

**A COMMUNITY AWARENESS-RAISING INTERVENTION
IN THE COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM IN GIYANI**

by

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ABSTRACT

The police department renders many services to the community members. Among all those services, there is a programme called “The Community Policing Forum” (CPF), which deals mostly with crime prevention. In such a programme, community members are actively involved in crime prevention, but this does not mean that the community members must take law into their own hands. And it also does not mean that the police must not carry out their duties. Unlike in the past, when the police worked alone in crime prevention, the Community Policing forum encourages partnership between both the police and the community members.

Research has been done on this topic, but I did this research because I wanted to explore the issue of what makes crime escalate despite the police’s patrol. Throughout my investigations, I found out that both the police and the community members contribute to the high rate of crime.

The central themes in my research were formulated around these issues, in which I wanted to explore issues only in a tentative and descriptive way:

- ❖ To find out if people know about the preventative measures to be taken in order to reduce crime.
- ❖ To find out if politics have a negative effect on crime prevention.
- ❖ To find out if people’s negligence and ignorance can contribute to the high rate of crime.
- ❖ To find out if the community members together with the police can alleviate crime.

I conducted my research by interviewing, observing, attending CPF meetings and using questionnaires. Through the data collected in this way I found out the people’s views on crime. I found out that all of them are against crime and they are all in favour of crime prevention, but that they needed more information and also skills to prevent crime in this community.

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SECTION ONE

THE COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Most community members in Giyani Township do not feel safe and secure anymore, even if they are at their homes. The problem is the escalating rate of crime, which is uncontrollable, despite the police's patrols day and night. Burglary and theft still occur despite the security devices, which the people have installed at their homes and in their cars.

Besides patrolling, the police have also published pamphlets on defensive measures against rape, house breaking and car theft. This information to the community members can help in reducing crime if it is taken into consideration. In addition to the pamphlets published, the police have also introduced a daily program on the local radio station, which broadcasts items about crime committed, statistics on crime and the way the perpetrators operate. They also advise the community members on how they can participate in combating crime. Despite all the efforts of the police, there are still reports on crime committed daily.

There is a growing awareness that the community can and must play a vital role in problem solving and fighting crime. A fundamental aspect of community policing has always been that the public must engage themselves in the fight against crime and disorder. The community members must work together with the police in crime prevention. Working together with the police improves the relationship between the police and the community at large. Prioritising crimes which need immediate attention and obtaining long-term mandate from the public is easy if there is a healthy relationship between the police and the community members (Marais, 1998:10).

1.2 THE BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Giyani Township, especially section A, is near the informal settlement, in which most inhabitants are Mozambican refugees. The settlement is overpopulated and about 90% of the inhabitants are unemployed. Those who are lucky to have jobs, work on a temporary

basis as unskilled labourers, gardeners or domestic workers. In such a place, poverty is pervasive and crime rates are very high. The high rate of crime at Giyani section A is most probably caused by poverty, the high rate of unemployment, lack of recreational centres or entertainment centres, the high rate of “dropouts” from the local high schools and the criminal syndicates that operate in the area.

Seeing that the rate of crime around Giyani township, especially in section A, is unacceptably high, I decided to conduct an inquiry with the Giyani police officers on how crime can be alleviated, how factors that contribute to high crime rate can be identified and which preventative measures can be taken in crime prevention activities. In my investigation I found out that the Giyani police officers together with the community members had already started working jointly in order to alleviate crime. In doing this research my focus is on crimes, which are mostly committed and reported to the police station. In this regard there is some social conflict between the community members and doubts about the police officers’ work and the measures that the community members are taking in alleviating crime.

Crimes that are mostly reported at Giyani police station are burglary, rape, pick-pocketing, shoplifting, vandalizing of public phones, stealing of government vehicles (the government buildings are in section A and government cars are parked there), stealing of valuables from motorcars (such as radios, purses and cellular phones).

1.3 THE RESEARCH AIM

The aim of conducting this research is that:

- ❖ I would like to find out if the community members together with the police can come forward with a plan which could succeed in combating crime, and
- ❖ if the relationship between the police officers and the community members can be improved and if they can work together as a team in a harmonious way in the fight against crime.

The police alone cannot address and reduce criminal problems; they need the public to share with them the burden of reducing crime. In the United Kingdom, as in many other Western countries, the local police forces are encouraged to develop direct community relationships through the devices such as community policing (Brogden & Clifford, 1993:26).

Throughout my initial exploratory investigations, I observed that the crime rate is increasing daily. The community members themselves contribute to domestic burglary because of their negligence. I also found out that the police and community members spend insufficient time on crime prevention. Crime will not be tackled effectively if it is regarded as solely only a matter for the police. That is why neighbourhood watch is useless without the proper participation of the police. I thus became convinced that this study would be worthwhile.

1.4 THE NEED TO CONDUCT THIS RESEARCH

Research has already been done on this topic. In doing this research, I would like to integrate my empirical data and findings on crime prevention with selected theories and models that already exist in the literature. I would also like to demonstrate to the community practically which preventative measures they could take to combat crime.

After I had decided to conduct this research I made myself part of the community-policing forum by attending meetings that are usually held at one of the halls at the police station. Sometimes an alternative venue is used if more people are invited. I also engaged in the youth programmes, such as Youth Against Crime. During my participation in the meetings, I learned more about crime and also about policing in the area, which further validated the need to conduct this inquiry.

Community members are being made aware that reducing crime does not only refer to more arrests, harsh sentences or longer periods of imprisonment, but crime can be reduced if preventative measures can be implemented. Lack of values results in people not respecting other people's valuables or properties.

Some of the other issues that I learned as background to my inquiry, were ideas forwarded by various people at these meetings. I also read about these issues in the press. Some said that arrangements should be made with the local schools for a school holiday's tournament with the aim of keeping the children off the streets. Those who are not interested in sporting activities should be encouraged to start communal gardens, where vegetables can be planted. Floating trophies should be awarded to winning teams. O'Connor said, "if schools can continue this role, we can start a mass mobilization against crime" (The Teacher, June 2000:7).

Some people argued, and I concur, that lack of responsibility will put the entire community in danger. For example, the community members need to be taught how to use public phones in a responsible way. Most community members, especially youths, misuse the Safety and Security toll free numbers by giving the police wrong information and sometimes they are even insulted. It is not surprising if the police sometimes do not respond immediately to our telephone reports on crime.

In addition, there was a general complaint that public phones installed at the corners of each and every street are misused and almost all of them are vandalized, which makes it difficult for those who do not have phones at home to immediately report crime to the police. The chief inspector appealed over the radio that people must stop misusing public phones. Yet most speakers at the meetings agreed that working like this with the police will make it difficult for us all to alleviate crime. McMuren (1994:4) says that crime could be prevented only if parents and the neighbourhood could learn to control their own children. Without grass root community support, change cannot occur.

During the meetings the general community members were awakened to the reality that without their cooperation and involvement in the community policing forum, crimes will be committed and more will go undetected. The fact that crime prevention is the duty of every citizen needs to be emphasized; that is why "...community crime prevention programs and self-defence measures are flourishing around the United States" (Siegel, 1992:121).

To add to the preventative measures to be taken by the community members, in the discussions it was noted that "the whistle blowing method" could be introduced in which

every citizen is encouraged to keep whistles with them in their pockets. Whistles should be blown to alert neighbours about crime which is about to be committed or which has been committed and to frighten the criminal. Trojonowicz and Morash (1987:338) support these types of preventative measures by saying that when a crime is observed or known to have been committed, the citizen is expected to raise a "hue and cry" to arouse other community members. The members are obliged to pursue the victims.

Another issue that was raised was that of "block watches". In order to lessen the fear of crime, these "block watches" and "neighbourhood patrols" need to be introduced in our township because "in South Africa, watch schemes are widespread in white areas", Brogden (1993:106). Truly speaking, the police need to be supplemented, and the fight against crime needs to be expanded to become a personal, neighbourhood and community concern in order to ensure community safety (Siegel, 1992: 121).

Early research has shown community policing to be successful in combating crime. It is true that there is a growing awareness that the community can and must play a vital role in problem solving and crime fighting (Peak & Glensor, 1996:69). The fundamental aspect of community policing has always been that the public must engage in the fight against crime. The ideas from a manual for South African Police Service (SAPS, 1999) encouraged me to do research on the community policing forum, which has been established at Giyani, where it is indicated that a police force which has no legitimacy within a community cannot hope to establish a partnership with that community and is thus prone to become corrupt.

1.5 AN ANALYSIS OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

I have argued thus far, with some theoretical and some empirical experiential evidence, that problems concerning a community-policing forum are that crime cannot be alleviated without community participation. If the community members and some of the police officials remain involved in or allow the following things, it will not succeed:

- (a) Purchasing of stolen goods.
- (b) Lack of emergency response by the police after receiving crime reports due to the misuse of 10111 tolls free numbers by some of the community members.

