

# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON

**THE STUDY OF DRUG ABUSE AND  
ITS EFFECT ON CRIME. A CASE  
STUDY OF  
SECONDARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS  
IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

Research Business Unit  
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## **Abstract**

The study responds to the Limpopo Executive Council (Resolution No 22 of August 2006) request to conduct an audit of drug abuse in the Province. The major objectives of the study are as follows:

- To determine the extend has Drug abuse impacted on the schools in rural and urban areas of the Province and its impact on crime thereafter;
- To identify different types of criminal activities related to drug abuse in the Province;
- To identify the most common type of drug used by offenders in terms of prevalence and availability in the Province;
- To determine the source/ origin of drugs/ substances that are found in the province;
- To find out the causes of drug abuse (specifically to school children);
- Make strategic recommendations for the reduction of drug abuse in the province.

The literature has been reviewed as part of secondary sources. The study selected a sample of 12 schools randomly out of a list of 36 drug problematic schools that was provided by the Department of Education. The schools that were interviewed were selected from Tzaneen, Phalaborwa, Bochum/ Senwabarwana, Sekhukhune, Seshego and Polokwane areas.

The main focus of the primary information was the constructed questionnaires that were developed in consideration of the objectives. The study used both qualitative and quantitative methods in data collection and data analysis. Structured face-to-face interviews were conducted. In each an every school the interview process started with the briefing session where all the

respondents (School Principal, Life Skills Orientation Educator, SGB Secretary and LRC President) were expected to attend, thereafter one-on-one interview was conducted.

The findings indicate that drug abuse is a serious problem in rural and urban schools in the Province. The most common type of drug used by offenders in terms of prevalence in the Province is Dagga (Other Drugs such as Cocaine, Rock and Mandrax have been mentioned, but they are not much common among school children as dagga). Dagga is being sold within the communities by liquor outlets, members of the communities' gangs, filling stations, shops and Spaza shops. It is cultivated at Sekororo Mountains, Sekhukhune Mountains, and Blouberg/ Malebogo mountains.

The major causes of school children to use drugs includes; peer pressure, environmental influence, family background and adolescent stage where children want to experiment things and to have a sense of belonging in to a particular group. The major signs and symptoms of drug abuse in school includes; aggression, lack of participation in class, arrogant, not cooperative smelling of drugs, lessons destruction, fighting with other learners, absenteeism, big and red eyes.

The major criminal activities related to drug abuse in schools includes; unreasonable assault, caring and usage of dangerous weapons, theft of property and money robbery rape and burglary. Numbers of strategic recommendations have been outlined in chapter 5 to reduce and stop drug abuse in the Province. Drug abuse is the problem that cannot be overlooked it affects our future generations and our future leaders, in the Province it must be treated like HIV/ AIDS; it must get a serious attention.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## 1.1 Background

Following the Limpopo Executive Council [Resolution 22 of August 2006] the Research Unit OF THE Department of Safety, Security and Liaison has been tasked to conduct a survey on the abuse of drugs specifically in schools in the Province and its effect on crime thereof. It is very crucial to conduct such a survey because it is a criminal activity that is taking place within the Province and incidences are highly prevalent.

The Ministry of Department of Education considers safe and disciplined environment one of the critical elements to the successful delivery of quality education. The National Drug Abuse Policy Framework (2002) by the Department of Education indicates very clearly that studies on drug abuse in the country point to an increase in drug abuse rates across all communities irrespective of color, race, ethnicity and wealth, although usage rates and drugs of choice vary between communities, based on access and cost.

Schools in our Province are particularly vulnerable and drug usage by learners is on the increase in both rural and urban schools, including primary schools. There is also a high correlation between drug abuse and other anti-social and high risk behavior typical of countercultures such as criminal offences (unreasonable assault, theft, rape, robbery etc) and it can also be linked with the prevalence levels of HIV/AIDS.

## **1.2. Objectives of the study**

1. To determine what extend has this problem impacted on our schools in the rural and urban areas;
2. To identify different types of criminal activities related to drug abuse in the Province;
3. To identify the areas within the Province (Police stations and communities) that are reporting lot of criminal activities related to drug abuse;
4. To identify the most common type of drug used by offenders in terms of prevalence and availability in the Province;
5. To determine the source/ origin of drugs/ substances that are found in the province;
6. To find out the causes of drug abuse (specifically to school children);
7. To find out the consequences of drug abuse;
8. Make strategic recommendations for the reduction of drug abuse in the province.

## **1.3. Methodology**

It is the road to achieve the objectives; this is where the broad procedure that has been used to carry out the research in trying to meet its objectives has been outlined.

### **1.3.1 Secondary Data**

#### **1.3.1.1 Literature review**

The literature review has been done by obtaining information from SAPS, written articles, newspapers, internet and published documents that are having relevant information to the research and any other sources of information that is written down.

