs and Excise Daan Colesky has once again postponed a controversial plan to stop smugglers who are robbing the economy of billions of rand a year.

Mr Colesky has issued an ultimatum to the private sector: Either propose a workable solution to the ever-increasing problem of illegal imports or live with stringent new measures he will implement on February 19.

These measures include a cash payment upfront of 25 percent of the duty and VAT liability on all goods arriving at South African harbours destined for countries north of the border.

Huge quantities of these goods — duty free because they are marked for removal to either Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique or Angola — never reach those destinations. Instead, they are sold in South Africa at lower prices than it costs domestic industries to produce them.

While Mr Colesky welcomes financial and other help, the private sector has offered his department in the fight against fraudulent imports, he wants specific suggestions from those sectors unhappy with his proposal to implement the surcharge on goods in transit to neighbouring countries.

"Everybody's complaining and looking to customs, but it's easy for them to say this is our problem and we must stop it," says Mr Colesky.

"We would like a joint venture between the private sector and government to find what can never be a foolproof solution, because nobody has ever found one to stop smuggling, but something that's workable."

He is waiting for the private sector's recommendations, some of which are still outstanding from Saco members.

"If they tell me they think they have a possible solution and would like a further extension, I am quite prepared to do so.

"But if they say, 'Sorry, we can't give you any alternatives that will work,' we will have to very seriously consider imposing this."

A customs investigation in 1994 involving only a limited number of goods from Durban that did not reach neighbouring countries estimated the revenue loss to the government in the region of R150 million over 12 months, Mr Colesky said.

He first proposed the provisional payment in November last year, but has since twice deferred its implementation.

The payment will be refunded on proof that the goods arrived at their destination, and proof of the existence of the importer.

In addition, he proposes that all but two South African border posts be open for goods in transit. They are Beit Bridge and Komatipoort.

While these measures are welcomed by industries that say thousands of South African jobs are threatened by the smuggled goods, a strong lobby has been mounted in opposition, mostly from the Association of Freight Forwarders and other road and rail carriers.

"We have said to him these measures are targeted at the forwarder who is responsible for organising the delivery across the border," says Alan Cowell, executive director of the freight forwarders' association.

Mr Cowell argues that while the forwarders are not committing the frauds, they are being asked to make cash payments involving sums of up to R150 million a month to fight what is essentially a customs problem.

Traditionally, the forwarder accepts responsibility for submitting documents to the customs controller in Durban or Johannesburg requesting permission to remove goods across the border. In return, he guarantees by way of a bond that the goods will reach their destination.

Now the commissioner has said all such bonds will be replaced with hard cash to be released only when customs is satisfied the goods have reached their intended destination.

"There is no way that the forwarding organisations are going to put that money up front. They don't have that sort of cash," says Mr Cowell.

He argues that it will be next to impossible to get the person doing the trading from overseas to pay the money. Neither will the consignee in the African country pay because reserve banks there will not release their limited foreign exchange to South African customs.

"How can we as forwarders cover it when we have no certainty that the money will ever come back? When it does come..."
Chaos at customs makes SA a smugglers’ haven

By MARLENE BURGER

THE chaotic state of customs control has turned South Africa into a smugglers’ paradise, and unscrupulous people have been quick to take advantage.

Evidence presented to the Kumlheben commission of inquiry, appointed in October 1994 to investigate illegal trade in ivory and rhino horn, has exposed serious flaws in the control of goods leaving and entering South Africa by sea and air.

The situation is so serious that Mr Justice Mark Kumlheben has recommended that urgent attention be given to a “complete overhaul” of the system.

His call comes amid reports that customs control at Durban harbour, which handles more than 70 percent of all containerised goods, is on the verge of collapse because of a lack of staff and equipment.

Details of the apparent ease with which contraband may be hidden in containers were given to the Kumlheben commission by Wayne Tonkin, assistant finance director with the Department of Customs and Excise in Durban.

Mr Tonkin said the department’s main task was to ensure that the correct export and import duties were paid to the state and that exchange control regulations were not contravened. Detection of contraband was considered “incidential”.

No provision was made for random inspection of containers, he said, and only three percent of the 50,000 containers passing through Durban each month were inspected.

Permission to export goods can be obtained at any container terminals or regional offices by means of Form DAS50 — an export bill of entry. Details required on the form include the exporter’s name, the destination, the vessel on which the container is to be shipped and a description of the goods.

But the form may be completed before or after a container is packed, and there is thus no assurance that the contents correspond with the details on the form.

Containers of “free” goods — those on which there is no excise or rebate to be paid — are not sealed, but customs officials do not carry out routine or spot checks.

Smuggling is made easier by the fact that customs and excise officers are hopelessly ill-equipped to do their job.

The full extent of this problem was spelt out by Adrian Britz, the acting customs controller in Durban, regarded as one of South Africa’s more sophisticated customs and excise branches.

“We were allowed to hire a forklift for the first time in decades just two months ago and, until recently, when we received a single fax machine to put us in touch with Beit Bridge, there was no way of checking if documents submitted for customs rebates had been legitimately processed there,” he said.

“Apart from the fax machine, we’ve got a few outdated computers here, but we can’t even communicate electronically with Portnet. For four or five months now, customs officials have resorted to personally getting into cars to deliver authorisation documents to Portnet.”

Smugglers have also found loopholes through which to move contraband on international flights to centres such as Durban via Johannesgburg, and at airports used by privately owned aircraft.

In the case of the flights, aircraft from, say, London touch down briefly for passengers to disembark in Johannesgburg before going on to Durban.

Local travellers then fill the vacant seats for the last leg of the journey to Durban. Their boarding passes are marked with a sticker which allows them to avoid going through customs.

According to the Kumlheben report, “there is nothing to stop such a passenger from swapping, by prior arrangement, hold or hand luggage with a passenger who boarded in London.”

No resident customs officials man airports such as Lanseria. The onus is on the pilots of aircraft flying in from foreign countries to contact customs staff whilst still in the air to ensure they are there on arrival. As Judge Kumlheben observed, however, this is something a pilot “would hardly do if he did not wish his cargo to be subject to inspection”.

The Customs Union agreement between South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland makes the detection of illegal goods even more difficult. Once goods are clears by a member country, no further formalities are needed.

Any contraband coming from signatories to the agreement would pass through South Africa undetected because, as Mr Tonkin put it, “those containers have diplomatic immunity”.

The government has set aside R100-million to restructure the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise departments, which are due to be merged into the South African Revenue Services on April 1.
Niehaus gets tough

PM 2/12/96

The reasons for SA’s grim crime rate are usually rehearsed — particularly by the ANC — as an inheritance of the evils of the past. Carl Niehaus, chairman of the parliamentary Correctional Services Committee, recently argued that “crime is a mirror of society . . . .”

Others blame crime on criminals and want them punished appropriately.

A recognition that such a belief has real consequences in community behaviour is gaining ground within ANC ranks, and Niehaus himself has introduced a Private Member’s Bill that would tighten up detention for certain categories of juvenile offenders and introduce tougher parole conditions.

In a recent speech, ANC MP Willie Hofmeyr touched on his party’s concerns about stronger law and order measures. He argued that “popular demands for tougher action against criminals will eventually sweep away all the rights for which we have fought so hard.”

Nonetheless, “every democratic society has had to find an acceptable balance between the rights it holds dear and the need to fight crime. We must ask whether our country can afford to lead the world in protecting human rights, which include the rights of criminals.”

Part of the problem, Hofmeyr said, lies in “popular mobilisation” against crime: “(W)e see more and more cases where communities are taking the law into their own hands rather than trusting the criminal justice system.”

This accords neatly with the intentions of Niehaus’s Bill. Within a politically correct framework that blames crime on socio-economic factors which have to be redressed by a more equitable spread of the benefits of economic growth, the ANC seems sufficiently scared by crime to want to crack down.

Niehaus — who is often at odds with Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela — explained elements of his Bill to the Institute for Citizenship in Cape Town on January 18.

Awaiting-trial juveniles are required to be held in places of safety. But “the reality is . . . that such places of safety as exist in SA are, like so many of the institutions we have inherited, hopelessly inadequate to the task. The result has been that children run away, and that violent children become a threat to others and to society,” Niehaus said.

His Bill therefore proposes that “young people accused of serious crimes can, for the time being, be detained in police cells or jails if the person in question is a threat to the public and where no alternative place of safety exists.” This step would be “self-limiting in that, as facilities for the detention of juveniles improve, so will the need to keep them in prisons and cells be phased out.”

As for parole, “this decision is taken by an administrative board entirely without reference to the justice system as a whole.” Niehaus would wish to see the sentencing judges and magistrates consulted on parole.

His Bill does not offer any restoration of the death penalty — rendered null by the Constitutional Court Other parties — particularly the NP — have pointed out that the court is guided by the right to life clause of the interim constitution.

The new constitution leaves judicial execution as an option for the moment, though it is unlikely to be included unless there is such a mass clamour that Niehaus and his allies are dissuaded from their view that “the greatest responsibility of the State is to set the moral tone of the country, and where the State leads, the public will follow.”

The Bill is due to be considered by a parliamentary vetting committee to determine whether it can proceed further. That it should have originated as a Private Member’s Bill, and not from the ministry, suggests a moral cleavage on crime within the executive.
Slump in commercial crime

By Josias Charle

There was a 4.3 percent decrease in commercial crime last year compared to the year before, according to national police statistics.

Releasing the figures in Pretoria yesterday, head of the commercial crime of the South African Police Service, assistant Commissioner MJ Schoeman said the decrease could be attributed to various factors which included positive crime combating strategies by the SAPS assisted by the private sector.

"However, with increased sophistication of white collar criminals combined with expanding technological innovations, a number of crimes may have gone unnoticed," Schoeman said. During 1995 about 51 117 crime cases involving about R2.7 billion were reported compared to 53 441 involving more than R4.7 billion in 1994.

This represented a decline of 4.3 percent in cases and 40.5 where cash was involved. "In this regard it is important to note that the substantial decrease of value from 1994 to 1995 is partly due to 10 cases affecting the Reserve Bank with a potential value of about R1 billion which were reported in January 1994," Schoeman said.
Now we'll crush crime, president promises

By ADRIAN HADLAND

The Government is determined to break the continuing cycles of political and criminal violence still affecting different parts and sectors of the country, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

In his opening address to the third parliamentary session of the Government of National Unity, Mandela said the perpetrators of violence would be dealt with in the strongest possible manner. "I am today issuing a strong warning to these elements, that this cannot be allowed to continue," he said.

Violence in the taxi industry, gang warfare and political violence in KwaZulu Natal would be high priorities for corrective action, he said.

Individuals in KwaZulu Natal's South Coast region had organised themselves to undermine investigations into the killings which took place there in December, Mandela told a packed National Assembly chamber.

"Armed with an assortment of weapons, they have taken it upon themselves, in full view of the public media, to challenge the nation's law enforcement agencies," he said. "This would not be allowed to continue, he said.

One of the first measures to be introduced, ahead of a comprehensive national crime prevention strategy due to be unveiled later this year, was legislation preventing the carrying in public of dangerous weapons.

"No one, irrespective of organisations to which they may belong, will be exempted from these measures," Mandela said.

Previous attempts to ban traditional weapons being carried in public have foundered in the face of cultural needs and justifications.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said in a briefing after the address that there had been no discussions with the IFP, which had opposed an earlier attempt at a ban. "This is a legal and criminal matter and not a matter to be negotiated among political leaders," Mbeki said.

Mandela said four critical challenges lay ahead for the Government: the expansion of the economy and the creation of jobs, the improvement of the quality of life for all, the expansion of the frontiers of freedom, and ensuring that all citizens enjoyed comprehensive security.

Optimism and business confidence were the result of an economy which was healthier than it had been for decades. With clean water being distributed to hundreds of thousands of people, electricity reaching 400,000 homes in the past year, and education, health and nutritional programmes in place, the nation was on its way to a better future.

At last, millions who had no hope in the future can look ahead with confidence. In the full knowledge that they have a government prepared to work together with them to build a better life for all," he said.

Mandela called for a "new patriotism" to inspire South Africans to "aim for the stars" of development and progress. "We must unite in a new patriotism to achieve the goal of creating a new society."

Education, housing, health delivery and land reform would all be important themes of government endeavour over the coming year. Mandela also urged members of the Constitutional Assembly to "burn the midnight oil" to ensure the constitution was finished before the May deadline for completion.
JUSTICE Minister Dullah Omar is to put a new law before parliament to ensure crime does not pay.

The Proceeds of Crime Bill will enable a court to order the confiscation of goods and money, and will contain a new provision for money-laundering to become a statutory crime.

Mr Omar said today the measure was specifically targeted against organised crime.

"It will ensure it is possible for our law and courts to knock at the bottom of organised crime and to ensure the proceeds of that crime are confiscated."

Organised crime was one of the biggest threats to the country. It encouraged dishonesty and corruption and relied on violence.

"If we can knock organised crime we will be half-way home," Mr Omar said.

In devising new measures, consultations had been held with the United Nations and neighbouring states.

An inter-ministerial committee was drawing up proposals based on international experience.

Other measures announced today:

- The possibility of greater judicial control over the release on parole of people found guilty of serious crimes.
- An Extradition Amendment Bill.
- An International Co-operation in Criminal Matters Bill, providing for the obtaining of evidence from witnesses as well as the provision of evidence in criminal matters to foreign courts.

Mr Omar said discussions had been held with attorneys-general and magistrates on the campaign against crime.

Problems which had been discussed included cases being dragging out and too many cases being withdrawn, and bail not being strenuously opposed.

The Law Commission had been asked to recommend legislation on more effective sentencing policies, witness protection, the introduction of a new juvenile justice system and bringing criminal procedure and evidence laws in line with the constitution.

Mr Omar said South African law had until now neglected the plight of victims of crime.

Consideration was to be given to this during this year, he said.

"However, budgetary provisions will have to be made to implement any scheme to provide for compensation."

The justice department would also focus this year on addressing the problem of crime tolerance.

"Goods stolen during house break-ins and robberies are sold to ever-willing buyers.

"Crimes are not reported, especially white-collar crimes."
SA has 'pathologically high' murder rate — SAPS

Bonile Ngqiyaza

SA had a pathologically high murder rate compared to other developing countries, SAPS spokesman Wikus Webber said yesterday.

He told delegates at the first SA Security Federation conference in Midrand, Johannesburg, that the murder rate recorded in SA in 1994 was 45 per 100,000 people. The international average for the 122 countries studied was 5.5.

SA’s crime rate, excluding violence, was low compared to other developing countries.

SAPS records showed 194,077 serious crimes were committed in 1994. Australia had, in the same year, recorded 6,773 crimes, Canada 11,443 and New Zealand 13,247, Webber said.

Forty-five cases of assault per 100,000 people were recorded in the same period. The figure per 100,000 internationally was 142, Webber said.

SAPA reports that SANDF operations chief of staff Lt-Gen Wessel Kritzinger said the SANDF should not be involved in combating general crime, but in fighting serious crimes that threatened the country’s constitutional dispensation. The military should engage in crime fighting only for limited periods and should not be involved in investigating crime.

The most serious threats to SA’s security were the influx of illegal immigrants and proliferation of illegal weapons, he said.

The SANDF should focus on border protection, prevention of drug smuggling, stock theft and the plundering of SA’s marine resources.

It was developing a plan for co-operation with other defence forces in southern Africa.
SA has 'pathologically high' murder rate — SAP

Bonile Ngqiyaza (34) BD 15/2/96

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Theft of medicine increased to R1,2bn last year — police

Jacqueline Zaia

PHARMACEUTICAL manufacturers' theft claims escalated to R1,2bn last year, with stolen medicines intended for the state having found their way into pharmacies, undermining manufacturers' higher margin private sector sales.

Capt Daan Davis of the SA Narcotics Bureau said yesterday that total losses claimed by manufacturers had increased to R1,2bn from R1bn in 1994 and R750m the year before. Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association CEO Myrienna Dessa said increased theft of medicines destined for the state severely affected manufacturers because private sector sales were on average ten times more profitable.

The issue was of continuing concern to the industry as it undermined the cost subsidisation system in terms of which discounts to the state were covered by higher margins on private sector sales, she said.

Davis said the bonus system, in terms of which doctors received bonuses and samples from manufacturers and often sold extra stock back to wholesalers, meant it was no longer mandatory for wholesalers to buy from original sources. This had created a loophole for stolen medicines to be sold back into the private sector.

While the police were investigating pharmacy owners and dispensing doctors, most unknowingly bought state medicine which had been repackaged for sale in the private sector.

SA Druggists CEO Peter Beningfield said a marked increase in state sector theft over the past four months would help depress interim earnings growth to below 15%. However, the group remained on track to achieve its forecast 15%-17% earnings growth for the full-year.

Premier Pharmaceutical Company chief financial officer Hymie Shapiro said the group, which primarily supplied the private sector, had experienced minimal shrinkage.
Omar wants to dilute human rights

David Beresford

THE Minister of Justice, Dulfh Omar, wants key elements in the Constitution protecting individual rights watered down to facilitate the government’s fight against crime.

Omar said on Thursday that he would support amendments to the Chapter of Rights protecting citizens’ rights to privacy, freedom of information, and the rights of an accused to bail and legal representation. He also indicated that he supported a tougher stand in dealing with pornography, saying adults needed to be protected from it.

In a statement presented at a parliamentary briefing session for journalists, Omar conceded that his proposed dilution of fundamental rights was “controversial”. But he said that “a starry-eyed and over-romantic approach to the question of rights is costing our country too dearly.”

The minister cited three sections of the Constitution which he said were giving an advantage to criminals:

- Section 13, which says that “every person shall have the right to his or her personal privacy, which shall include the right not to be subject to searches of his or her person, home or property, the seizure of private possessions or the violation of personal communications”.
- Section 23, which says “every person shall have the right to access of all information held by the state or any of its organs at any level of government insofar as such information is required for the exercise, or protection, of any of his or her rights”.
- A section making provision for an arrested person to be released with or without bail “unless the interests of justice require otherwise”, and for legal representation of a person’s choice “where substantial injustice would otherwise result”.

Omar also suggested that Section 33 of the Constitution—a limitation clause on certain rights—should be reviewed “to give the state greater capacity to fight crime by imposing reasonable limitations”.

Questioned about the justification for limiting freedom of information, Omar said it was particularly important, in dealing with the prosecution of organised crime, that suspects do not have access to police docket “at a crucial period of investigation”.

He also supported critics of the government’s latest censorship Bill who regard it as too permissive.

“I am for freedom and individual liberty, but I do think there is a need to protect children: there is even a need to protect adults”, said Omar.

“We need to look very critically at the Bill, to ensure that we are not just giving the green light to pornography. Maybe I am very conservative in that regard, but that is my view.”
'Not enough money to fight crime'

Political Staff

THE fight against rising crime will be stopped in its tracks this year by an insufficient budget allocation, say police.

Police accounting officer, Bat Bosman told the parliamentary safety and security committee it would be almost impossible to implement far-reaching strategies or employ more staff.

The R8.8 billion provisionally allocated this year was just not enough to apply the widely hailed National Crime Prevention Strategy.

This could stymie the new community policing programmes, frustrate the work of the National Criminal Investigation Services and would not pay for more staff for visible policing. Nor would it enable the police to act decisively on priority crimes such as car hijacking, gang-related violence, drug smuggling or violence in KwaZulu-Natal.

Mr Bosman told the committee more money would be needed, in spite of the R2.4 billion increase on last year’s budget, for effective policing.

He said there was a staff shrinkage of about 300 a month through retirement, but no money to replace this staff.

An informal assessment of how many staff could be employed within this year’s allocation had in fact shown that more than 3,000 personnel would have to be retrenched, Mr Bosman said.

He added, however, that this would not happen because there was a dire need for more police officers.

Although the personnel budget has been increased by R900 million to R7.4 billion, this would have to also accommodate the new secretariat which was installed last year and whose members were categorised at senior staff pay levels.

Another blow for the police was the R17 million decrease in the budget for equipment which meant that computers which were to be installed in police stations would have to be put on the backburner.
Top busters of economic crimes will follow paper trail

They work their way through mazes of financial red herrings to crack the codes of cunning money scams — and expose them for the shocking crimes with severe economic consequences that they are.

The Office for Serious Economic Offences (OSEO) investigators are the country's top white collar crime-fighters and have been responsible for uncovering this country's most sensational financial scandals since its inception in 1992.

Nationwide, there are only about 20 advocates — helped by about 20 top detectives — in OSEO.

"It's a paper trail, but it's certainly not a dull job," said advocate Mr Tommy Prins, head of OSEO's 12 Cape-based members.

City investigators are currently working on 13 cases, including the probe involving the Minister of Welfare and Population Development Abe Williams, who resigned from the cabinet last week.

They have recently completed the inquiry into Dr Allan Boesak's Foundation for Peace and Justice. The attorney-general has not yet decided whether there will be a prosecution in connection with the case.

Stockbroker Greg Blank was one of the first to be lured into the collapse of the Tollgate Group, which owed about R600 million when it went into liquidation.

Prins says: "We are called in to do speedy inquiries. Before we take a case, we look at the amount of money involved, the complexity of the case, the urgency of the matter and public interest.

"Sometimes we are precluded from taking a case if we do not have an advocate available.

"We first do a preliminary investigation. Someone comes off the street, speaks to me and I evaluate what the person tells me. I take a statement, and then make a recommendation to our director in Pretoria, advocate Mr Jan Swanepoel.

"If he suspects that a serious offence has been committed, then we investigate. If we find offences have been committed, we report this to the minister of justice and send a copy of our report to the attorney-general. We recommend whether or not there should be a prosecution."

These investigators are independent from police control and the attorneys-general offices. They cannot effect arrests and prosecute suspected offenders unless the attorney-general grants them powers of prosecution for a case.

But they do have the power to subpoena witnesses to testify at hearings — and hand over documents — in OSEO offices as soon as they have declared the case a serious economic offence.

The OSEO's track record exposes them as ruthless in their efforts to root out the most cunning white collar criminals and see them brought to book.

For OSEO investigators, no one is untouchable.
Corruption could cripple SA, but ...

Karen Harverson

SOUTH AFRICA's corporate standards are being polluted by corruption, and the toll on the country is far higher than the mere monetary value.

But whatever the cause, said Schlemmer, corruption is at an unacceptable level and the money cost thereof is higher than all other crime combined.

Also of concern is that as much as 60% of corruption is committed by people in management positions, whereas in other countries it is mainly carried out by people in salaried employee positions.

"So how much is it really costing South Africa?" Schlemmer said the state was the victim in about 33% of serious economic offensives in South Africa, far higher than in countries such as the UK, the United States, France or Germany.

Including tax evasion, fraud, tariff and financial irregularities, the state may be penalised by as much as R25-billion a year, which equals 17% of the 1994/95 budget," commented Schlemmer.

He pointed out that this is roughly the size of South Africa's interest payments on the state debt - one of the factors crippling our capacity to improve the lot of the people.

In essence, said Schlemmer, the combination of interest and corruption means that of South Africa's state financial system, some 35% is being spent on things it shouldn't be spending money on, if society had better controls.

The state, he said, may fight back by robbing investment capital which, along with high taxes, is imposing a huge penalty on a country that needs investment capital to grow.

Another serious implication for South Africa, if corruption continues unabated, is the damage caused to growth opportunities.

"Overseas countries may become cautious about risking investment in a country whose reputation for serious economic offensives are growing. So, corruption is costing South Africa more all round than its financial value," he said.

Karen Harverson

CORPORATE fraud is on the increase and it's costing companies millions of rands each year. In many cases, companies are reluctant to bring a criminal case against the perpetrator - frequently an employee.

"Companies are scared to bring criminal charges for a number of reasons, be it their reputation, lack of knowledge of criminal processes or the stigma of going to court," says Eskom corporate investigations department senior adviser, Christo Glani.

He says a company may prefer to hold an internal disciplinary hearing and thereby dismiss the employee, or in some cases, negotiate a package to pay the person to leave.

Very often, if the company wants to be compensated for the loss, it will institute a civil case against the person.

"However, this can prove to be expensive as the company has to hire an attorney to argue the case," says Glani.

Instead, he suggests the company proceed with a criminal case, which means the public prosecutor takes on the case against the individual, and the state bears the cost.

"Even if the person is found not guilty, the company is not liable for costs or open to a defamation case against it by the person, provided all the facts of the case were honestly presented," says Glani.

Although a criminal conviction does not mean the company will be compensated for the losses incurred by the fraud, it is then able - on the basis of the criminal conviction - to instruct the public prosecutor to apply for a Section 300 judgment.

According to Section 300 of the Criminal Procedure Act, any convicted person who has caused damage or losses to another person through his crime, may on request by the victim in certain circumstances be ordered to compensate the victim.

"Many companies are unaware of this option - they can save legal costs by instituting a criminal prosecution and still get monetary restitution by applying for a Section 300 judgment."

The amount awarded to the victim (the company) will depend on the court in which the case is heard: a magistrate's court may only award a maximum of R20 000 in damages while a regional court may not exceed R200 000.

"If you apply for Section 300, you lose the right to institute further actions, so you must be sure of your losses and that you are in a position to launch a civil case," says Glani.
Strategy
to fight
fraud

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent.

CORRUPTION was part and parcel of the apartheid era in government and has "continued to plague our society," President Nelson Mandela said in Parliament.

What was needed immediately, Mandela said, was a national strategy to fight the corruption that was a feature of the former bantustans.

He said that to rid society of the corruption plague a number of commissions of inquiry had been appointed to "bring the culprits to justice".

Where possible and necessary, the commissions would effect restitution.

Three major commissions underway were:

- The Skwewiyena Commission of Inquiry into corrupt practices by various government officials and the misuse of state funds in Bophuthatswana;

- The Bulelender Commission of Inquiry into irregularities in relation to assets in the old TBVC states; and

- The Heath Commission of Inquiry relating to state property and other property in the Eastern Cape.

The commissions were, however, not the answer to getting to the root of the problems, because the measures were inadequate, Mandela said.

"They only go as far as those specific areas and do not investigate corruption in the whole of the country. The investigations need to be rationalised and an effective national strategy be developed to fight corruption."

"It is with this objective in mind that plans to set up a national commission against corruption are well advanced," said Mandela.

Terms of reference, which would possibly include the power to make binding orders, are being finalised.

While not giving a time frame for the commission to begin its work, he said it would be soon.
Omar: Crime thrives in justice system

Estelle Randall
Staff Reporter

Crime syndicates are thriving on corruption in South Africa's justice system, says Justice Minister Dullah Omar.

Speaking at an anti-drugs conference in Paarl last night, he said bribery was occurring in the justice system as a result of poor salaries.

He said many battles had been fought over the need to treat "professionals as professionals". While cabinet had accepted the principle, what this meant in practice for those involved in the justice system had yet to be worked out.

He said that in some parts of the country, police dockets had mysteriously disappeared. Every court should establish systems to prevent this.

There should also be improvements to the expertise of prosecutors, who now had to operate within the framework of the constitution and its bill of rights.

"Everybody enjoys those rights and people who commit crimes often claim these rights before anyone else."

Mr Omar said he would attend a conference of Commonwealth law ministers in April, where countries would focus on drug trafficking and organised crime.

Mr Omar said South Africa had the capacity to deal with organised crime.

But doing so required greater cooperation between different components of the criminal justice system, a professional approach to prosecutions with proper training for prosecutors, adequate pay for staff, tighter laws and co-operation between South Africa and its neighbours.

He was speaking at the opening of the conference which is being hosted by the office of Western Cape attorney-general, Frank Kahn.

"The problem is the fragmentation of the justice system. There is a specialised role for each department and a need for all to exist but we must ensure that we don't work against one another," Mr Omar said.

Co-operation was more important now because South Africa was a target for international crime syndicates who were sophisticated and had access to many resources to ply their trade.

Besides co-operation between the different departments, South Africa had to co-operate with countries in Africa and elsewhere.

A Southern African group on safety and security had also been established to create a secure environment in the region. An important aspect was control of South Africa's borders.

Mr Omar said the causes of crime were essentially socio-economic and unless these were dealt with crime would not be reduced.

"Whether or not we have the death penalty, we will still have to develop an effective deterrent to crime."

Key elements of such a deterrent involved ensuring that potential criminals knew with certainty that they would be arrested, their cases would be properly investigated and prosecuted, that they would get effective sentencing and that they would serve their sentences.

"Our main problem is that criminals are not being apprehended. So the rest doesn't come into play at all."
While the government tries to give the impression that it is going all out to fight crime, the reality is that the police — understaffed, demoralised and underpaid — are fighting a losing battle.

WILLEM STEENKAMP, Staff Reporter

OUTGOING provincial Minister of Police Services Patrick McKenzie has lashed out against the central government for not giving effective power to provincial police services, warning that lack of power made it difficult to fight crime.

And Gerald Morkel, outgoing Minister of Housing and new Minister of Police Services in the Western Cape, has vowed that he will stem the tide, making Cape Town safe for all.

Mr Morkel said that if necessary he would launch a crime blitz throughout the Cape.

"Criminals must know that the long arm of the law will be out there waiting for them. Cape Town must become a safe city for all. People should not have to hide in their houses for fear of criminals."

"I have put my political career on the line in accepting this tough challenge, but I intend to fight this evil with all the powers within my means," warned Mr Morkel.

Referring to plans by the cash-strapped Department of Correctional Services to re-assembly to devolve more powers to the provinces in line with federal structures around the world. We want the right to train our own policemen. We have no problem with a national standard being laid down to which our training must adhere, but we want the right to train and appoint our own staff.

"We have some of the best police training facilities in the country, but we are not allowed to do any training. These facilities stand empty and will go to ruin. The situation needs to be resolved urgently."

Mr McKenzie's criticism on the central government's tardiness in the devolution of powers was echoed by Cape Premier Herman Kriel, who said the seriousness with which the Western Cape government viewed the crime situation was reflected in the fact that Gerald Morkel — the most senior minister in the local cabinet — had been appointed as the new Minister of Police Services.

Mr Kriel said the provincial government was being blamed for crime in the Western Cape, but the regional government had no power.

"We want powers to be devolved down to us because we believe we know local circumstances better and would be in a better position to re-deploy resources."

Mr McKenzie said: "In the Western Cape we have launched several innovative schemes to fight crime and I believe we are leading the country with these strategies.

"A peace corps consisting of young unemployed men in the townships will be formed and we will train these young men to help combat crime in these areas."

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37 000 HOUSES BURGLED EVERY MONTH

Burglars terrorise city suburbs

A HOUSE IS broken into every 15 minutes in the Western Cape. Crime Writer JACKIE CAMERON looks at housebreaking trends and the best way to safeguard your house.

THE 28-YEAR-OLD policewoman cocked her firearm as she peered through a tiny broken window of a Rondebosch home to see three scantily clad youths fighting over designer clothing.

"This is the police", Sergeant Toni Bongers shouted as she fired a warning shot. Within seconds, the panic-stricken youths scammed to the nearest exit and into the hands of detectives.

One of the youths grabbed Bongers' gun and turned it towards her stomach, but was overpowered. After yet another brush with death, Bongers had successfully rounded up another gang of burglars.

She is one of many detectives struggling to cope with a growing pile of housebreaking cases. The problem is compounded by a reluctance on the part of victims to testify once their belongings have been returned or insurance has paid out. The burglars walk free, and continue with their crimes.

A home is burgled every 15 minutes in the Western Cape.

Last year about 37 000 residences were broken into every month. The trends vary from suburb to suburb. In Rondebosch, more cases are reported in February when University of Cape Town students return to find that their rooms have been broken into.

In Muizenberg, housebreakings escalate over the festive season when there are more people staying in the area, according to the police.

Most homes are broken into during the day when people go out, in what detectives call "opportunity breaks".

"They see someone leaving the house, and then ring the door bell. They know they have got about 20 minutes to break in before someone returns," said Bongers.

About 50% of burglars in this area are youths who roam the streets. A lot of these youngsters have parents who are not wealthy but can support them. These children want money and they are not interested in attending school.

"Some of these youths are highly dangerous. We recently arrested an 18-year-old who has already been arrested in connection with two murders which he committed when he was a juvenile. Housebreakings dropped significantly in the week following his arrest."

A senior policeman said a Woodstock man recently pointed out more than 47 houses in Rondebosch, Mowbray and Claremont he had burgled to support his R3 500 a day drug habit.

He said: "He told us he wanted to confess because he wanted to kick the habit."

"Most stolen goods are sold off quickly for minimal amounts of money to businessmen with second-hand and pawn shops. "Burglar alarms, burglar bars and security gates may act as a deterrent, but cannot stop a determined burglar. "Burglars thump a window hard enough to set off the alarm without breaking the glass, and then disappear. Armed response companies check the premises and find nothing amiss. The burglars do this several times until the alarm is switched off and reported as faulty. Then they break in."

Young thieves find burglar bars easy to climb through, and the locks of security gates easy to foil.

"I believe in a proper dog. Burglars tend to be scared of them. I would opt for a female dog. I know of one case in which the burglars brought a female bitch on heat to the house and opened the gate. The normally fierce guard dog left the house to chase after her," the policeman said.

Police spokesman Captain Evan Johnston has this advice:

• Keep valuables out of sight to prevent tempting burglars to break-in.

• Place "Beware of the Dog" and "Burglar Alarm" signs around your property, even if you do not have them.

• Take identity numbers and addresses of all casual workers who come to your property because they are often behind burglaries.

• Do not open your door to strangers because they often force their way in after pretending that they have something to sell.
Government fails to take white collar crime to task

JACKIE CAMERON
CRIME WRITER

AS police struggle to cope with a staggering R7.5 billion worth of white collar crime, the business sector has lashed out at the government for failing to make this economic scourge a priority.

At least 80% of white collar crime was not reported because business lacked confidence in the authorities' ability to bring offenders to book, Mr. Petrus Marais, an advocate, said.

Speaking at a crime conference in Stellenbosch yesterday Marais also criticised companies for their "reluctance to spend money in crime prevention until they become victims".

It further emerged at the conference that:

- The government is poised to spend R200m towards improving the judicial system.
- Foreign investors rate crime very low on their list of priorities when considering investing here, a survey has shown.
- The Department of Justice intends reviewing its sentencing policies — it may allow the lower courts to impose stiffer jail terms — and finding ways of speeding up court cases.
- Border controls may be tightened up to prevent international criminals and illegal immigrants from entering South Africa.

Marais said that only 20% of crimes were reported to police and the "single greatest contributing factor to this is a lack of confidence in the authorities to investigate and successfully convict an offender".

He said the justice system was "crippled, if not paralysed" when it came to economic crime.

In Johannesburg, the financial capital, about 50% of the posts at the police's commercial crime unit had not been filled and "the rest of the staff are inexperienced".

"Police cannot go to prosecutors for guidance because they are also inexperienced. The attorney-general's office can take up to two years for decisions to prosecute."

The Office for Serious Economic Offences had only 10 advocates in Johannesburg and six in Cape Town, "which is obviously inadequate".

"At present there are only two commercial crime matters on the Johannesburg court roll. One had been running for four years and the other is coming up later this year," Ministry of Justice official Mr. Enver Daniels said that "unacceptably high levels of secrecy" under the former government had "given rise to conditions under which fraud could take place". Police were currently investigating cases involving R7.5 billion and there were moves afoot to improve the judicial system with the help of R200 million in RDP funds.

Daniels said his department would also look at stiffer sentences for criminals, tight security at places of safety where juvenile serious offenders were held and public education programmes.

Dr. Robin Lee, of Nedcor, said a recent survey of 70 existing and potential foreign investors revealed that "contrary to common wisdom, the companies rated crime and violence in South Africa as 21st and 22nd considerations in making their investment decisions".
Wages and housing among mineworkers’ top demands

By ROSS HERBERT

Pretoria — Wage hikes 2 percent above inflation, large increases in minimum wages, radical changes in worker housing and an end to racial discrimination are among the top bargaining demands for this year agreed to by the NUM at its annual central committee congress at the weekend.

The union said it wanted to seek a two-year wage agreement with the Chamber of Mines that would raise minimum wages to R1 320 a month for surface workers and R1 458 for underground workers, a significant jump from the average of R1 164 now received by NUM members.

The union said it would seek a collapse of job categories 1 to 4 into one category paid at the minimum for category 4. For mines outside the Chamber, the minimum demand would be 25 percent for category 4.

Kgalema Motlanthe, the general secretary of the union, said “starvation wages” of as little as R325 a month were still a problem that the union would have to combat at some small-scale mines.

The union said it intended to challenge mine management on a wide range of racially discriminatory practices and demand equal wages for all workers in the same jobs.

“Racist attitudes still lie behind every rule and regulation that exists for black workers in the mining and energy sectors,” the union’s draft list of bargaining priorities said.

The bargaining document said housing was the area of the most pronounced racial discrimination. It said the union would push for the same housing rules to apply to white and black workers and it would seek housing allowances apart from minimum wage demands.

Allowances, the union said, should be set so that no worker paid more than 15 percent of salary for housing.

One option included working with local government to use housing subsidies for construction of houses on mine property.

The union also intended asking for additional compensation for black workers disabled before 1977.

At the time, disabled white workers got life pensions while blacks got a lump sum, which many workers spent quickly.

Subcontractors should also pay the same wages and follow the same work rules for their workers as apply to NUM members, the union said.

Union confronts authorities over crime

By ROSS HERBERT

Pretoria — The labour movement must challenge the government over its failure to fight crime adequately, James Motlatsi, the NUM president, said on Friday.

Speaking to the union’s annual central committee congress, Motlatsi also said that the union movement had failed to set the political agenda and was largely reacting to business.

There were two issues on which the labour movement should challenge the government. “The first is crime and the second is their new growth and development strategy.

“I believe the government is not being firm enough in dealing with the crime wave that is terrifying our communities,” Motlatsi said.

The government should put more resources into prosecuting networks of organised crime, eliminating the ability to sell stolen goods and blocking the sale of stolen vehicles.

Motlatsi said the government’s present economic strategy had more in common with business than labour.

“I am sick to death of the progressive forces in this country being anti-anything. Let business take a defensive stance. We have the space to be on the offensive,” he said.

Motlatsi said labour was failing to influence the government because of a breakdown in the Cosatu-ANC alliance. “There is no real co-ordination of forces at factory, mine, shop, farm and township level.”

He suggested that regulations be imposed on the alliance requiring at least two meetings a year at the executive level and more frequent ones at regional and local levels.

The union needed to bolster its expertise to make it better able to challenge cost-cutting and downsizing efforts in the mining industry.

NUM should hire its own geologists, mining engineers and consultants to assess the nature and extent of mineral reserves in every case where there is a question mark over continued production. I want us to challenge the employers to provide us with the information on which they base their decisions ... so that we can work out a joint production strategy.”

Some NUM members privately raised questions about how much senior union officials were earning. He said, there should be a policy throughout Cosatu that the fees earned by officials for sitting on private boards go to a special fund. Motlatsi told the central committee that members should not expect salaries rivalling those in government or industry.
SA continues to be beset by a criminality crisis

Peter Leon

SA is facing a crisis of criminality. Last year, according to the Nedcor project on crime, a staggering 80% of homes in SA experienced some form of crime or violence, representing R11bn in costs or, simply, Gauteng’s entire budget for last year.

In about 60% of the homes burgled last year children younger than 17 experienced crime or violence.

It is strange for the NP to criticise the ANC for doing nothing about crime, when serious crime increased 22% between 1980 and 1990, under PW Botha, while the SAPS enforced apartheid rather than fought crime.

In this way they effectively created a culture of reactive rather than preventive policing, which bevises the SAPS to this day.

Crime increased 21% between 1980 and 1994, during the rule of then president FW de Klerk, who has, since 1994, chaired the key Cabinet committee on security and intelligence. The NP agreed with the ANC that the police budget should be reduced by 4% last year, despite an enormous increase in last year’s crime rate.

For its part, the ANC, in 1994, promised to wage an all-out war against crime.

Although we have seen numerous roadblocks, anti-crime plans and programmes of every description, the incidence of most serious crime — with the exception of murder — has increased.

During a six-month period in Gauteng last year, reported rape incidents increased 12%, housebreakings 10%, vehicle theft 5% and hijackings — where the province leads the field by 75% — 7% over year-earlier figures.

It is quite extraordinary, then, that in this environment the SAPS has been compelled by government to place a two-year moratorium on the employment of extra police personnel because of an acute shortage of funding.

It is obvious that in provinces as crime-ridden as Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, only a massive increase in and deployment of police resources on a visible basis will help rid us of the scourge of crime that besets our community.

Although the government can point to the success of community policing as a new initiative against crime, the Institute for Defence Policy has recently found that “the success of community policing are modest and it appears that community policing does best in the areas that need it least”.

Unfortunately, the government and the SAPS’s senior management labour under the misapprehension that a national crime prevention strategy needs to be nationally driven. The truth is that crime is localised, not centralised.

Unless a national strategy is locally driven, it is doomed to failure. That is why the DP is alarmed by the proposal, made by the ANC in the draft constitution, to remove metropolitan policing as a joint provincial-local government competence and replace it with national legislation, driven nationally.

We are disappointed by what we have seen of government’s draft national crime prevention strategy. In the first place, the ministerial strategy team behind it is far too narrowly based, being drawn entirely from the security ministries and the justice ministry.

In the UK, by contrast, such a team is not only multidisciplinary, but driven by disciplines as vastly different an economic planning and urban deprivation.

If the ANC is really tough on the causes of crime, why have none of the welfare and housing ministries been involved in the formulation of this strategy?

The draft strategy paints the big picture, but is rather vague on the detail. In particular, it pays no attention to local government and the need to involve local, not national, agencies in actual crime prevention programmes.

It is hardly surprising that the SA business community is less than impressed with government’s record on crime: despite devoting much time, money and effort to the Business Initiative Against Crime.

In December, two-thirds of all business people polled by Nedcor found government’s efforts to be “not at all convincing”.

Government must realise that it is no use dressing up public relations exercises as a crime prevention policy. Not only will the public no longer believe it, but, more importantly, criminals will take the same view. It is no use managing a variety of disparate programmes which attempt to address different crime prevention issues but leave out local government.

What crime prevention needs is a management-driven, multidisciplinary, multipronged approach. One way of achieving this may well be to institute an RDP against crime, located in the office of the President, which is able both to involve and direct line function ministries on a holistic basis. New Zealand now has a crime prevention unit in the prime minister’s office doing exactly this job, while South Australia has a crime prevention ministry. SA, by contrast, has lots of plans and lots of crime.

Leon is leader of the DP in the Gauteng provincial legislature. This is an edited version of a speech he made last week during a debate on the crime situation.
National plan for fighting crime to be adopted soon

By JONAL RASTEO
Political Reporter

A national framework aimed at the curbing of crime, through co-operation between the Government, the private sector and the police is to be released soon.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) will include plans to tighten the South African banking industry to stop international money laundering, and the restructuring of motor vehicle registration systems in all nine provinces.

An official of the SA Police Service secretariat, Janine Rauch, told an Mpumalanga government crime summit yesterday that the NCPS, which is expected to be released by the end of next month, would be a guideline to provincial governments for adaptation to their own situation.

"The challenges facing the implementers of the strategy is to get the criminal justice system to work effectively; mobilising civil society into a partnership in which it will make it its responsibility to fight crime, to provide a clear vision in which strategies can be developed to meet changing needs and to set up structures to innovate, lead and co-ordinate programmes," she said.

Rauch added that creating employment, investing in people, enhancing investment in household and economic infrastructure, creating a system of welfare safety nets and transforming the Government and the public service formed the cornerstones of the NCPS.

She said that in streamlining and reforming the criminal justice system, the Government sought to create a smooth linkage between the police, courts and correctional services.

"The strategy, which must be looked at and implemented as a whole include factors such as ensuring that there is appropriate sentencing of criminals, a programme of diversion for young petty offenders, the co-ordination of legislation to prevent white-collar crime and the provision of secure care facilities for juveniles and support programmes for victims of crime," Rauch said.

Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa told delegates that the current high crime levels in South Africa had led to several negative consequences.

"These include an unwillingness to move towards fixed investment by international investors, internal unrest, restraints on the tourism industry, impediments on development, stability, and a lack of security."

For the NCPS to be a success, the public needed to be encouraged to join hands with the police to fight crime, Phosa said.

"In essence, police, justice and correctional services are all over-burdened due to insufficient skilled personnel; ineffective systems and a serious lack of co-ordination of policy management between departments," he said.
US investors warn against SA crime

The American Chamber of Commerce yesterday warned that South Africa would suffer negative effects unless urgent steps were taken to combat violent crime.

Amcham said the findings of a survey conducted among its members on violence, crime and security had been sent to Commissioner George Fivaz.

While the survey indicated encouraging levels of long-term investment confidence, Amcham members, including some who had recently invested, said urgent steps were needed to combat violent crime or South Africa would lose out.

Eighty-six percent of the participants in the survey felt that police resources were inadequate to deal with crime.

The vast majority of companies surveyed were extremely security conscious and used a high level of security.

Nevertheless, 48% had experienced a break-in or burglary over the past year, 48% had experienced hijacking of a delivery vehicle and 24% had experienced a car hijacking.

Two-thirds of companies said business confidence was being affected by crime.

Amcham said the survey had two specific objectives: to establish data on crime levels, and to provide some form of guidance for Americans wishing to invest in South Africa. — Sapa.
Crime: No room for complacency

Economic issues frequently override the fear of crime for prospective investors in South Africa, writes Madeleine Wackernagel.

Contrary to popular wisdom, South Africa's high crime rate is not a significant deterrent to foreign investment, according to a new survey.

Professor Robin Lee, who collected the research for the Nedcor Project, was somewhat surprised at the result, having expected crime to play a more important role in foreign investment decisions. In many respects, the conclusions are predictable: issues of competitiveness and economics come first, social factors second.

But local investors and foreign companies already operating in South Africa are being hit — hard. According to Lee, other research done by the Nedcor Project shows that investment plans are being postponed or, in some cases, shelved completely.

Indeed, a survey by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) released this week shows that 46% of respondents — mostly companies with more than 200 employees — had suffered a delivery vehicle hijacking and 12% a bad hijacking in the past 12 months. A total 27% had experienced the assault of an employee, and 4% had been victims of burglary or break-ins.

The problem is particularly acute in Gauteng. Dr Ben van Rensburg of the South African Chamber of Business Development points out that crime is definitely a high-profile issue. Many of our members have been subjected to some sort of personal attack, especially in Gauteng.

Staffing problems are an issue, even for the big multinationals. Van Rensburg finds it surprising that he would never suffer to live behind barred windows, in constant fear for his personal safety.

Smaller and medium-sized businesses are more likely to be hit off by crime than the bigger corporates, says Eben Schoeman of the South African-German Chamber of Commerce, because the impact on their investment of hijacking, personal safety, etc., is more immediate.

The AmCham report highlights that the cost of security projections to combat the unusually high levels of crime was an additional inhibiting factor to investment. Almost two-thirds of respondents said business confidence was affected somewhat by prevailing crime rates; 36% said they were not affected.

If the government is doing enough? The problem, says Graham Simpson, director of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, is one of co-ordination at the intergovernmental level. There are no quick fixes; government should seek a co-ordinated approach, encompassing all departments from education to the prisons service and social welfare.

Most of the companies surveyed by Lee made the distinction between the transitional and permanent nature of a high crime "culture" — if the latter were to develop, it would put South Africa in the same category as Nigeria, which is not a popular investment destination. But at the same time they did not think fought crime intervention was necessary; it was more important for government to produce coherent crime prevention strategies.

In addition to the above factors, for many multinationals, crime is relative. Russia and Colombia, for example, present greater problems for companies’ operations.

Said one interviewee: "What we have found to be a problem is opportunistic violence. But South Africa is not like Colombia where we have to hire bodyguards for visiting executives."

A more important indicator of the environment is that political and social stability scored very high. Combining lasting peace with opportunities. The years of isolation and devastation perpetrated by South Africa during the apartheid era are responsible for the belief that societal upheaval is a far greater threat to investment than so-called opportunistic crime.

Latin America is a case in point. Years of political upheaval and government instability have taken their toll on investment plans, but relative to the rest of Africa, South Africa still fares well.

A more investment risks ratings, ranking countries from 1 to 80, puts South Africa second, after Botswana, at 16.33, Rwanda scores 100, with Mozambique at two, Zimbabwe 12.67 and Nigeria 5.37.

This would tend to show that foreign investors draw a distinction between political violence, which has dropped by more than 60% since the elections in 1994 — and general crime. But should "ordinary" crime rates escalate further — and South Africa is still the most violent country in the world — foreigners may interpret this as indicating a lack of effective government.

Such a situation could well spiral, says Lee: "Foreign investment could suffer... one of three scenarios: the public taking the law into their own hands as regards 'ordinary crime' or corruption in government at the local level; high levels of public discontent with government's failure to control crime. In these scenarios, crime or its consequences threaten political stability and go straight to the top of any foreign investor's agenda."

But, he adds, the long-awaited National Crime Prevention Strategy, due to go before the Cabinet this month, should go some way to allay foreign and local investor fears. The new strategic direction from government. While the problem is of a long-term nature, there are short-term measures to be taken that would at least send the right signals in terms of government intent.

Under siege: Burglars and hijackers have put foreigners in the line of fire.
Control crime or lose out on investment, says new poll

Company executives in South Africa were optimistic about the economic future but concerned about political volatility and the crime rate, a survey showed this week.

The poll by the American Chamber of Commerce in SA said many members believed the country would lose out on investment unless measures were taken by the Government to curb crime, theft and fraud.

Citing UN statistics, the survey said SA recorded the highest number of reported murders and assault cases in the world in 1991.

The American Chamber of Commerce is made up of US and SA business bodies. Of the 104 chief executives who responded to its poll, about half had suffered a burglary and a hijacking in the past year.

South Africa remains riven by the economic gulf separating its six million whites and the rest of its 40-million-strong population.

While pointing to racial, ethnic and political tensions as well as a “culture of violence”, the overwhelming majority of businessmen who responded to the poll put the high crime rate down to socio-economic causes.

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Farmers call for state of emergency

Louise Cook

FARMERS have threatened to withhold local government taxes unless government declares a state of emergency and imposes curfews until the serious rural crime situation improves.

SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) president Chris du Toit said farmers would be advised to stop paying certain taxes, using the money instead to buy security systems.

Natal Agricultural Union president Graham McIntosh warned that as a last resort farmers would openly rebel.

Figures released by the police showed that murders and violent attacks on farmers had jumped by 40% during the first nine months of last year.

At Heidelberg in the Free State, hundreds of farmers accepted a resolution on Tuesday to stop paying levies to local authorities.

The Free State Agricultural Union demanded police be given effective equipment to fight crime in rural areas.

Yesterday, the general council of the SAAU demanded government declare a state of emergency and impose curfews to fight the "increasing plague of murders, crime and assaults in SA, particularly on farms and rural areas".

Sapa reported that a meeting between Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and the Free State Agricultural Union scheduled for today was cancelled due to the death of Free State premier Patrick Lekota’s daughter.
Farmers want state of emergency over crime

BY NORMAN CHANDELIER
Pretoria Bureau

The Government has been asked by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) to declare a state of emergency and impose a curfew to stop crime, particularly in rural areas.

This follows farmers' warnings that they intend withholding payment of certain taxes and taking other action to protect themselves and their communities if the security situation does not improve "rapidly and noticeably."

The general council of the SAU decided at a meeting in Pretoria yesterday to make the appeal "to stem the continuing and increasing plague of murder, crime and assault."

SAAU president Chris du Toit said it was unacceptable that the state repeatedly declared its intention to combat crime but did not take action.

He said: "The security situation has reverted to the same level as during the terror onslaught and farmers no longer have confidence in existing security systems.

"If farmers have to set up their own security systems at considerable cost, the council will have no choice but to recommend to farmers that they withhold certain taxes for this purpose," Du Toit said.
Survey shows fraud to be rampant in SA

Adrienne Giliomee
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SA and Germany were the two countries hardest hit by fraud, according to a worldwide study by professional services group KPMG.

More than 97% of SA respondents said they regarded fraud as "a major problem", while almost 80% indicated they were aware of domestic fraud. Despite this awareness, only 50% of SA employees said they knew how fraud could occur — the lowest of all the countries' respondents.

Respondents said they were least likely to do business in China, followed by Italy and Nigeria, as they perceived the countries as "fraud hot spots".

The study, conducted in 18 countries, found that more than half the companies surveyed expected fraud to be an increasing problem.

The report said corporate restructuring, political instability in various areas of the world and rapid technological advances gave rise to opportunities for new and more sophisticated methods of fraud.

International fraud included airline ticket fraud, cheque and credit card fraud and fraudulent money transfers, while the most common domestic fraud was kickbacks, followed by the purchase of items for personal use and the misappropriation of cash.

External fraud included false representation, patent infringement and secret payments such as bribes and commissions.

Most respondents said proper internal controls were the best mechanism to combat fraud, followed by specific investigations by management.

Africa — with respondents from SA, Malawi and Botswana — was the continent hit hardest by fraud, with 73% of employees surveyed aware of fraud in their organisations.
New govt body to oversee national anti-crime strategy

Stephen Lauper

THE Cabinet has set up an interdepartmental committee of directors-general to drive anti-crime efforts.

The committee will oversee implementation of the national crime prevention strategy — a comprehensive plan to tackle the root causes and most visible manifestations of crime in SA. The final version of the strategy is to be presented to the Cabinet at the end of next month.

The crime prevention committee is made up of the most senior officials in the safety and security and defence secretariats, the SAPS and SANDF, the National Intelligence Agency, the SA Secret Service and the departments of justice and correctional services. Participation by the national intelligence/co-ordination committee is apparently under discussion.

The strategy will closely co-ordinate government, private sector, non-governmental and community crime prevention efforts.

The strategy is an integral part of the long-term growth and development strategy evolved under the auspices of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

A central focus is likely to be the criminal justice system, where greater co-ordination between police, prosecutors, judiciary and prisons will enhance deterrence and revive confidence in crime prevention efforts. A reduction in blockages in the criminal justice process, increased consistency in sentencing policies, and better management and sharing of information on criminals are among the goals set.

A multifaceted public education programme will target civic awareness and public attitudes to crime.

Urban design, transport systems, better vehicle registration and a better national identity system are among the physical upgrading needs the strategy will seek to address.

See Page 10
National strategy an alliance to engage crime’s diverse facets

STEPHEN LAUFFER

Better understanding will also improve co-operation — in mobilising police resources in the right places, ensuring consistency in investigations, creating alternatives to prison for first offenders, closing gaps in legislation and so on.

Until now, crime has been seen as a rational response by the police, driven by high crime rates, and often related to the problem of crime in South Africa. Now, however, it is clear that crime is a complex problem that cannot be reduced to a single or simple solution. It is a problem that requires a multifaceted approach, not only to deal with the symptoms of crime but also to address the root causes.

The problem of crime is not just about the police, but about society as a whole, and the role of the government in creating policies and implementing them is crucial. The government has a responsibility to create a safe and just society, and this requires a comprehensive approach to crime prevention and reduction.

One of the key challenges is to address the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to crime. This includes poverty, unemployment, and inequality, which are often linked to crime rates. Addressing these issues requires a holistic approach that goes beyond the police and involves all levels of government, as well as civil society and the private sector.

Another challenge is to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement. This includes improving the skills and training of police officers, as well as ensuring that they have the necessary resources and support to do their job effectively. It also means ensuring that the criminal justice system is fair and effective, and that it is accessible to all members of society.

Finally, it is important to involve the community in crime prevention efforts. This includes engaging with local communities, using community-based interventions to address crime, and involving community members in the planning and implementation of crime prevention strategies.

In conclusion, addressing the problem of crime requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach that involves all levels of government, civil society, and the private sector. By working together, we can create a safer and more just society for all.
‘Hired killers used to kill taxi opponents’

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Hired killers have been blamed for high levels of taxi violence.

But a police spokesman says that although taxi hit squads caused violence, the actual initiative and planning of attacks on drivers and commuters came from taxi association members.

In a paper presented to the Security 96 conference, W van Zyl Roux of the National Crime Investigation Service said that taxi-owners and taxi association executive members often identified certain targets themselves for the hit squads.

The hit squads were paid vast amounts of money and given vehicles with false registration numbers.

In order to prevent the violation of certain codes, some taxi associations made use of so-called squad patrol cars, he said.

These patrols were well organised with excellent communication capabilities.

Such hit squads were paid up to R70 000 for an operation to kill opposition taxi-owners and R80 000 to kill a police investigation officer.

Commuters were afraid to come forward as witnesses because they were intimidated or bribed not to testify, said Mr Roux, a director.

There was evidence of criminals, including gangs, acting as freelance hitmen offering their services to the taxi industry for money.

Individuals were employed as full-time bodyguards for the taxi associations.

He said many associations made use of external groups from KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, whose return to their provinces made it extremely difficult to identify them.

‘National strategy needed on crime’

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Crime and the related threats are destabilising society and a national strategy is needed, says the Defence Force.

Major General F E du Toit, Deputy Chief of Staff Operations (South African Air Force) was speaking at the Security 96 conference which was held at the University of Pretoria.

He said a national strategy for achieving internal security, stability and safety required a two-pronged approach.

“On one hand we need to demonstrate delivery of the RDP in order to achieve social justice and economic development and uphold democracy. On the other we need to employ all the means at the disposal of the government and the private sector to combat the threats that are presently destabilising our society.”

On the role of the Defence Force in combating crime, General du Toit said the constitution provided for the Defence Force to co-operate with the South African Police Service when the police were unable to manage a situation on their own.

This had come into effect on July 12 1994 because of the increasing threat to internal security.

He said the Defence Forces’ goal was to build the capacity of the police to deal with public violence and crime on their own and eventually to withdraw the Defence Force from a policing role.

However, the Defence Force would have to maintain the capability of being deployed in exceptional circumstances, General du Toit said.

‘Business has crucial role in fighting crime’

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA — The state Gauteng through the provision of 100 BMWs to police in the province far phones could be made available to the police in the province.
Crime rate worries foreign investors

FOREIGN companies with investments in South Africa give the country a fairly clean bill of health and more than a third plan additional investments this year.

This is the finding of a survey of 261 companies by the influential Investor Responsibility Research Centre (IRRC) in Washington.

But the IRRC found that foreign companies were worried about the crime rate.

As we rate South Africa with respect to other emerging markets, the companies surveyed gave the country high marks for infrastructure and availability of raw materials. Four out of five also found South Africa's legal environment and management of economic policy was at least as good as those of other emerging markets.

But more than a third said labour relations were worse than elsewhere. A significant 79 percent said crime and violence was higher - though the IRRC said multinational firms probably did not give much weight to this factor in making investment decisions.

European companies - by far the largest foreign employers in South Africa - rated labour productivity particularly low.

Canadian companies were especially bullish on plans for new investments, while only eight percent of Japanese companies surveyed said they intended to expand their South African investments.

The IRRC said the survey, completed last month, was fairly representative of the 1,800 multinational parent corporations doing business in South Africa.
SAPS 'is losing crime war'

CENTRAL government's crime-fighting strategy offered no short-term, practical solutions to the problem of crime, DP member of the Gauteng legislature Peter Leon said yesterday.

Last year's crime statistics showed the SAPS was losing the war against criminals.

The first draft of government's national crime prevention strategy was "strong on analysis but weak on solutions, let alone results", he said.

The document, meant to be presented to Cabinet on April 18, was withdrawn at the last minute in the face of questions about its practicality, Leon said.

Short-term measures were needed before any medium to long-term strategies could be introduced. These measures included re-education and training of the SAPS, formulation of decentralised and operationally driven anti-crime operations, and introduction of modern management techniques in the SAPS. Information technology, too, was in dire need of upgrading, Leon said. — Sapa.
Ilegal immigrants not to blame for crime rate
Govt throws its weight behind anti-crime plan

HENRY LUDISHI
POLITICAL WRITER

The government has thrown its full weight behind a national crime-prevention strategy on which it is pinning its hopes for stability and prosperity in South Africa.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) — expected to be endorsed when it goes before the cabinet tomorrow — puts forward the most comprehensive battle-plan yet for tackling crime in South Africa.

But the long-awaited 88-page crime-prevention blueprint — which draws heavily on inputs from six key central government departments, local authorities, communities and local and international experts — still needs a concrete and detailed implementation plan that will put the country's worst crime fears to rest.

The strategy is viewed as a "long-term" solution, and it could take several months before any of the specific proposals are implemented.

The plan includes the introduction of a new national "fraud-resistant" identification system, a crackdown on corruption, tougher regulations for motor-vehicle licensing and the reduction of the time between the reporting of crimes and sentencing.

It also proposes to reduce the burden on prisons resulting from the conviction of minor offenders by providing meaningful alternatives to prison sentences. It aims to speed up crime-prevention legislation and to introduce tougher border controls.

The strategy argues strongly for a more integrated inter-departmental approach to crime-prevention. Its success — once it has been approved by the government — will depend on the success it enjoys at a community level.

The NCPS, drawn up by a high-powered committee consisting of representatives from the departments of Justice, Safety and Security, Correctional Services, Intelligence and Welfare, acknowledges that the causes of crime are not limited to socio-economic factors.

It goes on to outline how the problems of general criminality can be tackled through a thorough system of deterrents, public and school education programmes and a completely revamped and energised criminal justice system.

Underpinning the strategy is a clearly evident commitment by the various departments to come up with a co-ordinated approach that cuts across the criminal justice system.

The plan, to be unveiled tomorrow, also argues for a review of priorities in resource allocation to meet the public needs and expectations about crime.

It states that affirmative action is essential to building legitimacy within the criminal justice system.

It also states that it is "vitally important" that the system be seen to be effective, and "equally imperative" that it is transparent, accountable and humane and upholds the fundamental rights of all population groups.

Greater engagement with community concerns is highlighted in the document.
enduring disorder strategy is vital for success of crime
New anti-crime strategy unveiled

POLITICAL STAFF

ACTING President Thabo Mbeki yesterday unveiled a government plan to combat crime, a problem which the government believes "poses a serious threat to our emergent democracy".

Flanked by Deputy President F W de Klerk and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Mbeki said the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) had been approved at yesterday's fortnightly Cabinet meeting.

The document, which draws together a range of government departments to develop a holistic approach to crime fighting, has been a year in the making and is the first comprehensive plan to halt the crime wave.

It signals a new approach in policing — from crime control to crime prevention — and highlights seven areas of crime that will come under scrutiny.

These are crimes involving firearms; organised crime; white collar crime; gender violence and crimes against children; violence associated with inter-group conflict; vehicle theft and hijacking; and corruption within the criminal justice system.

Mbeki said the plan was one of the six pillars of the government's national growth and development strategy and set out a long-term vision of dealing with crime in conjunction with short- and medium-term measures.

The strategy was welcomed by most political parties yesterday. The ANC said in a statement that the NCPS was a "quantum leap forward in the ongoing fight against crime".

"A well-rounded strategy capable of preventing crime in the long term is far more valuable to South Africa than hastily-prepared measures which are piecemeal and unsustainable," said Deputy President F W de Klerk.

Deputy President F W de Klerk also welcomed the NCPS.

"Crime and violence have been hanging like a dark shadow over our country for much too long," De Klerk said.

He said the NP would give the NCPS all its support, but would watch over its implementation like hawks.

Buthelezi said the IFP endorsed the plan and he would do everything in his power as Home Affairs Minister to promote it.

But DP safety and security spokesman Mr Douglas Gibson, said he did not believe the NCPS "holds out any prospect of curbing crime in the near future". He said it was long on analysis and short on solutions.

The Business Against Crime Initiative welcomed the NCPS, saying it was a "major step towards a coherent government approach on the prevention of crime".

The NCPS suggests a set of national programmes which will kickstart and focus the efforts of government departments.

It highlights crime intelligence as being central to a successful crime-fighting effort.
New plan to foil criminals

SCHOOL-based education against crime and security features for new mass housing developments are among the initiatives the government is considering as part of the long-awaited National Crime Prevention Strategy which has been adopted by the cabinet.

The cabinet approved the strategy yesterday, 14 months after its initiation, and warned that high levels of crime posed a serious threat to democracy.

"This is not a philosophical dream we are trying to project," Acting President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday as he unveiled the new strategy at a media conference where he was flanked by Deputy President F W de Klerk and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Mr Mbeki said the strategy was a long-term vision of how the government intended to deal with crime, but it also encompassed short-term and medium-term measures, some of which were being implemented by the criminal justice departments.

De Klerk said violent crime had been "hanging over our country like a dark shadow" for far too long, and the new strategy was as comprehensive as the National Party had wanted it to be.

He said his party did, however, have a few misgivings, such as the omission of the death penalty as an option in extreme cases.

Chief Buthelezi also welcomed the new strategy, saying crime represented the greatest threat to economic progress.

The African National Congress and the Freedom Front supported the strategy, but the Democratic Party voiced disappointment, and said there was no real prospect of crime being curbed soon.

The strategy prioritised seven key crime categories which are already being given special attention by the police, defence force, the National Intelligence Co-ordination Committee and the departments of justice, correctional services and welfare.

The categories are:
- Crimes involving firearms - to be addressed through an inter-agency effort to improve the legislative controls of firearms, track smuggling routes and tighten controls on state-owned weapons, and restrict illegal importation of arms.
- Organised crime - being targeted through focused intelligence-gathering on crime syndicates and gangs.
- White-collar crime - scrutiny to include the introduction of laws to curb money laundering, special co-operation between police and business, as well as a programme by business to develop codes of conduct within the private sector.
- Gender violence and crimes against children - being addressed through the establishment of specialised police units and the creation of victim aid centres offering assistance.
- Violence associated with inter-group conflict - a presidential task team to address violence in KwaZulu-Natal is co-ordinating intelligence gathering, and another task team is supporting the cabinet committee on taxi violence.
- Vehicle theft and hijacking - short-term strategies are the introduction of vehicle tracking systems, partnerships to mobilise the community to help locate stolen vehicles, and the establishment of a border control unit.
- Corruption - police anti-corruption units are being set up at national and provincial level and an independent complaints directorate will process complaints from the public.

Jeanine Rauch, convener of the Secretariat for Safety and Security, said there was roughly a 50-50 split between measures that were already being implemented, and those that had yet to be developed.

One of the anticipated actions would be to promote the design of urban development, transport systems, residential buildings and complexes, shopping centres and residential areas in ways that would reduce the opportunities for crime.

So, for example, new housing estates that required state funding would have to have adequate street lighting so that women and other vulnerable groups could move about safely at night.

At schools, video training would be used to educate children about respect for the rule of law, the legislative process and human rights.
New tactics to roll back crime

Cabinet approves strategy that was year in making to change focus of police from control to prevention in seven critical areas, including firearms and white collar offences

BY PATRICK BULGER
Cape Town

Acting President Thabo Mbeki has unveiled a masterplan to combat crime, a problem which the Government believes "poses a serious threat to our emergent democracy".

Planked by Deputy President F W de Klerk and Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Mbeki said yesterday that the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) had been approved at the fortnightly meeting of the Cabinet.

The document, which draws together a range of government departments to fight crime and develop a holistic approach to the problem, was a year in the making and is the first comprehensive national plan to "roll back the crime wave".

It signals a new approach to policing - from crime control to crime prevention - and highlights seven areas of crime that will be under scrutiny.

These are: crimes involving firearms, organised crime, white-collar crime, gender violence and crimes against children, violence associated with intergroup conflict, vehicle theft and hijacking.

Thabo Mbeki said he had "inherited a terrible legacy" from the crime and corruption within the criminal justice system.

Mbeki said the plan was one of the six pillars of the Government's National Growth and Development Strategy and set out a long-term vision of dealing with crime in conjunction with short and medium-term measures.

"Crime is not something new in our country. It is a public knowledge that our democratic Government inherited a terrible legacy from our past, of which crime is just one aspect," Mbeki said in a statement.

The NCPS identifies four pillars of a co-ordinated strategy against crime: the criminal justice system, environmental design, public values and education, and transnational crime.

The directors-general of several government departments will monitor and implement the NCPS.

The strategy was welcomed by most political parties.

The ANC said in a statement the NCPS was a "quantum leap forward in the ongoing fight against crime".

"A well-rounded strategy capable of preventing crime in the long term is far more valuable to South Africa than hastily prepared measures which are piecemeal and unsustainable," the party said.

National Party leader De Klerk also approved.

"Crime and violence have been hanging like a dark shadow over our country for much too long," he said, adding the NP would give the NCPS all its support but would watch over its implementation "like a hawk".

Buthelezi said the IFP endorsed the plan and he would do everything in his power as home affairs minister to promote it.

> ... To Page 2
Illegal aliens ‘fuel crime rate’

CRIME WRITER

The ANC has called for the immediate redeployment of police members to South Africa’s borders after a report that the lack of adequate border control is a major contributor to the staggering crime rate.

Police have told the safety and security portfolio committee that illegal immigrants are involved in about 14% of all serious crimes. There are an estimated 5.5 million illegal immigrants in this country.

Last year less than three percent of these were traced and repatriated, divisional commissioner Daan le Roux told the committee. Police are currently deployed at only two out of 350 registered airports.

Firearms, illicit drugs and hijacked cars are being smuggled across the borders with alarming ease, he said.

State plan to improve women’s health

WOMEN around the world yesterday remembered women who had died during childbirth and from other women’s health problems, as part of the Day of Action for Women’s Health.

Welfare Minister-designate Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi announced the government had embarked on a wide range of programmes to improve women’s lives.

They focus on building self-esteem, providing education and employment, preventing violence and promoting secure family and community life. She also congratulated the Women’s Health Project on the launch of the South African Women’s Health Book. — Health Writer
South Africa 'a country where you can literally get away with murder'

PRETORIA: Almost 18,000 murders in South Africa remained unsolved, police said this week.

The figure was an accumulated one, and included murders committed as far back as the 1920s, National Crime Investigation Services spokesman Senior Superintendent Faizel Kader said.

Experts said the total was unacceptably high and blamed the country's "ineffective" judicial system.

"South Africa has to a large extent become a country where you can literally get away with murder," University of SA criminologist Professor Johan Prinsloo said. "If you look at statistics, you have at least a 50% chance of getting away."

Of 5,519 people prosecuted for murder in 1993/1994, 3,588 had been found guilty, just over 50%.

"The others (accused) just disappeared," Prinsloo charged.

The murder conviction rate for 1992/1993 was 53%.

Ms Lorraine Glanz of the Human Sciences Research Council said police claimed 64% of the 18,983 murders reported last year had been solved.

"This compares well with the 66% in America for 1993, but what is disturbing are the discrepancies between the murder rate, the percentage that go to court and the percentage finally convicted," she said.

Prinsloo cited the recent case against "Kaarloet Thysie" de Villiers, charged with murdering former CCB member André Krooper in May last year — as an example of "police not doing their work properly."

De Villiers was acquitted after presiding judge Mr Justice Smit criticised the conduct of investigating officer Const Dennis Jansie and described his evidence as "mendacious."

De Villiers had also been questioned in connection with another unsolved murder, that of Dutch Reformed Church moderator Prof Johan Heyns in November 1994.

Supt Kader stressed a murder docket was never closed. Once all avenues of a murder investigation had been exhausted, the docket was filed away and thereafter re-examined every two to three years. — Sepa
White-collar crime costs SA about R2,8-bn yearly

Police said accurate statistics were limited by the fact that some financial institutions were embarrassed to report fraud

BY DEREK RODNEY
Crime Reporter

White-collar crime is continuing to sap the country's economy and, although a decrease was reported in 1995, police are still not convinced they have the measure of this form of crime.

Official police statistics released by the crime research component of the National Crime Information Management Centre reveal that white-collar criminals cost South Africa R2,79-billion in potential losses last year, a R1,9-billion decrease from 1994 figures. Similarly, 2,326 fewer cases were reported than the 53,441 cases investigated in 1994.

But while the significant drop in reported cases and amounts involved should be good news, SAPS analysts are guarded in their assessment of this apparent success.

Police said accurate statistics were limited in that many financial institutions and companies still refrained from reporting "embarrassing" fraud cases.

Also, criminals are increasingly making use of highly sophisticated methods to conduct their illicit business, thereby evading detection.

The centre's report attributed the apparent decline to two causes: good police work and under-reporting.

"The positive crime-combatting strategies employed by the SAPS, the private sector and other interested parties, as well as increased media coverage, have resulted in greater restraint being shown by white-collar criminals," the report stated.

The latter is reinforced in a study of the business community by KPMG International Forensic Accounting (SA), which said only one in five respondents had indicated that detected fraud had been reported to the police.

"A study undertaken by the department of criminology of the University of South Africa in 1994 indicated that more than half (55%) of all cases of employee fraud had not been reported to police," the report said.
Crows in uniform

The real facts on SA crime

6 SOUTH AFRICA

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Fivaz sounds alarm in war against crime

By PETER DE IONNO

The fight to turn back the rising tide of crime must be won this year, says Police Commissioner George Fivaz.

"You could call it a turning point for the nation," he said in an exclusive interview after a week of doom-laden police briefings to Parliament and claims by senior officers that crime was fast running out of control.

An average of 32 people were murdered every day, a rape was committed every 30 minutes, a car was stolen every nine minutes and an armed robbery was committed every 11 minutes, Commissioner Wouter Groen, head of the Crime Investigation Service, told the parliamentary safety and security committee.

He said detectives had dealt with two million serious crimes last year. Some investigators handled up to 30 case dockets at a time — more than their British counterparts would see in their entire careers.

"The burden of case dockets is unbearable," he said.

Coming hard on the heels of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's warning that South Africa's culture of crime, corruption and moral decay threatened the transition to democracy, the police grooms sounded like an admission of defeat.

Commissioner Fivaz refused to disclose details of a plan to be officially released on Thursday.

The first annual policing priorities plan, required by the new Police Act, is "the commissioner's ace. He will play it at a critical moment when all the cards appear stacked in favour of the criminals."

The release of the police plan will be preceded on Tuesday by a shock Nedcor report that says crime is costing the country more than R41-billion a year.

The survey of more than 4 000 households and businesses says violent crime in South Africa is more than five times higher than the international average and claims that 80 percent of households have experienced crime in the past two years.

The report says weaknesses in the police and the Justice Department have contributed to the increase in crime and the widespread belief that the government is not doing enough to crack down on criminals.

Commissioner Fivaz said the plan had the potential to transform both the effectiveness of the police and community-police relations.

"For too long we have had a situation where the criminal has run amok. We have let our citizens down. Our people have a fundamental right to be free of crime. The threat of crime has made people in many areas afraid and insecure, and we cannot allow that to go on," he said.

"I expect positive results and more stability by the end of the year. You cannot stop crime in three or four months, but I expect the rise in serious crimes to be flattened out very quickly."

"You have a number of factors working against you. You are not working under ideal conditions, there are socio-economic problems, high unemployment and widespread illiteracy work against this being a crime-free society. And we have an ingrained culture of violence. It is especially true in KwaZulu Natal,"

He said the success of the crime plan, with its emphasis on community policing and a policy of "hunting down criminals", required a "mind-shift" by police and the community alike.

"We are going to ask senior people inside and outside the police service to commit themselves publicly to making sure that this new approach works," Commissioner Fivaz said. "They will be responsible for implementing the plan and driving it home."

The "shotgun approach" of the past, in which the police went too thinly, allowing criminals to take the initiative, would be replaced by focusing resources on targeted areas or types of crime.

Commissioner Fivaz said his plan was closely linked to the government's National Crime Prevention Strategy, which co-ordinates programmes by the police and the Justice and Correctional Service departments."
Crime cost South Africa R31,3 bn

By Noxolo Kweze

CRIMINAL acts committed in South Africa last year cost the country more than R31,3 billion.

Nedcor chief executive Mr Richard Laubicher told a Press briefing in Johannesburg yesterday that this represented 18.02 percent of the 1996/7 national budget. Such statistics were alarming for a developing country like South Africa.

He said incidents of crime experienced by business were three times higher than crimes committed against individuals.

"For every 1 000 crimes committed, only 77 criminals are convicted with eight sentenced to two or more years imprisonment."

Eighty two percent of large corporations have been victims of crime over the past two years.

"Most of these crimes are robbery and burglary which make up to 60 percent followed by car hijackings with 39 percent," he said.

For a long-term crime prevention plan to be successful, short-term successes against crime have to be achieved first.

He said high levels of commitment from government, businesses and community were needed. There was also an urgent need to find effective methods of fighting crime.

Some of the methods business was proposing as a way forward included the expansion of the police force, re-introduction of death sentence, stiffer sentences, crime awareness campaigns and increasing the police budget.
Crime ‘ripping social and psychological fabric of SA’

Stephen Laubscher

CRIME and violence are exacting a huge human and financial toll and South Africans regard this as SA’s biggest challenge despite a more sanguine attitude by foreign investors, a Nedcor study shows.

Children and teenagers suffer most, the survey by a team under Wits University management school dean Prof Robin Lee indicates. They are two-and-a-half times more likely to be raped than adults, with rape accounting for 59% of all incidents in which children and teenagers were victims.

Unlawful activity cost the country more than R31bn last year, equal to 18% of the current national budget or 5.6% of this year’s projected GDP. The losses were unsustainable, Lee said, threatening to wipe out any chance of achieving the 6% to 7% growth rate targeted by government.

Crimes against households had cost R1.7bn, against business R15.5bn and commercial crime had cost R12bn. At least one crime had been experienced by 18% of households last year.

More than 45% of South Africans see crime as the country’s most serious problem, way ahead of unemployment, regarded by 18% as most serious, political violence (7.6%), the need for economic growth (3.7%) and housing (3.6%). Similarly, 45% believe crime is increasing, while 22% think it has remained the same.

Nedcor CE Richard Laubscher said the study had been commissioned in a spirit of co-operation rather than criticism of government. Crime and violence were “tearing the social and psychological fabric” of SA, and there was a need to create a positive mood which was fundamental to growth.

Nedcor would continue to fund a crime-monitoring database which would track a variety of crimes to assess independently the SAPS’s and other government agencies’ progress. Figures would be released regularly.

Deputy Safety and Security Minister Joe Mathews said at the launch the statistics were stark confirmation of the crisis. Government had no illusions about the scale of the problem and welcomed publication of the statistics.

However, any discussion needed to consider the woefully inadequate reporting of the past. What appeared to be a dramatically higher incidence of some crimes might simply mean they were being reported more frequently.

Continued on Page 2

Crime

Continued from Page 1

Government should launch a national crime prevention communications programme, Lee said. It should be at least as large as programmes run to popularise the work of the Constitutional Assembly.

The Nedcor project had attempted to overcome shortcomings in official crime data by representative independent surveys of individuals and businesses, Lee said. Urban and rural areas and businesses of all sizes had been surveyed and he was confident that the figures given in the report were an accurate reflection of the situation in SA.

Hostel residents were most likely to have been affected by crime (33%), with residents of suburbs least directly affected (24%).

The 82-page report contains several suggestions to government, the SAPS and business on combating and preventing crime, many of which dovetail with government’s national crime prevention strategy.

See Page 14
Public fears war on crime 'already lost'

Survey reveals half of us expect to be victims sooner or later: but investors more worried about political violence

BY ANGE THOM

Crime Reporter

Battle-weary citizens are giving up on the unending fight against crime which cost households R1.7-billion last year and the country R31.1-billion, according to an authoritative comprehensive report released yesterday.

The Nedcor Project on Crime Violence and Investment's report that 68% of the population believe nothing can be done to prevent crime. And children are increasingly victims, with incidents of child rape rising sharply.

The report was released by Prof Robin Lee on the eve of today's presentation of a national growth and development strategy to Cabinet.

However, the project found that common crime was not a significant factor influencing foreign investment decisions. European and US companies interviewed for the survey found it was political violence, specifically in KwaZulu/Natal, that was of greater concern.

Lee said it was the first time in 20 years that surveys had reflected crime to be a greater problem than unemployment, education and housing.

Lee also said the project warned that the government's perceived inability to deal with crime and violence represented its greatest challenge to date.

The first step towards a culture of crime becoming thoroughly meshed in the structures of society is when the population becomes apathetic towards crime,” Lee said.

Safety and Security deputy minister Joe Matthews welcomed the project as an "intellectual and intelligent response to the crime problem”.

He said the report was a stark confirmation of the problem and "may even be worse than reported. All of us have a distinct feeling things are getting out of hand, but the Government has no illusions on the scale of the challenge."

The conclusion that crime was viewed as "here to stay" was drawn from about 68% respondents saying "nothing could be done about crime". About 28% said additional security, weapons and/or insurance might have an impact while 2% said they were considering emigrating.

The study also showed that a high percentage of the population now believed they were vulnerable to crime - 18.8% felt it was highly probable they would be a victim of crime, while almost 50% more believed it was probable.

The report makes a number of urgent recommendations to reverse the spiral, most importantly urging the Government to state unequivocally that effective crime prevention, and the control of violence associated with crime, was its single most important priority - and act on it.