- (c) Lack of resources (police vans) at the police station and misuse of police vans.
- (d) None-functioning of community policing forum, for example by including criminals who do not want change to be part of the CPF's executive committee.

These are also assumptions that I include in my research plan. Crime is very rife at Giyani, especially domestic burglary, vandalizing of public phones, car theft, stealing of valuables from motorcars and rape, as previously mentioned. Burglary of domestic property is the most popular crime and it needs immediate attention. Domestic burglary is mostly committed at Giyani Section A, and I have mentioned that the section is near the informal settlement. Valuables such as music centres, TV sets and videos are stolen and sold at low prices to other community members. Because of hunger, some break into houses for stealing food only.

Against this background of the severity of crime, I propose this investigation into the establishment and the implementation of a community policing forum in combating crime in this area. The investigation will, at the very least, give a grounded situation analysis, including a need and a resource analysis of community policing and the role of the Giyani community policing forum.

1.6 THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

With the research topic in mind, I pose the following research questions to guide and focus my study, although I will not explore them in equal depth:

- ❖ How does the community policing forum, which was launched and implemented at Giyani police station, show potential to alleviate crime, especially domestic burglary, car theft, rape and vandalizing of public phones in order to make Giyani a crime free township?
- ❖ Why does crime rate escalate despite the police patrols at night and the defensive measures on crime prevention taken by the community members?
- ❖ How can the community policing forum be sustained without community involvement?

- ❖ How does “operation crackdown,” which is part of the community policing forum, have the potential to reduce the statistics of crime and make Giyani a crime free area?

As this research is exploratory and descriptive, the questions are posed in such a way that the potential of the CPF is investigated rather than its success rate. Furthermore, it is important to monitor and evaluate the role and function played by the CPF, because since the community policing forum was launched and implemented, the rate of crime is still very high. The reason for this might be ignorance and negligence on the part of the community members to implement preventative measures that they have been taught to follow.

This is also the claim of my inquiry, namely that full participation of the community is essential to establish community accountability.

1.7 THE FORMULATION OF A CLAIM (VIEWPOINT)

In the light of the above, I wish to explore my viewpoint. The reason for the escalation of criminal offences might be because the community policing forum is not functioning well, due to the following reasons, which should have been communicated to the public before the implementation of the community policing forum, reflecting on the overall lack of ownership and responsibility of the community:

- (a) The preparatory phase, in which the police should have run an awareness campaign in the community was very limited.
- (b) The diagnostic phase, where they should have diagnosed the situation and the problems related to crime, was also neglected.
- (c) The solution package phase, in which they should have come up with an integrated plan for bringing ideas on crime prevention together, was not coordinated.
- (d) The evaluation and the monitoring phase, in which they should have supervised the roles and functions of the CPF, was not structured into the overall CPF project.

I argue that this lack of strategic project planning contributed to the nature of the overall community attitude to and participation in the CPF project thus far.

1.8 THEORETICAL EVIDENCE FOR THE VALIDITY OF THE PROBLEM AND FOR THE CLAIM

The theoretical evidence for the validity of this research problem is based on the theory of Whisenand and Ferguson (1996:141) who encourages “a sense of teamwork and interdependence which encourages people to combine and share their efforts in order to achieve their goals in crime prevention.” This is also seen in the “community - society” continuum proposed by Sergiovanni. Interdependence is a model of ‘we’ according to the German theorist, Tönnies (Sergiovanni, 1994). To him the ‘we’ theory of ‘*Gemeinschaft*’, according to which the community members work together, differs from the ‘*Gesellschaft*’ notion, in which the individual functions for personal gain within societal structures. I also framed my inquiry with Paulo Freire’s ideas of domestication, discrimination and liberation of people, in his theory of popular education (1990). In these three theories, the common denominator is community-based learning for change and development.

1.9 THE RESEARCH METHODS

This study can be classified as action research, because it is part of a community intervention. This research consists of a number of different data sources and methods of data collection. I realised that I would have to pool the data resources from different individuals and groups, and even from the local radio station. I therefore included interviews, participatory observation and some document studies in the plan. I planned to conduct my research by attending the community policing forum meetings which take place at least once a month at the police station or at the community, depending on people's attendance, and where community members are invited to give their ideas on crime prevention. Here I planned to observe as a “participant”, which means I would be an ordinary community member as well as a researcher.

I also planned to interview the victims of crime, the culprits and the police officers who were to give me the progress reports about the alleviation of crime. These would be regarded as documents, and would be classified as the method of document studies. I also designed a questionnaire for prisoners arrested for housebreaking, in which I would try to find out why they committed crime. (Addendum E)

Furthermore I decided to conduct my research by listening to the local radio station that broadcasts the police programme, known as "The operation crack down", every weekday before half past seven in the morning. This programme informs the community about the progress the police have made in fighting crime. I additionally planned to observe the way in which the community members apply the preventative measures against crime in my own area.

All the interview data would be audio recorded and transcribed, while field notes would be made about all other data.

The aim of my study is to explore the possible role and function of the CPF in Giyani Township, and the participation of the community members in the CPF.

1.10 THE STUDY PLAN

- (a) Section Two comprises a brief theoretical framework.
- (b) In Section Three the focus will be on data collection and analysis.
- (c) In Section Four there will be a discussion of the findings.

1.11 THE SUMMARY

The problem of this inquiry revolves around the efforts of the CPF in Giyani. This section of the research report set out the reason for conducting an inquiry into the CPF and community participation and ownership, as well as a plan for the research.

SECTION TWO

THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: THE DYNAMICS OF A COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In this section the aim is to place the claim that I have made about the CPF in a somewhat broader theory frame. I will argue that optimal community involvement is essential for a CPF to function. I will also look at issues of dynamics within a CPF.

I would first like to emphasize that effective community policing can have a positive impact on reducing neighbourhood crime, reducing the fear of crime and enhancing the quality of life in the community (Wadman & Bailey, 1993:59). Furthermore, community policing will be possible only if the efforts and resources of the police, local government and community members are combined and used appropriately in crime prevention. Many of the people I interviewed believe that unless the community members can actively involve themselves in the community policing forum, which was recently established and launched in Giyani, that crime in Giyani Township will escalate and be uncontrollable by the year 2005. If the Giyani community members, together with the police, can monitor and evaluate the CPF's outcomes and inputs, then crime can be alleviated and the forum will sustain itself, meaning that the CPF will be an opportunity instead of being a threat to the community members.

From the above claim and sub-claim it is clear that the major objective of the community policing forum is to establish active partnership between the police and the community members. This interaction of the community members and the police will be able to enforce appropriate solutions on crime prevention if the interaction involves a wide range of stakeholders.

2.2 ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The community members and the police officers are the two active role-players in community policing. In order for the CPF to function well, to sustain and to succeed in

crime prevention, both the community members and the police must work in partnership, (http://www.saps.co.za/6_commpol/6_aoi20.htm page 2) and the community members must play an active role in policing their own community.

From the above statement it is clear that the main aim of community policing is to establish active partnerships between the police and the community in order to reduce crime. These will improve service delivery by the police to the community. The healthy community police relationship will also be improved especially at local community level. Partnership in the CPF also establishes and maintains mutual trust, which is a central goal in policing (<http://www.communitypolicing.org/about2.html> page 3). The mutual trust will give the police greater access to valuable information that can lead to the prevention of and solution of crimes (Ibid.).

Active partnership seems to have worked well in the Free State Province. After having read their document on the internet (http://www.saps.co.za/6_commpol/6_aoi20.htm page 8) I found that through partnership in policing their CPF had:

- ❖ ensured uniformity in aims, confronting differences together and combining the resources in crime prevention;
- ❖ increased accountability of the police service to local communities;
- ❖ helped the communities to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the police;
- ❖ helped in assisting the communities to advise the police regarding local policing priorities, and
- ❖ that there is joint evaluation of the provision of visible police services.

The problem of active partnership in policing is that partnership does not imply that community members have to actively police their community, but the community members must actively help the police to do their job according to the needs of the specific community.

2.3 MAXIMUM COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN ALLEVIATE CRIME

If the community members are not actively involved in crime prevention, then crime will escalate and be uncontrollable. In this study I propose that community participation is the keystone of teamwork with the police. Maximum participation by both the police officers and community members works best in solving problems. By including community members in the decision making process on how the CPF must function, community commitment is increased and productivity in crime prevention can be increased. Through maximum participation, a “sense of teamwork is fostered” (Whisenand & Ferguson, 1996:144). “Teamwork” promotes “interdependence” which is a model of the “*Gemeinschaft*” notion of “we”, instead of being “independence” which relates to the notion of “I” (Ibid.). This distinction between communal values and individualistic society-oriented values, was already alluded to in a previous mention of Sergiovanni’s (1994) discussion of the social theory of Tonnies.