According to SAPS report, August 2006, the common types of drug according to demand and supply in the province include the following:

Dagga (most common)

Ecstasy

Cocaine

Tik ("Tuk Tuk")

Cat (Catamine)

Heroin

Methaqualone

LSD

Amphetamine (Speed)

#### **1.3.1.2 Cultivation of dagga within the province (SAPS report August 2006)**

<b>Area of cultivation</b>	<b>Nearest Police Station</b>
Maandagshoek Mountains	Tubatse SAPS
Wolkberg Mountains Including Serala Nature	Heanertzburg SAPS



Reserve	
Hopefield Nature Reserve	Tinmyne SAPS
Blouberg Mountains	Mara SAPS

It is believed that small quantities of drugs are available at various filling stations, streets and outside shopping centers. Drugs are also available in the primary and secondary schools in Polokwane, Seshego, Mokopane, Tzaneen and Phalaborwa.

#### **1.3.1.3 Source/ origin (SAPS Report August 2006)**

Local sources supply indigenous drugs such as dagga – availability in the Province not in dispute. The more 'hard drugs' are sourced from international syndicates – these includes the Western African connection (e.g. Nigeria), and other drugs are being ordered from Gauteng.

#### **1.3.1.4 School children's and drugs: [www.focusas.com](http://www.focusas.com)**

A drug is any chemical that produces therapeutic or non-therapeutic effects in the body. School children's may be involved with legal and illegal drugs in various ways and experimentation with drugs during adolescent is very common. Unfortunately school children do not see the link between their actions today and the consequences tomorrow. Some may experiment and stop, or continue to use occasionally without any noticeable effects, but others may develop a dependency, moving on to more dangerous drugs and causing significant harm to themselves and possibly others. School children's are using drugs for different reasons including curiosity, because they think it feels good, to reduce stress, to feel grown up or to fit in, but the major problem is because they don't know whether if they experiment, they will be able to stop after sometime or they will be addicted to drugs.

**1.3.1.5 Causes of drug abuse [www.adroga.casadia.org](http://www.adroga.casadia.org) & [www.drugsubstanceabuseaddiction.org](http://www.drugsubstanceabuseaddiction.org)**

Social and peer pressure  
 Response to stressing situation  
 Lack of control and supervision by parents or guardians  
 Children coping from older persons within the family or within the community  
 Lack of parental guidance  
 Environmental influence  
 Poverty e.g. homeless children and child headed families

**1.3.1.6 Signs and symptoms of drug abuse especially in school children: [www.nationalyouth.com](http://www.nationalyouth.com),**

Fatigue  
 Repeated health complaints  
 Red and glazed eyes  
 Lasting cough  
 Mood changes  
 Difficulty in concentration and paying attention  
 Withdrawal from responsibility  
 Anger and general change in overall attitude  
 Sudden personality changes that include abrupt changes in school attendance and quality work  
 Deterioration of physical appearance and grooming  
 Wearing of sunglasses at inappropriate times  
 Continual wearing long sleeved garments particularly in hot weather or reluctant to wear short-sleeved attire when appropriate

Association with known drugs abusers  
 Unusual borrowing money from friends, parents and neighbors  
 Stealing small items from home, school and neighbors  
 Irresponsible behavior  
 Low self-esteem  
 Loss of interest in what once favorite e.g. sport activities, homework and hobbies.  
 Poor judgment  
 Feeling exhausted, depressed, hopeless and suicidal  
 General lack of interest  
 Breaking rules  
 Withdrawal from the family  
 Increases secretiveness  
 Drop in grades at school  
 Many absences  
 Starting arguments with friends, teachers, parents and other older people  
 New friends who make poor decisions and not interested in school and family activities.

**1.3.1.7 Effects of drug abuse** ([www.usnodrugs.com](http://www.usnodrugs.com),  
[www.teenageabuse.us](http://www.teenageabuse.us) & [www.nida.nih.gov.za](http://www.nida.nih.gov.za))

People who use drugs generally experience a wide problem of physical and psychological effects.

**Effects on the individual:** if a person continues to use drugs he or she becomes addictive and constantly increasing amount of drug will be needed for the person. The dosage of drugs will be uncontrollable of which overdose is very much dangerous, and it can lead to untimely death. Many drug users engage in

criminal activities, such as burglary and prostitution to raise money to buy drugs. Drugs also affect the brain, the heart, the lungs and it affects the health of a human being in general.

**Effects on the family:** drug users within the family can disrupt family life and create destructive pattern of codependency. The other family members indirectly enables the user to continue using drugs by covering up, supplying money to buy drugs and denying there is a problem with the fear of the consequences. Children within the family might end up taking drugs, because they might think it is the right thing to do, because the father or the brother is taking drugs and is being supported by other family members.

**Effects on the society:** drugs related crime can disrupt the neighborhoods due to violence among drug dealers and threats to residents. In some areas, younger children are recruited as lookouts and helpers because of the lighter sentences given to juvenile offenders, and guns have become common place among children.

#### **1.3.1.8 Primary Data**

The main focus of the primary information was a constructed questionnaire that was developed in consideration with the objectives. The study used both qualitative and quantitative methods in data collection and data analysis. Structured face-to-face interviews were conducted. In each and every school there was a briefing session where all the respondents were expected to attend, then after one – on – one interviews was conducted.

