

The use of informal sanctions however, is very controversial. All informants blame the South African laws which discourage parents and the whole community from applying some informal sanctions which is regarded as taking the law into their own hands. Captain Van der Vyver admitted that some informal sanctions such as sjambokking, assaulting or beating crime suspects are criminalised by law irrespective whether offenders were wrong or not. The implication here is that all crimes have to be reported to the police but the problem is that formal sanctions are not effective in deterring individuals from committing crime. The ineffectiveness of formal sanctions is reflected in the vigilant killings of alleged criminals in Khayelitsha. Members of the community have lost trust and confidence in the police and the criminal justice system.

7.5 Empowerment of residents

The implementation of programmes such as CPF and visible policing in Khayelitsha was a good attempt at improving security and safety in the community but these programmes face numerous challenges. CPF for example, encounters financial problems in its operations to capacitate its volunteers with equipment and necessary skills so they become competent. The Secretary of CPF in Site B, Nomawethu Mosuna acknowledged that their volunteers are not trained to fight crime and need radios to communicate with police or between themselves, rather than using their cell phones. She added that stipends are needed so volunteers can buy their daily needs and necessary equipment such as boots and jackets without using their own money. If people struggle to meet their basic needs, they may not be willing to volunteer. Asking them to buy or use their little resources on voluntary work therefore, is likely to reduce the number of potential volunteers in CPFs.

Addressing root causes of crime was given negligible attention by all crime prevention programmes in Khayelitsha. Both visible policing and CPF programmes seem to focus mainly on reducing the number of crime incidents without tackling the root causes of crime such as poverty or reducing crime opportunities. All informants acknowledged that crime is high in areas with poor infrastructure such as informal houses, and limited streets and lights. Residents are not capacitated economically and socio-economically to control and maintain security in their areas. In lieu of tackling crime problems by rooting out the causes of crime and reducing crime incidents, the police and crime prevention programmes in Site B concentrate their efforts and resources on crime incidents reduction. Poverty which is one of the major factors that forces individuals to commit crimes remains unaddressed. The physical

environment in which the residents live is not designed in such a way that it reduces crime opportunities. Some areas are crowded with informal houses, streets and lights are limited and the majority of the residents live in poverty. If these issues are not addressed effectively, crime will continue to prevail in Site B.

7.6 Cooperation between residents and police

Allegations of the ineffectiveness and corruption in the SAPS ruin the cooperation between police and residents to the extent that some residents see the police as enemies. These unfriendly attitudes and perceptions of residents towards police were confirmed by all interviewed residents who reiterated by saying that they have lost confidence and trust in the SAPS. Consequently, some residents do not report crime-related information to the police as reporting is regarded as a waste of time.



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