I agree that for the CPF to be sustainable, the values of the “we” theory or “*gemeinschaft*” theory (Sergiovanni, 1994:7) should dominate. This will make it possible for both the police and all the community members to work freely in a harmonious way, without any fear of being intimidated when reporting crime. Through community participation, the community members are able to empower themselves and this allows them a “degree of ownership” in policing (Whisenand, 1996:141). Because of empowerment, the community members share power in policing and they will be able to supervise themselves, and feel communally responsible for safety and the security of their belongings.

Also, from the view of the theory of popular education, one can argue that participation and interaction with the police “liberate” the community’s mind because they are able to “think critically” (Freire, 1990:25). Participation means being involved in decisions that affect the daily life. Because of being critical thinkers and being liberated, the community members are able to interact freely with the police on crime prevention. The community’s involvement and support will make it easier for the police to meet the safety and security needs of all people.

Maximum community participation also makes it possible for the police officers together with the community to plan their meetings strategically. The CPF will not function well without thorough planning, which is essential in avoiding negative attitudes from the start (<http://www.saps.co.za/6-commpol/6-aoi23.htm>). For example, strategic planning gives the CPF some vision as to how to combat crime with the hope of achieving a crime free area. Strategic planning is the key to successful implementation and maintenance of an effective community policing effort (<http://www.communitypolicing.org/about2.html>).

Participants need to be monitored in a critical way. Critical monitoring will not be possible if there is no mutual understanding and mutual affirmation amongst community members about solving criminal problems and identifying their causes. Community participation is furthermore a fundamental component of community policing because it encourages citizens and community leaders to form enduring mutual relationships. Commitment and participation by community members bring the community and the police together. A theory of community and that of mind makes it simple for community members to share ideas and to analyse problems (Sergiovanni, 1994:7).

Teamwork makes policing easier for both the police officers and community members so that they are able to deal with the underlying causes and sources of problems that can lead to crime. Citizens' inputs assist police officers in identifying problems, then prioritise them and then solve them appropriately.

However, teamwork does not always mean that crime will be alleviated and that crime will be solved easily, because both the community members and police may hamper community participation more. The police can hamper participation by engaging themselves in criminal syndicates, which is not uncommon in South Africa. The community can hamper participation by not attending meetings and by lack of vigilance. Most community members are eager to donate money to the forum, not their time. Money without community participation cannot combat crime (A Manual for the SAPS, January 1999:12). Maximum participation in the CPF could also be hampered by lack of information on the goals and aims of the CPF, thereby not informing the community members (http://www.saps.co.za/6_commpol/6_aoi23.htm page 9). Some members may think it is a discussion group and not an action group.

Action is, however, important, because, successful policing largely depends on the effective management of information received from the public, because crime prevention needs interactive policing. Through community policing, information on crime prevention is exchanged on a reciprocal basis between community members and the police. Policing would not be possible without information from the community members. Listening to one another and shared leadership improves participation (Vella, 1994:159).

2.4 COMMUNICATION AND PERSONAL CONTACT IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE POLICE

A healthy relationship between the police and the community members makes monitoring and evaluating the CPF's outcomes and inputs easier. The community members on the one side, will be able to monitor the services rendered by the police to the community and this improves accountability, while the police will monitor security on the other side. Communication and trust between the police and the community members have to be established as the first steps in this type of problem solving.

Brogden and Shearing (1993: 93) support the idea that communication between the police and the community members maximizes interaction. The community members are able to report any type of crime that is about to be committed or that has been committed. Communication makes flow of information easier. Whisenand and Ferguson (1996:85) say that the informal channels of communication make the flow of information very fast. Through informal communication five stolen cars were recovered in a week's time in Giyani. During the meetings, democratic dialogue is also emphasized, and community members gain voice in a state organ. This type of communication is also the vehicle for managerial planning, because it makes interaction with both the police officers and members easier. The community members and the police are bound together through communication (Ibid) and community members fulfil an extended role as citizens.

The main problem encountered in communication is translation. South Africa is a multilingual country, with eleven languages. Some police officers are not familiar with some of the languages. This makes policing very difficult because of misunderstandings. Effective communication skills are useless if both the police officers and the community

members are not prepared to listen attentively. Attentive listening does not always mean that a person understands what is being said. Misunderstanding of non-verbal clues can increase crime. The only way to address this is to ensure that accurate translations are made.

2.5 GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN THE CPF CAN DIMINISH PARTICIPATION

For the community policing forum to sustain, members should be vigilant with regard to dominant and superior behaviour, as this will damage the participatory process. Dominating can even be non-verbal, that is, through body language and facial expression. If both women and the children are encouraged to participate, then the forum will sustain, otherwise it can never fully be a "*Gemeinschaft*". A policewoman in Giyani heads the Giyani CPF section. This makes it simple for both women and children to report crime. The perception that women's place is in the kitchen is discouraged in this forum. The women are liberated; they are no longer domesticated because they share ideas with the men (Freire, 1990:25). Participation in the CPF will be easier this way, because men will not dominate women in the meetings. Women should be given a chance to express themselves freely (Vella, 1994:33). Women are able to bring their personal experience on crime prevention to the meetings. Older women in the community are often the ones who are at home all the time and they can identify possible criminal presence or behaviour.

When convening CPF meetings, the venue and time should be taken into consideration. The CPF meeting usually takes place during the day in order to receive maximum participation from the women, who usually do not want to travel at night. A police hall or a community hall is used, because if a venue is very far, it can be an obstacle to women, which can prevent them to attend (Claasen, 1992:32).

Young people, and children especially, are also members of the communities. Children as critical thinkers (Townsend, 1994:120) initiated recreational programmes in Giyani, which keep them occupied. In the Youth Against Crime project, children organize traditional beauty contests, sporting activities and communal gardening (where open spaces are used,

as this can be used by criminals to hide the stolen goods.) By so doing the youth keep themselves occupied and this contributes effectively to reducing crime, because the children's minds are always occupied positively. The civic, chiefs, police and the entire community should support these efforts of the youths. They can also observe possible criminal behaviour and report it. They can even have workshops especially for young children, teaching them to be vigilant without making them fearful. In this way the youth are successfully integrated into the constructive community life-style.

Discrimination has always been a problem in meetings, which are conducted with both men and women, because men tend to be obstacles to women by preventing them to participate freely (Claasen, 1992:33). Gender bias is observed especially during the CPF meetings because men interact freely with visitors. Women and the youth are usually made to feel inferior and neglected. Sometimes women and the youth's initiative and creative thinking are smothered. Some men pull faces at women's contribution or ideas, while others say that a woman will not lead them, hence sometimes crime is not reported. If men dominate women, the potential talents and skills in humanity is a loss for society as a whole (Stevens & Yach, 1995:31).

Discrimination does not only happen between men and women, adults and children, but it also happens to members who are not empowered, because they can feel discriminated if:

- ❖ they are not invited and included in all the meetings concerning CPF;
- ❖ the communication channels between them and the police are not well established, and
- ❖ they feel that they are excluded in decision making.

My view is thus that a CPF is dependent on all the community stakeholders and that biases of any kind will just be obstructive. As I am conducting this investigation from the frame of Community Education and Popular Education, the full participation of all stakeholders is non-negotiable.

2.6 NEGLIGENCE AND CARELESSNESS BY THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN INCREASE CRIME

It is true that residential burglaries sometimes happen due to the community members' negligence and carelessness.

Members of the CPF have discovered that most residential burglary and car theft happen due to negligence and carelessness. In many reported burglary cases there was no forced entry. The reason is that many people do not attend to a knock at a door; they just let a person in. In a short span of time a professional criminal can take a key from the door, and he will come back to unlock the house and take whatever he likes. Some even leave keys under doormats. This makes it easier for criminals to get inside the house.

When going out, some even leave windows open. Most of the community members do not even tell their neighbours of the visit. They do not even avoid signs of an unoccupied home, like leaving the outside light on day and night, leaving accumulated mail and newspapers and long grass. They do not arrange with their neighbours to look after their house, and thus invite criminals.

Carelessness and negligence also contribute to high car theft. Truly speaking, in my view, many male drivers are careless in this respect; this might be because of their superiority complex. In one month three cars were stolen at a shopping centre because of leaving the engine running. Some also leave purses, cell phones and expensive jackets in unlocked cars, this makes it simple for criminals to steal. Negligence invites crime.

