

# Nompumelelo Stakeholder Forum



PHOTO CREDITS Above drawings by the Nompumelelo community | Top right and bottom © Bazil Raubach



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SAFETY & LIAISON

# Nompumelelo Safety Forum

## Nompumelelo

Nompumelelo is a vibrant community of approximately 9 000 people located within the East London suburb of Beacon Bay. It is a combination of formal and informal housing. Many of the informal houses are built on steep, sandy slopes and thus are unreachable by road. Their position also makes it difficult and, in some instances impossible, to provide running water or sanitation to these homes.

Nompumelelo has historically provided temporary residence for people who want to be closer to their place of work. Even today, the population swells noticeably during the week and thins out over the weekend when many residents return to their homes, mainly in outlying rural areas.

## Building a safe Nompumelelo

In 2008, the Open Society Foundation for South Africa (OSF-SA) through its Criminal Justice initiative and in partnership with the Eastern Cape Department of Community Safety and Liaison, embarked on a new strategy to support efforts to promote community safety that are cognisant of both the need for immediate law enforcement and for long-term crime prevention.

The partners believe a balanced approach, which also recognises and seeks to address the social, economic and environmental drivers of crime, provides better prospects for long-term safety. The objectives of the project are to:

- test these assumptions
- add to the general development of knowledge in the sector
- make a real impact on community safety

These objectives will be achieved by facilitating the implementation of provincial priorities and safety strategies through locally focussed safety plans. Nompumelelo was identified as a pilot site for the project.

## How do we do it?

The methodology is based on best practice and includes:

- conducting a safety audit to gain a thorough understanding of challenges faced by the Nompumelelo community
- developing safety plans to address the challenges identified in the safety audit
- supporting the Nompumelelo Safety Forum as a partnership between community and government on the one hand, and private and public sector stakeholders on the other, to manage, monitor and facilitate the implementation of the safety plan
- encouraging monitoring and evaluation to feed lessons on what works back into the project, and to make these available nationally and internationally.

## What are our concerns?

A safety audit of Nompumelelo was conducted in 2008. It revealed there was a high level of fear of crime among community members. Women and children were identified as being most vulnerable to crime.

The key facilitators and drivers of crime were:

- alcohol and drugs
- unemployment
- lack of alternative means of survival
- lack of activities
- lack of parental support
- a high rate of school drop-outs.

The safety audit noted that the issues that needed to be addressed in a safety plan were:

- 1 the need to encourage positive working relationships between key role-players, service providers and the community
- 2 the need to work on improving and supporting effective policing
- 3 the importance of education and skills development
- 4 the need to encourage the improvement of services to the community, particularly children and youth
- 5 the importance of considering environmental factors.

## Who is the Nompumelelo Safety Forum?

The Nompumelelo Safety Forum is a dedicated group of individuals from across the political spectrum representing government departments and community organisations.

## Our safety plan

The Nompumelelo Safety Plan was adopted in 2009 and focuses on five key areas:

- 1 improving municipal services and facilities
- 2 supporting an integrated youth safety and development programme
- 3 addressing facilitators of crime, particularly alcohol and drugs
- 4 promoting job creation
- 5 promoting a more effective and efficient criminal justice system.

## What has been achieved?

Some of our successes include:

### Improving municipal services and facilities

- A fence has been erected around the sports field and grass has been planted.
- Half of the main road in Nompumelelo has been tarred.
- A CCTV camera has been installed to monitor the area around the taxi rank.
- Access to water and sanitation for residents of the informal settlement has been improved.

### Promoting school safety

- The South African Police Service (SAPS) visits schools regularly.
- NICRO's Safety Ambassadors programme has been implemented, and a NICRO social worker was appointed to the Nompumelelo area.
- An after-school care programme has been established at both schools and food gardens have been planted.

### Alcohol and substance abuse

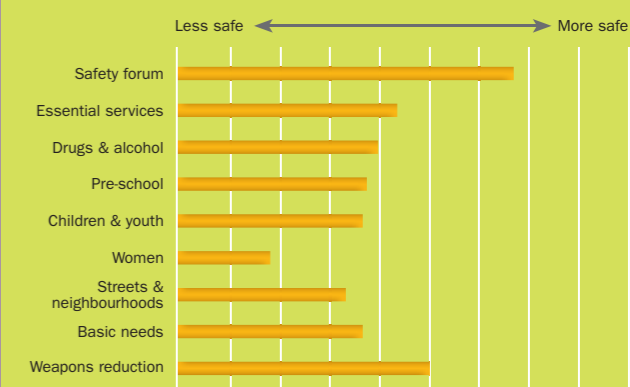
- A code of conduct regulating closing times for taverns has been agreed upon by the tavern owners, and SAPS is enforcing the code.

### More effective criminal justice system

- Visible policing has been improved with the establishment of sector policing.

## How are we doing?

Nompumelelo has been evaluated against nine themes which together provide a picture of the safety of the community. The overall rating in each theme is presented in the graph below.



Evaluators found that although there are basic structures in place, most interventions are coordinated by a single stakeholder, and where two or more stakeholders are responsible for delivery, interventions are poorly coordinated.

The safety theme 'Sustainable forums for coordinated action on community safety' rated highest. This is a reflection of the growth and development of Nompumelelo. The Nompumelelo Safety Forum's safety plan has been officially adopted by the body.

The goals and objectives highlighted in the safety plan address most of the issues discussed in this evaluation. The OSF-SA has appointed a coordinator to ensure the smooth running of meetings.

The Nompumelelo Safety Forum has strong monitoring systems in place, and has attempted to coordinate some interventions that align with their safety plan. As the Nompumelelo Safety Forum becomes a more established body, more interventions will hopefully be coordinated more effectively across various stakeholder groups.

The safety theme 'A safe and supportive environment for women' was given the lowest rating. A lack of economic opportunities was the main reason for the low score. While poverty and unemployment are a challenge for the general community, the problem is specifically pronounced among women and the youth.

## What are our future plans?

- To continue updating the Safety Plan by keeping track of the safety needs of the community.
- To continue monitoring how safe Nompumelelo is with reference to the safety themes identified.
- To continue working with all stakeholders for a safer Nompumelelo.