



**national planning
commission**

Department:
The Presidency
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
ADVISORY NOTE ON**

**The Implementation
of the Integrated
Crime and Violence
Prevention Strategy
(ICVPS)**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chapter 12 of the National Development Plan (NDP) proposes a series of interventions focusing on a professional police service taking measures to prevent crime and promote safety, especially for women and children. While the state introduced the White Paper on Safety and Security, which builds on the NDP chapter, crime has remained unacceptably high. The National

Planning Commission (NPC) proposes that the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy, published by the Civilian Secretariat of Police Services and adopted by Cabinet in March 2022 be implemented to address the high crime rate. Specifically, the NPC proposes establishing appropriate governance and information frameworks to ensure accountability.



1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

South Africans have faced unacceptably high levels of crime and violence for decades, which is evident in the country's official crime statistics, recorded across a range of crime categories, including most importantly murder, attempted murder, assault, robbery, and sexual violence. Of concern, South Africa's murder rate per 100,000 of the population has increased by 43% since 2013/14, and the attempted murder rate per 100,000 of the population has increased by 31% over the same period. South Africa's current murder rate of 45.1 per 100,000 is the second highest recorded intentional homicide (murder) rate globally in terms of data published by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime.



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The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 was adopted in 2012 by the South African government. Chapter 12 of the NDP focuses on 'Building Safer Communities' and recommends a series of relevant interventions to address crime and violence and promote safety in an inclusive manner that focuses on preventing the root causes through an integrated and professional police service. The 2016 White Paper on Safety and Security (WPSS) became the successor policy position to the NDP Chapter 12, providing a policy framework that encourages collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors to prevent crime and violence.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Findings from various research projects have clearly demonstrated the correlations between crime and violence, and acute poverty, unemployment, and inequality in South Africa, which have contributed to high levels of stress, frustration, and humiliation, especially for young men. These factors, which have been combined with substance abuse (chiefly alcohol) and the availability of weapons (especially firearms), have been the norms that support the use of violence to address interpersonal conflict and the key

drivers of violent criminal behaviour in South Africa.

Although the police should play an important role with regard to crime and violence prevention, the South African Police Service (SAPS) do not have the mandate, expertise, or resources to address many of the key drivers of violent crime. Various studies have shown that in high-crime societies, a comprehensive and integrated approach is required to reduce crime and violence levels meaningfully.

3. REFLECTION ON WORK AND RESEARCH BY KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The most recent successor to these policy interventions (originating from the NDP) has been the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS), which the Civilian Secretariat for Police Services facilitated following extensive consultation with various government departments and civil society. Cabinet adopted the ICVPS in March 2022, but it has yet to be officially launched and implemented by government.

The ICVPS proposes a fundamental change in the way in which South Africa should address high levels of crime and violence. It focuses on addressing the key societal risk factors that underpin and drive crime and violence in South Africa. Furthermore, the ICVPS seeks to promote the implementation of an integrated, developmental, collaborative, evidence-based ‘whole-of-society’ approach to preventing crime and violence, which involves a range of South African stakeholders,

namely government departments in all three spheres, business, labour, and community constituencies.

Some, not all, of the risk factors identified in the ICVPS are currently being addressed by some government departments, such as the SAPS, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), and the Departments of Justice and Constitutional Development, Social Development, Basic Education and Health, among others. It is encouraging to note that an ICVPS working committee chaired by the Civilian Secretariat has recently been established to initiate discussions between government departments at the technical level about the implementation of the ICVPS. However, more concerted efforts to coordinate, monitor, implement and evaluate the rollout of the ICVPS must be applied to reduce crime and violence comprehensively in South Africa.

4. PROPOSALS

The National Planning Commission (NPC) re-affirms the need to reduce the high levels of crime and violence in South Africa as an important national priority. It furthermore views government as the key actor that must coordinate the whole-of-society approach envisaged by the ICVPS. As this approach is multifaceted and comprehensive, it introduces an element of complexity to implementing the Strategy. In keeping with a systematic approach, the NPC proposes that certain conditions be established for the successful implementation of the ICVPS. The proposed conditions are outlined below:

- (i) Identification of the key coordinating government department for the Strategy for purposes of political accountability;

- (ii) A clear delineation of roles and deliverables for the implementing government departments;

- (iii) A baseline document that presents the current status of crime and violence in South Africa, and ongoing implementation efforts;

- (iv) Establishment of engagement structures with civil society and private sector groupings with clear targets and roles;

- (v) The compilation of an implementation plan for the ICVPS covering a 5-year period with milestones and targets; and

- (vi) The establishment of a mechanism for driving implementation and measuring implementation progress that is housed in an independent third party either within or outside government.

For the ICVPS to succeed, the key government departments identified in the ICVPS should implement their specific interventions while coordinating with each other and establishing partnerships with non-governmental

stakeholders. For the effective implementation of the ICVPS, the NPC proposes the establishment of the following structures and arrangements:

(i) Establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to coordinate the implementation of the ICVPS

Based on government's previous experiences of responding to multi-sectoral challenges in South Africa, the NPC recommends that the most appropriate structure to initiate and coordinate the implementation of the ICVPS is an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC). As the ICVPS recommends a 'whole-of-government' approach, the IMC should be comprised of the Ministers responsible for Police, Defence and Military Veterans, Justice and Correctional Services, State Security, Finance, Home Affairs, Social Development, Health, Basic Education, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and Rural Development. Given that the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service has been the custodian of the ICVPS, the Minister of Police should chair this IMC. As the interventions proposed in ICVPS form the responsibility of most of the ministries and departments in the JCPS cluster, the NPC recommends that the IMC be accommodated within that cluster, which should also be responsible for prioritising its implementation.



As the ICVPS also includes numerous recommended interventions about early childhood development, support to vulnerable households and victims of violence, and urban design and development, the NPC recommends the inclusion of the relevant social and governance Ministries.

The NPC views the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the ICVPS as essential to its success and, therefore, further recommends the inclusion of the Minister responsible for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

(ii) Task Teams

The NPC recommends the establishment of task teams within the JCPS cluster comprised of senior officials from the responsible departments. Officials would be expected to create multifaceted mechanisms to implement the ICVPS, including establishing interdepartmental coordinating structures and programme management systems, ensuring progress reports on implementation, and

establishing mechanisms for cooperation with local government, civil society, and the private sector. In particular, the task teams should prioritise the 100 policing areas most affected by violent crime for the implementation of ICVPS interventions.

(iii) Establishment of an Inter-Departmental Steering Committee

In line with the recommendation above, the NPC recommends the creation of an inter-departmental steering committee comprised of the Directors-General of those departments within the JCPS Cluster, as well as from the relevant social and governance government departments, including Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, who will be responsible for reporting on progress with the implementation of the ICVPS to the IMC. These reports should provide subject-specific recommendations on resource allocation, technical implementation, and stakeholder action (amongst others) from the task teams. This Committee would decide which updates and recommendations should be forwarded to the JCPS cluster.

5. CONCLUSION

The NPC has prepared this advisory note for the benefit of the President and Cabinet, presenting its views on how South Africa can best approach the implementation of the ICVPS. We recognise the importance of addressing the high crime rate not only in terms of its effects on the fabric of society as

we promote social cohesion and foster future generations who can achieve their potential, but we recognise the detrimental effects of crime on the country's economic development. Personal safety is a human right and necessary for human development, improved quality of life and enhanced productivity.



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