Neighbourhood watch is a sensible step to be taken by community members in order to safeguard their houses by watching for strangers and reporting any suspicious activities. Wadman (1993:14) said that neighbourhood watch encourages people to build communities and not fortresses. It is, however, not possible if people remain negligent.

Due to criminal offences, our society is traumatized and some people cannot afford to pay the psychologists to help them. Therefore, the cost of living is increased, because in order to prevent crime, security devices have to be installed. Consequently, for those who have

cars, the insurance premiums are unacceptably high. More money, which is not budgeted for, is spent on repairs after a burglary. It is thus incomprehensible how some people can remain so negligent.

2.7 UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY AND THE PERVASIVENESS OF CRIME

It is true that unemployment and poverty can sometimes contribute to the high rate of crime. In an area where there is a high rate of unemployment and poverty, the rate of burglary is also high. Due to the unstable socio-economic status of individuals in Giyani the rate of residential burglary has increased. Mandle (1988:88) supports this by saying that burglary occurs with greater frequency if compared with violent crime. The reason might be because of hunger. In Giyani section A, residential burglaries are very high and they often occur during weekdays and during day light hours. Apart from the loss suffered by the victims, a cycle of economic deterioration is set in motion. Crime disrupts economic growth, because no one can start a business in an area that is plagued with the high rate of crime without thinking about the risk it involves. Burglary troubles the entire community, because the members feel insecure.

Poverty and unemployment alone cannot cause crime, but they increase the likelihood of crime. In one instance the high rate of poverty and unemployment can be overcome if the high influx rate of refugees from Mozambique and other neighbouring states can be controlled. The problems faced by the CPF in this regard are therefore part of a much bigger picture.

2.8 POLITICS IN THE CPF

Party politics seem to play a great role in the CPF, because politicians from different parties want their organizations to dominate the discussion. Some even say that they will make no contributions to crime prevention if the top executive members in the CPF are not members of their political party. This can hamper active participation in the CPF by the community members (http://www.saps.co.za/6_commpol/6_aoi23.htm). Some political parties also use the CPF to campaign for their elections. These parties make

pledges that they will root out crime and uproot elements in the safety and security department (City Press, 2000 October 22).

Over the local radio station I heard that “Mapogo Amatamaga,” a community policing forum in the Northern Province, failed to function well, because some of the members used it as a political party platform. In order for the CPF to function well, no political party should be allowed to take over the proceedings or management of a CPF (Ibid).

South African politics on a larger scale seems to have a negative effect on the high rate of crime. The reason here being that the ANC members who were in exile occupy higher ranks in the department of police. The experienced police officers are not given higher posts. Those in higher ranks do not deliver their services to the community members because they are not as experienced. Many officers I interviewed say that these officers even higher get salaries than the experienced ones. Although this is a contentious issue, I believe it impacts the effectiveness of the CPF.

2.9 MISUSE AND VANDALIZING OF PUBLIC PHONES BY THE IRRESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN DISTURB COMMUNICATION

Due to the misuse of the public resources by some community members there is a lack of emergency response by the police after receiving criminal reports, due to the misuse of the 10111 toll free number. This increases the high rate of crime. Also, public phones installed at the corners of each and every street are misused and vandalized. (See addendum A). Some use the emergency number to insult the police and to give them false information about crime. Public phones make policing and communication with the police easy and it maximizes community participation, if properly used.

However, on the other hand, public phones increase the rate of crime, because some use them to give false information to other citizens or to threaten other community members. Criminals can sometimes use the telephone to check if the members of the family are around or not. The continuous ringing of a telephone shows that there is no one, and this makes it easy for criminals to break into the house.

2.10 CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, I conclude that the CPF in Giyani (and similar forums) will not function well if the community members do not take ownership and responsibility. In order to eradicate the underlying causes of crime, both police and community need a lasting partnership, as well as effort, time and patience on the side of all the participants. The community should be made aware that the CPF does not offer a quick solution to crime, but that it requires a long-term commitment by both the police and the community members to reach mutually agreed upon goals. Seen from the viewpoint of the theory of community education, and more specifically popular education as propounded in the work of Paolo Freire (1990), a CPF can act as community education and development agent. In this way citizenship education can also be developed, with community values (in the *Gemeinschaft* sense) as foundation.



SECTION THREE

DATA COLLECTION AND DATA ANALYSIS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section covers the process of the field inquiry – indicating how I sampled participants from the population and how I collected and analysed data. The plan for this study included survey questionnaires, interviews and observation as data collection methods. I chose these methods, because some people expressed themselves easily when interviewed, whereas others preferred to complete the questionnaires, because they are too shy to speak. I also observed their facial expressions when answering questions and also observed their activities during the CPF meetings. I recorded all the suggestions given by the community members and police officers on crime prevention during the meetings as well as their interviews. The section commences with a description of the setting.

3.2 THE CONTEXT OR SETTING OF THE INQUIRY

Giyani area is situated in the north-eastern region of the Northern Province – about 150 kilometres from Pietersburg, which is the capital town for the Northern Province, and is about 110 kilometres from Tzaneen, which is found in the western side of Giyani. It is about 130 kilometres from Louis Trichardt, which is found in the north-western side of Giyani too. Giyani is surrounded by about 89 rural settlements. The town is not so big and it is still developing. There is only one shopping centre, which caters for all people from the rural areas and those in the township (information from Giyani TLC). There is only one bank, which is normally overcrowded on the fifteenth day of every month, because most public servants get their payment on this day. The rate of pick-pocketing is very high on this day, due to carelessness and excitement of some of the community members who are not vigilant enough.

Most sections of the government departments have been moved to Pietersburg and most of the unskilled government labourers have been retrenched, hence the high rate of unemployment and poverty. Most people make ends meet by selling vegetables from

which they do not make profit because there are too many sellers. Walking on pavements at the shopping centre is difficult because hawkers use it (See Addendum A).

Giyani Township has six sections – that is section A to section F. Section A is an old “location”. It is the only section which is overpopulated. Section A has about 1651 houses, where boarders or lodgers use most of the space. There are three overcrowded primary schools, with over-aged children, one high school with a hostel which is very near the Mozambican informal settlement, a technical college, a community college, which caters for those who are repeating grade 12, a teaching centre branch for the University of the North, a psychiatric hospital and a health centre, which caters for all township people and those from the rural areas. The former Gazankulu Government Buildings are also found in section A. The security is not as tight as it was during the apartheid government, hence the high rate of theft of government vehicles.

There are two informal settlements, within the boundaries of section A. The other one is on the eastern side of section A and is overpopulated with Mozambican refugees who are poor and unemployed. The other one is on the northern side, in which the inhabitants are mostly labourers and domestic workers. Due to overcrowding, there is also the section A “extension,” which is at the foot of Man’ombe mountain game reserve. In section A extension there are a number of undeveloped sites. These are some of the reasons that contribute to overcrowdedness of the section, unemployment, poverty and the high rate of crime.

Section B consists of the shopping centre. Section C is the industrial site. Section D1 has 275 houses, section D2 has 229 houses, which is the “tycoon” section, with big houses, and section E has 1309 houses. Section D1 is separated from section D2 and section E by thick bushes (see Addendum A). This makes it easy for the criminals to steal and hide the stolen goods in the bush. In section F there are 815 one roomed “RDP houses”, mostly occupied by school children without adults being responsible for them. Committing crime seems to be “a way of life” for these children.

3.3 THE TARGET GROUP AND SAMPLING

I targeted three sections, that is section A, which is bordered by two informal settlements and section D1 and D2, which are separated from each other by thick bushes, as I have indicated in 3.2. I gathered data by exploring in the field, that is why I sampled purposively, because field work needs thorough investigation, with a focused group of people (Neumann, 1997:206). That is why in my research report I included photographs, interviews and a tape recordings (See Addenda).

Nine participants were selected, five of them are victims of crime and four are culprits. All victims of crime work during the day, except one who is a nursing sister, who stays alone, who works on shift, that is, night and day shifts. Two of the culprits are high school pupils, (one of them wrote the final examination paper behind bars in 1999), and the other two are Mozambican refugees. I also chose the Giyani communities who appeared to be ignorant and negligent on crime prevention. This information was given to me by the police.

3.4 THE RESEARCH PLAN AND MANAGEMENT OF DATA

In order to gather more information on the causes of crime, I attended various CPF meetings, which are usually held at Giyani Police Station or at a community hall if more people are invited. I managed to attend meetings on the following dates:

- ❖ 15/03/2000: The meeting was held at Giyani Hotel where the Giyani Station commander addressed women on crime prevention.
- ❖ 13/06/2000: This was a Service Delivery meeting, which was conducted by the police officers and which was held at Giyani Community Hall.
- ❖ 15/08/2000: The main discussion for this meeting was about vandalized Telkom public phones and was held at Giyani Police Hall.
- ❖ 13/09/2000: I also attended “The Operation Crackdown” meeting which was also held at Giyani Police Station.