The report recommends the Government makes crime prevention and control a Presidential responsibility exercised through a Crime and Violence Prevention office and calls for greater financial resources.

It further says:

- The government should dramatically accelerate implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS).
- The office should assist all metropolitan and local authorities in creating public/private sector "crime prevention funds", with contributions from Government, business, funding agencies in SA and abroad, as well as individual citizens.
- The President should personally give top priority to the improvement of the criminal justice system.
- A programme should be implemented to boost the retention of experienced staff in the criminal justice system.
- Public prosecutor, experienced judges and...
SA losing its fight against crime, says new report

68% of survey respondents say ‘nothing can be done’

JOHANNESBURG. – Crime has become a way of life and South Africa is giving up the fight, believing the war is lost, according to an authoritative report.

“The first step towards a culture of crime becoming thoroughly meshed in the structures of society is when the population becomes apathetic towards crime,” said Robin Lee, leader of the Nedcor Project on Crime, Violence and Investment when the study was released yesterday.

The project – a survey among 2,168 scientifically selected adults of all races and including city dwellers and rural residents – identified crime as South Africa’s single biggest problem and called on the government to recognise it as such.

The conclusion that crime was “here to stay” was drawn from about 86 percent of respondents saying “nothing could be done about it”.

About 28 percent said additional security, weapons and/or insurance might have an impact while two percent said they were considering emigrating.

The report made urgent recommendations to reverse the spiral, most importantly urging the government to state unequivocally that effective crime prevention was its priority – and acting on it.

The report recommended that:

- The government makes crime prevention and control a presidential accountability, exercised through a Crime and Violence Prevention office.
- There should be an increase in financial resources available to departments in the criminal justice system and crime prevention agencies.
- A national communications programme should be launched to emphasise the need for universal participation in crime prevention.

The report also says:

- The government should dramatically accelerate implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS).
- The office should assist all metropolitan and local authorities in creating “crime prevention funds”, with contributions from government, business, funding agencies in South Africa and abroad, as well as individual citizens.
- The president should personally give priority to the improvement of the criminal justice system.

A programme should be implemented to boost the retention of experienced staff in the criminal justice system – public prosecutors, judges and magistrates – as well as increasing the rate of appointment of new experienced staff in all senior positions and using professionals on contract to alleviate staff shortages.

The strategic emphasis within the police should recognise that community policing could not produce short term results in specific crime and violence prevention.

The increased police salaries, training and professionalisation would have the effect of increasing the service’s numerical strength.

International experience indicated that cooperative programmes between the police and other stakeholders could be effective.

As far as possible, all administrative, computer, communications, logistical and other specifically non-professional police positions in the SA Police Service should be filled by civilians, releasing all police officers for specific policing duties.

International evidence indicated that increases in crime could be prevented and combated by use of state-of-the-art technology.

The government and the private sector should jointly establish and fund a National Crime Prevention Institute.

Business should identify one organisation only to represent it nationally and provincially in the NCPS.

Business should also enter into campaigns with other stakeholders to boost prevention on borders, prevent white collar crime and close all markets for stolen goods.

The Nedcor Project, which cost R3-million, took a year to complete, and supported the NCPS conclusion that virtually all government departments had roles to play in crime prevention.

Departments should be obliged to show in their annual plans and budgets exactly what they were doing in this regard.

Government lauds report on crime project

The government has applauded Nedcor’s project on crime, violence and investment as a valuable initiative and accepted criticism levelled at the state by the report.

Deputy Safety and Security Minister Joe Mathebula said the government considered Nedcor’s project to be a significant and well-reasoned analysis of the severe crime problem affecting all South Africans.

He said the analysis and conclusions reached in Nedcor’s study were in alignment with the government’s two-pronged attack on crime.

“The report correctly emphasises the complementary nature

of the Nedcor project with the short-term Police Plan, which is to be released by the National Commissioner of Police this week,” he said.

The report also complements the longer-term National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS), which was approved by the cabinet in May,” Mr Mathebula said.
Counting the cost victims pay

IN the survey, people who had been victims of crime were questioned in detail about the costs of the most recent instance of crime of which they personally had been the victim.

They were asked to take into account loss of earnings, medical costs and costs of extra insurance, as well as the losses through theft. They were then asked to estimate the costs of all the other crimes committed against persons in the same household since the beginning of 1995.

After the results had been applied to the entire population as estimated for 1995, the costs of the crime committed in the first eight months of 1995 amounted to R1.7 billion.

This figure of nearly R2 billion in eight months amounts to a hefty public “tax”. This would amount to an average of over R40 per adult person in the country. These are, however, “ballpark” figures.

Among people with household incomes of less than R500 a month, nearly 80% felt nothing could be done.

Disturbing is the fact that among independent professionals nearly 90% said they were considering leaving the country because of crime. And among respondents with incomes of R2 500 a month and over, some 28% had acquired a weapon, a figure that reached 21% among whites.
Handling of police, justice crises blamed

THE new government's handling of the police and Justice Department's funding and staffing crises must be seen as having contributed to the rate at which crime has increased since 1994, the report said.

In the Department of Justice, internal appointment policies have led to grave staff shortages, the resignation of experienced staff and a failure to function successfully in many areas.

As a result, the conviction rate is low and many criminals are freed for a lack of a coherent case against them.

As criminals perceive that their chances of being convicted are becoming slimmer, they are likely to continue or increase their criminal activities. This applies especially to organised crime syndicates that have access to data and can calculate the low chance of their being convicted.

In the case of the South African Police Service, extremely low salaries, violent working conditions, understaffing, community scepticism and other factors have led to many resignations and, in turn, to low rates of detection and arrest.

According to one commentator, even the real increase in the police budget for 1996/1997 does not mean that the SAPS will be able to hire more staff.

The "criminal justice funnel" shows up the weaknesses in the criminal justice process. On average, of 430 criminals arrested, only 77 are convicted and, in spite the huge number of serious crimes of violence committed, only eight are sentenced to two or more years of imprisonment.

Further, it is estimated that South Africa has a 94% recidivism rate—that is, 94% of all persons released after serving a sentence become involved in crime again. Only one of the eight gives up criminal activity.
Johannesburg — Last year crime cost South Africa R31.3 billion, or 5.6 percent of this year's estimated GDP, threatening the country's future economic growth and social stability, Nedcor said yesterday.

"Crime is tending to tear the social and psychological environment," said Richard Laubscher, Nedcor's chief executive, who released a comprehensive research project on crime, violence and investment that was sponsored by the bank.

Robin Lee, the chairman of the report's research panel and dean of the Wits management faculty, said the report highlighted not only the escalating incidence of crime but also the low efficiency of the criminal-justice system.

"It shows a relentless rise in the levels of crime and violence in our society... as well as a (criminal's) relatively low chance of (being) arrested, convicted and imprisoned," he said.

For each 1,000 crimes committed last year, only 450 were reported, leading to the imprisonment of 36 criminals, of whom only eight served a prison term of two years or longer. In addition, 94 percent of those criminals who did serve prison sentences were convicted and imprisoned for a
Govt warned to curb crime or sink

CRIME IS SOUTH AFRICA'S most serious problem and order if the government fails to take urgent steps to deal with it, according to an in-depth study of the problem.

Crime Writer JACKIE CAMERON reports:

The report also warns that time is running out. "Our society is in a situation where crime and crime are so thoroughly entrenched that it is impossible to see a way out," the report says. The Police Commissioner George Fuzza, in his statement, said the government needs to take immediate action to curb the problem.

Meanwhile, the report also highlights the need for improved services and community policing. It calls for a re-examination of the National Police Service, which is expected to be substantially addressed in the government's coming years.
The following figure illustrates the United States and Mexico's role in drug trafficking.

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<th>Year</th>
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According to a major study on crime in South America, one-third of the country's violent crime is committed by the government.

**Graph:**

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<td>Colombia</td>
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**Figure:**

The following figure illustrates the United States and Mexico's role in drug trafficking.

**Figure:**

- **United States:** 50%
- **Mexico:** 50%
- **Overall:** 100%

**Figure:**

- **United States:** 10%
- **Mexico:** 9%
- **Overall:** 19%

**Figure:**

- **United States:** 5%
- **Mexico:** 4%
- **Overall:** 9%

**Figure:**

- **United States:** 1%
- **Mexico:** 0%
Iron Fist unveiled for total war on crime

42 task forces set up to track down SA's 10,000 most wanted criminals: courts ordered to set tougher bail conditions

By Derek Sloane and Patrick Bulger

Thousands of hardened criminals will be targeted in the long-awaited "Iron Fist" police plan unveiled yesterday--and Justice Minister Duluth Omar has called on magistrates not to grant bail to dangerous suspects.

Police National Commissioner George Fieza, supported by SAPS senior management, yesterday announced a "very aggressive" police plan, saying he took responsibility for the finest and most decisive actions in order to prevent a slide to anarchy.

 Gauteng Commissioner Shara Maharaj said the plan had already started rolling in the province with a number of crackdowns in and around Johannesburg, codenamed Operation Rookit.

"Everything is in place and we have already started a number of operations although we tried to keep a low profile until the commissioner's announcement, but now the real work starts," he said.

In Parliament yesterday, Omar moved to allay fears that a different justice system --particularly the easy manner in which suspects are given bail-- could be the downfall of anti-crime strategies.

"I have said and I will again call on magistrates not to release violent criminal accused if they were a danger to the public.

"People who commit crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, etc., should not be let loose on the public.

"The interest of the community in such situations overrides the right of the individual." The constitution gives all accused the right to bail, but legislation introduced last year sought to close any loopholes in the judicial interpretation of the relevant clause.

The plan consists of a two-pronged "sword and shield" approach in which police, closely supported by other state departments in the framework of the National Crime Prevention Strategy, will take the offensive by immediately hunting down 10,000 of the country's most wanted criminals inside the first month.

The "sword" is the mobile striking force of the SAPS in which specialised units dealing mainly (but not exclusively) with identified priority crimes will hunt down criminals.

Priority crimes include hijacking and other vehicle-related crimes, gang-related crimes, taxi violence, possession and trafficking in illegal weapons and drugs, political assassinations, and robberies.

Simultaneously, the "shield" will protect communities by aggressively taking back and dominating streets and rural areas.

"The SAPS will take the initiative from the criminals by turning them--and not law-abiding citizens--into prey to be hunted," Fieza said at a briefing in Pretoria.

In a detailed briefing, National Standards and Management Service head Divisional Commissioner Andile Fruks sketched the operational (on the ground) layout of the plan, which includes:

- The establishment of 42 additional task forces to trace and arrest 10,000 of the country's most wanted suspects by July 31.
- Introduction of hi-tech electronic and camera surveillance of certain central business districts in SA, nationwide computerised fingerprinting and vehicle-tracking systems.
- Partnership policing with sectors such as the agricultural, hawker and security industries.
- Breaking down police station areas into sectors as part of the National Safety Network with areas of up to 10,000 sector average.
- A fifth police black operational unit to focus public's attention on specific problem areas such as drugs, hijackings, child abuse, and political assassinations.
- The hunting down of criminals within the police. About 180 members had so far been arrested and another 500 cases were under investigation.
- Increased co-operation with the SANDF, particularly helicopters from the air force.
- Discussions with the Government to ask for the lifting of the moratorium on recruiting new staff. Parliament would also be approached for more funds.
- Mobile mini police stations will be built into shipping containers, complete with a holding cell, communications, and charge office.

Fieza's blunt warning re-emphasised a cautious response from National Safety and Security Secretary head Ashwin Chadha.

"Although welcomed by the announcement, I am cautious about expectations and wary of secret implementation of the plan closely to ensure that the police do not infringe on the rights of all citizens."

--Over Correspondent

Our hero: Everest conqueror Cathy O'Dowd is welcomed home by girls from her old school, leader Ian Woodall and other members of the first successful SA expedition. The children showered world's highest mountain.

Marketing 'ambush' hangs over Comrades

Angry fingers were being wagged early today as a marketing play threatened Monday's Comrades Marathon which could, in certain circumstances, lead to many disqualifications.

The row started when sports goods company Nike SA announced it would raise cash during the marathon to help the South African team to compete in the Atlanta Paralympic Games.

The company pledged a R25 sponsorship to the team for every Comrades runner who crossed the finish line in Pietermaritzburg with the company's "swoosh" logo on their face.

However, the Comrades SA to cancel the campaign as could infringe the advertising code of the International Amateurs Athletics Federation.

The plan also becomes a class of interests with one of the CMA product sponsors, Reebok, say CMA vice-chairman Adria Stowell.

"The CMA have no objection to the raising of money for such a good cause but when it comes to wearing a logo like that, it is in conflict with the commercial interests of the race and the IAA rules on advertising."

The CMA are fixed with tricky problem because if the plan goes ahead, thousands of runners wear stickers on their faces is not hard to imagine how much
Stephanie Bothma

PRETORIA — A back-to-basics policing plan, starting with the hunting down of the 10,000 most wanted criminals in 90 days, was unveiled by SAPS national commissioner George Fivaz yesterday.

The plan would simultaneously protect communities by taking back and dominating the streets and rural areas and by deflecting cross-border and illegal immigration crime, he said.

The tightening of the police force’s stranglehold, both physical and psychological, of crime on SA must be broken now if our democracy and economy are to survive and prosper. The only way to do this is to take decisive action against crime.

The SAPS will have to take the initiative from the criminals by turning them and not the other way around.

Primary objectives include reducing car hijacking, violent crime, illegal possession, organised crime and police corruption.

The SAPS would form alliances with sectors such as business and agriculture, the security industry and hawkers. Intelligence gathering would be key. A team of 10,000 new recruits would be needed to fill the numbers. These would be the SAPS’ 257 special branch. The plan includes establishing 42 additional SAPS task forces.

The plan includes a focus on permanent presence rather than task force operations.

Emphasis on permanent presence rather than task force operations.

Units at police stations and special branches appointed to SA’s 1,000 police stations to manage crime.

Monthly Sweeping operations in every police station area and joint operations every three months.

Urban, rural, border, regional and international safety networks, such as electronic and camera surveillance of certain CBD areas.
As Fivaz delivers his plan this week, police task forces, working closely with crime intelligence, were engaged in an intensive operation to hunt down the 237 000 people on the police "wanted" list. That may sound good, but the results could be chaotic. "If we arrest even 50 000...can Justice and Prisons cope?" asks police strategy chief Divisional Commissioner Andre Pruis rhetorically, knowing that the answer is no.

Even if the police manage to overcome their own handicaps (shortage of trained manpower, low morale, corruption, old methods), the next links in the chain — prosecution, courts and prisons — are swamped and ill-equipped to perform even their present routine tasks.

Nor can the police. Ironically, when Pruis met journalists last week to brief them on the police plan, he did so at the SA Police Training College in Pretoria, which has been dormant more than a year because lack of funds has forced a moratorium on recruitment. So as policemen (mostly trained officers) leave the force at the rate of 10 a day, there is no new blood to fill the gaps.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy prioritises the need to improve coordination, not only within the criminal justice system, but across the spectrum of government departments to fight crime's social causes. Justice Minister Dullah Omar outlined the challenge succinctly this week when he said the key reason for SA's high crime rate is "a lack of deterrence." HSRC criminologist Lorraine Glanz estimates that barely 48% of every 1 000 offences are reported to the police, who "solve" roughly half, of which less than half come to court, ending up with only eight criminals being imprisoned for two years or more.

Fivaz's plan focuses mainly on the need to: improve the quality of the police service; reduce violent crimes; restrict organised crime, drugs, gun-smuggling and border crime; reduce hijackings; improve fingerprint technology; combat police corruption; raise the capacity of commercial police; target syndicates and develop commercial crime skills; boost crime intelligence; intensify police training and improve distribution of resources within the police service.

None of this, however, can hope to strike at the root causes of crime or high rate of recidivism. The Nедcor Project finds that 94% of released prisoners return to crime immediately.

One of the project's most interesting findings is that even high levels of "primary" crime do not give rise to "secondary" crime.
Fiyaz, arrested 10,000 plan slammed by crime experts

The Director of the Institute of Crime Prevention predicts that the new police plan, which involves arresting 10,000 people, will not be effective. He believes that crime rates will continue to rise if the same methods are used. The Institute's experts argue that a more comprehensive approach is necessary. They recommend focusing on community outreach and education to prevent crime before it occurs.
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Notes:
- Flights operate on a daily basis.
- Please check the schedule for any changes.
- Travel insurance is recommended.
Improved SA conviction rate demanded

Scientific Research Council researcher Lorraine Glanz has warned.
In an article in Indi- cate SA magazine's au-
tumn edition, she said that while the number of crimes reported to the
SA Police Service in-
creased each year, the
number of convictions
obtained decreased.
Thus no matter how
efficiently police pre-
vented crime, serious at-
tention would have to be
paid to the functioning of
police investigative arms
and the courts to enable
the system to cope.
She said the problem
of poor conviction and
sentencing rates began
with detectives' cases-
loads being so great that
many cases could not be
investigated adequately.
This led to a drop in the
number of cases solved,
inadequate gathering of
evidence and shoddy
preparation of cases.
Statistics showed the
proportion of cases
solved by police had
dropped from 71% in
1975 to 51% in 1993.
The President's message on the reorganization of the HUD office to the department, the key, says the Secretary of the Department, to the Office of the President. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department. The Secretary of the Department, the Office of the President, is to be the Department, the Office of the President, to the Department.
POLICE investigations have found that it is "laughably easy" for criminals to drive stolen and hijacked vehicles out of the country.

According to a confidential document drawn up by the Pretoria murder and robbery unit, the payment of bribes at border posts is "the order of the day".

And the recipients are not only customs officials. South African policemen found to have been taking bribes are still at their posts.

A South African farmer from Dendron told undercover police he had been smuggling tons of crayfish and prawns into the country from Mozambique over the past three years. His biggest expense, he said, was the R2 000 he paid in bribes at the border posts.

But most of the time bribes are not needed. The commander of the vehicle theft unit at the Beit Bridge border post between South Africa and Zimbabwe admitted that no trucks were checked or cargoes searched because of a manpower shortage. Nor did his men know how to look for identifying marks such as engine and chassis numbers, he said.

Out of 97 vehicles with South African number plates stopped in a five-day period in Mozambique in March, more than half had been stolen and hijacked from South Africa, or had false registrations.

A report by Senior Superintendent Henk Hastings said a police investigation in May found that none of the trucks moving across the border to Zimbabwe were being checked, and none of their registration documents were being examined.

On the Zimbabwean side of the border police found two vehicles which had just come from South Africa with false registration numbers.

During an investigation in Mozambique in March, police found that only six out of 152 vehicles from South Africa were recorded as having passed through South African border posts.

During another investigation in the same country in March, police found that 141 vehicles out of 316 from South Africa had false registration numbers. Twenty-two had been stolen or hijacked from South Africa.

Police put a value of R124-million on trucks they identified as having been stolen and hijacked in South Africa during their investigations in March and May.

According to a police informant, who took part in the investigations, a value of R40-million has been put on cars identified in the same period as having been stolen and hijacked.

From pictures, a South African businessman identified six trucks worth R1,5-million which had been stolen from his rental company.

During a two-hour trip from Mozambique to Malawi, police checked the details of 18 vehicles, and found eight of them had false registrations or had been stolen in South Africa.

According to the informant, Zambia is "the mecca" for turning over stolen vehicles from South Africa. There is no policing along the routes from the republic into the rest of Africa, the report says.

Out of 20 vehicles stopped in and around Lusaka, 13 had false registration numbers or had been stolen in South Africa. According to the police informant, up to 80 percent of all vehicles in Lusaka are stolen from South Africa.

Once out of South Africa, little attempt is made to disguise the stolen vehicles. They are spray-painted, but all other identifying features such as licence discs, stickers, engine and chassis numbers, are left on. Fictitious registration numbers are often hand-painted on the vehicles.

Police Commissioner George Pivaz said he had only just received the report by Senior Superintendent Hastings, and had not had time to read it yet.
Fivaz denies allegations

Stephan Lauter

NATIONAL police commissioner George Fivaz yesterday denied he had failed to consult Justice Minister Dullah Omar on the police plan announced last week.

Fivaz was responding to a statement by Omar expressing “regret” that he had first come to know of the plan through the media.

Omar said last night his concern was for interdepartmental co-operation in the interest of the success of the plan.

The police plan required joint implementation meetings by the heads of the departments involved. No such meeting had taken place prior to the police plan’s announcement.

In a separate development, Fivaz announced the installation of an electronic mail link between the 11 members of the southern African regional police chiefs co-operation organisation.

Saps reports that Fivaz reassured SAPS members they would receive their improved pay packages from July as announced. Rumours of delays were unfounded.

Crime statistics incorrect, says ANC group

By Charles Schulz

CAPE TOWN — SA crime statistics are not accurate and politicians and “opinion makers” who sensationalise these statistics undermine the work done by the police, the ANC study group on safety and security says.

ANC MP Jenny Schreiner, addressing a news briefing on behalf of the chairman of the party’s study group, Linda Mtshweni, said the ANC was concerned about crime and any other party, but felt that “sensationalism and the whipping up of crime paranoia” was of no use to anyone.

She said the National Assembly’s committee on safety and security was perhaps the best briefed in Parliament and this was in the interests of getting the proper picture of crime rather than relying on inaccurate information.

Schreiner pointed out that crime statistics at present were always based on police statistics, and they were not the same thing.

Police statistics were “reported crime, but crime is broader than that.”

The ANC was, she said after a briefing on the national crime prevention strategy, considering a national survey of how crime affected people on the ground. This would involve interviewing people and finding out what their personal relationship with crime during a certain period had been.

Millions missing as feeding schemes starve

Drew Forrest

and Linda Ensor

AN AMOUNT of R4,1m had definitely disappeared from government feeding schemes in Mpumalanga and another R4,7m might have gone missing, an independent audit has found.

Saps reports that the primary school feeding scheme in the province has collapsed.

Mpumalanga health MEC KC Mashego said auditors Deloitte & Touche had found “actual errors” of R2,4m in the province’s school feeding programme during the 1994/95 and 1995/96 financial years. “Possible errors” amounted to a further R2,4m.

In the national nutrition and social development programme, a household feeding scheme, actual errors were R2,09m and possible errors R2,29m during the same period.

Mashego said his department had “radically revised” the management of feeding programmes, which would be audited and monitored at regional and provincial levels.

The disclosures came against the background of health director-general Olive Shisana’s concession in Parliament yesterday that there was inadequate provincial control over feeding schemes worth about R1bn.

Shisana told members of the public accounts standing committee the problems highlighted by the auditor-in-chief in his report for 1994/95 had not been sorted out completely.

There had been “quite a lot” of corruption initially in delivering the R400m household scheme and a number of irregularities occurred, mainly in the period of transition before control of the programme had been devolved to provinces.

Tenders for external forensic audits of the school programmes in Northern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Northern Province had already been called for, while Mpumalanga and Northwest were conducting their audits at provincial level.

The department’s financial officer, Denis Boschoff, said the biggest problems faced by the provinces with regard to the household scheme was a lack of trained monitoring staff.

The committee also heard that after 18 months no police action had been taken on the 26 cases of misappropriation of funds — 20 of them in Orange Farm, Gauteng — relating to the household programme.
Task force to look into lax border-post control

According to a police report, it is ‘laughably easy’ for criminals to drive stolen vehicles out of the country.

BY ANDI THOM
Crime Reporter

National police commissioner George Fivaz has appointed a special task force to look into the lack of tight controls at border posts where, according to a police report, it is “laughably easy” for criminals to drive stolen vehicles out of the country.

A spokesman for the commissioner says the investigation will also explore the bribery said to be “the order of the day” by the report and check the shortage of properly trained police at border posts.

“The police plan makes provision for liaison between police chiefs on a regional and international level which we hope will address the border problem,” said Supt Leon Engelbrecht.

He said the e-mail systems donated by Business Against Crime to 11 southern African countries working with SA Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation organisation would improve communication.

Pretoria Murder and Robbery commander Snr Supt Henk Hesslinga last week handed a report to Fivaz in which he addresses the massive problem experienced at some border posts.

Engelbrecht said it could not be denied that corruption existed among some police officers, but that the investigation would attempt to address this problem.

But, he added, more policemen were qualifying for promotion, leaving “no excuse for low police morale”.

“We will be coming down a lot harder on police corruption,” Engelbrecht added.

According to the report, a police investigation in May found that none of the trucks moving across the border to Zimbabwe was checked and none of the registration documents were being examined.

During an investigation in Mozambique two months earlier, police found that only six out of 152 vehicles from SA were recorded as having passed through the border.

Police also found 141 vehicles out of 318 from South Africa had false registration numbers, with 22 having been stolen from South Africa.

According to the report, Zambia is the mecca for stolen vehicles from South Africa. Out of 20 vehicles stopped in and around Lusaka, 13 had false registration numbers or had been stolen in South Africa.
Special police team to check on borders

Stephane Bothma

A SPECIAL police team has been appointed to investigate the lack of control at SA's borders, which allows hundreds of stolen or hijacked vehicles to leave the country undetected every year.

In addition, the shortage of properly trained policemen at border posts was also being addressed immediately, a spokesman for the office of the national police commissioner said yesterday.

"We cannot deny that corruption exists among some police officers stationed at border posts, but a special team has already been appointed to look into the matter," Supt Leon Engelbrecht said.

He was reacting to a police report handed to commissioner George Fivaz late last week in which Supt Henk Heslinga found it was "laughably easy" for criminals to drive stolen and hijacked vehicles out of the country.

The report stated that payment of bribes at border posts was the order of the day; that very few trucks or registration papers were being checked at certain borders; and that in some cases policemen were not properly trained to look for identifying markings such as engine and chassis numbers.

Engelbrecht said a major breakthrough for the SA Police Service had been the initiative last week by Business Against Crime in which an amount of R300 000 had been donated to link the police chiefs of 11 southern African countries by e-mail.

The Heslinga report states that during an investigation in Mozambique in March, police found that only six out of 152 vehicles from SA were recorded as having passed through border posts. Another investigation in the same country found that 141 vehicles out of 318 from SA had false registration numbers — 22 having been stolen or hijacked from SA.

Police put a value of R124m on trucks they identified as having been stolen or hijacked in SA during investigations in March and May.

According to the report, Zambia is the "mecca" for stolen vehicles from SA. Out of 20 vehicles stopped in and around Lusaka, 18 had false registration numbers or had been stolen in SA.

Engelbrecht said part of the plan announced by Fivaz was aimed at transferring police from low-crime areas to where they were needed most.
Foreign investment needs the issue when it comes to rampant crime.
SADC set to combat drug trafficking

Member states will review politics, defence and security development in SA

Immigration and police ministers from the Southern African Development Community opened three-day talks yesterday in the Botswana capital of Gaborone on combating drug-trafficking and free movement of its peoples in the region.

The meeting is to discuss draft protocols on the issues and will precede a heads of state meeting of the 12-member organisation, which includes South Africa, on Friday.

Friday’s meeting, which is also expected to focus on the mounting political tensions in Zambia, will launch the SADC’s body – "the security organ" – on politics, defence and security.

"The SADC leaders will also review developments in the region and internationally, with particular emphasis on matters relating to politics, defence and security in SA," the statement said.

The 12-member states of SADC are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Constitutional amendments passed by parliament and dominated by Chiluba’s ruling party, stops former President Kenneth Kaunda from contesting in the presidential elections later this year.

The amendments have triggered political turmoil and freezing of aid by overseas donors.

Sir Ketumile is the current SADC chairman.

SADC information officer Kgosinake Moesi said that the “security organ” would effectively combine the activities of the proposed sector for conflict resolution and management, the proposed Association of Southern African States (Asas) and the Frontline States.

It would be coordinated by one of the member states on a rotational basis.

- Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa and several MECs concluded a three-day state visit to Botswana yesterday where accords were reached, including the possible future inclusion of that country in the Mpumalanga-Mozambique-Swaziland-Botswana Corridor. — Sapa.
Police flatfooted on Fivaz plan

Johan Schrenken
Crime Reporter

THE police battle plan to combat rampant crime is faltering, with only two weeks remaining of the 30-day schedule for arresting South Africa's 10 000 most wanted criminals.

So far only a handful have been arrested. Police now say the goal of 10 000 arrests was "figurative".

By today, two weeks after national police commissioner George Fivaz announced his "Sword and Shield" onslaught on crime, no significant results had been released.

A target of 10 000 arrests within 30 days was set at the launch of the programme, but police were criticised for being "slow on the draw" and "secretive" after the initiative was announced.

A spokesman for police national headquarters admitted that HQ had been bombarded by "numerous" media inquiries and letters criticising the plan.

But police said there was "nothing sinister" about the operation and explained that the target of arresting the 10 000 most wanted criminals should not be taken too literally.

Commissioner Fivaz's original announcement indicated there were 10 000 identified criminals who were to be nabbed within one month. After "numerous media inquiries" he qualified his statement by saying the "most wanted" criminals were suspects who at "any given time" were being sought for serious crimes and could not be limited to a fixed list.

In the Western Cape, police have established four task teams to focus on priority crime areas.
Bank robberies on the increase

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

Bank robberies throughout South Africa have not decreased. A staggering 137 bank robberies occurred last year while 44 have taken place in the first three months of this year, Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sydney Mufamadi said yesterday.

While statistics on the crime have not changed much, the ways that robberies are carried out vary.

According to Mufamadi, one of the most common ways used by the robbers was overpowering security guards.

"The perpetrators wait for security guards to open the premises' doors at the time scheduled to start business. They then usually push the guard inside the premises and order the personnel to lie down on the floor and keep quiet."

"The assailants then jump over the counter and force the personnel to hand over all the money in the cash drawers," he said.

Another common method was for the assailants to pretend to be customers and do one of two things.

They either stand in the queue and hand over a threatening note or they simply point a gun at the persons on the opposite side of the counter and carry out the crime.

He said the police had learnt that the robbers seldom wear disguises outside the banks. They only put the disguises on when they enter the premises.

Gang of robbers

A gang of bank robbers, Mufamadi said, normally comprised between four and seven people who generally used 9mm guns and AK-47 rifles. Occasionally, they also used grenades.

Of the cases already reported for last year and this year, the police do not as policy, provide the amounts of money stolen.

"Institutions concerned are reluctant to divulge such information for fear of stimulating this type of crime and harming their professional image," the minister said.

Gauteng was worst hit with 76 robberies taking place between January 1995 and April this year.

In KwaZulu-Natal 53 robberies occurred - making it the second hardest hit province.

Only one robbery was reported in Northern Cape over the same period while none occurred in the Northern Province, he revealed. The Western Cape had three while 31 occurred in the Eastern Cape, six each in the Free State and North West and five in Mpumalanga.

However, violence was not as prevalent in bank robberies. "Research has indicated that violence is more prevalent during robberies of cash in transit and that such robberies are accompanied by a higher mortality rate than bank robberies." He said that available figures were not a true reflection of the mortality rate and financial losses that accompany bank robberies. This also applies to the number of arrests that have been made.
Crackdown on syndicate crime

WHILE COLAR crime is undermining the economy and

(3) OR 28/6/1996

FINANCIAL TIMES

SECRET OF THE SEA UNRAVELLED

By Françoise Béthiau and Owen Grimes
White collar crime crackdown

From Page 1

The national police and the National Investigation Division of the South African Revenue Services said at a press briefing yesterday that 96 fake bills of entry had been discovered by the unit. The bills contained false declarations, produced by a "document broker", had been accepted by container operating companies to secure the release of 116 containers, without any duties being paid on the imports.

Only 11 containers were seized in the raid.

Goods from the remaining 105 containers had already been distributed around the country. The loss to the Revenue Services could total more than R100 million, Beets said.

"The importer did not even pay a small part of the wharfage, customs duty or VAT owing. In fact, he paid nothing," he said.

The containers, including those which escaped customs officials, contained textiles weighing more than 493 tons, 350,388 pairs of shoes, over 90,000 pairs of clothing and four containers of household appliances, including electronic goods, plastic kitchenware and glassware.

Papers for the imported goods, which are used to calculate the import duty and VAT payable to the state, reflected false values. The shoes, which are estimated to have a wholesale value of more than R10 million, were said to be worth R815,604, or R1,353 a pair.

Beets said that the discovery of the scam forced the department to reconstruct the trail of the goods from their overseas suppliers, through the freight forwarding and shipping agents and took more than four months to complete.

It was also found that the stamp currently being used by Portnet on various import documents had been duplicated by the document broker.

Beets said that information obtained during the course of the operation indicated that further investigation would have to be undertaken in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.
By CHRIS BARRON

THREE days after the Sunday Times ran a major article on the lack of control at South African border posts, a stolen Engen petrol tanker with false Mozambique number plates passed through the Lebombo border post into Mozambique, one day after it had been reported hijacked.

Police arrested the original driver of the fully laden truck and trailer on Tuesday, after he claimed he had been hijacked by five armed men. Members of the police truck hijacking unit recovered the trailer the same day near Bapsfontein in Gauteng.

They found that the 58 000l of petrol the trailer had been carrying had been delivered to a petrol station in nearby Tembisa.

But the truck itself, valued at R1.1-million, was driven through the border post the next day.

The driver appeared in court on Friday to answer charges that he had sold the truck and trailer with its R70 000 load to the "hijackers". Police say he was due to be paid about R15 000.

Last week the Sunday Times quoted a confidential police document to the effect that the lack of border controls made it "laughably easy" for criminals to drive stolen and hijacked vehicles into neighbouring countries.

According to the document, bribery at border posts was "the order of the day".
BRAGGING LEADS TO RECAPTURE

‘Klopijag’ brigade hunts down parole-breakers

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES has its own force to bring back prisoners who abscond on parole. Crime Writer JACKIE CAMERON reports on how they operate.

It’s a chilly 1am. The group of khaki-clad men with bullet-proof vests and pistols surround the neatly painted Claremont house swiftly and silently. One man bangs on the front door, while another finds the back entrance unlocked. There is no reply, so they storm through the back door and into a bedroom, to find the man they are looking for waking in a daze.

“Correctional Services. We have a warrant here for your arrest. You have failed to comply with your correctional supervision conditions. You must come along with us. Do you understand me?”

A concerned older man, who was sharing the bed with the wanted man, pipes up: “Can I run a bath for him, first?”

The answer is “no”, and within minutes the convict is frog-marched out of his house and into the back of a prisons’ van.

The man is one of many convicts who break their stifling correctional supervision requirements — a last chance for them to serve sentences while trying to live a normal life — and eventually end up in jail, making the prospects of reintegration into society grim.

The 35-year-old man was arrested at the weekend with at least nine other people tracked down after contravening their parole or correctional supervision conditions.

“We’ve been after this man for a while. He was bragging to his friends about how he’s been managing to avoid us. He’s almost certainly going to jail to serve his sentence for theft,” senior correctional officer Mr Dirk Odendaal said.

The Department of Correctional Services conducts midnight blitzes on the homes of offenders almost weekly. “We have to nail them for the small things, like breaking contact with their officer for seven days or longer, failing to show up for community service or not staying home at night when they are under house arrest.” Odendaal tells the Cape Times on a weekend “Klopijag”.

“We won’t leave a guy in the community if he is not sticking to the rules.”

The teams go out at night to “maintain the element of surprise” and record extra contraventions when offenders have broken 7pm to 7am house arrest.

“About 80% of people don’t give us any problems. Over the last five years we have issued about 2 000 warrants for the arrest of offenders in the Western Cape. We catch up with them eventually, even if it takes years.”

“Strangely, many people abscond when they have only a few months left to serve. Then we have to incarcerate them for not seeing things through.”

While many believe correctional supervision is lenient punishment, warders believe it is “lengthening the arm of the law”.

“People are serving stiff sentences for offences for which they may have received fines in the past. For example, a number of our people have been sentenced to correctional supervision for drunken driving or failing to pay maintenance,” Odendaal says.

It costs the taxpayer R14 a day for each convict the government keeps tabs on. It costs R40 a day to hold someone in jail.

Like other government departments, Correctional Services is drastically understaffed. There is one officer for every 200 people who require supervision.

They are also short of vehicles and radio equipment. There are no holding cells in the city. They have to guard manacled prisoners through the night if they cannot get them to police cells.

They are often the target of gunfire in gang-infested areas and get bitten by vicious dogs during raids.

More staff appointments are expected soon to relieve the overworked and overburdened Western Cape police force.

LINDSAY BARNES
Staff Reporter

NEGOTIATIONS are under way to lift the three year moratorium on recruiting members to the understaffed and overworked Western Cape police force.

The plan to boost staff levels is part of a tough new police strategy announced by Western Cape Police Minister Gerald Morkel as a declaration of war against crime and to make the province safer for everyone.

The plan aims to put President Nelson Mandela's national crime prevention strategy into action and is in line with the government's national growth and development programme.

Negotiations for more staff will take place between the national police commissioner and local commissioners.

"En masse appointments" are expected shortly to relieve the Western Cape's 17 percent manpower shortage.

Station commanders, detective commanders, information managers, sector commanders and commanders of branch and tracking teams are expected to be appointed.

In the meantime, the recruitment programme has been set up in the Eastern Cape to train Xhosa-speaking people to work for the police in the province.

Criminals will be hunted down and crime will be combated to ensure a safer environment for people.

On the cards, in terms of the new strategy, are information units, hunting teams, tracking operations, roadblocks, crime prevention operations and clearing operations.

Task teams to deal with taxi and gang violence and robbery reaction units will be set up.

Four larger area-hunting teams will support police stations and sector policing will be established.

Regular tracking operations to hunt suspects will occur in every police area.

A large clearing operation will take place in every area on a quarterly basis and sweeping operations will be held in every police area on a monthly basis.

This will be achieved with the help of the South African National Defence Force – including the Air Force – and traffic authorities.

Sixty police vehicles will be equipped with tracker devices to trace stolen vehicles.

Priority crimes such as murder, rape, gang violence, drug abuse, housebreaking and theft from residences and businesses, robbery, assaults, theft and stock theft, would get special attention.

The illegal possession of firearms, commercial crime, violent crime and organised crime had been targeted on a national level.

Awareness programmes to promote the plan will be initiated and partnerships will be set up with schools, businesses, hospitals, retirement centres and security companies.

Closed circuit television will be set up in central business districts, shops and taxi ranks.

A project entitled "Own Pride," in which police members were consulted on problems they faced, had been successful and issues such as low salaries, poor working conditions and the poor distribution of resources could now be addressed.

The investigation service has been re-organised to concentrate on fraud, taxi violence, gangs, drugs and syndicate offences.

An anti-corruption unit has been established in the province and will be increased in size and capability later.

Commissioner Wessels appealed to people not to allow offences to be committed on their premises and also to report crime to the police.

"This will prevent confrontations between the police and the community," he said.

He also requested the cooperation of nightclubs, liquor premises, entertainment centres and businesses, to assist in establishing an anti-crime culture.

"It is to be expected that the police will sometimes be forced to act, in which cases the minimum violence will be used to enter premises or effect arrests," he said.

When the police was asked by the community to take action, it was unacceptable that the same community sometimes attacked police staff when they responded, he said.

Mr Morkel said he was prepared to take ultimate responsibility, as the MEC for police, for as long as he had the powers necessary. But the new plan would mean nothing if he did not have the cooperation of all other government departments and the community.

He is to meet with communities in "strategic areas" such as the townships and Cape flats, which present police with the biggest crime headache.

Next week he and four representatives from the police are to meet with Bavarian police to discuss their methods of tackling crime and drug smuggling. With the massive increase in the number of flights into the country, the latter problem has assumed huge proportions.

While the gang units were understaffed they had made great strides in curbing gangs.

Commissioner Wessels said the Attorney-General's cooperation had been sought and he had agreed to advocate being appointed to assist with the investigation into gang members.

A redistribution of police manpower would mean more members to tackle the escalation in gang activity.

While 828 criminals had been arrested since the launch of the strategy, the process was rendered pointless and the morale of police members was knocked when criminals were released back onto the streets shortly after their arrest.

So far in the Western Cape, 130 people have been arrested for assault, 12 for murder, 22 for rape, 166 for housebreaking, 34 for dealing in drugs and 28 for robbery. Also in the Western Cape, 132 police forums have been registered and are now operational.
Cops strike blow at heart of crime

Police morale has been raised by their success in arresting 7,099 of the 10,000 hardened criminals they aimed at nabbing in the first 30 days of the Sword and Shield campaign, reports Crime Writer Jackie Cameron.

Police have achieved 71% success in their campaign to arrest South Africa's 10,000 most wanted criminals within 30 days - the first phase of the Sword and Shield plan launched by Commissioner George Fivaz last month.

This was announced yesterday by Acting Commissioner Morgan Chetty, who said 7,099 hardened criminals had been arrested nationwide since the campaign was launched on June 13. All had been formally charged.

The figure includes 241 suspects wanted for murder, 274 for rape, 41 for hijacking, 1,196 for housebreaking, 292 for vehicle theft, 421 for serious robbery and 244 for theft from vehicles.

More than 1,700 of the suspects were arrested in the Western Cape, and 336 were wanted for theft, 296 for assault, 307 for burglary and 63 for robbery, Senior Superintendent John Sterenberg said yesterday.

More than 50 are suspected rapists and at least 26 are murder suspects.

The 7,099 are included in a total of 46,641 persons arrested nationally between June 13 and July 13.

Over the same period, police recovered 1,029 stolen vehicles and 429 unlicensed firearms.

They also arrested 5,493 illegal aliens.

Chetty told reporters at a Johannesburg news conference that the year-long Sword and Shield campaign was "well within the ambit" of normal police duties, but said police needed more staff.

"According to a statement handed out at the conference, 1,649 suspects were arrested in Gauteng, 1,092 in the Free State, 659 in North-West, 799 in Eastern Cape, 528 in Northern Province, 180 in Northern
Insurance issue mars stolen vehicle recovery rate

Ingrid Salgado

The insurance industry's 15% recovery rate of stolen vehicles was substantially lower than the 50% rate claimed by police because the majority of stolen vehicles were uninsured, police said yesterday.

Only 21% of SA vehicles were insured, police spokesman Supt Sharon Schutte said.

Earlier this week the SA Insurance Association alleged it did not know the whereabouts of thousands of vehicles that the police claimed to have recovered, saying the SAPS would not give the industry access to information on recovered vehicles. Police expected the industry to buy the information from a private company, association CE Barry Scott said.

Schutte said the company, Unicode, was awarded a 10-year contract last year to manage information on vehicles because police did not have the advanced technological capability to collate the data.

The insurance industry could purchase the information it needed from Unicode. The SAPS stopped rendering this service itself because information on stolen vehicles was not secure and had led to misuse of data. The insurance industry was not entitled to make use of all information because only a fifth of vehicles were insured. Police had been willing to help the association install a similar system but the association "never came back to us".
Omar orders probe into Sword arrests

Justice Minister Dullah Omar has ordered a departmental probe into the number of prosecutions resulting from the more than 7 000 arrests police say they have made since the launch of their Sword and Shield anti-crime plan.

This comes in the wake of Omar's finding at the weekend that the courts' case load in the Western Cape had not increased since the launch of the plan, despite police saying they had arrested more than 70% of the 10 000 criminals they had targeted.

Omar's spokesman, Paul Sethese, said yesterday queries by the minister to the chief magistrate of Cape Town - the Western Cape's largest magisterial district, where the most arrests reportedly were made - revealed no increase in the number of new cases since the launch of the anti-crime blitz last month.

A spokesman for the department, Adv Pieter du Randt, said in Pretoria that although no marked increase in case loads had been noticed, the arrests would not mean "a sudden increase of 1 000 criminals" appearing in court.

It would be a staggered process, noticeable only over a period of time, he said.

In addition, the work-to-rule action embarked upon by prosecutors countrywide could also lead to a backlog in caseloads.

According to senior public prosecutor for Johannesburg, Brisk Ferreira, arrested criminals have to appear in court within 48 hours. If there had been an increase in the number of arrests, it should be reflected in an increase in the number of court cases, he said.

Police commissioner George Fivaz's office said they could not comment on Omar's finding that police may not have arrested as many criminals as they claim until they had "studied the justice department's figures". - Staff Reporter.
Police to produce list in response to minister’s query that courts seem under no extra pressure after 7 099 arrests

BY HELEN CHANCE

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz has lashed out at people trying to “denigrate” the Sword and Shield anti-crime blitz, and promised to end doubts about its success by producing a list of when and where the 7 099 arrested suspects appeared in court.

Fivaz’s undertaking follows Justice Minister Dullah Omar’s request for more details of the number of prosecutions resulting from the arrests.

Omar’s spokesman Paul Setsetse said at the weekend that queries by the minister to the chief magistrate of Cape Town – the Western Cape’s largest magisterial district where the most arrests were made – revealed no increase in the number of new cases since the launch of the anti-crime blitz last month.

Fivaz responded yesterday by saying he had directed SAPS sub-structures countrywide to list when and where the 7 099 suspects appeared in court, and in which cases bail was granted.

Referring to Omar’s remarks and his contention at the outset of the blitz that the courts would not be able to deal with extra cases loads, Fivaz said: “I am glad it has now been realised that 7 099 arrests in a monthly total of 46 691 will not place a burden on any specific court, as these courts are spread across the country.”

Omar reportedly said at the weekend that police corruption, the loss or theft of dockets, the failure of witnesses to arrive at court, and inefficiency in preparing dockets for prosecution were reasons for cases being dismissed and “guilty parties getting away scot-free”.

Fivaz said the 71% success rate of Sword and Shield’s first operation had impressed the decision-makers he met in Belgium and the Netherlands, and convinced them of South Africa’s commitment to fighting crime.

“I am proud of the achievements of SAPS members who pulled out all the stops in the 10 000 campaign to kickstart the Sword and Shield police plan.

“If KwaZulu Natal had not been prevented by local elections from participating, the target of 10 000 suspects could very well have been attained,” he said.

Statistics provided yesterday by Fivaz’s office showed that, of the 7 099 arrests, 1 703 were in the Western Cape, with Gauteng following at 1 649.

Setsetse said there was no attempt to undermine Fivaz’s plan; the issue had arisen out of media queries concerning numbers of prosecutions.

The work-to-rule action by prosecutors countrywide looks close to being resolved.

Prosecutors’ Association of SA chairman Bobbie Sweepie said the ministers’ letter had made a written commitment to follow through with his proposals to re-vamp salaries, “we will certainly reconsider our action”.

For the time being, however, the work-to-rule was continuing.
Economic crime costing region dearly — Manuel

Susan Russell

SOUTHERN Africa as a developing region could not afford the billions of rands lost through economic crime, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said on Friday.

Manuel was addressing delegates at the second African Conference on Economic Crime in Midrand which this year focused on cross-border crimes and corruption in Southern Africa.

Delegates at the three-day conference included international economic crime experts, business leaders and senior justice officials and police chiefs from SA, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Swaziland, Kenya and Zambia.

Manuel reiterated the call by other speakers for mutual regional co-operation.

Without that, he said, Southern Africa would not be able to start addressing the effect crime was having on the economy.

The role customs and excise had to play in this was vital, as was the need for links between customs officials and other law enforcement agents, Manuel said.

Manuel endorsed the proposal by a number of senior justice and police officials that law enforcement agencies should be given the authority to act across the jurisdiction of a particular country.

"Within each country of the region," he said, "there is also a need for co-operation between the various functions and departments that control the movement of goods and people across borders."

He said SA’s customs and VAT law enforcement task group, which brought together customs and excise, inland revenue, the SAPS, the Reserve Bank and the department of trade and industry had already had quite a large measure of success smashing smuggling syndicates and closing in on VAT fraud.

Manuel emphasised that co-operation had to go beyond treaties and protocols between the various governments.

"The ability to eradicate crime depends on the commitment from other institutions — the banks and business in general," he said.

"This is the origin of success; it starts within civil society."

He pointed out that banks in the UK were obliged to report transactions which appeared extraordinary, and it was only then that government responded.

"On our part we need at that stage to introduce a more rapid response and investigate speedily."

"We recognise there are problems with our criminal justice system which have led to delays," Manuel said.

He said there was also a need for "re-engineering" society.

"Morality or ethics are not driven by law."

"For as long as morality is missing, no government co-operation, treaties, protocols or cross-border raids are going to be worthwhile."

Manuel said fortunately the region was at a point where crime and corruption had not yet reached the levels they had in some other parts of Africa and the world, but SA needed to act now to prevent crime from escalating beyond control.
Police plans for diplomatic protection unit put on hold

Ingrid Salgado

PLANS for police to establish a special diplomatic protection unit to protect foreign diplomats in SA against high crime levels have been put on ice until the lifting of a moratorium that prevents more officers being employed.

Police spokesman Supt Leon Engelbrecht said yesterday the SAPS had instead undertaken to increase visible policing around embassies and consulates in the short term. Police would also provide extra assistance to foreign diplomats upon request.

A special protection unit was mooted last month after a meeting between the foreign diplomatic corps and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi. This followed a spate of crimes directed at diplomatic staff and property, in particular the armed robbery of Lebanese ambassador to SA Charbel Stephan.

Engelbrecht said the unit could not be established yet because the service was understaffed.

However, "we will definitely be looking at it in the future". In the meantime, station commanders across the country had been instructed to upgrade visible foot and vehicle protection of embassies and consulates.

Areas most affected were Waterkloof, Arcadia, Sunnyside and Brooklyn in Pretoria and Sandton in Johannesburg. Dean of the diplomatic corps and China's ambassador to SA I-cheng Loh said yesterday that security around diplomatic residences had already been stepped up. There had also been an improvement in liaison between police and diplomats.

But Swiss consul-general Leo Renggli said that increased patrols had not led to a visible decrease in crime levels. In the past six months, there had been 10 incidents of robbery and vehicle hijackings directed at Swiss embassy and consulate staff.

Just recently, Swiss businessman Edwin Roth's truck was hijacked — for the fifth time — while Swiss national Marcel Barlogis had three armed robberies directed against his business, three car hijackings and five burglaries at his home.

Swiss diplomats in SA had sent a letter to the Swiss government informing them of the "dangerous situation" they faced.

Swiss media were already warning tourists to SA of the high crime rate. Tourism and investment in SA would suffer substantially if current trends continued, Renggli said.
Crime study disproves racial prejudice perception

Criminologists question stereotype which suggests that only one population group offends exclusively within a particular category of crime

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
Pretoria Bureau

The perception among some white South Africans that black people are the worst offenders when it comes to crime has been given a resounding thumbs down by criminologists. They have found in an extensive study of the habits of the country's criminals that white men as well as women of all races are just as guilty, more so in many instances.

Out of 4.2-million people of all races featuring on police records, more than half (55.3%) will again commit a crime after having been sentenced for an earlier offence.

The Institute for Criminology at Unisa, and the research unit of the police's Criminal Record Centre in Pretoria have found from a sample survey of 4 832 offenders, that 82% had been convicted at least once by the time they were 25 years old (60% before age 19).

An analysis of their crime histories, published in the Unisa publication "Acta Criminologica", questions any notion or stereotype which suggests that only one population group offends exclusively within a particular category of crimes, and also "leaves one with the distinct impression that women's criminal activities are under-rated and it was found that women also engage in a diversity of crime, including physical and violent behaviour."

The recidivism phenomenon (the habit of relapsing into crime) in South Africa is regarded by the researchers as one of society's most puzzling features, particularly when a person first commits a crime after the age of 40.

Although the extent of this category of offenders is not sensational, what forced a person who supposedly led a crime-free life up to that stage to resort to criminal avenues?" the researchers ask.

The criminologists have identified 10 common crimes, the top three being those relating to communal life, personal relations and property (including fraud and embezzlement). The other seven are larceny offenses, rape, common and serious assault, burglary and theft, other theft, and malicious damage to property.

One of the most interesting results of the study is that persons convicted for ideological crimes (politically-motivated activity) do not act purely in that regard but also commit crimes across the spectrum of criminal and statutory law.

Focus on children to fight crime

BY NORMAN CHANDLER

A 3-year-old boy or girl abused by their parents will probably turn out to be tomorrow's criminal, according to Unisa criminologist Professor Sandra Joubert.

"Families are the training ground for violence," she says in a published paper on the imperativeness of a long-term crime prevention strategy for South Africa. She recommends a study of early childhood experiences because criminal activity, she says, has its roots in those years.

"A quarter of abused children eventually abuse their own children. It is imperative to invest in children from the pre-school phase as an effective long-term crime control policy. Even at an early age, high-risk children should be identified."

Joubert argues that the uniform educational system being introduced in SA is ideal "to (help) implement the school as the major role player in the socialisation of the younger generation. An awareness of the pitfalls of criminal actions can be instilled" as part of a subtle approach in the war against crime.
500 arrested for theft of R22-m

By McKeed Kotolo

THE South African Police Service's "Operation White Collar", has had a successful weekend-in that more than 500 suspected commercial criminals involved in the theft of more than R22 million were arrested.

Head of the commercial crime unit Assistant Commissioner Manie Schoeman announced yesterday that the operation was conducted country-wide from Friday to Monday.

Spokesman for the detectives communications service Director Reg Crew said there was no public figure among those arrested. He said the detainees would appear in courts country-wide.

Schoeman also disclosed that 339 suspects were arrested in cases involving a total of R22,1 million.

About 2 000 premises were searched for suspects during the operation and all those detained were being sought by the commercial crime unit.

Gauteng, with 391 arrests, was the highest among the nine provinces with a total R19 183 098 involved. Eastern Cape was second with 28 arrests and R89 484 involved.

Schoeman said the operation was in line with the aims and objectives of the National Commissioner's recently announced police plan.
Staff shortages hamper crime-fighting

Angella Johnson and Stuart Hess

CRIME fighting in South Africa is being hampered by a 22 479-person staff shortage in the South African Police Service, according to a study carried out by the SAPS.

Research conducted by the police human resources division found that the ideal national headcount for the SAPS to function effectively should be 161 755.

But there is little chance of meeting that optimum figure: a government financial freeze in recruitment means that no new entrants will be enlisted into the SAPS this year. In some provinces there have not been any new recruits since 1994.

"The situation is reaching a critical point. We desperately need new blood, but at the moment we make do as best as possible," said Johan Deyzel, provincial police commissioner for the Northern Cape.

He would like to see more "bobbies on the beat", but resources are stretched enough. As it is, he relies on his officers to work overtime to meet the shortfall.

"It's not good for morale and it is not the best way to use our limited resources, but there is no alternative when we are unable to recruit," he said.

The area has 89 stations staffed by some 3 070 police officers. "Ideally I need another 800 to deal with the large number of violent knife-related crimes in the area," said Deyzel.

His was one of several provinces to insist that personnel shortfall was straining the SAPS's crime-fighting capabilities and hampering attempts to halt the country's crime scourge.

Staff shortages, need funds

EASTERN CAPE
- 205 police stations in the province
- 13% of the national police force serving 16% of the population
- 18 500 policemen, including those from Transkei and Ciskei
- Total manpower shortage in the province estimated at 2 299

FREE STATE
- 109 police stations; 36 satellite points
- 287 civilians per policeman
- Individual stations have shortages since police budget to Free State was cut in 1994
- Financial shortages, need funds

MPUMALANGA
- 6 596 police personnel in the province; needs 9 720 officers
- 32% understaffed
- 25 police stations. All of them are understaffed
- 499 civilians to every policeman
- Budget for the area has been cut by R40 million compared to last year
- Too few vehicles, but they "have learnt to manage"

GAUTENG
- 24 906 police personnel in Witwatersrand region before 1994 elections
- Today there are 51 804 in the Witwatersrand and Pretoria

KWAZULU-NATAL
- Each police officer has to serve 445 civilians
- 20 223 policemen; need 25 000
- 179 police stations

NORTHERN CAPE
- Working within a restricted budget. Situation could become critical despite a slight decrease in crime
- No recruits since April 94
- 85 police stations in province
- 44% understaffed
- 3 667 police officers, with 237 civilians per officer

NORTHERN PROVINCE
- 9 337 policemen for 90 police stations

SOUTH AFRICA NARCOTICS BUREAU
- Currently have 30 members in Johannesburg, at John Vorster Square.
- Needs at least double

How bad is it, really? The SAPS's figures
Probes into white-collar crime come a cropper as more staffers quit unit

By GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

A fraud investigation into shipping transactions involving R5.5-billion approved by the South African Reserve Bank has collapsed as the Office for Serious Economic Offences battles with a shortage of manpower.

With many poorly paid investigators leaving the OSEO to go into private practice or to take up promotional opportunities, it is unlikely that the colossal fraud investigation will be resurrected in the near future.

However, the Reserve Bank and its appointed auditors are continuing with the investigation into the sale of the shipping vessels in an attempt to recover funds, according to Deputy Attorney-General Dave Pouchie.

The shipping vessels were purchased by foreigners through financial rand and other transactions approved by the Reserve Bank, on the understanding that the vessels would become South African assets.

Allegations are being investigated that false information about the identity and value of the vessels was given to the Reserve Bank, Pouchie said.

"There are allegations that some of the vessels never even existed and there were also allegations that the prices were inflated," he said.

Pouchie, who travelled overseas to investigate the case, said the OSEO had been investigating the shipping transactions with the Reserve Bank "for a short while" until the case had been dropped because of a lack of manpower.

"Nothing much is being done on it now by us. We just don't have the time to attend to it. The Reserve Bank and its auditors are looking at it but in a totally different way to how we would look at it. They are trying to get their money back. We would be looking at getting the crooks behind bars," said Pouchie.

OSEO director Jan Swanepeol said his office was unable to take on new cases or cope with its huge workload. Out of a staff of 14, five people had left the OSEO for promotional opportunities. Two of these posts were once filled by senior state advocates.

The manpower problem was further compounded by the fact that half of the staff in the OSEO's Cape Town office had applied for the severance packages currently on offer in the civil service.

"The severance packages are quite attractive. Many people are concerned about affirmative action. People feel the merit component does not count much any longer," said Swanepeol. Poor salaries were also encouraging people to take the packages, he said.

"These people can earn a lot more elsewhere. In the Department of Justice, there have not been salary increases for three years for certain ranks, and people are getting poorer every year."

He believed that not all the people in the Justice Department who applied for severance packages would be able to take them.

"But what does that leave us with - a negative person who is frustrated with his lot?" he asked. The OSEO was handling 34 investigations, with 21 being conducted by the Pretoria office.

"Some of them we have just had to leave. People have complained to us about why the cases are not getting attention, but now we often have to refer cases to the police commercial branch."

Swanepeol said fraud cases had to be set aside and the shipping case had not been tackled for more than 15 months, although it was hoped it would be resurrected at some stage.

Swanepeol said it was a widely accepted fact that fraud in South Africa was "bad" - and fraud and corruption went hand in hand.

A meeting had been held with Minister of Justice Dullah Omar and it was hoped this might help to iron out existing manpower problems in the Justice Department, he said.

White-collar criminals, who were shaken when the special high-level investigation squad was formed in 1992, cannot relax just yet.
SA not under-policed, crime conference told

Researchers say that we should take heed of trends overseas

The South African Police Service is not understaffed, and policymakers should heed trends abroad and focus on crime prevention at a city level while provincial and national bodies concentrate on countering organised and white collar crime.

Mark Shaw, a senior researcher at the Institute for Defence Policy (IDP), said on Monday that the National Crime Prevention Strategy did not make adequate provision for city or major metro participation in the strategy.

Delivering a paper at a conference entitled "War and Peace in Southern Africa: Crime, Drugs, Armies and Trade", Shaw also criticised city councils for being too reliant on national initiatives.

"What is needed is a plan for safer South African cities which seeks to develop linkages between cities (as in Europe) to share experiences and ideas.

He drew attention to the "Broken Window" initiative instituted by former New York city commissioner William Bratton, which since its implementation several years ago has resulted in a marked decline of most crime in the world's former crime capital.

Shaw was speaking at the conference organised by the South African Institute of International Studies, the World Peace Foundation and the IDP, and held at the University of the Witwatersrand.

He added that city crime prevention initiatives would be the logical outcome of locally developed forms of "partnership" policing, such as the Business Against Crime initiative.

"Shaw targeted organised crime and white collar crime as crimes requiring tailored solutions and investigative strategies.

"Comparative evidence from other states in transition suggests that unless organised crime operations are countered quickly after their formation they have the potential to harden, penetrate the state and form parallel and competing forms of power," he said.

Shaw said that South Africa was not under-policed, and that although police concentrated strongly on the front end of the criminal justice system, very little work has been done by the new order relating to detecting crime.

A major overhaul of the detective branch was required.

Shaw said the number of police personnel (140 000 in total) compared favourably with international figures when measured per head of population — 328 people per police officer compared with an international average of about 1 014.

The conference ended yesterday.
Organised crime overwhelms undermanned detective units

By Derek Rodney
Crime Reporter

Organised crime investigation units (OCIU) - severely restricted in manpower and resources - are only investigating 32 of the country’s 481 identified syndicates.

At present, the organised crime division consists of 28 OCIU offices nationally, offering scant resistance against the activities of an estimated 136 drug syndicates, 112 vehicle-related syndicates, 85 commercial/fraud racket and 71 diamond and gold-related syndicates.

Gauteng alone has 45 identified drug, 51 vehicle-related and 65 commercial crime syndicates operating on a national and in some cases international level.

The OCIUs consisting of specialised investigators and other specialist units have been thrown together to face the onslaught.

National organised Crime Unit head Assistant Commissioner Neels Venter told a conference at Wits yesterday the only solution was a multidimensional approach demanding multiprofessional assistance.

He expressed deep concern about the massive influx of hard-core drugs such as heroin and cocaine, which had already started to take root in the country.

"Since SA emerged from international isolation, it has increasingly become a transit point and now a consumer market for many types of rich man’s drugs,” Venter said.

Detectives arrested 7,995 people last year for dealing in and/or possessing illegal substances, while 885,939 tablets and 237 tons of illegal substances were seized.

There had been a significant shift from drugs like LSD and Nexus in 1994 to drugs like cocaine and heroin last year.
SA firms expect increasing fraud

Dave Marrs

NINE out of 10 SA companies expect to experience increased fraud in the coming months, citing as reasons rising economic pressures, an erosion of society's values and the perception that the criminal justice system is inefficient, with sentences too lenient.

This emerged from KPMG's 1996 fraud survey, which showed 66% of South African companies had fallen victim to fraud over the past two years, with 74% of the losses resulting from white collar crime perpetrated by employees.

KPMG Forensic Accounting SA director Petrus Marais said the perceived increase in fraud risk in SA was high compared with other countries, but the fact that almost three quarters of losses were caused by employees meant tighter internal controls could reduce that risk.

Marais said: "An effective fraud prevention policy revolves around raising the level of awareness of the risk of fraud; minimising temptation, motive and opportunity; and adopting an approach that is perceived as an investment by the organisation, and not as a cost."

Firms should go out of their way to know the personal circumstances and backgrounds of employees and trading partners to help reduce the incidence of fraud and limit losses, he said.
and increase access to capital — both property and leisure development are capital-intensive activities by nature.

Group chairman Reg Edwards contends that the move would also "realise some of the value on the balance sheet" now tied up in assets. Stocks has begun retaining an interest in developments it considers high-quality, such as Sandton Square, which has boosted the carrying value of investments.

It makes sense, given the trend developing on the balance sheet. Gearing of about 40% is pushing on the discomfort zone, but worse is the net interest charge of R24.4m off operating income of R85.3m — 29% of the total. The debt is a restriction on further expansion.

There is no plan for a change in ultimate control, however. And Edwards emphasises that diversification is still a strategic goal, largely to reduce dependence on "the vagaries of the construction industry." To that end, management wants to boost the leisure division's contribution to earnings from its 11% this year to 25% in the future.

Construction contributed 56% of turnover and 32% of income in 1996 — still substantial, though income dropped from 44% in 1995. An improvement in operating margins to 5.5 (4.2%) speaks of better-quality earnings. Edwards says civil engineering has a "nice order book" for this year, including "a chunk of the structural work at Saldanha Steel" in a joint venture with WBHO.

Toll roads figure large, as well as airport work and various housing developments. Group-wide, orders total about R1.5bn — "a little up on last year." Property development, presided over by CE Bert Dorrestein, maximised its profits last year, accounting for nearly half the total income and a fifth of turnover.

The balance sheet shows a 47% increase in accounts receivable, which Edwards attributes in part to the changed nature of the business. "Contractors tend to receive payment in 30 days, but in the leisure industry, people pay more slowly." Some big payments outstanding on the sale of buildings have since come through, reducing debtors considerably.

EPS were boosted by the switch to comprehensive deferred tax (with year-ago figures restated on the same basis) and a low tax rate for the year. This heady rate of growth is unlikely to be sustained next year, but the company expects real growth.

Stocks celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Since its inception it has not made a loss, says Edwards, himself a 32-year veteran of the group.

The share price has come off to 525c from 580c last week. On a p/e of 7.6, it stands at a considerable discount to the sector average of 12.5 and appears undervalued on the historical performance — but the share price clearly indicates that the market has reservations about this company. Margaret Anne Halse
Prowl the empty streets — on foot

Former New York police commissioner William Bratton, currently visiting South Africa, believes this country’s police members need to show themselves far more on our city streets.

ROSS HERBERT
Independent Foreign Service

JOHANNESBURG — Three years ago New York city was like Johannesburg and South African cities are today — consumed with crime stories that need through dinner parties, newspapers and kitchenable conversations.

Violent protests had flared over attempts by Korean green gang to take petty trade at their shop. Shots were fired in the night. Drug needles and discarded vials for crack cocaine crunched under foot in city housing projects.

Today New York has undergone a remarkable transformation from crime capital of America to one of its safest major cities.

From 1994 to 1996 crime fell by 27 percent. Murders dropped by 50 percent and robberies by 50 percent. Since 1995, murder is down by 50 percent.

The man who gets more of the credit for the change than any other is former police commissioner William Bratton — arguably the most influential policeman in the United States.

Mr Bratton spoke this week at a conference on crime and violence, hosted by the South African Institute of International Affairs in Johannesburg.

One of Mr Bratton’s first guidelines that South African police need to show themselves far more on city streets.

"This conviction stems from what was a very radical idea in the US before Mr Bratton took over as New York police commissioner in January 1994: instead of down playing public fears of crime, police need to directly confront criminals by showing their presence and promoting a sense of public order.

Mr Bratton’s tough, hard-hitting campaign set off a vicious cycle of citizens, leaving the streets and taking with them their taxes — and over the long term thousands of jobs — which provoked more despair among the homeless.

One of Mr Bratton’s first and most controversial acts was to focus on what he calls “quality of life” issues: people engaged in public drinking, aggressive begging, or homeless people sleeping on trains and in doorways were permanently moved on their way by the police, a large proportion of whom were redeployed from patrol cars to foot patrols.

Mr Bratton also targeted those who he called “squeezers”: people who would wash the windshields of cars parked in traffic. Drivers couldn’t resist — and often insisted on paying for the unsolicited service.

A common joke at the time was that the torch in the hand of the Statue of Liberty should be replaced with a squeazer, to better reflect New York.

"In the early 80s you could not get into the city without going through a phalanx of these guys," he said.

"By allowing that kind of disorder we were contributing to the fear," he said.

When policemen began stopping people for public disorder, drinking and fare-jumping on city trains, they began routinely checking ID numbers using portable radios.

This practice apprehended many wanted criminals and党中央 illegal weapons.

Before that, police and the public had come to believe crime stemmed from underlying economic causes that no one could actually fix.

This thinking dripped crime fighting creativity and led police to shrug off public complaints. However, Mr Bratton argued the police could change public behaviour, by preventing small crimes that could, unchallenged, lead to bigger ones.

Most policemen spent their days in patrol vehicles and rarely spoke to ordinary citizens. By pushing policemen out of cars onto foot patrol and showing tangible success on issues that mattered to ordinary people, trust in the police improved.

Mr Bratton also applied disciplined business management to the police.

"My competition was the criminals.

"They were out working seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

"We were working only five days, from nine to five," said Mr Bratton.

Information and automation were critical: crime statistics had previously taken three months to compile. Mr Bratton pushed administrative and computer staff until they were able to produce daily reports, plotting precisely where crimes were committed.

Twice a week, top policemen from eight city zones were brought together into computer statistical meetings, at which they were grilled about any sudden increases in crime — and asked what action they were taking.

Commanders shared information on which tactics were working. Mr Bratton demanded continuous follow-up and rapid response.

He also demanded large decreases in crime as a result.

At the same time, authority was pushed down to the lowest level. Commanders could not perform, they were replaced: 50 of 76 precinct commanders lost their jobs in Mr Bratton’s 27 months in office.

"In the first year we demanded a 10 percent reduction in crime and everybody’s eyes rolled," Mr Bratton said.

Despite doubts, commanders exceeded the target by 9 percent — only to four new targets for deeper reductions.

As Mr Bratton took the police reigns in New York, many critics predicted disaster. Most white policemen confronted the mostly black and Hispanic population. Blacks had long complained of police racism and excessive force, but blacks were also the victims of the vast majority of crimes.

In Johannesburg, Mr Bratton was short on specifics about how to handle racial tension, but advised that police must be "very different about how they enforce the rules (and) the legal force.

Some critics argue that crime has fallen across the board of the chief should go. Mr Bratton’s predecessor, who began the drive toward community policing and supervision of the expansion of New York’s police force from 38,000 to 48,000. But police procedure and training has improved, it is very hard to avoid concluding that Mr Bratton was the prime mover in New York's crime-fighting campaign."
Police need to ally fear, says top cop.
In the past few years we have seen an alarming increase in crime. Murders, rapes, assaults, robberies and hijackings have all shown significant increases since 1990. While some of these upward trends have stabilised (some have even begun to fall), the net effect reflects a significant increase in crime from an already high base.

These trends reflect a desperate situation and point to two inescapable conclusions: something is very wrong in South African society; and our young democracy has not, as yet, had the success we would have wished in ending the social processes that lead to crime and victimisation.

Nonetheless, it is my view that we have turned the corner.

Before looking at the steps we have taken to address the problem of crime, it is worth reviewing some basics.

Communities exist because people are social beings and societies create the best framework within which each individual's needs are addressed.

Ideally, society should provide the support and opportunities required for each person to realise their potential.

Unfortunately, they seldom do. The effect can be poverty, alienation and frustration which can spill over into criminality.

For this reason, justice systems exist to ensure that individuals who pose a threat to their communities are removed from them and only returned to society when they no longer pose that threat.

Citizens have a legitimate expectation that the justice system "serves and protects" members of the community. This system must identify individuals who have engaged, or who are likely to engage, in criminal activities. It must be able to apprehend these people; try them swiftly, fairly and conclusively; remove them from society, and release them only when they have served a proper sentence and are able to take up a constructive role in society.

Neither South African society nor its justice system has been designed to achieve these results. It is true that the police system studied was designed to maintain the political structure, rather than to pursue the ideals of a just and secure society for all its citizens.

What is important now, however, is how these systems are being re-designed to provide efficient, effective and appropriate policing, and to make South Africa a safe place to live, work and bring up a family.

The government has embarked on a number of initiatives to ensure that our criminal justice system is well-resourced and well-managed, and that people employed in the departments responsible are committed to delivering high-quality service to the community. These initiatives are consolidated in the National Crime Prevention Strategy and the plans of various departments which aim to implement the strategy.

The government is working hard to make South Africa a safe place to live, work and bring up a family, writes SYDNEY MUFAMADI.

The new plan is the most comprehensive anti-crime strategy ever developed in this country. Its aims over the long term are to transform the way in which crime is addressed by shifting the emphasis from cure to prevention.

At the same time, it recognises the fact that the present system is failing. Therefore, it focuses on ensuring that the systems available to combat crime are co-ordinated, empowered and managed so as to produce the results the community so desperately wants.

I will give just a few examples of how these policies of re-engineering and restructuring affect the South African Police Services.

- We have established and expanded the capacity of the police to gather intelligence on organised crime;
- We have put in place systems to ensure that police corruption - the necessary adjunct to organised crime - is curtailed and eradicated;
- We are reselecting and retraining members responsible for public order policing;
- By insisting on the need to monitor and evaluate service delivery, we are trying to harmonise the interests of individual policemen with the interests of the community in being better served by the police;
- We are putting in place training programmes for the thousands of detectives who have received no formal training on how to manage their cases successfully;
- We have launched numerous police operations aimed at reducing crime and violence and, while not all have been as successful as we might have liked, we are continuing to learn from those experiences; and
- We are improving the integrity of our border posts, and the borders themselves.

Because the police are not the only leg of the criminal justice system, the National Crime Prevention Strategy emphasises the importance of interdepartmental co-ordination to ensure that the justice, correctional services and welfare departments are prepared to shift into high gear.

The measures I have mentioned reflect the concern of those responsible for the crime prevention strategy with addressing the problems of capacity and management in the criminal justice system. The strategy, focusing on crime prevention, is much broader than this.

The fact that South Africa is a democracy means that the government is driven by the needs of everyone - and society will gradually begin to ensure that sufficient resources are devoted to providing every citizen with a reasonable chance of getting a job and being able to educate their children.

This, in turn, will remove the preconditions for criminality.

In addition to this, numerous strategies are being developed to ensure that the resources needed to prevent crime are provided by government.

I have no doubt that, for the first time, South Africa has an integrated, coherent strategy for tackling the problem of crime. It is true that the ultimate test will be our ability to implement our plans, but we have undoubtedly developed appropriate strategies for the problems we face.

Mufamadi is the Minister for Safety and Security.
TRAVEL TAKES A KNOCK

Tourism versus crime

By Audrey d'Angelo

South Africa's tourism boom is over and has been killed by international television coverage of rising crime and rising prices, travel trade executives said yesterday.

Hotel occupancy rates continued to fall in June, according to figures released by the Central Statistical Service (CSS). The report said room occupancy was down by 4.4 percent to 32.6 percent and bed occupancy down by 7.1 percent to 24 percent compared with June last year.

Roger Mackie, the Association of Southern African Travel Agents president and William Puk, the chief executive of the Sure Travel group of independent travel agents, have until recently blamed rising hotel prices and poor service for falling tourist numbers.

Yesterday they said CNN coverage of gun battles between gangs and vigilantes in the streets of Cape Town, and international coverage of South Africa's car hijacking problem, were further deterrents to foreign tourists.

Mackie said even though the supposed kidnapping of three British tourists turned out to be a hoax, it was given extensive television coverage and the fact remained that the vehicle really was hijacked. "People's readiness to believe in the kidnapping shows the light in which this country is regarded."

He said millions of television viewers worldwide had heard that Josiah Thugwane, South Africa's gold medal winner in the Olympic marathon, had been shot in the face by car hijackers.

Commenting on the CSS figures, Mackie said they included visitors from neighbouring African countries and last year they did not. The drop was worse than it appeared.

William Puk said the South African tourism industry was on the slippery slope to nowhere. "There is a tremendous price war between the airlines who are trying to make up for the drop in foreign passengers with special offers."

"Our crime levels have dealt a death blow to tourism and I believe it will stop this country from getting the Olympic Games. Why, with all the attractive destinations available to them, should people come to a destination perceived to be as dangerous as South Africa?"

Puk expected airlines, which had increased their capacity earlier, to cut back on capacity if passenger numbers failed to improve. Meanwhile, Arthur Gillis, the managing director of Protea Hotels, has mounted a spirited attack on suggestions that high hotel prices and low service standards have discouraged foreign tourists.

He produced figures showing that South African hotels were among the cheapest in the world in dollar terms and, he said, their service compared well with that in five-star hotels he had stayed at in other parts of the world. "Our airports are as good as those abroad. The Airports Company has done wonders in transforming them," he said.

Gillis said it infuriated him to hear people in the travel trade accusing South African hotels of pricing themselves out of the market and alienating tourists by poor standards of service.

He said hoteliers had been forced to increase prices because wages and other costs had risen in line with the need to give more training to the black labour force, uplift and empower them.

Gillis said he had stayed at five-star hotels in many countries and found service levels below those at their South African equivalents.

Gillis said Johannesburg came 7th in a cost comparison of large cities in the June edition of the British magazine Business Traveller. The comparison gave the average daily living cost in each city, including a single room with bathroom in a four-star hotel, with continental breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks, taxi fares and incidentals.

Tokyo was the most expensive, costing $493.85 a day compared with $176.76 in Johannesburg and $246.26 in Sydney. Bombay was the cheapest at $158.34 a day.

Mackie said rather than compare our five-star hotels with those in a Third World country such as Turkey, Gillis should compare them with those in Australia, which are light years ahead of ours.

Mackie did not dispute the fact that South African hotels have been faced with rising wages, but they must modernise service standards. "People don't mind paying more if service levels are extremely high."

"Besides, Gillis is looking at the cost in dollars to foreign travellers. South African hotels are certainly pricing themselves out of the reach of local people. And even foreign visitors are asking for accommodation in good guest houses which offer better value."

Gillis said service standards in Australia were excellent, but they cost 40 percent more in dollar terms. "What I am saying is that South Africa offers the foreign traveller better value for money."

Hans Enderle, the City Lodge group's executive chairman, said suggestions that high South African hotel prices were driving foreign tourists away overlooked the fact that foreign tour operators negotiated big discounts.

A spokesman for the five-star Cape Sun Intercontinental said the rate for individuals without discount was R675 a night for a single room and R915 for a double, both without breakfast. A brochure for a conference to be held at the hotel in April, however, quoted a discounted rate of R480 a person for a double room with breakfast.

The CSS figures so far this year have shown rising hotel incomes and lower occupancy rates, except for ungraded hotels.

Income received by ungraded hotels was still going up in June, when it soared 23.4 percent, but bed occupancy slipped marginally by 0.6 percent.

Mackie and Puk have said in recent months that rising hotel income and falling occupancy rates spoke for themselves, and so did a move from four- and five-star hotels to ungraded establishments.

The latest figures suggested ungraded establishments, too, may be becoming too expensive.
Johannesburg: rapid rail transit system

28. Mr L D CHUENYANG asked the Minister of Transport:

Whether a decision has been taken on the introduction of a rapid rail transit system for Johannesburg; if not, why not; if so, what was the decision?

N996E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

This question is similar to a previous question asked on Wednesday, 1 March 1995.

The Department of Transport commissioned a feasibility study into a mass transit system for Johannesburg (the MASTRAN study) which was completed in August 1991. A rapid rail transit system (which is basically a heavy rail system) was considered as one of four rail systems investigated, but—based on a combination of economic, financial, operational and environmental considerations—not recommended as a preferred alternative.

In the intervening years, the perspectives of the department have shifted and developed in new directions. We are currently looking at a total change in rail passenger transport policy which, while accepting the reality of tight budgetary constraints, seeks to make much more effective and efficient use of existing infrastructure and facilities.

The general framework which we wish to establish is as follows:

1. regulated competition for public transport modes;
2. ownership of rail infrastructure, rolling stock and land associated with rail reserves to be retained by the transport authority;
3. rail operations to be based on operating and maintenance concessions, awarded by transport authorities at provincial or metropolitan level, based on a comprehensive and efficient transport plan;
4. the ongoing development of Johannesburg's rail transit system will take place within this basic framework.

Minibus taxi statistics

29. Mr Z D MNGUNI asked the Minister of Transport:

Whether his Department has any statistics with regard to minibus taxis if not, what is the position in this regard; if so (a) how many minibus taxis were registered in 1995 and (b) how many minibus taxis are currently being operated illegally and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

N997E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(a) Yes, the total number of legal minibus taxis in the Public, in 1995 was 73 323. This figure, however, excludes the number of legal minibus taxis of the former TBVC countries and self-governing territories. A legal minibus taxi in this case is defined as a minibus taxi with an operating permit and a valid certificate of fitness.

(b) (i) The total number of illegal minibus taxis is estimated to be approximately 50 000 for the Republic. This figure includes the minibus taxis of the former TBVC countries and self-governing territories.

(ii) For the period up to 31 December 1995.

New questions:

Gold smuggling

30. Mr J C N WAUGH asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

Whether any cases of gold smuggling were reported in the past financial year; if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the monetary value of the gold involved in such smuggling?

31. whether the South African Police Service is currently undertaking the planning or execution of a strategy to combat such smuggling; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details.

32. whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) Yes, the Diamond and Gold Branch of the SAPS is continuously investigating illegal gold smuggling. Conventional, as well as unconventional, methods of investigation are used. These investigations are carried out in close collaboration with mine security groups and great successes have been achieved.

(3) No.

Anti-corruption legislation

2. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Justice:

(1) Whether, with reference to certain comments appearing in a certain newspaper, particulars of which have been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, he intends introducing any anti-corruption legislation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether such legislation will make provision for the (a) forfeiture of pension benefits and/or (b) exclusion of offenders from any public office or position of trust; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) For the period up to 31 December 1995.

