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# THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

**EThekweni Metropolitan Municipality  
Learning Event**

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# Introduction

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa places a responsibility of facilitating safe and healthy environments as one of the objects of local government.
- This is a critical foundation for all the work that local government is doing as a sphere of government closest to the people.
- As an envisioned outcome, safe environments and communities is complemented by Schedule 4B & 5B.
- Unfortunately ensuring safety is a very dynamic and complex task that you can't do in abstract of other socio-economic issues in the communities.



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# Definitions

- Various scholars and practitioners use different terminologies to define safety based on literature and practice.
- Among other popular terms include public safety, community safety, urban safety / rural safety etc.
- Crime prevention (enforcement) and social crime prevention (community inclusive) are critical elements of safety and a collective responsibility by govt., business and communities.



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# Definitions

- **Community safety** is about delivering local solutions to local problems that have been identified by local people.
- **Community safety** means preventing, reducing or containing the social, environmental and intimidatory factors which affect people's right to live without fear of crime and which impact upon their quality of life.
- **Community safety** includes preventative measures that contribute to crime reduction and tackle anti-social behaviour.



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# Legislative Mandate

- Section 152 of the Constitution includes the promotion of safe and healthy environment as one of the objects of local government.
- Section 206(3) of the Constitution entitles each province to promote good relations between the police and the community. This cannot be achieved by the relevant provincial organ of state without the concomitant involvement of the national and local spheres of government.
- National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) of 1996.
- The WPSS (1998) also calls for local government to play a lead role in local crime prevention, promoting crime prevention through multi-agency partnerships.
- Municipal Systems and Structures Act etc



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# Current Programmes

- Safer Cities
- Business Against Crime (BAC)
- Community Safety Forums (CSFs)
- Violence and Crime Prevention Programmes (VCP)
- Many others initiatives by metropolitan and other spheres of government including the Department Social Development's Crime Prevention Strategy



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# Conclusion

- The economic development of the community is intrinsically linked to the safety and security conditions that prevail in the local environment.
- The competencies of local government are provided for in Schedules 4 and 5 of the Constitution include areas relating to street lighting, street trading, traffic, the control of public nuisances and the consequential by-law enforcement as functions of local government.
- Therefore local government's increasing involvement in functions which are not regarded as traditional local government functions is also discussed with the emphasis on its increasing role in community safety.



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**THANK YOU!**