- ❖ I also gathered data on crime by listening to a local radio programme every weekday, from Monday to Friday, where a police captain gives information on the causes of crime and details of how to prevent crime.

In all the meetings that I attended, the main discussions were on crime prevention, in which community members were made aware of the defensive measures which they can take against house breaking and theft from motorcar vehicles. The police officers appealed to the public to be responsible and accountable for everything they do. The station commander said that ignorance and negligence by the community members in crime prevention, causes crime to escalate. The Operation Crackdown commanders drafted the prevention following defensive measures against house breaking and theft from motorcar vehicles.

Some of the defensive measures against house breaking and theft:

- ❖ Always lock main gates, doors and windows while you are away if possible.
- ❖ Alert your neighbours when you know you will be away for a long time.
- ❖ While being entertained through any activities inside the house make it a point that all main doors are locked to avoid possible intruders.
- ❖ Know your domestic workers' particulars, that is, his or her residential address, ID document and their relatives if possible.
- ❖ Mark all the valuable items, such as TV sets, videos, music systems, etc, for clear identification when recovered after stolen (See Addendum D).

Defensive measures against theft of or theft from motor cars:

- ❖ Do not leave your valuable items visible inside the car
- ❖ Never park a car for a long time along the pavement unattended.
- ❖ Never offer lift to a stranger or assistance from stranger
- ❖ Lock your car at night in the garage (For more see Addendum D).

The above information was distributed to community members during the meeting. During the meeting all community members agreed to apply the defensive measures suggested to them, that is to be responsible and to be accountable in everything they do.

They agreed that crime escalates due to ignorance and negligence. All members in the meeting agreed that active partnership between the police and the community will maximize participation in crime alleviation. During the meeting a group of women volunteered to form a “sector-watch” within “neighbourhood watch”, in which “the whistle blowing method” is introduced. Some members volunteered to report cases.

The purpose of the Telkom meeting which was held on the 15th of August 2000, was the prevention of theft of Telkom equipment, including solar panels and the vandalizing of Telkom public phones. The background information on this is that almost all the solar panels and public phones which were installed at rural schools, that were used as voting stations, were stolen and the public phones were vandalized. The schools and the public at large benefited from this because the solar panels and phones were not removed after the election. These were left to be used by the schools and the public. The most painful thing is that all the public phones installed at the corners of each and every street at Giyani Township are vandalized (See Addendum A). The main worry from Telkom technicians is that public phones are damaged within a week after being repaired. Some members use fake phone cards which wipe away all the memory from the public phones, and they phone free of charge.

Mr X from Telkom said the this makes it difficult for Telkom to serve the public satisfactorily. He appealed to the public to be responsible and to report cases to the police or to Telkom. He also said that lack of public phones breaks down the communication channels and the flow of information on crime between the community and the police. As indicated in section two some misuse the toll free safety and security phones to insult police officers, that is why sometimes they do not respond to emergency calls.

Between March and August 2000, the following 31 cases of theft on solar panels were reported by the community members at the Giyani Police station, but there were only three arrests. See table 3.1 on p.26, which indicates the number of stolen solar panels from various rural schools.

Table 3.1: The vandalized solar panels

NAME OF SCHOOL OR SETTLEMENT	NUMBER OF STOLEN SOLAR PANELS	MONTH
Khakhala P. School	3	March
Mapuva & Dzingidzing P. Schools	3	April
Dzingidzingi P. School	8 solar panels stolen, replaced and stolen again.	June
Dzingidzingi Settlement	8	July
Tlharihani P. School	9	August

P = Primary School

From the above table it is clear that most solar panels were stolen and replaced at Dzingidzingi settlement and its primary school. The reason might be that the stolen solar panels are used to generate household electricity, because not all houses have electricity. Dzingidzingi settlement is about 5 kilometres from Giyani Township.

This is the type of information that I got from attending the meetings.

Observation and interview data

Observing in field research is often detailed (Silverman, 2000), that is why the demographic background of Giyani in section two is given in detail. From my observation, I found that environmental factors have a detrimental effect on crime, because criminals target houses very far from each other and houses next to undeveloped sites. The houses in section D are very far from each other, the “hues and cries”, as indicated by Trojonowicz and Morash (1987:338) of victims cannot even arouse the attention of neighbours. In Giyani crime is very high in summer because of the thick bushes as well. My observation thus covers a detailed description of the area and notes from the CPF meetings, which I have already mentioned.

On Friday the 9th of September 2000, a representative from the Local Government was invited to attend the CPF meeting. The main discussion was about the undeveloped empty sites in Giyani Township, which contribute to the high rate of crime. During the meeting, the angry community members asked the TLC representative to clean all the empty sites and to repair all street lamps, because most burglaries occur in dark places and to houses next to undeveloped sites.

A TLC representative responded by saying that:

“Letters are being sent to the owners of the empty sites to develop them in a short span of time, or else they will be repossessed and sold to building contractors who will develop them quickly. The street lamps will be repaired soon” (See Addendum E).

Data was also gathered by interviewing participants, where appointments and permissions were asked before conducting interviews. A number of interviews were conducted. The participants’ attitudes were observed when responding to questions. Pseudonyms were used because participants have the right to remain anonymous, (Neumann, 1997:363). All perpetrators preferred to be interviewed privately, whereas the victims of crime were interviewed at their homes. Interviews were conducted on the following dates:

1. On the 20th September 2000 I interviewed the retired station commander of the former Gazankulu Homeland. The interview took place at his home in the evening. He gave us details on how the police officers prevented crime in the past.

Here is an extract from that interview as well.

Hlami: Mr Shy, can you briefly explain how crime was prevented during your time when you were still a police commissioner.

Mr. Shy: Eer...in 1993 we started with the policing forum. It was called the policing forum, because the community members were not actively involved in crime prevention. The police were delegated to do work. It was easy to control the police officers, because they did not belong to any unions. The police were disciplined and they carried their duties faithfully and in a responsible manner. The rate of crime was not as high as it is now. Maybe this was because there was a state

of emergency, where people were not allowed to roam the streets at night. The youth centre which is now closed in Giyani, kept the youth occupied with many activities.

2. On the 25th of September 2000 I interviewed a Giyani CPF chairlady, (Thoko, not her real name), which got first position in the Lowveld region where they received a floating trophy and a cheque of R1500,00. She joined the Giyani CPF in 1993. At first she was the only lady in the executive committee.

Here is an extract of the interview.

Hlami: Thoko, can you explain your duties in the CPF?

Thoko: CPF is a community project in which we make awareness campaign to community members on crime prevention. We work very hard even-though we are not paid. We usually remind communities to take extra precautionary measures on crime prevention, especially during windy seasons, because a house can be broken without being heard due to the wind outside. In order to keep children off the streets we have started a Youth Sport Against Crime programme, in which youth compete in different sporting codes during the school holidays.

3. Later that day I also interviewed the Giyani and the police officer, Sam, who is the head of the “Operation Crackdown”

The question he responded to was: What is the action plans for the “Operation Crackdown.”

(In his summary Sam used OC meaning Operation Crackdown).

Here follows a summary of the information I got from Sam:

- ❖ The OC has raided all the shebeens at Giyani Township, because almost all of them operated without a license from the Liquor Board and they function without following the Liquor Act. Shebeens are believed to contribute to high rate of rape and drunken driving.

- ❖ The OC intend to improve the visible patrols at Giyani Township to prevent house breaking and theft of motor vehicles. They also plan to search for stolen cars at Giyani scrap-yard and in the bushes.
- ❖ The OC and the community members want to empower domestic workers and anyone who is unemployed to be the key role players in providing essential information on the police that can lead to arrest and they are often the only people at home during working hours.
- ❖ The OC together with the community members decided to name the street which makes the flow of information easier, because giving directions to the police is much easier where there are street addresses. House numbers at Giyani are not in chronological order. This will make policing very difficult and it is time consuming to get to the scene of crime.
- ❖ Sam said that in Operation Crackdown they have action plans, which help in crime prevention. He said that one of their action plans in the OC is the Operation Suka, (“Suka” is a Shangaan word meaning ‘go’).

The goals of the Operation Suka are:

- ❖ To educate all the youth that any form of crime is not acceptable
- ❖ To increase the informal interaction between the police and the public.
- ❖ To alleviate all forms of crime by having workshops at school on crime prevention.

Sam concluded happily by saying that:

“Swigevenga lembe leri swi ta wu twa munyu wa ka Madonsi, ndzi ri swi ta chachamela, nkuku wu ta buba”

[This is a Tsonga idiom expression meaning that: This year criminals will suffer a lot, if they do not change their behaviour.]