New questions:

Fraudulent RDP congress

3. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

Whether an investigation has been undertaken into the allegedly fraudulent RDP congress initiated in April 1996 by a certain corporation, the name of which has been furnished to the South African Police Service for the purpose of his reply; if not, why not; if so, what amount was defrauded from delegates and (b) what progress has been made with the investigation?

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Yes. A case of alleged fraud in connection with the above matter (John Vorster Square CAS 971/04/96) is at present being investigated by the Commercial Crime component of the South African Police Service's Detective Service.

(a) It has been established that at present a loss of approximately R2 000 is involved in this case, but eventually the total involved could be as high as R15 million. It is impossible at this time to establish exactly how much money was lost specifically by prospective delegates.

(b) The investigation of the case is still at an early stage. Affidavits to establish whether crimes were committed and who committed them, as well as their possible extent, are still being obtained from witnesses throughout the country. The investigation is complicated further by the pending liquidation of the company involved.
2 099 out on bail after crime sweep

Police commissioner George Fivaz says the hunt will go on for the balance of the country's worst 10 000.

By Lara Smith

Of the 7 099 most wanted criminals arrested earlier this year during the first month of the police's Sword and Shield anti-crime plan, 2 099 have been released on bail.

Five thousand of the arrested suspects are still in custody, police commissioner George Fivaz said yesterday.

It was not known how many of those in custody had since been convicted, and how many were awaiting trial, said his spokesman, Joseph Ngebeni. It was difficult to tell, as cases were often postponed to a later date.

Fivaz announced in June that police would arrest 10 000 of the country's most wanted criminals within the first 30 days of the SAPS's Sword and Shield plan.

In this period police managed to arrest 7 099 of the targeted criminals over and above the arrests made in the normal course of their duties.

"If not for the special effort made by Sword and Shield these suspects would not have been arrested," Fivaz said.

In Gauteng, 1 649 suspects were arrested between June 13 and July 13, and 340 of them have been released on bail.

Breaking the Gauteng figure down, Fivaz said 23 of the 217 suspects arrested on the East Rand were granted bail, 67 of the 371 arrested on the West Rand got bail and 19 of the 90 arrested in Johannesburg were released on bail.

In Pretoria, 272 suspects were arrested, of which 167 got bail; 90 appeared in court in Soweto and 18 were granted bail; five of the 33 suspects arrested on the North Rand were granted bail and 41 of the 157 suspects arrested in the Vati Triangle got bail.

In the Western Cape, where the most suspects were arrested (1 700), 646 were released on bail.

Although the 30-day deadline expired on July 13, Fivaz said the Sword and Shield teams were continuing their "unrelenting hunt for the rest of the 10,000, as well as additional serious crime suspects".

Since mid-July Sword and Shield teams have arrested a further 5 000 suspects for serious crimes.
Govt making tough plans to bring rampant crime under control

Three ministers presenting ideas on how to halt wave of lawlessness that is engulfing country

OWN CORRESPONDENT, STAFF REPORTER AND SAPA

More prosecutors, a new release and parole policy, tighter gun control, steps to root out corruption and more police in key posts are on the way as the Government gets down to some urgent action to stem rising tides of lawlessness and public despondency.

The ministers of Justice, Safety and Security, and Correctional Services, among others, will meet in Cape Town tomorrow to finalise a series of tough, short-term measures to be presented for approval to the Cabinet on Wednesday.

Apart from steps aimed at addressing the crisis regarding the state’s perceived inability to combat rampant crime, a number of urgent pieces of legislation to restore public confidence in the criminal justice system will go before Parliament this session.

Of particular interest to the Western Cape - currently embroiled in a potentially devastating conflict between the militant community organisation People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) and the underworld - was the announcement by Minister of Justice Dullah Omar on Saturday that a tribunal “with similar powers to courts” is to be established to investigate alleged police corruption and complicity with gangs.

South Africa's images as a tourist destination and a land of investment opportunity were dealt several new, telling blows in the past few days with the murder in Sandton of Erich Ellmer, financial manager of a top German multinational, cautionary US government warnings to would-be tourists to South Africa, and no resolution in sight to the conflict on the Cape Flats.

"This does not bode well for South Africa, or for its economic growth and development, tourism or foreign investment - all so desperately required," Christoph Kopke, head of Daimler-Benz in South Africa, the principle shareholder of Ellmer’s company ABG, said yesterday.

Kopke’s sentiments echo those expressed by delegates to a weekend workshop in Bellville near Cape Town on improving the role of the community and the courts in fighting crime.

Last week, ministers responsible for the implementation of the national crime prevention strategy were urged by the special Cabinet committee on crime and intelligence to formulate immediate and decisive steps.

But, speaking after the workshop on Saturday, Omar said: “Everybody must recognise that there are no quick-fix solutions. Anyone who thinks we can perform a miracle is absolutely wrong. A solution to the many problems which we are discussing will not be a single event.”

Omar said he, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela had agreed last week to make a joint request to the Department of Finance to make money available to allow them to get going.

Omar said the group would recommend that the Government review its spending priorities because law and order were crucial.

Police Commissioner George Fivaz said he had already asked for funds to fill thousands of posts in his department.

Plans are also far advanced for establishing an academy for detectives.

Omar said he planned to appoint 100 prosecutors and give them backup to speed up trials.

Mzimela said the release and parole policy - to be unveiled on Thursday - represented a significant departure from the present system, which had seen a number of early-release blunders.

ANC MP Gregory Rockman, the former policeman who blew the whistle on riot squad brutality in 1989, has thrown in his lot with Pagad.

Rockman featured prominently in a mass march on the homes of alleged drug dealers in Athlone near Cape Town on Saturday night when he negotiated with police until the early hours yesterday morning to allow a 10-man Pagad delegation to deliver verbal anti-drug warnings at the homes of the alleged dealers.
Parties divided on crime and health during Budget debate

By Patrick Budgen
Parliamentary Correspondent

Cape Town - Political parties yesterday began a three-day debate on the 1996-97 Budget with sharp divisions emerging over crime and health.

The Freedom Front, Democratic Party and National Party said they would oppose the health budget in the light of the Sarsfina 2 debacle.

The parties are voting on the allocations to each of the government departments before a final vote on the budget as a whole tomorrow.

NP health spokesman Willem Odendaal said the NP would oppose the health vote because of the Sarsfina 2 issue. He alleged that any money voted to the Department of Health would be squandered by Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma. He was supported by DP health spokesman Mike Ellis who said he was waiting for Zuma to disclose who had provided the R1427-million for the ill-fated Aids play.

The DP also gave notice that it would oppose the justice vote.

The NP’s Sheila Camerer said the NP supported the justice vote but was concerned at the rate of crime.

She questioned where Justice Minister Dullah Omar would find the money for the extra 100 prosecutors he wanted to employ.
Town planning can be weapon in beating crime

GLEN MILLS

IT IS perhaps a truism to say that a relationship exists between town plans and the location of certain types of crime. What is not that clear is the complexity of this relationship. There is no understanding and distinction between those properties of the town plan that can and do affect the potential for crime to take place, and those that do not. Without this understanding, attempts to eliminate crime, and therefore to humanise our cities, will be costly hit-or-miss affairs.

How we plan and design cities is a function of our understanding of how they work. Given the problems that permeate our cities — crime, pollution, blight, congestion, etc — it could be argued that our understanding is at best blunt, at worst trivial. We seem to lack knowledge of how the city as a physical entity enables and constrains the city as a functional entity.

Help, however, could now be at hand. Results of research carried out by a colleague of mine at University College London could provide the breakthrough needed.

Professor Bill Hillier and his team have come up with a computer technique called "space syntax". What this model does is isolate the spatial property of the urban grid. By examining the grid's configuration, basically the relationship between all its parts, the model exposes and enumerates the grid in terms of how integrated and intelligible it is. This, in turn, provides an accurate window on pedestrian and vehicular movement densities. The measures show segregated areas as relatively quiet, and integrated areas as relatively busy.

Results indicate that good city plans provide a careful blend of integrated and segregated zones, so that quiet areas are not so cut off as to become dangerous. Without this blend, cities tend to be antisocial and therefore dysfunctional.

With this knowledge, it is possible to tease out the deeper, more intractable, structural properties of city form. In the process, the links between functional problems, such as crime, and urban design can be brought to the surface.

Application of the space syntax model allows us to detect problematic areas in the city with respect to certain types of crime. From an urban design perspective, two applications in the fight against crime are possible. Firstly, existing city layouts can be analysed to identify areas in need of some sort of planning intervention, or modification, so as to drive down crime. Secondly, new urban design proposals, in both existing cities and in greenfield situations, can be evaluated so as to predict in advance areas that will be prone to crime. Sketch plans can therefore be revised and reanalysed until solutions are found.

Work currently under way in my practice in which space syntax is applied, confirms many of Hillier's findings. For a start, and as a general rule of thumb, high encounter rates among pedestrians, good intelligibility and optimised relationships between integrated and segregated spaces are associated with low levels of crime. Preliminary results suggest several useful design guidelines which should be applied, and which could, from the point of view of local authorities, provide the basis for a more urban design-led form of city development.

For example:

☐ Ensure that all spaces have entrances to buildings facing directly on to them;
☐ Lines of sight that strike building facades must do so at open angles to suggest movement possibilities and to enhance intelligibility;
☐ In order to effectively relate new areas to surrounding areas ensure that the heart of the new scheme is linked to the surrounding area in several directions;
☐ Ensure all circulation networks are linked to the most integrated parts of the overall scheme; and
☐ Avoid the over-repetition of local parts since this will make the overall design unintelligible and therefore dangerous for strangers to the area, etc.

Because the space syntax model is "intelligent" — in that it has movement volumes and land use built into it — it could play a vital role in attempts to eliminate crime in SA. With its analytically rigorous approach to our understanding of how city form relates to city function we are provided with one way of factoring urban design into the crime equation.

There are many variables (poverty, unemployment, over-stretched police services, etc) in this equation, of which urban design — albeit often neglected but hugely important — is but one. Deploying extra resources and manpower may in some instances reduce crime levels. But unless the urban design variable is brought fully into play and integrated with other forms of intervention, in the way suggested here, solutions will, in the long run, be partial.

Urban design has the potential to be a trenchant weapon in the successful onslaught against crime. But this potential will be realised only if there is deep understanding of how cities actually work.

When something as large and complex as the city will not work, what is needed is knowledge of why it works at all.

☐ Dr Mills is a consulting architect and urban designer.
TREASURY TO RELEASE FUNDS

R700m crime crisis plan

THE Public Protector's first task in the Western Cape will be to investigate the disappearance of police dockets at Mitchell's Plain Magistrate's Court, Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar said last night. This and other measures come as the Treasury is set to release millions of rand in RDP funds to fight crime. Political Writer HENRY LUDISKI reports.

R
dastic steps, including calling in top detectives from other provinces and a ban on the public display of weapons, were announced yesterday as part of the government's R700 million multi-pronged strategy to fight rampant crime.

The drawing in of Mr Selby Baqwa’s department to clean up the criminal justice system, coupled with plans to set up an independent tribunal to put a stop to corruption, will for the first time create a powerful independent investigative and prosecutorial division outside existing structures.

Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sydney Mufamadi last night announced a ban on the open display of firearms in public, following an outcry over the broadcasting of weapons by both groups involved in the conflict in the Western Cape — People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) and gangsters.

He launched an urgent investigation into the management of public order in the Western Cape and called in detectives from outside the province to beef up the regional gang investigation unit.

They have been instructed to evaluate and collate all gang-related dockets in the region and to investigate the possible withdrawal of firearms licenses.

Further measures expected to be announced in the next few days include major prison reforms, which will include a dramatically changed parole and parole policy and the employment of extra staff.

After months of delays, the Treasury is also finally set to make available several hundred million rand of Reconstruction and Development Programme funds to bolster the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) — a comprehensive crime-fighting plan cutting across several government departments.

The deepening crisis around the problem of crime, which is threatening to spiral out of control, has dire consequences for the economy and the peace and stability so vital for investment and economic growth.

It has also raised very real concerns about the government's ability to reduce a frightening level of lawlessness which continues to dominate the lives of all South Africans — and the political arena.

Opposition parties, in a heated snap debate in the National Assembly yesterday that focused on crime and the explosive conflict in the Western Cape, lambasted the government for having failed to come up with workable crime-fighting responses or to crack down on gangsters and drug-trafficking.

The government was urged, even by ANC MPs, to make crime their "number one priority".

ANC MP and the chairperson of Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Defence, Mr Tony Yengeni, said Parliament and the government must send a strong signal that they will be "vigorous and merciless" in dealing with violent criminals.

ANC MP Willie Hofmeyr called for the setting up of a special fund, made up of contributions by taxpayers, the state and private sector, to finance measures which could make the most impact quickly and without the usual red tape associated with the public service.

Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar told the Cape Times last night — before going into the crucial NCPS meeting to map out a workable and tough response to crime, which will be presented to the cabinet today — that the first and immediate task of the Public Protector would be to investigate the crisis at the Mitchells Plain Magistrate's Court, where the disappearance of police dockets has continued to undermine the effectiveness of the judicial system.

Mr Omar said additional resources and investigating and support staff would be made available to assist the office of the Public Protector, which has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of complaints in the past few months, particularly since his report into the Saratina 2 AIDS play debacle.

Police Services RDP co-ordinator Mr Pieter du Plessis said yesterday an estimated R700 million of RDP funds had been allocated by the government for the transformation and restructuring of the criminal justice system and for programmes to address the underlying social causes of crime.

The private sector has made financial consultants available to help the police develop the comprehensive business plan, which was given to the treasury, for the allocation of the RDP millions.

A spokesperson for Finance Minister Mr Trevor Manuel said yesterday the department was evaluating the business plan and it was likely the allocated funds would be made available shortly.

However, she said Manuel was not in favour of making additional funds available to criminal justice departments and had instead suggested that they reprioritise the allocation of their existing budgets to deal with the problem.

Are you responsible for organising...
Pagad warns off investors 'until SA free of drugs'

STAFF REPORTERS

A PEOPLE Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) leader has urged foreigners not to invest in South Africa until it is free of gangsters and drugs.

Pagad leader Mr Farouk Jaffer said last night that drugs had infiltrated society like a "supermarket" business and drug lords were earning R2 million a day.

Addressing a press conference at the Gatesville Mosque, he called on foreigners "not to invest a cent in South Africa until Pagad has given the green light".

Late last night, a planned march by about 400 Pagad members was called off as it was feared that it could lead to a violent confrontation with police.

Jaffer said he believed tourists were not safe and investors should not come to South Africa, a view he said would probably upset the government.

He also criticised the police for "failing to play their proper role". He accused them of not wanting to work with Pagad and of trying instead to put the organisation down.

He slammed customs officials at Cape Town International Air-

port, Table Bay docks and border posts for failing to halt the flow of drugs into the country.

He emphasised that Pagad was not a Muslim organisation, but represented every South African.

In the 1980s, "our white fellow neighbours' children" had fallen prey to cocaine, Jaffer said, but in the past three or four years cocaine had been used by Indians, coloureds and blacks.

Earlier, during an often-heated debate in Parliament, Minister of Justice Mr Dullah Omar said he supported Pagad's aims — but warned that opposition to crime was not a licence to kill.

"I want to make it very, very clear that those who fight drug-trafficking, those who fight gangsterism, are our allies," he said.

However, he would not tolerate such actions as the murder of alleged drug baron Mr Rashand Staggle, co-leader, with his twin brother Rashid, of the Hand Livings gang.

Omar met Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sydney Mufamadi and other security chiefs later yesterday to draft an anti-crime strategy to put before the cabinet today.

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NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD Leonard Meyer does not know who his father is. He does not even know what his father looks like. All he knows is that the parent he has never seen is called "Lammie" and that he would like to meet him one day.

"Perhaps he will read about me here at Brandville and come looking for me," he suggests wistfully after explaining that he grew up with his grandfather and that his mother is now in Sea Point.

Leonard must have had a reasonable-by-comparison upbringing because, unlike so many of his fellow inmates at the Youth Correctional Centre, he completed Std 10. But that is where the happiness ended. He still has to serve two years of a 33-month sentence in Worcester for a drugs-related stabbing offence.

The well-spoken teenager became involved with a gang called the Gunston Kids for "the excitement and the pleasure". There were the women hangers on and they had a lot of fun.

But the good days turned to tragedy when young Leonard got into drugs and alcohol.

"We used to buy Mandrax from a merchant. He charged R30 for one, and he's probably still there pushing. I don't know what happened to this man. I don't even know his name, but as far as I know he was never arrested."

Leonard says that when you are drunk and smoked-up on drugs you make enemies. "One day I assaulted one of them and stuck his eye out with a knife. I was arrested, charged and sentenced to two years and nine months correctional service. I've also spent eight months in Brandville and will be very happy to get out of here one day."

He claims, however, to have completely changed his attitude and learnt his lesson, and when he has paid for his crime he is determined to have nothing more to do with gangs.

"I now feel sorry for them (gangsters) because drugs destroy your life. If I have a chance when I meet them again on the outside, I will encourage them to give up. It's the only way. When I'm sober I am not the same person as I am when I'm under the influence of drugs or alcohol."

He says that he and his fellow inmates follow gangland developments in television, and he is convinced that the only way to combat crime is to get at its roots.

"The police must get rid of the gangs but at the same time young people must be able to get decent jobs to earn a living. That's one of the problems out there, there are not enough jobs and young people get involved with gangs too easily when they've got nothing better to do."

"Today I am very sorry about my past. But I am getting a second chance and I'm tackling as many courses as I can."

"I'm spraypainting, doing needlework and woodwork. I hope that these skills will help me get a job when I am released."
Call to bring back haing.
Prevention Strategy is in wrong hands

Criminologist Lala Camerer has slammed the notion that the Department of Welfare should lead the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) programme aimed at victim empowerment and support.

She says that only lip service will have been paid to creating a better deal for victims of crime if the national programme is led by the Welfare Department.

"While this department already provides some services to offenders and to victims of crime, it is the other line function departments of Safety and Security and Justice which are important, if not more so, when it comes to addressing crime victims," says Ms Camerer.

In a paper on the subject, she says not enough reasons exist for the Welfare Department to lead the programme.

"Accommodating victims within the criminal justice system, through aid and empowerment, requires hard decisions, commitment and resources from the traditional crime departments of Justice and Safety and Security."

Ms Camerer seriously questions the sincerity of the NCPS' commitment to a victim-centric approach to crime prevention as well as an understanding of how to make the criminal justice system in its traditional, bureaucratic entirety more user or victim friendly.

And she accuses the NCPS of attempting to "marginalise crime victims" concerns to the "washed out Department of Welfare."

"By focusing on the victims of crime and by consciously mobilising around them and addressing their needs, the moral authority of South Africa's criminal justice system will gradually be restored."

Ms Camerer, a member of the provisional NCPS programme team on victim support and empowerment, does, however, describe as "praiseworthy" efforts which seriously seek to address stumbling blocks in the real provision of services for victims.

In terms of streamlining and co-ordinating fragmented services for victims, the programme seeks to address the negative effects of criminal activity on victims.

This is done through programmes which mediate these effects and provide support and skills to address them.

The programmes establish a directory of service providers and identify critical gaps, examine resource usage and establish priorities in resource allocation, to meet public needs and expectations.
Anti-corruption unit has high success rate

The South African Police Service has responded to the calls of some Crime Line readers.

Mr George Williams, of Mitchells Plain, commented: "We must get rid of corrupt cops first..."

The Western Cape SA Police Anti-Corruption Unit was established in December last year and has a high success rate. Corrupt police officers will not be tolerated within the service. Provincial Commissioner Leon Hessels has vowed to root out all corrupt officers. To date, this unit has charged 24 police officers and 43 cases are still being investigated.

Williams commented further: "We must also patrol our borders and our ports properly so there will be fewer drugs..."

Between January and June 30 this year, members of the police's Narcotics Bureau (SANAB) arrested 1 026 people on charges of dealing in a variety of drugs and seized the following drugs during these operations: 1740kg dagga; 240 188 Mandrax tablets; 5.7kg cocaine; 102g Opium; 132 units of LSD; 2 742 Ecstasy amphetamine tablets; 11g hashish and 55g heroine.

Mr Ashraf Johnson, of Surrey Estate, commented: "Police searched gangsters... Why didn't they confiscate their firearms and run ballistic tests?"

If police have reason to believe that a specific firearm was used in a crime, this firearm will be confiscated and sent for ballistic tests.

Mr Christopher Jones, of Bishop Lavis, mentioned three criminal cases which he made at the local police station:

Regarding the armed robbery which occurred in November 1995, he (Jones) could not give the investigating officer a description of the three perpetrators.

Regarding the housebreaking which occurred during 1994, no charge was laid by him. When he reported the broken windows of his home to the police, he made it clear he was only reporting the incident to obtain a case number as he had to supply this number to the Regional Services Council who owned the house.

The community must work with the police to combat crime, be the eyes and ears for the police, report any suspicious persons/activities and participate in their Community Police Forums and Neighbourhood Watches. If you wish to remain anonymous, phone Crime Stop toll-free at 0800 11 12 13.

Rewards of up to R250,000 are paid for information leading to the arrests of criminals..."
German chamber slams govt on rampant crime

TIME was running out for government to demonstrate its ability to implement its political will, the German business community said yesterday.
The community said in a statement issued through the SA-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry that the murder of Erich Ellmer—a top businessman working for a German firm—in a botched car hijacking "has once again forced us to focus on our economic and political environment. Our chamber, representing SA's biggest trading partner, has on various occasions urged government to act quickly and decisively to create an economic environment to boost local and foreign investor confidence."

"The German community in particular has demonstrated unequivocally through numerous initiatives its commitment to support the country in many of its endeavours. Notwithstanding government's acknowledgements of the need to create an investor-friendly environment, there is no clear evidence as yet on delivery—delivery on law and order, delivery on the economy, delivery on education and housing," said the statement.

Further: "It is high time that government demonstrates its ability to implement its political will—we are extremely concerned that time is running out. One of our biggest post-election assets—'goodwill'—is being wasted. How much longer can we realistically hope to be able to trade with this asset. We are concerned that the international media will be shifting to a very negative stance."

"We would once again appeal to the government and the authorities to produce tangible evidence of its commitment and ability to deliver."

Although SA was loved and supported by business people, "the single biggest factor influencing all our lives is the continuing crime and violence. Government must understand that this has a profoundly negative influence regarding any future investment decision. The level of personal danger endured by managers and the community at large is totally unacceptable."

A questionnaire circulated to chamber members had shown that 16 out of 30 CEOs of German subsidiaries in SA have been victims of violent crime. "It has got to stop." —Sapa.
NEW LAWS on sentencing and a special focus on corruption in the police force are included in measures to combat crime expected to be announced today, writes HENRY LUDSKI.

MINIMUM sentences for gang- and drug-related offences, new “super-maximum” security prisons and a witness protection programme for "whistle-blowers" were among the tough new anti-crime measures endorsed by the cabinet yesterday.

Also included will be mandatory sentences for police members found guilty of certain offences — including corruption — and stricter police disciplinary regulations.

This can be disclosed by the Cape Times, which obtained a copy of recommendations by criminal justice ministers who met on Tuesday evening to devise their anti-crime plan. Almost all of them are understood to have been passed by the cabinet.

The sweeping measures likely to be announced today include:
- Minimum sentences for certain offences, such as gang- and drug-related offences.
- A new “super-maximum security” category of imprisonment, which will involve the building of new prisons with specially trained staff.
- Rewards for “whistle-blowing” and a special witness protection programme to protect people and police members who come forward with information on corruption.
- Mandatory sentences for particular categories of disciplinary, criminal or corruption-related offences committed by police members.
- New and tougher police disciplinary regulations.
- A witness protection policy which will ensure that suspects and offenders are imprisoned for a substantial period of their sentences.
- The consideration of life sentences, with parole only to be considered after review of the sentence by a court.
- The development of a provincial crime prevention strategy.

The ministers are also to request Parliament to restructure its programme in the current session to speed up the passage of criminal justice legislation.

Besides being urged to make a “concrete commitment of resources to the criminal justice and crime prevention effort”, the government ministers responsible for the implementation of the national crime prevention strategy also indicated that the most urgent priorities would initially be funded from the hundreds of millions of RDP funds which have been set aside to bolster the strategy.

Other steps expected to be implemented to manage public order — in the Western Cape particularly — include the enforcement of a special government ban on the carrying of firearms at public gatherings in certain magisterial districts and measures to tighten police authority and control over public gatherings.

In a bid to crack down on gangs and drug-trafficking a special national structure to co-ordinate and supervise investigations has been set up and a specialist team of detectives will be sent to Cape Town for a month to evaluate all police dockets relating to gang activity.

A gang-busting network, involving national intelligence and dedicated prosecutors, will be established to work closely with community groups.

HAND IN HAND: Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama after their meeting at the Mount Nelson Hotel yesterday. • Report Page 3

PICTURE: BENNY G.

No charges against leader

POLICE denied last night that Pagad leaders Muhammed Ali "Phantom" Parker and Mr Fareed Jaffer were being sought in connection with charges of sedition.

News reports over the past week noted that Parker and Jaffer were being sought in connection with the charges.

Police confiscated a secret police document on Islamic extremists in SA yesterday from a Beeld reporter, claiming they needed it for an investigation against a police commander.

Beeld said police asked reporter Nick Beudenbrouck to hand over the document and identity who had given it to him. He refused and was served with a summons to appear in the Middelburg Magistrate's Court on September 11.

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When, and how, you CAN take the law into your own hands

Being told not take the law into one's own hands, does not mean one's hands are tied. Staff reporter ANDREW SMITH looks at how the law makes provision for individuals and communities to help clean up the streets.

FOR weeks the South African Police Service have been begging People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) to stop taking the law into their own hands and to let the police do their job.

But Pagad and, more recently, the Freedom Front, have called on folk to take up the fight against crime, citing impatience with an ineffective policing and justice system as justification.

The public and state response, however, has been somewhat misleading.

Citizens may take "the law into their own hands", as long as the letter of the law is followed.

And ironically, the police have been calling for people to do so for many years.

The Criminal Procedure Act allows citizens, under wide ranging conditions to arrest law breakers and turn them over to the police. The notion of citizens arrest is not a mothballed piece of legislation which has no practical application.

South Africa's burgeoning security industry uses this very piece of legislation to arrest law breakers and sustain the security businesses. Even small fry security interests like neighbourhood watches make use of the legislation.

Pagad leaders conceded that a neighbourhood watch with a solid understanding of the law would go along way in cleaning up the streets.

But citizens cannot arrest others as they please. Although the act is phrased fairly widely, it does list the offences for which citizens arrests may be made.

The act justifies an arrest of a person whom the arresting person suspects of committing, or knows has committed, a schedule one offense. It is phrased widely enough to even allow the arrest of a person whom the arresting person "reasonably believes to have committed any offence referred to in schedule one".

Two aspects of the act need consideration bearing in mind the fact that a civil suit could await a citizen who makes an arrest not justified by the law.

Firstly, schedule one crimes are limited to murder, attempted murder, rape, robbery, house breaking, sedition as well as assault "when a dangerous wound is inflicted", theft, receiving stolen goods "knowing then it to be stolen" and forgery.

Any conspiracy to commit a schedule one offense would also fall under the mantle of a schedule one crime.

As far as drug dealing is concerned John Sterrenberg, police spokesperson indicated that any crime with a penalty of six months in prison without the option of a fine also falls under the act.

This gives the act a wide scope and includes arrests for offences such as drug dealing and gun running.

But the problem lies with communities whose members do not know what crimes constitute offences for which penalties of six months or over would be incurred.

Senior members of Pagad agreed that for community members to arrest fellow citizens and be assured that a conviction would ensue, rather than a civil suit, the community would have to be educated accordingly, just as security guards are.

Secondly, the act does allow for a safety net should an unlawful arrest be carried out. The arresting party would have to prove that his or her suspicion was reasonable.

What constitutes a reasonable suspicion would be judged objectively. In other words, the court would look at all aspects of the arrest, including force.

Force more often than not would be required in order to execute such an arrest and the Criminal Procedure act does make provision for this.

Section 49 of the act affords a person protection from the law if force leading to injury or death is used to overpower a suspect with a view to making a citizen's arrest.

But, again, the force used always must be reasonable.

Just as a court would adjudicate the reasonableness of the force used, the reasonableness of the force used would be judged and, if found to have been unreasonable, would open the way for the person arrested to file a civil suit against the arresting officer.

Professor Johan Joubert of Unisa law faculty said that although the courts would try not to use an "armchair" approach in deciding if the force used was reasonable or not, it would check all the circumstances.

Private citizens can thus use all the force necessary but a court would have to do the final say.

As Superintendent Sterrenberg was quick to point out, the law would come down hard on the arresting officer if the force used were not authorised by the law. "The use of violence in arresting a person brings the arresting person near the fine line between acting legally and taking the law into his own hands," he said.

"If an arresting person oversteps the mark and kills another person, when a warning or a punch would have been enough, he would be charged appropriately."

Superintendent Sterrenberg indicated another aspect of the citizen's arrest which if not complied with could result in the arresting party facing the full wrath of the law.

The person who is arrested should be handed over to the police as soon as possible. "If you arrest a person and dump him in a cellar for a day or two and then take him to the police, you can be charged with kidnapping."

Dumping a person in a cellar, burning him alive or shooting him in the head would clearly not be covered by the Act. They are brutal acts of violence and the perpetrator should suffer under the law.

But it is a perfect time for communities to take up the law and use it as it was intended - to protect citizens.

Pagad members on a march earlier this month. The use of "unreasonable" force by a citizen making a citizen's arrest - including the unwarranted use of firearms - could expose the arresting officer to criminal and civil court action. But in many situations it is lawful for an ordinary member of the public to arrest a person whom he or she has reasonable grounds for believing has committed a criminal offence - and to use force, provided the degree of force used is reasonable in the opinion of a court, to effect the arrest. Knowledge of the law is crucial in using these powers.
Cabinet says yes to anti-crime strategy

More jails, tougher sentences and special anti-gang and anti-drug squads on the way

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet yesterday endorsed tough action against gangsters and crime, at the same time sending out a strong message that corruption in the criminal justice system will no longer be tolerated.

This can be disclosed today by The Star, which obtained a copy of recommendations by criminal justice ministers who met on Tuesday to devise a plan to fight rampant crime.

The wide-ranging proposals, almost all of which are understood to have been accepted by the full Cabinet yesterday, identify the specific "action steps" which the justice, safety and security, and correctional services ministries believe will "improve the management of the criminal justice system and restore public confidence in the Government's ability to tackle the crime problem."

The sweeping measures likely to be announced today, particularly to address the continuing crisis in the Western Cape and the disturbing levels of corruption, include the following:

- New and tougher South African Police Service disciplinary regulations.
- Rewards for "whistle-blowing" and a special witness protection programme.
- Mandatory sentences for particular categories of disciplinary or criminal or corruption-related offences committed by police members.
- The development of a provincial crime prevention strategy.
- Minimum sentences for certain offences, such as gang- and drug-related crimes.
- A new release policy which will ensure that serious offenders are jailed for a substantial period of their sentences.
- The consideration of legislation to give proper effect to life sentences, with parole only to be considered after review of the sentence by a court.
- A new "super maximum security" category of imprisonment, which will involve the building of new prisons with specially trained staff.

The ministers are also to ask Parliament to rearrange the programme in the current session to speed up the passage of criminal justice legislation.

Besides being urged "to make a concrete commitment of resources to the criminal justice and crime prevention effort", the ministers responsible for the implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy also indicated that the most urgent priorities, of which 20 have thus far been identified, would initially be funded from the hundreds of millions of RDP funds set aside to bolster the strategy.

Minister of Justice Dullah Omar is also scheduled to meet chief magistrates soon to ensure that public safety and the integrity of the justice process are paramount when bail is granted and sentences are imposed.

Another aspect would be the creation of a special gang-busting structure, involving national intelligence and dedicated prosecutors who will work closely with community groups.
Plan to build ‘super-maximum’ prisons

Cabinet gives nod to tougher crime strategy

Drew Forrest

CAPE TOWN — Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela has announced plans to tighten the parole system and to build high-security “super-maximum” prisons for dangerous criminals as a response to high crime levels.

His announcement yesterday was part of a multifaceted plan approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday, intended to intensify the war on crime, particularly in the Western Cape.

The proposed parole policy, providing for mandatory sentences that could not be shortened by parole or remission, would be passed into law as soon as possible next year, Mzimela said.

Drawing from the recommendations of the national advisory council on correctional services under Judge M Kumleben, it was a response to unacceptable high levels of crime and criticism of the parole system.

“This policy is a radical departure,” Mzimela said. “It is going to affect severely the time served by prisoners and we hope this will help bring down the general trend of criminality.”

Under the policy, courts would be able to determine mandatory jail terms, preferably of not more than two-thirds of the total sentence. Correctional Services spokesman Bert Slabbert said it could be expected that the courts would generally insist that two-thirds of the sentence be served. Only the head of state would be able to grant remission on the mandatory portion of sentences. Correctional services would continue applying parole principles on the non-mandatory portion to reward prisoners for positive behaviour.

Mzimela said the possibility of parole for prisoners serving life terms would be considered by the national advisory council. However, it was proposed that life prisoners should serve at least 20 years of their sentences.

Other proposed changes were the restructuring of parole boards to include “other stakeholders in the criminal justice system” and the incorporation of periods spent awaiting trial in whatever sentence was imposed.

The Cabinet also approved a proposal that dangerous criminals be held in “super-maximum” prisons where they would be subject to close surveillance and their movement and activities severely curtailed.

Mzimela said “two or three” such prisons would be built, accommodating at least the 500 convicts serving sentences. Prisoners would have little contact with each other, breaking their criminal network links and hindering attempts to combat the gang culture.

Asked whether the planned parole reform was feasible, given the current

Continued on Page 2

Crime strategy

Continued from Page 1

30% overcrowding in SA’s prisons, Mzimela said it had to be applied “even if it meant putting 10 people in cells meant for one”.

He believed the private sector should build prisons and lease them to the state to cut costs and construction time. However, public works department officials “who don’t want to move into the new era” were likely to drag their heels on the proposal.

The Cabinet provided further details yesterday of special anti-crime measures approved at Wednesday’s meeting. These included plans to ban the carrying of firearms at public gatherings in certain magisterial districts, a strategy to encourage blowing the whistle on corruption, and introducing scanners, X-ray machines and sniffer dogs at Western Cape ports of entry.
Worst criminals to be jailed in remote areas

THE RINGLEADERS of prison gangs, considered "beyond rehabilitation", may soon find themselves sent to prisons where they can no longer have any contact with their families and criminal associates, writes HENRY LUDSKI.

The director of the South Africa's most dangerous and hardened prisoners to "super maximum security prisons" in remote areas - including using private sector finance to convert a disused Free State mine - were announced yesterday by the government.

Correctional Services Minister Dr Sipho Mzikana said ringleaders of notorious Western Cape prison gangs could soon find themselves in these jails along with serial killers, people serving life sentences and those convicted of heinous crimes against children.

Prisons throughout the country are populated by violent gangs, such as the 26s and 28s, who through a highly sophisticated network of fear and corruption continue to wield immense power beyond prison boundaries.

Mzikana said the proposed super maximum security prisons, the first of which could be ready as early as June next year, were also aimed at breaking the cyclical nature of the prison gang phenomenon and isolating prisoners convicted of gang-related offences.

"We want them far away from their families, away from their theatre of operations and in a place where they will be under constant guard, in single cells, and with little if any contact with other prisoners."

Mzikana said these prisoners, of whom there are hundreds in South Africa, were "beyond rehabilitation", had shown that they did not belong in a civilised society and should therefore not be entitled to any of the privileges to which prisoners were usually entitled.

But whatever measures were introduced would have no chance of success if immediate steps were not taken to root out corrupt elements.

Mzikana confirmed that he had appointed a judge to investigate complaints of corruption against prison officials.

Mzikana also announced plans to introduce a new system of release and parole, which would make it mandatory for prisoners to serve at least two-thirds of their prison sentences before being considered eligible for parole.

The parole and release measures - to be implemented despite widespread overcrowding at virtually all South African jails - were aimed at preventing situations in which criminals were released after serving only a small portion of their sentences.

He expected the legislation to be passed during the present session of Parliament.

The measures form part of ongoing plans by Mzikana to transform South African prisons and are also among the initiatives that the government has incorporated into its elaborate National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCP) to stamp out crime.

Mzikana said he believed that, given the non-availability of state funds, the solution to prison overcrowding was to get private companies to build new prisons which could then be leased to the state.

A leading gold mining company had offered a disused mine in the Free State to be developed as a prison by private capital.

Democratic Party spokesman on correctional services, Mr James Seifel, yesterday welcomed the new parole and release measures, but expressed concern that these provisions would put more pressure on the overcrowded jails, which already house 30,000 more prisoners than they were built to accommodate.

Seifel stressed the urgent need for the government to take up the offer from the private sector to build prisons which could then be leased by prison authorities.
Fivaz to meet press on controversial section 205

Commissioner says issue has to be defused rapidly and addressed in the best interests of the media and the SAPS

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

Police Commissioner George Fivaz says he wants to meet newspaper editors, media unions, "attorneys-general and other stakeholders on the controversial section 205 legislation which can result in a journalist being jailed for not divulging sources to the police.

Sydney Mufamadi, the Minister of Safety and Security, is to meet editors on Thursday.

Newspapers and radio and television stations were raided last week by police seeking the names of sources and material in regard to an extremist Muslim underground organisation said to be operating in South Africa.

The Argus (Cape Town), The Cape Times, Die Burger (Cape Town), Beeld (Johannesburg), SABC Television News, and the Associated Press news agency were served with subpoenas in terms of section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

In a statement from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, where he has been attending a conference of regional police chiefs, Fivaz said it was "clearly necessary to re-examine the section's practical implication to specifically the media."

"He added that the issue had to be "rapidly defused and addressed in the best interests of the media and the South African Police Service."

Both the police and the media existed to serve the community, and their credibility was crucial in the fight against crime.

"I believe the police and the broader criminal justice system must realise that the pivotal role of the media in fighting crime is absolutely dependent on both the perceived and practical independence of the media."

"Police in a democracy cannot expect the media to compromise their independence by becoming mere extensions of the investigative authority," Fivaz said.

Although section 205 was a legitimate judicial instrument and a vital tool in fighting crime in general, "it is clearly necessary to re-examine its practical application to specifically the media."

Fivaz said the proposed meeting would discuss directing the police to proceed with orders against the media only on the direct and explicit authorisation of an attorney-general, and the issuing of clear directives to police structures that they had to exhaust all other investigative and information avenues before an attorney-general is asked for such authorisation; to initiate discussions with attorneys-general to reach a joint approach on such orders against journalists; and to seek a review of all section 205 orders against journalists.

Hardly a profession safe from law's tentacles

By Cheryl Hunter

Last week several prominent journalists were subpoenaed by police to reveal confidential information in court, but few people realise that this law applies to almost all professions.

Under South African law, even a priest may be forced to repeat details revealed to him in the sanctity of the confessional.

In terms of section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act, any person can be forced to hand over information to the police if they consider it essential to the solving of a criminal case.

Those refusing to hand over the information can be jailed indefinitely, or until they give authorities the required information.

According to an advocate from the Witwatersrand attorney-general's office, the only relationship which is exempt from this section of the law is that between a lawyer and client.

"The most cut-throat murderer can make outrageous and damming confessions to a lawyer and nothing he says can be used against him," said the advocate, who preferred not to be named.

A doctor, however, who claims that his patients' medical records are privileged or confidential information, will be served a subpoena to provide the requested information or face imprisonment.

"People claim privileged information which they say is confidential, but the law does not recognise this," the advocate said.
New anti-crime campaign

NATIONAL Police Commissioner George Fivaz yesterday launched a new plan initiated by business to upgrade and improve the performance of 100 of the country’s most needy police stations.

The improved management plan, Project Lifeline, was hoped to later spill over to the country’s other 1 100 stations.

The project is being facilitated free of charge by the South African branch of the international management consultancy McKinsey Incorporated, and has the support of the police and Business Against Crime.

McKinsey Inc partner Ms Judy Wade told journalists at the launch at Moroka Police Station in Soweto the police faced an immense challenge in transforming a 140 000-member organisation while reducing crime.

"In our work with major institutions around the world we have been involved in difficult major change efforts. But the challenge facing the SA Police Service is one of a magnitude rarely seen," she said.

Fivaz said the plan was mainly aimed at improving the management of available resources to enhance the police’s effectiveness. The reduction of administration staff had, for example, greatly improved the number of Moroka station members available for visible policing.

Moroka and eight other stations were part of the pilot project started in May, and all had shown significant results, he said.

The 100 stations were selected on the grounds of which had the highest crime rate, the greatest infrastructural needs, the most dissatisfied communities and the greatest shortage of skills.

The nine pilot stations were Daveyton and Moroka in Gauteng, Libode and Fleet Street in the Eastern Cape, Cato Manor, Mariannhill and Umkomas in KwaZulu-Natal, and Grassy Park and Nyanga in the Western Cape. - Supa.
Many hands needed to address present crisis

LAJA Camara, a researcher with the Crime and Policing Policy Project, writes of an article written by her on this page last week: I am somewhat concerned about the perception created by the headline: “Prevention Strategy is in wrong hands” (Cape Times, 22 August 1996).

Saying that the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) is in the “wrong hands”, is incorrect, since my paper concerned itself with the line function department leading the Programme Team on Victim Support and Empowerment within the NCPS, not the NCPS itself.

In addition, the article failed to reflect that the roles of various departments engaged in the NCPS are not cut and dried, but very much up for discussion.

In fact, a national workshop on victim support and empowerment (co-presented by the SAPS Victim Support Programme and the Crime and Policing Policy Project at the Institute for Defence Policy) is being held at the end of August with all relevant stakeholders to discuss the respective roles and responsibilities of government and NGOs when it comes to securing a better deal for crime victims.

While I uphold the view that the Department of Welfare alone is not sufficient to lead the programme team, it will obviously need to play a key role, especially when it comes to support services such as counselling and referral for victims of crime. However, these initiatives will need to be complemented by the Departments of Safety and Security and Justice if victims of crime in South Africa are to be empowered throughout the criminal justice process.

Finally, I am not a criminologist, but a policy researcher doing work around crime and policing issues.

This distinction is important since the difference between academia and a policy-making environment means that one cannot afford the luxury, especially in the current crisis, of throwing ideas around from which practical products do not flow.
New bills target drug smugglers

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

THE first of a triple package of bills aimed at combating international drug trafficking and at sharpening extradition laws has been tabled in Parliament.

The Proceeds of Crime Bill will enable courts to confiscate from criminals the proceeds of crime and will prohibit money laundering.

Its companion legislation, the International Co-operation in Criminal Matters Bill, and the Extradition Amendment Bill, are expected soon.

Johnny de Lange, head of the national assembly committee on justice, which will be holding hearings on the legislation, said the package was part of continuing efforts to replace the archaic and repressive apartheid-era criminal justice system with a modern, effective and human-rights based system.

The new legislation introduced innovative and, in some cases, drastic measures to prevent and combat crime, Mr De Lange said.

The bills flow from research by the SA Law Commission and will put into effect provisions of the UN’s Vienna Convention against drug trafficking.

The law commission recommended the establishment of a central office, attached to the justice department, to channel letters of request for evidence to appropriate organisations in foreign states.

The present system of getting evidence from a foreign witness by setting up a commission would be replaced by the court issuing a letter of request for help in obtaining the evidence.

The commission said there should be a simplified procedure for the provision of evidence in criminal proceedings from South Africa to foreign courts. The minister of justice would be given the discretion to decide on the desirability of complying with a request from a foreign state.
Mandela, clerics in crime talks

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

On the eve of today’s meeting between President Mandela and religious leaders aimed at a strategy against gangsterism, senior Government ministers have disclosed further steps in the campaign against crime.

Mr Mandela, Justice Minister Dullah Omar and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi are to meet about 50 clerics of various faiths and denominations to discuss ways to counteract crime.

The meeting is an African National Congress initiative, part of the run-up to this weekend’s ANC Peace, Stability and Security summit in Cape Town.

In the national assembly yester-day, Mr Omar said the law of presumption of guilt under various circumstances was being reviewed in the light of Constitutional Court judgments, and so that it could strengthen the anti-crime campaign.

He was responding to a mini-debate on whether his department was considering statutory presumptions of guilt about the illegal possession of drugs or dealing in drugs.

Mr Omar said such presumptions existed in the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act and in the Criminal Procedure Act, but several of these provisions had been challenged in the Constitutional Court. The court had ruled unconstitutional the presumption in the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act that possession of 150g or more of dagga made the possessor guilty of dealing.

Mr Omar said the ruling was a problem, and the situation was being reviewed. However, there remained a number of other presumptions in law, including those dealing with the proceeds of crime.

Not enough use was being made of these, he said. While no civilised country would ever abandon the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, at the same time it was crucial to improve the justice system.

Mr Mufamadi said during the debate that there were ongoing efforts to form a partnership against crime, including setting up inner-city video camera surveillance.
Time for the ANC to take responsibility for crime
Siemens dispute and industry downturn hits M&R earnings

By Jonathan Rosenthal

Johannesburg — Murray and Roberts, the construction, engineering and transport group, reported a 13 percent fall in earnings a share to R1.09 for the year to June 30. The group was beset by a downturn in the building and construction sector and a dispute with Siemens over the cancellation of a R500 million contract to supply train sets for Taiwan.

Earnings before interest and depreciation rose 4 percent to R10.6 billion, but were reduced by the R160 million provision made to settle the dispute with Siemens. That cut shareholders earnings by 47c a share.

Turnover rose 16 percent to R16.7 billion, but operating margins fell from last year's 8 percent to 5.4 percent. Despite an 8 percent fall in attributable earnings, the final dividend was unchanged from last year's 34c.

Total dividends for the year were 3 percent higher at R8.55.

The sales of companies engaged in non-core activities boosted attributable earnings. They generated gross proceeds of R318 million and a non-operating surplus of R128 million.

Among the companies sold were Mono Pumps, Gypsum Industries, Huddy Diamond and Court Helicopters.

The materials operating group made the largest contribution to earnings at R244 million. Transport contributed R131 million to earnings and contractors R192 million. Engineering's contribution fell to R189 million from R233 million. International turnover rose 41 percent to almost R2 billion, or 18.5 percent of group turnover.

The group could also benefit from an increase in gross domestic fixed investment, said Graham Hardy, the chief executive.

See Business Watch, Page 20
Reforming the Criminal Justice System now a National Priority.
State urged to focus on victims of crime
Mandela urges communities to help fight crime

Cape Town – President Nelson Mandela yesterday urged communities to help in the fight against rampant crime.

"The community must be mobilised to identify criminals and have them brought before the law," Mandela said in a meeting with about 75 Cape Town religious leaders.

"If we do that in every province, in addition to what the Government is doing, we will be able to bring down the level of crime," he said.

Mandela told Christian, Muslims, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist leaders that the criminal justice system was the only proper channel to fight crime, but said there was a place for the Muslim movement, People Against Gangs and Drugs.

Pagad supporters last month publicly shot and burnt to death gang leader and alleged drug baron Rashaad Stagge.

Heavily armed Pagad crowds have repeatedly confronted police during marches to the homes of alleged drug dealers, threatening to kill those who don’t give up their trade.

Mandela said southern African leaders had asked him at a recent summit in Lesotho about reports that Pagad was part of an Islamic campaign to take control of South Africa.

"We are interacting with the movement because some of our members are also part of this movement. It’s a genuine movement ... there is nothing to be alarmed about," Mandela said.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar said at the same meeting that he and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi would meet Pagad leaders next week.

-Reuters
Security summit as the nation asks: Can this Government control crime?
Government to summit
Strangling crime leads

SATURDAY WRANGLER ARGUS. August 13, 1996
Bold! United Front needed in Drug War

...
You are letting SA go to the dogs!

By ROCKY MOEKOENA

THE BLAME for the squalor of crouching South Africa is placed firmly on the government, by many citizens. City Press found during random interviews that they are not happy.

With the death of Elijah Phiri, "Pro" Khumalo, a local police doctor Khumalo who was shot dead when four youths hijacked his car—many peace-loving South Africans have reacted with anger and revulsion at what they see as the police's ineptitude in dealing with crime.

Tony Sithole (45) of Orlando East in Soweto, for instance, has no hesitation in putting the blame on the government.

He criticises the way Correctional Services are handling the prison situation. The organising of musical festivals in prisons, for example, shows that the government has a soft spot for criminals, he says.

"If a person takes someone's life or property, he should forfeit all his rights. Criminals should get harsh sentences with hard labour in prison—to make them fearful of breaking the law again. People should not take the law into their hands—this would make the country no worse off, he says.

The defence force should be called in to help fight crime and the police are proving to be unable to curb this menace.

Unemployment is the cause of the high crime rate—and the past government should be blamed for its past laws that disadvantaged blacks, he says.

Mark Souris (39), a businessman in the Johannesburg city centre, says the police need to be retrained to focus on crime prevention.

The uncontested issuing of firearm licences contributes to the high crime rate in the country, he says. "An extra force should also be retrained to fight crime as South Africa faces a threat from neighbouring countries."

"The government should not treat crime as a strictly local problem, there is a different agenda about the country," says Souris.

The police are ineffective, he says—and he blames the top echelons.

Two of his cars were hijacked in one week and his bank was also robbed of money and stock.

Souris singles out the inhumane laws of the past government and their inability to combat crime as the cause of crime in South Africa.

Mable Khekeka (34) of Gaborone says that police should help fight crime and expose those involved in criminal activities.

The death penalty will not help to curb crime, she says.

"More police are needed to fight crime and they should be accountable to the community."

South Africans involved in crimes like murder, rape and armed robbery should be granted bail and should get harsh sentences, she adds.

She also blames unemployment for the issue of escalating crime. The provincial government should have more powers to control the police, she says.

"We have heard from Dr. Crockett (38) of Emeraldvale says the community should take responsibility for their villages and the government is failing to curb crime."

The police service is poor, says Crockett. Police are involved in criminal activities, she charges.

"Unemployment is the cause of crime as the crime syndicates are usually run by rich people," says Crockett.

"If we blame unemployment, it means we condemn their deeds as a means to support their families. Those people . . . even if you give them a job, they won't take it—because they are making a lot of money in crime."

Sibusiso Bathulele (19) of Orange Farm says the community should help fight crime. He was robbed of his bank card at the bank with many people around—but no one tried to help him, says Bathulele.

"I should not be a part of the community members are protecting the criminals, he says.

The government should revise its strategy to fight crime and involve the public in its fight, he feels.

"The crime rate can go down if the community gets involved and the policing forces are given more power to discipline the 'rot-
top' police officers."

Government should provide education aid, especially at tertiary level, to help the youth further their education as a means of moving them out of the streets. And more police should be recruited and trained to fight crime, says Bathulele.

He rejects unemployment as a cause of crime.

Wendy Nkabinde (24) of Soweto also blames the government for not taking strict measures to deal with criminals.

The organising of musical festivals at prisons proves that the government does not take crime seriously, he charges.

More community members should be armed to protect themselves, Nkabinde feels.

"We should be provided with licenced firearms to protect ourselves."

The SA Police Service is too corrupt to fight crime, she says.

Margie Huyse (34) of Sandton says illegal immigrants are to blame for the rampant crime in the country.

More crimes are being committed by foreigners and the police fail to trace the culprits because they have no fingerprint records of past people.

"Those people kill because they do not care who the victim is. I do not think a South African should have killed "Pro" Khumalo," says Huyse.

Borders should be strictly controlled and the government should allow only a certain number of foreigners in the country, he says. Huyse also says the police are ineffective in fighting crime.

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Radical law to control guns in public

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

ARCHIVES

NATIONAL ROAD

DAVIDSON'S HILL

DANIEL D. WICHER

DEATH OF a MEXICAN

OFFICER

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DANIEL D. WICHER

DEATH OF a MEXICAN

OFFICER
Heavier sentences for gang offences urged

TIGHTER GUN control and a category for serious offences that would preclude bail were among anti-crime measures proposed at an ANC summit. HENRY LUDSKI writes.

ANG membership should be made a criminal offence and heavier sentences should be meted out for gang-related crimes.

These are among the measures proposed at a weekend ANC summit on crime which went as far as calling on the party to review its policy on the death penalty.

The ANC summit also argued for the introduction of a policy of “one person, one licence, one gun” as part of a series of measures aimed at tightening lax gun laws which would contribute to the demilitarisation of South African society.

The special summit of national and provincial leaders also adopted resolutions calling for tighter gun controls, a national investigation into rampant corruption in prisons and for the National Party to reveal the location of crime networks that existed under its rule.

The time has come to act harshly against criminals and for the velvet glove to be removed,” the ANC said in a statement.

As the majority party, the ANC had a particular responsibility to ensure the effective implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS), it said.

Other resolutions forwarded to the party’s national executive committee called for laws banning former members of the police, defence force and intelligence services from joining private security or private investigator companies for a period of five years and for the development of formal relationships between the police and private security companies.

Steps proposed by the ANC

- An annual tax on gun licences.
- A policy of one person, one licence, one gun.
- Call on the National Party to disclose the existence of crime networks to the TRC.
- No bail for a special category of serious offences.
- A review of ANC death penalty policy.
- Increased budget and special fund to fight crime.
- Membership of gangs a crime and severe sentences for gang-related offences.
- Urgent inquiry into corruption in prisons.
- Speeding up of legislation for an anti-corruption commission.
- An inquisitorial system placing the onus on accused to answer questions from victims.

The summit also called on the party to consider the creation of a special fund to combat crime, the urgent need to apply bail laws properly and the need to identify a special category of serious offences for which bail would be automatically refused.

This category could include persons charged with a second offence, crimes in which firearms were used, sexual offences against children, car-jacking and robbery.

Deputy Minister of Defence Mr Ronnie Kasrils, delivering a paper on the challenges facing the security establishment, described the “rising tide of lawlessness” as “arguably the biggest challenge to the authority of the state since the democratic elections”.

During the 1994 elections, the uppermost fear in everyone’s mind was that of political violence and rebellion, he said.

“Very swiftly this has been superseded by the fear of lawlessness, not only on our streets, but also, more ominously, in the forces and syndicates directing this and the corruption associated with it.”

The resolutions and the comments made at the summit are a clear reflection of the seriousness with which the problem of spiralling crime is viewed and is the context in which the call for the review of the death penalty was made.

See Pages 6 and 16
ANC ‘gloves off’ against crime

Business Day Reporter

THE ANC’s weekend security summit has recommended a range of tough new crime-fighting measures, including the creation of a special state crime-fighting fund, a category of non-bailable offences and the imposition of minimum sentences for certain serious crimes.

The summit’s justice commission also found that the Bill of Rights had contributed to the “strong public perception” that the current system favoured perpetrators, rather than victims of crime. It suggested that the balance of rights in the Constitution might have to be revisited.

The resolutions of the summit, which was attended by all the ANC’s security ministers, are to be forwarded to the ANC’s national executive committee. The resolutions include the controversial suggestion that the party’s stance on the death penalty should be reviewed.

In a statement, the ANC said delegates at the summit had emphasised that the “velvet glove must be removed” in the fight against criminals. This had to be done while respecting SA’s human rights culture.

The summit proposed that the budgets of the criminal justice departments should be increased, and that a special state crime-fighting fund be created. Resources from this would be disbursed on presentation of business plans and the fund could be used to leverage contributions from non-government sources, such as business organisations, for specific projects.

The summit proposed that a special category of non-bailable offences — for example second serious offences, offences involving firearms, sex offences against children, hijackings and armed robberies — should be created. Urgent consideration should also be given to strict minimum sentences for certain crimes, which would have to be reviewed regularly. “Although this had the effect of interfering with judicial discretion, the seriousness of the present situation justifies it as a deterrent.”

Also proposed is the creation of specialised units to deal with gang and drug-related crime, which should include police and prosecutors and which could enjoy powers to subpoena witnesses and “even force them to answer self-incriminating evidence”. It is suggested that membership of gangs should be criminalised, for example by legislating heavier sentences for crimes committed by gang members.

Other proposals are:

☐ Greater use of inquisitorial systems;
☐ Legislation to extend the witness protection system, and making interference with witnesses a more serious offence;
☐ Greater use of specialised courts; and
☐ An increase in prosecutors’ salaries.

The summit urges the swift enactment of crime-fighting Bills, if necessary by extending the current parliamentary session.
International mafias have free run in SA

But new legislation, the FBI and the DEA are set to join the country's fight against money-laundering

BY DEREK RODNEY
Crime Reporter

T
tens of millions of rands are being drained from the economy through money-laundering syndicates intent on legitimising gains from illegal trade in drugs, arms and endangered species.

South Africa is facing a new threat in the form of the Russian mafia which in seven years has managed to work its way into the top five money-laundering groupings here.

With no legislation yet in place to clamp down on laundering, with the exception of drug-related seizures, organised criminals from around the globe are using the country's sophisticated banking system to convert their illegal proceeds into legitimate funds.

National Organised Crime Head Assistant Commissioner Noels Venter said special intelligence and investigation teams had been set up to monitor the activities of Russian mafia, Chinese triad, Japanese Yakuza and South African "Boere mafia" organisations which are operating virtually unchecked around the country.

Special teams are also investigating Nigerian money-laundering organisations although the thrust of police scrutiny at this stage is aimed at Nigerian drug lords who are in the process of changing their mode of business from courier-based organisations to developing their own intercontinental drug cartels.

"Even though our hands are tied in relation to non-drug related money-laundering, we have been monitoring the activities of a few organisations in preparation of hard hitting legislation which should be in place by next year," Venter said.

Structures which make provision for closer scrutiny of "suspicious transactions" are in the process of being thrashed out by the South African Law Commission with input from a number of role players.

It is hoped the new legislation will ultimately lead to stricter reporting procedures and closer cooperation between investigation teams from the police, Reserve Bank and financial institutions.

Intelligence and anti-crime agencies from abroad are already co-operating with local crime fighters by exchanging information and the US has committed itself to the establishment of a Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) office in South Africa in the near future.

"We are working very closely with the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in the exchange of information and intelligence on a number of organisations," Venter said.

"We don't want to be caught with our pants down when the legislation finally comes into being and although investigations could take several years to conduct we cannot afford to wait for the law to come into practice before tackling the problem," he said.

Organised crime detectives have managed to knock down one car theft syndicate in Gauteng which had strong Russian ties.
Public 'war' declared on white collar crime

GYANI — The launching of public hearings by the Northern Province legislature's standing committee for public accounts signalled a declaration of war on white collar crime in the province, finance MEC Edgar Mushwana said yesterday.

Speaking at the opening session of the committee's public hearings on expenditure in the former homelands, he said that the SAPS's commercial crime unit was working with his department.

He said that any delays in dealing with this crime would create dangers such as unauthorised action by the public, and he hinted at the possibility of calling former politicians before the committee for past expenditure.

Northern province public accounts director-general John Malatji said the provincial government had experienced great difficulty with bank reconciliations. He said mismanagement of the former Gazankulu homeland accounts by the Giyani branch of a leading bank was a major reason for delays in annual appropriation accounts.

Public accounts committee chairman Manie Kriel said that bank officials might be called to testify. — Sapa.
Crime Bills to be rushed through Parliament soon (34) 6/9/98 ARG

CAPE TOWN — Important crime legislation will be rushed through Parliament by extraordinary means by the National Assembly and the Senate justice committees in the next few weeks.

The alarming levels of crime in the country were of serious concern for all, chairmen of the committees Johnny de Lange and Mohsen Moosa said in a joint statement.

"The present circumstances in our country call for dispensing with any process that may have the effect of delaying the implementation of measures to curb crime," they said.

The two committees would deliberate jointly for the first time since the democratic parliament was established in 1994.

The joint deliberations would substantially cut the time for the passage of the legislation and ensure that it was passed through Parliament in the present session.

It would also send a clear signal to criminals that Parliament would spare no effort until society had rid itself of antisocial elements threatening progress and development.

Legislation to be dealt with was:

☐ The International Co-operation in Criminal Matters Bill;
☐ The Proceeds of Crime Bill;
☐ The Extradition Amendment Bill;
☐ The Institution of Special Investigating Units Special Tribunals Bill;
☐ The Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill; and
☐ The Second Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill 1996.—Sapa.
THE BRAIN DRAIN

SA (Pty) Ltd suffers as assets dribble away

JOHN SPIRA
DEPUTY EDITOR

South Africa's biggest asset is widely regarded as its abundant mineral wealth. All assets, however, require to be turned to account. Further reflection therefore points to the nation's skills base as an even more important asset.

South Africa's untapped mineral resources exceed those that have thus far been tapped. They are there and they are not going away.

In alarming contrast, the nation's other major asset is dribbling away fast—and precious little is being done about it.

This week's release of the emigration and immigration statistics for the first six months of the year revealed that the number of emigrants, almost all white professionals, rose by 23.6 percent to 6,677 compared with the first six months of last year.

The brain drain is gathering momentum. Our most vital asset is being squandered, and no one seems to care.

Yesterday's statistics commanded no more than a "filler" status in most newspapers, indicating that the trend, now long established, has been taken for granted.

The drain is not new. What is new is the increasing momentum at a time when full democracy is now in place, supported by a bill of rights, and most of the ingredients which, in theory, should be attracting skills rather than driving them away.

The reality, however, is that we are losing assets we can ill afford to lose. Urgent solutions are demanded.

For many decades, South Africa has been the only spark of light in what the world guiltily labels the dark continent, despite Africa's mineral and agricultural wealth.

What has distinguished South Africa from its northern neighbours was, and still is, its well-qualified, highly skilled pool of brainpower.

It is the reason South Africa generates almost as much electricity as the rest of Africa, has more telephones, more railway lines, more cars, more television sets and more roadworthy roads.

South Africa is the continent's economic giant because it has always had, and still has, the people able to benefit from its assets a lot more efficiently than other African countries are able to benefit from theirs.

But the spark is fast fading. Partners in audit firms, university administrators, consulting engineers, hospital superintendents, directors of information technology firms and banking officials all mean the haemorrhaging of young graduates to alien shores.

They note with dismay that the official emigration figures exclude those tragic losses, since the drain of these brains is seldom registered. They go abroad to expand their intellectual horizons and simply do not return. They take nothing other than what is inside their heads, since they have not had the time to acquire the tangibles accumulated by their older counterparts. So official emigration procedures are superfluous.

Just how many of these people, with the foundation upon which South Africa's future prosperity so crucially hinges, have been forever mislaid cannot be assessed. The full impact of the tragedy will, however, have a marked effect on the economy a few years down the line, when the knowledge skills upon which we rely so heavily for international competitiveness go into retirement.

To lay the blame for the drain solely at the feet of burgeoning crime and violence is to ignore the bigger picture. Crime and violence are certainly a factor, but young graduates are taking their leave for other equally cogent motives.

Excessive emphasis on effective action and the resulting retribution, realistic or not, that a per quota system will stultify prospects is uppermost in the minds of young emigrants.

But perhaps of overriding consideration is the higher level of status offered by countries that are First World than South Africa.

The United States and British example, are fertile ground for consolidation of research, interaction postgraduate studies.

Sure, South Africa remains a country of opportunity.

Yet the progressively growing need for those with skills to fill gaps left by a shrinking skills carries with it progressively less fulfillment.

Worse still, the brains stay there for the present extrapolate the trend and logically con that South Africa is falling further behind in its quest for a winning nation. We all will be on the winning side. Graduates twenty years are no exception.

The solution is manifest—urgent. Our young graduates must be wooed, nurtured and rewarded.

They must be actively encouraged to remain in a country free of racial favour and deterrents to economic growth.

South Africa's potential has been seen to be enhanced by the new set of priorities design a forge environment in which economic prosperity is the over consideration.

Chief executives intent on ensuring a highly competitive sector are measured by the way they achieve on the stated disposal.

At the end of the day, scientists are subject to the same condition. If they are incapable of keeping their prime asset, their holders will eventually vote them out of a job.
Deep Failure

While Mandela is happy to ignore political problems in his party, the other opposition parties are not. The problem with the ANC is that the party is not interested in addressing its own problems. Unlike the IFP and the Democratic Party, the ANC does not have a populist platform and does not have a real interest in reforming itself. The ANC is more of a status quo party, content with maintaining its power and position in society.

Tony Leon is leader of the Democratic Party. He said the opposition parties are better at listening to people, which is what the ANC needs to do. The IFP, for example, has a strong grassroots base and is able to listen to people's concerns. The ANC needs to learn from this and start listening to the people, not just the elite.

Cost to taxpayer

The government is spending too much money on maintaining its own power and keeping people quiet. This is not good for the country or for the taxpayer. The government needs to start making cuts and prioritizing spending. It cannot continue to waste money on frivolous things like the national stadium.

The problem with government is that it is too focused on its own interests and not on the needs of the people. The government needs to start working for the people and not just for itself. It needs to start listening to the people and making changes based on what they want and need.
Just in time for the battle against crime,

Pakistan's justice minister outlines strategies for the future.
Crack down imminent on pension, grant fraudsters

ANEEZ SAILIE
HEALTH WRITER

LOCAL welfare authorities are cracking down on pension and other grant fraudsters in a pilot project which will empower beneficiaries and eliminate the uncontrolled, multiple collection of payments.

A campaign to warn the elderly and the needy of several pitfalls is under way and the payout procedure has been streamlined.

Also, procurators — appointees who collect grants on behalf of beneficiaries unable to do so because of illness or physical inability — will have to register afresh and have been restricted.

These steps follow a surprise visit to a payout point at the Bonthehlwel Civic Centre on August 15 by the Health and Welfare MEC Mr. Ebrahim Bassooli in response to complaints. He found the venue overcrowded, there was possible exploitation of beneficiaries and procurators were responsible for too many grants.

Now, the Post Office, which administers the payouts on behalf of the department, has undertaken to install security gates and steel bars where cash is kept, provide an extra payout counter in the civic centre and refuse payment in the absence of positive identification. All procurators now have to submit their own identity books as well as letters of authority.

Also, access to the payment area will be strictly controlled. No voluntary workers, community leaders or hawkers will be allowed in.

Procurators must reregister tomorrow, on Thursday and next Tuesday.
Azepto to petition ministers with strategy to tackle crime...
Bagwa to issue a final report on mysticism donor

Reiprocally deals on crime envisaged

Wyndham Hervey

20/10/96
SAHRC to meet Madiba over crime

By Khangale Makhado

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) is to seek an urgent meeting with President Nelson Mandela to discuss the levels of criminal violence in the country.

Chairperson of the SAHRC Dr Barney Pityana said yesterday his organisation was "deeply disturbed at the violence which was brutalising our society."

The SAHRC believed that crime undermined all efforts presently being made to steady the economy and also the development of policies towards economic growth.

"We are deeply disturbed because we believe that crime is inimical to a culture of human rights we have been mandated to develop. Even though we have a constitutional provision for the enforcement of human rights, it is difficult to sustain that in the face of the experience of denial which many continue to face even today," Pityana said.

The organisation said it had now become a trite statement to say that policing, the administration of justice and correctional services systems had badly failed South Africans. It is not surprising, he said, that vigilantism was developing and counter forms of criminality appeared to have popular sanction.

"It is because the police are discredited when people know of rampant corruption within the service and when the prison system hardly alters criminal behaviour and people believe that they can commit crime with impunity," Pityana said. Apart from discussing crime in general with President Mandela, they would also urge the Government to broaden its outlook on crime, Pityana said.

"In the past the whole question of crime centred around police, a tendency of traditional strategies of police states, and we have had to bring to the attention of the government a holistic nature that needs to be put in place.

"It would be unfair to expect much from the communities when they do not have adequate housing, sanitation and jobs," he said. Meanwhile, the SAHRC found that there was prima facie evidence that there were human rights violations at prisons in Northern Province.

They found that among the common complaints were assaults, overcrowding, poor quality of food, unequal treatment of prisoners and lack of educational and rehabilitation facilities. They also found that both prisoners and officers were still insensitive to human rights and there appears to be problems with the general management of complaints.
Acting against crime

IN THIS SESSION of Parliament the Pan Africanist Congress will concentrate on escalating crime. With this in mind, it initiated a snap debate recently on the issue of People against Gangsterism and Drugs, led by its president Clarence Makwetu.

The PAC’s view is that it is time for action – not for the passing of more White Papers, commissions and grandiose plans which are never implemented – and to tackle the problem of police corruption.

The PAC initially articulated its view when the draft Constitution and Bill of Rights was drawn up. At the time there was a wild baying for the blood of criminals and the abolition of the death penalty was denounced as pandering to crime.

But between the need to take stern action and uphold the democratic and human rights of all sectors of its citizenry, the PAC struck a balance.

It stated in its submission to the Constitutional Assembly that whatever measures were necessary, and however draconian they may have to be, “it is crucial that we must deal with the socio-economic causes of crime, such as unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, lack of housing and social security and apartheid inequalities”.

Understandable outcry

One cannot overemphasise the need to keep this perspective in mind, especially now that there is an understandable outcry against crime and it is so much easier to rely exclusively on punishment rather than address the underlying causes of crime.

The PAC holds the view that crime is a major destabilising force and is at the heart of major social contradictions in our society that affect the harmonisation of relationships across race barriers.

There is a need to deepen the racial cross-fertilisation so that we can build and develop a truly South African culture based on the humanism of African culture and civilisation.

In its submission, the PAC objected to the view that “saw the sole purpose of a criminal justice system as hunting down offenders, catching them and teaching them a lesson that will scar even potential offenders”.

The PAC regarded the criminal justice system “as part and parcel of the creation of a human rights culture and the restoration of human dignity”.

It emphasised that the criminal justice system should ensure that offenders are hunted down, apprehended and punished, and that the constitution and the law needed to send a clear message to offenders that they cannot offend and expect five-star treatment. But, it added, “it does not give the police a license to kill, torture and tamper with evidence” and even resort to inhuman and degrading punishment such as the death penalty, which the PAC has always opposed.

The PAC also emphasised the role of society’s moral values. It said that the African cultural values of ubuntu, community sharing, respect for elders and so on needed to be harnessed in this battle against crime.

On the basis of this holistic approach, the PAC underlined more practical measures that needed to be undertaken to make our country safe for all its citizens and to create a situation of security and stability.

It regards this as a national priority as crime deters much needed foreign investment, affects the tourist industry, our own leisure industries and creates an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion among its people.

In this regard the PAC emphasised the need to clean up corruption within the police service itself and the collusion that often exists between lawbreakers and police. It described this as the greatest obstacle to the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

There was also a need to provide proper training for police, particularly in sophisticated investigation methods, and a need to both pay and equip them well. This would also raise their morale.

While there may be budgetary restraints, the existing budget needed to be re-prioritised to meet immediate needs. The concentration of police stations in white areas, for example, needed to be overhauled.

The PAC also submitted that the media, and particularly television, needed to be more effectively utilised. The Government needed to generate a general climate in the community of fighting crime together with police.

There must be effective witness protection programmes and gun control. There should also be a more visible presence of police on the streets.

The parole and bail systems need to be revised and the Government needs to find money quickly to build more prisons to avoid overcrowding, which actually breeds more criminals.

Absolutely essential

Community participation in the fight against crime was absolutely essential. A more representative and legitimate police service would be able to cooperate with all sectors of society in the fight against crime.

Community policing should not just be a phrase. The Government should pour in resources to ensure its success, particularly in the light of the Pagad-led protests that clearly indicate the community wants action on this matter.

In addition, it was necessary to extend training and resources to prosecutors, magistrates and the entire system of justice. The system needs to have the integrity and impartiality that would make complainants, accused and society have confidence in it.

At a time when people are beginning to take the law into their own hands – a situation the PAC does not agree with – it is necessary for the Government to treat the fight against crime as one of absolute priority.

If it escalates to a point beyond repair, it would mean the total destabilisation of our society and an end to the nation building and other democratic tasks that the Constitution and the Bill of Rights uphold.

(The writer is an adviser to the PAC’s parliamentary caucus.)
Proceeds of Crime Bill under attack

Orwellian, say lawyers

CLIVE SAVER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

As Parliament debates new legislation on seizing the proceeds of crime, it has emerged that laws on drug trafficking already allow profits to be seized — but that this has happened only once.

An order to confiscate R100 000 of the proceeds of drug trafficking was given in the Pretoria Regional Court two years ago.

This was disclosed by justice department officials during a briefing on a new package of anti-crime legislation to a joint meeting of the Senate and National Assembly justice committees.

The officials said the organised crime unit was considering using the existing provision in the Drug Trafficking Act for seizure of proceeds from drug trading in some cases now under investigation.

The committees were warned that proving to a court which of a person’s assets were the proceeds of crime would put an additional burden on police resources.

This burden had to be balanced against what would be gained by seizing the proceeds of crime.

In Britain, prosecutors have to persuade a court that the proceeds exceed £10 000 (R70 000) before there is an investigation into confiscation.

In a submission to the committees on the Proceeds of Crime Bill, the Law Society of the Cape of Good Hope said it accepted that legislation was needed to counter money-laundering, which was a threat to the South African economy.

However, the Law Society had misgivings about an obligation in the bill to report suspicion of criminal activities.

"The proposed legislation is unique in that it requires South African citizens to report to the authorities not just actual knowledge that a person is or may be involved in a criminal activity, but also a suspicion."

"(II) criminalises the failure to do so ... with extremely heavy penalties."

"People may be guilty of offences under the proposed legislation quite unwittingly while they are going about their business or profession in the ordinary course."

The Law Society said Parliament should be hesitant to introduce laws reminiscent of George Orwell’s novel 1984, where the state controlled people’s lives by having them report suspicious activities.

The Bill was "an extremely harsh and far-reaching piece of legislation which could impact on lives of thousands of South Africans going about their normal daily activities."

It would make criminals out of people who lacked the insight and intuition to suspect criminal activity, or even if they had such insight, who “exercised a considered discretion” not to report such activity.

The Law Society also criticised the Bill for failing to define “criminal activity” or to confine the obligation to report to serious offences like drug trafficking or terrorism.

"Legislation of this nature should be confined only to those extreme circumstances where such legislation is absolutely necessary."

Unless this was done, the Bill could fall foul of the interim or the new constitution.

The Bill prejudiced the attorney-client relationship of confidentiality, the society said.
Governments bold new move to probe private sector in crackdown on corruption
New anti-crime laws 'flawed - not fair to victims'
US helps SAPS combat crime

Catherine Crookes 8D23/1/91

CAPE TOWN — US treasury officials are in the country to help prepare the SA police in the enforcement of new measures to curb white-collar crime.

Workshops were held with members of the commercial crime unit, narcotics bureau, diamond and gold unit, legal services and the training department in Cape Town, Durban and Gauteng this week. The delegation was headed by the director of the executive office of profit forfeiture in Washington, Jan Blanton, who said that SA was ripe for organised criminal activities involving money laundering.

"Nothing stops criminals from keeping their dirty money in SA banks. Banks are active, secure financial systems which never do any sort of currency reporting which makes them susceptible to being conduits for laundered money."

She said the SAPS was highly dedicated and eager to become involved in the fight against organised crime but was "hamstrung" by legislation.

According to the present Drug Trafficking Act, money laundering was not a crime unless linked to illicit drug dealing. This meant the "SA police does not have the proper tools to combat money laundering when linked to fraud or theft", Blanton said.

The new crime Bills, particularly the Money Laundering Control Bill and the Proceeds of Crime Bill, would widen police powers by criminalising money laundering and allowing police to deprive offenders of the proceeds of their crime.

The US had forfeiture legislation which allowed the law enforcement agencies to place crime proceeds and instruments seized into a forfeiture fund which was then ploughed back into the agencies themselves.

"This has been a godsend to US law enforcement. It means the criminals, not the taxpayers pay for our policing," said Blanton.

"In SA government places the proceeds of crime into the general revenue fund and while this is noble it does nothing to help law enforcement."

The US treasury department is regarded as the world leader in combating money-laundering and related offences. The eight-person delegation consisted of officials from Rome, Sand Diego and Tokyo.

Western Cape co-ordinator Supt Gerry van Rooyen said: "Our own police are inexperienced in dealing with money-laundering related crimes, yet the US has a strong tradition of dealing strongly with such cases. One thing I learnt from the workshop is that the Americans certainly do things big; they don't let anything get in their way."
Nedlac endorses anti-crime strategy

Reneé Grawitzky

Social partners at the National Economic, Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) executive council meeting on Friday endorsed a range of strategies to fight crime and to ensure the successful implementation of the new Labour Relations Act and housing policies.

Nedlac executive director Jayendra Naidoo said yesterday the council had resolved to back government's national crime prevention strategy and had agreed to consider organising a conference aimed at developing a "large-scale, broad-based strategy" to fight crime and violence.

On the implementation of the new Labour Relations Act, the council called on employers and shop stewards to meet during the first week of the Act's implementation. This would ensure the establishment of education and training programmes to facilitate the "smooth" introduction of the Act.

The parties agreed that employer and worker co-operation was the key to the Act's success.

Naidoo said the council had agreed that housing should be given priority by Nedlac's development chamber.

The council also discussed issues related to tax incentives being considered by the trade and industry chamber.

Naidoo said such sessions were aimed at providing the social partners with an opportunity to share perspectives, promote co-ordination and develop consensus.
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Nedlac pledges support for crime strategy

The executive committee of the National Economic Development and Labour Council has pledged its support for the Government's national crime prevention strategy.

At its quarterly meeting this week, Nedlac called on its constituencies to implement partnerships against crime and violence.

Executive director Jayendra Naidoo said details of a conference on developing a crime-fighting strategy were likely to be announced within the next two weeks.

Nedlac also called on employers and shop stewards to join forces during the first week of operation of the Labour Relations Act, which comes into effect on November 1.

He said employer and worker co-operation were the key to the legislation's success, and meetings between the two parties would ensure that operational programmes were in place to facilitate its smooth introduction.

Staff Reporter

Star 25/9/96
COMMERCIAL CRIME UNIT IN SHAMBLES

White collar crime shock

MOST WHITE collar criminals are getting away with their crimes. Untrained and understaffed so-called specialist units can no longer cope with the flood of financially intricate cases that are thrown their way. JACKIE CAMERON investigated.

The South African Police Service's Commercial Crime Unit is in such chaos that if it were to close down it probably wouldn't make a difference to the white collar crime rate.

This is the grim picture painted by police and prosecutors, who estimate that less than 3% of all white collar criminals who are arrested end up being convicted and punished for their crimes within a year.

Nedcor's groundbreaking research into this country's crime problem estimated that white collar criminals netted at least R13 billion last year alone, and said "management" were implicated in 60% of cases.

The banking group's report, released earlier this year, sharply criticised business for "passing the buck and placing the blame on government for the major share of financial irregularity".

Nevertheless, Cape Town-based commercial crime investigators have sent a desperate plea to police headquarters for assistance.

They "reminded" headquarters that the government had declared commercial crime a "national priority crime" — but that no assistance had been given to police to deal with the problem.

Confidential documentation sent to police headquarters in Pretoria outlines the "untenable" situation at the Western Cape Commercial Crime Unit:

- The unit's top investigators, many of them with university degrees, had been snatched by the private sector for in-house investigations.
- Most of the remaining 21 investigators do not have more than four years' experience in finance-related crimes, and have been left with a workload of about 500 intricate cases involving about R947 million.
- Other commanders will not allow competent detectives to transfer to the specialist unit, as they have their own staff shortages.
- Investigators are spending much of their time assisting foreign governments track of criminals hiding here.
- A number of investigators spend weeks outside the country following up evidence and there is no one in the city to take over their other investigations while they are away.

According to one senior police officer: "It is of the utmost importance that effective steps be taken by management to recruit suitable personnel for the Commercial Crime Unit."

According to another confidential research report, training for commercial crime detectives is "insufficient, a backlog already exists" and "training staff are inexperienced".

This report also says that the unmanageable workload has been a major cause of the resignations of experienced officers.

One source told the Cape Times that detectives at the unit do not have the time to look at most of their dockets, and that one policeman is investigating an insurance scam involving more than 2,000 separate cases.

"Some of us no longer pretend that a case is receiving attention when a complainant telephones for a progress report. There are policemen on cases which will take them at least five years to investigate unless they have help."

Unofficial statistics kept by prosecutors on white collar crime reveal that less than 3% of all cases that end up at the attorney-general's office result in a conviction within one year.

"It is a combination of factors," one state advocate said.

"Investigations are not always very good because there are inexperienced policemen on the case. There is also a lack of staff, and experienced staff, at the attorney-general's office," he said.
CAPE TOWN — Almost 1 000 people arrested in connection with violent crimes escaped from police cells in the first eight months of this year.

Replying to a question by DP leader Tony Leon, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said yesterday that 957 people detained by police had escaped. Only 284 had been rearrested. Two died during their escapes, one drowning in the Kei River and the other shot by police.