4. On the 26th of September 2000 I interviewed victims of crime at one of the victims’ house. The language used for the interview was English. The participant was a

nursing sister who had a series of burglaries and her Toyota Corolla car was stolen twice and recovered by the community members. During the interview, a plug was switched off without our notice, that is why some of the questions asked are not recorded in the tape.

I used a standardized open-ended interview questionnaire.

I= Interviewer

R= Respondent

I: Afternoon

R: Good afternoon

I: You had a series of burglaries, can you tell me the reason? (sb)

R: The reason might be because my house is the last one and it is a corner house, as you can see the neighbouring sites are undeveloped. I wish TLC can help us.

I: At what time of the day did the burglary occur?

R: It was during the day when I was at work. (dd)

I: Do you have a domestic worker?

R: Mhh.. I had a garden boy.

I: Which items were stolen and were they marked for identification?

R: A TV set, video machine, a portable radio that is a hi-fi and bed linen.
No, they were not marked

I: Please explain in short what your reaction was after this burglary.

R: I was very shocked and angry.

I: Did you report the matter to the police?

R: Yes I did, they said that we must start neighbourhood watch. Fortunately my stolen items were all recovered by a passerby who told the others that there are hidden items in the bush.

I: Have you started with a neighbourhood watch? (nw)

R: Yes, we started with the blowing of a whistle method if we notice any strange movement.

I: What have you done to prevent another burglary in your house?

R: The windows and doors are burglar proofed. (bp)

I: What can you say to the other community members in connection with crime prevention?

- R: They must work hand in hand with the police. (hh)
 I: Does it work?
 R: Yes.
 I: Thank you very much.
 R: Welcome.

5. On that day, two culprits were interviewed, the other two who were too shy to speak, and they were given questionnaires to complete.

One of the culprit's interview was tape-recorded. These are some of his responses in XiTsonga:

Ndzi tshama na vamakwavo vambirhi. Mhani va tirha ekule. Papa a ndzi va tivi. A ndzi yivisiwa hi ku lava swakudya swa mina na vamakwavo. A ndzi khomiwile ndzi tsalele xikambelo ejele. Vutomi ejele bya tika. Ndzi tsundzuxa van'wana leswaku va nga endli vugevenga. Ndzi lava ku tirha ndzi ta pfuna rixaka.

Here is the transcription of the interview from XiTsonga to English:

[I stay with my two younger brothers. My mother works very far from home. I do not know my father. I stole because I wanted some food for me and my younger brother. I was arrested, I even wrote exam in jail. Life in jail is not good. My advice to others is that they must not do crime because crime does not pay. In future I want to be a community developer.]

3.5 DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis is a search for patterns in data. Neumann (1997:427) says that data analysis involves examining, sorting categorizing, evaluating, comparing and contemplating the coded data as well as reviewing the raw and recorded data. The data collected from different interviews and observations were analysed and then coded. I now present an example of how I coded data.

Table 3.2: Comparison of the data analysis of the survey interview of a victim of crime and data gathered at CPF meetings

Data from interviews and questionnaires	Data gathered at CPF meetings
BW = Blowing of whistle	DM = Defensive measures
NW = Neighbourhood watch	RA = Responsible and accountable
DD = During the day	
UN = Undeveloped sites	TLC = Transitional Local Council
SB = Series of burglary	IN = Ignorance and negligence
NB = Not marked	
HH = Hand in hand	AP = Active participation
BF = Burglar proof	DM = Defensive measures
BW = Blowing of a whistle	AC = Awareness campaign

The above coded data of the interviews and the questionnaires, is similar to the data gathered at the CPF meetings. Then I concluded that for the CPF to function well, community members must work together and in a responsible manner and that in order to prevent the continuous series of burglary, all the empty sites must be developed.

Another example of how I grouped data can be seen in the following table, where I tried to see a relationship between sets of information.

Table 3.3: The effects of environmental factors on crime

Types of environmental factors	Crime that usually occurs
Corner houses	High rate of burglary and theft
Houses next to undeveloped sites	High rate of burglary, theft and rape.
Big house	Difficult to detect burglary
Big house built on big sites	Neighbourhood-watch sometimes is impossible
Windy seasons	Difficult to detect burglary
House far from each other	Difficult to hear the neighbours' "hues and cries"

Houses next to informal settlement	High rate of burglary and theft
Houses next to shebeens	Children, especially young girls' chances of being raped are very high, there is also high rate of burglary and theft.

Different participants gave different reasons for the effect of environmental factors on crime escalation. In table 3.4 below I present some of the relevant data on this issue.

Table 3.4: Crime Prevention

Main causes of crime	Preventative measures
Ignorance and negligence	Be responsible and accountable
Vandalizing and misuse of telephones	Policing by all community members
Exposing of valuables in both motor cars and houses	Applying defensive measures on prevention of burglary and theft.
Selling liquor illegally especially to young children	Raiding all the illegal shebeens.
Lack of recreational facilities	Introducing Youth Sport Against Crime.

Participants agreed that crime can be prevented only if the above preventative measures can be applied by all community members, irrespective of age and gender.

3.6 CONCLUSION

From the examples of data that I included in this section it is clear that without maximum community participation in community policing, crime will not be alleviated easily. It will escalate and be uncontrollable. Policing should not be seen as the police officers' duties only, because without the community members' help, they will not be able to control crime. The main pattern that I was able to put together from the data is thus community participation in the CPF is vital and that it is probably essential for the fight against crime. More of the descriptive data will be included in the discussion in the next section.

SECTION FOUR

DISCUSSION OF THE DATA

4.1 INTRODUCTION

It is evident from the final pattern in the data which I referred to in the last paragraph of the previous section that the CPF is an opportunity for the entire community to become active CPF members. The community members seem to realise that without a CPF crime will escalate because the police alone cannot address all criminal offences and cannot be vigilant over such a large area.

4.2 THE MAIN DATA CATEGORIES

From the data that I gathered and processed, it is evident that, since the implementation of the CPF in Giyani, various projects have been established with the aim of crime prevention. These are: Operation Crackdown, Operation Suka and Operation Matrix. Before implementing these operations, there was, fortunately, some (although not sufficient) strategic planning (Vella, 1994), by the community members, together with the police, in which the aims and objectives were made clear to all interested community members. The target time, purpose and target areas in which the operation will take place were discussed. Operation Suka, with the help of the community members, has raided all the places where liquor is sold illegally at Giyani. The CPF therefore appears to have made a strong impact and the community played an active part in helping the police.

Operation Suka targeted all the business areas in Giyani where liquor is sold illegally, especially at 'Cheap-Cheap' restaurant, which is along the main road. At 'Cheap-Cheap' liquor is easily available to anyone. There are many reported accident cases and rape cases, which were committed at 'Cheap-Cheap' restaurant or in its vicinity before the security project started. Since the implementation of the Operation Suka, crime statistics have dropped, and fewer instances have been reported from this source of crime.

Operation Crackdown, which gives criminal reports daily and which takes defensive measures and advises the community members on defence has also been very active. Crime statistics are recorded daily, and at the end of each month, when monthly statistics are compiled. (See Addendum B & C). In this community, members play a part and feel as if they are part of the offensive against crime, and not just people who report their troubles to the police.

Another main issue in the data, is the pattern of when crime takes place. A series of burglaries happen to those who stay alone and those who are near the undeveloped sites. The Transitional Local Council promised to clean all the undeveloped sites (see Addendum A). Seeing that the TLC takes time to develop the sites, some community members use them to plant vegetables. Most of the burglaries happen during the day because people are at work. During the CPF meetings, community members shared ideas, when they agreed that marking valuables, such as TV sets, videos, music systems, and so forth, will make it easy for the police and the community members to recover their stolen properties. It is thus clear that crime occurs in a widely spread area and at different times. I was able to put this information together in my study and I believe it will be of benefit to the CPF. One example of success is the following:

With the help from the community, the Operation Crackdown in the low veldt region in Greater Giyani arrested 18 people who opened illegal shebeens. They have also recovered five stolen motor vehicles where a group of people were arrested.

4.3 THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

In the interpretation of the data I am using the well-known “SWOT” analysis technique as frame for the discussion of the data: “people’s views of the role of the CPF.”

Strong points and opportunities on the CPF:

According to the data, there are definite strengths in the existing CPF because many people I interviewed, believed the following about the CPF:

- ❖ The rate of crime has dropped since it came into operation.

- ❖ The CPF has improved the relationship, intervention and communication between the police and the community members.
- ❖ They strengthen teamwork, which improves maximum participation.
- ❖ The CPF made contacts with the police easily.
- ❖ The CPF made it possible for community members to report all sorts of crime without any fear of being victimized.

Threats:

On the other hand, there are specific obstacles in the way, some of which are real threats because some community members feel that:

- ❖ it is useless to install burglar proofs because criminals are able to pull them apart;
- ❖ some domestic workers contribute to house breaking and theft because they make duplicate keys which can be used to open the doors at some later stage;
- ❖ the CPF is useless in the case of the undeveloped sites that are used by the criminals to hide the stolen goods.



Weak points:

There are also some pertinent weak points, which have been detected in the CPF:

- ❖ The police use community members to work for them. That is, they shift all the responsibilities to the communities.
- ❖ Some criminals are reported to be part of the executive committee of the CPF.
- ❖ There is a lack of response by the police to come to the scene of crime.
- ❖ Police patrol certain sections because of the lack of resources, such as police vans.
- ❖ Community members in the CPF do not claim any money for the work done. Thus unemployed members are discouraged to continue rendering their services.
- ❖ Some politicians use the CPF to canvass for their political parties.

4.4 IMPLICATIONS OF THE INQUIRY

There are definite implications coming from the findings of the data. I propose that attention be given to the following:

Inviting people to participate

The Giyani community members identified the following themes for a community education project, which I suggest should be implemented as soon as possible, with someone like myself as its action researcher.

How can crime be prevented in Giyani?

What can be done on a long-term basis to make Giyani a crime free area?

Why is it necessary to prevent crime?

Which skills are needed in crime prevention?

What structures need to be created for community participation?

How can the community assist in the rehabilitation of perpetrators?

The CPF needs to design a community education project and use the participation in the CPF as a springboard. The community also needs custom designed programmes, such as awareness campaigns on crime prevention and youth programmes such as Youth Sport Against Crime.

Community members should be invited to attend the CPF meetings. Community members should be encouraged to participate and not remain observers. For the CPF to function well, people must listen attentively to every speaker and ask to have issues clarified. Moreover, the CPF should run workshops in addition to information sessions. Smaller groups could visit scenes of crime and observe what preventative measures could have been taken. The action researcher could document all of this.

Support existing programmes for youth

The Youth Sport Against Crime project needs to be sponsored and supported. Some awards should be given to winning teams. The community must also establish affordable

leisure facilities that can help to keep the children's minds occupied and keeping them off streets. But it is useless to keep hungry children off street with nothing to eat at home. The youth need to be taught to utilize the empty sites for making vegetable gardens.

Income generating projects

There also needs to be education and training for unemployed community members. I suggest that such initiatives should focus on income generation, focusing on a special niche in the market – perhaps there should even be street patrolling and remuneration if a street stays clear of crime.

4.5 CONCLUSION

In this study I have found that the CPF is playing an important role in the fight against crime in Giyani. If the community members can work together even more with the police officers, then, I conclude, crime will be reduced. Maximum participation by community members is the key to successful policing. Successful policing will improve teamwork, participation and communication. In this research I was able to organise information for the community on how their participation in the CPF can contribute to a crime-free community. If more organised action, as well as continued action research, can take place, the idea of community education and training programmes may become permanent practice.

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ADDENDUM D: A list of defensive measures against housebreaking and theft from motor vehicles



DEFENSIVE MEASSURES AGAINST THEFT OF OR THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES AT GIYANI MALAMULELE, HLANGANANI, SEKGOSESE AND SASELAMANI COMUNITIES.

- 1. ***DO NOT LEAVE YOUR VALUABLE PROPERTIES INSIDE THE CARS.***
- 2. ***LOCK DOORS AND WINDOWS WHEN YOUR CAR IS PARKED.***
- 3. ***LOCK DOORS AND WINDOWS WHEN DRIVING YOUR CAR TO AVOID HIJACKING PARTICULARLY AT NIGHT.***
- 4. ***NEVER PARK VEHICLES ALONG THE PAVEMENT UNATTENDED.***
- 5. ***ATTEMPT TO FIT YOUR CAR WITH DEVICE SYSTEM EITHER ALARM, GEAR LOCK, STEERING LOCK OR PEDAL LOCK.***
- 6. ***NEVER OFFER OF ASK ASSISTANCE FROM THE STRANGER.***
- 7. ***NEVER OFFER LIFT TO A STRANGER.***
- 8. ***LEAVE YOUR CAR AT NIGHT ON RESERVE TANK.***

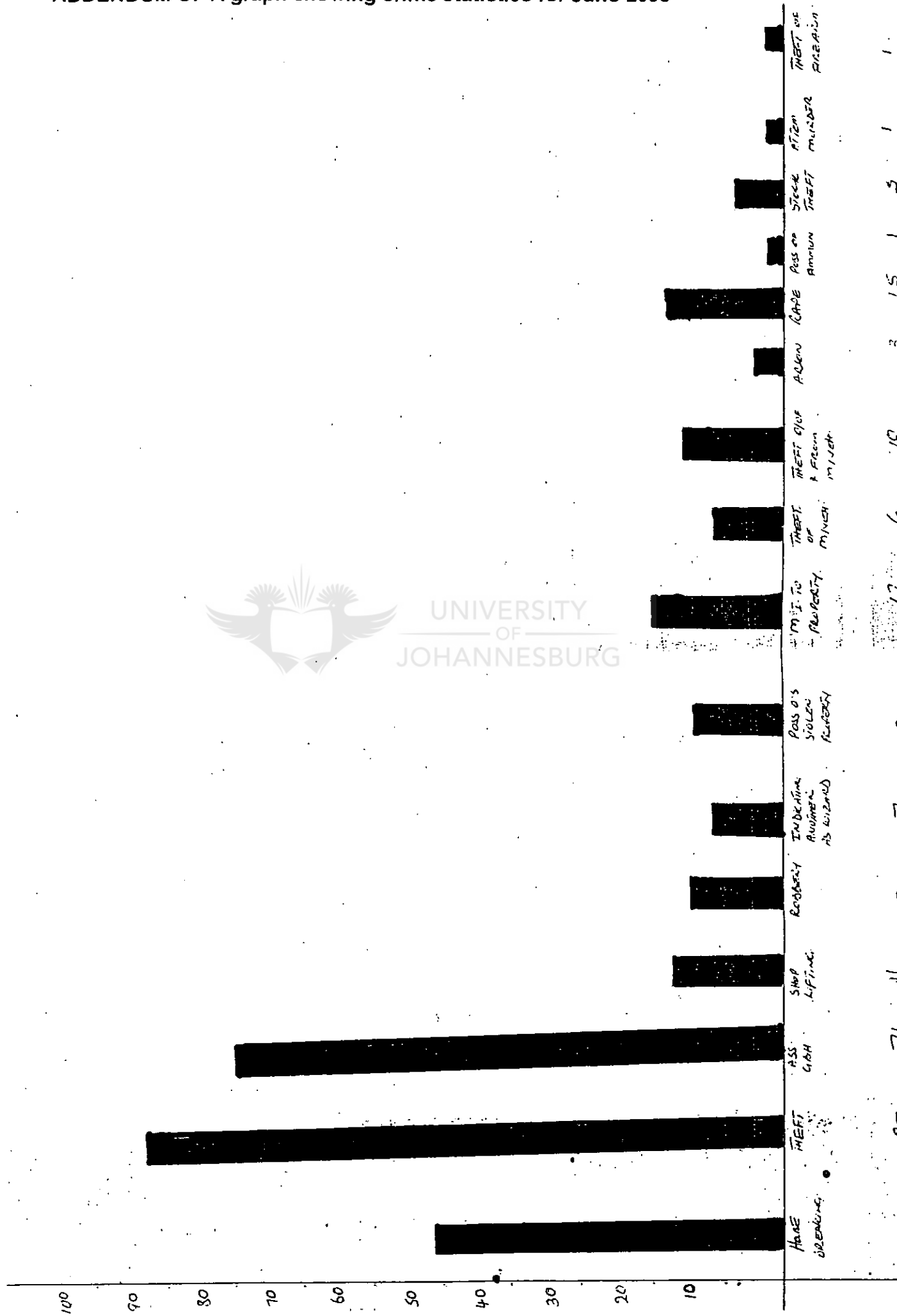
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT SAPS CRACKDOWN ON CELL 0824271249

DRAFTED BY CRACKDOWN AND COMMUNICATION OFFICER OF GIYANI POLICE STATION.