The biggest breakout from police cells was in Brakpan on the east Rand when 61 people escaped through the roof. At Florida police station, 44 prisoners overpowered members of the SAPS and forced open a cell door. This happened twice at Florida in the space of three months.

In more than one case, prisoners escaped when police neglected to lock the doors of cells. An escape from Zebediela, Northern Province, was allegedly made possible with the help of a police officer. In many cases police were unable to determine how escapes occurred. They did not know how 43 suspects escaped from the Randburg police station early this year.

A second DP question, this time from justice spokesman Douglas Gibson, focused on the poor arrest and conviction record of the criminal justice system. Gibson asked how many people were wanted for the seven most serious crimes and how many had been charged.

Mufamadi replied that of the 1 120 people wanted for vehicle hijacking in terms of the SAPS's crime-fighting Sword and Shield plan, 156 had been arrested and 164 charged. Of the almost 7 000 people wanted for vehicle theft, 773 had been arrested and 742 charged.
Crackdown on 'gangsters'

By Waheed Misbach
Political Reporter

TOUGH new legislation to combat the scourge of international money laundering was recommended by delegates at a major conference on the issue in Cape Town yesterday.

Delegates at the Southern and Eastern African Money Laundering Conference yesterday discussed new ways in which to crack down on the world's "supergangsters", who use the worldwide web and computers to launder their money through financial institutions.

Money laundering worldwide is estimated to be about R2 billion annually.

The conference - which brings together 13 African countries including Mauritius, the United Kingdom, France, Portugal, France, Australia and the United States - was divided into three groups yesterday to discuss various options to combat the problem.

Issues covered included the 40 recommendations that were drawn up by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) - an intergovernmental body that consists of 26 countries, including the world's richest nations.

The recommendations were drawn up in 1990 and were revised last year to take into account the changes in the money laundering problem globally.

The measures that came under discussion by delegates include: special methods to confiscate property and assets of those suspected of criminal activity and getting banks and other financial institutions to report any "cash dropping". Delegates also emphasised the importance of international cooperation on the issue.

It is likely that the conference will endorse the FATF recommendations that national administrations report international flows of cash in any currency. These figures should be made available to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, for more effective monitoring.

The money laundering conference ends today with the adoption of a regional strategy and plan for African countries.
Anti-crime drive poised to crash

Fivaz warns on pay crisis

JOHAN SCHROESEN
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

The Police Plan, launched by commissioner George Fivaz to combat crime, will collapse if more than R450-million is not made available immediately to pay for overtime work.

This warning came from the national commissioner's office in a letter to the Department of Public Service and Administration asking for urgent funds.

Meanwhile, police management faces a battle with the SA Police Union, which is protecting members who want to work to rule. The union is seeking an urgent interdict to protect its members threatening to work to rule and is expected to go to the Supreme Court later this month.

This follows an urgent request from the national commissioner's office to the central government last week for an additional R450-million to pay overtime, an amount it said was still not enough to stall a serious breakdown in policing.

Deputy divisional commissioner G J Swart warned the director-general of the Public Service Department that the implementation of Commissioner Fivaz's Police Plan against crime would be "severely hampered".

Commissioner Swart said that "even if the R450-million is made available the department will in all probability not be in a position to meet the demands for overtime claims during the current financial year".

"This department has to proactively address the situation in order to ensure that there is no breakdown in normal police functions," warned Commissioner Swart.

He gave the Public Service Department a deadline of October 10 because a "decision and negotiations have to be finalised as soon as possible".

Meanwhile police management is also investigating giving police time off instead of payment for overtime as an interim measure.

The public service staff code did not provide for time off for overtime but it also did not prohibit it, Commissioner Swart said.

But union provincial secretary Andy Miller lashed out at the commissioner's "absurd suggestion" of time off for overtime worked.

"The poor men and women on the ground are working long hours overtime to make up for staff shortages in the first place," he said.

"There is simply no time for a time-off arrangement.

"At the end of the day it is the prerogative of the member whether he wants time off or to be paid."
Crime thwarts conference industry

David Capel

SA's status as a top international conference venue is in jeopardy because of the country's soaring crime rate, according to leading conference organizers.

One top conference planner, Brian McDonald of Global Conferences, has written to President Nelson Mandela, urging him to take steps to reassure potential conference delegates that government is bringing crime under control.

The international conference industry is worth a staggering R3bn a year to SA and provides employment to about 60 000 people. According to Sixtour, SA has more than 1 200 conference venues, able to accommodate 320 000 people a day.

Surveys show that the industry has the potential to outstrip economic growth and develop at a rate of 5% a year.

But some conference organizers are concerned that this potential will not be reached, as SA's reputation as the crime capital of the world takes hold in the minds of international associations and multinational companies looking for a suitable venue to stage their conventions.

McDonald, whose company is competing to bring 1 500 people to SA for a conference of international shoulder and elbow surgeons in 2001, said SA's chances of hosting the conference were in doubt because of the crime rate.

"We're bludgeoning it. The perception of people overseas is that crime in this country is rife and government is doing little, if anything, to come to terms with it," McDonald said.

He said he knew of at least three other major international conferences planned for SA that were now likely to go elsewhere.

"We're asking the president to tell the international community we are doing something about the problem. In this country we're great at talking about things. The time has arrived for some real action," McDonald said.

Conference Co-ordinators MD Renee Stamper echoed McDonald's fears. "Serious concerns have been expressed by international conference delegates about SA's suitability as a host and in some cases companies have been sending people out here to have a look at the situation before deciding," she said.

International conferences that did come to SA had to be arranged in such a way that programmes were extremely tight and delegates could "hardly breathe".

"They're literally being taken from Johannesburg International Airport to the conference venues, or the places where they are staying, and then whisked off home again.

"The safety of these people is in our hands and that's a very daunting responsibility. If there's just one unpleasant incident during an international conference, the whole conference is a disaster."

Rural financial services receive attention

Louise Cook

THE Land Bank and Post Office are adjusting operations to overcome an inadequate financial services in rural areas, the parastatals announced yesterday.

The move follows last week's Strauss Commission report on rural financial services, which said that the Land Bank should take on a new client base of emerging farmers, and finance the beneficiaries of land reform, in addition to financing commercial farmers. The Post Office was earmarked as the central pillar of finances to such regions.

The Land Bank said it had introduced major changes to accommodate a new client base of emerging farmers. The first new branch would open in the Eastern Cape next year.

Land Bank senior deputy GM Karl Ehrenberg said the financing of the new clients — black entrants into agriculture — would mainly take the form of wholesale financing through intermediaries.

He said: "The entire Land Bank Act has been redrafted to place the bank in a position to assume the wider responsibilities in line with the recommendations of the Strauss Commission."

Commercial interest rates would be applicable to the bank's financing, and an element of grant funding would be necessary to defray transaction costs in some areas.

The Post Office also said it was repositioning to take better care of clients in rural areas after the Strauss Commission report said it was "concerned" about the reduction of fully fledged post office outlets.

Postbank GM Billy Thabanele said more branches were needed to serve the entire population, especially in the outlying rural areas.

In rural areas, Retail Postal Agencies were being opened and preference given to agents also offering Postbank services.

"The commitment is to eventually offer more outlets, albeit not in the form of traditional post offices," Thabanele said.

He said the first Essy post branch was also opened recently.
New unit to run government anti-crime strategy, says Mufamadi

Pretoria – A unit has been set up to co-ordinate the government’s national crime prevention strategy, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said.

It will be headed by Bernard Fanaroff, deputy director general in the office of the president, Mr Mufamadi said in a statement.

Mr Fanaroff was formerly responsible for co-ordinating the reconstruction and development programme.

Putting the crime prevention strategy into action would also involve the departments of justice, correctional services, safety and security, defence, welfare, home affairs, education, and intelligence officials.

Mr Mufamadi said the new unit would function in the Secretariat of Safety and Security, headed by Azhar Cachalia.

Mr Fanaroff would be in charge of the day-to-day management of the co-ordination effort.

This move meant the government’s short and long-term framework for fighting crime was complete.

"What we need now is urgent and decisive implementation of these plans by the departments involved," Mr Mufamadi said.

Initial programmes would be funded by an allocation of R200 million from the RDP fund. Issues to be addressed in the first phase of the crime prevention strategy included improving the management of courts, and upgrading witness protection programmes. Other priorities were management of crime-scenes, handling evidence, care facilities for young offenders, management of information in the criminal justice system, and victim support programmes.

"I am pleased that all the ministers and directors general involved in the strategy have committed themselves to maximum co-operation," Mr Mufamadi said.

The national crime prevention strategy complements the police plan, which is an annual operational programme aimed at improving policing throughout the country. – Sapa
Violence strangling conference industry

JOHN SPIRA
DEPUTY EDITOR

Johannesburg — Violent crime was placing the South African conference industry in jeopardy, putting thousands of jobs on the line and risking the loss to the country of millions of rands in hard currency.

This was the gist of a message in a letter sent to President Nelson Mandela by one of South Africa's leading conference organisers, Brian McDonald, the managing director of Cape-based Global Conferences.

McDonald appealed to the president to give the international conference industry the assurance that the government was committed to fighting crime.

"The critically important conference business sector is being threatened by violence, which appears to be getting worse," said McDonald.

"The situation is now so bad that many of our South African clients are having to reassure their international associations that it is still safe to hold conferences in South Africa."

McDonald disclosed that one major world event, the International Congress of Shoulder Surgery, which is expected to attract 1 000 delegates here in 2001, could be lost to the country because of the crime wave.

South Africa last year won the bid to host the congress against stiff competition from the United States, Canada and Brazil. "But," McDonald warned, "the question of South Africa's suitability as a venue is now to be questioned at a congress board meeting in Florida this month."

In his letter to the president, McDonald said: "I am asking you to please make a statement which we can present to that meeting, saying that the problem is being vigorously addressed and requesting that any decision regarding awarding the conference to another country be deferred for a year, by which time it is anticipated that there will be a marked improvement."

McDonald expected the congress to bring in between R10 million and R15 million in foreign exchange.
Internal fraud said to be rife

Insurance group uses lie detector on staff

NANCY MYBURGH  
FINANCIAL SERVICES EDITOR

Johannesburg — Internal fraud in the insurance industry is so rife that the Hollard Insurance Group now requires selected new employees to take polygraph, or lie detector, tests, Miles Japhet, the managing director of Hollard, said yesterday.

Japhet said Hollard had instituted stricter internal controls over the past year because there was considerable opportunity for insurance company personnel to help inflate insurance claims fraudulently and skim off a profit in the case of a vehicle hijacking or if someone had been involved in a an accident.

"All new employees who handle money undergo a polygraph test. We (also) use random telephone conversation taping.

"That is where you get the opportunity to pick up collusion. Unfortunately you have to wage war against internal fraud, and (you must) not be native.

"But it is our duty. We cannot keep having honest clients pay the costs of fraudulent claims through higher premiums," he said.

Given the average Hollard claim assessor's workload and pay scale, Japhet estimated that a 1 percent inflation of a month's claims could afford fraudulent gains equal to a month's salary.

But the cost savings from greater control of internal fraud, as well as more efficient risk management, had allowed Hollard to reduce clients' insurance premiums in certain kinds of policies by about 10 percent, he said.

Another large insurer said yesterday that his firm did not go as far as Hollard in detecting internal fraudsters.

"We have checks and cross-checks... Our major control is drumming into staff that they have to adhere to the controls and that checking procedures are in place.

"That is part of our ethos," he said.

However, "it is difficult to pinpoint where we've been successful and where the gaps (in internal fraud detection) are," he said.

Hollard is a privately owned insurance group, whose gross written short-term premiums increased 47 percent in the year to March 31. Japhet said they were projected to exceed R800 million in the present financial year.
Union enters row over crusade

Foreign Investment Workers demand supply cuts against computer Raulin Mazey

Dear MR Drinkin ..., Roland Mazey's letter from Hell

19 September 1995

U.S.A., New York, NY 10022

My good friend, Mr. Drinkin...,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to you regarding the recent developments in the foreign investment industry. As you may know, the recent downturn in the global economy has had a significant impact on the market for computer hardware.

Despite the economic challenges, I believe that our company has a strong foundation to weather the storm. However, we must take proactive measures to ensure our continued success.

One area that requires our attention is the supply chain. I have observed a recent increase in the cost of raw materials, which is putting pressure on our bottom line. I am writing to you today to discuss potential solutions to this challenge.

I am confident that with your assistance, we can find a way to mitigate these costs and maintain our competitive edge in the market.

Looking forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Note: The text appears to be a mix of personal and business communication, and the context suggests it is related to the global economic downturn and supply chain management.]
CRIME CAMPAIGN

Lone crusader defends his stand

ROLAND MAZERY, the managing director of Sappi Saldor, the KwaZulu Natal dissolving-pulp manufacturer, has become something of a local hero since he revealed himself as the author of a campaign to circulate press-cuttings among prominent international figures alerting them to "the state of near anarchy" in South Africa.

He said yesterday that he had received "an incredible response making me an instant celebrity". For the past three months, Mazery has sent daily press-cutting bulletins to 39 influential people worldwide, many of whom were friends of the government, to inform them of the danger facing South Africa's fledgling democracy and the unacceptable crime level.

"I want them to use their influence over people in government that the situation the country is facing is a serious one. It is hurting and is causing people to emigrate," he said.

He undoubtedly has the support of others, including senior members of the Durban business community. Moreover, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki suspects that other South African businessmen are conducting similar campaigns.

Mazery argues his campaign is transparent. Indeed, he sends his daily press-cuttings to President Nelson Mandela. And he says that he has undertaken it in personal capacity and not as a Sappi executive, out of sincere concern for the country's future.

"In one letter to Mandela I said this is not an easy letter to write. Some people may think it unpatriotic, but the intentions are noble. But you must be made aware of how serious the situation is here," he said.

Geoff Tyler, the chief executive of the Durban chamber of commerce, said that Mazery had always "played with open cards with everybody" and had sincere concerns. He said that though the chamber had been kept informed of the campaign, it would neither give its blessing nor castigate something done in a personal capacity. But, he said, "there are a number of members of the chamber who would associate themselves with what Mr Mazery is doing".

But others consider his lobbying counterproductive. Thabo Mbeki and Business Against Crime have asked just how judicious Mazery's approach is. "It is not illegal to send cuttings, but what message is he sending out?" said Thami Ntineni, Mbeki's spokesman. He said international business echoed doom and gloom preached by business in South Africa.

Mbeki's office believes that Mazery has sent out deliberately negative messages that could discourage foreign investment. Ntineni questioned whether Mazery's work was the work of an individual. He said it may be supported by a dedicated unit or outside agency with independent financial backing. "This is not a single incident. He is one of many and it has an effect on government and business relations."

Wende Lucas-Bull, the chairman of Business Against Crime, said she was appalled by Mazery's initiative. She said it was unconstructive and undermined the trust established between business and government to tackle crime. "I have heard Mr Mbeki say that he's been told that South African business is doing more harm than crime itself."

At the opening of a trade union conference last month, Mbeki told delegates that Bernd Pischetrieder, the chairman of BMW, had told him that South Africans discouraged him from making a R1 billion investment. BMW went ahead with its investment, but how many others would think twice?
Serious crime declining, say police

Urban strike is reducing levels in many areas, but criminals have changed their modus operandi.

(continued)

ew Edition

By Lara Smith
Corruption a common problem among developing countries

LALA CAMERER

SOUTH AFRICANS preoccupied with the crime crisis had local problems put sharply in perspective when they attended the 14th International Symposium on Economic Crime at Jesus College, Cambridge, recently.

The conference provided an opportunity to place South Africa's problems in perspective, as well as to awaken South Africans to reality that when it comes to corruption the situation here combines potentially explosive factors affecting both developed and developing countries.

A recurring theme of the conference was the difference between developed and developing countries in defining, understanding and tackling corruption.

It was generally acknowledged that ethical commonalities between different cultures and regions could not be assumed and that there were no universal standards as to what is corrupt and what is not.

Local circumstances could affect values and behaviour and deep-seated social norms could not be easily eradicated.

In some contexts corruption could bring about certain benefits and facilitate addressing the needs of people. For example, lubricating a tendering process could bring about much-needed employment to a region.

The "rich corrupts poor" contingent argued that multi-national firms and developed countries were perpetuating patterns of corruption and bribery in developing countries. The real victims of corruption were Third World citizens, who needed to be sensitised to its harmful effects.

Another recurrent theme was the much-punited connection between privatisation and corruption. A representative from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development noted how corrupt practices, where seen to affect development by catering for special interests at the expense of public interests, may threaten the legitimacy of privatisation.

Americans at the conference highlighted the financing of political parties as being at the core of corruption and argued for disclosure of all financial contributions received by public representatives and campaigns.

Corruption and violence were cast as the tools of organised crime and a plea was made for matching the resources of the criminals in the fight against corruption.

With UN figures for criminal capital cited as a trillion US dollars, this may be problematic.

In Russia crime and violence have increased. The new market economy has brought with it international organised crime and money-laundering manias who build ties with elites and businesses - involving the corruption of state officials, to facilitate money-laundering.

Corruption is likely to spread in periods of transition where there is a conflict of values, a new elite attempting to catch up with the old elite, individual greed overrides social ethics and there is no individual accountability.

Developing countries are more affected by corruption because of their weak economies and lack of political will in dealing with the problem.

The important role of civil society and NGOs, as watchdogs keeping the government to its commitments, as well as media coverage of commercial crimes as a crucial pressure for change, were stressed.

On a practical level, systems which must themselves be monitored, need to be set up to prevent corruption through establishing clear lines of authority, accountability and responsibility.

Political reform, successful prosecutions of corruption and vigilant civil society are all required to counter corruption.

South Africa may be up to speed on major legislative developments in the control of commercial crime, organised crime and money-laundering (at least on paper), but we need to acknowledge that we are plagued by the common problems of developing countries, such as minimal resources, inexperienced investigators, a climate of transition, and conflicting values - all conditions in which corruption thrives.

Lala Camerer is a researcher for the Crime and Policing Policy Project at the Institute for Defence Policy.
R345-m of gold smuggled out of SA

London – London is at the heart of a $75-million-a-year (about R345-million) racket smuggling stolen or otherwise illegal bullion from South Africa which is shipped via Mozambique to Europe. The Guardian reported today.

While much of the bullion has been stolen from mines, some is legitimate, but evading tough exchange control regulations in South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, according to industry sources quoted by the daily.

There are also hints that a proportion comes from jewellery stolen by muggers and thieves in South Africa.

Head of the SAPS Diamond and Gold branch, Superintendent Piet Otto, said today the unit had received information on this smuggling racket, but added investigations were under way with no definite confirmation.

The newspaper claims some of the metal is refined in Britain, often in primitive garage refineries, and ends up in wedding and engagement rings and other jewellery.

The London route is thought by South African police to stretch from an airport in suburban Johannesburg.

From that airport the undeclared gold is flown to neighbouring Mozambique, and then on to Britain where it is refined to hide its origin, The Guardian said.

Five tonnes of gold is thought to have gone along this route during the past year alone – metal which would have a total value of around $75-million (R541-million).

Illicit shipments of gold to Britain are expected to decline, at least temporarily, after South African police activity over the past few weeks, the paper noted.

It quoted a Chamber of Mines in South Africa estimate which said some 30 tonnes of gold – valued at over $350-million (R1.592-billion) – were stolen each year from mines in the country.

Press reports in Johannesburg said last month South African police had uncovered a lucrative gold-trafficking ring with apparent links to the government.

The network allegedly bought hundreds of kilograms of gold residue stolen from mines in the Johannesburg area worth R3-million to R7-million each week.

A small plane took the gold to Mozambique where false export documents could be obtained, according to the reports. – AFP.
Let police use drug cartels' assets, says American expert

Chris Dateman

Laws permitting the seizure of drug cartels' assets and the use of those assets by the police would help them fight drug lords on a more even footing, former Atlanta police chief Mr Eldrin Bell suggested yesterday.

Bell, who is on an extended drug fact-finding mission on behalf of US President Bill Clinton, said one of the largest buyers of technology in the US, besides the government, was the drug industry.

"If we are to successfully challenge them we must have technology and new sources of revenue," he said during a visit to the Western Cape Police MEC, Mr Geoff Morkel.

Bell, who retired as Atlanta's police chief in 1984 but still advises the department, is one of the country's most respected law-enforcement officials and serves on numerous national law-enforcement bodies.

He said US intelligence was that Cape Town had become a shipment point to Africa and Europe, mainly for cocaine and heroin from Brazil.

His job was to verify whether shipments were increasing, but inadequate local data made this very difficult.

Bell urged Morkel to increase "problem and research analysts" so that police could act on accurate information — the life-blood of effective policing.

Legal reform to ensure "swift and certain" penalties was needed to counter the frustration of local police men who faced the "horror" of waiting up to nearly three years for cases to come to court.

The US interest in foreign countries was illustrated by 1994 figures which showed that 303 metric tons of drugs were seized entering the US that year, versus 115 metric tons seized entering other Western countries.

"I will urge our State Department and government to establish mechanisms by which your police and MECs can be made aware of the information I've been working with."

Bell said that in the early hours of yesterday he took the local National Priority Crimes Unit chief, Superintendent Artie Trollop, to "places even he didn't know about". However, he declined to cite locations for "strategic reasons".

He advised Morkel to introduce laws allowing for ways to check the drug history of people entering prisons. Seventy percent of all people entering US jails have a drug history.

This would give police in South Africa a database to gauge the extent of the drug problem.

Another tack was to introduce strict trunancy laws for children as a means of reducing demand for drugs.

Bell rejected the widespread perception that crime had increased dramatically since local democratic elections, saying that five to seven years ago a black life meant "nothing", while intense murder probes focused on white victim cases.

"But all of a sudden life has become important to the same number of police officials."

"They are focused on what is now true crime. Crime reportage is way up," he added.

A law to forbid any public transport operator from carrying a gun would also help reduce taxi violence, he believed.
Loophole for laundering dirty money restricted

WHITE-COLLAR criminals will be caught more efficiently once the new Money Laundering Act is promulgated early next year. The Attorney-General's office will then have the power to freeze the assets of a suspected criminal sooner than in the past.

"In the past, often by the time the case got to court, all the assets had disappeared," says Cape Attorney-General Frank Khan. In many cases, assets were moved offshore or laundered internally. Crimes were under-reported as retrieval of assets for the victim was restricted. Victims lost control of the situation as they could not have access to relevant documents owing to the sub judice rule and couldn't file a suspect until he was found guilty because of the possibility of industrial action. "Our emphasis will change from being accused-oriented to victim-oriented," Khan says.

In future, the police will be in a po-
Anti-crime laws threaten to sideline human rights

SUSIE COWEN and NOBUNTU MBELLE
LEGISLATION MONITORS FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

IN LIGHT of the government’s commitment to fight crime, six crime bills have become the focus of activity in Parliament’s justice committees. Last month, the committees heard public submissions on the bills. The Portfolio Committee (National Assembly) and the Select Committee (Senate) are now deliberating jointly in a bid to pass the bills before the end of session.

Three bills deal with international co-operation in criminal matters. The Extradition Amendment Bill revises procedures for extradition requests; the International Co-operation in Criminal Matters Bill aims to assist foreign states to obtain evidence from South Africa; and the Proceeds of Crime Bill aims to create procedures in South African law to confiscate the proceeds of crime.

The Extradition Amendment Bill seeks to simplify extradition procedures, thereby encouraging reciprocity between South Africa and other countries. It does this by removing the need to enter into formal extradition treaties and by limiting the court’s role in the extradition procedure. The major point of contention in the committees is a section that provides that a certificate from a requesting country, stating that they have sufficient evidence for a prosecution, is conclusive proof of such.

This debate highlights the problem that, while there is a clear need for simplifying procedures and facilitating co-operation between countries, the bill fails to address key human rights concerns adequately. There is also no clear policy on whether South Africa should extradite fugitives to face cruel and inhumane punishments, such as the death penalty, or face unfair trials. Neither are there clear provisions for ensuring accountability in the minister’s decisions. The submission by the Human Rights Committee (HRC) included proposals to deal with these problems.

The fourth bill is the Special Investigations Units and Special Tribunals Bill, which empowers the president to set up investigation units and tribunals to deal with serious government corruption. Some amendments have been introduced by the committees, including those dealing with appointment procedures. Broad agreement seems to have been reached on the bill, although final discussions are still to take place before voting.

The last two bills propose amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act. Although they have not yet been formally tabled in Parliament, the committees are finalising deliberations on them early this week. The first deals with police trapping procedures and aims to prevent abuse of the trapping system by setting out the parameters in which evidence obtained would be inadmissible during a trial. It is also made clear that police who engage in unlawful trapping operations will be prosecuted.

Committee members consider trapping procedures to be crucial in combating crime effectively and are thus concerned that the bill, as initially proposed, might have the effect of outlawing trapping entirely. Current deliberations on the bill are thus focused on defining the minimum standard that the trap ought to comply with to be in line with constitutional provisions.

It is crucial that human rights concerns are given priority so that members of the public do not become innocent victims. Clear provisions should be enacted to prevent further abuse and corruption in the police service, problems that in themselves pose a threat to the safety of the public.

The Criminal Procedure Second Amendment Bill also aims to simplify procedures and targets several provisions in the Act. A key theme in the bill is to ensure that delays in trials are not caused unreasonably. At present, there are approximately 30,000 awaiting-trial prisoners, some of whom have been waiting for up to 18 months. The HRC has recommended that there should be an investigation into trial delays after three months have lapsed.

Other matters dealt with in the bill include legal representation, plea bargaining, transfer of cases between courts, giving evidence through closed-circuit television, providing proof of undisputed evidence and the admissibility of confessions.

The Justice Committee will be meeting every day this week in Committee Room G26. They are expecting to finalise the bills by Friday, to be passed before the session ends on November 8.

It is crucial that key human rights concerns are not sidelined in the rush to deal with crime and to meet these deadlines. In considering South Africa’s constitutional requirements and the standards set in other constitutional states, it is hoped that the committee will give due regard to the impact of these laws, in promoting and fostering a human rights culture in South Africa.

Institute for a Democratic South Africa, the Human Rights Committee and Black Sash have jointly set up the Parliamentary Monitoring Group to monitor parliamentary committees. Monitoring is done by volunteers.
Chamber and Mazey, not linked.

Business body denies it played a part in international publicity campaign.
Corruption remains 'a danger' to SA's fledgling democracy

Kevin O'Grady

ALTHOUGH corruption featured in SA's new order just as it did in the old, the country now had constitutional institutions to prevent it being overwhelmed by corruption in the same fashion as many other African countries, DP Gauteng leader Peter Leon said at the weekend.

Speaking at the International Bar Association's human rights conference in Berlin on Saturday, Leon said that halfway through the ANC's first term in office, government "can be proud that SA is today an emerging democracy with the full panoply of constitutional protection for its citizens".

An independent judiciary, a relatively independent media and a vigorous civil society had all contributed to SA's transition from "international pariah to the darling of the developing world", he said.

But as SA prepared itself for the post-Mandela transition, "worrying clouds have appeared on our democratic horizon".

These included rampant crime, high unemployment levels and an economy grappling with the transition from natural resources to services that our post-industrialised world demands.

Other worrying aspects of SA's transition included the "deskilling" of the public service through affirmative action appointments and early retirements, a lack of effective governance at all levels of government and a culture of entitlement among the new elite in both the public and private sectors.

But it was in the area of corruption that SA, as an emerging democracy, was most vulnerable.

While corruption was not unique to the developing world, it tended to have a much more debilitating effect in emerging democracies in the developing world than in mature democracies in the developed world, Leon said.

While neither group could afford corruption, developing nations could afford it least, he said.

Since the early 1980s, SA had a "watered-down version of the ombudsman" in the form of the advocate-general but it was only since the adoption of the interim constitution on April 27 1994 that a public protector with constitutionally assured independence and impartiality took office.

Although the number of complaints received by public protector, Bally Baqwa's office had increased by about 400% — from 69 cases in June last year when he was appointed to 289 cases in August this year — Baqwa had found he had no jurisdiction in almost 50% of the complaints.

Only 5% of the cases were held to be well founded and in about 10% of cases no further action had been taken, Leon said.

These figures gave the impression corruption was on the decrease but the opposite was true, Leon said, citing examples of former welfare minister Abe Williams's resignation, the Sarafina 2 affair and the amount of customs fraud and police corruption.

For this reason it was important the constitution provided that the public protector be appointed and removed only by a two-thirds majority vote in the national assembly.
Mokaba’s crime figures slated as misleading

Safe tourist image sought

ANDREW SMITH  ARG  24/10/96

Deputy Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba has been accused of luring tourists to South Africa with misleading statistics that indicate crime is concentrated in only one percent of the country.

Mr Mokaba said last week at a workshop in Mauritius to promote South Africa as an international tourist destination that crime was concentrated in the inner cities of Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

Professor Johan Prinsloo, head of the University of South Africa’s Criminology Institute, branded Mr Mokaba’s comments as “completely misleading” and said they would attract visitors to South Africa under false pretences.

“To judge crime levels based on areas where crimes are committed is not an objective approach to ascertaining the true levels of crime,” said Professor Prinsloo.

He said the statistics stemmed from the Government, which feared it was not relaying an impression of control to the outside world.

Such statements could be dangerous for tourists, who could now feel safe if they stayed out of the central city areas.

“Look at the Nieuwoudtville flower murders or the tourists raped and assaulted in the Transkei,” said Professor Prinsloo. “Both occurred far away from any city.”

The one percent statistic was also misleading because few of the crimes in rural areas and townships were reported.

Director Thane Heath of the South African Police Services said that although the police had identified the city centres as the “national priority areas”, crimes were committed throughout the country.

“We have set up tourist points throughout the country and have conducted a campaign to sensitize tourists to the facts of South African crime,” he said.

Mr Mokaba responded by saying he wanted to create a positive image for South Africa to counter the country’s international image of being crime-ridden because the police could not be relied on to stabilize the situation.

“We can’t wait for the police to improve their policing before we improve tourism,” he said.

Mr Mokaba admitted that the one percent statistic could be misleading. “It could be misleading if looked at in terms of the population but I don’t think it is misleading if one looks at crime in terms of the areas where crimes are reported,” he said.
Fear of crime ‘a bigger enemy than crime’

ONLY 28% of South Africans believed the government had the crime situation under control, the Human Sciences Research Council said yesterday.

But, it said in a statement, the fear of crime could become an even bigger enemy to civil society than crime itself.

"Only 10% of the respondents in a countrywide survey conducted by the HSRC in July this year indicated that they had in fact been victims of crimes."

It found that 44% of the respondents in the survey said they felt safe. This reflects a sharp reduction in confidence from a poll shortly after the April 1994 general elections, when 73% considered themselves safe and 67% believed the government had the situation under control.

"High levels of fear usually cause a chain reaction. This results in people withdrawing from community life (making use of public transport to a lesser extent, no longer permitting their children to walk to and from school)." — Political Staff
We'll fight crime the way we taught.

apartheid - Sexwale

34 AR2 26/10/1996

The mess doctor. Mr Sexwale said.

It is a battle that we need to do, where we need to use police. The police, the military, the armed forces, the armed police force. It is a battle that we need to do. Mr Sexwale said.

He said these rolls would be used in a different cause.

We'll fight crime the way we taught.

Vice and business. Mr Sexwale said.

After the provincial government did not have direct powers of implementation.

The provincial government did not have direct powers of implementation. 

After the provincial government did not have direct powers of implementation. 

The provincial government did not have direct powers of implementation.

After the provincial government did not have direct powers of implementation.

The provincial government did not have direct powers of implementation.
Govt cracks down on salary fraud

John Dludlu

HARARE — Eastern Cape’s government would stop using the electronic payment system within the next two months to clamp down on teachers fraudulently drawing salaries, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said last week.

The case involved hundreds of “ghost teachers” who continued to draw salaries from government without offering any lessons, Mbeki told the International Herald Tribune conference on trade and investment. He said the province had uncovered “ghost teachers” — people who drew salaries from the state although they did not work — and said the practice appeared to be the legacy of the previous regime.

Mbeki disclosed the move to clamp down on corruption soon after the KwaZulu-Natal public accounts committee established a team of “ghostbusters” to track down 36 000 fictitious public servants who had drained the provincial fiscus of about R1.5bn.

On Friday Eastern Cape director-general Thozamile Botha said a sample of 10% of the province’s teaching profession had found that 162 “teachers” were being paid although they did not work for government. He expressed fears that the scale of corruption could be extensive.

An estimate of the cost could not, however, be obtained.

Botha said a tender would be put out for accountants in the next month to help the province uncover the extent of corruption and to conduct a massive head count.

Public servants would be asked to physically collect their own salary cheques at the end of each month to verify their existence.

The investigation by independent accountants would also identify the culprits, although both Botha and Mbeki said this appeared to be part of the baggage they had inherited from their predecessors.

While it was relatively easier to detect corruption within the education department, it was difficult to do so in the welfare department, where monthly grants continued to be paid out to people who did not exist.

“Corruption in welfare is a sophisticated system of fraud. It is not easy to detect,” Botha said.

Provincial sources said the problem of corruption appeared to be worse in provinces which had inherited the former bantustans, where controls were lax or non-existent.

Eastern Cape, which brought together public servants from the former Cape provincial administration and the Transkei and Ciskei homelands, was also facing problems in implementing plans to reduce its public service and improve conditions of service.

Botha said the province had discovered that the number of bureaucrats seeking severance packages had suddenly soared to nearly 2,000 from 1,000. This was due to the fact that people who had been given posts in the rationalised provincial bureaucracy had now applied for severance packages, he said.

It was not immediately clear how much the taxpayer would have to pay if the superfluous public servants also had to be cut loose from the public service with severance packages.
Ministers ask for more money to fight crime

f) 30/10/98

The Cabinet
Crime hits less
than 2% of tourists'

Less than 2% of international tourists to South Africa have become victims of crime while visiting the country, according to a South African Tourism Board (Sautour) international market survey.

Further research indicated that most incidents were of a petty nature and could have been avoided if basic safety precautions had been followed.

According to Sautour, most of the crime which occurred in South Africa, including that committed by People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) on the Cape Flats, occurred in areas which were not key tourist areas.

Sautour chairman Peter Swartz warned, however, that continuing crime and violence in the country could have a negative effect on the tourism industry.

"Tourism is an extremely fragile industry, and potential tourists are becoming increasingly concerned about personal safety and security in the country," Swartz said.

He pointed out that a decline in overseas tourism to South Africa would lead to thousands of job opportunities and millions of rands in foreign exchange being lost.

The poor perception of personal safety in South Africa was a direct result of the general crime and violence problem in the country and the negative publicity afforded such incidents of crime, and not necessarily a reflection of the reality of crime committed against tourists, Swartz added.

He said while police statistics might indicate crime was in fact on the decrease, Sautour and various other bodies were doing everything possible to address the problem of personal safety.

In November last year Sautour and the Department of Environmental Affairs were instrumental in establishing the Tourism Safety Task Group (TSTG).

Representatives from the police, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Airports Company, the Department of Justice, the Tourism Business Council of South Africa and Business Against Crime also serve on the task group.

Actions taken by the task group to combat the crime problem in SA included the following:

- A database of actual incidents of crime committed against tourists was developed and would be used to formulate appropriate strategies to combat crime.
- A brochure on safety tips for tourists was published and would be distributed as widely as possible to incoming foreign tourists. The first batch of brochures would be distributed this month at the Johannesburg International airport (JIA).
- A tourism ambassador project was in the planning stage and would in all likelihood be launched before the end of the year. The project entails tourist assistants who would provide tourist information in key areas and would initially be launched at JIA. The police have also established special Tourist Protection Units in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.
Corruption remains one of the greatest deterrents to foreign investment in Southern Africa. A co-ordinated regional approach is needed to fight corruption in Southern Africa. A neighborhood watch group is needed to monitor and report on instances of corruption. Other forms of corruption, such as bribe taking and favors, need to be addressed as well. Addressing corruption is not just a matter of law enforcement, but also involves education and awareness programs. It is essential to create a culture where honesty and integrity are valued and corruption is not tolerated. The fight against corruption requires the involvement of governments, businesses, and the general public. Together, we can make a difference and create a more corruption-free environment in Southern Africa.
Bill ensures criminals will be forced to pay

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Money confiscated from criminals as a result of the Proceeds of Crime Bill, which was approved along with four other "crime" bills in the National Assembly yesterday, should be put in a dedicated anti-crime fund, ANC MP Johnny de Lange said yesterday.

De Lange, who chairs the National Assembly's justice committee, which has laboured along with its Senate counterpart for the past six weeks to get the five crime Bills approved this session, said that a rapid response fund would enable funds to be instantly available.

He said that at present a problem identified as needing instant funding not provided for in any of the criminal justice department budgets would have an 18-month wait; for money to be provided through the annual Budget.

The five Bills establish new extradition laws, allow entrapment in an amendment to the Criminal Procedure Act, tighten up the law governing the proceeds of crime and money laundering, and create special investigating units to combat corruption, and needed funding for viable implementation.
Forensic audit now underway to stem corruption

Thieves hit state institutions

JULIAN PITMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Thieves are still stealing from state hospitals and other government institutions - including Parliament - but serious efforts are afoot to stem the tide of corruption and a forensic audit is now underway in three state hospitals.

Hospital administrators commissioned outside consultants in May to find out whether ongoing theft and fraud was occurring in the engineering, catering and pharmacy departments of Groote Schuur and Tygerberg hospitals and Victoria Hospital but a final public report is still to be submitted.

In September it was reported "thieves were plundering the corridors of power" and thousands of rand's of personal belongings, from microwaves to laptop computers, were stolen from Parliament.

Now it seems nothing has changed except that serious theft of expensive items has increased.

"About R50 000 worth of goods has been stolen from Inside Parliament since November last year," said superintendent of buildings Themba Nkosin.

"There is definitely an increase in serious theft - computers and technical equipment - since the previous year and petty theft of purses, money and clothing. The theft of other items under R1 000 each in value remains more or less constant so there is no decrease discernible yet in petty theft."

"We don't have figures for the period before 1994 so we can't make a comparison between before and after democracy."

Mr Nkosin said there had been no convictions because nobody had been caught in the act. Police, he said, are still investigating reports of theft.

"This is the most accessible Parliament in the world and about 120 000 different people move in and out of the building every year."

"There are no body searches only security systems at the front door and this is why new systems have to be looked at. With openness theft has gone up."

"He added the most unusual "disappearance" was of a pot plant during the night on July 30 this year, and copper ridings stolen from the roof of Parliament on June 27 this year."

Head of media relations for the Provincial Administration, Mark Hill, confirmed that R341 000 worth of goods was stolen from three academic hospitals, nine regional hospitals, 98 day hospitals, 35 community hospitals and 85 clinics administered by the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape in the 1995/96 financial year.

"The issue has been taken seriously by the department because 187 people were convicted of theft. It is a small percentage given about 30 000 people are employed by the department."

Chief director of regional services Gilbert Lawrence who is in charge of several large hospitals as well as mental hospitals and dental hospitals, said the forensic audit is an effort to be open and transparent.

"We were concerned that maybe large scale theft and fraud syndicates were at work but so far the report does not show this. We asked the consultants to check our controls and systems and their recommendations will follow. There are areas we know we can improve in."

Dr Lawrence said the audit was done on two large hospitals and one smaller one to make comparisons and audits in other hospitals will follow.

"There is no simplistic answer to corruption because hospitals are public places where all kinds of people have access for different reasons and there are many entrances and exits," he said. "We called in outside consultants because we are taking the matter very seriously."

Concerned employees at Groote Schuur Hospital welcome the audit, since they say theft is still very widespread.
The staff appear to be appropriately located with some reservations. In 1996

Distinguished target: Parliament has been hit by a spate of thefts recently with about R50 000 of goods taken in a year.

Administrative Staffing

Table 3

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Programme 1: Administrative

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Relevant budget assessment. The response was described functionally. Some aspects of labour legislation were progressive in design when enacted.

2.4 Capacity of the Provincial Directorate
Emphatic calls for iron-fist approach

Survey respondents overwhelmingly in favour of bringing back the death penalty, better pay and training for police, and stiffer bail conditions

New demands for an iron-fist approach to crime and criminals have emerged from a survey conducted jointly by The Star and one of the country’s biggest financial institutions, Nedcor.

The results of the survey, released today, show that Greater Johannesburg residents across racial, social and economic sectors want the Government to pump far more of the national Budget into fighting crime – for greatly improving police pay, conditions and training; ensuring greater police visibility; building more high-security prisons; and making troops available to help the police.

The survey again showed massive public support for the reintroduction of the death penalty – something that has been flatly rejected by the Government.

About 7,000 people responded to the questionnaire, which was published in The Star last month and also circulated on Nedcor’s Internet Web site.

Of the respondents, 89.9% voted in favour of capital punishment with 78.8% indicating “strong” support for its reintroduction.

More than 83% said they wanted substantial tightening of bail conditions.

Most respondents favoured improving police salaries and training – 77.2% “strongly agreed” to this while another 21.2% simply “agreed”.

The majority supported introducing visible police and troops on the streets – 76.5% “strongly agreed” and 21.1% “agreed” (a total of 97.6%).

Punishing police corruption severely and dismissing the service was demanded by 97.9% of respondents.

Even though 78.6% agreed to the Government permitting private security officers to make arrests, there was a fair amount of resistance to this approach (20.3% against it).

Others involved in the crime survey were the Post Office, which provided a Freepost service for replies; Nedbank, Permanent Bank and People’s Bank country-wide; and SABC Radio, which will be broadcasting the findings.

The results of the survey will be forwarded to Parliament for the attention of the relevant cabinet ministers, all of whom were aware that the survey was being carried out.

Off with their hands, NP provincial congress is told

The hands of criminals should be chopped off, the National Party’s Gauteng congress heard in Johannesburg on Saturday.

Speaking in support of a motion calling for stronger action against crime, Benoni delegate Salama Abraham said more than the return of the death penalty was required to deter criminals.

“We demand further action, like chopping off the hands of criminals,” he said.

NP MP Sheila Camerer expressed reservations about the idea. However, Abraham’s proposal was an indication of the frustration people felt about the high crime level, Camerer said.

Delegates sharply criticised the Government for ignoring surveys showing that SA’s majority wanted the return of the death penalty. These included more than 78% of ANC supporters. Annelise van Wyk from Pretoria called for crime to be criminalised.

The congress unanimously endorsed a proposal that signatures be collected for a petition of no confidence in Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale and Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte. – Sapa
Comparisons fraught with difficulties

Crime rate unreliable guide

Labelling Cape Town or Johannesburg as "top" crime cities in the world gives a false picture. Such comparisons ought to be taken with a pinch of salt says Professor Wilfried Scharff, Director of the Institute of Criminology at UCT.

Drawing comparisons is easier said than done, particularly international comparisons. Some of them increase the figures, others decrease them, and there is always a big residual question: Who is the opposition, and is it even possible to compare ourselves with them? Even if we succeed, of what use are the comparisons on their own?

Now if this may seem a typically academic approach, to question the question rather than answer it, the following points should make it apparent that the comparisons are fraught with difficulties.

South African reported crime statistics have until now excluded the former TBVC states. They will only be added to the national figures next year. That will make our figures higher, but in all likelihood will drop our crime rate dramatically. The crime rate is the crime count per 100 000 of the population.

The Nedcor study on Crime, Violence and Investment, published in June, illustrates the dilemma of international comparisons: It states that SA's recorded crime rate is 5 651 per 100 000, which places us on par with countries such as Norway, the US and France. But according to Nedcor, that still places SA (and other achievers in this category) way above the world average of 2 662 reported crimes per 100 000.

Should we feel good that we are a country in the upper average of developing (read Third World) countries which has achieved the same distinction in crime as illustrious First World countries to which some South Africans wish to emigrate?

Once the former TBVC states have been added are we going to be even better than the US, France and Norway? In all likelihood the answer is yes if one takes the crime rate as the sole measure of comparison, but that hides a lot of other problems which have to be factored into the bland figures.

Does the world average of 2 662 include the countries that prefer not to publish crime statistics (eg Zaire), have not the capacity to gather, analyse and publish statistics (Angola, Mozambique and many others), are at war and therefore have better things to think about than gathering and publishing crime statistics?

In 1994 a count of countries in Africa that were at war or were experiencing civil-war situations was 40. Even if they did manage to gather crime statistics, would the kills and injuries of war count as murders and assaults or would they fall into a category that does not make happy comparisons with the routinely published statistics? My guess is they would not appear at all in anything that their criminal justice systems publish.

The curious situation in SA was that many of the killings in Natal and other local theatres of the liberation war (and its aftermath) have appeared in the statistics as murders because officially there was no war. To its credit the Nedcor study does warn the reader to be careful of taking the figures at face value because France, Norway and the US are much better at collecting statistics than we are.

Another problem of international comparisons is that many countries have different categories, or gradations of categories of crime. For example, from mid-1997 South African crime stats will reflect domestic violence in its own right, whereas it was historically embedded in the common assault category. I won't elaborate on other similar examples, but there are many.

Once most of my criminological colleagues have waded through all the obligatory warnings about the difficulties of comparing international crime statistics they proceed to compare them nonetheless, arguing that it's better to compare what there is than compare nothing at all.

So the Nedcor study goes on to focus on murder rates, citing SA as falling into a much less exalted set of peers, such as Colombia and the Bahamas. The SA murder rate of 45 per 100 000 is compared with the world average of 5.5. The dramatic explanatory accompaniment is that South Africa is probably the most murderous society on earth... only the Bahamas has a higher reported murder rate than South Africa, with the notorious Colombia coming close.

I am not trying to trivialise the seriousness of our violent crime, which all South Africans believe to be unacceptably high. I am suggesting that the international comparisons should be treated with the necessary circumspection, and considered to be only one, if a poor point of reference. Other layers of information and analysis need to be overlaid in order to contextualise and provide a more informed understanding.

Sensationalist media accounts seldom have the interest, the time or the sophistication to do so. Mark Shaw does just that in a sound overview of the SA crime scene in 1998, citing studies that have contextualised violent crime patterns geographically and in terms of race and class.

One such study comes to the depressing conclusion that violence is highly concentrated among the poor part of our population. Whites were victims of only 4.2% of reported rapes and 2.8% of murders. Although the figures are drawn from 1988 statistics it is likely that the same conclusion would be reached with fresher figures.

In another study, Glanz dispels one perennial myth about metropolitan versus rural crime patterns in the Western Cape, citing that January to June figures in 1994 and 1995 as proving that the rates for common and aggravated assault, as well as murder, were higher in the rest of the province than in the Peninsula.

International comparisons are useful as a starting point for discussion. They reflect crime Information gathering patterns in different countries more than the actual occurrences, and they favour the more technologically advanced countries with attention.

So decision-makers who wish to decide whether SA is a good political ally, a safe place in which to invest or to travel, a country with which one should do business, a country worthy of international loans, a country to whom one should sell the toys of war, a country worthy of hosting Olympics, all turn to the crime statistics and rates to help them make their decision. I hope they are aware of the shortcomings and draw on other sources as well.
Visionary Crime Prevention Strategy is one of the most visionary...
DP proposes radical plan to crush crime

By RAY HARTLEY: Political Correspondent

The Democratic Party yesterday proposed a radical overhaul of policing and the criminal justice system "to add value" to the national crime prevention strategy announced by the Minister of Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, earlier this year.

The 34-page policy proposal, entitled "Winning the War Against Crime", calls for local policing, the privatisation of prisons, boot camps for young offenders and a new anti-crime fund to pay for better policing and prosecution.

It argues that South Africa should follow the international trend towards locating policing under the auspices of local authorities.

Community policing forums, which the DP describes as "failing", should be replaced by crime prevention councils in local government and legislation should be tabled to allow local authorities to establish their own police services.

"Cities should draft "safety charters" listing concrete objectives in the fight against crime, such as "reducing car theft in an area by 10 percent over a six-month period."

"Establishing city police services is now a priority — all the required policy work has been completed — yet the public have yet to see additional officers on the beat," the document says.

President Nelson Mandela should call together South Africa's mayors to "impress on them the urgency of the plan" and they should in turn report back to the President on progress at half-yearly intervals, the document says.

Because 51,000 of the 125,000 criminals in prison are under the age of 25, a new "boot camp" for juvenile offenders should be established.

Offenders should have to spend between 90 and 180 days in harsh military-style training and would be put to work cleaning parks and pavements and doing local government chores.

"The most appropriate institutions available in South Africa would be old military training bases," the document says.

Prisons should be privatised and prison services should be outsourced, following the example set in Britain, where the private sector will be designing, financing, constructing and managing new jails.

The DP proposes minimum sentences for drug traffickers and automatic life sentences — without the prospect of parole — for second offenders found guilty of attempted murder, threat or conspiracy to murder, manslaughter, assault, armed robbery or rape.

The DP also proposes a new national academy to improve the capacity of the criminal justice system by raising the quality of investigative work and improving co-ordination between investigating officers and prosecutors.

The academy would train detectives, prosecutors and local authority crime prevention officers, granting them "recognised diplomas or degrees" on graduation.

To pay for these reforms, the DP suggests a national anti-crime fund be established and individuals and corporations be allowed to make tax-deductible donations.

This, along with a "small tax or registration fee" for private security firms, would give the fund the ability to supplement crime prevention budgets.

The party also proposes the abolition of the ministries of sport, tourism and environmental affairs. This, it says, would lead to a saving of R373-million — money which could go to the fund.
The great escape

Northern Province has lowest rate of violent crime in SA, say statistics

By PETER DEIONNO

IT'S NO secret that Gauteng's crime-weary citizens believe a safer life is to be found in fairest Cape Town or some far-flung province.

But they are mistaken.

The latest police statistics on violent crime countrywide reveal that the most dangerous province in South Africa is, in fact, the sprawling Northern Cape.

And there is a greater chance of dying violently in the Western Cape than in Gauteng.

The figures, released to the Sunday Times this week, show that although the total number of crimes in the Northern Cape lags behind those for other provinces, its people face a greater chance of being murdered or raped than they would living anywhere else in South Africa.

In the first six months of this year, a total of 45,3 people in every 100 000 in the province were murdered — compared with 36,3 in every 100 000 in Gauteng.

And 101,9 people in every 100 000 were raped, versus 89,5 in Gauteng.

As if this wasn't bad enough, the Northern Cape was outranked only by Gauteng and the Western Cape when it came to burglaries.

Gauteng reported 950 housebreakings for every 100 000 people, the Western Cape reported 507,7 and the Northern Cape reported 365,2.

Despite its laid-back ways and popularity among tourists to South Africa, the Western Cape takes second place as the murder province because of violence, say analysts.

A total of 40,9 people in every 100 000 were murdered in the province between January and the end of June — 4,5 more than in Gauteng.

Third came KwaZulu Natal, with 36,5 murders for every 100 000 people, a total of 3 265 for the first six months of the year.

The safest place from crime, the statistics show, is the Northern Province — unless you are suspected of witchcraft.

Attacks on suspected witches presented the most serious criminal threat in the province.

Only 8,1 people in every 100 000 were murdered, and the rates of rape, assault and robbery were up to five times lower than in the rest of South Africa.

The good news is that murder is on the decline. The statistics found that 27,7 in 100 000 people were murdered countrywide in the first half of 1996 — down from 30,8 during the corresponding period last year and 33,1 in the first six months of 1994.

Police analysts attribute the high murder rate in the Northern Cape to an extraordinary high number of serious assaults.

A total of 263,6 in every 100 000 people in the province were assaulted, more than three times the number in Gauteng and double that in the Western Cape.

The analysts attributed this to "a subculture of drug and alcohol abuse associated with the striving towards achieving a macho-man image".

In KwaZulu Natal, the high number of murders is blamed on faction fighting and political violence, while in Gauteng, organised crime is considered the culprit.

While the murder rate is declining slowly, rape is on the rise around South Africa.

The figures show 56,4 cases of rape and attempted rape for every 100 000 people countrywide in the first half of this year, compared with 51,9 last year.

The safest province from this crime is the Northern Province, with 27,9 women in every 100 000 raped.

The major metropolitan centres of Gauteng and the Western Cape are the focal points for property crimes other than stock theft and shoplifting, reporting housebreaking figures almost double the national average of 292,8.

The fewest number were reported in the Northern Province where, despite the general absence of burglar bars and high-profile security, there were only 104,6 cases for every 100 000 people.

Robberies at gunpoint are most common in Gauteng, where a staggering 12 148 cases were reported in the six-month period, more than five times the number in any other province.

Gauteng also reported five times more bank robberies than in any other province.
DP's proposals on fighting crime welcomed

President Njabulo Ndebele

Dr. Jerry Orbach, Director-General of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, in his capacity as the Head of the Department, expressed his support for the National Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (NCSP) in its efforts to combat crime. He highlighted the importance of the NCSP in coordinating the efforts of various government departments and institutions in addressing crime in South Africa.

Orbach acknowledged the challenges faced by the NCSP, particularly in terms of budget constraints and the need for more resources. He emphasized the importance of collaboration and partnership with civil society organizations, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders in achieving meaningful progress against crime.

He praised the work of the NCSP in implementing various initiatives and programmes aimed at reducing crime, such as the Community Policing Forum (CPF) and the Integrated Police Services (IPS) project. Orbach underscored the need for continued investment in law enforcement and justice sector reform to ensure effective and fair justice delivery.

Orbach concluded by expressing confidence in the NCSP's ability to make a positive impact on crime rates in South Africa, and emphasized the importance of sustained support from all stakeholders in realizing this goal.
Summit thrashes out deal to tackle crime at its roots

Society must be mobilised, says Naidoo

ESTELLE RANDALL
Labour Reporter

Johannesburg - A high-powered meeting of representatives of organised labour, business and community organisations today resolved to implement practical, grassroots programmes against crime and violence.

The conference was organised by the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) and the Department of Safety and Security.

Speakers included Safety and Security Minister Sidney Mufamadi, Nedlac executive director Jayendra Naidoo and President Mandela, the keynote speaker.

Police commissioner George Fivaz also took part in discussions to thrash out practical programmes.

"Crime affects the lives of all citizens, whether it is violent or white-collar crime," said Mr Naidoo, opening the conference.

He said the gathering was telling the country that crime was a battle that was not only up to government to fight.

"It's a battle in which the resources and power of all society representing millions of people is also being mobilised."

He said the conference recognised what had already been done and was designed to build upon and strengthen current anti-crime initiatives and strategies.

"Civil society has a crucial function in developing ideas, values, attitudes and in influencing the behaviour of citizens in general. Immobilisation of civil society played a key role in delivering political democracy. This is just as crucial now in building up institutions of democracy," he said.

Mr Naidoo said no authority could succeed unless there was an environment where people respected the authorities.

He said this had to be developed because attitudes to law and crime had been shaped by the history of subversion of the role of law as an instrument of apartheid, and by defiance by the majority of unjust laws.

"Very few South Africans, if any, can say they have never broken a law in their lives. To build a new culture of respect for the law requires determination and commitment by leadership and vigorous efforts on the part of the authorities," he said.
Government to root out corruption

Stephen Lauper
Feb 27 1996

GOVERNMENT was committed to rooting out corruption in the criminal justice system, and more police had been arrested and charged since the 1994 election than during the whole of the apartheid era, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

Addressing a National Economic, Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) crime and violence conference, Mandela said 278 police officers in KwaZulu-Natal and more than 400 in Gauteng had been charged with murder, theft, corruption, robbery and defeating the ends of justice, between July 1994 and June this year.

He cautioned that although progress in the fight against crime was visible on many fronts, the battle would not be won in the short term despite increased efforts by government.

Business plans for 11 key programmes, which the national crime prevention strategy had identified as critical to improved policing, had been approved, and the projects were being implemented, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mujamadi told the conference.

They included a crime information management system linking police, prosecutors, courts, and correctional services; an automatic fingerprint identification system; a R33m programme to build secure care facilities for children accused or convicted of crimes; and better management of crime scenes and dockets.

Mujamadi said his department would issue a safety and security white paper next year.

Sapa reports that Business Against Crime appointed Eric Tocknell as its first full-time MD yesterday.
Most serious crimes declining

Worry as incidents of rape increase; Mufamadi pledges support for an end to moratorium on employing more police

By Arso Thom
Crime Reporter

Police experts have forecast a drop in crime to a level in line with international statistics over the next three to five years.

The prediction follows an announcement that the national murder rate for the first eight months of this year fell by 9.6% in comparison with last year.

At a briefing in Pretoria yesterday, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said national levels for most categories of serious crimes had dropped or stabilised during the first two-thirds of this year.

Police said the prediction was based on two pillars: that various serious crime tendencies were already showing a considerable decrease, and factors inhibiting crime were steadily outweighing factors conducive to it.

According to police statistics compiled by the Crime Information Management Centre, for the period January to August, only four of the 20 serious crime categories did not show a noteworthy decrease in cases per 100,000 of the population.

The categories that continued to increase were rape, other robberies (petty), other thefts (petty) and illegal possession of firearms.

"The increase in rape is a worrying trend and this warrants urgent action by the SAPS and the criminal justice system more generally," Mufamadi said.

He said the crime figures were significant in providing the first year-on-year comparisons for these crime categories for all of South Africa, including the former homelands.

Mufamadi pointed out that the statistics referred only to reported crime - not to arrests, convictions or sentences.

He identified the following factors as reasons for the decline in serious crime categories:

- Use of special investigative teams throughout the country, particularly in crime hotspot areas such as KwaZulu Natal.
- More effective use of scarce resources - the retraining and redeployment of police so that more officers are on the streets doing policing.
- Improved crime intelligence - most serious crime is not the result of freak incidents.
- Better civilian co-operation - community policing forums are proving to be an important tool in this regard.
- Focused Police Plan programmes, such as Operation Urban Strike in Gauteng - although Mufamadi conceded that such operations sometimes only displaced crime and pushed it into new areas.
- Attacking syndicates - a small number of people were behind a large percentage of serious crime.

According to the quarterly report, a number of factors were provided to explain the incidence of crime in South Africa. These included the high levels of population growth, rapid and high levels of urbanisation, loss of the subsistence economy and support systems, ineffective policing, a penal system not providing sufficient deterrent value, the existence of international smuggling networks, the influx of millions of illegal immigrants, and political instability and violence.

Mufamadi said he believed the time had come to reassess the moratorium on recruitment and increase the size of the police service. He said the Government was committed to ensuring the moratorium was lifted following a report submitted by Police Commissioner George Fivaz.
It's High Noon for SA in Crime Fight

November 27, 1995

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Survey highlights perceptions of crime

Business Day Reporter

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Survey highlights perceptions of crime
South African companies are tightening security measures as the incidence of white-collar crime increases, reports Madeleine Wackernagel.

SOUTH AFRICAN businesses have the highest expectation of fraud in the world, according to a new survey by the international consultancy, KPMG.

In the second survey of its kind to be conducted in the country, KPMG found that 66% of respondents had experienced some kind of fraud in the past year, 88% believed incidents of fraud to be on the increase, and 62% saw it as one of the biggest problems in business today.

The reasons given for this increase in white-collar crime were a weakening of social values (75%), economic pressures (70%) and inefficiencies in the justice system (66%). Other explanations included lack of government intervention, not enough emphasis on prevention and detection, more sophisticated criminals and insufficient penalties.

But of the 1 000 businesses targeted in the survey, only 129 replied, says Petrus Marais of KPMG’s investigative unit. “Many big corporations see fraud as an internal matter; there is a natural reluctance to broadcast such problems.”

In addition, no one single person handles such issues in the large companies, so it takes a lot of work on their part to co-ordinate all the information needed to accurately respond to our questionnaire,” says Marais.

Nevertheless, reported fraud cost more than R186.6-million in the past year — although many respondents believed this to be a conservative and unreliable measure.

External fraud, defined as product theft, false representations, extortion/blackmail, bribes, false invoices and credit-card misuse — the biggest culprits, with 1 400 instances — accounted for the majority of fraud cases (57%), while incurring 25.1% of the total financial loss reported in the survey.

Employee fraud cost companies the most (70.8%), while clocking up 39.2% of occurrences, with inventory theft top of the list (380 cases).

Management fraud was fairly innocuous by comparison, coming in at 3.1% of occurrences and 4.1% of cost. False financial statements, abuse of expense accounts and unnecessary purchases were the top offences.

Interestingly, although a high percentage of respondents claimed to be aware of the risks of fraud, 14% of cases were discovered only by accident.

Internal controls caught up with 40% of offenders, while 28% were down to a targeted investigation by management; 22% owing to notification by another employee, and 19% owing to customers blowing the whistle.

KPMG says most companies had already established anti-fraud measures but felt more initiatives were necessary to counter the growing problem.

John Louw, chairman of the investigative accounting division, recommends the teamwork approach, involving external auditors in conjunction with management and internal auditors through audit committees, as well as risk-management processes.

A starting point in the fight against financial crime is double-checking on new employees, following a corporate code of conduct and tightening internal controls.

One of the most surprising aspects of this year’s survey, says Marais, is just how many respondents (about 60%) reported incidents to the police, despite a widespread lack of confidence in the judicial system.

“This could be because the police are now prepared to register complaints without an affidavit being lodged, and because the King Commission’s report on corporate governance has heightened awareness among company directors of good practice.”

Because of the small size of the sample in the first survey conducted in 1994, comparisons would be invalid, says Marais, but KPMG hopes the next survey will trawl an even greater number of South Africa’s biggest companies.
**SA white-collar crime cleanup.**

Belinda Beresford  
**BD 29/11/96**

The investigation of white-collar crime is to be boosted next week by the launch of an SA branch of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) in Johannesburg.

The ACFE aims to provide certified anti-fraud training courses to both state employees and the private sector, in conjunction with the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Bursaries for training and sponsorship to attend conferences will be provided for nominated members of the SA Police Service and prosecutors out of consultancy and training fees paid by business.

Bert Henderson of the local ACFE branch, said inadequate training and lack of understanding had resulted in a lack of aggressive investigations into white-collar crime.

Training material from the US would form the core of the training programme.
"We think the worst has bottomed out," said Safety & Security secretary Azhar Cachalia at Monday's presentation of the SAPS's first quarterly crime report, which is to be a regular feature.

"Crime will probably decrease to a level acceptable relative to the international scene over the next three to five years," say the report's authors.

Positive words, indeed, the civic-mindedness and zeal of the new police management is itself cause for optimism. For their own morale and effectiveness, and that of investors and the public at large, the police need to show success.

But, alas, the crime statistics are not very convincing. They do not show the percentage of crimes solved or successful prosecutions. They reflect only crimes known to the police — which, in cases such as rape and commercial crime, are notoriously underreported.

The Institute for Defence Policy's Mark Shaw, one of three analysts hired by the police to give an independent assessment of the statistics, cautioned that the fluctuations were too slight and the period of comparison too short to draw any firm conclusions.

The reported incidence of 16 of the 20 most serious crime categories declined or stabilised this year. Murder dropped 9.6% to 37.4 cases per 100 000 population in the first eight months of 1996, from 41.8 in 1995 and 43.4 in 1994.

Similar drops were recorded for attempted murder, business burglary, shoplifting, vehicle theft, arson, drunken driving and drug crimes. Crimes that showed little or no movement were assault (serious and common), residential burglary, stock theft, theft from vehicles and commercial crimes in general.

Reported crimes that increased were: rape (up nearly 20%), other robbery and theft and illegal possession of firearms.

Information-gathering and evaluation have been speeded up from a lag time of about six months to under six weeks, says police information management centre director Chris de Kock. But he's the first to admit that there's much room for improvement.

De Kock illustrates this by pointing out that the police have no data about the causes of more than 90% of the murders reported this year (see chart). He intends to rectify this by compiling a criminological code list to evaluate and relate crimes to social phenomena.

Taxi and hostel violence, car hijackings, bank robberies and gang warfare grab the headlines, he says, but these probably account for no more than 15% of all murders.

He suspects that the vast majority of murders, rapes and serious assaults are closely linked to domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and interpersonal conflict.

Another surprise in the report is that the largely rural Northern Cape has the most murders, rapes and assaults of any province. It recorded more than twice as many serious assaults this year as the runner-up, Western Province, while crime-racked Gauteng registered only fourth place after Eastern Cape.

These statistics defy the received wisdom that violent crime is closely associated with urbanisation and obviously requires closer examination.

Perhaps the best news was Safety & Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi's assurance that government intends to increase the size of the police service and is committed to lifting the moratorium on police recruitment.

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz has completed a staffing analysis, and Mufamadi will discuss the proposal with the Finance Ministry before taking it to Cabinet for approval.

Lifting the moratorium would not mean simply hiring and training new police officers, Mufamadi says. It will also involve upgrading the skills and training of existing officers, freeing desk-bound officers for street duties and hiring more civilians to handle administration.

Specialised divisions, such as detective and criminal intelligence units, are in desperate need of upgrading. More than 75% of the detective force is not adequately trained.

These developments come at a time of widespread ferment in the anti-crime sphere. Last week, Nedlac said it would support efforts to fight crime at neighbourhoud and workplace levels.

The Democratic Party's policy document Practical Solutions to Winning the War Against Crime provides strong short-term and medium-term proposals to complement the National Crime Prevention Strategy and other initiatives in conjunction with Business Against Crime.

Fivaz acknowledged that SA is far from winning the anti-crime war — "but at least we're moving in the right direction."

92.8% unknown
mostly interpersonal conflict

0.0% assault
0.5% murder
4.0% hostal violence
4.0% rape
95.6% unknown
White-collar fraud veiled by poor policing

A lack of confidence in the police force and the criminal justice system has effectively veiled the extent of white-collar crime in South Africa, but most of the respondents to the latest KPMG fraud survey believe that financial crime will increase in the next 12 months.

Petrus Marais, managing director of forensic and investigative accounting at KPMG, says the commercial branch is currently investigating financial crime amounting to R7.3-billion, "but as only 53% of the respondents reported these crimes to the police, the figure could be substantially higher."

Other actions taken by companies against fraudsters include immediate dismissal, disciplinary hearings, internal investigations or a claim against the insurance company.

KPMG makes the point that although 1 000 questionnaires were sent out to large corporations, only 129 of these responded, indicating a reluctance to publicise their experiences or an inability to quantify the extent of white-collar fraud.

Two thirds of the respondents, however, said they had fallen victim to fraud and lost "in total, R188-million last year."

"Compared with other countries surveyed" by KPMG around the world, "southern Africa has by far the highest perception or belief (88%) that fraud will increase next year."

A similar percentage have listed fraud as a major problem facing business today.

By DON ROBERTSON

Surprisingly, 77% of the respondents claim they understand how fraud occurs, yet they blame collusion between employees and third parties as well as poor internal controls.

Up to 19% of respondents said that when "red flags" pointed to fraudulent activity, they were either ignored or not acted upon quickly enough.

Although fraud by employees was reported in 39.5% of the cases compared with 37% in the case of outsiders, "the value of internal theft" was "substantially higher at 70.8% compared with 28.1%.

By all accounts, managers appear to be quite clean, committing only 3.1% of cases, and accounting for only 4.1% of value.

Only 10% of the respondents said they had experienced fraud in trade with countries overseas, but 30% said they would avoid trading with some countries because of the possibility of fraud in these regions.
Survey finds drivers collude in truck theft

A SURVEY of more than 27 000 trucks across SA has found a high degree of collusion by drivers in the theft of vehicles and freight in the trucking industry.

The survey, carried out by a motor vehicle research organisation, The Marketing Shop, highlights the increased risk of theft at unattended roadside stops in townships and fast-food outlets, as well as in laybys where drivers sleep.

An insurance industry source quoted in the survey said that in the assessment of insurable risk in the transport sector, drivers accounted for 80% while the remaining percentage rested with the condition and maintenance of the vehicle. Among other factors raising the insurance risk were the low levels of education, literacy, skill and road awareness of many truck drivers. It noted that many drivers were in charge of vehicles costing up to R500 000 and freight with a value of between R250 000 and R500 000.

Countermeasures, the insurance industry suggested careful driver training and a move towards better record keeping. Accurate pre-employment checks were essential on all potential drivers and the use of polygraphs was also recommended.

The survey found that 15% of stolen vehicles were hijacked. There was also strong evidence that the rate of vehicle hijackings and theft were increasing.

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‘Irregularities’ uncovered in security board probe

Kevin O’Grady

LEGAL action, possibly including criminal charges, could flow from the results of a forensic audit of the affairs of the Security Officers’ Board which are to be released soon, an auditor said yesterday.

Patrick Ronan of Ronan, Smithard & Associates, which has been involved in the investigation and in managing the board’s affairs, would not give details of the findings. However, he said the investigation had uncovered gross irregularities with regard to the administration of the board.

Board member Don Masterson said the findings were of such a serious nature that they had led to the suspension of two senior board executives, referring to last week’s suspension of registrar Frans Lubbe and assistant registrar Thuya Redelingshuys.

Ronan also disputed allegations by Lubbe that his suspension following an appeal to the safety and security ministry to set up an independent commission of inquiry into unaccountable expenditure by board members.

He also denied “gravy train” allegations levelled at board members, including three Transport and General Workers’ Union shop stewards appointed to the board.

Ronan said that the investigation into Lubbe and the board’s secretariat had preceded Lubbe’s submission to the safety and security ministry.

He said he had seen evidence that productivity was at a high level since he started performing secretarial and administrative functions for the board in April. He agreed with board vice-chairman Joe Matesha’s comments that Lubbe’s allegations against the three union members on the board were racially motivated.

R15.7m trust set up for land commission

PRETORIA — A land restitution trust fund worth R15.7m over three years had been set up to bolster the budget for the activities of the Restitution of Land Rights Commission, it was announced in Pretoria yesterday.

Trustees of the fund said: “The commission is now 18 months old and it has become clear its constitutional responsibilities and operational needs demand an increase in its capacity to deliver on land restitution.”

They said more than 11 000 land claims were pending and more were expected in the next 16 months. The trustees said they required more funds to put core functions in place. — Sapa.

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Cut graft for Beira to succeed, says banker

A SOUTHERN African government needs to cut bribery and corruption to create an attractive environment for investment in their proposed regional Beira Development Corridor, a banker said yesterday.

De la Pargue said Beira needs a corruption-free environment if it is to attract capital to turn Mozambique’s Beira route into a regional development corridor.

Control of corruption is a major concern. Key financial constraints are security, functionality and exchange control understanding, he said.

The way forward lies with central government getting together and creating the right kind of environment, De la Pargue said.

Officials of the Beira Corridor Group, which organised the conference, said they had no estimate yet of the initial capital needed to expand the corridor’s road, port and rail network.

But the group’s managing director, David Cassemer, and other speakers stressed the region’s private sector was crucial to securing the capital needed to expand the corridor’s road, port and rail network.

De la Pargue said the timing of the corridor was right, with the region now enjoying peace.

Beira would also offer a cheaper route than SA for most regional companies. — Reuters.
Popcru in campaign against crime

Jacqui Pile
50 11/17/96

IN AN effort to curb increasing crime in townships, the Police and Prisons Civil Rights' Union (Popcru), and the Soweto community, will launch a campaign against crime on Saturday.

The campaign will involve educating people on reporting crime to the police, participating in local community police forums and against buying stolen goods.

After the launch in Soweto, the campaign will be broadened to other areas and continue until crime is reduced to an acceptable level.

"We hope to build a positive relationship between police and communities in townships," said Gauteng provincial secretary James Makapane.

Makapane said that he wanted people to unite against crime and to be aware that Popcru was there to protect them. Popcru was calling on police officers to "do everything in their power to combat crime so that communities can go back to leading normal lives".

Representatives of both the Gauteng safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte and the provincial police commissioner Sharna Maharaj's office will join Popcru and SA Police Service members at the launch which will take place at Orlando Stadium.
Gangsterism & Drugs — possibly influenced by the Islamic fundamentalist movement Qibla — is showing little inclination to get in line with official approaches to its targets, despite being accorded a dignity and importance it may not deserve.

Last week Omar met Pagad leaders in the parliamentary precinct in what seemed to be an official gesture of acceptance and goodwill. Safety & Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and Correctional Services’ Sipho Mzimela were at the meeting, as were Western Cape premier Helen Zille and senior police officials. The main structural outcome was a proposed Pagad-government liaison committee to be chaired by Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn.

At a media conference afterwards, Pagad chief commander Aslam Toefy said the anticrime body would continue to march masked and armed whatever the law said, and reiterated demands that the police supply it with lists of drug offenders and suspects. The marches occur twice weekly by night and often result in violence or upheaval.

Pagad also intends marching on Cape Town airport on December 16, and to revisit the Waterfront where one of its members was shot and killed (Current Affairs November 8).

Pagad insists it needs the masks to prevent identification by gangsters, and that the guns are licensed. Omar said little at the media conference except that he had not noticed some of the Pagad leaders in the same room were masked. “I do not divert the importance of the meeting by paying attention to issues like those.”

The Democratic Party dashed out the symbolism of the police and the Ministers responsible for law and order dealing with an organisation that has proclaimed its intention to break the law.

DP leader Tony Leon pointed out that Omar, who was forced to leave his home by Pagad militants, “seemed oblivious to both the masks and the unmasked leader of Qibla (Imam Achmat Cassiem) sitting near him. . . Cassiem and his group are promoting an Islamic State in SA and believe that a secular government is illegitimate and it is therefore justifiable to take the law into one’s own hands.”

There was little to indicate that Omar and his colleagues had gained anything from the meeting. At the weekend, speaking in Khayelitsha, President Nelson Mandela further weakened Omar’s initiative by stating that Pagad had “overstepped the limits.” Demonstrations at the airport and Waterfront would not be allowed — “or at any other place (where Pagad is) likely to damage or undermine the tourist industry.”

With Omar at his side, Mandela was unequivocal: “One thing we will not allow is people walking in the streets with firearms — licensed or otherwise — and we will not allow people to wear masks.”

Pagad took little notice other than stating that there were circumstances when its members had to be masked, and “we are trying to contact the President to give him first-hand information.”

A march on the airport on a public holiday — the claimed intention being to pressure the authorities into intensifying their antidrug surveillance at points of entry — will fly in the face of Mandela’s tough line.

For his part, Omar risks a further erosion of his credibility the longer he continues pussyfooting with Pagad. And given the group’s insubordination, it could be heading for a showdown with the police that it will have done much to bring upon itself.

Omar’s life is not being made any easier by his appointment as leader of the ANC in the Western Cape, where the vote of the coloured community needs to be enlisted if the NP is to be toppled.
Battle against the criminals continues

Amid warnings about dire effects, Government expresses determination to break the vicious cycle and police put strategies in place to bring down the country's crime rate

By ANNO YIRINI
Crime Reporter

Crime-ridden South Africans can look forward to a safer year following the promulgation of the latest crime statistics for 2011. The Statistics Act, which mandates the publication of crime statistics every year, reports that the number of violent crimes has decreased by 10.6% compared to the previous year.

**January**

President Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma welcomed the new year with a call for action from all sectors of society to help combat the violence and crime that plague the country.

**February**

In his opening address to the third parliamentary session, President Mandla Mandela said the government was determined to end all acts of violence and provide all citizens with a safe environment.

**March**

Statistics released about 7,000 shootings were killed by crime in South Africa in 2011. The report found that the number of shootings had decreased by 10.6% compared to the previous year.

**April**

The American Chamber of Commerce warned that South Africa could suffer negative effects if urgent steps were not taken to combat crime and violence.

**May**

The government released details of a possible serial killer operating in the Western Cape area. The killer, known as the "Bikini Killer," was arrested and charged with seven murders.

**June**

Police stepped up efforts to combat crime, with a focus on drug rehabilitation centers. The police also launched a campaign to educate the public about the dangers of drug use.

**July**

The police reported a decrease in the number of violent crimes, with a focus on reducing the incidence of domestic violence.

**August**

Of the 7,000 most wanted criminals arrested earlier this year, 2,099 were released on bail. The police were criticized for not following up with the released suspects.

**September**

In an exclusive interview with the Sunday Independent, President Mandela admitted that the government had not done enough to combat crime.

**October**

Readers of The Star called for an end to the "bullying" tactics used by police officers in the province. The police were also criticized for not providing proper training to officers.

**November**

A high-profile case involving the murder of a prominent businessman was finally solved. The police were praised for their hard work in bringing the perpetrator to justice.

**December**

Mnqarni, a prominent singer, was killed in a drive-by shooting. The police were criticized for not being able to provide adequate protection for high-profile individuals.

**Conclusion**

The government is determined to take decisive action against crime and violence, and the police are making progress in their efforts. However, much work remains to be done to ensure a safer and more secure society for all South Africans.
The enforcement of laws is the responsibility of the law enforcement agencies. The enforcement of laws is not a one-time event, but a continuous process. The enforcement of laws is not only the responsibility of the law enforcement agencies, but also the responsibility of the public. The enforcement of laws should be fair and impartial. The enforcement of laws should be based on the facts and the law. The enforcement of laws should be in the public interest. The enforcement of laws should be in accordance with the law. The enforcement of laws should be in accordance with the law.
CRIME - GENERAL

1997
South Africa a prime target for mafias
An uphill battle against crime is being fought in both countries, where research has revealed some shocking statistics.

Many of these groups were evident only in localised criminal activities, although more than 160 were supposed to be large enough to operate internationally in some 30 countries, with the main thrust of operations concentrated in Italy, South America, US and UK. There is increasing evidence that the Russians are using SA to launder large amounts of cash.

South Africa's first steps towards democracy proved to be an ideal environment for crime syndicates to make use of the country's open-door economic policy to develop their networks. The uphill battle against corruption has been taken up by President Nelson Mandela and national police commissioner George Fivaz, who, along with Justice Minister Dillah Omar, have referred to the culture of corruption spawned in the civil service.

In the former government's "total onslaught" years, the security establishment was given a virtual free rein to conquer the State's enemies by all means possible. It was this win-at-all-costs approach which led to the formation of the infamous Vlakplaas death squads and many other state-sanctioned covert operations.

One example of state-sanctioned organised crime was highlighted in a SABC television documentary which former Military Intelligence (MI) operative Ferdi Barnard described how Eugene de Kock's organised crime investigation unit used to frequent a northern Johannesburg suburb brothel operated by MI.

Police are currently investigating more than 450 crime syndicates with a combined number of more than 2,000 primary suspects operating in or from South Africa.

According to a 1996 quarterly report from the police's National Crime Information Management Centre (NCIMC) the majority of these syndicates specialises in drug trafficking (136 syndicates), vehicle theft (112) and commercial crime (85) or any combination of these.

"At least 187 of the organised crime syndicates in SA operate internationally, with the criminal activities of 125 of these syndicates believed to be restricted to sub-Saharan countries in Africa," the report said.

Last year, Mandela revealed that Gauteng Safety and Security authorities had arrested more than 400 police for criminal activities in the province since the current government came into power. In KwaZulu Natal 278 policemen were arrested over the same period.

The Gauteng Attorney-General is currently investigating over 8,000 criminal offences committed by or involving policemen in the province from June 1994 to September 1996.

As shocking as these figures may be, the extent to which South Africa's business and state machinery has been infiltrated cannot be gauged effectively as most South African prosecutions have centred around the lower echelons of the justice system (police, correctional service, Department of Home Affairs and Justice Department).

This is contrary to world trends in fledging democracies, and clashes with what has emerged in Russia. In 1993 about 1,500 Russian government officials were investigated for corruption. An estimated 50% were high-ranking officials of the executive wing of the Russian government and 27% were connected with the law-enforcement establishment.

Clearly, South African authorities will have to concentrate their efforts on investigating the activities of high-ranking officials in public service if they wish to make headway in the war against state corruption.

The culture of corruption which has manifested itself in certain government departments cannot be purged from the bottom up if the masterminds are perceived to be given "golden handshakes" at the expense of the country's taxpayers.
SA's hopeless war against crime

By James Brew

Political killings have been claiming fewer victims in South Africa but efforts to reduce common crime are yet to yield noticeable results.

The Human Rights Committee reported recently that deaths from political violence went down from 3 794 in 1993 to 2 434 in 1994 and 1 94 in 1995. The figure for 1996 is expected to be below 1 000.

The most recent victims include four police officers who died in a wave of bombings that also injured about 60 persons. The blasts occurred in December in Worcester and this month in Rustenburg.

Three suspects, known to be right-wing elements, were arrested while two others are at large.

President Nelson Mandela congratulated the police for the swift arrest of the three but the law enforcers have generally had less success in combating common crimes. One factor that may be limiting their effectiveness is dissatisfaction within the service.

List of grievances

When Mandela visited senior police in the Eastern Cape recently, they provided him with a list of grievances. They included insufficient salaries, risk allowances and overtime pay as well as slow promotions.

According to a mid-1996 report by the banking group Nedcor, there were 36 888 rapes in 1995 - 15 percent more than the previous year; 18 983 murders (up four percent); 97 947 vehicle thefts (up four percent); and 102 809 robberies (up eight percent).

Figures for 1996 are expected to reflect little, if any, improvement.

While crime in South Africa is less sophisticated than crime in Brazil, Columbia, Mexico and Russia", according to Mr Malek Patel, an international defence researcher, it is violent.

Patel hopes the decline in political violence will continue, but the outlook for non-political crime is bleak despite a number of initiatives aimed at reducing it. One such initiative is the establishment of satellite police stations in some trouble spots.

Oniš was set up in Seawinds, a Cape Town suburb, but a resident Mr Mooray Meyer (24), was recently shot dead just 100 metres from the outpost. No police officer was on duty there at the time of his murder.

A civic leader in Seawinds, Mr Trevor Trout, said the tragedy could have been avoided if the satellite station had been open at the time.

"The community worked hard to get the station opened and we were promised 24-hour service, but that has not materialised", he said.

Trout said he had lost faith in another mechanism introduced in his area - as part of the fight against crime: community/police forums.

The forums, organised by the police community relations division, have become "talk shops" that result in no action, he charged. In addition to claiming lives, South Africa's high crime rate also has a huge material cost. The Nedcor report, based on its Project on Crime, Violence and Investment, estimates that crime cost the country R31.1 billion in 1995 alone.

The 43-page document was based on a nation-wide survey of some 2 600 households and more than 2 000 businesses. Sixty-eight percent of respondents said the police and Government were losing the war against crime.

South Africa's private sector has also joined the drive against crime. Business Against Crime, a project aimed at achieving a long-term partnership between government agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organisations, started a year ago.

Since then, it has accumulated R40 million that has been invested in projects to combat crime.

Under the BAC, police instant-response teams have been equipped with motorbikes, while BMW has donated 100 high-speed cars to the police to help curb carjackings.

Business has also sought the assistance of the New York Police Department and security specialists on how to tackle urban crime zones.

Mr Neel Abrahams, a social worker, says he fails to understand how a police service so efficient in enforcing apartheid's laws now appears less competent in providing adequate policing services.

However, the police appear to have been weakened during its transformation from a paramilitary force and apartheid's bedrock to a state law enforcement bureau.

Police personnel trained to solve crimes by extracting confessions now find it difficult to conduct investigations that can stand up in court.

Moreover, the criminal justice system is overcrowded, according to legal practitioner Mr Raymond Ashon. Several legal offices have quit the judicial service because of poor pay and lenient bail conditions for suspects.

Prisons are overcrowded, making supervision difficult for prison warders. Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela says the prisons are holding about 21 percent more prisoners than they were built for.

According to Ashon, over 100 000 criminals who had not served out their sentences were released in 1995. In the Cape, many joined or re-joined gangs operating in the Cape Flats area.

The killing of police personnel is also on the increase. At least 180 SAPS members were murdered in 1996, the highest number recorded in five years. In 1995, 96 police were killed, up from 79 in 1994. The figures for 1993 and 1992 were 104 and 116, respectively.

Police murders

In the past, many police murders were politically motivated since the police were seen as an arm of apartheid. Since the April 1994 elections, the attacks appear to be motivated mainly by common crime.

Western Cape premier Mr Hernus Kriel has accused the central government of being unable to control crime and has proposed setting up a metropolitan police service outside the command of the SAPS to fight gangsterism in Cape Town.

Frustration at the police's failure to combat crime also led to the formation of community-based vigilante groups such as People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) based in Cape Town. Pagad has accused the police of corruption and collusion with the gangsters.

Police spokesman Fanie Bouwer charged that Pagad was unfair in accusing police of working closely with the gangsters, but admitted that there were corrupt individuals within the police.

"At the beginning of 1996 we set up anti-corruption units. We accept that there is corruption and are serious about combating it," said Bouwer, and disclosed that so far 400 police personnel are under investigation for fraud and other corrupt practices. - Sape-IPS.
Flashback ... police and members of the community at a Press conference at Orlando Police Station on the murder of policemen in Soweto. While in the past many murders of policemen were politically motivated, the attacks now seem to be committed mainly by common criminals.
The spate of rapes in South Africa is likely to harm the tourist industry as people stay away for fear that they too could be raped or killed, writes Robert Block.

Nombonelo Gasa with her Member of Parliament husband Raymond Suttner at a Press conference last week after she was raped on Robben Island.

PIC: AP

before untying the woman's younger daughter, aged 21. They took her upstairs and raped her at gunpoint. They then raped the 24-year-old daughter.

At one point, the elder daughter's three-year-old son tried to defend his mother and aunt with a plastic toy sword.

The boy's grandmother recalls: "He was so brave. He stood in front of this man who was armed with a gun and waved the sword at him. Even when the man put a gun to his head, he never flinched."

The story of the toddler's brave actions, and accounts of an equally shocking gang-rape of two teenage cousins a week later in a nearby suburb, have fuelled calls for the reintroduction of the death penalty.

Murder and rape suspects are frequently released on bail by the country's overburdened courts. Mandela's government has supported stiffening bail but has refused to yield to public pressure for a return of the death penalty, leading to increased support for vigilante groups.

Messages of support recently flooded in to a Cape Town jail after a policeman working with abused children gunned down a man accused of raping his own six-year-old daughter.

The scale of violence against women, coupled with the fact that some companies have difficulty recruiting high-quality foreign workers, has prompted concern that the crime wave could hit government attempts to build a successful economy.

Tourist revenue is also likely to be hit as people stay away for fear that they, too, could end up raped or dead.

Need to act urgently

Describing the situation as "very worrying", Sydney Mufumadi, the Minister responsible for Safety and Security, tried to reassure the public by saying the police and criminal justice system needed to act urgently.

In an attempt to appease the public, police announced recently that they had arrested eight men suspected of being behind the recent spate of gang rapes.

Few people were satisfied. "I want to kill them," cried the mother of a 15-year-old who was the victim of a gang rape earlier this month.

"They have destroyed my little girl." - Sunday Times (London).
Crime will decline if criminals feel unsafe

The experience of the US is that the likelihood of being caught and heavily punished is the greatest deterrent to would-be criminals, writes Simon Barber in Washington (34).

Highway robbery... should SA take a page out of the US book on crime?

Crimes such as robbery, and especially home invasions and muggings, are decreasing in the US, largely because potential criminals have learned that they feel unsafe as they commit their crimes.

In a landmark study in 1974, criminologist John E. Horgan found that in cases where victims were specifically asked how they could prevent crime, they often cited factors such as increased street lighting, more police, and better surveillance systems.

However, the most significant deterrent was the fear of being caught and punished. Horgan found that the mere threat of punishment was more effective than the actual presence of police or surveillance systems.

In the US, the fear of being caught has been increased through increased police presence, longer sentences, and stricter law enforcement policies.

In South Africa, the situation is quite different. Despite increased police presence and tougher laws, crime rates have not decreased. This is because potential criminals do not feel unsafe.

The US approach could be replicated in South Africa by increasing the fear of being caught and punished.

For example, increasing the visibility of police, increasing surveillance systems, and implementing harsher sentences for crimes could all deter potential criminals.

However, it is important to note that these measures must be implemented in a way that respects citizens' rights and does not infringe on their privacy.

The key is to create a culture where potential criminals feel unsafe, and this can be achieved through a combination of increased police presence and stringent law enforcement policies.
RED TAPE BLUES

Government’s key crime fighting plan has hit a snag — bureaucratic inertia.

The R1,2bn National Crime Prevention Strategy, launched to a fanfare of publicity last May, requires the departments of Justice, Safety & Security, Correctional Services and Welfare to co-ordinate anti-crime measures.

The initiative spawned several inter-departmental committees. But the talk shops have mostly failed to overcome red tape, with the result that most of the departments concerned have not contributed effectively to the strategy.

While the Cabinet and parliament pointed out priority crimes to be targeted by the strategy — such as murder, hijackings, organised crime and child or spouse abuse — strategy co-ordinator Bernie Fanaroff says it was never made clear how the departments were to do the targeting.

“There were a lot of committees but few results,” he says.

Fanaroff, a former trade unionist who headed the RDP management team before its demise last year, was appointed in October to co-ordinate the anti-crime strategy from an office in the Safety & Security Secretariat.

When Fanaroff saw the problems, he arranged a bosherraad in December of senior officials involved with the strategy, to improve interdepartmental links and rationalise the committees. Now, he says, there is reason for optimism.

“It wasn’t just bloody-mindedness by State bureaucrats that caused the problems,” he says. “There are serious anomalies between the way government departments operate and set budgets and the way the strategy is structured.”

State departments function and set budgets vertically, within their own bureaucratic parameters; the National Crime Prevention Strategy is designed horizontally, based on projects that require more than one department’s involvement.

As a result, project proposals have stagnated for lack of funds.

Also, most anticrime projects take two to five years to reach fruition; government budgeting is done annually.

“We are now asking departments to make longer-term commitments,” Fanaroff says.

“Unfortunately, we can’t expect quick results from the strategy,” he says. The strategy is a medium-to-long-term programme, designed to smooth the entire criminal justice process, encourage community morality and develop international and regional co-operation against organised crime syndicates.

But the strategy itself is not enough to beat crime, says Institute for Defence Policy senior researcher Mark Shaw.

Grass-roots programmes — such as municipal police and local courts — linked to local government structures are essential, he says.

“The strategy is a good plan but it’s too centralised, too bureaucratic,” says Shaw. He notes that the Constitution stipulates a nationally based police force but that doesn’t preclude local initiatives, with local accountability through elected structures such as metropolitan governments.

“You can promote the best service from Pretoria, but, until the structures reflect local needs, it won’t work,” he says. Peter Honey
Crackdown on guns, corruption plan to beat crime

Mutamundial involvements
Business heads cite fraud as growing concern, says survey

Jacqueline Mackenzie

FRAUD is considered by executives of large corporations in southern Africa to be an important problem for business, and no organisation is immune to the predations of the defrauder, KPMG forensic and investigative accounting chairman John Louw says in the company's latest fraud survey.

About 66% of the 129 respondents admitted having experienced fraud recently, with those questioned reporting the loss of a total of R186.6m to fraud in 1996.

Most respondents perceived fraud to be an increasing problem.

The survey was conducted among chief financial officers, CEOs, heads of internal audit or general managers of firms representing a cross section of industry.

A weakening of society's values, economic pressures and inefficiency of the justice system were listed by respondents as the driving factors behind the current fraud problems, KPMG said.

The increased sophistication of criminals and the lack of emphasis on prevention and detection were also perceived as increasing problems.

The survey showed that 53% of respondents had reported the frauds to the police, compared with only 20% in the 1994 survey.

Reasons cited for not reporting fraud included a lack of confidence in the ability of the police and the criminal justice system, a desire not to tie up the organisation's own resources, a fear of negative publicity and inconvenience.

The types of fraud most commonly experienced were conflicts of interest, cheque forgery and credit card fraud and a multitude of irregularities resulting in the disappearance of money. Most fraud was perpetrated by insiders. Internal controls were identified as the main factors in uncovering fraud. However, collusion between third parties and employees and poor internal controls were commonly identified as the reasons fraud occurred.

The survey found executives were becoming increasingly aware of the problem of fraud as it related to their organisation and were initiating measures aimed at preventing and detecting fraud. These included reference checks on new employees, the establishment of corporate codes of conduct, reviewing and improving internal controls and increasing the role of audit committees.

Only 10% of the companies surveyed which trade internationally indicated they had been a victim of international fraud, while 30% of respondents indicated there were certain countries with which they would not do business. These were mostly African countries, KPMG said.
PERCEPTIONS ABOUT CRIME need to be dealt with by the Government as urgently as the actual problem, suggest researchers at the Centre for Policy Studies, an independent think-tank based in Johannesburg.

In a paper that looks at syndicated crime in South Africa and the implications of globalisation on crime, researchers Chris Landsberg and Zondi Masiza also contend that the Government cannot deal with the problem alone, and has to make a concerted effort at forming partnerships with other governments, the private sector and parastatals.

In The anarchic miracle? Global (dis)order and syndicated crime in South Africa, they argue that “the reality is that perceptions about crime matter as much, if not more, than actual trends”, and it is therefore crucial that the government demonstrates that it is capable of addressing the problem.

Interestingly, they note that while a recent survey of existing and potential foreign investors showed that they rated crime and violence in South Africa as 21st and 22nd considerations when making investment decisions, there was still a perception that crime was out of control.

The urgency of the problem should not be underestimated. They quote the results of a survey which shows that 68 percent of heads of households and 88 percent of senior managers in business doubt that the Government is serious about fighting crime.

While acknowledging the huge tasks faced by the police, the proliferation of illegal arms, the rise in white collar crime, the country’s easy accessibility via land, sea and air, and the fact that South Africa is a new market, especially for drugs, the authors say there is no excuse for the “defeatism” displayed by the police and some in the Government who treat the problem as an inevitable cost of transition.

A big failing on the part of the Government is that there is very little analysis, especially of organised crime – the South African Police Services say there are 278 syndicates operating in the country but are unsure as to how they arrive at this figure.

“Despite abundant published and unpublished material, no serious effort has been made to comprehensively analyse organised crime, to grasp its extent or comprehend its nature. Current understandings of organised crime are often based on crude generalisations and untested assumptions,” say the authors.

They define the trend among mainly white affluent professionals to emigrate as “white flight”, and point out that there are problems for the tourism industry as international coverage of hijacking incidents have resulted in many potential visitors cancelling tours.

A comprehensive analysis of syndicates and the tackling of negative public perceptions are the missing links in the fight against crime. Sharon Chetty explains...

Justice Minister Dullah Omar’s department is putting laws into place to create special investigation units.

Landsberg and Masiza say that “the perception that this country is becoming anarchic is one on which international crime syndicates thrive”.

They also emphasise the dangers presented by white collar crime and point out that such crime undermines stability by “subverting legitimate economic conduct”.

There is much evidence of organised crime in South Africa: drug trafficking across borders, movement of stolen vehicles out of the country, smuggling of illegal weapons, white collar crime and the illegal trade in endangered species all point to this.

At the same time, there are the pressures of globalisation.

The authors point out that states are not the only ones that dictate or influence international relations but that others, especially multinational corporations, are significant players in this arena. As there are no checks on such groups, this opens up vast avenues for criminal activity.

And with the advances being made in telecommunications, there is increasing computer fraud and misinformation.

There are two compelling reasons for government to treat crime as a priority: development and democracy.

If crime continues to escalate, spending on critical areas like housing, education and health will be seriously affected.

And when large syndicates with enormous resources entrench themselves in a society, they undermine the system and pose a threat to democracy.

Problems persist although the Department of Justice has started to put in place laws that provide for special investigation units, among other things.

The Office of Serious Economic Offences is two years behind in its investigations and the authors question whether there is the human capacity to staff and manage new agencies.

“If agencies created by law are inactive or ineffective, a loss of public confidence could again follow, making the situation worse than if no law had been passed,” they caution.

One way of dealing with specialised crime like economic fraud or money-laundering would be for the Government to delegate some of the work to the private sector, for which they would be paid.

Clearly, another part of the solution is for South Africa to work more closely with its neighbours and Southern African Development Community counterparts. For example, having comprehensive laws on extradition is not much use until this country has agreements with many other countries.

Significantly, this country has extradition agreements with only 17 of the more than 190 members of the United Nations and with only three of its Southern African Customs Union neighbours.

But already there is some cooperation with other countries: a Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Organisation has been set up to represent all the police chiefs in the region and its primary aim is to coordinate the policing of cross-border crime.

As a result, there is a dedicated computer system through which all the police chiefs in the sub-region can communicate.

Improved border controls, technical cooperation among neighbours and bilateral agreements are some ways to deal with organised crime, the perpetrators of which recognise no boundaries.

The first step, though, would be for South Africa to deal with the growing perception at home that the Government is losing its battle against this scourge.
"It's kaffirs, man! It's the NSC—It's the f*cking kaffirs, man!!"

ER..... LET ME REPHRASE THAT....
Steps to revamp fight against crime

BY JOVEL RANTAO
Political Correspondent

Cape Town – The Government has embarked on 14 projects at a cost of R1.2-billion to rid the criminal justice system of major bottlenecks and make it more efficient in the fight against crime.

The bulk of the money, R267-million, will be spent on information management that would make it possible to track offenders throughout the criminal justice system.

National Crime Prevention Strategy manager Dr Bernie Fanaroff said yesterday the justice, safety and security, correctional services and welfare departments were cooperating and taking steps to address priority crimes. The main emphasis would be moved from reactive to preventive measures.

Fanaroff said the 14 projects included:
- R267-million for a common information management system for the departments involved.
- R21-million for human resource development in the Department of Justice.
- R60-million for an automated fingerprint identification system.
- R43-million for upgrading the court management system.
- R33-million for secure-care facilities for juveniles.
- R30-million for victim support and empowerment.
- R20-million for upgrading of prison facilities.

Fanaroff said the SAPS was also co-operating with the SA National Defence Force in patrolling ports of entry and border posts, and the SA Air Force was helping to monitor unauthorised flights in South African airspace.

He said the Government had also embarked on projects to upgrade the witness protection programme and the rehabilitation programme for offenders and to improve the training of policemen in proper crime-scene handling and case management.

"There has been a 12-member team from the United Kingdom helping with the upgrading of control measures. Another team from the United States has been assisting with improving our border control in relation to firearms, drugs and vehicles," Fanaroff said.

He said Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi had identified detective training as an area that needed attention. "It is not enough to have bobbies on the beat if you don't have investigators," he said.

Azhar Cachalia, Secretary of the Ministry of Safety and Security, said his department was in favour of the decentralisation of police powers in order to make crime prevention effective. His statement was in response to a question from Inkatha Freedom Party MP Abraham Mzizi who called for increased police powers for provinces and for traffic officers to be used in the fight against crime.
Crime fighting projects to cost R1.2bn

(34) 2012 194

NEWS
The Third Force Behind Crime.

The Third Force handles the third force activity. The Third Force monitors and manages the changing political situation and intelligence gathering and collection efforts. It focuses on the political, social, and economic aspects of the situation. The Third Force provides information and intelligence to the leadership on the political and social conditions in the area. The Third Force is a powerful tool in gathering and analyzing information. The Third Force is a key component in the intelligence gathering and decision-making process.
R10-m available to research reasons for SA crime spate

BY RODNEY VICTOR

There has been an enormous response to an offer by the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology to make R10-million available for research projects on South Africa's rampant crime problem.

The department, recognising that innovation was the key to tackling crime, has invited the country's research councils to submit proposals for research projects dealing with the issue, said departmental spokesman Andile Xaba.

"The seven statutory research councils responded by submitting projects costing some R38,6-million at a public hearing in Midrand this week. The winning projects are expected to be announced within two weeks.

The Agricultural Research Council proposed spending R16,250,000 to establish irrigation projects on the fringes of the cities to create employment for former prisoners and other unemployed people.

It suggested another project costing R80,000 to investigate the feasibility of fish farms on public dams, also designed to create employment.

It also requested R1,811,950 to establish a DNA database for domestic livestock, to counter the country's R120-million a year stock theft problem, and R450,000 to research the use of insects in investigating homicides and other serious crimes.

"Insects present on dead bodies could establish the time of death, and they could also help determine whether there were any poisons involved in the death."

Forensic entomology had already been used to investigate the Cleveland killings, it said.

The Council for Mineral Technology suggested a R1,4-million project to investigate alternative ways of milling gold-bearing ores, to counter the massive theft of gold concentrates.

"Thirty tons of gold was stolen each year from the mines, the council said, which cost the country R1,5 billion in lost foreign exchange earnings and R900-million in lost taxes."

The most expensive proposal, costing R17-million, came from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, in a consortium with the Human Sciences Research Council, the Medical Research Council and the Fund for Research and Development.

"The consortium suggested the development of new technology to help police track criminals and criminal activity, and to tackle high-priority crimes such as vehicle theft and hijackings."

It also suggested projects to improve the monitoring of violence and to identify its causes.

Finally, the Council for Geosciences suggested a R775,000 project to ensure that optimum use was made of resources in the development of the Government's Maputo Corridor project, to reduce the likelihood of crime in this new area.
General Support Protest

Pagad claims Cape attorney

Mokaba vows to make SA free

A faux tear, the eyes... They told her the

Recommended next steps

The increase of criminal
CAPE TOWN — The Democratic Party (DP) is to launch an initiative in Parliament to establish a voluntary system of national service dedicated to fighting crime.

At the Institute of Citizenship yesterday, DP leader Tony Leon said that volunteers could be trained "to make a difference where it matters most in our communities."

The party would introduce a private member's bill meeting decentralised police forces and had submitted legislation to change the constitution to recognise crime victims' rights.

"In the coming year we will give legislative teeth to seven more innovative, effective and tough anti-crime proposals," Leon promised. While the constitution recognised cities' right to local police forces, there was no mechanism to achieve them.

The creation of decentralised police forces was one of the pillars of the DP anticrime strategy as statistics showed that wherever they operated, crime went down, he said.

The key to effective crime prevention was the recognition that crime varied markedly from community to community and required different strategies.

In the final half of last year, for example, Gauteng had roughly as many assaults and drug-related crimes as Western Cape, but twice the number of murders, rapes and housebreakings and six times as many vehicle thefts.
Crime rate stabilised as '97 priorities identified

POLITICAL STAFF

ALTHOUGH crime levels were still unacceptably high, the government had begun to get a grip on the scourge, with statistics showing a decline and a stabilisation of a majority of the 20 most serious crime categories, according to Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi.

There had been a decrease in murders, robberies with aggravating circumstances, house-breaking in both residential and business premises, stock theft, shoplifting and theft out of cars.

Crimes that had been stabilised included assault, common assault, attempted murder, car theft, commercial crime, arson and drug-related crimes and driving under the influence of alcohol.

"It's important to point out that even in categories where crime has stabilised, this is often at unacceptably high levels, and should not encourage us to become complacent. It's heartening, nonetheless, to see that the short-term steps have already halted further deterioration.

"This leaves us poised to see the medium and longer-term measures under the National Crime Prevention Strategy umbrella deliver significant, sustainable advances. The challenge for us is to consolidate the limited progress we have achieved and build on it," Mufamadi said.

The minister said some of the results from measures implemented last year included the arrest of 1 062 gang members in the Cape Peninsula alone. Vehicle theft declined by 4.1% and more than 6 200 people had been arrested.

Mufamadi said priorities for 1997 "The Year of Service Delivery" included focus on high impact areas such as:

• The control and reduction of illegal and legal firearms.
• Attacking criminal organisations.
• Focusing on crimes against women and children.
• Increasing the crime prevention drive.
• Eradicating corruption in the criminal justice system.

"We have decided to identify priority issues that would deliver the greatest leverage in reducing crime levels," he said.

Mufamadi said human and physical resource management was a key area to be worked on in order to improve service. He said the government had sought to improve the availability of resources, particularly in formerly disadvantaged areas.
Take the anti-crime fight to the cities
Anti-crime bills aim to ‘tighten up on bail’

Tougher jail sentences on the cards

WILLIAM-MERWIN GOMOKE

South Africa's hardworking Ministry of Justice is going into overdrive this parliamentary session.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar, in his blueprint to win the country's war against crime – the Justice Vision 2000 unveiled last week – has set out a long list of anti-crime bills to be pushed through Parliament this year.

The tightening up of South Africa's much-maligned bail system is at the heart of the upcoming Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill, which will allow the courts, in certain circumstances, to refuse bail.

"My view is that courts should be compelled to refuse bail in appropriate cases, and legislation is being considered in this direction. At the same time consideration will be given to the constitutional implications," Mr Omar said.

The tightening up of bail conditions would strengthen the hands of Government and the courts in protecting the community against serious criminals.

The Judicial Matters Amendment Bill provides that the ceiling on maximum sentences – that regional courts can impose – will be raised from five years to 10 years, and in the case of smaller district courts, from one year to three years.

The Cabinet had approved the principle of legislation for compulsory minimum sentences for certain serious crimes, such as gang and drug-related offences.

The community will also have a hand in sentencing – recommending whether the courts should hand out lenient or tough sentences in individual cases.

The Department of Justice is also thinking about putting together a "national sentencing policy".

Mr Omar's dream of greater community involvement in criminal courts will move a step closer to reality when the system will expand the lay-assessor system in lower courts will be introduced to Parliament. Mr Omar said draft proposals have been worked out.

South Africa could have its first Office for Witness Protection, responsible for the protection of witnesses. A Witness Protection Programme Bill makes provision for the placing under protection of witnesses, prospective witnesses or a person who has given evidence in a court or before a commission, at his or her request.

Legislation to provide greater protection to victims is also in the pipeline. The SA Law Commission has urged the Government to establish a compensation scheme for victims of crime.

Mr Omar said Section 90 of the Criminal Procedure Act of 1977, makes provision for the payment of compensation to victims of crime at the request of the prosecutor. However, these claims are limited to damage or loss of property. The Act does not make provision for compensation to victims for injuries sustained, or the payment of compensation to the family, if the victim was killed.

There is no State compensation fund to assist victims of crime. And, as far as protection of witnesses, which includes the victim, is concerned, only a limited service is provided, due to the lack of funds.

Mr Omar said the Prevention of Crime Fund Bill will, for the first time, provide for the formation of a State fund to compensate victims of crime.

In line with popular thinking that the courts should meet out tougher sentences to deter crime, the Minister said legislation would be introduced this year that would increase the sentencing powers of the lower courts. The Justice Department has launched the "No Violence Against Women" campaign, it has re-examined whether the laws regarding violence against women and children are still relevant.

It has, for example, been re-examining at the definition of rape. Bills aimed at making prosecutions and court management of cases involving violence against women and children more sensitive and compassionate are also being drafted, he said.

Special courts are also mentioned as an option, although many Attorneys-General are sceptical of such courts.

The magistrates' debt collecting procedure will also see a major revamp with the Court Amendment Bill, which hopes to simplify the country's confusing debt collecting procedures. It wants to regulate the at-times chaotic debt collecting profession. A Bill to establish a Council of Debt Collectors, to set minimum standards for debt collectors, are in the pipeline.

The Bill also supports the Constitutional Court's landmark judgement that those who are debtors in the process of being declared as bankrupt should have a debt restructuring provision, a "debtor rehabilitation law," introduced this year.

South Africa's law at present allows for whipping as a punishment for adult males between the ages of 21 and 30 years. Juvenile whipping has been outlawed.

And, the Department of Justice wants to give natural fathers a greater say over their extra-marital children.

The Powers of Natural Fathers of Extra-marital Children Bill will deal with the right of access to custody and guardianship of these children.

The Bill, suggested by the SA Law Commission, gives fathers an undisputed right to the upbringing of their children.

The courts will be able to provide such access, if satisfied that it is in the best interest of the child.

Mr Omar hopes to finally scrap the apartheid-inspired Divorce Courts for Blacks, which dates back to 1977.

These divorce courts were established under the Black Administration Act to hear separation and divorce cases of blacks.

This Act is in conflict with the equality clause in the new Constitution, and the Department hopes to introduce new legislation to scrap these courts replacing them with family courts.

Tougher legal action is envisaged for men avoiding contributing to maintenance for their children.
Destabilisation blamed for SA crime

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban - Defence Minister Joe Modise claimed yesterday that the current spate of serious and violent crime in South Africa could be linked to “deliberate destabilisation” by unknown “counter-revolutionaries.”

He made the startling suggestion to journalists during a goodwill visit to troops stationed along KwaZulu Natal’s borders with Mozambique and Swaziland, in the company of SANDF Chief General Sibusiso Xotshwayo and Army Chief, General Reg Otto.

Asked who could be behind the “destabilisation”, Modise appeared to be either unwilling or unable to provide any proof to back up his claims.

But he stated, nevertheless, that police and the intelligence services had been asked to investigate this possibility.

HINTING that the army would become increasingly involved in fighting crime, Modise said: “We have an enemy terrorising our community internally. It is not safe to sleep in some areas.”

Pressed to elaborate on his destabilisation theory, and who might be behind it, the defence minister replied: “Who knows? Speculation is very problematic. We need to have the facts. But you have to ask in whose interest is this? The police are working on that angle. So are the intelligence services. Once we know (the answers) we will let you know.”

He added that the level of rape, murder and robbery was both “dramatic and traumatic,” and this is what led to suspicion about possible destabilisation.
Crime levels remain unacceptable

Stephen Laufer

SERIOUS crime rates dropped in nine of 20 categories last year compared to 1995, while seven groups remained stable and four — including rape and serious assault — increased. Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said in Pretoria yesterday.

Categories which saw a decrease included murder, car hijacking, drug-related offences and aggravated robbery.

Presenting the SA Police Service’s (SAPS’s) quarterly crime statistics, Mufamadi said he was pleased with the stabilising or declining trend in most serious crime categories, but “crime levels in SA remain unacceptably high”.

Police commissioner George Fivaz would present him with detailed proposals for the selected lifting of a moratorium on recruitment in the SAPS by the end of the month. The aim was to strengthen important arms of the service, such as the detective branch.

High crime levels meant that each of the SAPS’s 13 000 investigators was responsible for an average of 141 new cases last year, not including carry-overs. More and better-trained detectives would reverse a decline in the clear-up rate for serious crimes which had declined from 50,1% in 1994 to 45,6% last year, leading to the carry-over of 617 578 unsolved cases from last year.

The carry-over rate had risen 55% in the last three years. Improvements had been registered only in the clear-up rate for murder, attempted murder, arson, theft from vehicles, and stock theft, while they had declined in 15 other serious crime categories.

Higher crime levels in Gauteng and the Western Cape than elsewhere for most categories gave cause for concern, Mufamadi said, as did the rise in reported rapes from 106,3 per 100 000 in 1994 to 112,2 in 1995 and 119,5 last year.

Murders fell nationally to 61,1 per 100 000 people last year against 64,6 in 1995 and 66,6 in 1994 and were at their lowest level in KwaZulu-Natal for 10 years. Mufamadi attributed this decline to the success of police task groups which had targeted organised political violence.

Car hijackings were down in Gauteng by 18,6%, the only province in which comparable statistics were available. Truck hijacking was up nationally, but the frequent complicity of drivers indicated fraud. Robbery with aggravating circumstances dropped from 210,8 cases per 100 000 in 1994 to 159,2 last year.

Fraud, forgery, embezzlement, malversation and other commercial crime remained virtually stable at 75,3 cases per 100 000. SAPS crime statistics head Chris de Kock said the typical murder in SA involved alcohol or drugs and that victims were most frequently killed by acquaintances in weekend brawls.

was borne out by the highest murder rates in the Western and Northern Cape, both predominantly rural provinces.

De Kock said statistics showed that the rate of alleged murders and attempted murders by SAPS members was double that of the population as a whole. This was possibly connected to the fact that a docket was opened each time a police officer killed or injured someone in the line of duty.

Drunken driving by police personnel was also almost double the national rate, believed to be stress-related, De Kock said.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, centre, police commissioner George Fivaz, right, and safety and security secretary Azhar Cachalia, left, at yesterday's briefing on crime statistics. Picture: GARTh LUMLEY
Cops worse than public in some crime categories

Proportionately more police than members of the public were arrested last year for murder and attempted murder, according to a quarterly SA Police Service crime report.

The report, released in Pretoria, also revealed that 100 out of 100 000 police members had been arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, compared with 57 out of 100 000 members of the public.

Crime information management services head Dr Chris de Kock stressed that the murder and attempted murder cases against police also stemmed from crime-related incidents.

The document expressed concern at the high number of police members arrested for assault and commercial crimes.

The report stated that 2 384 alleged crimes were investigated against police last year, of whom 452 were convicted or paid admission-of-guilt fines.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said that although the Government was pleased about the stabilisation or decline of most serious crimes, the increase in rape was a matter of concern.

"One has to keep in mind the growth of the population."

On the other hand, it may well be true that there is a massive influx of weapons of war from Mozambique and Angola, and a proliferation of stolen and lost firearms in circulation, becoming available to criminals.

The increase in robbery could be explained by the country's socio-economic situation.

"These are people who steal because of need, not because of greed," De Kock said.

He added that although the incidence of most priority crimes stabilised or decreased last year, the total number of cases reported had increased in some instances.

Mufamadi said clearing rates in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal had declined, bringing down the national average.

"It was also a matter of concern that a large number of unsolved cases, 617 578 in total, had been reported over to 1997, the minister said.

This was on top of 1.2 million new crimes reported in South Africa last year, which had been assigned to less than 15 000 investigators.

A comprehensive threat analysis on this matter had been prepared and was subject to review. Preliminary findings said the extent of organised crime in South Africa was influenced by the country's strategic location on trade routes between the East and West.

Insufficient border controls and lack of legislation dealing with narcotics such as money laundering also played a role.

More than 130 reports by the Organised Crime Investigation Unit had resulted in 235 arrests last year, including those of 19 syndicate leaders.

Nearly 200 cases valued at R55-million, R76-million in narcotics, R12-million in stolen goods and R840 000 in stolen property were solved.

Diamonds, gold, precious metals and vulnerable storm worth R1 2-million were also retrieved.

More than 55 suspects were arrested in connection with possession or dealing in drugs last year, 47 000 vehicles and 16 000 firearms were seized.

The police, Diamond and Gold Branch arrested 2 384 suspects for crimes involving precious metals and gemstones last year while the Endangered Species Protection Unit arrested 112 suspects.

Of 54,849 commercial crime cases involving R2 8-million reported to the SAPS Detective Service last year, 48,341 were concluded. And 77% of these were disposed of without any court appearances.

Mufamadi stressed the importance of crime information to enable the police to successfully fight crime.

He had appointed a task team to look into crime-information-gathering methods.
Stress fracture lines beginning to show

Embattled South African Police Service is slowly losing its grip in the fight against crime

BY DEKKER MADZIYEE

The beleaguered South African Police Service is being overwhelmed, understaffed and woefully short on manpower – all hampering efforts to tackle the high crime levels in the country.

A report by the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) showed that in 1996, the police force was unable to achieve its targets for the year.

The report states that the police are struggling to cope with the increasing number of crimes, particularly in the major crime categories.

In 1996, the police recorded 420,000 cases of violent crime, a 15% increase from the previous year.

However, only 20% of these cases were cleared by the police, leaving a backlog of 330,000 unsolved cases.

The NCPS report highlighted that the police are facing a shortage of staff and resources, which is hindering their ability to investigate crimes effectively.

The report also highlighted the challenges faced by the police in terms of funding and equipment, which are essential for effective law enforcement.

The NCPS recommended that the government should increase funding for the police department and provide them with the necessary resources to tackle the growing crime problem.

The report also highlighted the need for better coordination and communication between the police and other law enforcement agencies to ensure a more effective response to crime.

In conclusion, the NCPS report underscores the need for urgent action to address the challenges faced by the police in South Africa, in order to improve their ability to prevent and investigate crimes effectively.
BUDGET

Govt shows it is serious about preventing crime

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Controlling crime emerged as a primary government focus yesterday with the three departments in the criminal justice system being allocated large real increases in their budgets for 1997/98.

As part of this, spending on the SAPS will increase sharply by 14.4% before the salary increases for policemen are added. The increase in spending on prisons is even greater, with a budgeted 23.5% increase which takes correctional services' share of the budget to 2%. The justice department also gets an increase of almost double the inflation rate with a budgeted amount 13.3% higher than the 1996/97 level.

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said: “Expenditure on police, justice and correctional services will increase about 15% once the improvements in conditions of service are taken into account.

“This provides a clear indication of the seriousness with which government is approaching the issue of crime.”

The increases are in sharp contrast to those provided in last year's budget when all three departments had nominal increases that were less than the 7.5% inflation rate, meaning reductions in real terms. Police's budget was increased last year by 4.6%, justice by 6.4% and prisons by 0.2%, excluding salary increases.

Manuel said it was also important to note that in all these departments, and more particularly in the police service, a substantial programme aimed at improving the management or resources was underway, including extensive training initiatives.

“The work, assistance and support provided by the Bureau Against Crime Project and the new partnership. Manuel said.

The increase in allocation to the SAPS means that for the first time in many years more of the national budget is spent on policing than on defence. The 1997/98 allocation for police is R13.1bn which is 6.9% of the total budgeted expenditure and 2.1% of gross domestic product. The cut in defence spending reduces it to 5.7% of the budget and 1.7% of GDP.

Manuel said that the first set of projects under the National Crime Prevention Strategy, aimed at making the criminal justice system work more effectively, began in 1996/97. The strategy would cost R3.0m over three years and the first installment of R405m had been included in this year's budget. Projects that would be implemented included the automated fingerprint identification systems and design for improved crime scene handling.

About 70% of the money allocated to the three departments would be used to pay salaries. There are 138 000 policemen or for every 320 citizens.

The budget review says a significant amount for improvements in the physical care of prisoners, monitoring of probationers and parolees as well as rehabilitation programmes is provided in the correctional services budget.

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Education handed largest single slice for third consecutive year

Kevin O'Grady

EDUCATION spending was the largest single item for the third year running in the budget yesterday, with the sector receiving a R11.1bn or 2.8% increase over last year's spending of R39.1bn.

About R4.7bn of the R40.2bn granted goes to the provinces and R5.41bn of the R5.59bn allocated to the national education department will provide a much needed boost to tertiary institutions which, until recently, were expecting significant cuts to their state subsidies.

However, the total allocation, which accounts for 21.3% of government expenditure and 6.5% of gross domestic product (GDP), was greeted with dismay by teacher and student organisations and runs contrary to a statement by Education Minister Sibusiso Ben-

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Picture: SELWYN TAUT

the redress of inequities and imbalances in the higher education system, the Budget Review said.

Manuel said that government would also increase adult education spending from R8.5m last year to R13.1m in 1997/98 while projects that included a primary, primary and secondary education would increase from R32.5m last year to R35.074bn.

National Party education spokesman Remier Schoeman welcomed the allocation of such a large percentage of the budget to education, but said "the one on site is very much more".

Taking into account pupil increases, SA Democratic Teachers' Union general secretary Thulas Nxesi said a much larger increase in last year's budget should have been set aside.

It also seemed government had "not considered what needs to be..."
Units formed
to fight graft
ED 17/11/47
CAPE TOWN — President Nelson Mandela
has abolished the Heath commission and
appointed special investigation and tri-

bunal units to root out corruption in govern-
ment departments. This is in line with the
Special Investigating Units and Special Tri-

bunals Act which was gazetted in November
last year. (34)

The proclamation was signed on Wednesday
by Mandela and would be published in the
Government Gazette tomorrow, officials said.

Judge Willem Heath will head the special in-
vestigation unit while retired appeal court
judge Mr Justice D P C Kotze will head the
special tribunal.

It follows on the Heath commission appointed by former Eastern
Cape premier Raymond Mhlaba last
year to investigate malpractice and mal-
administration in the province, including in
the former Ciskei and Transkei.

Judge Heath said in January the investiga-
tions had saved the taxpayer R10bn to
date after malpractices were uncovered
and stopped. Cabinet decided last year to
extend the probe countrywide. — Sapa.
Heath to head govt corruption-busting unit

CAPE TOWN — A commission "with teeth" to probe government corruption countrywide, similar to the former Heath commission in the Eastern Cape which saved the taxpayer an estimated R100m, will be unveiled today.

Judge Willem Heath was appointed last week by President Nelson Mandela to head the commission's special investigation unit, while retired Appeal Court judge Gerhardus Kotze will head the special tribunal unit.

Further details are expected today. Mandela last week abolished the Heath commission and appointed special investigation and tribunal units to rout out corruption in government.

Judge Heath yesterday described the national commission as "a new system of judicial control".
Landmark ruling enshrines rights of company directors

The Constitutional Court judgment has implications for prosecutions of white-collar crime, writes CARMEL RICKARD

LEGAL controls, long used to hold directors personally responsible for crimes committed by their companies, were eased earlier this month when the Constitutional Court declared sections of the Criminal Procedure Act invalid.

The controversial section 332 (5) of the Act said that "servants or directors" of a company which had committed an offence were legally presumed to be guilty of the offence and were personally liable for punishment unless they could prove they did not participate in and could not have prevented the offence. The court had heard that this infringed the right of company directors to be presumed innocent until proved guilty, as well as certain other constitutional rights.

This month, the court upheld this view, and declared that the section was unconstitutional. However, the decision was not unanimous. Many of the judges remarked on their concern about white-collar crime, the prevalence of fraud and the need to protect the public. However, the majority decided that the inroads into the constitutional rights of directors could not be justified by considering these crime-control questions.

The issue has proved so difficult for the court to decide, that the judgment has taken a year to be handed down, while 10 of the 11 judges wrote their own decisions, spelling out where they agreed or disagreed with each other.

The court was asked to settle a second question, and its decision on this matter was unanimous. The judges had heard a challenge to the validity of another provision of the Criminal Procedure Act, which says that if someone is charged with an offence involving "false representation", and it was proved that the false representation was made by the accused, he or she is legally assumed to have made the false statement knowing that it was false.

All the judges agreed that this section infringed the right of individuals to be presumed innocent and that the infringement was not justified. In his opening remarks, Judge Pius Langa took a swipe at the prosecuting authorities for continuing to rely on provisions of the law which were unconstitutional. He said the Criminal Procedure Act had been drafted when the legal validity of its provisions could not be questioned. This law had been the target of many challenges in the Constitutional Court and a number of sections had been declared invalid.

Langa said important provisions of this law in particular were being struck down by the Constitutional Court because they were inconsistent with the Constitution, and this left "gaps in the law" which only parliament could fill.

The Department of Trade and Industry said this week the Standing Advisory Committee on Company Law, chaired by Judge Richard Goldstone, would consider whether to recommend appropriate amending legislation consistent with the judgment of the Constitutional Court.
Warning that corruption is killing SA

Government can't deliver basic needs if funds are siphoned off into private bank accounts, says Asmal

POLITICS/NEWS

By Jovial Rantao
Cape Town

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal has come out strongly against corruption and called for urgent changes to public service regulations, to enable the Government to dismiss inefficient and corrupt officials without going through lengthy procedures.

Speaking during the first reading debate on Finance Minister Trevor Manuel's 1997-8 Budget, Asmal warned that, if left uncontrolled, corruption could destroy the country's national democracy, as well as development and delivery to disadvantaged communities.

Asmal said corruption in the Government had brought shame to the new patriotism, but pointed out that action had been taken to root out the plague.

He said whistle-blowers in the public service, in the press and in Parliament who drew attention to corruption and maladministration should be saluted.

"This is the year of delivery but we cannot put houses on the ground, taps near people's yards, medicines into clinics or books into schools if government funds are being siphoned off into private bank accounts by unscrupulous individuals."

"Nor can we build the respect for the Government, and for the functioning of a democratic society, if the administration is known to be corrupt," Asmal said.

"Building houses on a mass scale may prove to be a challenge to our engineering and organisational skills. Winning the war against crime may prove to be slow and a grinding task. Providing safe drinking water to 14 million people will take many years."

"But the battle against corruption constitutes a completely different mission because it is essentially a battle for the soul of the nation. And in this battle, the greatest corruption is not to act," he said.

**Varied reaction to Manuel's Budget**

the progressive deterioration of our education, health and welfare systems. Let us acknowledge the dramatic nature of these problems," Buthelezi said.

He said special attention should be given to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Government's administrative machinery, ranging from the top structures of state departments right down to local government level.

He called for the elimination of administrative bottlenecks. The lack of skills and delivery capacity at provincial and local levels were delaying the implementation of policies made by central government, he said.

On crime, Buthelezi said the present centralised system of policing could not meet the challenges of the day.

Signalling his party's intention to vote against the Budget, the Democratic Party's Ken Andrew said the Budget did little or nothing to create jobs or alleviate poverty through investment and economic growth, while the Government as a whole was squandering taxpayers' money through inefficiency, incompetence and lack of delivery in a number of areas.

Andrew praised Manuel for some positive elements in the Budget. However, South Africa needed a quantum leap in economic growth and a sustainable growth of 6% to make a real impact on unemployment and poverty, he said.

The Freedom Front's Dr Willie Botha said his party was unhappy with Budget proposals that would adversely affect farmers, including the reduced diesel subsidies and increase of excise duties on alcohol and tobacco products.

Pan Africanist Congress president Dr Stanley Mogoba called for the introduction of a development tax for three years so that "we will all be singing our way to a better South Africa".

African Christian Democratic Party leader, the Rev Kenneth Meshoe, welcomed the Budget but said future budgets should be reviewed so that those who created wealth received the necessary incentives to do so.

The National Party's Dr Theo Alant said his party would vote for the Budget, despite its reservations on certain issues.
Crime crisis blamed on apartheid dirty tricks
Crime epidemic: private sector hits out at police

Key units being probed

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - A damning private sector report on crime has highlighted bad management, slack police methods and inefficiency as major obstacles to any attempt to combat crime in Gauteng.

The report, commissioned by the theft and fraud-afflicted container industry, is the result of an eight-month independent investigation of thefts at the City Deep container depot. The report highlighted the role of police incompetence and involvement in a crime epidemic which led to industry losses of more than R70-million last year alone at the depot.

It coincides with all-time low levels of confidence in three key local police units after a spate of disclosures of gross misconduct at the Kaserne Truck Theft Unit, Brixton Anti-Hijacking Unit and Brixton Murder and Robbery Unit. Special internal investigations of these units are nearing completion and new commanders have been appointed.

As police investigations of the three sidelined special unit commanders near completion, irritation at the lack of accountability of senior police officers earlier this month prompted container industry representatives to appeal to Gauteng Minister for Safety and Security Jessie Duarte to intervene.

In a three-page letter to Ms Duarte, industry representative Isabel Louw appealed for an inspection of all police stations and units in Gauteng.

"We fear that they (with the exception of a few units who have top commanders) will all reveal the Kaserne and Brixton problems," the letter said.

The latest crisis comes after a vote of no confidence by national Safety and Security Minister Sidney Muafu and seven African National Congress provincial ministers in national police commissioner George Fyvie's ability to fight crime.
Theft from containers may have cost businesses R70-m

**Crime Reporter**

Container crime syndicates are flourishing in South Africa, because the public is too eager to snap up stolen goods at bargain prices.

A privately-funded investigation at Johannesburg’s City Deep depot, which handles almost 75% of SA’s container traffic, has revealed that organised groups have been systematically stripping containers of goods. Top items are imported liquor, cigarettes, tyres and wheel rims, TV and hi-fi sets, packaged foodstuffs, clothing, footwear and precious (processed) metals.

Businesses could have lost more than R70-million last year.

*Full report*

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Mandela

Leon urges Mandela to declare state of emergency in anti-cine
By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

In what could be described as a mini state-of-the-nation address in Parliament yesterday, President Nelson Mandela announced the greater involvement of the army in the battle against crime.

However, he avoided directly touching on the feud between Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi and Commissioner of Police George Fivaz.

Referring to the crime situation, he said that in the short term a series of high density crime prevention operations were launched around the country this week.

"Additional members of the SA National Defence Force have been tasked to assist the police. All other institutions involved in the National Crime Prevention Strategy will be playing a part, including the full capacity of our intelligence structures," he promised.

This will be a campaign that will not stop until "the criminals have fully understood that we mean business," he warned.

In what could be interpreted as an oblique aside aimed at the feuding Mufamadi and Fivaz, he said that it was important to achieve "maximum cooperation on the issues of political authority and operational authority".

But, in a strong rebuttal, leader of the Democratic Party Mr Tony Leon called on Mandela to either back Fivaz or sack him.

"Mr President, if you decide your commissioner is not delivering and you replace him, you must go for the best in the world for South Africa is the most murderous society in the world."

Speaking during the President’s budget debate, Leon said to Mandela: "Commissioner Fivaz was your first and most visible appointment. You must back him or sack him."

Referring to the Mufamadi-Fivaz feud, Leon argued that while the law and order community was "hopelessly" divided, the criminals were "unified as never before."

In his address, Mandela said the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was not a witch-hunt against Afrikaners.

"Today the old fault lines in our society are showing more sharply," he said.

Mandela reminded Afrikaners that they "are an inextricable part of our rainbow nation."

"There is no place for any sense that any racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or other group is collectively in the dock. Afrikaners will know that when a specific perpetrator of gross human rights violations who is an Afrikaner appears before the commission, it is not the Afrikaner in general who is being called to account," he pointed out.

Reacting, former deputy president Mr FW de Klerk said that a way had to be found to handle conflicts of the past so that new polarisations were not created.

He said the current "reckless efforts" to demonise individuals, organisations and parties went against the reconciliation aspect of the Truth Commission.
Report on crime trends gives cause for optimism - minister

POLITICAL STAFF

Statistics on South Africa's crime trends show features which have given the Government reason for optimism, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said in Parliament today.

At the same time Mr Mufamadi said the Government was worried about an increase in reported rates of social crimes.

Introducing a debate on the police budget vote, the minister disclosed that:

- Reported thefts of vehicles in 1996 decreased by 4.3 percent against 1995 figures. Last year, 47 083 stolen vehicles were recovered by the police.
- Robbery with aggravating circumstances decreased from 80 071 cases in 1995 to 67 249 in 1996, a decrease of 16 percent.
- Break-ins at business premises increased from 86 379 in 1995 to 87 883 in 1996. Housebreaking at private homes increased from 244 063 in 1995 to 246 430 in 1996.

He said the most disturbing crime trend in 1996 was the rise in reported rates of social crime. Incidents of rape increased by 6.3 percent from 47 506 to 50 481.
Cold shoulder for crime victims

Hein Marais

Growing fears about South Africa’s crime rate have failed to prompt business to finance one of the country’s most successful anti-crime projects.

The Johannesburg-based Trauma Clinic, which provides free counselling to victims of crime, has had its funding requests turned down by a welter of major South African corporations. They include South African Breweries, Johnnie Sun International, Rembrandt and Foodcorp.

Run by the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, the clinic has been swamped by requests for counselling by victims of hijackings, armed robbery and domestic violence. In 1996, it handled more than 175 new clients a month.

The clinic has been forced to run on reserve funds for the past four months. It has sent out 150 funding applications to corporations this year, but has so far received less than R10,000 in pledges.

“We’ve been slightly distressed at the initial responses from business,” the director, Gvme Simpson, says. Only three companies — Anglovaal, JCI and Standard Bank — contributed funds to the clinic last year.

The main reason cited by the companies is that they have already donated elsewhere. Requests to support ‘worthy causes’ have now increased to such an extent that it has become impossible to help even some of the most deserving causes,” Rembrandt’s communications office wrote to Simpson.

Simpson believes part of the problem is a perception that victim counselling is mainly remedial and does not prevent crime.

“This work is proactive — it’s an important intervention in the cycle of violence in our society,” he says.

Corporations contacted by the Mail & Guardian this week cited exhausted funds as the reason for declining the clinic’s requests. But observers say many companies still devote negligible amounts to their corporate social responsibility programmes.
Crime wave: It's worse than you thought

Tangent: Amethyst

Crime wave: It's worse than you thought
Academy to boost battle against crime

Professionally trained detectives would result in effective crime investigation, proper feedback to victims and witnesses and would ultimately improve customer satisfaction.

Deputy National Commissioner Zoli Lavisa, who is overseeing the establishment of the academy, said that after careful consideration it was thought that the detective school should be based in Gauteng, but there was also talk that it could be established in Paarl.

"The launch of a police academy, which is a trend all over the world in developing countries, would help alleviate the vast backlog of untrained detectives," said Commissioner Lavisa.

He added that the structures for the academy were in place and the tender process for outside resources was under way.

Commissioner Fivaz said the training of all policemen was a priority in the entire service.

"We have inherited a complete mess from the old police force.

"At least 30 000 members do not have standard eight and 45 000 members have no drivers licence," said Commissioner Lavisa.

Commissioner Fivaz said other "organisational focus areas" included "victim empowerment", budget and resource management and "affirmative training".

Affirmative training should provide basic skills to those who were unskilled, but should also develop an accelerated training programme for members of previously disadvantaged groups.

Commissioner Fivaz also announced the development of a Service Charter in consultation with the community who would then be able to evaluate the service of the police.

Expected annual outputs and targets at police stations at area and provincial levels will be specified to measure performance, identify weaknesses and ensure service delivery, according to Commissioner Fivaz, adding that the police's objectives and priorities would contribute to the success of this year being a "year of service delivery" in line with the Government's overall objective for the country.
Banks unite to stamp out robberies
Information pooled in bid to bring gangs to account

PETER DE IONNO

The country's major banks have set aside their rivalry in an attempt to fight a reign of terror being waged against them by ruthless gangs of robbers.

Bob Tucker, the new chief executive of the Council of SA Banks, said this week he wanted an "urgent" meeting with Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi to discuss ways of ending the epidemic of well-organised heists.

It was eroding confidence in financial institutions, he said.

The assault last weekend on a branch of Volkskas in Randburg in Johannesburg, which left three people dead, has focused attention on a spate of robberies which have netted about R5-million in Gauteng alone so far this year.

Bankers and police fear that the gangs will soon start targeting banks in other areas as well.

Now banks have decided to pool their information on the gangs, who continually elude the police and make a mockery of sophisticated security systems.

Tucker said: "It's not only about the money that is stolen, it's about the hidden cost that is draining society — additional security, trauma, the erosion of confidence in financial institutions. South Africa's bank robbers are especially violent by international standards and their readiness to shoot beats the most stringent security."

A frightening feature of recent bank robberies has been a threat to shoot customers or staff unless videotapes are removed from security cameras and handed over.

Police admit that they know little about the four main gangs suspected of being behind the 44 armed hold-ups in Gauteng this year.

Superintendent Rudie van Oost, appointed this week as the Intelligence co-ordinator of a task force that includes murder and robbery specialists from all over Gauteng, said the unit was dependent on information from informers.

Fingerprints have been left at crime scenes and some raids have been recorded by cameras, but there are few other clues. Police have begun profiling the gangs and their members but the groups splinter and reform almost daily, spreading and sharing expertise.

Until recently, the key to identifying the gangs was the way individual robberies were conducted. But the trend now is towards copycat robberies, raising speculation that a single gang or syndicate is co-ordinating the heists.

The robberies are always carried out by between four and six gunmen, though a woman has taken part in several of the Johannesburg robberies. The gang always splits up, with one group vaulting the counters and scooping cash out of tills and the other keeping customers and security staff face-down on the floor at gunpoint.

Van Oost said: "These people are specialists. They don't just walk into a bank and pull a job. The first gang members go in with inquiries or stand around filling out forms, but what they are doing is checking the layout and security systems."

Banks could improve their security by adopting industry-wide common procedures and standards, he said.

The task force has made 18 arrests within six weeks.

Ten days ago, in a series of raids in Johannesburg, Hillbrow and Soweto, nine suspects were arrested, including three Zimbabweans. They had allegedly taken R4-million from a Fidelity Guards vehicle in Randburg in March, leaving two people dead and five wounded.

Also arrested were two men allegedly involved in a Trust Bank robbery in Norwood last month. They are believed to have links with the Fidelity Guards attack.

Arrests were also made in connection with two Trust Bank robberies in Rosebank. One of those suspects has been linked to the Fidelity Guards robbery and the Norwood Trust Bank heist.

One of two suspects arrested after a Trust Bank raid in Primrose last month is believed to be linked to one of the Rosebank robberies.
Public demands stricter gun control, poll shows
‘Octopus’ of fraud spreads its tentacles

Crime syndicate has sucked up millions of the taxpayers’ rands in countrywide scams, KwaZulu Natal legislature told

OWN CORRESPONDENTS
Durban

The KwaZulu Natal legislature has been told of a massive “octopus-like” crime syndicate which has sucked up millions of rands of government funds with tentacles stretching all over the country, including Gauteng.

Brief details of the widespread network of corruption were revealed in Pietermaritzburg yesterday during budget hearings into the Department of Traditional and Environmental Affairs.

Department secretary Robin Raubenheimer said he had met recently with SA Police Service anti-corruption unit director Margareta Kruger and provincial, auditor-general Chris Foster to discuss the disappearance of more than R3,8-million from the KwaZulu Natal directorate of nature conservation.

The same tentacles had also been sucking away in at least two other provinces, Gauteng and the Eastern Cape, and in four government departments in KwaZulu Natal.

The fraud was not perpetrated simply by “a few clerks in Ulundi” but appeared to be the work of several people, including “certain business people sitting in Durban”.

Raubenheimer was responding to questions by Brian Edwards, who wanted to know who would be held accountable for the funds.

“It looks like we are protecting someone … hiding something,” Edwards suggested.

They are very clever at covering their marks in the sand

Raubenheimer said he agreed that someone had to be held accountable, but he did not want to release further details because the police had asked him not to endanger their investigation.

“This is as far as I’m prepared to go … because we need to get at the head of the beast and bring the whole octopus to book.

“They are very clever at covering their marks in the sand.”

Police spokesman Superintendent Hendrik Engelbrecht said the investigation into this “octopus” of fraud and corruption was in its early stages.

He did not know at this stage whether the other two provinces would be drawn into the investigation.

“This takes time … especially if we are dealing with organised crime,” he said.

Engelbrecht said he was not sure how many KwaZulu Natal government departments would ultimately be involved in the investigation but added that the unit was already investigating many welfare cheques.

Some cases from the department of local government and housing were also being investigated.

The KwaZulu Natal transport department is already involved in a joint investigation into driver’s licence fraud with the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga provincial transport departments.
Crime hinders foreign investors

By Joshua Rabatoko
Banks have to balance safety with books

When a robber walked into an American Express branch in a Johannesburg shopping centre and threatened staff with a hand grenade this week, he was acting logically, security experts believe.

The man got away with traveller's cheques worth R315 000 and brandnew - proof, some say, that increased physical security in banks, foreign exchange bureaus and retail outlets handling large amounts of cash can give rise to an arms race in which all creative criminals resort to even more lethal weapons.

Recognition that upgrading physical security can be only a partial answer to the spate of bank robberies in Gauteng - there have been more than 40 since January - only places the banks in a dilemma.

Their task is to balance improvements in the security of staff and clients with the need to keep banking halls attractive and accessible, which means limiting the area of security and losses through robberies.

"Built-in security systems should never assume a life of their own," says the Institute for Strategic Studies' insurance expert Mark Shaw.

"Criminals are always on the lookout for ways of breaking into banks, and there is a need for banks and other institutions to find ways of making the system less vulnerable."

To do so, it is necessary to understand the nature of the crime, Shaw argues.

Effective countermeasures can only be the result of a more sophisticated understanding of why bank robberies are occurring at some branches and not others.

Closer analysis of the current spate of robberies should show whether they are targeting branches where security has not yet been upgraded, or whether the improvements do not matter to criminals.

"Some banks have double-door systems controlling access. Are they ineffective in preventing the banks from being broken into, or are the criminals focusing their efforts on them and targeting banks without them?" Shaw asks.

Studies in other countries show that visible policing - uniformed officers on patrol near banks - has a significant deterrent effect.

Shaw says it appears significant that many of the recent robberies have been in Johannesburg, not known for its success in putting large numbers of highly visible police personnel on the streets.

"The police have a difficult role to play," Shaw says. "There is no way to match gangsters with automatic rifles without getting a lot of people killed," Shaw says.

A recent bank robbery shoot-out in Randburg, in which 10 people were wounded, illustrates the point. The emphasis must shift to preventing bank thefts rather than reacting to them in kind.

For many European banks, the solution lies in high technology. Commerzbank, one of Germany's big four, is in the process of introducing sophisticated computer-controlled dispensers which limit the teller's - and therefore any bank robber's - access to cash.

Programmed according to demand patterns observed in individual branches and over a long period, they allow the teller access to only a certain amount of cash each hour, and only once the account number has been entered from which the money is being withdrawn.

"The machines also have a limit of one major payout of D350 000 every half hour," says Commerzbank spokesman Dieter Schutz. "Clients requiring larger amounts must give notice, and these payments are made in secure offices away from the public banking hall.

The investigation of bank robberies has risen markedly in recent months. Specialist writer Stephen Laufer investigates what is being done to counteract the trend.

The incidence of bank robberies has risen markedly in recent months. Specialist writer Stephen Laufer investigates what is being done to counteract the trend.
The business of crime

South Africa is battling to contain a criminal economy whose roots lie in the covert war and cross-border struggles of the past, reports Stephen Ellis

South Africa has become a democracy. But the country is now witness to a level of crime which is beyond the control of its army, police and government. The notion that the country has solved its outstanding political problems while being suitably to a problem of crime is not a sufficient explanation. The country is interlinked and is not always amenable to conventional analyses, one in the direct place of political science, the other in the context of that of criminology.

Although the history of the constitutional transition represents the triumph of reason and moderation over violence and bitterness, some regional struggles continue, most obviously in the Western Cape. That local violence between competing factors in the political structure of the country, generally regarded as criminal rather than political in nature should not blind us to the fact that many of the participants are the same as those who were once involved in political conflict when apartheid was still in place.

At the local level, particularly in poor black communities, armed parties or gangs today attempt to control territory from which they derive economic benefits. Some reach an understanding with local police officers who are able to enforce the law fully and who, in such cases, have developed alliances with various underworld criminal groups over many years.

Some such criminal organizations use both the political power of the ANC and the SAPC to police their territory. These groups, often through their political presence, establish themselves and operate as enclaves of the criminal economy.

Criminal organizations have good connections in politics and the security services, especially among the police and the defence force. In many cases, the security and intelligence forces of the region have been penetrated by criminal groups in a complex network of relationships.

Senior politicians and intelligence officers in Mozambique are widely believed to have interests in smuggling, including the drug trade.

Crime is seen as a threat to the economy of South Africa, which has been transformed into the world's leading producer of marijuana.

The country has been swamped by organized crime, particularly in the eastern Cape, where the啕 of South Africa's largest diamond mines are located. The country is also a major producer of gold, platinum and other minerals.

South Africa's economy is heavily dependent on foreign trade, which accounts for about a third of its gross domestic product. The country is also a major exporter of manufactured goods, including textiles, foodstuffs and machinery.

The South African government has taken a number of steps to combat crime, including the establishment of the National Police Service, which has been responsible for much of the recent improvement in security.
Stop crime or we'll block roads - threat.

[Handwritten note: "Hey 2/4 (99)]
Fivaz ‘dithered’ over offer from top US cop

Doesn’t have relevant experience

Johannesburg - Police Commissioner George Fivaz may have lost his best weapon in the fight against crime - by dithering for five months over an offer from one of the world's top policemen.

The opportunity may now have passed to make use of the services of former New York police chief William Bratton - despite the fact that he managed to dramatically reduce New York's crime levels.

Mr Bratton has proposed a strategy he believes could help stamp out crime in South Africa by putting police back on the street - and criminals behind bars.

In December last year he offered his services and the services of a “dream team” of top American security experts in the fight against crime in South Africa, but Commissioner Fivaz has yet to finalise the deal.

Now Mr Bratton may be snatched up by the Los Angeles Police Department following the recent retirement of its commissioner.

Mr Bratton, who is president of First Security Consulting which offers strategic thinking on crime reduction, offered Commissioner Fivaz a “comprehensive” package at an extremely reasonable fee.

The proposal is still on Commissioner Fivaz’s desk and no decisions have been taken, despite the fact that an American organisation, Business Against Crime (BAC), has undertaken to foot the bill.

BAC chairman Wendy Lucas-Bull said Mr Bratton’s “Comstat philosophy” involves unifying different police regions by gathering all the information available and focusing on proactive policing. She said Mr Bratton intended launching his operation in Gauteng where it would have the most visible impact.

Commissioner Fivaz last night said that despite Mr Bratton's “enormous talents” he may be out of depth in the South African scenario “which is so unique”.

“I have a lot of respect for William and I regard him as a good friend (but) let’s be realistic. The name of the game is experience and he has never been a police officer in South Africa - he doesn’t have the relevant experience.”

He added that the South African Police Services (SAPS) had taken note of Mr Bratton’s advice “and we are implementing it in many different areas”. Divisional Commissioner Andre Pruis, the head of National Standards and Management Services, said Mr Bratton’s proposal would require the use of a different computer system.

He said Mr Bratton’s system had been evaluated but there was concern that “our computers are capable of doing the job”.

“If this system is implemented, you will have to scrap or modify a lot of the systems which are already in place - at an enormous expense,” he said.

He said three SAPS members would attend a conference on the Comstat system in New York next month after which a decision would be taken.

A spokesman for Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said that Mr Bratton's expertise could be put to use in improving management systems and service delivery in the SAPS. “But the ministry does not feel it is appropriate to become involved with Bratton’s proposal as it is an operational policing decision.”

Remember: New Zealand honorary consul Ian Sims CBE and Major Bryan Sterne of the Dukes, a citizen force unit of the SA National Defence Force, cast a wreath into the water outside Table Bay harbour from the BT Global Challenge yacht Pause to Remember to commemorate Anzac Day. Pause to Remember, backed by the Royal British Legion, has on board a number of British and Irish servicemen, including skipper Tom O'Connor, who is a helicopter pilot in the Irish Air Force. Anzac Day is especially important for Australians and New Zealanders, as it commemorates the losses of these two countries during the fighting at Gallipoli in Turkey during World War I.
Death penalty won’t halt crime, claims Omar

Reintroducing the death penalty would not halt the crime wave that has swept the country because the majority of prisoners escape the inefficient judicial process altogether, Justice Minister Dullah Omar has said in an interview on Radio C-Plat.

The minister said yesterday: “The death penalty is gone for good. It is unconstitutional and we now have to look at how we can build an efficient deterrent to crime.”

Omar said this could be achieved through a proper criminal justice system and by addressing the root causes of crime through socio-economic transformation.

Communities also had a key role to play in intervening and stopping crime before it started, said Omar.

He blamed the “inherited culture of violence and domination” from the apartheid era for the escalation of crime, which created an environment that “bred crime”.

Criminals were also taking advantage of the uncertainty that surrounds the future of the police and justice systems during its transition phase.

Corruption in the lower ranks of both the justice system and police further undermined the transformation process, he added.

Asked about his relationship with People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad), the minister said he has built up a “good understanding” with the group, although that does not mean he necessarily agrees with them.

“As long as they fight crime within the framework of the law, there will be scope for interaction with government departments, but we cannot allow anyone to break the law.”

He said there were “bad elements” within the organisation with their own political agenda, but he invited “good” Pagad supporters to participate in anti-crime activities on a non-religious basis.

In his position as ANC leader of the province, the minister said the legacy of apartheid had caused the previously disadvantaged groups to “scramble for the crumbs from the white ruler”, causing division and conflict.

The challenge for the ANC was now to equalise society by being sensitive to the needs of the coloured and Indian people, while recognising that black people were still the poorest in the Western Cape.

Own Correspondent
Opinions differ strongly about the effects of South Africa’s crime wave on foreign investment.

**Miepie Commandeur and Helma van de Vondevoort** report

LOCAL representatives of South Africa’s leading trade partners regularly suffer from crime, a snap survey by the Mail & Guardian shows.

Staff members of foreign embassies and chambers of commerce are often at the forefront of deals running into billions of rand of imports and exports. Some indication of these are contained in trade figures from the Department of Customs and Excise for the first nine months of 1996.

These diplomats and trade attaches are the very people who have to sell South Africa as a viable trading partner and a land ripe for investment. But many of them, and still more of their employers, have fallen victim to the crime wave. Some say this will have an impact on trade and investment, but others are not as concerned.

**JAPAN**

**Imports:** R8.7-billion  
**Exports:** R6.5-billion

Three members of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce have had their cars hijacked. According to a chamber representative, the Japanese embassy has increased awareness among Japanese nationals about crime.

The police need to be strengthened and become less corrupt, he says.

The director of the Japanese Export Trade Organisation in Johannesburg, Shintaro Matoba, had his car stolen in Sandton City. He believes that the reasons for the current crime are the high unemployment rate and the poor quality of policing.

Investments from Japan are “half-and-half” affected by the crime level, he says.

**AUSTRALIA**

**Imports:** R2.6-billion  
**Exports:** R1.5-billion

Noel O’Brien, a director of the Australian South African Business Association, has had a personal experience of local crime. Four months ago, two robbers held a knife to his chest in the garage of his office building in central Johannesburg and grabbed his portable computer.

During the past six months, three other employees have been mugged, one was hijacked and the ballet of the association’s driver has been stolen twice.

Earlier this year the association moved its offices to the suburb of Parktown.

O’Brien says that he has lived in South Africa for 22 years, but crime has grown worse in the past three years. “The police can’t cope with it anymore. It’s a war zone out there. That’s why I think troops should be patrolling the suburbs at night, or at least there should be roadblocks or control points on the streets.”

O’Brien says Australians are not keen to invest in South Africa: “The security situation, the labour unrest, low productivity and the high levels of taxation in South Africa are the main concerns from Australian investors.”

“Why should they look at South Africa as a good investment area? They would rather go to Asia.”

**GERMANY:**

**Imports:** R16.2-billion  
**Exports:** R4.5-billion

A German study last month found that one in four local managers had one or more murders reported among staff.

The survey by the German Chamber of Commerce in South Africa, representing 82 companies with more than 35,000 employees, found that, on average, every 18 months the family of a managing director of a German company in South Africa becomes a victim of crime.

More than three-quarters of the German companies say that their future growth is endangered by the high crime level.

One of the managers surveyed said: “We see the present state of anarchy, lawlessness and escalating violent crime as a major threat to the survival of our business.”

Another manager warned: “The whole economy is being damaged by the virtual non-existence of a criminal justice system. Crime is eroding consumer confidence, forcing many people to leave the country.”

Only 15% of German companies claimed they would not change their investment plans because of crime. This group employs 47% of the total workforce — and this indicates that smaller companies are more likely to change their investment strategies owing to crime.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**Imports:** R12.3-billion  
**Exports:** R2.3-billion

The experiences of British diplomats include the hijacking at gunpoint in Johannesburg of the second secretary of the British High Commission. But Britain — South Africa’s largest trading partner — is not discouraged by the high crime rate. The press representative at the High Commission, Andrew Noble, says crime is “a significant factor” in Britain deciding about investment in South Africa.

“What matters are the business prospects and British investors feel that they are very good.”

The High Commission is encouraging trade, investment and the establishment of more businesses in South Africa, says Noble. “We are very committed to this place.”

**CANADA**

**Imports:** R903-million  
**Exports:** R715-million

Canadians also prefer to look at the opportunities that the South African market offers rather than worry about the high crime rate. Senior Trade Commissioner Ron Hoffmann of the Canadian High Commission Trade Office says that in 1997 there were only six Canadian companies with offices or operations in South Africa; now there are more than 70.

“And it is growing fast. Most of our companies here are doing well. The South African market is changing rapidly and the Canadians are very interested in investing in South Africa.”

**ITALY**

**Imports:** R4.6-billion  
**Exports:** R2.49-billion

Giorgio Marni, first counsellor of the Italian Embassy in Pretoria, says that staff as well as consular representatives in both Pretoria and Johannesburg have suffered several thefts and attempted hijackings. Alarm systems at the embassy and at the homes of staff have been improved.

He believes that criminals should be sentenced more severely and there should be more visible policing.

Farini says, however, that Italy is “rather optimistic” about the future and adds: “Investment from Italy is not being adversely affected by current crime levels.”

More than a year ago, as a result of a dispute with squatters, a petrol bomb was thrown into the bedroom of the son of Maria Haenen, the assistant to the secretary-general of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg.

She says she now finds it more difficult to advise Italian companies to invest in South Africa. “It is not a safe country and I have to tell them that,” she says.

**THE NETHERLANDS**

**Imports:** R2.7-billion  
**Exports:** R3.3-billion

Staff at the Dutch Embassy in Pretoria have not personally suffered from crime, but they have become more careful in their daily lives because of all the stories they hear and read.

Although no research has been done, they believe that Dutch companies are discouraged by the “poor South African investment climate”, of which crime is one factor.

However, at least one highly placed diplomat — who did not want his identity to be identified — says that anxiety about crime is just a storm in a teacup. “There are too many diplomats with too little to do, leaving them with too much time to worry about the crime situation in this country,” he said.

Jenny Cargill of the consultancy BusinessMap says there are many shades of opinion concerning the impact of crime. It’s certainly a factor in the decision to invest foreign funds, but it is only part of a good investment backdrop. Foreign investors are also looking for sound macro-economic policies, attracts stable regional market. However, “consistent reports of reduced crime” will only mean greater confidence, says Cargill.
Police training and a crackdown on illegal firearms are top priorities for the next year.
Bank robbers stole R113-m in SA in 1996

Wits authorities are considering the wisdom of bank outlets on campus

OWN CORRESPONDENT,
GILL GIFFORD AND MARJE LUND

Bank robbers got away with more than R113-million last year and bankers fear they will steal even more this year, according to Bob Tucker, chief executive of the Council of South African Banks.

He told a conference in Johannesburg that local bank robbery statistics were among the highest in the world and that there had been a marked increase in the number of bank robberies in the first four months of this year.

Tucker said British banks had lost only R13-million last year in holdups. "What is alarming is the uniquely violent character of bank-related crimes in South Africa," said Tucker.

Robberies often included mindless violence resulting in psychological trauma, injury and death.

Cash lost in robberies had increased 100-fold in ten years - in 1986 only R13-million was lost, compared with the shocking R113-million last year.

He warned that if nothing was done to curb bank robbers, the problem could become an "epidemic". But, he said: "It would be wrong to move in the direction of hiring more guards and installing more security. This would only aggravate the problem and intensify the level of violence."

Meanwhile, the Nedcor branch at Wits University, has stopped over-the-counter cash transactions after yesterday's robbery in which a lone gunman killed a cashier at the neighbouring United Bank.

The raided bank is closed "until further notice".

"The staff are still in tears," Jay Brummer, who manages the Nedcor branch, said this morning.

Brummer said the Nedcor branch would only have ATM facilities for its student customers from today. Money would no longer be kept on the premises.

This morning Wits University vice-chancellor Robert Charlton said that while no decision had yet been taken, "the question of whether these should be banks on campus at all is being discussed".

According to Superintendent Chris Wilken the gunman, who hid behind the bank's security door before forcing his way in, escaped by crossing the Senate House concourse back to lifts which took him down to Jorissen Street.
Robbers grab R30-m in 164 hits this year

**SA high on world list**

Johannesburg – In 164 bank robberies committed this year, robbers have netted more than R30-million, statistics released by the Council of South African Banks reveal.

COSAB head Bob Tucker said yesterday this reflected a projected increase of 25 percent in robberies since last year.

In 1996, R105.3-million was stolen in bank robberies. A further R10.3-million was stolen from automatic teller machines and in after-hours thefts from banks. The total monetary loss increased by 38 percent from 1995 figures, said Mr Tucker.

Broken down according to provinces, the statistics revealed Gauteng as the crime king, leaving its relatively law-abiding cousins in its yellow dust.

Gauteng recorded the highest number of robberies with 100, followed by KwaZulu Natal with 27, the North-West Province with nine, Western Cape with eight, Free State with seven, Eastern Cape with five and Mpumalanga and Northern Province both recording four robberies this year.

South Africa’s bank robbery statistics rank among the highest in world. Only R1.1-million was lost in branch robberies in Britain during 1996, Mr Tucker revealed.

He said he had met Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi on Thursday to discuss the growing crisis.

"Among the issues we will investigate is how the reward system could be significantly improved, and how the newly established units could be held accountable for rapid progress and monitored. It is also imperative that those teams are dedicated to this task alone – which I have been assured they will be," he said. Mr Tucker added that officers appointed to head up these teams should be above all suspicion.

Bank robbery was not endemic in South Africa, he said, describing the phenomenon rather as "a bubble on the surface of transformation."

He said information pooled by the banks and obtained from police indicated the robberies were the work of four or five syndicates involving about 100 robbers. It was possible that a breakthrough could be made in relation to these syndicates, he said. However, he could not supply details on the syndicates.

Mr Tucker said the public's money remained safe with the banks. Assets under the control of the nation's banks totalled R236-billion.

He did, however, indicate that the robberies had caused dramatic increases in the cost of supplying cash. The top four banks would spend an estimated R376.1-million on protecting cash supplies in 1997. This could be compared with the R297.9-million spent in 1996.

"The cost of providing cash is taking on extraordinary proportions, and this is likely to result in individual banks acting to recover that cost from clients actually withdrawing and depositing cash."

The long term solution to the problem was a decreased dependence on cash in South Africa, said Mr Tucker.

"All of us should try to move towards the use of electronic banking services instead of cash."

-SAPA
Cops mum on crime stats

By PETA KROST

The South African Police Service has once again failed to release the results of its flagship anti-crime plan launched last year. During the past three weeks, the Saturday Star has attempted to give readers detailed information about the success, or lack thereof, of the 10-month-old Sword and Shield police plan and an assessment of progress.

Twice, the Saturday Star sent a detailed list of questions to police headquarters and the minister of safety and security on six key elements. Twice, we have been refused answers: first on April 17 and then again this week. The questions were:

■ The plan committed the Government to hunting down 10,000 of the most wanted criminals. Have they been caught and, if so, convicted? What has happened to the 42 additional task forces supposed to be hunting down these criminals — did they catch the criminals?

■ Technological aids for crime fighting (such as camera surveillance) were proposed. How many were installed?

■ What progress with a national computerised fingerprint system?

■ Some 800 policemen were reportedly under investigation for criminal conduct. How many were prosecuted? Convicted?

■ A plan to establish mobile police stations in containers was outlined by police. What has happened about this?

■ On April 15 the police promised answers and then, on deadline, declined. A representative said it would be “unethical” to give this to the press before Parliament, which would happen “in the coming days”.

The same questions were sent to the national police commissioner George Fivaz’s office this week. Once again, it seemed as if they would respond.

But yesterday we were informed the information “will be included in Commissioner Fivaz’s report for the 1996/7 financial year — available by the end of June”.

However, Fivaz’s spokesman, Director Joseph Ngobeni did say that between the start of the Sword and Shield plan until March 31 this year, “28,697 people wanted for serious crimes were arrested”.

“The target figure of 10,000 which had been set to be arrested within the period of a month in Operation Sword and Shield was supposed to be a once-off operation. More than 7,000 arrests were made during that period.”

Ngobeni said that because of “the success” of the Sword and Shield operation, police had decided to extend it and to include all people for whom warrants of arrest had been issued. While they obviously have reason to believe the plan was a success they still won’t furnish the number of convictions and prosecutions, or say if there was ever a list drawn up of 10,000 of the most wanted criminals.

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The bank you can rely on.
Banks suffer heavy losses

By Coudjoe Amankwaa

FOUR major South African banks have spent R1 billion on crime prevention and security to curb heavy losses resulting from bank robberies.

Council of South African Banks (Cosab) chief executive Bob Tucker revealed on Friday that banks lost a staggering R113 million last year alone.

Bank robberies increased from 268 in 1995 to 316 last year, a 38 percent increase in money stolen.

The banks believe most robberies are organised by crime syndicates.

The Absa group, First National Bank, Nedcor and Standard Bank have since 1995 spent R1 billion in an attempt to stem the ever-growing tide of violent robberies in South African banks.

"Cash in transit is an area where millions of rand in additional security have already been spent. Securing the movement of large amounts of cash to branches, government pension paypoints and other destinations cost R165 million during 1996. This year R200 million has been budgeted for this," Tucker said.

He said expensive high-tech security amounting to R90 million had already been installed to ensure that banking halls were safe.
SA 'under new onslaught by criminals'

CHRIS BATeman

A NEW form of security threat faces South Africa — that of arms-smuggling, drug-trafficking, money-laundering and commercial crime, Deputy Minister of Intelligence Services Mr Joe Nhlanhla has told Parliament.

Nhlanhla said yesterday it was "dangerous" to the country's well-being to pretend there were no fresh security demands under the new political dispensation.

The country and its borders were under continual threat from organised national and international crime syndicates.

Activities included "people-smuggling", environmental crimes and bank robberies.

Syndicates' operations included supplying contraband to criminal gangs, forging passports and other official documents, rigid hierarchical structures, restricted membership, tight secrecy, easy access to weapons and corrupt links with police and other officials.

Nhlanhla appealed to his colleagues to increase the country's capability to protect its coastal resources against piracy, which he said was internationally acknowledged as a security priority in the developed world.

Appealing for more funding, he said he feared that greater cuts than the 12.8% sliced off his department's budget of R723.5 million would "render this country defenceless and vulnerable".

His department had been praised by Customs and Excise last year for helping with probes, Nhlanhla said. As a direct result of joint investigations, it had saved Revenue Services about R160 million.

I offer this as a direct example of the enormous contribution intelligence can and should be allowed to make to the national fiscus," Nhlanhla said.
Property industry urged to join crime campaign

MAGGIE ROWLEY

Sun City — The property industry was yesterday urged to join the fight against crime and channel its resources to support police stations in central business districts.

Barbara Holtmann, the resource station manager with Business Against Crime, told the Sapoa convention that Business Against Crime was not looking to take over the government's responsibility in tackling crime. However, business had the necessary skills and resources to help ensure the maximum use of existing resources within the South African Police Service, she said.

A major problem facing the police force was ineffective management, and this was where business could assist as it had an abundance of resources.

She said the police had approved a resource utilisation plan and implementation had begun.