ADDENDUM C: A graph showing crime statistics for June 2000



UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG



PRIORITY 3.	COMBATING CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL ARRESTS
3.1.	RAPE (NOT IN MARRIAGE)	9	12
3.2.	ATTEMPTED RAPE (NOT IN MARRIAGE)	3	3
3.3.	RAPE BY HUSBAND	NIL	NONE
3.4.	ATTEMPTED RAPE BY HUSBAND	NIL	NONE
3.5.	INDECENT ASSAULT	NIL	NONE
3.6.	INDECENT ACTS WITH BOYS UNDER 19 YRS OF AGE	NIL	NONE
3.7.	ASSAULT GBH (ONLY CHILDREN UNDER 19 YRS OF AGE)	11	5
3.8.	ASSAULT COMMON	48	16
		71	36
PRIORITY 4.	IMPROVING BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY TO ALL COMMUNITIES	TOTAL	N/A
4.1.	TOTAL NO. OF PATROLS BASED ON CRIME PREVENTION ANALYSIS	28	N/A
4.2.	TOTAL NO. OF CRIME PREVENTION OPERATIONS LAUNCHED	28	N/A
4.3.	TOTAL NO. OF ROADBLOCKS HELD	NIL	N/A
4.4.	TOTAL NO. OF CRIMES REPORTED : ALL CRIMES	477	N/A
4.5.	TOTAL NO. OF ARRESTS : ALL CRIMES	256	N/A
4.6.	TOTAL NO. OF CRIMES REPORTED : PRIORITIZED CRIMES (ONLY)	197	N/A
4.7.	TOTAL NO. OF ARRESTS : PRIORITIZED CRIMES (ONLY)	52	N/A
4.8.	TOTAL NO. OF ILLEGAL FIREARMS SEIZED	04	N/A
4.9.	TOTAL NO. OF STOLEN VEHICLES RECOVERED	NIL	N/A
4.10.	TOTAL NO. OF PATROLS ON FARMS AND SMALL HOLDINGS	04	N/A
4.11.	TOTAL NO. OF APPRECIATION LETTERS FROM THE COMMUNITIES	NIL	N/A
4.12.	TOTAL NO. OF APPRECIATION LETTERS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT	02	N/A
4.13.	TOTAL NO. OF CPF MEETINGS HELD	1	N/A
4.14.	ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES SEIZED : LIQUOR	±20000L	N/A
	: DAGGA	2KG	N/A
	: COCAINE	NIL	N/A
	: MANDRAX	NIL	N/A
	: OTHER (SPECIFY)	NIL	N/A

ADDENDUM B: Statistics of different types of crime

STATION : GIYANI

MONTH : AUGUST
YEAR : 2000

**SECTION A : REPORTING ON POLICE PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES
2000/2001/2002/2003**

PRIORITY 1.	ORGANISED CRIMES	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL ARRESTS
1.1.	CRIMES RELATED TO DRUGS	NIL	NONE
1.2.	CRIMES RELATED TO FIREARMS	14	5
1.3.	THEFT OF MOTORVEHICLES	4	2
1.4.	THEFT OUT OF MOTORVEHICLES	13	NONE
1.5.	CORRUPTION	NIL	NONE
1.6.	COMMERCIAL CRIMES	4	1
		35	8
PRIORITY 2.	SERIOUS AND VIOLENT CRIMES	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL ARRESTS
2.1.	MURDER WITH FIREARMS	NIL	NONE
2.2.	ARMED ROBBERIES	4	4
2.3.	HEISTS	NIL	NONE
2.4.	HI-JACKINGS	NIL	NONE
2.5.	INTERGROUP VIOLENCE, NL.		
	2.5.1. POLITICAL VIOLENCE	NIL	NONE
	2.5.2. TAXI VIOLENCE	NIL	NONE
	2.5.3. TRAIN VIOLENCE	NIL	NONE
	2.5.4. GANG VIOLENCE	NIL	NONE
	2.5.5. FACTION FIGHTING	NIL	NONE
	2.5.6. URBAN TERRORISM	NIL	NONE
	2.5.7. WITCHCRAFT-RELATED	7	1
2.6.	POLICING MAJOR EVENTS, EG.		
	2.6.1. RALLIES	NIL	NONE
	2.6.2. MARCHES	NIL	NONE
	2.6.3. ESCORT	NIL	NONE
		11	5



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ADDENDUM A: A vandalised public phone and undeveloped sites



GREATER GIYANI TRANSITIONAL LOCAL COUNCIL

PRIVATE BAG X9559, GIYANI 0826, TEL. 015-8123707/812 1683, FAX 015-812 2036

Reference : 15/14/1 E1126
Enquiries : G.T. MANGENI
Telephone : 015 - 812 3361/812 3707

20/09/2000

J.E. Makhubele
P.O. Box 1603
GIYANI
0826

UNDEVELOPED SITE NO. E1126

1. Site no. E1126 was purchase on 1988 - 07 - 13. The site has to date not yet been developed.
2. You are therefore requested to show cause (in terms of regulations 23(3) of Chapter 2 of Proclamation R293/1963 why the deed of grant cannot be cancelled and the site be reversed to the Trust.
3. It will be to your advantage therefore that you show commence of development of the site on or before 27/07/2000 to avoid the actions as contemplated in paragraph 2 above.
4. Your co-operation will be highly appreciated.


THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:
GREATER GIYANI TLC



DEFENSIVE MEASURES AGAINST HOUSE BREAKING
AND THEFT AT GIYANI, MALAMULELE,
HLANGANANI, SEKGOSESE AND SASELAMANI.

- 1. LOCK MAIN GATES, DOORS AND WINDOWS WHILE YOU ARE AWAY IF POSSIBLE.
- 2. BUTLER PROOF YOUR HOUSE.
- 3. SWITCH ON OUTSIDE LIGHTS WITH HIGH VOLTAGE BULBS DURING THE NIGHT TO DETER CRIMINALS.
- 4. ALERT YOUR NEIGHBOURS WHEN YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE AWAY.
- 5. PUT AWAY VALUABLE PROPERTIES FROM THE YARD, WHEN NOT IN USED.
- 6. UTILISE KEY BLOCKS PARTICULARLY ON OUTSIDE DOOR OF YOUR HOUSE TO AVOID DUPLICATION KEYS.
- 7. WHILE BEING INTERTAINED THROUGH ANY ACTIVITIES INSIDE THE HOUSE MAKE IT A POINT THAT ALL MAIN DOORS ARE LOCKED TO AVOID POSSIBLE INTRUDERS.
- 8. KNOW YOUR EMPLOYEES PARTICULARS THAT IS RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS ID DOC. AND THEIR RELATIVES.
- 9. CREATE STREET COMMITTEES/ NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.
- 10. NEVER ACCOMODATE STRANGER TO YOUR HOUSE.
- 11. MARK ALL VALUABLE PROPERTIES FOR CLEAR IDENTIFICATION.
- 12. FOR MORE CLARITY/INFORMATION CONTACT OPERATIONAL CRACKDOEN ON CELL 0824271249 OR 0837116894.

DRAFTED BY CRACKDOWN COMMANDERS AND
COMMUNICATION OFFICER OF SAPS GIYANI

ADDENDUM F: A sample of questionnaires completed by a culprit and a victim of crime

ADDENDUM E

AN EXAMPLE OF A QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH WAS COMPLETED BY A CULPRIT.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WITHOUT IDENTIFYING YOURSELF

- With whom do you stay at home? *My mother and my sister and brother*
- How old are you? *14*
- Who is the breadwinner at home? *My mother*
- Can you explain in short what made you to commit burglary? *I was hungry. I needed money to eat*
- Would you please list the items which you stole? *Two radios and some small cash*
- Where you alone when you commit this crime or were you a group of youngsters? *A group of youngsters*
- If you were a group, then who is your leader? *No one leader*

The following questions are to be completed by those who had been found guilty and once arrested in their life.

- How is life behind bars? *Terrible hard*
- Did you enjoy your life in jail? *No* Why do you say so? *because I missed home*
- What are your future plans? *I want to be a policeman*
- What is your advice to others? *Do not do crime*

ADDENDUM

AN EXAMPLE OF A QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH WAS COMPLETED BY A VICTIM OF CRIME

Would you please complete this questionnaire on housebreaking and burglary, which happen daily in our residential area.

Please do not identify yourself when completing this questionnaire.

- Where do you stay? *22, Station Rd*
- Are all the sites nearby occupied? *No, some are used by criminals*
- When did the burglary occur? *In the night*
- Were you around at the time of the burglary? *No, I was at work*
- Which items were stolen? *A radio and some clothes*
- Were the stolen items marked for identification? *No, they were not marked*
- Please explain in short your reaction after this burglary. *I was shocked, because I worked hard for money*
- Did you report the matter immediately to the police? *Yes, I did*
- How did the police react? *They took a long time*
- Can you briefly explain your relationship with your neighbours? *It is good, but I don't know who stole my things because they are only my neighbours and I don't know who stole my things*
- What have you done to prevent another burglary in your house? *I have installed burglar proof and a dog*
- What is your advice to another community members in connection with crime prevention? *To stay near police and to report crime*