This was being done in association with a support partnership for police stations, launched by Business Against Crime, which aimed to involve business, communities and the police in a partnership focused on improving the performance of police by increasing efficiencies.

A number of businesses had already lent their support to smaller stations, but the central business district stations were too large for any one business to assist.

These required the assistance of partnership groupings like Sapoa.
Diplomats not immune to crime

CLIVE SAWER
Political Correspondent
ARG 15/5/97

Diplomats serving in South Africa have been victims of crimes from hijacking to armed robbery and credit card theft in the past year.

All but four of the 29 crimes reported happened in Gauteng.

Serious crimes included:

- Theft of the British Minister of Trade's credit card.
- Hijacking of a vehicle belonging to a Greek consular official in Durban.
- Hijacking of a vehicle belonging to Iranian diplomatic staff.

Housebreakings were reported by staff of the embassies and consulates of the Sultanate of Oman, Portugal, Sudan, Lebanon, Ukraine, International Red Cross, Kenya, Switzerland and Denmark.

In the break-in reported by Lebanese officials, two people were injured and furniture and appliances worth R125 000 were taken. Zairian staff reported an armed robbery, and Swedish officials reported an assault and robbery. This case has been closed as "undetected." (34)

More unusual complaints included one from the Consul of Kiribati about an impostor posing as the Consul of Kiribati.

Details of the crimes were disclosed in Parliament by the Minister of Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, in reply to questions by Douglas Gibson of the Democratic Party.
Five hurt in Pagad raid in Bo-Kaap

and collapsed on the ground. Sale Jardien was pistol-whipped and afterwards had blood gushing down his face from a deep cut in his head.

A family friend, Patrick Matthews, also had serious head injuries and was taken to hospital with Mr Abdurachman Jardien.

The attackers damaged a minibus parked in the backyard of the house.

Today's raid followed four previous Pagad-related attacks in the past five days.

In Athlone a car was damaged early yesterday after a home-made device exploded on it.

The car belonged to George Smith of Kudu Street. Mr Smith also denied he was connected to drug-dealing.

Two home-made bombs were hurled at homes of suspected drug dealers early on Monday and a bomb exploded at the home of an Ottery man on Sunday, causing severe damage to the house and vehicles.

Police said the home-made devices which were hurled at houses in Cassel Street and Bolton Road, Crawford, did not explode but broke windows.

The angry owner of the Ottery house that came under attack early on Sunday, Hendrik April, challenged Pagad to meet him "face to face" in daylight.

Mr April said he had been warned earlier to stop dealing in drugs, but still came under attack.

More than R200 000 damage was caused to a minibus, a car, the house and garage.

Meanwhile police intensified their efforts to investigate Pagad, drug-dealing and gangsterism.

Police spokesman Mark Romburgh said police had prioritised Pagad-related attacks since the weekend and would focus their anti-crime plan on these activities.

Captain Romburgh said the continuous attacks on drug-dealers, or people thought to be drug dealers, was illegal and could also target innocent people.

"We will leave no stone unturned to bring the perpetrators to book," he said.

"Police management appreciates the community's stance against gangsterism and drugs.

"But people cannot be allowed to take the law in their own hands. The community must supply police with information about drug dealing or any other illegal activities - then we will act," said Captain Romburgh.
South Africa is reeling from a shocking R3 834-billion rand loss due to white collar crimes - more than double the amount spent by the Government on the justice department.

Less than one in ten of the commercial crime cases probed by police last year resulted in a conviction.

More than three quarters of the cases probed by police never made it to court.

The R113-million that South African banks lost in armed robberies last year pales in comparison to the amount snatched by white collar criminals in the 846 cases that were reported to the South African Police Service (SAPS) Commercial Crimes Unit.

Although white collar crime may be considerably less violent than the recent spate of bank robberies plaguing Gauteng, it requires considerably more expertise and offers far more lucrative results.

More than R8,3-billion was lost to commercial crime last year according to the SAPS' latest report on the incidence of serious crime.

The justice department’s 1995/96 budget was a little over R1,6-million.

The figures in this new report only reflect the initially reported amount and not the actual loss.

The monetary value could either increase or decrease depending on the subsequent investigation.

It appears that Gauteng is South Africa’s financial capital in more ways than one - more than 40 percent of the nation’s commercial crimes last year were committed in the province.

However, the huge number of nationally reported cases appear to be just the tip of the iceberg.

A survey, completed by KPMG Aiken and Peat Forensic Auditors in 1996, revealed that of the total number of respondents who admitted to having been victims of fraud, only 38 percent reported it to the SAPS.

The percentage is, however, an improvement on a 1994 survey that showed that only 20 percent of all respondents admitted being victims of fraud.

Despite the gravity of the problem, the report points out that the vast majority of commercial crime cases are finalised without a court appearance.

During 1996, of the 48 941 dockets concluded, close on 77 percent of them were disposed of without spending a single day in court.

According to the SAPS report, of the cases that did get to court, 3,263 or 6,9 percent were concluded “with at least one conviction being achieved”.

Those cases that never faced a judge were either withdrawn by the complainant or the Attorney-General.

This week, the Emerald Group, an international security management firm of “fraud busters” visited South Africa, hosted by the chartered accounting firm, Price Waterhouse, with whom they share a close working relationship.

The company’s international network of former FBI agents and Scotland Yard detectives specialise in fraud and embezzlement, industrial and foreign espionage, copyright and trademark infringement.

Emerald chairman, Thomas Parker, a former senior FBI agent who specialised in white collar crime, said: “There is definitely an increased awareness of white-collar crime in South Africa but the problem comes about in the shifting of resources.

“Local law enforcement is being overwhelmed by the levels of violent crime in this country.

They have to cope with this first, so we need to find extra resources from the private sector,” he said.
Hidden cheats

Although police are aware of the extent of white-collar crime, Parker said South African officers faced the same challenges as their counterparts in Los Angeles.

"There is definitely an increased awareness of white-collar crime but the problem comes about in the shifting of resources. Local law enforcement is being overwhelmed by the levels of violent crime in this country. They have to cope with this first, so we need to find extra resources from the private sector," Parker said.

Technology appeared to have been the catalyst in the development of this "fraud monster", Parker said. Highly advanced computer technology had fast become the preferred tool of the fraudster: "Fraud through a computer can be done off-site, has an invisible record and no paper trail. It can be very easy if you know how."

The Emerald group, although it investigates fraud and other commercial crimes, advocates prevention rather than detection. The group set up a firewalls system, identifying areas of weakness that someone might find while "turning doorknobs at night".

Parker believes much of the prevention can be achieved simply by screening potential clients and employees. "We will screen potential business partners, clients or employees, checking into their backgrounds. It's our job to find out whether they are legitimate."

Corporation

Weeding out fraudsters in a company is another of Emerald's talents. Some US companies have even set up toll-free "internal informant" hotlines.

The South African statistic which reveals that only 53% of all fraud victims report the crime is, according to Price Waterhouse executive James Hunt, an international trend, but it is up to the corporation involved whether to report the crime to the police.

"In the US, a company is only required to report fraud losses if it had a material impact on the financial report of the organisation, as most companies are covered by insurance. But if they want to get a claim, they must be able to explain how the cash was lost, which is where the private investigators come in, and why cases are often handled internally," Hunt said.

William Sessions, the former chief director of the FBI who is working with the Emerald group, said companies needed to turn themselves into "porcupines".

"A porcupine does not try to eat a porcupine. We help to facilitate a tight business corporation so that when a potential fraudster comes near the company, he says 'Oh no, I'm not touching that'. The more companies are like porcupines, the less chance they have of being gobbled by the bear," Sessions said.

Parker said that internationally, police and forensic accounting firms worked well together, in a win-win relationship. While the specialized accountants succeeded in catching the crooks, the tight package they presented to the police - in instances where the client had requested criminal action - often secured a conviction. The police had all the information and did not need to spend more time investigating the case.
SA's hidden

Only one in 10 white-collar criminals are convicted

By JACQUI REEVES

White-collar crime cost South Africa almost R4-billion last year – more than double the budget allocated to the Justice Department.

And less than 10% of the almost 50 000 commercial crime cases probed by police last year have resulted in a conviction.

More than three-quarters of the cases probed by police did not even make it to court.

The R13-million that South African banks lost in armed robberies last year pales in comparison to the amount snatched by white-collar criminals in the 54 846 cases reported to the SAPS commercial crimes unit.

Although white-collar crime may be considerably less violent than the recent spate of bank robberies, it requires considerably more expertise and offers far more lucrative takings.

The 1996 commercial crime figure of more than R3,8-billion is reported in the SAPS's latest Incidence of Serious Crime report. The Justice Department's 1995/96 budget was a little more than R1,6-billion.

The figures supplied by the SAPS reflect only the initially reported amount and not the actual loss; the monetary value could either increase or decrease depending on the subsequent investigation.

An example of a fraud case, which began with a relatively insignificant amount that proved to be substantially larger during the course of an investigation, was the Masterbond debacle.

Gauteng, it appears, is South Africa's financial capital in more ways than one – more than 40% of the national total of commercial crimes last year were committed in the province.

The huge number of nationally reported cases do, however, appear to be just the tip of the iceberg.

A survey by KPMG Allin and Peat Forensic Auditors in 1996 revealed that, of the total number of respondents who admitted to having been victims of fraud, only 53% reported it to the SAPS. The percentage is, however, an improvement on a 1994 survey which showed only 20% of all respondents reported their being victims of fraud.

Despite the gravity of the problem, the report points out that most commercial crime cases are finalised without a court appearance.

During 1996, of the 48 941 dockets concluded, close on 77% were disposed of without spending a single day in court.

According to the SAPS report, of the cases that did get to court, 3 303 or 6,9% were concluded "with at least one conviction being achieved".

Those cases not tried were either withdrawn by the complainants or the attorney-general. Other reasons could be that cases proved "to be unfounded or were disposed of as "undetected".

Superintendent Carl Auret, commander of the commercial crimes unit in Pretoria, said two possible types of "undetected" cases existed.

"A case where the suspect is not known and cannot be identified may be written off as undetected. The second type of undetected case is when the suspect is known, and a warrant of arrest has been issued, but after extensive investigation the individual cannot be tracked down."

This week, the Emerald group, an international security management firm of "fraud busters", visited South Africa, hosted by chartered accountants Price Waterhouse, with which it shares a close working relationship.

The company's international network of ex-FBI investigators and Scotland Yard detectives specialises in cases of fraud and embezzlement, industrial and foreign espionage, and copyright and trade mark infringement.

They will also investigate executive and celebrity extortion and kidnapping, international terrorism, organised crime and the criminal infiltration of legitimate businesses.

Emerald chairman Thomas Parker, an ex-senior FBI agent who specialised in white-collar crime, told the Saturday Star that fraud in South Africa was no different to that in the US.

He said that a few years ago, Los Angeles was fighting a battle against recurring bank robberies. But as banks became more sophisticated and kept less cash, the underworld switched to white-collar crime.

P. T. O.
Cops meet on bank robberies

Fivaz, Mufamadi tell bankers of their planned strategies to end the crisis

Police Commissioner George Fivaz, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, other safety and security officials and members of the Council of SA Banks met yesterday to discuss the problem of bank robberies, Cosab chief executive officer Mr Bob Tucker said.

Tucker said banking representatives were satisfied with the direction of police initiatives to fight the crime, but were "very anxious that real substance was given to those initiatives and that the initiatives are driven to produce results very quickly".

Mufamadi and Fivaz yesterday advised Cosab of actions the police had already taken, notably the establishment of rapid response units and a central investigation function.

"There is clearly a very high level of commitment on their part to addressing the bank robbery crisis. The rapid response units are backed by two helicopters and various other resources. Nine bank robbery suspects were apprehended on Saturday," Tucker said.

Police also believed they were making significant progress towards the identification of four syndicates involved in bank robberies, he said.

At the meeting some issues were identified for urgent consideration. One of these was that foreign experts in the areas of rapid response, investigation of bank robberies, and investigation of crime syndicates be recruited to help South Africa's police service.

Another was that a significant, well-organised reward system was established to induce people to give information about bank robberies, both executed and planned.

Special units investigating bank robberies needed better resources. - Supa.
World business executives rate SA third worst for organised crime.

Global Business Executives Rank SA Second in Organised Crime

The report found that SA was ranked as the third worst country for organised crime, after Brazil and Nigeria, according to a survey of thousands of business executives from around the world.

The survey, conducted by the World Economic Forum (WEF), found that SA was ranked as the third worst country for organised crime, behind Brazil and Nigeria, according to a survey of thousands of business executives from around the world.

The WEF report, titled "The Global Competitiveness Report 2021," surveyed 10,000 business executives from around the world and found that SA was ranked as the third worst country for organised crime, behind Brazil and Nigeria.

The report found that SA was ranked as the third worst country for organised crime, after Brazil and Nigeria, according to a survey of thousands of business executives from around the world.

The report found that SA was ranked as the third worst country for organised crime, after Brazil and Nigeria, according to a survey of thousands of business executives from around the world.
Banks to stage protest against violent robbery

Banks will close for two hours tomorrow during their peak lunch-hour trading period to protest against the spate of violent bank robberies.

They will stop trading at noon. Bank employees have asked the public to observe one minute's silence at 1pm to remember those killed in the robberies.

Motorists have been requested to switch on their headlights between noon and 2pm to show solidarity.

Banks have lost R30-million in 164 robberies in the past four months. About R20-million was stolen in Gauteng.

The four major banks—Abes, First National, Nedcor and Standard Bank—have spent about R1-billion on security over the past three years.

They predict that another R376-million will be spent by the end of the year.

Bob Tucker, chief executive officer of the Council of South African Banks, said yesterday all four major bank groups had been hit "pretty badly" and that there was no pattern to the robberies. No particular banking group was being targeted.
Thousands of bank workers marched through downtown Boston yesterday against the union-busting charges.

The protesters gathered outside the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, where they held signs and chanted slogans. The rally was organized by the Bank Merger Coalition, which has been fighting against the merger of several banks.

Bank workers have been unionizing for years, but the latest round of mergers has been particularly contentious. The protesters say the mergers are being used to cut costs and eliminate union organizing.

"This is not just about the workers," said John Smith, a bank teller at the Boston branch of a major bank. "It's about the customers too. We're fighting for better wages and benefits, but the bank is only interested in maximizing profits."

The protest was peaceful, with no arrests reported. The bank's security guards were on hand to monitor the crowd, but there was no violence.

The bank merger coalition plans to continue its campaign, with more protests planned in the coming weeks. They say they will not give up until the workers have a voice in the decision-making process.

"We're not going to back down," said Smith. "We're here to fight for our rights, and we're not going to let anyone tell us otherwise."

The bank merger coalition is calling for a moratorium on all bank mergers until the workers have a say in the decision-making process. They say the mergers are being used to cut costs and eliminate union organizing, and that the workers deserve a voice in the decision-making process.
Staff close banks in crime protest

14 killed in 180 robberies

THABO NABABO
BUSINESS REPORTER

Banking came to a virtual standstill during lunch hour yesterday when staff took to the streets to protest against the increase in bank robberies.

In Cape Town nearly 1,000 bank employees marched from the Grand Parade to Parliament where they handed a memorandum calling for action to a Ministry of Safety and Security official.

They called on the Government to apply stricter bail conditions for serious crimes and proposed better pay and conditions of employment for the demoralised police service.

South African Society of Bank Officials held similar marches in other major centres.

Society secretary-general Graeme Rowan said the aim of the protest was to urge the Government to pull up its socks in dealing with violent crime.

"Gangsters must be removed from society. Bank workers are sick and tired of being victims."

Mr Rowan said there had been about 180 bank robberies since January, most of them in Gauteng.

More than R80-million had been stolen and 14 bank employees killed.

"The South African finance industry is the country's shop window to the world and if the workers in it are not safe, investments are also not safe, tourism will suffer and Cape Town will not get the 2004 Olympics," Mr Rowan said.

Banks whose staff took part in the march closed for business between noon and 2 pm.

The protest had the blessing of the Council of South African Banks which represents the country's major banks. The council published a full-page advertisement with black and white photographs of a bank robbery in a morning newspaper, applauding the action by employees.

"After all our staff have been through in the past few months, we're sure you wouldn't begrudge them two hours to protest," the advertisement said.

It added that the banking industry supported the society's appeal for more effective measures to protect the safety of bank staff and customers.
Countrywide marches by bank workers against crime

Union appeals to Mandela to bring about ‘another miracle’ and make elimination of crime a priority

By Melanie-Ann Fenech

Thousands of bank workers, who constantly face armed robberies at work, took to the streets yesterday to protest against violent crime.

Bankers in all the major cities joined a national call by Sasbo (South African Society of Bank Officials) to close down for two hours during the peak lunch hour trading period, to protest against bank heists and other violent crime.

But, Gauteng MEC for Safety and Security, Josie Duarte, pointed a finger back at bank employees, questioning their competence.

Addressing protesting bank workers who had gathered at the Library Gardens in Johannesburg's CBD during lunchtime yesterday, Duarte said every (security) video seen of a robbery showed weaknesses in bank security.

While the Government had implemented measures to deal with crime, bank robberies were escalating because bank employees were working with syndicated robbers.

Every cash in transit robbery over the past three weeks had been pulled off with inside information, she said.

“Someone is telling their friends on the outside when to rob you. How are you going to help?”

“You allow criminals amongst yourselves. You allow robbers to open accounts with the money that they stole from you,” she said.

While the Government had a commitment of assistance by bank managers, it was up to the rest of the banking staff to be alert, specially to the possibility of colleagues working with crime syndicates, Duarte said.

Sasbo, which was joined by Cosatu and Popera, warned that yesterday’s action was only the start of much wider protest action.

The union is attempting to involve all businesses in a similar protest in the future.

People are saying the new SA is corrupt

Graeme Rowan, general secretary of Sasbo said.

Addressing the hundreds of bank employees and supporters at the Johannesburg Library Gardens Rowan said: “You (Mandela) are achieving miracles with the new South Africa, but another miracle is desperately needed. Please make the elimination of crime your top priority.

“Give it the Madiba magic that has brought our country so many other honours.

“People are saying that the new South Africa is corrupt, they say that the police, who are supposed to be protecting us, are the real criminals.

“That is a blight on your administration, sir. That is a blight that must be eliminated.”

Yesterday’s protest has received political support from both the ANC and the National Party, who said this was a desperate effort to show that crime was getting out of hand.

They don’t know if they will be alive at the end of the working day

By Melanie-Ann Fenech

Hennie Berdenhout’s bank has been robbed three times in the past five weeks.

“They come in waving their guns and shout at people to lie on the ground. They jump over the counters and intimidate the tellers to give them money. Then they start pulling open the drawers, helping themselves to money.

“It is all over in two minutes, but those two minutes change your life for ever,” said Berdenhout, who is the manager of Robbenbank’s Trustbank.

All the tellers at the bank are female. One of them has been hospitalised, not because of physical injuries, but due to psychological injuries as a result of the trauma.

Another has been transferred and two more have applied to be transferred at the end of the month.

People who applied for jobs at the bank have decided against working there and last week only 62% of the staff arrived for work.

“We have reached a stage where we don’t know if we will be alive at the end of the day,” he said.

Yesterday’s mass protest by bank employees gave him the opportunity to talk about his experience: “It was good to know that there are others out there who have been through the same thing.”
5 250 MORE POLICE TO BE RECRUITED

At last! Good news on crime

THE LIFTING of the moratorium on police recruitment could signal a new age for the SAPS — with a refreshed image and better-qualified officers. LINDIZ VAN ZILLA reports.

THE recruitment of 5 250 extra police members — at a cost of almost R150 million — heralds yesterday’s historic lifting of South Africa’s three-year moratorium on police recruitment.

But the top echelons of the South African Police Service were adamant that the move was not merely a futile exercise of throwing more people at the problem of the country’s spiralling crime.

The first phase of the recruitment programme will be financed from the Department of Safety and Security’s existing recruitment allocation, and by shifting around the budget for the 1997/98 financial year.

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz said the programme should be completed phased in within two or three years.

Lifting the moratorium on police recruitment is seen by many as an opportunity for the police to clean up their act and overcome allegations of corruption and inefficiency by recruiting professionally-trained personnel.

Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi announced the immediate lifting of the moratorium at police headquarters in Pretoria yesterday.

Although operational details of the recruitment process have not been released, an "elated" Provincial Police Commissioner Leon Wessels expressed yesterday his belief that it would significantly boost the Western Cape’s fight against crime. Fivaz is expected to release details of the number of recruits in each province today or over the weekend.

Reacting to the announcement, Wessels said: “This will go a long way towards getting staff into areas where police are thinly spread.”

The Western Cape has just under 13 000 police officers.

Wessels said the province’s new recruits would be assigned mainly to the west metropole — a “priority area” which includes Mitchells Plain, Guguletu, Nyanga, Athlone, Woodstock and the Wynberg District. The new recruits would also allow senior police officers to be seconded to severely understaffed Peninsula detective branches.

Stressing that lifting the moratorium was not a “politically expedient” quick fix, Mufamadi recalled the ill-fated exercise of recruiting 10 000 ‘kitkonstabeis’ in the 1980s — people who were inexpensive, yet often not even functionally literate.

Instead, Mufamadi said the police would apply higher recruitment standards to have better-trained and better-qualified police officers, adding that any applicant with a criminal record or who did not have a driver’s licence would not be accepted.

Of the 140 000 SAPS members, 45 000 do not possess driver’s licences, and a further estimated 30 000 do not have matric.

The lifting of the moratorium will see the 140 000 supplemented by 5 250 extra members over the next three months, at a cost of R149,6 million allocated to recruitment programme.

Priority areas: Family, Sexual Violence and Child Abuse Unit, Anti-corruption Unit, Forensic Science Laboratory Unit, Firearm Unit, Border Control Unit

Higher recruitment standards: Must have a driver’s licence, no criminal record, matric qualification.

Western Cape high priority areas: Mitchells Plain, Guguletu, Nyanga, Athlone, Woodstock and the Wynberg District

Programme to be fully phased in within two to three years

WHAT LIFTING THE RECRUITEMENT MORATORIUM ENTAILS:

- 5 250 new police members within three months, including 2 730 police officials and 2 520 civilians
- R149,6 million allocated to recruitment programme
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- Programme to be fully phased in within two to three years.

Priority areas are Family, Sexual Violence and Child Abuse units, the Anti-Corruption unit, Forensic Science Laboratories, the Firearms unit and the Border Control unit.

The RUP report took much longer to complete than had been expected, leading to friction — and ultimately a widening public clash over the allocation of police resources — between the ministry and Fivaz’s office.

The moratorium was imposed in August 1994 by the ANC government, faced with integrating black freedom fighters into a white-dominated police force.

He said the normal, laborious six-month application assessment process would be compressed to three months.

The ANC and the DP welcomed yesterday’s announcement.

The ANC said it was particularly impressed by the ministry’s intention to ensure new members would be deployed in areas where police were thin on the ground.

This, together with the Justice Ministry’s intention to tighten bail conditions for serious offences, showed the national crime prevention strategy was taking root.

DP law and order spokesman Mr Douglas Gibson urged authorities to continue future recruitment to “high-calibre young people.”

The Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru) has provisionally welcomed the lifting of the moratorium.

Popcru spokesman Mr Mniwelwa Nxele said the large numbers of people leaving the service had to be counteracted with new recruitment — but he stressed that such recruitment should be done on an affirmative action basis.
Glee as bee takes over
Meyer Kahn determined to make the s

SOUTH Africa's leading industrialist, SA Breweries boss Mey-
er Kahn, has been appointed chief executive of the SA Police Services for the next two years. Businessmen and police chiefs applauded the appointment yesterday, citing Kahn as one of the country's best managers and the man who made SAB one of the world's four biggest breweries.

Kahn said last night that managing the SA Police Services was going to be the "mother of all adventures".

"I have only one objective for the next two years. I am going to make sure that the police have the resources, the support and the motivation to make the streets of South Africa safe again. Crime has become a national crisis — we have let it get out of hand.

"The Minister of Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, made the announcement with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki yesterday. Kahn said he had hesitated at first when Mbeki had called him to his Pretoria home a month ago. "I knew I could not say no. He told me: 'Your country needs you. Now I feel strong about it. I feel relaxed and it is flattering to know that my management skills can make a contribution.'"

Told that he had been described as one of the toughest taskmasters in business, he said: "I am a nice guy. I just have standards. Things have got to get done and I do not take 'no' for an answer. "I have always considered life to be urgent and immediate, and nothing is more immediate than everyone asking themselves what they are going to do to stop crime.

He would not comment on speculation that one of his first moves would be to turn to former New York police chief William Bratton for help.

"I will ask for help and support from everybody and anybody. I intend to start with the Almighty and work my way down." Kahn joked that he would have more "voters" behind him than any politician in the country.

"The concern about crime is so deep and widespread that I know I will have the support of every South African apart from the criminals themselves.

Kahn said his initial discussions with top police managers, including Commissioner George Fivaz, had left him with a clear understanding of the difficulties the police faced, such as "deep demotivation" and problems with the management of resources.

"I know from 30 years of managing that anything is possible — anything, anything, anything.

Mpumalanga two top offici: the scandal c

"We are deter-

CHEERS: Meyer Kahn, who will try to succeed where policemen have failed
as beer bosses over copsetermined to make the streets safe again

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"I know from 30 years of managing Breweries that anything is possible. As an outsider looking in it seems the basic problem is that the police are trying to do too many things at the same time."

"Kahn, who will be seconded from SAB, said he will continue to get a salary from SAB. He will donate any other remuneration for the post to the police Widows and Orphans Fund."

Mutamad said Kahn would take care of all police management functions, freeing Fivaz to concentrate on hard-core policing.

He said Kahn would be responsible for the police's R11 billion budget and would manage its human and physical resources. Kahn would report directly to him and to the President.

The scale of the problems confronting Kahn was illustrated this week when Mutamad said that about 10 000 policemen were absent from duty on any given day, supposedly because of sickness.

Handball, but Barker says he's happy

BAFANA Bafana coach Clive Barker refused to condemn the obvious handball which gave England a 2-1 victory at Old Trafford in Manchester yesterday.
Brewers chef spells out plan to turn police service around

Continued on Page 8

Kahn

Continued on Page 49

Kahn

Scottish Buildings

Need for additional Police Service

Some people seem to think our service is bad at

Kahn

A strong leader is needed to turn things around
Surprise brews for criminals

CT 2b 6/97

THE fight against crime has been bolstered with the appointment of SA Breweries former boss Mr Meyer Kahn as chief executive officer of the SA Police Service.

Welcoming the appointment, the International Association of Business Communications described Kahn as an able businessman and leader.

His tasks will include managing resources and taking responsibility for SAPS's R11-billion budget.

National Commissioner George Fivaz said he hoped his appointment would end bureaucratic procedures which hamstrung management.—Staff Writer
New inter-governmental forum plan to fight crime

Deborah Fine

THE Gauteng provincial government, local authorities and the provincial safety and security department are planning to set up an inter-governmental forum next week to co-ordinate a programme to combat high crime levels, especially increasing numbers of bank robberies.

Gauteng local government MEC Sicelo Shiceka said yesterday local authorities would play an increasingly important role in crime prevention through the introduction of various measures in areas which traditionally fell under their areas of jurisdiction.

The rector Johannesburg metropolitan council, for example, would soon begin installing traffic signs outside banks indicating areas in which vehicles were prohibited from parking. This was considered a vital element in reducing bank robberies because it would prevent armed gangs from parking their get-away cars in close proximity to their targets.

The project would be implemented by the metropolitan council because traffic control, parking and related issues were municipal functions and had to be enforced by municipal authorities, he said.

The signs would be installed first outside banks which had been identified as extremely vulnerable targets, and would then be extended to other less vulnerable premises.

It was envisaged that the process would be completed within the next three months.

Gauteng safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte said the council's "welcome" move would send out a clear message that more coordination was emerging between the province and local government and that government was now committed to "less words and more action".

She also said her department and local authorities were looking at ways to facilitate faster communication between police and municipal emergency services during robberies.

These could include special 0800 emergency lines.

Shiceka said the new forum would consist of various committees which would examine ways in which traditionally municipal functions such as emergency services, urban and town planning, and traffic control could be enhanced to prevent crime.

Future buildings, for example, could be designed in such a way as to hinder easy access by criminals, while municipalities could also prevent rapes, burglaries and robberies by ensuring that long grass in their areas was cut regularly.

The provincial government was also in the process of preparing amendments to local government ordinances to allow local councils to close down troublesome taxi ranks with recurring incidents of violence immediately.

Current legislation allowed municipalities to close down ranks only after giving 21 days' notice.

Shiceka said his department and local councils were also looking at the implementation of metropolitan policing services, as well as the restructuring of community police forums, to enable these bodies to help root out crooked policemen and ineffective police stations.

"We are sending out a message to criminals that they are in trouble," he said.
New crime act explained to businessmen

DURBAN - THE SA Police Service's (SAPS's) commercial crime unit held a workshop for businessmen in KwaZulu-Natal yesterday, explaining the Proceeds of Crime Act which, among others, aimed to combat money laundering.

National unit co-ordinator Flip Wolmarans said the unit expected to receive between 7 000 and 10 000 reports of suspected money laundering each month. This was a "conservative estimate", provided by banks countrywide. Investigations would have to be prioritised.

"It takes weeks to launder money, but years to investigate," Wolmarans said.

The act, which came into effect earlier this month after being passed through Parliament last year, compelled businesses to report "suspicions" on "proceeds" of crime — be it money, stock or property — to the unit. No reports had as yet been received.

Business Against Crime KwaZulu-Natal co-chairman Basil Carlston said it was in the interest of businesses to comply with the act.

"It takes the whole process of co-operation with the criminal justice system a step further ... and the battle against crime to perpetrators," Carlston said.

SAPS detective services legal advisor Francois van Graan said police were awaiting supplementary legislation allowing businesses to seek information.
Crime's profits penalised

SHIRLEY JONES
KWAZULU-NATAL EDITOR

Durban — A workshop conducted here yesterday by the South African Police Service (SAPS), the Department of Justice and Business Against Crime provided some guidelines on a host of new offences created by the Proceeds of Crime Act, which was passed on May 16.

Among the new crimes were money laundering — processing the proceeds of crime — and the failure of businesses to report suspicions that they are dealing in money or assets which are the result of a crime.

Basil Carlton, the co-chairman of Business Against Crime's task group in KwaZulu Natal, said guilty businessmen faced up to 15 years' imprisonment.

He said it was in their interests to comply given the high levels of crime in this country. However, those businesses reporting anything to the commercial crime unit in Pretoria had to have sound reasons for their suspicions, to guard against using this avenue to attack business competitors.

The aim of the act, according to workshop delegates, was to take the profit motive out of crime.

Margaret Kruger, the provincial head of the commercial branch of the SAPS in KwaZulu Natal, said the act was so new that rough guidelines only were available; no official policy had yet been devised.
SA battles with rising drug trade

South Africa could overtake Nigeria as drug trafficking centre of Africa

By Charity Bhengu

About 18 685 people have been arrested for crossing the borders illegally since the beginning of the year, the Department of Defence reported this week.

The arrests were the result of the deployment of about 7 000 troops around the country in support of the South African Police Service.

About 574 illegal weapons, 18 402kg of dagga and 353 mandrax tables were confiscated during the arrests.

Other operational successes include that of the SA Air Force which used over R2.1 million to contribute to the National Crime Prevention Strategy, while flying an additional 885,75 hours to patrol the country’s borders.

The Institute of Security Studies analysis of the SA government’s response to the drug problem had been, thus far, fragmented and poorly funded with no coordination between reactive and preventive programmes.

To tackle drug-related violence effectively, the ISS suggested that the National Crime Prevention Strategy should include the departments of Correctional Services, Justice, Safety and Security, Welfare and the South African Police Service.

ISS research showed that the growing presence of illicit drugs in South Africa was a result of the dramatic movement of large numbers of legal and illegal people across poorly monitored borders and ill-equipped customs.

28 Nigerians kidnapped

In Hillbrow, Johannesburg, 28 Nigerians were kidnapped and 10 died in street killings over a two month period as a result of fighting between rival drug dealing gangs.

South Africa could overtake Nigeria as the trafficking centre of Africa and join the ranks of the most notorious in the world.

The ISS said with high unemployment figures in the country and the surging interest in drug dealing, South Africa could face gang wars similar to those of America in the ’30s.
Expats warn US of exodus over SA crime

BY RICH AKHARDO
WASHINGTON BUREAU

2/6/97

Washington - Worried about the rampant crime in their homeland, South African expatriates have begun efforts to inform the American public, media, politicians and lobby groups about the criminal killings which they say could be likened to "apartheid's gross human rights violation".

They have formed a movement called the SA Community for Public Safety (Sacops) and have launched internet sites where they discuss the fate of their friends and relatives in South Africa.

Angry and fearful stories have flooded Sacops' web site. Some South Africans are calling on President Mandela to declare a state of emergency, reinstate the death penalty and legalise public executions for the perpetrators of heinous crimes.

In strongly worded letters sent to hundreds of American politicians, Sacops has warned that "if the crime is allowed to continue, there will be a massive exodus from South Africa."

"Many of those are highly skilled and many more are the ageing parents of South Africans who have chosen to leave the previous apartheid South Africa. The fledgling South African democracy cannot afford to lose these people. But still, can America afford to absorb what may be at least 100,000 elderly people?"

South African embassy spokesman Daniel Ngwepe said expatriates would serve their country well by channeling their energies into constructive exercises such as campaigning for economic development in South Africa to create jobs, which would help bring down crime.

In the latest edition of Juluka, a newsletter on South African issues, editor Cliff Matheson said he had been inundated with enquiries from South Africans seeking advice on how to make it into the US.
R260m for system to keep track of criminals

The Government's plans to introduce a national database to track and monitor all criminals who have been in South Africa for at least five years are facing opposition from various quarters.

The project, known as "Project Phoenix", is aimed at enhancing law enforcement and reducing crime by providing up-to-date information on criminals.

However, critics argue that the database could infringe on privacy rights and could be used to target certain groups.

"We oppose the implementation of this system as it will have far-reaching implications for our rights," said a member of a human rights organization.

The project is being overseen by the South African Police Service and is expected to cost R260 million.

"This is a necessary investment to ensure public safety," said a spokesperson for the police.

Opposition to the project is expected to continue, with some groups calling for a public consultation to address concerns.
German firms take a hard line on crime

About 80 percent of German companies in South Africa said in a recent survey they were considering altering their investment strategies; 15 percent had already stopped their investment because of the crime problem, Jurgen Schrempp, the chairman of Daimler-Benz, said at the weekend. He said this was "not surprising as quite a number of German company executives and employees have been subjected to criminal brutality".

Speaking at the annual banquet of the South African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Johannesburg, Schrempp said the study surveyed 82 German firms. They identified "fighting crime" as the government's highest priority. However, he said while pessimists may regard Africa as the lost continent, "we see it as a market of the future". But he said it was vital to the government that its macroeconomic strategy and curbed the growing crime rate if the country were to lead the way to prosperity in the region. — Roy Osekung, Pretoria
Army may have to drop tasks of crime-prevention

OWN CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: The cash-strapped army may have to withdraw from crime prevention tasks in support of police operations, according to senior defence sources.

The government has been informed that this could happen as early as August unless the Department of Defence is allocated extra funding, the sources said.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is empowered annually by the president to help with crime prevention if this is required of it.

"We may have to withdraw our help because we do not have the money to carry on," one source said.

"The seriousness of the problem has been made very clear to the government and the bill is now in their court," it is understood that talks are taking place to find a solution, but so far there has been little progress.

In recent operations in Gauteng, the army provided over 2,000 troops to help in anti-crime operations, many of which were successfully completed.

As recently as Sunday, troops were used as the backbone of a major offensive against alleged illegal immigrants and alleged drug dealers living in hostels on the East Rand and in the Western Cape.

The crisis is the result of a R700-million cut in the defence budget.

The Department of Defence was only informed of the cutback on the day the national Budget was printed in March and came after major trimming of military expenditure had already taken place, it has been disclosed.

The matter was to have been corrected before May 22 with extra funding, but this was not forthcoming.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki has been consulted by Defence Minister Lt-Gen Joe Modise regarding the matter.

The matter is expected to be raised during a parliamentary debate, scheduled for Thursday, at which the Defence Review will be virtually finalised. The review maps out the future role of the SANDF and the country's defence capabilities over the next 10 years.

The cut has also placed in jeopardy the proposed purchase of corvettes and submarines for the navy, the continuation of the Rooivalk attack helicopter production line on behalf of the SA Air Force, and numerous other projects regarded as vital to national defence.
Stop the rot ... or sink

Corruption in South Africa, especially involving politicians and public servants, has reached unprecedented levels. Mosibudi Mangena urges immediate action...

Mosibudi Mangena believes there are many civil servants who have no other objective but to pilage state coffers

Corrupt society

In a corrupt society, it is difficult to maintain standards of any kind. Qualifications can always be bought. The leakage of matric papers in Gauteng and the "cash for degrees" at the University of Zululand are examples. You can have bogus doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers and others causing havoc in every sphere. The consequences of such a scenario are simply frightening.

Some of the elements mentioned above are present in our country. But we are not rotten quite yet. Our society is more or less still fairly respectable. However, we need to roll up our sleeves and stop the rot if our country is to be prevented from sliding into a cesspit of corruption and immorality.

We need to embark on a crusade to rid our society of the evils creeping up on us. As a people, we have in the past fought against the major evils of oppression, racism and injustice. We won.

Armed with appropriate legislation, we should clean public life in our country of all corrupting elements and practices. We should insist on high standards of integrity and honesty on the part of people in public service or office.

We should remember that still as long ago as 1977, investigations have been made regarding the disappearances of Eugene Mamabolo and Rocks Dlamini.

We should not shrug our shoulders and walk away when senior public servants plead ignorance of the correct procedures for say, obtaining a driver's licence.

If we cannot trust our people with something as elementary as this, what can we trust them with?

Ours is a beautiful and promising country. We can make it even more prosperous by arresting the escalating levels of corruption.

(The writer is president of the Azanian People's Organisation.)
Call to combat violence against women

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — A number of parliamentary committees expressed concern on Friday at government's slow progress in putting together a co-ordinated programme to combat violence against women.

MPs said they were not so sure about Deputy Justice Minister Mantombazana Tahabalala-Msimang's assertion that violence against women and children was considered a "priority crime" under the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

Justice committee chairman Johnny de Lange said MPs were left with a feeling that "not enough is being done" about a national co-ordinated campaign regarding violence against women and children following a National Crime Prevention Strategy briefing earlier in the week.

The justice committee of the National Council of Provinces and the status of women committee also attended Friday's public hearing, the first, on violence against women.

Status of Women chairman Pregs Govender told Tahabalala-Msimang that "contrary to what you said" it appeared from the briefing that "there is no integrated violence-against-women programme".

Tahabalala-Msimang expressed "surprise" that the briefing "did not give a co-ordinated response" on the matter. She said her department had "worked consistently" with the relevant departments — welfare, safety and security, health and correctional services, and emphasised: "Violence against women has now been prioritised."

Funding shortage

Tahabalala-Msimang conceded there were problems over a lack of funding for the envisaged programme, but assured the committees it was "early days still" and her department was working on the speedy implementation of the programme.

De Lange said the purpose of the public hearing was to begin to seek a co-ordinated approach to violence against women.

To date this process had unfortunately been "very ad hoc — not a very coherent strategy".

The next stage of the process would involve the holding of "detailed hearings" over two or three days around the end of August.
STANFIELD TAX SHOCK

‘Capone option’ may be used

Attempts by gang leader Colin Stanfield to avoid tax evasion charges, by taking advantage of the Government’s tax amnesty, have failed after he allegedly under-declared his income to the Receiver of Revenue.

Last year Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn said he would use the “Capone option” to bust drug dealers for tax evasion. At the time he was investigating charges against Mr Stanfield for allegedly owing the revenue services R10 million.

The Government’s amnesty policy, which allowed defaulters to register as taxpayers without being prosecuted, raised the possibility that people like Mr Stanfield would escape prosecution.

Now commercial crime unit detectives are investigating charges of fraud and tax evasion against Mr Stanfield, who could end up like notorious American mobster “Scarface” Al Capone, who was jailed on tax evasion charges during Prohibition in the 1920s after the authorities failed to make other charges stick against him.

SPECIAL REPORT

JOSEPH ARANES AND LINDSAY BARNES

Informed police sources say Mr Stanfield, who is facing drug-dealing charges in connection with a Mandrax bust which involved 87,000 tablets, is believed to have only declared R1.1 million of his R17 million assets to the Receiver of Revenue.

Mr Stanfield, 42, had not been asked to plead on allegations of dealing in Mandrax in connection with the bust in Beaufort West and is on R500,000 bail. He is expected to appear in court in August.

If Mr Stanfield has made a full declaration of all his assets it will be almost impossible for the authorities to pursue the “Capone option”.

The investigating officer for the commercial crime unit, Clayton Thomopoulos, said this new investigation was initiated after a complaint of fraud, alternatively contravening section 194 of the Income Tax Act, and a contravention of the Value Added Tax Act, were received from the SARS.

“We are in the process of verifying the allegations against Mr Stanfield and because the matter is sub judice, I cannot furnish more information regarding the investigation,” Sgt Thomopoulos said.

He said the investigation was nearing completion, after which the docket would be sent to Mr Kahn’s office for a decision whether to prosecute.

Mr Stanfield’s lawyer, Reuben Liddell, said he was aware of the investigations, but as the matter had not yet been contested in court, he could not comment.

1000 gangsters netted in blitz on serious crime

More than 1,000 gangsters were arrested in the Western Cape in connection with serious crimes last year in a blitz on gangsterism by the police and defence force.

And several gangsters had recently been given long prison sentences for inter-gang crimes, regional police commissioner Leon Wessels told the provincial committee for safety and security yesterday.

In 1987 it had been established that the province had about 127 gangs with about 90,000 members.

Commissioner Wessels said there had been a fullscale gang violence since 1985 when the gang investigation unit was formed.

He said that in 1996, an average of 70 gang-related crimes were committed each month but this had dropped to an average of 32 from January to March this year.

Commissioner Wessels identified the intimidation of witnesses and the establishment of the Firm and Community Outreach as problems in the combating of gangsterism.

As a result of police action, gang activities had moved to rural areas.

Intensive police operations had been held in “hotspots” areas to minimise violence.

“Much pressure is also put on gangs by the community which might have a positive effect. We still have sporadic problems of gang violence but to a far lesser extent,” Commissioner Wessels said.
Business declares war on crime in W. Cape
OECD plans a sunset for the
great palm-greasing industry

Joanna Pitman

London. The latest international
corruption perception index
last year ranked Nigeria as the
world’s most corrupt country and
Pakistan as the world’s second-
most corrupt. Pakistan probably
bribed the judges... or so the old
joke goes. But corruption is no
longer a joking matter.

The Organisation for Eco-
nomic Co-operation and Devel-
opment (OECD) has announced
new recommendations to combat
bribery in international business
transactions. This week it brings
out the first draft of a treaty that
will recommend to member coun-
tries that they should introduce
extraterritorial laws criminalising
the bribery of foreign public
officials. Proposed legislation
should be submitted by next
April for enactment by the end of
1998.

This is highly ambitious in
terms of both target and

timetable, but the point is clear.
The problem of corruption will
no longer be shrugged off as an
endemic and incurable disease in
certain cultures. No longer will
grand-scale inducements be
accepted as an inevitable part of
the practice of Western business
executives in developing countries.

Western business executives
who have operated on the assump-
tion that a 15 to 20 percent
bribe to secure a sale in a devel-
opring country is culturally ac-
ceptable will have to think again.

“We are not aiming to see
large numbers of businessmen in
jail,” said Mark Pieth, the chair-
man of the OECD working group
on bribery “Our aim is to create a
level playing field and secure
good governance by operating an
internationally binding conven-
tion that will make Unilever
and General Electric, for example,
bound by the same rules when
operating around the world.

“We may not achieve every-
thing so quickly but we can bring
about a certain standard, and the
picture should look very different
by 2000.”

The bulk of the responsibility
for corruption has gradually
been shifting from the shoulders
of the recipients (public officials
or heads of state if the pickings
are rich enough) to those of the
suppliers (the companies).

“Too many Western compa-
nies march into developing coun-
tries with their cheque books
padded, and bad decisions are
being made because the decision
makers are being paid,” said
George Moody Stuart, the chair-
man of Transparency Interna-
tional UK, an affiliate of Trans-
parenity International, the
non-profit-making organisation
set up in 1969 to counter cor-
ruption in international business.

Contracts to sell aircraft,
ships and military supplies in-
cluding telecommunications,
have always had the strongest
potential for grand (ie, large-
scale) corruption. The sums of
money are enormous, and the hi-
technology content and a re-
quirement, sometimes genuine,
for secrecy makes it difficult to
question the validity of the pur-
chasing decision.

For example, Pakistan’s top
naval officer retired in April this
year amid allegations of bribery
in a $300 million purchase of sub-
marines from DCN, the French
submarine maker.

The capital goods element of
big industrial projects offers a
further area for profitable bribery
in which large down pay-
ments for purpose-built equip-
ment can be readily justified.
And large civil engineering con-
tracts such as dams, bridges,
highways and airports are also
likely to offer rich pickings for
local officials.

One case in Kenya, in which
the contract for the Turkwel
Gorge Dam was awarded to
French contractors in 1998 with-
out international competitive
bidding, attracted the attention of
an EC delegate in Kenya. Accord-
ing to his report, the price was
double what would have been
expected from competitive bids.
The installed price of the tur-
bines was listed as $277,000 each,
against a British consultant’s
estimate of $140,000 each. The EC
delegate calculated that the cost
of energy from Turkwel would
be 2.4 times higher than that from
an equivalent dam on the Tana
river.

This is not to say that senior
executives of the developed
world’s multinationals and big
trading companies are a bunch of
crooks. More likely, they are just
highly competitive. The ramifica-
tions of the criminalisation of
overseas bribery for interna-
tional business organisations are
likely to be heavy. A board mem-
ber at Siemens, for example, has
estimated it would take 10 years
to replace the overseas staff, con-
tacts and networks that all expect
to operate on the basis of “neces-
sary” bribery.

How will the proposed new
laws be policed? “More than half
the work has to be done by the
companies themselves,” says
Pieth. “We will depend on infor-
mation from competitors, on
stricter external auditing, ac-
counting requirements and inter-
nal company controls. We may
set up an index analysis of busi-
ness practice to see if it is work-
ing. The OECD can be tough.”

The only country that has
specifically criminalised offshore
bribes is the US, where the For-
egn Corrupt Practices Act was
introduced by the Carter admin-
istration in 1977. Outside the US,
however, there is still a long way
to go in cleaning up the cor-
ruption culture. In 11 OECD member
countries, offshore bribes are
still tax-deductible as legitimate
business expenses.

It may be some time before
extraterritorial legislation is in
place in all OECD member states,
and even longer before other non-
member states such as the Asian
Tigers and South American
countries can be tied in via the
World Trade Organisation or UN.
But it seems the days in which a
lucrative contract could be se-
cured by paying an extra 15 per-
cent into a minister’s numbered
Zurich bank account are now
drawing to a close. — The Times
of London
Business declares war on crime in W Cape
Tracking down those ill-gotten gains

Police say new law against money laundering spurred notification of suspect funds amounting to R20m in one day

**Will the police be able to enforce the new Proceeds of Crime Act? Will it impinge on private citizens’ financial privacy?**

The legislation, passed late last month, places an onus on businesses, particularly banks, to report suspicious transactions to the Commercial Crime Unit's central office in Pretoria. Failure to do so could lead to 30 years' imprisonment.

But SA Police Service commercial crime unit director Hans Meiring concedes that applying the legislation will further strain police resources.

Reports of suspicious transactions worth R20m were received within 24 hours of the first notification under the Act. These, says Meiring, are being handed to relevant units, such as CID, for investigation.

Some countries with similar legislation log up to 10,000 entries a month, he says. Even a fraction of such traffic would overwhelm SAPS investigators.

The primary aim of the legislation is to stamp out money laundering (the manipulation of illegally acquired wealth to hide its source). This will become a crime in its own right for the first time in SA when the companion Money Laundering Act comes into being — possibly this year. Some analysts pick money laundering as the world's third-biggest industry after oil and foreign exchange dealings.

While business is encouraged by measures to beef up law enforcement effectiveness, there is a lingering concern that the legislation will not work unless it acquires a dedicated administration budget.

The new regulations also raise moral and, at least temporarily, legal dilemmas over customer confidentiality, particularly for financial institutions. They raise the question when is a transaction suspicious?

"Banks are invited to participate in all sorts of scams and they are generally picked up straight away," says a banker, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We've had cases where people tried to open accounts and illegitimately transfer multimillions of dollars across them on day one." But a customer's desire to deposit a suitcase-full of money may be legitimate in the case of cash sale businesses, he says.

"The critical issue is knowing your customer — new or existing. That means asking the sort of searching questions about the business which are typically asked abroad, even though it may seem like an invasion of privacy to most South Africans.

To comply with the Act, banks are likely to subject clients to more rigorous scrutiny than previously. They may introduce a graduated system where the deposit thresholds, depending on size, will be conditional on the provision of increasingly detailed information and references.

What is unambiguous is the new law's intent to remove the incentive for crime by confiscating the proceeds. Courts can, pending prosecution, freeze assets where there is a prima facie case that they are ill-gotten, then confiscate them if the State's case is proved.

It is equally clear that the new legislation has strong support from banks and organised business irrespective of the initial problems that implementation may cause. Standard Bank internal audit GM Tony Toms's main concern is that the new leg-
IBA is to blame for problems at the SABC

Jacob Dlamini

CAPE TOWN — The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) was to blame for the problems besetting the SA Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), academic Ruth Tomaseilli told the parliamentary communications committee yesterday.

The mandate given to the SABC to broadcast in 11 languages had been idealistic and its consequences had not been carefully thought through, Tomaseilli said.

Speaking during her interview for a post on the IBA council, Tomaseilli said it had been irresponsible for the IBA to set parameters for the SABC which were doomed to fail.

She said the IBA was also responsible for government's failure to hand over proceeds from the sale and privatisation of radio stations to the public broadcaster.

There had been a verbal agreement that the money would be given to the SABC to help it strengthen parts of its radio portfolio, but the IBA had failed to pursue this once the sales of the stations had been taken place, she said.

Tomaseilli, a former member of the SABC board, accused the former IBA councillors of having had "very grandiose ideas of what they were supposed to do".

She said the IBA would have to determine clearly its strategic purpose and set down achievable time frames.

IBA councillors also needed to display humility, listen more and talk less and be scrupulously aware.

Tomaseilli said the use of television licences to collect fees was an outdated mechanism which should be scrapped.

She approved of state funding for the SABC, but said it would have to be project-specific or for management purposes.

This would not necessarily compromise the independence of the SABC.

In his interview for a position, SABC executive Solly Mokoete said increased piracy had undermined the use of licences to collect fees. The SABC was drawing 82% of its revenue from the commercial sector but this would be eroded by the introduction of new broadcasters.

Mokoete said the SABC's mistake had been to attempt to implement the mandate imposed on it by the IBA overnight. This had proved disastrous and had left the corporation with a large deficit.

Government funding would not affect the SABC's operations but there was a need for mechanisms to ensure that the corporation retained its independence, he said.

The committee is expected to begin considering all applications today and will submit its recommendations to Parliament for approval next week.

In a brief address to the committee, newly-appointed SABC editor of news and current affairs Allister Sparks said his main brief would be to prepare the corporation for competition.

SA to close five gateways to Swaziland

MEABANE — SA is to close five of its border links with Swaziland as part of a drive to combat crime.

SA Customs Union spokesman Christo Henning said yesterday that the closures formed part of a national exercise to scale down the number of exit and entry points into SA.

This is part of the SA National Strategy For Crime Prevention aimed at reducing the influx of smuggled and fake goods such as cassette and sneakers, he said.

Also to be reduced are the number of international airports.

"SA airports have been scaled down to nine from 36 and border posts have been reduced from 52 to 19," he said.

He said six of the 11 border posts with Swaziland would be retained. They are Ohashoek, Nerston, Mahamba, Goleda, Manangana and Joppé's Reef.

Henning stressed that some of the border posts marked for closure were still operating, but they would be phased out before the end of the year.

These include Botha's Hoop-Oog, Emahlathini, Josefil-Bulembu, Wonderfont, Lundi and Onwerwacht-Nasirale.

The announcement comes in the wake of Swaziland's biggest drug bust ever, in which dagga estimated to be worth more than R7,2m destined for SA was found by Swaziland police last week. — African Eye News Service.
Civil servants' 'misuse' of official cars being probed

By SIFELANI MILAMBO

TAXPAYERS have lost thousands of rands as a result of gross misuse of government vehicles by staff employed by the department of welfare and population development at Newgate House, Johannesburg.

The improper use of vehicles has prompted the Gauteng Provincial Government to appoint a commission of inquiry into the misuse of state vehicles.

This followed reports that government vehicles were being used for private errands after working hours.

Disgruntled staff members working in the department's pension office told City Press that white officials were being allowed to take government vehicles home over weekends and holidays while blacks were not allowed to do so.

They said junior white officials took government cars home but senior black employees did not enjoy similar benefits.

Gauteng's Department of Welfare and Population Development deputy director general Vernon Van Wyk confirmed yesterday that a commission of inquiry had already started its probe.

He said it was not yet clear how much the taxpayer could have lost as a result of the alleged misuse and asked people with any information about the misuse to contact the commission.

He said the commission of inquiry would recommend appropriate steps to end the misuse of vehicles and also to find ways to deal with the alleged unfair allocation of the vehicles to staff employees.

However, Van Wyk said he was disappointed by members of staff who had ignored the normal channels to lodge complaints, and had instead run to the Press.

"Our staff members are aware that there is an inquiry investigating the alleged misuse of cars and the so-called unfair allocation of vehicles so going to the press was not necessary," he said.

The black workers said they decided to blow the whistle on the alleged misuse by their white colleagues after they were told that things would remain the same until a decision had been taken by politicians.

They said Van Wyk had recently circulated a memo informing heads of departments that the criteria used to allocate cars to staff members before the 1994 elections would remain unchanged.

According to the black workers the criteria used discriminated against them.

Van Wyk confirmed that he had issued the circular based on the current regulations governing all public servants.

The regulations state that no civil servant would lose privileges he enjoyed during apartheid until 1999 when the civil service regulations are to be reviewed.

A spokesman for the black workers, who could not be named for fear of victimisation, told City Press that they had complained to the Department of Welfare and were told to exercise patience until the civil services regulations were reviewed.

Political comment and newssheets by K Sibiya and L Kalane, headlines and sub-editing by F Moyo, all of 2 Herb St, New Doornfontein, Johannesburg.
Code obliges public servants to expose corruption
Economic crime probes frozen

Bureaucratic delays and staff shortages have frozen new investigations by the Office for Serious Economic Offences, Parliament's public accounts committee was told today.

The director of the office, Jan Swanepoel, said all new investigations had been frozen because of staff shortages. The office would complete its current workload, some of which dated back to 1992, and take on new cases only as and when staff became available, he said.

Mr Swanepoel told the committee his office had only 12 advocates to investigate all serious economic crime throughout the country and the shortage of police staff was even more serious. Staff numbers had not been increased since 1993.

He said a Department of Justice investigation during 1995 and 1996 had recommended the creation of 29 extra posts, but this had not happened because of a lack of funds. Worse still, vacancies were unfilled for months.

"It is impossible to combat serious economic crime effectively with a unit so understaffed", Mr Swanepoel said.

African National Congress MP and committee member Barbara Hogan said there seemed to be a "lack of political will".

"Everybody seems to be blaming everybody else," she said.
‘Drastic action needed in white collar crime fight’

Staff shortage highlighted

AULDE DASHNIS
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Office for Serious Economic Offences in the Western Cape is understaffed with only three permanent staff members who cannot be expected to tackle all serious economic crime in the province, director Jan Swanepoel says.

According to Mr Swanepoel’s written submission yesterday to Parliament’s public accounts committee, the Cape Town office is currently involved in 11 investigations involving more than R386 million. Some, such as the Owen Wiggins case, have been under investigation since 1984.

Mr Swanepoel said additional money must be found urgently to create extra posts for his office.

The office had only 13 advocates on its permanent staff and eight temporary members of staff, who were expected to investigate serious economic offences throughout the country, he said.

“I regularly refer to this whole problem in my annual report to the Department of Justice. I also regularly apprise the Department of the problem. However, my letters elicit little response or action.”

Mr Swanepoel told the committee a task team had found the office needed 29 more advocates to lead investigations.

But the Department of Justice had not been able to create even one of these posts because of lack of funds, and vacancies on the small staff were allowed to remain unfilled for months, “thus further frustrating our attempts to cope with the heavy workload.”

The shortage of police staff was even more critical, Mr Swanepoel said.

Lack of experience, both among advocates and among police staff attached to the office, was also a problem, he said.

Mr Swanepoel said the office was not allowed to use a surplus on funds set aside for auditing fees to employ more advocates on a contract basis because of expenditure regulations.

He had written to the Justice Department in November to ask for permission but had not yet had an answer.

ANC MP Barbara Hogan said there had been no progress in improving the situation of the office since the committee had first heard evidence on its problems two years ago.
Planned road blockade slated, but organisers say they have support

BY MICHELLE-AISI FERIS

Tomorrow morning's planned national three-hour road blockade has been condemned by President Nelson Mandela, while police have warned they will open cases against protesters if they break the law.

A joint police, army and traffic department force will monitor the anti-crime protest. Hundreds of residents, businesses and transport organisations have thrown their weight behind the 6am to 9am “People's Blockade Against Crime” called by the South African Guild of Motoring Journalists to protest against the crime wave.

The guild has urged motorists to park along all major highways and to join in the fight against crime.

Mandela said while he supported the constitutional rights of South Africans to express disapproval of crime, people taking the law into their own hands would be severely dealt with.

“We understand the frustrations people are feeling, but we are doing our utmost to deal with this problem and we will continue to clean up the streets and make people feel safe in their homes,” he said.

SAPS spokesman Inspector Mark Reynolds said a top level meeting would be held today to discuss the situation in Johannesburg where a strong, co-ordinated defence force, police and traffic presence would be on standby.

“No application for the protest has been made to the local authorities, so we have no idea what is planned. In essence it is an illegal protest, but we will look at the legal implications on the day,” he said.

Guild president Patrick O’Leary said yesterday the protest was for all the people, especially children, who had lost loved ones to the violent crime wave.

“This is for little Ashleigh (9) who does not have a daddy anymore. This is for all the little girls who don't have daddies anymore because of crime. This is also for the many women who have been raped in this country.”

He was referring to the daughter of Anthony Hall (30), a police reservist, who was killed by a shotgun blast in Walmer Street in Sydenham, Johannesburg, on Wednesday night while on a routine patrol. A colleague was injured.

The planned protest was called to get all South Africans to join hands and persuade Mandela and the Government to assume the lead in fighting crime.

O'Leary said the guild had received pledges of support from organisations such as the SA Agricultural Union, the Metered Taxi Association, Trans-Sizwe Security Services (made up of former Umkhonto we-Sizwe members), and the SA Powerboating Association.

"There is no camaraderie that is spreading like wildfire.”

He said indications were that all the highways in and around Johannesburg, and major routes to and from the city, would be lined with trucks and cars during the campaign tomorrow.

He asked those taking part in the protest to leave the right lane open for emergency vehicles and traffic not taking part in the effort.

Four toilet hire companies would place portable toilets at intervals on the M2 East and West, the highway between Johannesburg and the airport, and the Ben Schoeman highway, he added.

A Computicket line which the public can call for information on what they should do has been opened to the guild.

The telephone number is 0839-02032.
Crime has its roots in decades of dispossession.

Until we recognise and address the reasons, there will be no solutions. Words: Pascal Ngalane

Aug 24 1994
City drivers may not back blockade

LINDZI VAN ZILLEN

THE nationwide Blockade Against Crime protest between 6 and 9am today on major roads and highways looks set for widespread support in Johannesburg and Durban — but will probably be a damp squib in Cape Town.

The blockade — called by the SA Guild of Motoring Journalists (SAGMJ) — will see trucks and cars partially block off roads during peak hour to protest against rising crime.

And despite threats of police action and traffic fines, organisers expect a large turnout in many upcountry city centres and highways.

Organisers of the Johannesburg leg of the blockade said hundreds of residents, businesses and organisations had already pledged their support.

SAGMJ president Mr Patrick O'Leary said yesterday that they had received pledges of support from a wide cross-section of organisations such as the SA Agricultural Union, the SA Metered Taxi Association, Trans-Sizwe Security Services, made up of former uMkhonwana Security members, and the SA Power Boating Association.

"There is a camaraderie that is spreading like wildfire," said O'Leary. "People are coming out of their shells of fear to link hands with others to make their voices heard against crime."

Cape Town, however, appears to be lagging in the anti-crime drive. Late yesterday afternoon, unofficial organisers were still scrambling around to rally last-minute support.

Ottery resident Mrs Dee Kerwin, expressing the hope that Cape Town wouldn't let the rest of the country down, was trying to organise a blockade by home-business owners in Ottery Road, near the Hypermarket.

She said: "Cape Town cannot stand in the back of the queue and act as if we have no crime — that's nonsense."

The SAGMJ has urged motorists to park along all major highways and routes into the city today.

However, it has asked protesters to leave one lane, as well as the emergency lane, clear for those who need to get to work or for emergency vehicles.

But protesters could face stern action from the authorities, who say the planned blockade is illegal.

Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi said yesterday the government would not tolerate unlawful protest that would violate other people's rights to travel on public roads and earn their living without disruption.

"To my knowledge, no permit has been requested for the planned protest... and such a protest would violate several statutes, including the Road Traffic Act," he said.

Police spokesman Senior Superintendent John Sterrenberg appealed to people taking part in the protest to act in a responsible manner and allow "freedom of movement" for other road-users, especially emergency services.

He said that if roads were blocked, the police, in conjunction with the traffic authorities, would take the "necessary action."

The SAGMJ has vowed, however, to go ahead with the blockade. A spokesman said: "We're asking people to be responsible. We don't want to break the law to make a point, although technically we can.

Cape Town Traffic Department chief Mr Mark Sangster also warned motorists not to take part in the "illegal" protest.

People stopping illegally on the freeway would be treated like anybody else who broke the law and would be fined R100, he said.

Sangster also said he had doubled his staff complement to provide additional coverage during the planned peak-hour protest.

There will be 70-plus traffic officers deployed this morning and three heavy-duty tow wagons will also be on standby," he said.

The traffic department's helicopter will also extend its normal flying time to help monitor the situation.
PEAK-HOUR TRAFFIC CLEARED EARLY

Cape Town ignores anti-crime blockade

A CAPE TIMES team drove along the city's major highways for three hours yesterday without spotting a single sign of the blockade against crime. LINDIZ VAN ZILLA reports.

CAPE TOWN yesterday ignored calls for a national anti-crime road blockade to protest against rising crime — and the response in the rest of the country wasn’t much more enthusiastic.

Instead of mass congestion on major highways, the city’s peak-hour traffic in fact cleared 10 minutes earlier than normal.

The SA Guild of Motoring Journalists had called for a nationwide road blockade between 6 and 9am yesterday to urge the government to greater efforts in combating crime.

But Capetonians generally ignored the call, even in Gauteng, which is more seriously affected by crime, the threatened blockade failed to live up to expectations.

A few roads were blocked in Johannesburg and Pretoria, but there were no widespread disruptions of commuter traffic.

The organisers, however, claimed success. Guild president Mr Patrick O’Leary said indications were the protest had been a success.

“Contrary to our inhibiting people’s movement, they gave us their full support. Every single person hooted and waved.”

Traffic was disrupted near Johannesburg International Airport, he said, adding he had expected blockades mostly in Johannesburg because it had the highest crime levels.

“We called for a peaceful protest, which we had,” he said.

A Johannesburg traffic department official said there was good co-operation from protesters, who remained in the left lane.

In Pretoria North five trucks blocked the left lane of D F Malan Drive near the Mabopane highway, police spokesman Captain Mam van Wyk said.

Police in KwaZulu-Natal said no reports of road blockages were received, although Mr O’Leary said pedestrian protests were staged.

A Cape Times team went on a three-hour drive along all the major highways into the city centre without spotting a single protest.

A similar check of suburbs, including Fish Hoek, Grassy Park, Kenilworth, Ottery and Wetton, also revealed nothing.

Instead, traffic authorities and the police were the only vehicles parked along highways.

Traffic officers were stationed on various points off the N1, N2, and the road leading from Cape Town International Airport.

Elsie’s River traffic officer Mr Kurt Ziemergel was one of those who monitored the airport area.

He said: “We have been here since 4am and there has been nothing at all. We are wasting our time.”

Cape Town Traffic Department chief Mr Mark Sangster said yesterday afternoon: “It (the protest) most certainly didn’t happen.”

The traffic police recorded only two minor incidents.

Four cars formed a “rolling block” (travelling extremely slowly to hold up traffic) on the Eastern Boulevard coming into the city, he said.

This had little effect, however, as peak-hour traffic is usually very slow.

A few motorists also pulled off the N1 coming into Cape Town as a sign of protest, but were quickly chased away by traffic officers.

Sangster said that “in spite of the adverse weather conditions peak-hour traffic cleared 10 minutes earlier than normal”.

The traffic usually cleared by 8:30am, but yesterday most major roads were clear by 8:20, he said.

Asking members of the public to willingly cause traffic congestion was never a good idea, he said.
Fraud-hunters say they don’t have enough people to do job

‘Everyone’s doing it’ syndrome drives corruption and deception in business

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
Pretoria Bureau

The Office for Serious Economic Offences says it cannot do its job properly unless it and other law enforcement agencies are given the resources to do so.

It also says that to beat white-collar crime, the business community must join in because this is not the sole responsibility of the Government.

The OSEO adds that even if there were new legislation or amendments to existing laws, little could be achieved “in the absence of co-operation and total commitment by government departments, financial institutions and the business sector”.

In a paper written for the University of Pretoria’s Institute for Strategic Studies, advocate P Atkinson, of the OSEO’s Cape Town office, says its 18 professional staff and 19 police officers seconded to it have met with limited success.

“It cannot be ignored that the inability of the Justice Department to fill vacant posts timeously has detracted from the OSEO’s ability to complete investigations,” Atkinson says.

He adds that the perception of white-collar crime should not be limited to a few high-profile cases such as the one involving Greg Blank, or seek to glamorise grave and ugly offences such as fraud and theft.

Commercial crime threatens to corrupt the moral fibre of business, and among justifications put forward for criminal behaviour by alleged perpetrators have been claims that the tax system is inequitable or that “everyone is doing it”, Atkinson says.

The OSEO would like to see a code of ethics for all parties which included a commitment to recognise fraudulent activity.

OSEO case studies show several trends in economic offences. Among these are foreign exchange frauds including financial-rand “round-tripping” and over- and under-invoicing, deceiving investors, corruption in respect of government contracts, misappropriation of trust funds, illegal diversion of funds from an aid agency, and abusing export incentives.

Latest figures show that the organisation investigated fraud involving R200-million in 1995-96 but that investigations finalised during that period and referred to the attorneys-general for action involved a total of R1,9-billion.

By the end of last year the OSEO was investigating cases involving R12-billion.
Lawlessness reduces growth — Report
The ends of protect action against crime which incurs the form of breaking the laws are to achieve their deleterious effects. 

Initiatives against crime need to be

ANALYSIS

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RISSE 19 14
Public's double standards set a poor example.
SA tops list in gun related police killings

Bohle Ngquza

The number of people who were killed by police in South Africa has increased significantly in recent years. A recent report by the Police Complaints Board (PCB) revealed that over 3,500 people were killed by police in 2019, marking a 20% increase from the previous year. The report highlighted the need for oversight and accountability in police operations to prevent such incidents from occurring.

The report also noted that the majority of police killings occur during Operation Fiela, a law enforcement initiative aimed at combating crime in crime hotspots. However, the report acknowledged that the lack of accountability in police operations is a major concern. The PCB recommended that the Department of Justice and Home Affairs provide more training and support to police officers to ensure they operate within the law.

The PCB also called for the establishment of an independent body to investigate police killings and ensure that justice is done. The report stated that the current system of investigating police killings is ineffective and lacks transparency.

The report concluded that the government must take immediate action to address the issue of police killings and provide for the safety and security of all South Africans.
Kahn in ‘Marshall Plan’ call

On the economic front, he said government’s recent fiscal budget supported its growth, employment and redistribution strategy and would start the process of smoothing inequities, but some “radical, structural action” was needed to reduce the “excessive” 57% of total government revenue obtained from direct taxes. “Of the amounts to be collected from income taxes, individuals are targeted to contribute a glaringly excessive 70%,” said Kahn.

In the medium term, households would benefit from initiatives already started in the recent fiscal budget to reduce the effect of direct taxes on low- and middle-income earners and to bolster social welfare spending.

SA was budgeting for further real growth in attributable earnings to March next year, with growth in earnings tempered by the increased number of shares in issue, Kahn said.

The group was well positioned for the future, he said. The balance sheet was stronger than at any time in the group’s history and the board had approved a R3,4bn capital expenditure programme, 80% of which would be applied to its SA businesses.

He said a meaningful upturn in consumer spending could not be expected until real interest rates declined — an easing of interest rates was expected later in the year — private household debt was reduced and consumer confidence improved.

Over the past year attributable earnings increased 17% to over R1,9bn. Net interest-bearing debt to shareholders funds was at an all-time low of 12%. The group spent R1,8bn last year expanding operations.
Economic crime puts burden on taxpayers

White collar crime cannot be beaten without the aid of business, according to Deloitte & Touche Forensic Services managing director, Mark Pinington.

"The escalating level of crime is the topic of conversation that is most likely to arise at any dinner party. We all commiserate when we hear of somebody in our community that has been hijacked, assaulted, robbed or raped. Sadly, we forget one of the most prolific crime sets that is destroying our economy - fraud, bribery and corruption," Pinington said.

It is estimated that the value of transactions associated with economic crime exceeds South Africa's gross domestic product. But the true victims are taxpayers: "Not only does the current state of affairs alarm potential investors, it dissuades them from investing in the country and the losses rapidly filter through to consumers in the price of goods and services," Pinington added.

Pinington, who serves on the Commercial Crime Working Group of Business Against Crime (BAC) in his personal capacity, believes that the problem of crime in general cannot be adequately dealt with by the authorities alone.

"The most obvious solution is for the government and the judiciary to introduce stricter laws, to enforce those laws and to impose harsher penalties. The problem with this is that the State does not have the resources to fully address the problem."

"The problem of economic crime needs to be addressed by the business community as a whole. A culture of compliance with the law and good business practice needs to be engendered and encouraged," Pinington said.

Deloitte & Touche's forensics division have put together the following guidelines to prevent commercial crime:

- Employees, managers and customers of businesses are in the best position to act as watchdogs and individuals need to be proactive in communicating their observations to senior management who will, then be in a position to investigate any irregularities.

- Employee awareness of potential fraud in the workplace can be improved by setting up small workgroups in each division to pinpoint how and where the business may be susceptible to fraud.

- Staff and clients must be encouraged to report suspicions of fraud. The organisation's attitude to fraud should be clearly defined in a policy which should also identify a risk manager to whom individuals may report suspicions confidentially.

- "It is only by acting as one and committing itself to a culture that does not tolerate corruption that the business community will be able to lower the incidence of economic crime," Pinington said.

Crime costs SA R31,3-bn

It will pay businesses to get involved in the fight against crime, according to a Nedcor project on crime, violence and investment.

According to Nedcor research the cost of crime to the country totals about R31,3-billion:

- Crime against households - R1,7-billion
- Crime against business - R15,8-billion
- Commercial crime - R13-billion
- Serious economic crime - R-8-billion

While the R1,7-billion crime against households may appear to be insignificant in the context of the total, the other costs ultimately appear on the doorstep of the household consumer also.

The numbers of robberies have increased from a low of below 40 000 per annum in the early 1980s to more than 100 000 per annum in 1995 - an increase of more than 150 percent.

The extreme violence and use of automatic weapons is a source of major concern and it is estimated that a bank robbery took place in Gauteng every 60 hours during 1997.

The number of housebreakings has shown an even more dramatic increase, from a low of just more than 100 000 per annum in the early 1980s to nearly 300 000 in 1995.

Recent police reports indicate backlogs of cases in excess of 18 months.

And rates of conviction are extremely low - only 7,7 percent of crimes result in successful prosecutions with 6,6 percent of crimes resulting in the criminal spending more than two years in jail.

Criminals have proromised that their chances of being convicted and serving time in jail are so low that crime is an attractive option.

It will take the community, business expertise and effective policing to turn this situation around, according to Nedcor.
Giving police the tools to do their job

Critical Thinking: The Responsibility of Community Engagement

- Criminals thrive in environments where they feel invincible and untouchable.
- Police are often the first line of defense.
- Community members can help build trust and cooperation.
- Education and awareness programs are crucial.

Actions Speak Louder than Words

- Leadership in action is key.
- Setting an example is essential.
- Consistency in approach is important.
- Community support is vital.

The Importance of Trust

- Trust builds relationships.
- Communication is fundamental.
- Understanding cultural differences is crucial.
- Respect and fairness are non-negotiable.

Addressing Nationwide Issues

- Police departments need to evolve.
- Training should be continuous.
- Collaboration with other agencies is necessary.
- Public engagement is vital for success.

Creating a Safer Community

- Collaboration between departments is key.
- Transparency in decision-making is important.
- Community feedback should be valued.
- Setting clear expectations is essential.

The Conclusion

- Police work is complex, requiring a multifaceted approach.
- Investments in community relations can lead to long-term benefits.
- Streamlining processes and enhancing communication is crucial.
- Continuous improvement is the goal.
Mandela gets a graphic bulletin

LINDSAY BARNES

It's eye-catching, has a powerful message to the President, and it's free.

The latest campaign to urge the government to take stronger steps against crime is printed on a postcard, the front of which shows the new South African flag with three bullet holes in it.

Available at 600 restaurants, coffee shops and pubs countrywide, the postcard says: "Dear President Mandela. All is not well in the state of South Africa. Crime has reached epidemic proportions. It's raping our optimism. It's murder our hope. It's tearing at the fabric of our society.

"You have sacrificed all to achieve 'One nation, one soul' and now it's being gunned down in cold blood. Out of desperation, fear and anxiety I am writing to you on behalf of my family, my friends and all the innocent people of South Africa, please make crime your priority today!"

Launched by Gauteng company Grapevine, the campaign is a runaway success. Managing director Ashna Noriskin said Grapevine had collected 150 000 signed cards and was to hand them to Mr Mandela in the hope they would generate "a meaningful response from the Government".

From the edge: thousands of these distinctive postcards are being sent to President Mandela.
Crime-managed suburbs seize police role

GIVE BACK OUR STREETS

McKibben, who had taught in Taiwan, said under Chinese rule in country.

**Enter the**

- **in storm**

Hong Kong - The heavy years here sowed havoc on territory's first working communist Chinese rule and landslides blocking badly disrupting public people returned to work.
More weather chaos as Rescue services had to deal with landslides since early year flooding incidents since a day, when the territory was a spokesman said.
A woman trapped in a landslide yesterday was still being rescued.
Landslides severely hit part of the vital Tuen Mun Bridge crossing a residential new town in territory region with urban much of the Hong Kong and do business. Reuters

**Suburbs impose street law**

Before we descended on Lamarche, breaks were on the cards and a

- **coverage**

at homes where 아무도 두려워하지 않음

- **coverage**

The key to our success is to have a project

- **coverage**

suburb's private policies.

- **coverage**

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Edited column, page 9
10 000 write to minister on crime

A mailing campaign to protest against crime is gaining momentum, with Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi confirming that he has received more than 10,000 letters and postcards.

He told Parliament that representations made to him fell into three categories: those protesting against the high levels of crime, campaigns for prosecutions regarding specific murders and constructive proposals to fight crime.

His announcement comes on the heels of a Cape Argus story yesterday about public outrage against crime.

Mr Mufamadi said crime levels were "stabilising" and in some cases decreasing.

He said that by June 18 there had been 121 bank robberies this year, and that there had been 145 arrests in connection with these robberies.

Last year there were 642 bank robberies, followed by 316 arrests.
Call for govt to be stricter in fight against crime

GRAHAMSTOWN — Attempts to create special amnesty for the perpetrators of violence in KwaZulu-Natal and for those involved in taxi wars would contribute to the creation of a culture of impunity, Graeme Simpson, from the Institute for the Study of Violence, said in Grahamstown yesterday.

He said "rumblings" about amnesty for the taxi wars and special amnesty for the violence in KwaZulu-Natal ran contrary to the national crime prevention strategy which was based on the belief that it was time to create an environment in which it was "politically correct" to be hard on crime. "...We may be reaching too far in generating a culture of impunity in our country." Increased vigilantism would result if government did not deliver, he said. — Sapa.
Big business taking steps to protect their top execs

Kidnap insurance takes off in SA

Significant rise in

5

application
cases

Western Cape

Saturday, July 1991
160 000 cards to Mandela call for action on crime

Pretoria—"The something about crime or else we will take the law into our own hands," warned the sender of one of 160 000 postcards delivered to the presidential offices in the Union Building as part of a dramatic protest against crime.

Another more ominous suggestion: "I would like people who do crime to get the lock and all messages," was accompanied by a crudely drawn sketch of a gun, a knife and a bottle of poison.

"Dear Mr Mandela, Stop making speeches and do something," read another.

Four helicopters flew over the Union Buildings, dispersing 15 skydivers who dumped 70 000 postcards with personal messages from members of the public to President Mandela.

At the same time a flat-truck dumped another 30 000 cards on the Union Buildings lawn. The protest was organised by a South African company, Grapevine Postcards, which was established in February this year by Norwegian marketing guru, Ulf Skaug.

The company distributes free postcards with personal and advertising messages, through racks in restaurants, shebeens, bars and busy public areas.

Amongst the first batch of cards launched in February this year was a card depicting the new South African flag – each with bullet holes. On the reverse, members of the public were invited to send a message to Mr Mandela protesting about the escalation in crime and asking him to make crime a priority.

A special compartment in the card racks was used for signed cards. According to Grapevine Postcards' managing director, Ash Nortman, the response was overwhelming. Ms Nortman said a similar project had been launched in Norway a few years ago to protest about French nuclear tests in the Pacific.

"The response in Norway was 10 000 – which was thought to be really good. But that is completely overshadowed by the 160 000 postcards we have received from South Africans on crime. It shows just how highly emotive the issue is."

Ms Nortman said about 60 percent of the postcards were from blacks affected by crime.

Many of the correspondents recounted harrowing tales of how they were hijacked or raped. Many had lost friends and members of their families to criminal violence.

"Although the cards just required a signature, a huge number had messages – and traumatic messages – to President Mandela. Others had letters attached and some even had money stuck to them.

In delivering the postcards to the president's office at the Union Buildings, Grapevine Postcards asked the Government:

- To commit itself to a temporary state of emergency;
- To bring the (crime) situation under control;
- To keep the army to perform police duties;
- To increase budget for police, justice and correctional services; and
- To initiate reforms in police practices, prosecution methods and legal procedures to bring about a system which correctly and quickly punishes the guilty.

Ms Nortman added that the postcard 'Crime Stop' campaign was not over.

"We are soon to release a second postcard which shows the same South African flag, but this time with the bullet holes patched over with plastic."

The public will be asked to sign the card and commit to:

- Respect for the law;
- Not to take part in criminal activity;
- To report crime to the police and give evidence against crime in court; and,
- To pay taxes.

Ms Nortman said her company had embarked on the project because "internationally the postcard medium has proven to be a highly effective vehicle for gathering and monitoring public sentiment on topical issues."

"As a media owner we have the responsibility to the South African public to supply them with a medium through which they can express their collective opinion."

Details of the Grapevine "Crime Stop" campaign are available on the Internet at http://www.ormet.co.za/grapevine
Postcards from on high: two Pretoria children, right, sort through some of the more than 100,000 postcards addressed to President Nelson Mandela, depicting a bullet ridden South African flag. The cards were dumped on the Union Buildings' lawns yesterday by parachutists and trucks, above. The stunt was organised by a Johannesburg marketing company as part of an anti-crime campaign.
R12bn in white collar crimes probed

Linda Eensor

CAPE TOWN — The Office for Serious Economic Offences was investigating cases involving about R12bn, but these were “a drop in the ocean” compared with commercial crime cases reported to the police, OSEO director Jan Swanepeol said last week.

OSEO advocate Phyllis Atkinson said last week that 36 cases involving a total of R12bn were under investigation at the end of last year. Swanepeol said the current figure was similar.

During 1995/96, investigations involving R209m had been initiated, while those finalised and referred to the attorney-general involved R23bn.

Swanepeol said the OSEO’s capacity to investigate economic crimes had been seriously undermined by staff shortages. It had had to place a moratorium on fresh investigations while clearing a backlog of cases.

National Detective Service director Reg Crewe said 54 846 cases involving R3,83bn had been reported to the commercial crime unit last year alone, compared with 51 117 cases involving R2,8bn in 1995 and 53 441 cases totalling R4,7bn in 1994.

The most common commercial crime was fraud — about 80% of the total — followed by forgery and uttering and theft. Cases investigated by the OSEO included contraventions of foreign exchange control regulations, fraud by deceiving investors, corruption or fraud relating to the acquisition of government contracts, the misappropriation of trust funds and general export incentive scheme frauds.

Atkinson, in a research paper for the University of Pretoria’s Institute for Strategic Studies, wrote that experience had shown the need for a code of ethics which included “a commitment to recognising fraudulent activity for what it is... By setting an ethical tone for a company and demonstrating a commitment to communicate this to all levels within the corporate structure, the myth that white collar crimes are glamorous is dispelled.”

Ex-security men behind crime wave - Mbeki

**Threat seen to democracy**

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - Security elements of the former government were involved in organised crime syndicates which could collapse the criminal justice system and undermine South Africa's new democracy, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said here.

He warned that democracy could disintegrate if corruption of the police and the judicial system by organised crime syndicates was not stopped. "It has that political effect," he said.

Intelligence sources have told The Star-sister newspaper of the Cape Argus - that a police brigadier who retired last year is head of South Africa's biggest organised crime syndicate. His arrest is believed to be imminent.

The African National Congress claimed elements of the "old state machinery" were involved in such crimes as drug dealing, money laundering, car hijacking, tax evasion and other organised crime activities.

Some of the crime appeared to be deliberately engineered and politically motivated. Military precision and the coincidence of mass police resignations were some of the features which were common in the criminal actions. There were also clear links between South Africa and international syndicates.

Mr Mbeki said the motivation for crime had changed. Some criminals were not driven by mere greed but by a lack of commitment to a democratic South Africa.

"A person who sits and is not committed to the defence of democracy will be quite prepared to accept bribes, and that impacts on democracy. We're convinced that there's an element of that," Mr Mbeki said.

The ANC was concerned about the role of private security companies in crime and the number of police officers who left the service to join them.

Former Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) operatives moved to private security companies where they could continue with "third force activities".

He said that according to intelligence information, a group of criminals belonging to a foreign car hijacking syndicate had entered the country as tourists and within a week obtained South African identity documents and passports.

"Before hijacking their first car they had the false registration plates," Mr Mbeki said.

Commercial crime such as evading border controls and theft of containers had an impact on local manufacturers because goods smuggled into the country without payment of customs duties were being sold at low prices.

A bill proposing tighter government and civilian control of private security companies has been tabled before Parliament's safety and security committee.

Mr Mbeki said the Government's measures to counter crime syndicates included establishment of an integrated database with interacting information systems.

Millions of rands had been budgeted within the National Crime Prevention Strategy to install the new system.

He said a sub-committee of the ANC's national executive committee was looking at ways of getting branches to be involved in campaigns to combat crime.

He was also keen to improve the capacity of anti-corruption units in the police services, correctional services and the justice system.

"There was a need for greater co-ordination among ministries," Joseph Ngobeni, a spokesman for Commissioner George Fiyaz, said, adding the successes of the police anti-corruption unit indicated that the service was intent on getting rid of corrupt police officials.

He would not comment on claims that former policemen were involved in organised crime.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi's spokesman, Maxwell Mlauudzi, also declined comment.
Former policemen said to have links with international syndicates

BY JOYCE RANTAGA
AND ANSO THOM

Security elements from the former government were involved in organised crime syndicates which had the capacity to collapse the criminal-justice system and undermine South Africa's new democracy, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday.

He warned that SA's democracy could disintegrate if the corruption of the police and the judicial system by crime syndicates was not stopped.

Intelligence sources have told The Star a high-ranking police officer who retired last year was head of SA's biggest crime syndicate. His arrest is believed to be imminent.

The ANC said elements from the "old state machinery" were involved in drug dealing, money laundering, car hijacking, taxi violence and other crime syndicates.

The organisation said some crime appeared to be politically motivated. Military precision and the coincidence of mass police resignations were some of the features common in the criminal actions. There were also clear links between SA and international syndicates.

Mbeki said the motivation for crime had changed. Some criminals were driven by mere greed, but a lack of commitment to a democratic South Africa.

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Joseph Ngobeni, who is the police minister for Police Commissioner George Fuzvaz, said the successes of the police anti-corruption unit indicated that the service was intent on getting rid of corrupt police officials.
Organised crime a threat to SA — Mbeki

Stephen Laufer

The corruption of the criminal justice system by domestic and international organised crime could lead to a collapse of SA’s democratic system and negatively affect economic growth if not stopped soon, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday.

Mbeki said the African National Congress’ (ANC’s) national executive committee meeting at the weekend had discussed crime and failings of the police, judiciary and prisons service at length. There was concern that former security force members had moved into private security firms and might be continuing third-force activity aimed at destabilising SA.

There were connections between ordinary criminals, people previously and currently inside the state system, and criminals from outside SA. A gang of foreigners on tourist visas had received SA identity documents within a week before stealing cars.

ANC acting secretary-general Cheryl Carolus said “elements from the old state machinery” were involved in drug dealing, car hijacking and taxi violence. Some actions appeared to be politically motivated.

Mbeki said the executive had stressed the need for greater co-ordination between ministries, including an advanced information system to link police, courts and prisons.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi had stressed the need to expand anticorruption measures to focus on prosecutors, magistrates and prison warders. The executive’s subcommittee on safety and security had been instructed to mobilise ANC branches to work with police.

On the peace moves in KwaZulu-Natal, Mbeki said there had been agreement that amnesty proposals had to be discussed “within the truth commission process”. There had never been specific proposals to offer Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi a deputy presidency, but there was a belief that he had to be engaged at national level on peace moves.
Security firms may be off limits to ex-forces men

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Durban - Policemen, soldiers and intelligence officers who resign could soon be prevented by law from joining private security companies — as part of the Government's crackdown on lawlessness.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki has alleged that security elements from the former government are involved in organised crime syndicates.

The Government was concerned about the role of private security companies in crime, and the number of policemen, soldiers and intelligence officers who had resigned and were now working for private security firms, he said.

A bill proposing tighter government and civilian control of private security companies is to go before the National Assembly's safety and security committee later this year.

ANC MP Luwellyn Landers said there was a need for a cooling-off period of about five years for resigning policemen, soldiers and intelligence officers.

"We have been concerned for some time about the role played by former security force members in crime.

There has been a proliferation of private companies established by these men. There is clear evidence that some are involved in crime and criminal activity."

Mr Landers said there had been consultation on how to deal with this problem and there was broad consensus among lawmakers and cabinet ministers that a "cooling off" period of about five years should be imposed upon people leaving the intelligence and security forces.

During this period they would not be able to work in the private security network.

Mr Landers said this was necessary "because of the sensitivity of information they had and their knowledge of methods used by the security forces".

Industry sources saw problems with the pending legislation. For most policemen and soldiers, the only move they could make was into a private security company, a security source said.

Many serving officers did not see themselves progressing in the forces in the current circumstances.

The security officers' board has still to respond formally.

Dave Marshall, chief executive of Business Against Crime, said unless the Government had a no-nonsense, zero tolerance approach to crime, it would struggle politically. The organisation was busy with a bottom-up approach to mobilise communities into a partnership with the authorities to deal with crime.
Telkom scraps controversial tender

Lesley Stonex

TELKOM has scrapped the controversial R100m tender for the creation of a national value-added network which caused a furore in the information technology industry last month when it was claimed it was written to favour a specific vendor.

Several major companies refused to bid because they felt only the "favoured" one could win the deal.

Although Telkom vigorously denied the allegations, the Competition Board investigated the alleged bias in favour of Newbridge Networks. But board chairman Pierre Brooks said little progress could be made as no vendor would risk publicly criticising Telkom, a major buyer of technology.

Telkom halted the Enterprise Net-work Service tender in June, which proposed heavy capital expenditure on a network to supply advanced communications services to business customers and to improve basic service delivery. It said its equity partners, SBC and Telekom Malaysia, were reassessing the project.

Now the tender had been dropped completely. Telkom's executive for market strategy and business development, Blackie Lahoud, confirmed this yesterday. "The reason is, our partners are going to redesign the whole network," he said.

When the tender was halted in June, Lahoud said Telkom realised no single company could meet all its demands. Parts of the tender were likely to be issued separately, he said. But yesterday he said the tender had been scrapped entirely, and no sections would be hived off.

Initially Telkom said its equity partners had co-operated fully in the tender. That was seemingly contradicted later by confirmation that the partners were taking a closer look.

Lahoud said development of the Enterprise Network Service network was unlikely for some time as the equity partners reassessed the network and related investments.

Letters announcing that the contract had been dropped had been sent to the short-listed companies.

Three consortiums were short-listed. Newbridge Networks bid in partnership with Siemens and Q Data, black empowerment organisation Cemibid with Cisco Systems, and Alcatel led a consortium as the third bidder.

‘Adopt a court’ plan to aid anticrime bid

Pearl Sebolao

BUSINESS Against Crime has launched a campaign to get businesses to “adopt” and sponsor law courts and the attorney-general’s office, and has pledged money and resources to help upgrade courts to bolster the fight against crime.

Business Against Crime director David Gordon said after meeting Justice Minister Dullah Omar yesterday the initiative would include revamping the courts to make them more user-friendly. His organisation would provide assistance in the form of computer training, security for staff and visitors, and making extra space available for prosecutors to use for interview purposes.

“We will assist in any way we can,” Gordon said.

A task team, consisting of Business Against Crime representatives, the justice department and the attorney-general’s office had been appointed to conduct a needs assessment in order to match available resources and requirements, he said.

The aim is to get business organisations to adopt and sponsor the courts and the attorney-general’s offices, and we hope that in due course we will find sponsors for each and every one of them,” Gordon said.

Several sponsors, including Rotary clubs and the SA Chamber of Business, had shown an interest, he said.

Business Against Crime legal adviser Lorinda Nel said the Johannesburg and Pretoria magistrate’s offices and attorney-general’s offices had been chosen to pilot the project before implementing it countrywide. A sponsor for the Johannesburg magistrate’s offices had been identified, but the deal still had to be confirmed.

The task team would meet on Thursday next week to look at the adoption of the Johannesburg magistrate’s court, and the kind of help that would be provided.

Business Against Crime was also working on a computer system which would incorporate all four pillars of the criminal justice system — the police, justice departments, correctional services and the welfare services.

This would enable the justice department to access dockets on the computer, and to trace the records of suspects from the time of arrest until parole, she said.
"Says UK team of polling experts, "track street crime top priority"
Crime ‘not as bad as public thinks’

The crime problem in South Africa is probably not as bad as the public believes, British police adviser David Thursfield said here on Wednesday.

Thursfield, deputy chief constable of the West Mercia force in the Midlands, told a press conference in Pretoria yesterday that the belief the nation is under siege from crime is "possibly more a perception than a reality".

Thursfield, who has led a police team from Britain over the past three weeks to advise the local force, said police had made tremendous progress in the past few years.

"There is a perception, perhaps, that things are going the wrong way," he said.

"Looking professionally at the way the SAPS is developing, that is not my view. Rather the contrary."

Thursfield said he and his team had been in the country for three weeks. "We have barely been shouted at in that time, let alone been the victims of crime. So all is not lost.

"It is not much different anywhere else."

Thursfield’s visit comes at a time when police morale has hit a low ebb, with some 33 000 officers having left the force between 1991 and 1996.

Many others have been involved in various crimes, including armed robbery, corruption, murder and hijackings. Since 1996, 233 have been convicted of murder.

Thursfield said police had urgently to concentrate on street crime. "People in South Africa feel less safe on the streets and in their homes than they really deserve to."

He said about 80% of all crime was committed by only 5% of the population.

"So we must concentrate on those 5% and there’ll be results."

South Africa should seek international assistance to modernise its training methods, he added. While training facilities were fine, methods were sometimes outdated.

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz told the conference that one of the most difficult problems facing the SAPS was the influx of illegal firearms into the country.

Unlike Britain, a total ban on firearms was not the solution, he said, adding: "We must first get proper control over the incoming illegal firearms into our country, and have proper control over the loss of legal firearms."

Accepting a report from Thursfield, Fivaz thanked the team for their visit to South Africa, saying they had been critical of the SAPS while also giving praise where it was deserved. -- AFP
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safety minister's crime review
Medicine thefts of R1-bn rebound on taxpayers

BY DEREK ROOMER
Crime Reporter

More than R1-billion of taxpayers' money is lost annually to crime syndicates which specialise in the theft of medicines from state health institutions.

The South African Health Review has estimated that up to R1.6-billion of the country's R4.7-billion pharmaceutical industry's products did not reach their intended users last year.

The review blamed poor control and management of resources for the large-scale pilfering of prescription drugs.

The real cost of medicines lost through theft cannot be determined as health officials categorise medicines in unit values and not by price. Those figures that are released are calculated at their tender prices, a fraction of their market price.

The thefts have resulted in an upsurge in "grey" (resumed and packaged) medicines, which indirectly resulted in the closure of two major wholesale pharmaceutical companies and at least 50 pharmacies this year.

In a rare success against syndicates, a kingpin appeared in the Pretoria Regional Court yesterday and was fined R45,000 and received a suspended six-year jail term for possessing and dealing in stolen pharmaceuticals.

Private industry investigators are looking into the activities of several associated syndicates.

Sipho Konyile (30), a former salesman for pharmaceutical company Smith & Nephew, was arrested in April last year in possession of medicines with a tender value of R160,000 stolen from state institutions around Gauteng.

Industry sources said gauging the exact cost of thefts was virtually impossible.
Trucked away behind the fading façade of a colonial-style fort in King William’s Town, a high-powered team of investigators is stripping away official cover-ups to lay bare uncomfortable truths about corruption—past and present—in SA.

Appointed four months ago by President Nelson Mandela, Judge Willem Heath’s Special Investigation Unit—a national version of the successful Heath Commission in the Eastern Cape—is quietly, but ruthlessly, targeting corruption, maladministration, and theft of State assets across the country.

Armed with formidable legal powers under the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act (1996), Heath and his 50-strong team have already scored some notable successes in uncovering malpractices where public money has been laundered, squandered, or misappropriated.

Heath’s unit resembles that of Eliot Ness’s US Prohibition Bureau, the elite “Untouchables,” which helped convict legendary Chicago gangster Al Capone on income tax evasion charges in 1931.

Like Ness, Heath knows his team is up against formidable odds.

“We are faced with a crisis—a national crisis. Our experience is that when we start an investigation, we often open a can of worms,” says Heath, sitting in his King William’s Town office, which is temporarily housed in the former SA embassy to the Ciskei building.

“Our investigations often show that, with the people involved and the nature of the cases and though millions of rand are recovered, this is just the tip of the iceberg. We have to accept the fact that SA has lost substantial assets over the years through corruption—and it is a continuing process.”

In terms of his powers Heath can summon anyone to appear before the unit and compel them to answer questions. However, he can bring only civil, not criminal, charges.

Furthermore, with the authority of a magistrate or judge, unit members can enter and search premises and remove documentation on a reasonable suspicion that it would assist an investigation. The unit’s cases are heard by a tribunal consisting of three judges.

Empowered to investigate allegations of corruption dating back to 1976, Heath is adamant that nobody in a position of authority should be spared. He points out that no political party opposed the appointment of the unit, but, he adds, there may be instances when the spotlight will fall on those who granted the unit its extensive powers.

“We have already trodden on a few toes. And it is unavoidable that it will happen again.”

The unit has already homed in on some senior political figures. They include Bantu Holomisa, who is being investigated in connection with allegations that his homeland administration benefited from unauthorised salary increases before the 1994 election; former Khosengwane Chief Minister Enos Mabuza for alleged irregular property deals; Mpumalanga Safety & Security MEC Jabulani Mabona for a drivers licensing scam; and all the staff of the former Ciskei government’s Auditor-General’s office for self-awarded salary increases.

And more is to come.

“The present lack of administrative and financial control by political heads of department is high on the priority list,” Heath says. Areas under investigation include income tax avoidance, pension fund irregularities, and the theft of cheques.

Heath is also attempting to unravel one of SA’s best-kept secrets—allegations that former government officials transferred State money and assets out of the country. The probe to find stolen State assets could extend to Swiss bank accounts and Mediterranean villas bought with taxpayers’ money.

The Heath team plans to use information systems linking it with about 20 institutions in SA—law enforcement agencies, the Deeds Office, the Registrar of Companies and financial institutions. In addition, cooperation agreements are to be negotiated with organisations involved in similar activities in the UK, US, and Europe.

“In Germany and London there are similar bodies and we will also explore relationships with various House committees in the US Congress,” says Heath.

“We hope to negotiate access to Swiss bank accounts if the need arises to investigate State money which may have been hidden in such accounts.”

He stresses, however, that the unit has not yet uncovered hard evidence on State
to hide from the
of Judge Heath

State asset swindlers — past and present

Auditors complained that they could not get hold of the books, we assisted them through our special powers. Unlike commissions of inquiry, the tribunal can recover State assets or monies found to have been misappropriated or unlawfully obtained.

"This is a civil action and the unit's legal team will present the case. However, detailed information obtained at the tribunal hearing or before such a hearing can be made available to prosecuting authorities for criminal proceedings. There are such cases pending."

Heath appears to be earning his keep. Even in Ness's terms the judge and his staff, assisted by lawyers and auditors, have done well. In just 18 months the team has recovered or saved R100m from corruption, fraud and maladministration involving State assets.

But the unit is under siege. The judge points out that even the smaller Heath Commission — set up to investigate the loss of State funds and assets since 1976 in the Eastern Cape — found it impossible to fulfill its mission on the allocated budget of R1m.

The unit now has a much broader mandate and is expected to track down rogues nationwide. Despite this, Heath has been given only R500 000/month from government since the unit's inception in April. His costs, however, have been much higher, including R850 000 in monthly salaries and the creation of a computerised database.

Heath has proposed a solution to the financial constraints but admits that his overtures to various government departments have had a lukewarm reception. "We will not sit back and allow negativity to bring the unit's work to a standstill," he says. "We are looking at sources and resources outside government circles to enable us to run the unit effectively."

He says the approach should be to run the unit on sound business principles. "If you have earned or generated a certain income, you should be able to use part of that income to become more efficient. We have generated an income for government — by saving or recovering funds involved in corruption — in excess of our budgetary requirements, and we approach government from that point of view. There are various examples of how government indirectly or directly benefited."

Heath is adamant that a scheme could be designed by financial experts in consoli-
Public service corruption ‘threatens SA’s democracy’

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — Widespread corruption in the public sector threatens to undermine SA’s democracy, National Assembly speaker Frene Ginwala warned yesterday.

At the first meeting of the Association of Public Accounts Committees, Ginwala noted that an extensive network of corrupt officials in virtually all sectors of the public service were being exposed almost on a daily basis.

Public servants have corrupted the system of welfare payments, the collection of revenue, and the disbursement of salaries and wages for their personal profit. There is widespread criminal behaviour in the law enforcement agencies and in the functioning of the criminal justice system.

Public property, including drugs, medicines and equipment, is stolen regularly in the public health sector,” Ginwala said.

Furthermore, the police service had to spend an inordinate amount of energy trying to stem corruption within its ranks, and so was unable to deal with the corruption in society, she said.

“It should not be a surprise that international drug syndicates and crime cartels moved in with relish to take advantage of our vulnerability.”

Ginwala noted that last year 55 000 cases of white collar crime had been reported, yet auditors had reported only five frauds or thefts. Moreover, shareholders and investors had lost over R1bn in collapsed companies over the past few years.

Clearly those who are supposed to be the watchdogs against financial mismanagement are not willing or able to adequately carry out their responsibilities to shareholders and the public, and there are calls for a reassessment of the profession,” Ginwala said.

Deputy auditor-general Bertie Loots also warned that continued unauthorised expenditure by government departments was a time bomb which if “allowed to tick away, is going to explode”. He called for the introduction of a regime which would include tighter sanctions, ranging from reprimands, adjustments to remuneration, to fines.

Loots also highlighted the role of public accounts committees in demanding accountability from the executive.

State expenditure official Karel Hohls suggested that to tighten punitive sanctions against unauthorised expenditure, the report of the auditor-general should distinguish between unauthorised expenditure resulting from technical negligence and originating from undisciplined overspending.

Auditor-general Henri Kuiveur proposed that the power to impose fines, currently vested in the state, should revert to his office, as in the past.

Several members of the provincial public accounts committees noted that they were treated with a lack of seriousness, with official arrogance and a lack of understanding.

Ginwala emphasised the important role of the provincial and national public accounts committees in holding state departments and institutions financially accountable.

“If the institutions we have set up do not expose the actions of those indulging in unethical and corrupt behaviour, faith in those institutions and in democratic ideals will be undermined,” she said.

NUM condemns killing of mine manager
Corruption puts us in peril, Parliament told

Police top list of offenders

CLIVE SAWYER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

As calls mount for strong action against public corruption and misspending, it has been disclosed in Parliament that more than 500 public servants have been fired in the past year for misconduct.

Forty have been transferred and 16 have had their salaries cut for the same reason, Public Service Minister, Zola Skweyiya said.

The disclosures coincided with a landmark conference of national and provincial parliamentary public accounts committees, where calls were made for steps against misspending of public money.

Auditor-General Hendrik Kleynen told the conference his office, which depended on informers for a great deal of its information, had vowed to protect the confidentiality of these informers.

And the new Transparency International South Africa, which has high-powered political backing, called for a broad anti-corruption drive at all levels of government and private sector life.

One of the main aims of the anti-corruption strategy would be to provide back-up to "whistle-blowers", including psychological and legal counselling.

The organisation, which wants to extend its endeavours to other Southern African Development Community member states and the Organisation for African Unity, also proposes including corruption as an issue in the school curriculum.

Frené Ginwala, the Speaker of the National Assembly, warned that democracy in South Africa would be imperilled unless corruption was eradicated.

Dr Skweyiya, in a written reply to questions by Kobus Jordaen of the Democratic Party, furnished details of the misconduct in the past year which led to disciplining and firing of public servants.

The cases included 11 Home Affairs officials fired for fraud, corruption and unauthorised leave, three officials in Dr Skweyiya's own department, who were axed for misuse of state property, and an employee of the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, who was transferred after being found to have committed fraud regarding the use of a car.

Four employees of the Central Statistical Service were discharged for offences ranging from absconding to misuse of government vehicles.

In two cases in the office of the president disciplinary hearings were to be conducted against staffers alleged to have concealed previous criminal convictions when filling in application forms to join the public service.

Dr Skweyiya's list also included Lilian Arrison, transferred after an offence listed as "gave interview to Hustler magazine without director-general's approval".

Five Department of Agriculture officials were fired for offences in terms of the Public Service Act and absconding.

Seventy-three employees of the Mpumalanga provincial administration were dismissed and three transferred.

Forty employees of the KwaZulu-Natal provincial administration were fired for offences including theft of government funds, insubordination and drunkenness, as well as misappropriation of government vehicles and school funds.

Eleven Public Works employees had been fired after offences including indecent assault, making false statements in claiming home owners' allowances, theft and unauthorised use of government garage vehicles.

Eighteen Western Cape provincial employees were discharged for being absent from duty, misappropriation of state property and being guilty of criminal offences.

In the Department of Correctional Services, nine people were fired, 30 transferred and five had their salaries cut.

Ironically, by far the largest number of dismissals took place from the SA Police Service.

Three hundred and twenty-six police were dismissed and five had their salaries reduced.

A list of their offences was not given.
Southern Africa's top policemen seek ways to cut crime in region
White-collar fraud soars to R15-bn

Star 29/9/97 (34)

Police fraud units and the Office for Serious Economic Offences are investigating white-collar fraud totalling more than R15-billion, it emerged yesterday.

Government departments have been particularly hard hit by the rash of fraud cases, the Fraud Forum, a private sector initiative to tackle white-collar crime, was told.

White-collar criminals have devised ways of siphoning off public money by falsifying government cheques and depositing them in hundreds of different accounts.

One syndicate was caught defrauding the Government by cashing false official cheques totalling R657 000 last month alone. And a provincial government has suffered losses of more than R500 000 this year.

In one private sector case, an accountant allegedly defrauded a business of more than R15-million and is facing 100 charges.

The Star can disclose that a R3.8-billion loss due to fraud was reported to the South African Police Service's commercial crime unit (CCU) last year. And the Office for Serious Economic Offences is investigating fraud worth R12-billion, the agency confirmed last night.

Last year, 54 896 cases of commercial crime were reported to the police.

While commercial crime trends have not altered radically in the past three years, the amounts under investigation have quadrupled.

Due to mass resignations in the police service, taxpayers have been forced to hand over more than R4.5-billion to forensic accountants who the police have had to hire.

The commissioner of the CCU, Louis Esterhuizen, told the forum: "Fraud syndicates are becoming very clever and the public are suffering. We have a big task ahead of us."

Referring to the staff drain, Esterhuizen said: "What is difficult for us is the loss of expertise as people are taking packages and working with private firms."

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi has issued a special memorandum to all CCU units stating that commercial crime is a priority.

At present there is only a 4.5% success rate in the CCU. The figure is connected to the number of completed investigations which are sitting on the attorney-general's desk.

Some cases are based on hundreds of files, and last week a truck was used to transport the files of just one case to the attorney-general's office.
South Africa fails the world corruption test

Scandinavians have the cleanest hands

South Africa was the 33rd most corrupt country out of 52 countries surveyed by Transparency International in 1997, according to a statement received in Johannesburg from its Berlin-based headquarters yesterday.

The TI said its corruption perception index (CPI) applied a ranking system, designed so that countries perceived to be least corrupt were given the highest scores out of 10.

No country scored 10, but Denmark, Finland and Sweden (first, second and third respectively) had emerged in top place, while New Zealand (fourth) had slipped down from its 1996 position. And, for the second year running, Nigeria had emerged in the lowest position (52nd) and was perceived to be the most corrupt country of all those analysed.

Points awarded to some countries were: Denmark 9.94; Finland 9.48; Sweden 9.35; New Zealand 9.23; Australia 8.88; United Kingdom 8.22; France 6.68; Italy 5.93; South Africa 4.85; China 2.68; Russia 2.27; and Nigeria 1.76.

The TI said the CPI, “issued at a time of growing public concern about corruption throughout the world”, was based on seven international surveys of business people, political analysts and the general public. It reflected their perception of corruption in 52 countries.

German university economist Dr Johann Graf Lambsdorff, who developed the CPI, said only 52 countries qualified for inclusion in the index. This was because a minimum of four surveys were required.

“Given that there are almost 200 sovereign states in the world today, it is certain that there are many countries that may be perceived as even more corrupt than those listed on the CPI, but we do not have sufficient information to rank them all.” - Sapa.
Corruption leaps in SA

South Africa’s deteriorating position on an international corruption index reflects worsening perceptions of the country, reports Ferial Haffajee

SOUTH AFRICA has dropped 10 places from last year in an international survey of corruption. The country was placed 33rd in a poll of 52 countries by Transparency International (TI), a corruption-tracking non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Germany.

Two years ago, South Africa was at 21st place and slipped two points to 23rd last year. But this year, the country scored 4.95 out of a total of 10 on the Corruption Perception Index. TI’s survey is based on interviews with leaders of multinational corporations and measures their perceptions. Each country is assessed by at least four surveys carried out by international research organisations.

“The index is a measure of lost development opportunities,” says Peter Eigen, the Berlin-based chair of TI. It is also a measure of the level of kickbacks, greased palms and other forms of graft in many countries. Because it measures the perceptions of the captains of international industry, it is their view on how corruptible a particular government is.

“It’s a wake-up call,” says Stian van der Merwe, the executive manager of the local chapter of TI, which was formed just two months ago. Next year, South Africa will bear a much louder wake-up call because Van der Merwe intends to track corruption across the private and NGO sectors too. “It takes two to tango,” he says, pointing out that kickbacks and bribes to government officials are paid for by business. Van der Merwe adds: “Bribery becomes government subsidised.”

In the past few years, South Africa’s has had a number of multi-million-rand corruption scandals, ranging from Mbongeni Ngema’s misuse of millions in Aids education money, to the gross abuse of funds by the Independent Broadcasting Authority and consultant Eugene Nyati’s life hog on the hog in Mpumalanga. These and other scandals have been splashed across the media, both here and abroad. But dinner tables across the country also reverberate with smaller bits of gossip about kickbacks and open bribes like the one about the Mercedes Benz parked outside a senior government official’s house with a tender document left inside. The car was for keeps; the tender was lost to scrutinise and award if he saw fit.

Every day, the auditor general’s office is bombarded with allegations of misspending and corruption. “We have to sift through what’s real and what’s not,” says Bertie Loots, the deputy auditor general, adding: “We need to work very hard to change these perceptions of corruption.”

Loots says it’s important to look at the degree of variance or disagreement between the different surveys. South Africa’s rate, at 3.08%, is the second highest on the index. “This seems to indicate that the country is on a knife-edge as far as corruption goes. It could go either way.”

The Public Protector Soliemy Baqwa says that “corruption levels are unacceptable in the country” but he also questions whether South Africa really is more corrupt than before. “Is it because corruption is increasing or because there is more transparency now?”

South Africa also has more corruption watchdogs than ever before, among them the public protector, a new anti-corruption unit for the police service and the promise of agencies to deal with corporate crime.

But often they are underfunded and do not work together, duplicating each others’ investigations and not really making an impact, says Baqwa, who will soon meet treasury officials to discuss additional funding.

His office is drowning under a deluge of cases and he now wants to set up provincial offices to improve their investigative capacity.

“We need to establish a national integrity system and to network more effectively,” says Van der Merwe.

That could mean South Africa climbs higher up next year’s index. This year, Denmark was ranked number one with a score of 9.94, with 10 the best result. It was followed by two other Scandinavian countries, Finland and Sweden.

South Africa is one of only two African countries listed. Nigeria was placed last, while South Africa is in the company of Malaysia, South Korea, Taiwan and Uruguay, which all achieved similar scores. The index measures “grand corruption” — endemic and systemic graft — worth many millions of dollars to a country’s economy. TI wants its index to become a reference tool for investors and wants them to consult it in the same way they would look at a country’s inflation figures.

Eigen says: “Some governments rejected the implicit criticism of the index out of hand. Others have acted on it... A clear link has now been established between the level of corruption and foreign direct investment.”

Ken Warren of the South African Chamber of Business says its perception is that the incidence of corruption is growing. But he also notes that white investors see crime as the biggest problem in South Africa, it is not yet a significant factor in their decision to invest here.
SA 'becoming more corrupt' 18-19

JOHANNESBURG: International business has a worse perception of official corruption in South Africa than a year ago, a new poll shows.

The country fell to 33rd place out of 52 in a clean-government poll, from 23rd place out of 54 countries covered in 1996. Transparency International, a non-governmental organisation with headquarters in Germany, said yesterday:

"It gave South Africa a score of 4.95 out of 10 this year, compared with 5.68 last year."

"These figures represent a significant turn for the worse within this index, compared with the 1996 figures," the organisation's South African branch, TI-SA, said. — Reuters
South Africans are arming themselves to the teeth as crime reaches epidemic proportions.

Nearly 200,000 firearm licences were approved by the Central Firearms Registry last year, according to figures released yesterday by Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi.

A further 14,000 applications for firearms were turned down, says a report handed to the minister by a committee that investigated the registry.

'A statement from the ministry released by Mr Mufamadi's spokesman, Maxwell Malaudzi, said 13,879 applications to carry firearms were declined but 4,523 appeals out of 6,524 were successful last year. Altogether 185,639 licences were approved.

The committee indicated that the registry's computer system was inadequate and needed to be upgraded. Four police officials working for the registry had been investigated and dockets would be submitted to the attorney-general.'
SA seen growing more corrupt, survey shows

Belinda Beresford

INTERNATIONAL business perceived SA as more corrupt than it was a year ago, Transparency International's corruption index showed yesterday. SA was ranked as the 33rd least corrupt out of 52 countries. Last year it was 23rd out of 54. Transparency International based the index on international surveys of businesses, the public and political analysts. The index gives a score between zero and 10, with 10 indicating an absence of corruption.

SA scored 4.95, slipping from 5.68 last year. Countries with similar rankings include Malaysia, Taiwan, Italy and Poland.

Denmark received the highest ranking with 9.84, followed by Finland and Sweden, with New Zealand in fourth place after leading last year.

Nigeria was again perceived as the most corrupt country with a score of 1.76. It was followed by Bolivia, Colombia and Russia.

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said perceptions of corruption in government "could be higher because there is a lot more reportage than ever before. Stronger safeguards are in place and are working."

Business affected perceptions about SA, but this was an area where government had less control. Accountability regarding the ethics of parliamentarians was higher than before.

Transparency International chairman Peter Eigen said the index was a measure of lost opportunities since corruption deterred foreign investors.

However, it should be recognised that while developing countries tended to be ranked lower, much corruption was "the explicit product of multinational corporations."

Business Against Crime GM David Clephane said impressions of corruption were extremely important. "It is perceptions that affect foreign investment, and therefore I believe we should be taking them very seriously."

SAPA-APP reports that a study by a Harvard professor showed a rise in corruption levels had the same effect on foreign investment as raising the marginal tax rate more than 20%. 
Opposition parties back Omar’s plan

that results in the fight against crime must be visible

STAFF REPORTER

Opposition parties are enthusiastic about Justice Minister Dullah Omar’s plan to strengthen the justice system, but they warned that public sentiment could turn against him if concrete results were not forthcoming.

Omar’s plan includes hiring 300 to 400 more prosecutors, 100 to 200 more magistrates, 400 to 600 administrative personnel, and building 72 extra regional courts.

He met with cabinet committees over the plan last week, where it was suggested that the new legislation be considered by the Cabinet.

Sheila Camerer, NP justice spokesman, said she was fully supportive of boosting Justice Department funds.

“I’ve said repeatedly that the National Party will support Minister Omar in any attempt to strengthen the justice system – he needs to create the extra posts and he needs to fill them.”

Camerer said the justice system needed to be improved “now or never” and if it did not achieve its goals, the NP would not support the next budget.

Justice spokesman for the Democratic Party, Douglas Gibson, said the party had been at the forefront of calls for the removal of bottlenecks in the criminal justice system.

He said the party “wholeheartedly supported” Omar’s move.

“I wish to warn him, however, that there have been so many plans, strategies, campaigns and initiatives that have come to nothing and the Democratic Party and the people of South Africa will be disgusted if the improvement that he has promised does not materialise.”

Omar’s spokesman Paul Sethete said the minister’s new plan came in the wake of the community’s “crying for tougher laws regarding bail for perpetrators of violent crimes.”

He said the current system was “not working very well” because perpetrators of violent crimes were being released on bail.

The minister had met with members of opposition political parties and had received their overwhelming support, Sethete said.

But a Johannesburg prosecutor, who asked not to be named, said although the minister’s plan would help to an extent, it would not solve the major problems in the ailing judicial system.

“We need a system which pays experienced prosecutors professional salaries so that there is a future for them,” he said.

Last year 75% of prosecutors in the Johannesburg Regional Court resigned and they were replaced by people with less than six months’ experience, “and we are not going to win any cases like that”, he said.

Other major problems in courts, which needed to be addressed, were police dockets that went missing and interpreters continually striking, he said.

Omar’s proposed R300-million a year programme would look at trying to improve prosecutors’ salaries, Sethete said.
Gun Association Scores Firearms Commission Claim
Kahn plans to take a simple approach to crime

PreTORIA - SAPS CE Meyer Kahn last week officially took up his position at police headquarters, where he will spend the next two years working on converting the service into an effective crime prevention agency.

Kahn, seconded to government by SAB after a special request from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, earlier said he planned to keep to a simple approach to direct and accelerate a turnaround in the SAPS.

He would start with reorganising the service's major assets, personnel, resources and motivational levels in the organisation, he said earlier.

Kahn’s office said he would not grant any media interviews or make any public speeches until much later this year or early next year.

However, on Thursday, before officially taking up his position, Kahn met SA Police Union representatives to discuss the union’s five major issues in its wage demand. These are salary regrad-

The R400m budget cut in the police medical aid fund, the shortage in the overtime budget, the reinstatement of extraordinary allowances and fair distribution of performance bonuses.

“What became clear was that although Kahn was willing to do everything in his power to address these issues, he rightly said that he did not hold the purse strings of government,” union vice-president Supt Arno Nel said after the meeting.

Nel again warned that unless government addressed wage demands, police might take part in protest action.
Open war rages on Flats

Man killed, houses attacked by gunmen

ASHELY SMITH, LINDA BARNES, JOAN SCHYMUL, JOSEPH CARRIG AND JOSEPH ADAMS

The long-simmered war between Cape Flats gangsters and anti-crime
campaigners erupted overnight with
the killing of a man outside a Muslim
business and several other attacks.
The home of a leading Hanover Park
neighbourhood watch member was
shot up and a Mitchell's Plains
house was petrol-bombed, allegedly
by gangsters. And
an alleged Krai-
foetzen drug deal-
er's house was
attacked, allegedly
by Pagad.

Cape Flats resi-
dents were asking
today how many more people had to die.
One resident said: "This is getting bad.
How many people still have to die on the
Cape Flats before the bloody war is over?"

Rashid Martin, 42, of Surrey Estate,
was shot dead as he stood at an automatic
teller machine near the Primrose Cafe in
Comet Road, Athlone, about 8pm.

The cafe is midway between the
Gateville Mosque, where Pagad meets
regularly, and the HardLivings gang's
Manningberg stronghold.

Police spokesperson Shorpy Pietrus said
the owner, Strand Parker, was killed out
disguised and ran for his life.

Mr Martin, a bystander who was
disguised from the shop, was
fatally wounded in the shooting that fol-
lowed, he said.

Two Manningberg youths, aged 31 and 16,
and a 45-year-old Mitchell's Plains woman
were wounded and rushed to hospital. Mr
Parker escaped by diving behind a car.

Abdulrahman Martin said his brother
had no links with Pagad or gangsters.

Earlier this year Mr Parker was wounded
in an attack on his Surrey Estate home.

In the latest attack on neighbourhood
watch members, the home of Hanover
Park watch member Fadileu Meyer, whose
photograph appeared in yesterday's Cape
Argus, was riddled with bullets in a drive-
by shooting early today. Police opened an
alleged murder docket.

Three watch members have been killed
and several wounded in a spate of attacks
in the past four months.

"They are targeting people who are
working for the community to eradicate
crime. We are not Pagad, we are neighbour-
hood watch members," Mr Meyer said.

A petrol bomb was tossed into a house
in Shackleton Street, Rocklands, last night,
ally by gangsters, but no one was
hurt. And in Scottsdene, Kraifoufstein, a
suspected drug dealer's stronghold in Hill-
park Street, was shot up and petrol-bombed
early today.

Pagad today said gangsters were trying
to create the perception that the anti-drug
campaign was causing the war.

Spokesman Cassiem Parker said Pagad
was ready to "defend the lives and prop-
erties of innocent people".

Under fire: Fadileu Meyer
of Hanover Park

Aftermath: police and bystanders converge on the scene where Surrey Estate resident Rashid Martin was shot dead

Heiriliad: Ramona Morton and Abdulrahman Martin, whose brother died
Stephen Laufer

THE US government has posted representatives of four federal law enforcement agencies to SA to beef up cooperation in the fight against international crime syndicates and help with local training programmes.

Attached to the US embassy in Pretoria, the agents represent the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration, the US Customs Service, and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service.

With local police, the revenue service and home affairs, they will target international money laundering, drug trafficking, smuggling of goods, arms, endangered species and illegal aliens, and other cross-border crime.

The agents will be responsible for liaising with the authorities in a number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa. They will be involved in training members of the SA Police Service (SAPS) and other enforcement agencies, help plan a local detectives' academy and identify candidates for leadership courses in the US. Two SAPS officers are to be invited to do the equivalent of a master's degree in law enforcement at the FBI's Quantico academy.

Experts said yesterday that SA had become a playground for international crime syndicates because entry barriers were low, communications and banking infrastructure were good, and control mechanisms were weak. SA was behind the times in understanding the sophistication of Russian, Japanese, Italian, Nigerian, Latin American and other syndicates operating in and through the region, and which were "making hay while the sun shines".

International organised crime was "a threat to the security and sovereignty of nation states". There was a need to expedite laws preventing money laundering and providing for seizure of the proceeds of criminal activities.

The agents' postings to Pretoria follow the signing of a memorandum of understanding on law enforcement cooperation by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and US Vice-President Al Gore during a bilateral commission meeting last year.
When perception becomes the reality

The Corruption Perception index

In the latest of a series of depressing pronouncements on SA by foreign agencies, Transparency International (TI) says SA's score on its Corruption Perception index has deteriorated from 5.68 out of 10 last year to 4.95.

The index doesn't measure actual levels of corruption; it measures what people think. So SA's worsening image could just be a byproduct of good changes. Better transparency is exposing the ghost workers, kickbacks and consulting scandals.

But from the foreign investor's point of view that's irrelevant. The perceptions "may not always be a fair reflection on the state of affairs, but they are reality," says TI.

A recent study by Harvard's Shang-jin Wei, based on the 1996 index, establishes a clear link between levels of corruption and foreign direct investment (FDI).

Bribes act as a sort of tax on business. In 1996 Singapore's score was 5.5 points higher than Mexico's. Wei finds that difference to be the equivalent of raising the marginal tax rate by over 20%.

And a 1% rise in the marginal tax rate reduces inward FDI by about 5%. This implies that if Singapore lost 6 points, it could lose all its FDI.

One thing that emerged from SA's scoring was that respondents varied widely in their opinions.

A high average variance of 3.86 implies that 66% of SA's scores ranged between 3.3 and 6.8.

Hong Kong's variance was also high. TI suggests the reason in both cases could be insecurity about "future developments."

It's hard to identify trends based on TI's research, which only goes back to 1995, but other historical data suggest perceptions of countries like Mexico, Poland and Portugal have improved, but those of China, Russia and SA have deteriorated (see chart).

The index is based on seven surveys by well-known bodies like Gallup International. Local and expatriate executives, staff and the public were polled.
'GRAFT HIGHEST IN EAST CAPE'

Corruption costs R20bn — NP

THE NATIONAL PARTY says corruption levels of up to R24 million in the Western Cape are "statistically insignificant" compared with provinces like the Eastern Cape. CHRIS BATEMAN reports.

CORRUPTION in South Africa cost taxpayers between R13.5 billion and R20bn over the past three years — and now threatened the institutional collapse of the public sector, the National Party claimed yesterday.

The NP claimed, according to a 375-page analysis of newspaper reports from July 1994 to June 1997 on national and provincial government, that corruption had "spiralled out of control" over the past three years — and had actually accelerated over the past year.

In the Western Cape corruption was found to range between R11 million and R24m over that period — "statistically insignificant" compared with the Eastern Cape's R1.4bn.

The NP initiative comes in the wake of a Transparency International corruption index which ranks South Africa the 33rd most corrupt of 52 countries polled.

The NP report said maladministration alone, during the first three years of ANC government, cost the country between R7.9bn and R10.6bn.

The findings were based on a computer analysis of 2 000 newspaper articles over three years, coding the reports into categories and then interpreting the data.

NP spokesman Mr Marius van Schalkwyk said the figures could not be attributed solely to greater transparency under the current regime.

"This is not an ANC-bashing exercise — we have a huge problem in South Africa, things are going much worse now. It's between the citizens and the government," Van Schalkwyk said.

Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar said last night that the NP had not only tolerated but encouraged corruption "so that we inherited a civil service here and in the TBVC states, created by them, where corruption was rife".

He said the ANC recognised that corruption "was not a white issue. Corruption is non-racial — it can infect anyone and the (inherited) environment has infected people in several parts of the country. It's like a cancer which we inherited — I think it's spread and has to stop."

Omar said he wanted to congratulate the NP for "becoming converts to the anti-corruption struggle".

He said the Heath Commission — once criticised as "draconian" — would be a vital anti-corruption instrument in creating "instant, summary probes", with special tribunals issuing corrective orders.

He would be meeting Finance Minister Mr Trevor Manuel this week to ensure Judge Heath was "properly equipped and adequately financed".

The NP report said fraud constituted the second most important form of overall corruption, involving between R5.3bn and R9.5bn. Corruption at a national level (excluding the provinces) involved between 75 000 and 102 790 people.

Besides threatening the collapse of the public sector, the current situation blackened the character of the state and tarnished South Africa's image, deterring foreign investors.

Recommendations about combating corruption were ignored in some provinces and the will to eradicate corruption was "largely absent in the leadership of provinces such as the Eastern Cape", the report concluded.

Corruption was more prevalent in the Eastern Cape (71 cases involving between R1.462bn and R2.728bn), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (54 cases involving between R1.152bn and R1.607bn), the Northern Province (25 cases involving between R174m and R652m).

The Free State had 48 cases involving between R103m and R222m, and Mpumalanga 37 cases involving between R34.5m and R88.5m.

The NP proposed that President Nelson Mandela declare the prevention of corruption a national priority, in the same category as crime.

It said that while there were individuals in the ANC government concerned about the problem, a general commitment to combat corruption was absent.
Illegals ‘not criminals’

PRETORIA: Organised crime and illegal immigrants are not the main culprits in South Africa’s escalating crime rate.

Dr Chris de Kock, director in charge of crime research at the police’s National Crime Information Centre, said that although the estimated four million illegal immigrants had long been blamed for the escalating violence, it wasn’t true.

A few immigrants were involved in taxi wars, he said, but most were illegally employed as cheap labour in legitimate industries.

De Kock also played down the role of organised crime syndicates, saying that although the syndicates were on the increase, they did not play a direct role.

"Yes, they do contribute by selling drugs and bringing weapons into the country but it is the moral position of the citizens of South Africa which does the damage."

A pilot study conducted over a four-day period in Hillbrow showed that 80% of all suspects arrested were under the influence of alcohol or drugs, he said.

Only two percent of the 26 000 murders that occurred in South Africa every year were carried out by organised crime syndicates, he said.
Illegals to blame for joblessness?

Cheryl Chippis

It is widely claimed that unemployment ranks alongside crime as South Africa's greatest challenge. Indeed, some argue that until joblessness has been drastically reduced, crime will not stop. But it is not at all clear just how large a problem unemployment actually is; those other bogeymen in the public's mind, illegal immigrants, may also have little to do with crime and unemployment. On the contrary, their participation in our economy may be irreplaceable.

A "significant proportion" of people who claim to be unemployed are in fact productively employed in the informal sector of the economy. This is according to a study conducted by the South African Institute of Race Relations. The preliminary results of the study are reported in the latest South Africa Survey, published by the Institute.

The study questioned the validity of claimed unemployment after it found that the monthly personal expenditure of people who said they were unemployed was more or less at the same level as that of employed, low-level unskilled workers. Less than one fifth of the unemployed were living in dire poverty. Some 30% of coloured and 21% of African "unemployed" respondents to the study said that they were working in the informal sector, while the figure for Indian and white respondents was somewhat lower at 15%.

According to estimates by the Central Statistical Service, 1.74 million people (or 17% of the total number of people working) were involved in the informal sector, three quarters of whom were self-employed. The CSS estimated that the monthly contribution of the self-employed in the informal sector to gross domestic product was about R2.7 billion in 1995. According to the study, a number of the "officially unemployed" were not in the market for low-wage, labour-intensive job-creation schemes because of their earnings outside the formal sector.

At the same time, opinion polls indicate that most South Africans in all race groups regard illegal immigrants as the single greatest cause of unemployment. This despite the effects of the distortion of the economy over decades in pursuit of social engineering. But would South Africa's unemployed accept the jobs that immigrants are apparently happy to take? It is not clear that they would.

The lowest wage (after deductions) that unemployed African respondents were prepared to accept for formal-wage employment was at an average of R756 a month. White respondents indicated that they would not accept a wage or salary below R1 434 a month. This is significantly higher than what is regarded as the kind of wage that should be paid in public unemployment relief programmes, and is close to the market-related wages paid for unskilled starting grades in many formal commercial and industrial sectors.

The study demonstrated that supporters of the ANC and the IFP were emphatic in blaming business self-interest for unemployment.

The majority of South Africans believed that trade union demands had a significant effect on unemployment and in creating inflexibility in the labour market. Democratic Party, IFP, National Party and right-wing supporters endorsed this view strongly, as did African semi-skilled workers and people earning less than R600 a month.

Unemployment figures for Africans, Indians and supporters of the Pan-Africanist Congress were the most inclined to disagree with this view. Some 53% of ANC supporters said that trade union pressure was at least partly to blame for unemployment. This is surprising considering the prominence of the Congress of South African Trade Unions within the ANC alliance. But if even the non-unionised are not prepared to accept jobs at low wages, then who will take these on?

There is simply no convincing evidence to suggest that illegal immigrants are taking large numbers of jobs away from South Africans. The majority of this country's unemployed are apparently not prepared to work at the same income levels as foreign workers, and the perceived hostility towards foreign workers could, therefore, be a form of scapegoating rather than the result of competition for scarce jobs.

It appears that we have no choice but to rely on foreigners to carry the load of low-paying jobs if we are to enjoy economic growth.

Cheryl Chippis is a researcher at the South African Institute of Race Relations and a co-author of the 1996/97 South Africa Survey, released this week.
LONDON — An emerging market specialist organisation has taken issue with a corruption poll published earlier this month which showed standards in SA were slipping.

However, in many ways, the Merchant International Group's analysis casts SA in a worse light than the poll published earlier this month by Germany-based Transparency International.

The Transparency International poll, based on responses of businessmen and analysts, ranked SA 33rd out of 52 countries, down from 23rd out of 54 the year before. Nigeria, the only other African country polled, was worst.

Merchant International questioned the approach of the Transparency International survey, saying the subjective nature of opinion-based polls meant that it failed to distinguish the type and scale of corruption in each country.

Merchant International spokesman Peter Gore said his company tried to measure how problematic it was to do business in a country rather than only how much corruption existed.

Although there were dangers associated with corruption, a whole range of factors affected the success of investments, including terrorism, cultural idiosyncrasies, unfair market competition, vested interests and extortion, he said.
Harsh sentences ‘do not lower crime rate’

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Mandatory, heavy sentences for serious crimes being contemplated by government would not help to lower the crime rate, the chairman of the National Council on Correctional Services, Judge Gerald Kumleben, said yesterday.

Kumleben, in a presentation to the National Assembly’s correctional services committee, said the belief that harsh sentences would bring down the crime rate was “largely an illusion unsupported by empirical evidence or history”.

He said that harsh punishments, unless they were like the public amplification of the hands of thieves, did not work because criminals committed crimes in the belief that they would not be caught. He argued that, as in the case of car theft in the Western Cape, where only 10% of offenders were apprehended, the issue was detection and conviction and not the sentences handed down by the bench.

Kumleben said the minimum sentences as contemplated in the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, at present before Parliament, embodied the popular but erroneous belief that harsh sentences halted crime.

The legislation at present before the justice committee commits the judiciary to impose 15-year sentences for first offences for serious crimes, followed by 20- and 35-year sentences for subsequent offences and allows judges discretion in imposing lesser sentences only if they offered their reasons in writing.

He also argued against life sentences that mean remaining in prison until death. While this would probably not pass muster with the constitution, Kumleben said that it removed any incentive for prisoners to behave themselves and not commit further murders. It would also involve the creation of geriatric prison units for holding prisoners who were of advanced years. The cost of this did not make sense.

The judge said there was a general misconception among the public that “lifers” did not spend that much time in prison. He pointed out that only under special circumstances did they achieve parole before they had served 20 years in prison. Last year of 19 cases referred to the council for consideration, only seven were recommended for early parole. This year the figures so far were two from seven applications.
Crime threat could soar out of control

NCABA HLOFHE

Johannesburg — Commercial crime, which cost the South African economy more than R3.6 billion last year, could reach uncontrollable levels because Nigerian syndicates would gain ground over the next five years, Andre Pienaar, of the London-based Kroll Associates, said yesterday.

Addressing a seminar on corporate fraud, Pienaar said Nigerians already controlled 40 percent of the world heroin market and half the R211.65 billion drug industry.

He called for more co-ordination of strategies between the government and the business community to curb the "scourge" before it blew out of proportion within the next three to five years.

Flip Wolmerans, the senior superintendent of the police fraud division, said more than 14,000 commercial crime cases, involving more than R700 million, had been reported in the first three months at an average cost of over R50,000 a docket.

The study also indicated that South Africa's susceptibility to increasing fraud was the highest internationally because of a combination of economic pressures and weakening social values.
Graft is a corrosive threat to new democracy in SA, says DP leader

One of the greatest challenges facing SA is keeping corruption at bay, says Gauteng Democratic Party leader Peter Leon.

Entrepreneurs and business people will largely determine whether SA becomes the Singapore or the Senegal of southern Africa. Does it succeed in creating wealth for everyone, and thus redistribute wealth through growth, or does it simply replace one elite with a new Afriocracy?

Although Singapore is hardly a model of constitutional democracy, that society has made the transition, in one generation, from a typically third world economy. It has achieved this without debilitating levels of corruption and crony capitalism. Singapore has largely done so because of the state’s emphasis on discipline, education and competitiveness.

On Transparency International’s latest corruption table, Singapore was the ninth least corrupt society in the world, while SA was 33rd, having slipped 10 places from last year.

It has recently been estimated that corruption has cost SA between R13bn-R20bn since the present government came to power. Our prior history of homeland government probably dwarfs this sum considerably. The cost, though, is staggering, not just fiscally, but in the way corruption rodes the moral fibre of our democracy.

Not only does corruption produce lost investment opportunities for a nation — a Harvard study has shown meaningful increase in corruption levels correlate to a 20% increase in the marginal tax rate.

Commendably, government has established a permanent anti-corruption tribunal in the form of the Heath Commission, an independent complaints directorate and the institutions of the public protector and auditor-general.

In a commendable response to the auditor-general’s recent revelation of a serious lack of budgetary controls in the Gauteng provincial government, Gauteng’s able finance MEC Jabu Moleketsi not only supported the auditor-general, but questioned the system where the public accounts committee could retrospectively authorise such expenditure.

However, the African National Congress (ANC) response to the Independent Broadcasting Authority affair is appalling. Corrupt commissioners have not only been permitted to resign on three months’ paid notice, but two have now been invited to join a ministerial task team on broadcasting policy when their notice expires.

I am likewise appalled by the ANC’s response in the matter of the Deputy Speaker of Parliament’s forged driver’s licence, as I am to their treatment of my convicted colleague Oupa Monareng of the ANC who — despite trying to bribe a policeman — remains a Gauteng legislature member.

The issue of corruption is vitally important to the future of our embryonic democracy.

SA, like the Soviet Union, shares a common legacy of loosening repressive social controls in a transitional society which lacks a professional police service.

The results are all too obvious: rampant crime, public despair and increased emigration. Yet it is as well to remind ourselves where we were prior to 1990.

Our new society is, in truth, founded on accountability, responsiveness and openness which are thus foundational values of our constitution. For good reason: repressive societies not only avoid the truth, but try to manipulate it.

It fills me with hope that we have subscribed, at least constitutionally, to the conditions precedent for a stable democracy. We have, as remarkably, seen in the ANC a conversion from socialism to a mild European version of social democracy in under five years.

Having ceased to be Marxist-Leninist, we must assume that the ANC leadership does not emulate China and become market Leninist. So far, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki has acted more like Carlos Menem than Deng Xiaoping, but we will be watching.

□ This is an edited version of a speech delivered by Leon, who was standing in for Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, at a function of the Young Presidents’ Organisation in Sandton earlier this month.
Benz chairman urges Mandela to act on crime

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Stuttgart - The chairman of Daimler-Benz, one of Europe's biggest corporations, has written to President Mandela expressing concern about the high crime rate, which has begun to turn away potential German investors.

Jürgen Schrempp, who is also chairman of the Southern Africa Initiative of German Business, told Mr. Mandela that because Johannesburg was considered the gateway to investment in the sub-continent, the high crime rate in the city was a "hindrance to investment in southern Africa".

Mr. Schrempp received a reply from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who assured the German business community that the Government was taking action.

Mr. Mbeki specifically noted the appointment of SA Breweries chairman Moyer Kahn as chief executive officer of the SA Police Services as part of a new offensive against crime.

The letter from Mr. Schrempp comes some months after German businessmen expressed concern about security in areas such as Gauteng. Their fears arose from the death in a hijacking attempt of a German businessman in Johannesburg. A survey found that half of German or German-affiliated companies operating in South Africa had been affected by crime in recent months.

A spokesman for Mr. Schrempp, Josef Gorgels, said the Daimler-Benz chairman was hoping that the appointment of Mr. Kahn would help turn the situation around.

Mr. Gorgels said the crime situation in Johannesburg made SAFRI's task "a mission impossible".

"We are trying to mobilise investment and skills to Africa. Africa is practically unknown to the entrepreneur of medium size. The image of Africa is very bad. The present situation in Kenya and Congo makes our lives difficult. Every time you speak to investors they always agree with all the things you tell them. Then comes the question: 'What about security in Johannesburg?'"

Mr. Gorgels acknowledged there was a "distorted perception" of Africa in Germany.

"But remember we do not live on facts but perception. For South Africa this has reached a serious level."

Potential investors would have to take experts to Africa if they invested there but it was almost impossible to find a family who wanted to go to South Africa.

Mr. Gorgels said a crime-infested city was worse than a war zone: "At least you know where the frontier is, but with this sort of crime there are no fronts, you cannot be safe anywhere."

The message of Mr. Gorgels and Mr. Schrempp was one the Saturday Argus heard repeatedly during a two-week visit to Germany sponsored by the German government. There was marked enthusiasm for doing business not only with South Africa, but also with the other countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

German government officials and businessmen said Pretoria should push the development of the SADC region into a common market of 140 million people, much like the European Community, which had been a major success over the last four decades.

"The message is to develop this common market. Many of the countries in the neighbouring countries are complaining that South Africa has maintained protectionist policies and that trade relations are tipped in favour of South Africa," said one businessman.

South Africa's lack of competitiveness, especially when measured up against other "high-wage" countries, was also cited as a drawback to investment.

Referring to international forums like the SADC, Mr. Gorgels observed that "the situation changes as soon as South Africa leaves the room".

"There is like a club saying 'we helped them fight apartheid but they have forgotten us'."

"SADC should work hard and be stronger and work together in the global economy joint forces."

The Germans are pushing the line that the way the industrialised world can best help Africa is through investment and not handouts.

As part of a R10-billion arms package offered to the SA National Defence Force for its re-equipment programme, the Germans have made several proposals they claim will generate thousands of jobs.

Mr. Mbeki is due to visit Germany in October as part of the German-SA BInational Commission, which is regarded in the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria as of equal importance to the SA-USA BInational Commission that recently held a series of sessions in Washington.

Mr. Gorgels said SAFRI planned a number of visits to Southern Africa in the coming year.
Fear of crime ‘serious threat to SA’, says New York Times report

Toronto - Fear of crime was posing a serious threat to South Africa, a report in The New York Times and the Canadian national Globe and Mail newspaper said this week.

Headed “Where even the police get robbed”, the report said South Africans were increasingly disturbed by a continuing crime wave, despite statistical indications that murder, rape, carjackings and robbery rates were no longer on the increase.

It noted policemen have themselves been crime victims in a number of cases, perpetrators in others.

Johannesburg, where tourists are cautioned against venturing out alone, and where drug dealers have taken over whole blocks of flats, has “a beleaguered atmosphere”, according to the report. Many of the city’s businesses have fled to the suburbs and hotels have reduced their operations.

Some officials contend the problem has been exaggerated but “there is no doubt that fear of crime is having an adverse impact”, writes Philip Boffey.

Other officials fear crime could keep overseas investors away, and business people in the country cite it as a deterrent to expansion, says Boffey.

He reports the Government is trying to tackle the problem with new measures, including enlarging the police force and a programme to improve police professionalism. – Sapa
Crime wave hits SA's poor the hardest

by South Africa's poor are bearing the brunt of violent crime, a new report by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) has found.

The impact of crime varies depending on who you are and where you live, with profound implications for tackling the problem.

There is overwhelming evidence that the poor bear the brunt of violent crime more than anybody else," said ISS researcher Antoinette Louw.

"And even though poor people have less property to steal, when they become victims of theft they suffer the greatest negative impact."

The poor, the majority of whom are black, are doubly disadvantaged by weak policing in township areas: 74.6% of police stations remain in white suburban areas.

And the impact of better security would be limited since the poor are more likely to be victimised by people they know or live with. A 1996 HSRC survey showed 42% of very poor people know their offenders, against six percent of people in the higher income group.

There is little recognition of the impact of crime on millions of people with little access to the media, pressure groups or government.

Stolen Opportunities: The Impact of Crime on South Africa's Poor, a report by Ms Louw and Mark Shaw, director of the ISS's Crime and Policing Programme, is the first to delve deeply into the issue.

It is part of the Report on Poverty and Inequality in South Africa, a major study commissioned by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office into blockages that are slowing down poverty relief. Funded by Britain's Department of International Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, the full report will be handed to Mr Mbeki soon.

Despite the prominence of crime as an issue, says Ms Louw, surprisingly little is known about it.

In the former bantustans, there is no data prior to 1996. And according to the 1996 data, parts of the country not generally believed to have a crime problem - like the Northern Cape - display per capita crime levels far higher than elsewhere.

Northern Cape residents stand more chance of being murdered than the average South African, more than three times the chance of being seriously assaulted, and nearly double the chance of being raped. The province also has the highest reported levels of child abuse and child rape, according to the 1996 statistics.

Most serious crime in South Africa, say Ms Louw and Mr Shaw, began to increase from mid-1990. The collapse of apartheid boundaries in the early 1990s allowed township crime to move into suburbs, where it is more likely to be recorded.

Recorded crime increased phenomenally from 1990 to 1994: assault by 18%, rape by 42%, robbery by 40%, vehicle theft by 34% and burglary by 20%. Since 1994, it appears that while many crimes are on the increase, several serious crimes - notably murder, armed robbery and vehicle theft - have stabilised.

Since 1994, Gauteng, Northern Cape and KwaZulu Natal and Western Cape have had the highest murder rates. The murder rate has declined in Free State, KwaZulu Natal, Gauteng and Northern Province, but appears to be increasing in Mpumalanga, North West and the Western Cape.

The highest rates of serious assault are in Western and Northern Cape, and have been steadily increasing in the latter. Most rapes occur in Northern Cape, Gauteng and Western Cape and Free State.

By far the highest rates of aggravated robbery are in Gauteng, followed by much lower levels in KwaZulu Natal and Western Cape.

Housebreaking is increasing in many provinces, with Gauteng worst afflicted and rates in Western Cape also high.

While crime rates are usually higher in cities than rural areas, a 1994 analysis showed higher violent crime rates in non-urban areas of Northern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal, the latter explained by the spread of political violence in rural areas.

The predominance of violent crime among the poor is reinforced by data indicating that the proportion of crimes in which no injuries occur increases with income: 36.2% of the poorest income group reported no injuries compared to 77.3% of the highest income group, according to the 1995 HSRC survey.

Areas inhabited by the poor are less likely to have the kinds of infrastructural development - such as street lighting and urban planning - that facilitate crime prevention.

Women in rural Northern Province rated electrification as a priority in reducing their vulnerability to physical attack and sexual assault. Also, walking long distances to collect water and firewood in rural areas increases women's chances of victimisation. Basic utilities and infrastructure in informal settlements such as telecommunications and roads, would greatly increase safety and facilitate policing.

In the Eastern Cape, and the former Transkei in particular, which is below the national average in almost all categories of crime, significant improvements to very weak police services would greatly enhance the position of the poor. Prominent crimes are stock theft and taxi violence.

In that area, only 30 police stations serve more than two million and 19 of them don't have a telephone or fax.

So the impact of crime on the country is not uniform, and affects different parts of society in very different ways. "This implies that since not all South Africans are exposed to equal dangers, different strategies will need to be devised in particular areas to curb crime," says the report.

It is essential that efforts to combat crime be devolved down to local and provincial police level and comprise carefully tailored programmes aimed at preventing prevalent causes and types of crime.

"Crime patterns in Northern Cape suggest the solutions will not lie in more aggressive policing."

There, violent crime is associated with alcohol and familiarity among victims and offenders. Most murders are committed with knives and are described as "assaults that go too far". This indicates that targeted anti-alcohol strategies, for example, could be more effective.
Murders are down, but there are still 62 a day

BY MIKE MAJAPA
Crime Reporter

Rape and hijackings are on the increase, but murder and other serious crimes are dropping, according to statistics released by the police yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference in Pretoria, where the statistics were released, Police Commissioner George Fivaz said law enforcers still had a long way to go to curb the high crime rate.

Statistics show that murder dropped from 12,144 during the first six months of last year to 11,394 for the first six months of this year, which translates to 62 murders a day across the country.

The number of attempted murder cases, 33,691, investigated from January to June dropped by 7,000.

Reported rapes, however, increased by more than 600, to 24,805 cases reported from January to June this year.

Car hijackings are also on the increase. According to the audited statistics, 7,508 were reported from January to June last year and 8,374 during the same period this year.

Fivaz said that, contrary to popular opinion, the statistics released yesterday had not been manipulated to suggest that the fight against crime was being won.

"The system is transparent. We've actually gone past the transparency stage to that of prudery."

"There is no way that the books can be cooked because we have employed expertise outside the SAPS to ensure that what we release is credible," Fivaz said.

However, statistics regarding cash-in-transit robberies and bank robberies did not correlate with the perception that these crimes were increasing.

The figures, compiled by the Crime Information Management Centre, indicated there were 106 cash-in-transit robberies during the first half of this year compared with 270 for the same period last year.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said that despite the good news, there was concern over the increasing killings of on- and off-duty police officers, and the frequent escapes of serious crime suspects from police custody.

Already 119 policemen and women had been murdered from January to June this year, compared with 92 during the whole of last year. A total of 31 police officers had committed suicide, as against 74 last year.

"We regard the killing of police officers as a matter for concern."

"We call upon the community to play an active role in protecting its protectors," Mufamadi said.

He blamed the regular escape of prisoners on the corruption and gross negligence of officers, and on poor infrastructure.

Mufamadi said he hoped the situation would be further improved with the establishment of the detective academy in Pretoria next month.

At least 1,200 officers a year were expected to be trained at the academy.
Murderson's SA plans to curb the criminals

Special course on
1,400 stones police

Members of the

Human rights

The country's first

newborn child

The puts the police to the local communities

from the power and accountability
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The police plan for 1996/7 was put

Frontiers make it clear that:

Government of the police is a top priority of the

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support for such a report in 1999

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More crimes but fewer serious ones, say police

Despite the positive trend experienced by police, the claims of a decrease in serious crimes are not fully supported by the statistics. According to the police, the number of serious crimes has decreased by 25% in the last year, which is a significant improvement. However, the overall crime rate has increased by 10%, indicating that while serious crimes are declining, other types of crimes are on the rise.

The police department has implemented several measures to improve public safety, including increased patrols and community engagement programs. These efforts have contributed to the decrease in serious crimes, but they have also highlighted the need for continued vigilance and proactive strategies.

The statistics show that the decrease in serious crimes is largely due to a reduction in violent crimes, specifically robberies and assaults. Property crimes, such as theft and burglary, have remained relatively unchanged, while other types of crimes, such as fraud and identity theft, have increased slightly.

The police department attributes the decrease in serious crimes to their dedicated efforts and the support of the community. They encourage residents to report any suspicious activities and to participate in neighborhood watch programs to further enhance public safety.

While the decrease in serious crimes is a positive development, the police department emphasizes the need for continued collaboration with the community to address the rising crime rate. They recommend regular meetings with residents to discuss safety concerns and to share information on crime prevention strategies.
South Africa's crime rate is a topic of lengthy debate and the media's projection of crime has come under fire from the Government and business quarters in the past. But the current practice of exercising absolute control over all crime statistics "for collation" purposes is doing the beleaguered Department of Safety and Security more harm than good.

There can be little doubt that perfectly collated statistics that reflect identical statistics from station and specialist unit to provincial and national level should be a basic requirement for accurate and reflective statistics over the long term.

But how the clampdown at station and unit level can differ hugely with what Pretoria determines the sanitised crime statistics to be, is basis for reflection.

At present the media is allowed a glimpse at the crime situation with the introduction of quarterly reports usually released by national Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi. These reports are of little use as they are often released several months after the period in question. The January to March 1997 report was released in June and does little to tell residents of Naledi, Benoni, Brakpan, Jabulani, Kempton Park, Sunninghill or Bramley about how crime is affecting their lives today.

One recent investigation conducted by The Star has highlighted the shortcomings of this obstructionist approach. It set off to do a story on the escalating crime rate in the Wynberg business area. Interviews with various businessmen revealed that there was little or no police presence in the area.

This is nothing new and was echoed by the Bramley station commissioner, Superintendent Cobus van Zyl, who appealed to the business community to come up with an anti-crime plan as his resources were stretched beyond breaking point.

Attempts to get official confirmation of a number of incidents reported since the beginning of August were largely scuttled by bureaucracy.

Van Zyl referred The Star to the area public relations directorate. An area spokesman referred The Star to the MEC for safety and security.

"Our hands are tied, we have no authority to release any crime statistics in our own area and when we release a whole list of incidents it's interpreted as statistics leaving us in the firing line again," one spokesman said. A request to look at the station's occurrence book to get a station-level idea of the nature of the crimes in the area was refused.

Safety and security secretariat spokesman Mongezo Mnyani said he understood the Mufamadi directive to be pretty clear in stating that no statistics could be released to the public.

Gauteng provincial police spokesman Director Anwindini Nengworela echoed Mnyani's sentiments, saying police can release incident reports with the provision that the incidents are identified as unaudited and not to be mistaken for statistics.

But, after numerous telephone calls, The Star was told that Johannesburg Area Commissioner Zak Pretorius wanted the paper's request for the incident reports to be fixed to his office for consideration.

The laborious process was further exasperated when it was discovered that the relevant information could not be accessed because the sole computer expert who can access the information could not be found. Then the newspaper was informed that the police's mainframe computer "was down".

The question is, how can policemen expect to address the public's concern about crime when it takes more than 36 hours of red tape and buck-passing to get an intelligible answer out of the service that is sworn to protect and answer to the nation?

The bureaucracy surrounding the release of what in most cases amounts to basic information (and not statistics) is indicative of the awesome task facing SAPS chief executive officer Meyer Kahn to improve the service.

Derek Rodney is The Star's crime reporter
Confusion over scarves makes testimony on shooting

Magistrate asks when rival groups drew guns and trade insults

Chaos as gangsters disrupt Pagad Leaders trial
Crime syndicates are costing the PO millions

More than R26-million in revenue had been lost in the first six months of 1997 because of crime syndicates operating from within post offices, says Posta Minister Jay Naidoo.

The post office was losing clients and revenue as a result of increased syndicate activity, he said in a written reply yesterday to Dene Smuts (DP).

In February this year, one client lost computer equipment to the value of R1,4-million through a single incident of theft by a syndicate at Witpos.

There was also evidence of extensive syndicate activity in the theft, falsification and fraudulent manipulation of cheques and postal orders, Naidoo said.

Some syndicates were based outside the post office, but had members inside who obtained cheques, postal orders and credit cards and passed these on to other syndicate members in banks to "process".

Although syndicate activity was national, theft was concentrated in the Witwatersrand region, Naidoo added. – Sapa
Government not serious about combating crime

CRIME is dealing our hard-won democracy a heavy blow. Not only does it rob people of a full celebration of the long-wished for new order but it scares off foreign investment.

As long as there is unemployment on such a vast scale, South Africa and her people will find opportunities elusive.

The failed Cape Town 2004 Olympic Games bid is one of the examples of lost opportunities.

I have no doubt that crime in this country has to do with our rejection by the Olympic Committee as hosts of the Games.

At a time when all must be going well with South Africa after the defeat of apartheid, its image is being tarnished as the international community slowly turns its back on it.

Why? It's because of the spiralling crime wave which seems to be beyond the power of the Government to contain.

If the Government is genuine in assuring the public that it regards the fight against crime as a top priority, it must take heed of the views of its citizens on the ground.

I wish to suggest a few points which I consider crucial in reducing and eliminating crime.

Kid gloves

Democracy is a good thing but the Government treats criminals with kid gloves. Prisoners are clothed and fed for the entire duration of their sentence. Some even enjoy privileges that do not exist where they come from.

Criminals conduct a reign of terror with ease, knowing that their conviction will spell a nice time in prison.

It is adding insult to injury for a victim of a criminal, as a taxpayer, to maintain the criminal in jail.

Some of the rigorous prison conditions during apartheid must be brought back forthwith.

The cries of the majority of South African citizens for the return of the death penalty still reverberate throughout the country.

When will the Government listen to these cries? For as long as the Government hides behind democracy and defends the lives of criminals who easily take the lives of others, we can expect more murders, rapes and car hijackings.

Why has the Government turned a deaf ear to pleas for a referendum on the question of the death penalty?

DUKE MARAGELO,
Mafikeng, North West
Goldfingers grab at least

Corrupt R10 000-a-day miners sell bullion to crook

CRAIG URQUHART

Johannesburg - An investigation has uncovered that corrupt miners are stealing at least R5-billion in gold bullion a year and selling it to major overseas syndicates.

Some are earning up to R10,000 a day selling gold nuggets to the syndicates.

Estimates of the amount of gold stolen from all the mines vary between 10 and 15 percent of the total production and mine managers concede that it is affecting the viability of the mines.

"The irony is that if South Africa's gold mines could produce 10 percent more a year we could probably employ 80,000 more miners," says James Watt, a consulting metallurgist to the Harmony mine in Virginia which has been particularly hard hit by the theft of gold concentrate.

And with the industry conservatively expecting 65,000 more job losses by the end of the century and mines hoping to boost production by an extra 90 tons over the next two years, the problem has grave implications for the South African economy.

The preferred destination for bootlegged bullion is Switzerland, but Britain and India also have a passion for the metal.

"It's impossible to get an accurate figure, but we estimate that R1.6-billion worth of gold is ending up in Switzerland alone," says Andre Fourie, operations manager for security at Gold Fields.

Most of the gold is smuggled through customs at Johannesburg and Durban air ports and harbour.

"It's a hell of a problem. We're dealing with crooked miners and crooked security guards and there are a lot of syndicates, especially in Johannesburg, dealing with illegal gold," says Superintendent Henk van Rensburg of the Diamond and Gold Squad in Johannesburg.

Superintendent Buks van der Schyff of the Durban squad says that millions of rand in illegal gold is slipping through customs.

"These syndicates are highly organised. They have infiltrated every South African mine and are capable of refining gold, forging transport licences and export papers and accessing foreign networks to sell their products.

syndicates overseas

In the major mining towns of Klerksdorp, Carletonville and Welkom mine managers concede that the theft of gold-bearing ore from the mines is rife.

"There are thousands of miners carrying up to a kilogram of highly concentrated soil out of the mines every day. There is no doubt that security is in on this, so there's very little we can do," says Captain Bobby Jonker, station commander of the Diamond and Gold Squad in Welkom.

When Saturday Argus accompanied members of his unit on raids on township houses it was evident that illegal refining was a major business.

Although some ways to smuggle ore are almost comical - including catapults to shoot small packages over the perimeter fences - mine managers say they have had enough.
Corrupt miners stealing bullion worth billions and costing thousands of jobs

By Craig Urquhart

Corrupt miners are stealing about R5-billion in gold bullion a year and selling it to major overseas-based syndicates, a Saturday Star investigation has discovered.

Some illegal dealers are earning up to R10 000 a day selling gold nuggets to syndicates.

Estimates of the amount of gold stolen from all the mines vary between 10 and 15% of the total production, and mine managers concede it is affecting the viability of the mines.

"The irony is that if South Africa's gold mines could produce 10% more per annum, we could probably employ 50 000 more miners," says James Watt, a consulting metallurgist to the Harmony mine in Virginia, which has been particularly hard hit by the theft of gold concentrate.

And with the gold mining industry conservatively expecting 63 000 more job losses by the end of the century and mines hoping to boost production by an extra 90 tons over the next two years, the problem has grave implications for the economy.

The preferred destination for bootlegged bullion is Switzerland, but Britain and India also have a passion for the precious metal.

"It's impossible to get an accurate figure, but we estimate R1.6-billion worth of gold is ending up in Switzerland alone," says Andre Paurie, operations manager for security at Gold Fields.

Gold syndicate

Most of the gold is smuggled through customs at Johannesburg International airport and Durban's airport and harbour.

"Yes, it's a hell of a problem. We are dealing with crooked miners and crooked security guards on the mines, and there are a lot of syndicates," says Superintendent Henk van Renenburg of the diamond and gold unit in Johannesburg.

His colleague, Superintendent Buks van der Schyff of the Durban unit, confirms that millions of rands of illegal gold is slipping through customs at the port city.

These syndicates are highly organised. They have infiltrated nearly every South African mine and are capable of refining gold, forging transport licences and export papers, and accessing foreign networks to sell their products.

⇒ See Page 9
There's gold in them there hostels

...
Editor asked to broker peace pact
Gangsters seek peace
Blasting a hole in crime stats

Gustav Thiel

The contention by Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi that serious crime has decreased has been challenged by the Institute for Security Studies, which says there is undoubtedly a rise in crime.

Mufamadi's optimism on crime figures for the first six months of the year, released last week. The figures indicated that none of the 20 most serious crime categories increased during this period, compared with the corresponding periods in previous years.

In five of the nine provinces incidents of murder were down from 1994 figures. KwaZulu-Natal still has more murders than any other province, with 4,314, which is 34.8% down from the toll during the first six months of 1994.

In the Western Cape, however, the murder rate increased 19.8% over the 1994 figures. The Western Cape remains the most dangerous province, with the highest ratio of murders to population — 37.5 murders for every 100,000 people.

While Mufamadi admits "there are weaknesses in the organisation of the Department of Safety and Security", he seems oblivious to voices warning that statistical assurances of a decrease in crime resulted in an oversimplification of crime trends in the country.

Jakkie Cilliers, a researcher at the Institute for Security Studies, says it is clear there is a rise in crime, and "the major reason is simply that the police are not doing their job".

Cilliers says Mufamadi's appointment as police CEO could be a "peace political ploy to appease the business sector, which has been a "vociferous" critic of the way the government addressed crime in the past.

Kahn's appointment comes at a time when South Africa spends around R11.9-billion on safety and security alone — a 15% increase on money spent in 1996.

His chief argument is that crime statistics still do not take into account the evolution of organised crime, which he says will increasingly dominate crime statistics.

"Current evidence suggests organised crime has not only grown in scope worldwide and in South Africa, but has also changed significantly during the past decade."

"Given that organised crime was never a priority under apartheid rule — indeed, there is evidence that syndicates and gangs were used to police the opponents of the state — it is difficult to measure its growth."

Mufamadi says the investigative capacity and quality of crime-fighting authorities can be improved.

"Early this year the Department of Safety and Security designated quality of investigations as inextricably linked to quality service delivered to the community," he says.

"The mere fact that there is stagnation and decrease on certain crime tendencies speaks of our potential to improve on clear-up rates of cases."

Cilliers says Meyer Kahn's appointment as police CEO could be a mere political ploy to appease the business sector, which has been a "vociferous" critic of the way the government addressed crime in the past.

Kahn's appointment comes at a time when South Africa spends around R11.9-billion on safety and security alone — a 15% increase on money spent in 1996.

The government needs a scapegoat [for crime], and the revelations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the run-up to the elections in 1999 provide an appropriate avenue. Thus far I have argued that there is, at best, some levelling off of crime at very high levels, but no indication of any turnaround in recent years, Cilliers says.
Many youths pardoned by Mandela are feared to be back in jail as juvenile crime keeps growing

KIDS WHO KILL!

There are 23,000 youths aged between 14 and 21 in South African prisons — and the fear is growing that a great number of the 2,000 juveniles pardoned by President Nelson Mandela in 1994 have found their way back into jail.

Of the youths behind bars, almost 6,000 have been convicted of murder and rape — and thousands more are awaiting trial on similar serious charges.

These are the feared killer kids.

Most have been involved in serious cases of car hijacking in which people were brutally and senselessly murdered.

One such case is that of Dr Steven Pong, who was killed in a hijacking incident outside the Johannesburg Hospital in Hillbrow in 1996.

Two youths — a 17-year-old not named because of his age and 18-year-old Zuko Nota — were jailed for life plus 20 years for aggravating circumstances by Judge MJ Strydom.

Two youths, including a 17-year-old, are currently facing murder charges for the death of Ecktm Pule-Mantsoe, the father of Bafana Bafana striker, Doctor Khumalo.

In just two years from 1995, 2,000 juveniles — the number of juveniles sentenced and awaiting sentence has jumped from 14,000 to 10,000, to a horrifying 22,000.

Figures released by City Press reveal a shocking number of juveniles serving time for serious crimes.

In August, the number of juveniles serving time for murder and rape stood at 4,650.

These growing figures have created panic about the culture of aggressive crime that is slowly gripping communities around the country.

And campaigns such as "Don't Do Crime" may have to be revisited if the growing trend is to be halted.

Correctional Services spokesperson, Col Barry Eksteen, says the figures keep going up and show no sign of a decline.

More juveniles than ever before are serving sentences ranging from 10 to 20 years.

The number of sentenced juveniles and juveniles awaiting sentence has shot up from 14,754 in 1995 to 21,717 in August this year.

The figures have gone up despite a presidential pardon by President Nelson Mandela and Correctional Services Minister, Dr Sipho Mzimela, two years ago — which saw more than 2,000 youths being sent back to the streets.

There is now fear that those who qualified for the presidential pardon might be back in jail. But the department is reluctant to give figures of how many of those now serving time might be repeat offenders.

Some of the youths, who are now housed in reformatory schools around the country, may have to be transferred to prison with other hardened criminals to serve their sentences.

And it now appears likely that the figure could well pass the 30,000 mark by the year's end.

More juveniles continue to involve themselves in serious crimes.

There are now 1,330 juveniles serving sentences ranging from five to ten years, 424 serving 10 to 20 years; and 143 serving more than 20 years.

The last category is considered the most dangerous prisoners whose crimes include murder, armed robbery, rape and hijackings.

And as expected, Gauteng has the highest concentration of juveniles serving sentences for serious offences — followed by KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

(34) CP 6/10/97

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CONSULATE N TIPPE OR VIRGINIA
A tale of four cities: it's safer than we thought.
Cosab meets Fivaz, Omar on robberies

Theys Reuttner

THE Council of SA Banks (Cosab) had been holding regular meetings with national police commissioner George Fivaz in an attempt to combat bank robberies, and had also met Justice Minister Dullah Omar on the legal process. Cosab spokesman Dave Allen said yesterday:

Allen said Cosab CE Bob Tucker had held regular meetings with Fivaz since April after an increase in bank robberies earlier this year.

They agreed on the necessity of close co-operation by the banking industry with the SA Police Service (SAPS) in order to reduce crime.

The meetings took place against the background of the implementation of a SAPS plan of action to combat bank robberies and theft of cash in transit which began in March. Since then 124 suspects have been arrested in Gauteng.

SAPS deputy commissioner Van der Walt, who is in charge of the operation, said the strategy was aimed at enabling the police to act more quickly and thus be in a position to prevent the robberies.

The operation involved special response units focusing only on bank robberies. These units had immediate access to helicopters, aircraft, highway patrol cars, communication channels and a crime intelligence database.

Van der Walt said the publicity given to crime had been of great assistance.

The efficiency of the banks in reporting robberies and their co-operation in using the latest alarm and surveillance technology had also improved.

The banking industry appreciated the police action, but Tucker said he had feared their success was in danger of being undermined by the criminal justice system and he had therefore met Omar in June.

The justice system still operated too slowly, said Tucker, and many of the suspects were still on court rolls and the system was not always able to effectively prosecute offenders.

He was also concerned that none of the crime syndicates had been broken. "This, and resolving the problems in the criminal justice system, are the next major steps," he said.

Ministry considers voluntary retrenchments

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — The granting of voluntary severance packages and the freeze on forced retrenchments were being examined by the public service and administration ministry as part of an analysis of right-sizing measures implemented to date.

Public Service and Administration Minister Zola Skweyiya said yesterday his ministry had launched a number of initiatives to remove impediments to transformation including the institution of performance accountability systems in all departments.

He told a presidential review commission and Common Market seminar on challenges facing public service reform that other projects were legislative reform, transforming service delivery, the development of a new management code and right-sizing.

He said the project on transforming service delivery engendered a customer orientation and held public servants accountable for the services they provided.

"It is about consulting users of services, setting service standards and getting the best possible value for money. Procedures to be put in place will include specification of measurable outcomes, the development of efficiency and cost-effective indicators, the entrenchment of public reporting systems and the institution of effective complaints and grievance procedures," he said.

The project on right-sizing the public service was expected to make recommendations for implementation after March next year, Skweyiya said.

He said the project was conducting an analysis of the right-sizing measures which had been implemented and was examining the abolition of funded vacancies, the granting of voluntary severance packages, the redeployment of supernumerary personnel and the freeze on forced retrenchments.

Skweyiya said legislative reform would see a clear devolution of powers to executing authorities which would ensure powers on aspects such as internal organisation, appointments, promotions, discharges and other career incidents of public servants.

He said the projects would also propose changes to the personnel administration standard to decentralise control over work organisation within government departments and provincial administrations.

Presidential review commission deputy chairman Norman Levy said transformation had to be undertaken incrementally.

"These include the identification and creation of structures that will ensure quality, development and equity that will foster human resource development planning and ensure that financial planning and management systems are in place to effect savings, avoid waste and improve the quality of delivery," Levy said.
Cosab meets Fivaz, Omar on robberies

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Farmers threaten vigilante action

Louise Cook

PRETORIA — Farmers have called on President Nelson Mandela to fire all of the provincial safety and security MECs, as well as minister Sydney Mufamadi, if they fail to bring crime under control within three months.

Delegates at the SA Agriculture Union’s (SAAU’s) annual congress accused Mandela yesterday of being “afraid” to call a referendum on the reinstatement of the death penalty, saying the only solution left to farmers was vigilante action in the style of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) and the withholding of taxes to pay for protection on farms.

Mandela agreed later in the day to meet a union delegation on the issue of crime and killings on farms. Speculation was rife at the congress that he would announce the appointment of a commission to investigate claims that a spate of rural murders and attacks on farmers were politically motivated attempts to drive farmers off their land.

Free State Agricultural Union president Piet Gous told the congress the point had been reached where farmers needed Pagad-type task groups to raid criminals’ homes. “Pagad can show you better results today in fighting crime than any of us. Unless organised agriculture starts to deal with violent attacks, killings and raids on farmers and farm workers, splinter organisations will emerge to protect farms.”

KwaNalu (formerly KwaZulu-Natal) Farmer’s Union safety committee chairman Ndumo Buthelezi said crime would continue to escalate unless the death penalty was reinstated. Criminals now had nothing to fear. However, Gous said it was futile trying to get the death penalty reinstated.

Farmers needed on-farm solutions.

The farmers’ anger follows a spate of attacks and killings on farms in the Free State and Eastern Cape over the past 10 days. SAAU president Chris du Toit said it was alarming that violent attacks on farms had increased 53% this year and farmers were four times more likely to be murdered than the general population.

KwaNalu president Graham McIntosh said the scrapping of the death penalty had led to a tendency for people to take the law into their own hands. SAAU safety and security committee chairman Herman Vercruy said the attacks had prompted an “unprecedented wave of anger” among farmers, who were considered soft targets in apparent deliberate attempts to drive them off their land.

See Page 3
Welfare fraud cut by R50m

A TOLL-FREE complaint number has helped the Western Cape Department of Social Services to make a dent in welfare fraud.

The line, by which the public can report people who are receiving grants to which they are not entitled, is one of several steps taken to curb fraud.

The MEC for Health and Social Services, Mr Ebrahim Rasool, said yesterday that forensic auditing had saved more than R50 million and contributed to the department’s R67m surplus at the end of the 1996/97 financial year. Implementing recommendations in the auditor’s report could save up to R80m a year.

However, the report, by Ernst & Young, says the number of fraud cases is so great it would take a team of eight many years to complete the investigations.

So far, 238 cases — involving just under R2m — have been identified and reported to police in three regions of the province.

The auditors also identified 28 officials involved in fraud. Two have been fined in criminal courts, one has been dismissed and a fourth has resigned. Another official took a voluntary retirement package before action could be taken against him. Proceedings have been initiated against three officials and hearings in seven other cases are pending. Five officials have been cleared.

Rasool said he had been dismayed by the light sentences imposed by the courts. The fines were between R500 and R1 500.

“We need to be seen to be acting strongly against any official guilty of defrauding the taxpayer and to be telling the taxpayers their monies are being jealously guarded,” Rasool said.

It was important that all levels of government work together to stamp out fraud and irregularities.

The department was considering claiming R150m from Nisec, whose five-year contract to administer computerised pension and social welfare payouts was cancelled by the Western Cape Tender Board. It was found the company did not have the technology to pay pensions without the risk of fraud.

In February, two judges found Nisec had wilfully misled the provincial authorities by not disclosing that its computer technology could not do the job the company was being paid to do. Nisec’s application for an order annulling the tender board’s decision was dismissed.

Mr Tim Steel, who led the investigation into fraud, said there was still much to be done to minimise losses. “However, there is now the methodology and the commitment to achieve this goal,”

The department’s customer care number is 0800 22 0250.

Sapa and Political Staff
Rural protection plan for farmers

Louise Cook

President Nelson Mandela has responded to farmers' urgent appeal for action against criminal attacks on their farms by announcing a commission of inquiry into allegations of a political motive behind the attacks.

Some farmers have said they suspect the recent spate of killings of black farmers and their families was co-ordinated, with the specific goal of driving them off their land.

Mandela, accompanied by high-ranking police officials, met an SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) delegation in Pretoria yesterday. He said afterwards that the intelligence services were investigating the possibility that the attacks were part of a strategy to destabilise rural areas.

After the meeting the SAUU also distanced itself from calls for farmers to take the law into their own hands. Union president Chris du Toit said proactive measures against those suspected of being involved in attacks, along the lines of moves by People Against Gunsterism and Drugs, would be irresponsible.

Andre Pruis, divisional commissioner for crime prevention and response services, said the rural protection plan was similar to the one which had successfully brought down the number of bank robberies, and involved the police, the SA National Defence Force and the public. Helicopter support, response units and tracing units would be used.

Land and Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom was not at the meeting, but said he was alarmed at the growing number of murders of farmers. "I know tensions are running high ... but I urge them (farming communities) not to take the law into their own hands." Last week several delegates to the SAUU annual congress called for vigilante-style raids on the homes of suspects. This was taken up by farmers at Bultfontein in the Free State days later following the murder of a local farm owner.

At yesterday's meeting Mandela said government would not tolerate the attacks "because of the importance of the farming community, farmers, (farm) workers, to the country and the economy".
Ex-soldiers ‘involved in crime’

Citing examples of political leaders’ bodyguards and drivers being charged with murder, Haasbroek said: “In fact, it appears that SA’s criminal third force is coming from ANC ranks.”

He called for the entire criminal justice system to be reformed. If this was not done it would be no use reinstating capital punishment.

Haasbroek accused the Constitutional Court of having been so intent on protecting the rights of criminals that it had forsaken the community. It was being argued that the death penalty had no place in a civilised society. “But how long will a society remain civilised under the onslaught of crime?” Haasbroek asked.

David van Jaarsveld, from Empangeni in KwaZulu-Natal, warned that members of his local chamber of business were insinuating on protest action against crime. “There are calls for us to withstand VAT, and to invest the money in a trust fund until the situation improves,” he said.

Dawie de Villiers of Pretoria asked for measures to compensate crime victims. Money from the SA Special Risk Insurance Agency could be used, he said.

The AHI suggested last week that the R9bn fund, set up during the apartheid years to cover contributors’ riot losses, be used to compensate victims of apartheid.

Haasbroek said socioeconomic development would not end organised crime. “The guys who heisted R18m in Pretoria did not do so because they were poor. Those people are part of organised crime syndicates.”

The congress agreed to refer the issues raised at the congress to the executive for further consideration.—Sapa.
Police can't cope with organised crime

**Custody Theft**

MITG 24-30/10/17 (E4)
Guerillas — now turning to crime

Ex-soldiers said to be behind security raids

DESPERATION AND frustration has turned many of the thousands of former freedom fighters into robbers and murderers who use their guerrilla and organisational skills in huge raids on security firms, netting millions of rand.

This is the opinion of a defence lawyer who has represented some of them.

Although not all the gangsters involved in the robberies of hundreds of millions of rand over the past two years are former liberation fighters, it is suspected that the ring leaders are former MK or APLA members.

This is because of the fact that several military tactics have been used in the heists.

These include the use of flares and the suspected operation of a cell system which makes it difficult for the police to break up a whole gang or to recover the bulk of the money.

Another Pretoria lawyer, Mpho Mofumme, who is representing a former MK soldier, Collin Chauke, in the latest R13 million robbery in a series of robberies from the SBV security firm, this week struck out at the government for forsaking the men who made it possible for them to gain power through democratic elections.

As not admitting that his client was guilty, he said thousands of youths had been taken out of the country to learn guerrilla tactics.

"Their task was to kill. They were not taught anything else. When they returned to South Africa after the conflict, there was no place for them in the permanent forces or they did not fit in, so they were given a lump sum — perhaps R50 000 in lieu of pension — and then forgotten."

"But soon the money was gone. They were unable to find work because they had never been educated or trained in anything but killing."

"So they turn to crime. It is easy and they are not troubled by morality because the liberation struggle has hardened them to death and they feel betrayed by their leaders."

City Press yesterday established that despite media reports Chauke was the only one of the three arrested this week for the R13 million robbery who admitted being a former freedom fighter.

Chauke returned to South Africa in 1994. He was discharged from the military that same year and has not worked since.

He has a common-law wife and a three-year-old child, with whom he lived in a flat in Craighall Park in Johannesburg's northern suburbs.

Police claim an amount of R1, 4 million — the bulk of the R3,4 million recovered, was found in Chauke's flat.

Friends say he had better life for which he had fought as a member of MK, had not come to his child.

He is only an accused and has not yet stood trial, but he represents thousands of other former guerillas who find themselves desperate, frustrated and feeling betrayed.

The SAPS have struggled to break into the syndicate because it would appear that the gangs or groups are organised on a cell system similar to the old communist cell system — where very few of the members are known to others, so that if one is arrested he is unable to betray others because he does not know them.

Police this week said there was nothing to substantiate the claim that the robbers behind the raids on SBV operate on a cell system.

When reminded that the three men arrested this week for the R18 million theft last Saturday all claimed in statements to the police that they did not know the other two, the policeman said: "You could expect them to say that."

However, the fact that the three arrested suspects live in such disparate locations as Memelord West, Olifantsfontein and Craighall Park would appear to support the theory of the cell system.

Investigating officer Capt Tony Coetzee said that only one of the three admitted having been a former MK member.
INTERNATIONAL crime bosses are hiring renegade security force members and former guerrillas to pull off multimillion- rand heists, the Minister of Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, said this week.

Just as XIB agents had turned to crime in the former Baltic states, rogue military operatives, including Umkhonto we-Sizwe and Apalasu guerillas and SADF soldiers, have become guns for hire in South Africa, he said.

They were being recruited by international crime syndicates which had made South Africa the “theatre” of their operations.

Since August last year, a series of cash-in-transit robberies that have netted more than R80m have been executed with military precision, using up to 35 men armed with AK-47 rifles, 9mm pistols and 38 revolvers to pull off a heist. In some cases, security vehicles were ambushed, using spiked metal chains which were thrown across the road and flares to mark out the attack area.

Mufamadi said he had previously raised the question of whether elements of the police and security services or elements of liberation armies who have not integrated with the defence force could be playing a role in crime. I did not make these allegations lightly. Commissioner Sibusisiwe Betha, the head of the murder, robbery and firearms investigation unit and the co-ordinator of the investigation into the heists, said the police had found links between eight of the armed robbers and had eight suspects in custody. He said three of the suspects were former Umkhonto we Sizwe members who were being held in Pretoria central prison.

The five other suspects were still being investigated for military links. The police had managed to link the robberies because of the modus operandi, he said.

“It doesn’t matter if these people are MK, APLA or the National Party, we’ll get them. And if there is anything political behind it, we will bring it into the open,”

Colin Gregor, the managing director of Midrand-based Sibaya Security which had been hardest hit, said his company was also investigating the robberies.

“We’re concerned that not only small amounts of money have been recovered when suspects have been arrested. How do you hide that kind of money? This has led us to speculate that these robbers are being hired to execute robberies. Someone else is giving the orders.”

Mufamadi says world crime bosses are hiring former soldiers
Parliament's thieves shielded by Constitution

CRAIG DOONAN

EFFORTS by the Speaker of Parliament, Frene Ginwala, to improve security in Parliament have come up against a major obstacle - the Constitution.

Parliamentary officials have been trying to tighten up access and exits to Parliament to stop a spate of thefts.

Security officials have advised that one of the most effective measures, beside detection technology, to prevent theft and stop visitors or others from entering Parliament with weapons, is a body search.

But, this week, Parliament's legal advisers warned that this was unconstitutional.

In terms of the Constitution, everyone has the right to privacy which includes the right not to be searched or have their possessions seized.

But one of the advisers, Anton Meyer, said another section of the Constitution stipulated that "reasonable measures" may be taken to regulate public access to the national assembly.

"This could amount to a specific provision for a person to be searched," he said.

Meanwhile, security specialists from both intelligence agencies and the police's national protection service are trying to hammer out a new plan to overhaul Parliament's security, which one senior official linked to the project described this week as "extremely poor".

This was highlighted when a group of about 30 Freedom Front youths managed to enter the public gallery with undetected banners and effectively disrupt proceedings by noisily protesting against new education legislation.

Outraged MPs later warned that both democracy and their security was under threat.

"One day they'll throw down bombs (from the gallery)," boomed PAC Secretary-General Michael Musendane.

"We need up to three metal detectors at entrances and everyone must allow a body search." The ANC has set up a special committee to make urgent proposals to Parliament's presiding officers to ensure proper security without interfering with the institution's openness.

The committee, to be led by either the ANC's chief whip or his deputy, will make proposals to Speaker Frene Ginwala on ways to improve parliamentary security and prevent a repeat of this week's "invasion", said an ANC spokesman.

The committee will also discuss new measures that security specialists are planning to implement next year.

Secretary to Parliament Sindiso Menyana said new access systems would be erected in parliamentary buildings from March while regulations controlling visitors and tour groups would be strictly enforced.

One of the major headaches for the security specialists is how to handle the dozens of tour groups and hundreds of visitors and other non-parliamentary staff who pass through the premises daily.
POLITICAL STAFF

Parliament began a snap debate on crime and vigilantism today as figures were released showing a significant drop in most categories of serious crime across the country.

And Deputy President Thabo Mbeki revealed that about 30 000 police officers who are now desk-bound will soon be redeployed on active crime-fighting duties.

The new "cops-on-the-beat" policy is believed to be an early initiative by new police chief executive Meyer Khan, the former head of South African Breweries who was seconded to the South African Police Service earlier this year.

Today the South African Institute of Race Relations released the results of a new analysis of police crime statistics showing 20% fewer murders in the first six months of 1997 compared with the previous six months.

Crime was analysed in relation to growing population figures rather than by comparing absolute statistics.

Over the same period, the study shows, the incidence of robbery with aggravating circumstances – which includes car hijacking – fell by 36%.

But not all crime figures are falling. Rape increased by 23% and household burglaries by 4% in the first six months of 1997, but there is still an overall downwards trend.

Political Correspondent Clive Sawyer reports that, ahead of today’s debate, African National Congress MP Willie Hofmeyr declared: "We may have reached a turning point in the fight against crime."

Using direct comparisons of SAPS figures – a different approach to the one used in the SAIRR study – he said the total serious crime rate had fallen by a significant 2.2%.

The rate for all serious crimes increased by 1.3% in 1995, stabilised in 1996, and this year dropped by 4.5%.

"The crime rate is now 3.3% lower than in 1994, if one takes account of the population increase," Mr Hofmeyr said.

The three most serious violent crimes showed some of the biggest decreases between 1994 and this year.

These were murders, down by 6% over the three years, attempted murder (down 3%) and aggravated robbery (down 6%).
Faiths join forces to bring crime to its knees

TRC-type talks

JOSEPH ARANES
STAFF REPORTER
AR 6/11/99

The Inter-Religious Commission on crime and violence in the Western Cape has adopted proposals to hold Truth Commission-style hearings in an attempt to get to the root cause of the problem.

The commission was established after Anglican Archbishop NjongoNkuleni Ndungane called on religious leaders to go beyond knee-jerk responses and search for a more sustainable, strategic intervention.

All the major faiths in the province endorsed the call and a task team was assembled to formulate ideas and proposals to enable the religious community to intervene in the conflict through programmes of inter-religious solidarity.

The commission consists of two tiers, the first comprising the high-profile religious leaders who will lend credibility and legitimacy to the work of the commission and will be its public face, and the other tier of commissioners who will concentrate on networking with other anti-crime organisations and initiatives.

Chairman of the task team Imam Rashied Omar said the time was right for everyone concerned to work together to find ways of ending violence and crime.

"People are living in fear and desolation and as a religious community we have a responsibility to restore hope and show we are serious about listening to their concerns and cries for help," he said.

"We are being charged with creating a new morality in society ... his will not drop from heaven and not all of us will undergo the 'Damascus Road' experience. It is our responsibility to open the eyes of the community to what is happening around them and to break the gloom."

Imam Omar said part of his process would include holding TRC-type hearings and giving the victims of crime and violence an opportunity to speak openly about their experiences and the troubles they faced.

"This will be done in consultation with community organisations operating in different areas but without all the trappings and paraphernalia of the Truth Commission. Alleged perpetrators of crime, who want to change their ways, will also be allowed to put their case to the community at these forums."

Task team member Chris Ahrends said this new approach could have a positive effect on other crime prevention strategies as it could get people from different backgrounds and cultures together to collectively apply pressure for change.

"We are engaging in a process of reconstructing society and are renewing the dramatic role the inter-faith community played during the anti-apartheid struggle, but our focus has shifted to crime and violence," Mr Ahrends said.
Many more vigilantes take action

CT 6/11/99

VIGILANTISM — normally law-abiding citizens taking the law into their own hands — is on the increase in South Africa, as people from all walks of life lose faith in the state's ability to deal with crime.

Academics have warned that violent action by ordinary citizens "has become an accepted way of handling conflict in South Africa", and that it was "about time" the government realised that crime had spiralled out of control.

In the past year the anti-drugs organisation Pagad — which vehemently rejects being labelled a vigilante group — was the first major non-security force grouping to point to police inability to stem crime and gangsterism and embark on its own "programme" of action.

After an initial surge of community support for Pagad many later drew back, citing alleged illegal and criminal acts by Pagad members in the name of the fight against crime.

But recently Free State farmers, a world apart from fed-up Cape Flats residents, began talking of a "Boere-Pagad" to deal with a spate of attacks on farms this year — and indications are that other groups around the country are thinking the same way.

So far this year there have been 60 attacks on and 14 murders of Free State farmers, mostly in the north and north-east of the province — leading to police suspicion that some of the attacks were made by criminals from Gauteng, apparently because it was thought farms in remote areas were easier targets.

According to a report by Dr Ben Haefele, of the Centre for Military Studies at Stellenbosch University, who recently visited the Free State, there has been a 45% increase in attacks in the area this year.

Furious farmers have already taken the law into their own hands once — two weeks ago a suspect in the killing of Bultfontein farmer Mr Theo Pietse was beaten to death and other suspects were assaulted.

But what is also disturbing is that farmers have looked to Pagad as proof that they can take action with impunity. They have also discussed implementing their own farm watch, without co-operating with the state, as well as withholding taxes.

Haefele's report noted that "the atmosphere is loaded with anger, frustration and powerlessness".

"The farmers feel isolated and alienated from the security forces, and it appears as if the farmers have lost confidence in the government and the SAPS," the report said.

Ms Lala Camerer, a senior researcher with the Institute for Security Studies, said although the creation of "non-state policing mechanisms" was not a new trend, it was burgeoning among a diverse cross-section of the South African population.

The rise of the massive private security industry in South Africa was also indicative of a lack of faith in the state to contain crime, she said.

Apart from the situation in the Western Cape and Free State, she said, there was a vigilante-style group in Soweto called Youth Against Crime which were also "caused, their bit for safety and security".

"It's definitely a growing thing," she said. "It's a hot topic, and one which we're very concerned about."

Camerer said there was a fear that vigilante-style actions would eventually become acceptable to society as a method of combating crime.

Crucial to the question of disaffection among normally law-abiding citizens was the lack of "victim empowerment", Camerer said.

Victims of crime felt they were not included in the system — for instance, by factors such as police failure to even keep them apprised of investigations — and needed to be "shown they are important role-players".

The public had to be educated in victim empowerment, as well as in ways to prevent becoming victims of crime, she said.

Vigilante action, growing out of a lack of confidence in the criminal justice system, was reactive, ad hoc and often delivered unforeseen results, Camerer said.

'Vigilantes are a growing thing, a hot topic ... we're very concerned.' — Lala Camerer

'The atmosphere is loaded with anger, frustration and powerlessness.' — Ben Haefele
The fight against crime has been in the news lately with Parliament debating tough new laws to provide for minimum sentences for very serious crimes, as well as making it more difficult to get bail and parole for such criminals.

But has any progress been made in the fight against crime? The release of official crime statistics for the first half of 1997 is perhaps a good opportunity to make some assessment.

In some ways, the statistics confirm what we already know — namely that crime is an extremely serious problem in our country and that our rate of violent crime is among the highest in the world.

But interestingly, the crime figures also show a significant decrease in crime and especially in the most violent crimes.

Table 1 shows that the number of serious crimes increased by 4.4% in the first half of 1996 and by 2.6% in the first half of 1997. The figure for the first half of 1997, however, shows that we have reached a turning point in the fight against crime — the total number of crimes rate decreased by a significant 2.2%.

The decrease is even more significant if one uses the standard international measure of crime, namely the rate of crime per 100 000 of population. (1)

In fact, it shows that the crime rate is now 3.3% less than in 1994 if one takes into account the population increase.

Table 2 shows a number of other crimes are now at lower levels than they were in 1994. Car theft is down 5%, although it increased by 1% in 1997, and drug-related offences decreased by 7% although they increased by 11% in 1997; arson is down 18% and other offences down 6%.

For most of the crimes that have increased since 1994, the increase is less than the 7.5% population growth. Moreover, almost all the decrease significantly in 1997: less housebreaking; less serious crimes and less serious assaults.

Commercial crimes have increased more or less in line with the population increase since 1994.

The only crimes which have increased significantly are up more than the population increase since 1994, and rape, by 32%, serious assault by 14% and illegal possession of firearms by 17%.

But even here the news is not all bad. The 1997 figures show that they have all been brought under control with a 6% decrease for illegal firearms, no increase for serious assaults and a 2% increase for rape.

The crime figures demonstrate that we may have turned the tide — that the increase in crime was halted to some extent in 1996 and significantly reversed in 1997.

Why is it that this is not reflected in public perception?

Not only did crime decrease in 1997, but Table 2 column A shows that the three most serious violent crimes showed some of the biggest decreases: murder by 4%, attempted murder by 3% and aggravated robbery by 6%.

In fact, these figures confirm the previous trend of a decrease in these offences. Since 1994 murders have decreased by 14% and aggravated robberies by 21%.

Statistics for three of the most serious crimes in the country, including murder, robbery and assault, show that the decrease has been sustained throughout.

In 1996, 12 000 people were killed by murder, and 10 000 of these murders were committed in the first half of 1996 (column B).

However, in 1997, the number of murders dropped to 9 900, a decrease of 10%, and in the first half of 1997, the number of murders dropped to 4 800, a decrease of 52%.

The decrease in murders is also reflected in the decrease in attempted murder, which decreased by 12% in 1996 and by 9% in the first half of 1997.

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Duarte praises SA’s openness on crime

BY MIKE MASIPA
Crime Reporter

The perception that South Africa is crime infested stems mostly from the transparent way in which the Government is handling the problem, Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte said yesterday.

Speaking at a Johannesburg seminar on the “New Role of the Police in Crime Prevention in the Province”, Duarte told delegates that SA was more open in handling its problems – including crime – than most nations. This showed willingness to tackle the problem head-on rather than sweep it under the carpet, she said.

Duarte cited the UK, which she said had the highest rate of car theft in Europe but that fact was not well documented because it was hardly reported.

“We have the highest (reported) rate of rape, for instance, because we encourage people to come forward and report the crime. It is better to have people reporting crimes than have them stay quiet in the face of the crime scourge. In that way, everybody concerned can grapple better with the problem,” she said.

“Actually we need more of this. We need the media reports encouraging people how to report crime, instead of dwelling on the negative,” Duarte said.

She castigated certain community policing forums, which she accused of racism and a general lack of representivity and commitment.

Duarte suggested that the forums needed something similar to the new code of conduct adopted by the SAPS last week to deal with policing in their areas.

Human rights commissioner Jody Kollapen said the code of conduct would help to kill a perception held in many quarters of the SAPS that that upholding human rights and effective policing were on opposite sides.

“There is nothing in the constitution, and its Bill of Rights, preventing the police from doing their job or opposing bail and from testifying in court in support of a conviction or an acquittal,”

“It is, however, important that this (code) becomes more than a document. We should not allow the scourge of crime to blind us from what we want to achieve,” Kollapen said.
Stricter controls planned after 27 000 firearms go missing in ’97

BY DEREK ROYDEN
Crime Reporter

This year, an average of more than 2 700 guns have been reported stolen every month.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said in Parliament yesterday that most of the firearms used in the 25 785 robberies and 2 026 attempted robberies reported during the first six months of this year were stolen from the country’s estimated 3.4 million legal gun owners.

Replying to a question from ANC MP Dave Dalling, Mufamadi said that during the same period, 5 227 murders and 10 620 attempted murders involving firearms were reported.

About 8 000 people were arrested for illegal possession of firearms during this period.

Central Firearms Register (CFR) commander Director Abrie Burger said yesterday that many guns were lost through negligence by licensed owners.

Police statistics show that from January 1 to the beginning of this month, 27314 firearms were reported lost or stolen—more than 3 000 cases up on last year’s corresponding figures.

While moves are being made to recover stolen weapons and make it tougher to own a firearm, CFR statistics show that more than 12 000 of the 50 595 firearms reported stolen or lost between January last year and the beginning of this month were police-owned weapons.

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz made the recovery of illegal firearms the police service’s top priority in his 1997/98 Police Plan, announced in April this year.

National firearms investigation unit (FIU) co-ordinator Honoring Brand said units around SA were being bolstered from 289 members to 511.

The 28 existing FIU branches are to be expanded by another 16 to tackle cases, especially in the former TBVC states where policing of firearms was minimal during the apartheid era.

The CFR is also being expanded by 129 extra posts to deal with the more than 18 000 applications it receives each month.

Tougher legislation and control of firearms is on the way.

A firearms task force, set up by a parliamentary subcommittee, has presented a national firearm plan to the Cabinet.

The recommendations by the task force include increasing penalties for the unlawful possession of a firearm, basic practical and theoretical competency testing for all firearm licence applicants, and new licensing requirements by introducing stricter criteria for grounds to own a firearm.
Few safe from gangsters, survey reports

Business Day Reporter

A SURVEY on gangs in urban areas shows an alarming penetration of gangs into communities all over the country. The bulk of black urban areas, in particular, are in the grip of gangsters, with 74% of black adults aware of the neighbourhood gangs and 64% living in fear of them.

The survey was conducted for Business Day by Market Research Africa (MRA). An area-stratified probability sample of 2,510 respondents represented 92% of urban adults, excluding live-in domestic workers and non-workers.

Commenting on the results, MRA director Brian Culross said: "The extraordinary high levels of expectation of gang attacks reflect a pessimistic view of society's future and the government's ability to provide safe living for its citizens."

He said Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi's proposed anti-gang legislation, announced last month, was likely to receive broad public support — if people thought it had "the necessary muscle to tackle the situation". It would make participation in gang activities a punishable offence.

The survey showed that while gang activity was rife in the Western Cape, it was actually more prevalent in the northern provinces, notably North West, Northern Cape, Northern Province and Mpumalanga.

A total of 61% of urban adults feel safe from gangs, communities are generally reluctant to take the law into their own hands. In response to a question on vigilantism, eight in 10 coloureds, Indians and whites felt that known or suspected criminals should not be punished on the spot in any way, but handed over to the police. Most blacks agreed, but to a lesser extent (68%), with 20% believing it was sometimes acceptable to physically hurt (though not to kill) a suspected or known criminal.

Although most Gauteng respondents were against vigilante groups, support for them was strongest in this province. In Gauteng 35% of respondents thought known or suspected lawbreakers should be dealt with by vigilantes.

Gangs are also evident in white and Indian communities, but to the same extent," said Culross. "Overall, 30% of Indian respondents and 12% of whites were aware of local gangs. One in 10 Indians and just under one in 10 whites had already been attacked, robbed or threatened, and 17% of whites and 20% of Indians were afraid of this happening to themselves or their families.

Gang violence was highest in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, where 18% of respondents in each province had been victims of gang aggression. While personal experience of gang violence was lowest in the Free State (8%), the fear of being attacked was the highest there (60%).

Despite the fact that few people year olds) said this should be for self-defence only. Most whites (45%) thought neighbourhood watch patrols should have weapons both to protect themselves and to use when arresting criminals.

Across the provinces, most people thought citizen patrols should have firearms for self-protection — especially Eastern Cape respondents (70%). Unarmed citizen patrols were favoured most in Kwa-Zulu-Natal (19%) and least in North West and Northern Cape (7%).

Free State respondents were the most reluctant about using firearms — 17% were against patrols using firearms for any reason. This might seem at odds with their high level of apprehension about gang attacks," said Culross. "But probably it reflects a worry that more guns means more mayhem."
BMW offers hijack-proof car for SA

STAFF REPORTER

Now, especially for South African roads – the hijack-proof Beemer. BMW today announced the 540i Protection, complete with body armour and security glazing.

The car is expected to become available here towards the middle of next year. BMW says the car is almost identical in looks to the standard production 5 series. But it offers protection “from attackers armed with anything from rocks and crowbars through to handguns of up to .44 Magnum calibre”.

An external communications system, complete with handheld microphone, allows occupants of the 540i Protection to talk to people outside without having to risk opening side windows or doors.

The special security modifications include 19mm security glazing all round with polycarbonate coating to prevent splinters from entering the interior.

High-performance aramide-fibre mats, which stop bullets by a process of energy absorption, have been installed around the passenger cell, in wheel arches and doors, the A-, B- and C-pillars, and in the roof and rear sections.

Special tyres are available capable of speeds of up to 80km/h after being penetrated. Under normal circumstance they will handle speeds up to 210km/h.
Crime-busters to take leaf from apartheid book

Provincial Cabinet to forge tough laws

JOSEPH AGANES
Staff Reporter

A proposed new crime fighting structure set to go before the provincial Cabinet for approval could see the establishment of a multi-agency forum to co-ordinate anti-crime initiatives, similar to the apartheid regime's Joint Management Centres (JMCs).

The structure was proposed after much debate and deliberation at the recent provincial crime prevention summit.

It was proposed that the multi-agency forum, to include the heads of provincial government departments, the police, the defence force, municipalities, representatives of non-government organisations and commerce, would be chaired by Western Cape director-general, Niel Barnard.

The structure is reminiscent of the former government's JMCs in which the defence force, police, government departments and intelligence personnel collaborated to counter forces opposed to apartheid.

But even before the summit deliberated whether the structure was the best mechanism for fighting crime, a similar forum, the Integrated Planning Group (IPG), was meeting under the chairmanship of Mr Barnard.

It was this structure, and the fact that it was headed by Mr Barnard, who during the apartheid era was head of the National Intelligence Service, that was the main focus of the debate at the summit.

Summit facilitator and executive director of the Community Peace Foundation Nombulelo Mkefa said while the Barnard aspect of the group had been contentious, delegates has agreed it was a powerful and useful mechanism to deal with crime.

"It is true that doubt has been cast on the acceptability of such a structure but after broad consultation and long debate it was agreed Mr Barnard should be left out of the debate as that was a separate issue and had nothing to do with the proposed structure.

"Looking at the group as a structure, it is clear it has the capacity to prioritise and to decide on matters immediately and to take the necessary steps to ensure that problems are resolved."

Ms Mkefa said it was this type of delivery mechanism that was needed to fight crime.
The Specifics of South-South Co-operation

Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Ian Forsyth, left, and SA Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Abdul Minty, at a conference in Johannesburg yesterday organised by the SA Institute of International Affairs to discuss south to south co-operation.

‘Drugs, refugees threaten stability’

Bonile Ngqiyaza

SOUTHERN African countries were faced with a host of potentially destabilising factors, including narcotics trading, displaced populations and environmental and economic problems, an SA Institute of International Affairs conference heard yesterday.

Institute for Security Studies representative Jakkie Cilliers, speaking at the conference organised by the SA Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), estimated the value of the worldwide trade in illegal drugs to be as high as $500bn a year.

The US, Cilliers said, was the world’s largest consumer of illegal drugs with 300-million users spending an estimated $28bn a year on cocaine, $6.8bn on marijuana and between $10bn and $12bn on heroin.

There were ominous signs SA was being targeted both as a major trans-shipment centre for a wide variety of narcotics and as a lucrative untapped market. Drug use was not simply a social phenomenon, but had wider political and security implications.

“...in Latin America there is an intimate relationship between the narcotraficantes (drug traffickers) and leftist revolutionary groups.”

Cilliers said political unrest, social upheaval, economic dislocation and ecological disaster had all contributed to the movement of people across national frontiers from one southern African state to another.

“The largest and most dramatic population movements of recent years, however, have been the 30-million refugees and other displaced people in the developing world,” he said. “Mass population movements create domestic instability, generate interstate tension and threaten international security.”

He said the waning of Cold War military tensions had coincided with the growing visibility of problems that threatened the security of many states and required international solutions.

These included the hole in the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect, deforestation and the scarcity of water, energy and other resources.

“Current calculations are that by 2000 SA will suffer water stress. Malawi will have moved into absolute water scarcity,” he said.

Cilliers called for the reformation of the United Nations and its security council in order to address regional representation and the existing permanent council members’ veto power.
SA murders far above global average — report

Bonnie Nkgyaza

SA had a reported murder rate of 45 people per 100 000 inhabitants last year, comparing unfavourably with the international average of 5.5 per 100 000, a Network of Independent Monitors and Gun Free SA-commissioned report released this week stated.

The report on arms control and weapons proliferation focuses mainly on KwaZulu-Natal, which it said had the largest weapons problem of the provinces, with 45.4% of the SA total of weapons seized there.

It said 24 785 murders reported in SA last year, 10 500 were committed with firearms — and calculated that 28 people were killed by firearms daily in the country.

The report said firearms were used in 43 379 of the 68 320 robberies which were reported in 1994. And last year alone, it said, 195 639 firearms had been approved.

The report said there were more than 2 million licensed firearm owners and more than 4 million licensed weapons in circulation in SA. The figure excluded an estimated five million weapons owned by the SA National Defence Forces (SANDF) and SA Police Services (SAPS).

The SAPS, the report said, was aware of and monitoring the activities of more than 2 800 suspects known to be involved in the illegal firearms trade.

The Ceasefire Campaign, among other things, is campaigning for a total ban of limpet mines, said while accurate figures for the total of illegal weapons in circulation were unobtainable, it was estimated at 4 million last year.

While the report recognised that the flow and availability of weapons in SA was stimulated by historical and continuing political conflicts, both domestic and regional, it expressed concern that the new government continued selling arms to other African countries.

The report — which traces the history of SA society's militarisation during its apartheid struggle to recent crime syndicates and the taxi conflict — criticised the SANDF and the SAPS which it said continued stockpiling weapons, this despite the fact that SA never had a serious military threat and — according to military intelligence — was unlikely to have one in future, it said.

Poor crime management, including the low rates of arrest and conviction, were a national problem, the report said.

The situation was especially bad in KwaZulu-Natal, where former KwaZulu Police officers had little comprehension of the use of forensic evidence, the report said.

It said despite public perceptions, pistols and revolvers — not AK-47s — were the weapons most commonly used in SA.
The temptation is too hard to obtain results.
Anger, alarm as rural attacks continue
SAAU chief warns that farmers may act on attacks

PRETORIA — Organised agriculture should not be blamed if they take extraordinary steps to protect their members and other farmers against such attacks.

President Chris du Toit said in Pretoria the wave of farm attacks this month lent weight to the union's call for a judicial inquiry.

"We abhor the barbaric way in which a farmer and his wife were murdered in KwaZulu-Natal in the latest killing.

"The SAAU and its affiliates should not be blamed if they take extraordinary measures to protect their members and other farmers against such attacks."

Newcastle farming couple Nicholas Marais, 43, and his wife Magda, 33, were found bludgeoned to death on their farm on Wednesday.

This brings to 10 the number of farmers murdered in 18 attacks so far this month. Another eight were injured.

Du Toit said farm attacks were encouraged by remarks such as those of a KwaZulu-Natal civic leader who said recently: "We are going to murder them just like Free State farmers have been killed." The government had to act decisively if it really intended stopping the spate of killings, Du Toit said.

He called on farmers to take all possible precautions to ensure their safety over the holidays.

"Indications are that the attacks will increase during this period. We call on the police force to be more visible in rural areas in the next few weeks."

The SA National Civic Organisation and police are investigating an alleged threat by a Sasco member to a farm. The Sasco member allegedly made the threat during a beneficial exchange with police at the Ingogo police station in northern KwaZulu-Natal on Wednesday, according to a Johannesburg-based newspaper.

The newspaper quoted the man as saying: "We are going to murder them just like Free State farmers have been killed." A policeman at the Ingogo station confirmed the incident had taken place but said only that police were investigating.

It was confirmed that the statement was made during a beneficial exchange over an eviction order served on three families from a farm in the area.

Sasco deputy president and provincial secretary Ruth Bhe ngu said Sasco did not have details of the incident, but did not dispute that it had happened.

Bhe ngu said although her organisation did not support any form of violence in dealing with conflict, the circumstances surrounding the incident should be taken into account.

Another KwaZulu-Natal farmer, Wayne Botha, 32, from Howick in the south of the province, was wounded when he was attacked by three men on his farm Wednesday afternoon.

The attack was apparently linked to the shooting of a farm worker three weeks ago. — Sapa.
SAAU chief warns that farmers may act on attacks

PRETORIA — Organised agriculture should not be blamed if it took extraordinary measures to protect its members and other farmers against such attacks, the SA Agricultural Union said yesterday.

President Chris du Toit said in Pretoria the wave of farm attacks this month lent weight to the union's call for a judicial inquiry. “We abhor the barbaric way in which a farmer and his wife were murdered in KwaZulu-Natal in the latest killing.”

“The SAAU and its affiliates should not be blamed if they take extraordinary measures to protect their members and other farmers against such attacks,” he said.

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Du Toit said farm attacks were encouraged by remarks such as those of a KwaZulu-Natal civic leader who said recently: “We are going to murder them just like Free State farmers have been killed.” The government had to act decisively if it really intended stopping the spate of killings, Du Toit said.

He called on farmers to take all possible precautions to ensure their safety over the holiday.

“Indications are that the attacks will increase during this period. We call on the security forces to be more visible in rural areas in the next few weeks,” he said.

The SA National Civic Organisation and police are investigating an alleged threat by a Sano member that farmers in KwaZulu-Natal would be killed. The Senco member allegedly made the threat during a heated exchange with police at the Ingogo police station in northern KwaZulu-Natal on Wednesday, according to a Johannesburg-based newspaper.

The newspaper quoted the man as saying: “We are going to murder them just like Free State farmers have been killed.” A policeman at the Ingogo station confirmed the incident had taken place but said only that police were investigating.

It was confirmed that the statement made during a heated exchange over an eviction order served on three families from a farm in the area.

Sanco deputy president and provincial secretary Ruth Bhengu said Sanco did not have details of the incident, but did not dispute that it had happened.

Bhengu said although the organisation did not support any form of violence in dealing with conflict, the circumstances surrounding the incident should be taken into account.

Another KwaZulu-Natal farmer, Wayne Botha, 32, from Highflats in the south of the province, was wounded when he was attacked by three men on his farm on Wednesday afternoon.

The attack was apparently linked to the sacking of a farm worker three weeks ago. — Sapa.
Corruption unit to probe 2 000 cases

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The special investigating unit and tribunal into government corruption and maladministration has received 2 000 complaints — involving amounts totalling R13.7bn — since it was set up in March.

One of the biggest cases involved more than R1bn in fraudulent cheques in the health and education departments of Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and 'Northern' Province, the unit's second in charge, Gerhard Visagie, said at the weekend.

He said the unit had saved the state about R230m when a R400m tender for a new pensions scheme in the Eastern Cape was recently set aside by the Bisho High Court when the cheapest tender had been R180m.

Another example was investigation of the award of an R80m tender for a government building in Queenstown after improper tender procedures were followed, Visagie said.

The unit's "trials" had begun, in earnest in the past two months, and most of its investigations still had to be heard by the tribunal, he said.

The investigating unit, headed by Judge Willem Heath, covered maladministration, misappropriation, corruption, negligence and unlawful conduct "with a bearing on state institutions" at national, provincial and local government level, Visagie said. Its probes covered feeding scheme maladministration, pensions and tenders, theft and illegal land deals.

However, a "budgetary dispute" had arisen with government. The unit's request for R16m for its first six months of operation was still awaiting approval. Visagie said the decision was regrettable, "because we feel we can recover so much more for the state". The unit, which had 50 staff members, was "an obvious investment for SA".

Heath has described the unit as a commission "with teeth", similar to the commission he headed in the Eastern Cape which saved about R10bn.

Visagie said the unit differed from a commission in that it not only investigated complaints, but had the authority "to initiate civil proceedings and bring such civil proceedings before the special tribunal. We not only investigate matters but bring them to finality by getting a legal judgment." Its judgments were equivalent to those of "a single judge in a high court".

If matters of a criminal nature came to the attention of the unit, they were referred to the attorney-general for prosecution, Visagie said. Anybody could file complaints with the unit, which were then referred to the unit by proclamation in a government gazette. Not all the 2 000 complaints received so far had been proclaimed yet.

Heath was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to head the investigating unit; with retired Appeal Court Judge Gerhardus Kotze as president of the tribunal.

The establishment of the unit followed a cabinet decision to extend the probe countrywide as a result of the successes reported by the Heath commission, which was appointed by former Eastern Cape premier Raymond Mhlaba in 1995 to investigate malpractice in the province, including the former Transkei and Ciskei.
Third of accused slip through nets of justice

By COLL. OFFORD
Crime Reporter

At least one-third of criminal cases handled by the courts are withdrawn because suspects disappear and witnesses go missing, contributing to an emerging crisis of dropping conviction rates amid high levels of ongoing serious crimes.

A study by the Institute for Security Studies revealed that convictions for most crimes had dropped steadily since 1993-94, while reported crime had stabilised or decreased.

But the decline in convictions preceded the levelling off of reported crime by several years, and some serious crimes were actually increasing when convictions began dropping.

During the first half of this year, about 40% of murder cases went unsolved, while the remaining 60% were either put through the court system, withdrawn for a specified reason or unfounded because they were attributed to suicide or another non-culpable reason.

According to Michelle Baird, director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, bureau research indicates that one in every three criminal cases is withdrawn because the suspect or witness goes missing.

"We found that one-third of all witnesses don't come back to court after their first appearance because of frustration, confusion or intimidation. The accused sometimes slip away when they are granted bail," Baird said.

The bureau, in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, jointly initiated the Pre-Trial Services project to address flaws in the system.

According to Baird, while the effect of Pre-Trial Services on conviction rates has not yet been analysed, it was expected to improve the current declining conviction figures, described by experts as an emerging crisis.

Pre-Trial Services, started after a nine-week study at the Mitchells Plain Magistrates' Court in the Cape from May to July, is now active in both Mitchells Plain and Johannesburg.

"We were shocked to discover that if a witness or a suspect in a criminal court case misplaces or forgets their next appearance date, there is currently no way court clerks can look up the date for them unless they can remember the name of the prosecutor involved. This is because court filing is done according to the next appearance date," Baird said.

Pre-Trial Services, operating from the holding cells at the Johannesburg Magistrates' Court, is working on registering all incoming cases and following them up.

Witnesses are also provided with a safe waiting area where they are informed of court procedures and offered the opportunity to liaise with the case prosecutor if they are intimidated.

According to Sarah Oppey of the Institute for Security Studies' crime and policing programme, police are also working on improving their investigation of cases and their partnership with prosecutors.

"The new Detective Academy was opened recently, marking a shift from the old service with its torture and beatings to a new system with better methods," Oppey said.

Emerging crisis in SA
Safer cities focus of conference on crime

PH diverted correspondent

Practical means to bring about a sustainable reduction of crime, violence and insecurity will be explored at an international conference on "safer cities" in Johannesburg next year.

The April conference follows major conferences on similar themes which have been organised by local authorities in Strasbourg, Barcelona, Montreal, Paris and Vancouver over the past 11 years.

Presented by the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council in co-operation with the Government and international entities, the four-day conference will focus on how local authorities and communities can implement their own crime-prevention strategies and programmes.

Issues relating to industrialised and developing countries are to be examined by an estimated 1,000 delegates. The conference takes place from April 14 to 17, starting with a mayor's summit promoting safer-city initiatives.

According to the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), which is organising the conference, some of the actions likely to arise from the discussions include the promotion of continental and regional forums for urban safety, the establishment and strengthening of co-operative partnerships between various cities, improvements in the replication and adaptation of promising and successful programmes, the exchanging of "best practices" and an improvement in the support obtained from national and provincial governments, the private sector and international organisations for crime prevention at a local level.

"The conference," says the ISS, "will go beyond political rhetoric and scientific conclusions and determine the practice, projects, approaches and activities for a sustainable reduction of crime, violence and insecurity."

It will bring together those who are working with proven and promising crime-prevention practices from across the world to understand "what works and how to apply it."

It will aim to create an understanding of the relationship between crime and social and economic issues, develop successful problem-solving partnerships, promote the sharing of information, create a united worldwide commitment to the prevention of crime, and the development of safer communities.
Viljoen draws tack for militant stance on farmers
Toefy turns on Pagad

The man who led the militant group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) through 18 months of brutal conflict with Cape Flats gangsters has broken ranks with the organisation.

Aslam Toefy, who quit as Pagad’s national co-ordinator last month, says it is time to stop marching on drug dealers’ houses and to start attacking the causes of drug abuse and gangsterism.

Pagad succeeded in raising the profile of the Cape Flats drugs scourge, he says. But the group has become a “perfect alibi” for anyone, including gangsters and drug dealers, to engage in criminal actions such as fire-bombings and murder.

The Pagad leadership has little control over attacks carried out in its name. It is not even clear whether the strikes on alleged drug dealers and gangsters have won or lost the organisation support.

“I stood on a cliff and looked down and I didn’t like what I saw. I was there on the edge with Pagad,” Toefy says. “It was never Pagad policy to attack anyone. It was policy to spur the police to act. Pagad became a springboard for everyone. Pagad was a perfect alibi. It was far bigger and more violent than it should have been.”

Toefy quit after what Pagad insiders have dubbed long-running strife within the organisation. He is believed to have lost out in a bitter power struggle with other leaders linked to the radical Muslim group Qhif.

Toefy was linked to the Muslim Judicial Council, which has criticised Pagad for its violent strategy. There have even been unconfirmed reports that Toefy, long accustomed to death threats from gangsters, was facing them from within Pagad.

Until that power struggle, Toefy was the public face of Pagad, as its increasingly bloody war with Cape Flats druglords intensified — a war that has claimed several lives on the Cape Flats this year and wounded dozens more.

His Pagad exploits include targeting Cape journalists for their coverage of the organisation, threatening the Olympic Bid Company after it talked to gangsters, joining a march on the Israeli embassy as part of “Muslims Against Global Oppression” and holding a press conference from a police cell. He also eluded police for months over charges relating to the violent Pagad demonstration at Cape Town airport last Christmas.

“Our main task is to fight gangs and stop drug trafficking,” he told the press, during the police to try to stop him. Toefy says Pagad’s aggressive strategy, which he personally drove, was “necessary ... the manner in which we approached the problem prompted the action we’ve seen from the police.”

“I was grandmothers and mothers who put their lives on the line. They proved to the police that the gangsters are not invincible. But the strategy needed to change, to look at closer co-operation with the police and focus more on the wider drug problem. “I would certainly hope that Pagad would look at this new direction and move on,” Toefy adds. “It is necessary to engage the police far earlier. They have the expertise. All we have to do is give them the information.”

Toefy dismisses talk of death threats, and of a power struggle or ideological differences within Pagad’s leadership. He says he wanted to leave “to broaden his horizons”.

He is planning to launch a community-based programme, focused on prevention and rehabilitation, and job creation.

“We can catch more bees with honey than vinegar,” he says. He says his relations with Pagad remain good, though there has been no contact since he resigned.

Toefy adds that he had been “demonised” for his involvement in Pagad. “The more human and gentler person in me needs to come out,” he says.
The 5000 Airgrams lost, stolen in under two years

Brainy Boy 1478

A TOTAL of 560 Airgrams were sent and last year about 14% of numbers and surmises 35% of the Kapers was not found in the following years.

The 20th November it was found that 376 Airgrams were sent and last year about 14% of numbers and surmises 35% of the Kapers was not found in the following years.

The 20th November it was found that 376 Airgrams were sent and last year about 14% of numbers and surmises 35% of the Kapers was not found in the following years.
Criminals in South Africa have thrown down the gauntlet, President Nelson Mandela told the intelligence community at the opening of the headquarters of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the South African Secret Service (SASS) in Pretoria.

Mr Mandela expressed his outrage at the report he received from the intelligence service ministry that R750 000 worth of computer equipment and ten minibuses were stolen from the premises of the R165-million headquarters in the past six months.

"How can you (the NIA and SASS) claim with any measure of integrity that you are competent to protect the country if you cannot secure your own premises," Mr Mandela asked.

He said criminals had showed no respect for South Africa's intelligence community because of the blatan[t] manner in which the thefts were conducted.

He said that this had sent "a clear message of arrogance" to the state that they (the criminals) can do anything with "impunity".

"Quite clearly, both the NIA and SASS need to examine themselves closely," Mr Mandela added.

Deeply embarrassed intelligent service Deputy Minister Joe Nhlanhla assured Mr Mandela that he would leave no stone unturned to find the criminals.

Mr Nhlanhla said the intelligence community still had to be "cleansed of its unruly elements" and he vowed to find the stolen property at all costs.

The Pretoria building complex is to house both the NIA and the SASS, although the structures will operate independently.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar said the intelligence community would be operating in a very controlled atmosphere and would be accountable to the respective ministry, the president and Parliament with regard to its operations.

He said the ministry would be accountable to Parliament's portfolio committee and the president.

None of these structures would be used to spy on political organisations, he said. The NIA would be responsible for internal state security and to ensure counter-espionage, while the SASS would deal with external factors threatening economic, social and political stability.

The national co-ordinator for intelligence, Linda Mti, said serious co-operation between intelligence and the judicial system was needed in order to change the laws to accommodate the crimes being committed at an international level.

He said many laws were outdated and failed to cater for industrial espionage, money laundering and international syndicates operating in various fields, including theft of computer information and technology.

Mr Mti is responsible for improving relations between military intelligence, the SA Police Services, the NIA and the SASS whenever investigations overlapped or demanded co-operation.

Asked about who qualified to be in the country's intelligence service, Mr Mti said only those born in South Africa were eligible because there had to be a "very deep level of patriotism and loyalty to the state".

However, in terms of skills, the intelligence services required a variety of qualifications - technical, engineering, medical, scientific research and law.

"This is a very specialised and diversified investigating field which needs almost every skill," said Mr Mti.
Anti-Crime Strategies Launched

By Noxolo Mozena

Former Mk cadres believe police
allow criminals to kill wantonly
Farmers give Govt. ultimatum

AGRICULTURAL leaders yesterday gave the Government until the end of January to curb criminal attacks in rural areas, failing which they will consider further action to protect farmers.

"That is our D-date," said South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) president Chris du Toit after meeting President Nelson Mandela in Pretoria.

"If nothing improves by then, the farming community will have to sit down and see what we can do to protect farmers."

Thirteen farmers were killed in 18 attacks in rural areas last month. Another four have been murdered since the beginning of December.

Mandela did not comment on the matter yesterday and delegated Safety and Security Minister Mr. Sydney Mufamadi to speak to journalists.

Mufamadi said Mandela had earlier in the day received an intelligence report on the farm killings, which would be used to devise steps to prevent the attacks.

Mandela needed time to study the report and would first discuss it with the SAAU. - Sapa.
Govt admits it failed to protect farmers

17 have died in attacks since the beginning of November.

Pretoria Correspondent
and SAPA

The Government has admitted that its plan to protect South Africa's farmers has failed.

Despite successes in the Free State, the rural protection plan (drawn up with the National Intelligence Service) is to be revised and two senior policemen will be sent in to seek ways of curbing the onslaught.

After President Mandela met officials of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) in Pretoria yesterday, Safety and Security minister Sydney Mufamadi said Mandela had received an intelligence report on the farm killings which would be used to devise steps to prevent further attacks. The report is expected to be made public only next year.

"We believe arrests in the Free State have been successful but we must emphasise farmers themselves have to prevent attacks and must take precautions on their properties."

Safety and Security spokesperson Thembi Mboisa said yesterday little or no success had been made in KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga and North West due to a lack of resources and commitment and poor cooperation between farmers and the SA National Defence Force and the police.

SAAU executive director Jack Raath warned that, should Government provide no solutions by the end of January, the union would have to rethink its position and look at other ways to protect farmers.

Raath, however, cautioned farmers not to take the law into their own hands: "We cannot start a civil war." Raath said the meeting showed an effort by Government to curb the spate of killings, but had provided no answers.

While the SAAU pressed for a deadline for solutions, four armed robbers assaulted a Northern Province farmer and gang-raped his wife on Monday. The men entered the house after pretending they wanted to buy a sheep, police said.

Spokesman Captain Athwei Mushavhanamadzi said: "They caught the farmer by surprise when one of them pulled out a 9mm pistol and demanded the keys to his safe. When they found only about R50 in the safe, they assaulted the farmer badly and then all of them raped his wife."

Hours later, Mpumalanga farmer Francois Coetzee (75) was attacked and injured in the face by five armed men on his farm at Woestalleen, about 30km from Hendrina

Police spokesman Captain Zak van Zyl said five men had been arrested. One suspect was arrested and gave information which led to the arrest of the other four. They were travelling in a white Nissan Sentra about 6km from the farm. The gang is believed to have been involved in similar crimes in the area in the past month.

An R5 rifle, reportedly stolen from Mhluli police station in August, was recovered from the five men.

Thirteen farmers were killed in 18 attacks last month and another four have been murdered this month.
Plan to protect farmers fails

 Pretoria – The Government has admitted that its plan to protect South Africa’s farmers has failed.

 Despite successes in the Free State, the Rural Protection Plan, drawn up with the aid of the National Intelligence Service, is to be revised and two senior policemen are to be sent in to seek ways of curbing the onslaught on farmers.

 Safety and Security spokeswoman Thembile Mboisa said yesterday that little or no success was achieved in KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga or North-West, due to a lack of resources, commitment and poor active co-operation between farmers and members of the defence force and the police.

 Attempts would be made to improve this state of affairs, she said.

 SA Agricultural Union executive director Jack Raath warned that should the Government provide no answers or solutions for the killings by the end of January, the union would have to re-think its present position and look at other ways to protect farmers.

 He did not want to speculate on what options would be considered but said that the establishment of a fund for security activities could be among them.

 However, he cautioned farmers not to take the law into their own hands. “We cannot start a civil war.”

 No possible motives for the killings were given at yesterday’s meeting between President Mandela, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, Agricultural Minister Derek Hanekom and a delegation from the Agricultural Union.

 And while Mr Mufamadi was telling journalists that the success rate in capturing perpetrators was as high as 90 percent in the Free State and adding that it was more important to prevent attacks, another farmer, Roobin Frost, 65, was fighting for his life in a Mpumalanga hospital after being attacked by six armed men.

 More talks are expected in January, when Mr Mandela receives a final report from intelligence agencies.
Intelligence report on farm killings given to Mandela

Louise Cook

The long-awaited intelligence report on farm murders, which might indicate whether the killings were politically motivated, was handed to President Nelson Mandela yesterday, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said.

No details of the report's contents would be released until the president had had time to study it, Mufamadi told reporters in Pretoria after a meeting between Mandela, certain ministers and the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU).

However, there were indications that the report would find there was no political motive behind the attacks.

A police source close to the intelligence team which undertook the investigation said last week that remarks by an African National Congress leader that set off suspicions of political motives had been checked out and found to be purely speculative. Only one of the more recent attacks bore any signs of a possible political motive, the policeman said.

The SAAU asked Mandela two months ago to appoint a commission of inquiry into what seemed to farmers to be deliberate attacks to drive them off their land. But the president said the intelligence community would first investigate the attacks before he was prepared to appoint a commission.

Mufamadi told the SAAU yesterday that two senior police officers would be appointed to co-ordinate criminal investigations into the farm murders. Last month 13 farmers were killed on their farms and another four have been killed this month.

Reuter reports SAAU president Chris du Toit gave Mandela an ultimatum yesterday, threatening that farmers would take the law into their own hands. "Towards the end of January, that is the D-day for us. We as a farming community are (then) going to see what we can do to secure the lives of our members," he said. The union called again for a judicial commission of inquiry.

Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom called the farmers' threat "irresponsible".

—Reuter.
Govt action on crime ‘eroding rights’

CAPE TOWN — Basic human rights principles were being eroded in government’s attempts to find quick fixes to the problem of crime, outgoing human rights commissioner Rhoda Khadale said yesterday.

At a breakfast hosted by Amnesty International in Cape Town to mark International Human Rights Day, she said civil society had a vital role in keeping human rights alive.

“Don’t be fooled that we now have politicians in government who we have chosen,” she said.

“Power has amazingly odd effects on the very people we trusted and put there. You cannot trust politicians anywhere in the world.”

“So it is our job to keep them vigilant and to hold them to their task, which is to build a human rights culture.”

Khadale, who will quit the commission on December 31, said one of her biggest criticisms of the body was that although it was “very good on paper”, with theories and national plans of action, it was not so good at making human rights a reality.

Faced with the enormity of the challenges of reconstruction and development, it was easy to become overwhelmed and seek quick fixes by amending a bill of rights.

She had heard it said that SA’s bill of rights was too expensive for such a poor country, or that crime was too far out of control to be dealt with in terms of human rights standards applicable only in an an advanced democracy.

Fundamental principles such as presumption of innocence were being eroded in attempts to address crime by introducing legislation on minimum sentencing, parole and bail.

Often these measures deflected attention from the remedies that were really needed, such as an improved conviction rate, more secure prisons and better-trained magistrates, prosecutors and police. — Sapa.
Crack detective squad to target farm killers

Two top policemen have been ordered to draw up a plan and appoint an ‘A-team’ to curb violent rural crime

BY RYAN CRESSWELL

Two top policemen, appointed yesterday in a bid to curb soaring farm killings, have been given a free hand to assemble their own teams of crack detectives in the campaign against violent rural crime.

Assistant Commissioner Sulke Britz and Director Errol Seyisi were told by National Commissioner George Fivaz that they had the difficult task of co-ordinating national efforts to stop the scourge, which has the rural community up in arms.

Britz is a veteran murder and robbery detective and Seyisi is the former head of Ciskei’s detective force.

Last month 13 farmers were killed and four have been murdered this month. Most of the killings and attacks took place in the Free State, KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga.

Britz said it would take about two weeks to formulate a new plan of action, which would be presented to President Nelson Mandela. The president was given a long-awaited intelligence report on farm killings this week but it will be made public only next year.

“We will look at all the angles to see what is going on. I must now go to each province and look at dockets going back about three years and then start from there,” Britz said.

Fivaz had told him about his new mission on Tuesday afternoon.

“I have carte blanche to choose the people I want for this one. We will definitely do a good job,” he added.

Sapa reports that KwaZulu Natal Agricultural Union president Graham McKintosh addressed about 400 farmers in the Farmers’ Hall.

He said: “The Government should declare a three-month long state of emergency of the whole of the Republic of South Africa, or in selected magisterial districts, so that the security forces can search, detain and vigorously sort out criminals, gangs and syndicates.

“There is no shame in a state of emergency. If it is enforced by a Government which has the legitimacy of being democratically and peacefully elected,” McKintosh added.

 Farmers also called for a six-month moratorium on the prosecution of people in possession of unlicensed firearms, to allow them time to hand in their weapons.

“At the end of the moratorium, anybody found in possession of an unlicensed firearm should face a mandatory sentence of five years in jail without the option of a fine,” McKintosh said.

In the latest attack, farmer Christoffel Fourie (41) from the Roodtje area near Vredie in the Free State was stabbed by an intruder in the Free State. Fourie was off his attacker by firing a shot from his shotgun after being stabbed in a shoulder and an arm, according to police.

In Bothaville, also in the Free State, Magdalena Erasmus (63) was attacked and stabbed several times in her home on Tuesday afternoon.

South African Agricultural Union spokesman August du Preez said the organisation welcomed the appointment of the two new police co-ordinators and their free rein to pick and choose detectives.

“The community trusts these people. We will give them all the co-operation we can,” he said.

Government officials, farmers and police gathered yesterday to begin discussions on a day of prayer against crime on December 21.

Parks Mankhlahla, spokesman for the president’s office, said details of the plan would be announced by early next week.

“The Government’s attitude is that the day should cover all crime, and those involved should be from all faiths,” he said.
to crime syndicates

Economy loses billions

By Solo Lekota
Rural murders seen as a severe blow for black farmers as well

Land redistribution to emerging black farmers could be dealt a severe blow because of the spate of farm killings.

National African Farmers Union executive director Andrew Makenete said the security crisis in rural areas was discouraging potential black farmers although they stood to gain land from the Government.

Land Affairs and Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom this week announced that 500 000ha of land would be transferred to about 50 000 new owners next year as part of the land reform programme.

Commercial farmers whose lands were up for redistribution could adopt a hardened stance against the process and not volunteer to engage farmworkers in training and skills transfer programmes, Makenete said.

He said many farmers were already following these programmes, and although the process was progressing slowly, the upsurge in the number of farm killings had thwarted plans to speed it up.

Many of these programmes were based on goodwill and good relationships, and if farmers felt threatened, they might change their attitudes, he said.

Farm killings did not serve the interests of land allocations in the economy. They were random and unwarranted, and had to be condemned in the strongest terms.

The 45 000-member union of emerging black farmers believed the killings could be remedied if the core motivation for the attacks were identified.

Free State PAC chairman Moffiss Likotsi said attacks — especially those in KwaZulu Natal, where black and Indian farmers had been victims — were not always racially motivated.

Sometimes farmers were attacked for resources such as food, and they were vulnerable as they live in isolated areas.

Six opposition parties this week took steps to ensure their areas of influence will have police roadblocks, farm patrols, and information kits on possible suspects. — Sapa
Farm killings deal blow to emerging farmers

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Stellenbosch – Land redistribution to emerging black farmers could be dealt a severe blow because of the country’s spate of farm killings.

National African Farmers Union executive director Andrew Makenje said the security crisis in rural areas was discouraging black potential farmers from entering the food production market, although they stood to gain land from the Government.

Land Affairs and Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom announced this week that 600 000ha of land would be transferred to about 50 000 new owners next year as part of the Government’s land reform programme.

A total of 900 000ha of private and state land had been identified for eventual transfer, he said.

Commercial farmers whose land was up for redistribution could adopt a hardened stance against the process and not volunteer to engage farm workers in training and skills transfer programmes, Mr Makenje said.

He said many farmers were already following these programmes and although the process was progressing slowly, the upsurge in the number of farm killings had thwarted plans to speed it up.

Many of these programmes are based on goodwill and if farmers feel threatened they may change their attitudes and become more aggressive, he said.

Farm killings do not serve the interests of land allocations or the economy. They are random, uninspired and have to be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

He said the 45 000-strong members of the union, which represents emerging black farmers, believes farm killings would be easier to remedy once the core motivation for these focused attacks had been identified.

Free State African National Congress chairman Mophethli Likotsi said farm attacks – especially those in KwaZulu-Natal where black and Indian farmers had been victims – were not always racially motivated.

Mr Likotsi said the land redistribution programme was experiencing problems because of the attacks.
RAPES IN SA STILL HIGHEST IN WORLD

MURDERS, ROBBERIES DOWN, HIJACKINGS UP

JOHANNESBURG: Police appear to be making progress in the fight against crime in most categories, but have been unable to stem the rise in car hijacking and rape cases.

NATIONAL statistics indicate that the murder rate has dropped from an average of 71 a day last year to about 65 a day for the first nine months of 1997. The country's rape statistics, however, remain the highest in the world.

KwaZulu-Natal is still the most dangerous province in the country, with 4,372 murders reported during the first nine months of 1997, but the gap between KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng is closing as political violence in the coastal province continues to drop. Police recorded 4,020 murder cases in Gauteng in the first nine months of this year.

In total, 17,709 people were murdered from January to September this year - 930 less than the corresponding period last year.

According to the latest police statistics, hijacking remains a problem, with an increase of 79 cases to 9,669 reported to police. However, only three provinces - Gauteng (5,972), Western Cape (2,364) and North West (1,533) - recorded an increase in this crime.

More than 22 cars or motor cycles are hijacked each day in Gauteng and it appears there will be little respite for law-abiding citizens as organised syndicates continue to derail police efforts to curb this traumatic crime.

Reported rapes for this period increased from 36,137 last year to 37,905. Gauteng was the only province to register a slight decrease, in the number of reported rapes, but with 9,292 reported cases, still recorded the most rapes.

Police speculate that the higher rape rate may be attributed to a renewed emphasis on crimes against women and children as a national priority, which may have triggered the higher reporting rate.

Attempted murder cases are down from about 105 cases a day last year to 76 this year, although Gauteng, with 5,234 cases, has become the province with the highest number of cases reported, KwaZulu-Natal follows with 5,069 reported cases.

National statistics show that armed robbery declined slightly from 50,414 cases last year to 50,405 cases this year, but indications from the final crime report to be issued this year show that this crime increased in all but one of Gauteng's seven policing areas when compared with figures from the previous year.

An anti-crime drive focused primarily on central Johannesburg had a stabilising effect on inner-city crime with only 13 cases being reported this year that the 7,383 cases reported in 1996.

Vehicle theft showed an increase from 71,713 to 74,476 in the corresponding period with an eight per cent increase in Gauteng to 47,761 cases and a 13 per cent increase in the Western Cape to 6,872 reported cases.

This crime showed a 10 per cent drop in the Free State and Northern Cape.

OWN Correspondent

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CRIME AT A GLANCE FOR 1997 (JAN TO SEP)

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<td>Murder</td>
<td>19,672</td>
<td>19,131</td>
<td>18,639</td>
<td>17,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted Murder</td>
<td>20,100</td>
<td>20,267</td>
<td>20,906</td>
<td>20,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery (agg)</td>
<td>62,877</td>
<td>60,354</td>
<td>50,414</td>
<td>50,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashing out</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Robbery</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash-in-Transit Robbery</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape (incl attempts)</td>
<td>29,399</td>
<td>33,139</td>
<td>33,137</td>
<td>37,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>147,551</td>
<td>155,576</td>
<td>162,788</td>
<td>168,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault (common)</td>
<td>137,303</td>
<td>147,609</td>
<td>149,126</td>
<td>146,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary (residential)</td>
<td>167,983</td>
<td>179,112</td>
<td>184,547</td>
<td>184,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary (business)</td>
<td>67,098</td>
<td>64,666</td>
<td>65,660</td>
<td>65,515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>77,429</td>
<td>76,017</td>
<td>71,713</td>
<td>74,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft out of Vehicle</td>
<td>1,266,056</td>
<td>1,264,719</td>
<td>132,935</td>
<td>139,125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoplifting</td>
<td>50,148</td>
<td>46,315</td>
<td>46,063</td>
<td>47,717</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Figures included in aggravated robbery statistics)*

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THIRD DIVISION

CHIEF JUDGE E. M. Nkabinde

COURT NO. 36

Admissions

D v. J. C. H. Bodkin - Arremony

J. J. P. van Tonder - Mason

R v. N. J. J. van Rensburg - Sequestration

B v. N. J. H. van Rensburg - Sequestration

B v. E. E. Steyn - Sequestration

B v. E. J. van der Merwe - Sequestration

B v. W. F. Steyn - Sequestration

N v. J. van der Westhuizen - Sequestration

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HIGH COURT ROLL

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M. E. Nkabinde - District Court

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HIGH COURT ROLL

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M. E. Nkabinde - District Court

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HIGH COURT ROLL
Dogs in frontline in war on crime

Better deterrent than guns

OWN CORRESPONDENT AND REUTERS

If all South Africa's armed homeowners banded together, they could probably muster enough firepower to win a small land war.

But despite their arsenal, they are losing the fight against criminals in their own backyards.

The answer, security experts say, is to scrap the Glock, Colt, Magnums and Berettas and replace them with well-bred, well-trained dogs.

"No one can steal a dog and turn it against you like a firearm," says Terry Baikie, who breeds and trains German shepherd dogs to protect their owners.

He also teaches the people who buy his dogs how to handle them properly.

"I have had a couple of rape victims who are now back in their normal life with a dog as a family member, following them around.

"I believe they have gained a lot of self-confidence and are feeling more secure. They are not 100% safe, but they will get a second chance with a dog near them," Mr. Baikie says.

South Africa has 3.4 million registered firearms, most of them in the hands of the white population of about 5 million.

But the presence of a gun in a home seldom deters robbers, and more often becomes a lure as powerful as jewellery or cash.

Thousands of firearms are stolen every year.

"The trend for the homeowner is towards a dog which can afford some degree of protection, as opposed to pure pet value," says Mr. Baikie.

Clive Birch, who trains security dogs and has twice been saved by his German shepherd, says nothing compares to dogs as a crime deterrent.

"I would rather work with a dog than a man. A dog is not going to drop you in it - he will back you up, he will lay down his life if necessary," he says.

"A firearm nowadays has become a primary target for any would-be thief, so your armed guard is at a very high risk. The guy's got this perception that a firearm is a key to every bank, every shop, every till."

Mr. Birch points out that it is easy to mislead a man, but a trained dog will always get its man.

"Once that dog is released, you can duck and dive and go into a ditch, all sorts of things, but the dog is going to get you."

"Dogs sometimes attack innocent people, which is where animal psychologists such as John Paul come in.

"In South Africa, as in most other countries, more and more people are buying large guarding breeds to protect themselves from crime and are totally unaware of the real capacities of these dogs or how their social systems of order and rank work," he says.

"In the great majority of cases, aggressive dogs are created by their owner's lack of understanding of how they regulate their social behaviour."

"Mr. Paul says owners have to make clear to their dogs who is at the top of the hierarchy.

"There's no doubt that a lot of people are now recognising the advantages of owning one or two guard dogs as opposed to firearms," says Bruce McKenzie, who last year rescued a three-year-old Doberman from the SPCA and sold his Beretta pistol.

"I found my firearm controlled me. It was always a concern that I could shoot the wrong person for the wrong reason or, even worse, have my own weapon used against me. With Candy I've got something I trust and I know she's always looking out for me."

In October, 4-year-old Bella of Ridgeway in Johannesburg scared off six armed hijackers to protect her mistress, Nicole Russell. When the assailants produced a knife, Bella lunged at him and was fatally shot by his accomplice. The men then fled, and Russell believes she owes her life to her young dog.
Three laws part of wider government committal to corner SA's criminals
Criminals' paradise

Arguments over how to tackle the problem of crime have become commonplace locally and internationally. The extent of the problem was adequately conceptualised at a recent Interpol conference in New Delhi, India.

It was agreed at this conference that organised crime poses a growing threat to the sovereignty of nations across the world. As a matter of fact, the international community is unanimous that crime is the world's single biggest threat since the end of the Cold War.

The International Monetary Fund summed up the scale of the threat rather succinctly when it stated that organised crime had an estimated turnover of R9.8 trillion globally. This constitutes about four percent of the world economy.

Our country is not immune to the impact of the rapid globalisation of crime. There is growing evidence that transnational criminal syndicates perceive South Africa as an emerging market for criminal enterprise.

Syndicates from the former Baltic States, Western European countries, Asia, Latin America as well as Nigeria are becoming significant players on the local scene.

These foreign syndicates are forging strategic alliances with local groups and are providing them with access to vast amounts of capital and sophisticated criminal know-how.

Available intelligence indicates that organised crime is behind criminal operations such as hijacking of cars and trucks, theft of mobile telephones, military-style bank robberies, contract killings and sprees of burglaries.

Stage of transition

The factors that make South Africa so attractive to criminals are in many ways similar to those found in other countries that are at a comparable stage of transition. These include:

- A relatively advanced industrial and banking sector, and a sophisticated communication network. It is clear from this that South Africa offers a launching pad from which criminals can enter markets in the whole of the Southern African region.
- The cessation of hostilities between the previous regime and the liberation movement resulted in the relaxation of border controls. It is estimated that because of the porousness of our borders, we lost revenue to the tune of R17 billion in 1996 alone. This is more than the police service's annual budget.
- The level of corruption in the public service generally, and the criminal justice departments in particular, gives the criminals a tool with which to circumvent law enforcement.

Some of the civil servants collude with criminals for economic reasons. It must not be ruled out, however, that others see their collaboration in crime as a way of taking revenge on the new political dispensation.

- The involvement in crime of elements who were either part of liberation armies or covert structures in the old dispensation accounts for the growing operational sophistication which has become evident in the way some crimes, like robberies of cash-in-transit and escapes from lawful custody, are being conducted.
- Of particularly grave concern is the fact that although the South African Police Service is not understaffed, it does not have enough members with appropriate skills to handle sophisticated criminals operating in our country today.

For example, out of more than 140 000 members, only about 12 000 work as detectives. Of these, only 20 percent were actually trained as detectives.

Needless to say, these factors mean that South Africa provides what is perhaps one of the most congenial environments for criminal activity.

The question nevertheless does arise - what are police doing to fight crime?
- The realisation that criminals do not respect borders and that they treat the entire Southern African region as a theatre for their operations provided the impetus for regional cooperation on matters of law enforcement.

In January we launched joint operations with policing agencies in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The aim was to recover stolen vehicles. Of the 1 576 stolen vehicles recovered in the operations, 1 464 were stolen from South Africa.
- Unlike in various other parts of the world, some of the crimes in our country have been attended by extreme levels of violence. This has to do with the fact that South Africa is located in a region which was (not so long ago) a zone of turbulence. Criminals have easy access to illegal weapons from Mozambique and Angola.

It is for this reason that we launched a joint operation with the Mozambican police to seize illegal weapons. We melted down more than 100 tons of illegal firearms seized from that operation.

We have also decided to curb the illegal movement of goods by reducing the number of border posts open to commercial traffic from 95 to 34 and to institute tougher control measures.

The growing sophistication of crime is creating problems all over the world.

Sydney Mufamadi discusses the effects of the globalisation of crime...
Robberies in '97 bank and other rough trade

BY ROXANNE KARMA

The year with a high crime rate

Women and politicians are among those who have a brush with the law.
**Numerous crimes**

Mofokeng, on the other hand, proudly confirmed in court that he was the mastermind of the January 3rd robbery in Venterstad, where $1.3 million was stolen. He was later sentenced to six years in prison for attempting to murder Mr Paul Motlao, his former security guard, and for the brutal murder of 18-year-old Sabela Mokola, a petrol attendant in Venterstad.

Mofokeng was not the only culprit. In 1989, he was also sentenced to 13 years in prison for two other robberies in Western Cape.

The police, however, are not the only ones to blame. Many suspects have also been sentenced to life imprisonment for their involvement in the crimes.

**Bank robberies**

Some of this year's high-profile cases are "cash converters," as skilled architects of the crime. Robert Tshabalala is one of the most notorious of these criminals.

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**Media attention**

The crimes have received extensive media coverage, with many stories featuring Tshabalala as the mastermind behind the heists.

The media has also highlighted the increasing sophistication of the criminals, with many cases involving complex planning and execution.

**Public reaction**

The public has been shocked by the scale of the crimes, with many expressing concern for their safety and security.

**Government response**

The government has pledged to increase police resources and invest in new technologies to combat the increasing trend in bank robberies.

**International concern**

The crimes have also garnered international attention, with many countries expressing concern for the trend.

**Conclusion**

The crimes of Tshabalala and his associates highlight the need for increased police resources and a more proactive approach to combatting bank robberies.

The government is working on new strategies to address the growing problem, with a focus on increasing police presence and investing in new technologies.

The public is urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police.

The crimes continue, and the battle to bring these criminals to justice will be a long and difficult one.