The interview was conducted by asking both closed ended and open-ended questions. This method has been chosen because the interviewer gets first hand information during the time of interview. It also involves a direct personal

contact with the participant who is asked to answer the questions. It is also a method of getting people to express themselves on a particular issue without fear of any person. The researcher also gets an opportunity to ask follow-up questions related to the research.

**Main Questions that were asked to all the schools were as follows:**

- 1) Do you have drug related problem in your school?
- 2) If yes, what is the most common type of drug used by offenders in terms of prevalence in your area?
- 3) What do you think are the major causes of drug abuse especially in school children?
- 4) What are the signs and symptoms of drug abuse that you observe in your school?
- 5) What do you think are the major causes of drug abuse in your school?
- 6) What are the criminal activities related to drug abuse that are committed by school children?
- 7) What is the source of the drug that is available in your area?
- 8) Is there any drug cultivation that you know in your area?
- 9) Do you have any programme that is looking specifically to drug abuse in your school?
- 10) If yes, what is the impact of the programme?
- 11) What mechanism that can be used to reduce and stop drug abuse in your school?

**1.3.1.9 Sampling Procedure**

Normally it is not possible to collect data from the entire population of the identified area; there was a list of 36 schools that were identified as drug

probamatic schools by the Department of Education. Simple Random Sampling procedure has been used to select 12 schools to form part of the research.

**The sample include following categories of people:**

School Principal

SGB Chairperson

LRC President/ chairperson

Educator responsible for life skills orientation, career guidance, safer school project or any project related to drug abuse.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2.1 Research Findings

#### 2.1.1 Unit of analysis

The Department OF Safety, Security and Liaison was provided with the list of 36 schools by the Limpopo Department of Education that are experiencing drug related problem in the Province. Out of 36 12 schools were selected to form part of the study guided by the information provided by SAPS (areas reported drug related crimes). The following schools have been interviewed:

	Date	Name of school	Circuit office	People interviewed in the school
1)	05. 10. 06	Charles Mathonsi Secondary School	Nkowankowa Circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School Principal</li> <li>▪ Life Skills Orientation Educator</li> <li>▪ SGB Secretary</li> <li>▪ LRC President</li> </ul>
2)	05. 10. 06	Vasasele Secondary School	Nkowankowa Circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Life Skills Educator</li> <li>▪ HOD on behalf of the Principal</li> <li>▪ LRC President</li> </ul>
3)	09. 10. 06	Relebogile Secondary School	Namakgale Circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School Principal</li> <li>▪ Life Skills</li> </ul>

				Orientation Educator ▪ SGB Chairperson ▪ LRC President
4)	09. 10. 06	Vuxeni High School	Namakgale Circuit	▪ School Principal ▪ Life Skills Orientation Educator ▪ SGB Chairperson ▪ LRC President
5)	10. 10. 06	Derrick Kobe High School	Mogodumo Circuit	▪ School Principal ▪ Life Skills Orientation Educator ▪ SGB Chairperson ▪ LRC President
6)	10. 10. 06	Ngwana – Mokgobe Secondary School	Mogodumo Circuit	▪ School Principal ▪ Life Skills Orientation Educator ▪ SGB Chairperson



				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LRC President</li> </ul>
7)	11. 10. 06	Ramotshabi High School	Bochum West Circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School Principal</li> <li>▪ Career Guidance Educator</li> <li>▪ SGB Chairperson</li> <li>▪ LRC President</li> </ul>
8)		Mankgakgata	Malebogo East Circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School Principal</li> <li>▪ Career Guidance Educator</li> <li>▪ SGB Chairperson</li> <li>▪ LRC President</li> </ul>
9)	17. 10. 06	Mathomo Mayo High School	Lebowa-Kgomo Circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School Principal</li> <li>▪ Life Skills Orientation Educator</li> <li>▪ SGB Chairperson</li> <li>▪ LRC President</li> </ul>
10)	24. 10. 06	Makgofo High School	Seshego Circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deputy Principal</li> <li>▪ LRC Secretary</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LRC Treasurer</li> <li>▪ Life skills Orientation educator</li> <li>▪ SGB Chairperson</li> </ul>
11)	24. 10. 06	Westerbberg Secondary School	Polokwane Circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School principal</li> <li>▪ 2 SGB Representative s</li> <li>▪ LRC President</li> <li>▪ Life Skills Orientation Educator</li> </ul>
12)	24. 10. 06	Capricorn High School	Polokwane Circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acting Principal</li> <li>▪ LRC President</li> <li>▪ Discipline Admin HOD</li> <li>▪ SGB Representative</li> </ul>

### 2.1.2 Data analysis.

Below is the information collected from the identified respondents.

Questions	Responses
1. Drug related problem in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generally all the schools that have been interviewed agreed that they do have a drug problem. (90% of the respondents indicated that the problem is very serious 10% is there but not that much serious). Most of school children that are using drugs are boys, few cases of girls have been mentioned</li> </ul>
2. Most common type of drug.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The most common type of drug that is being used by offenders in terms of prevalence in the Province especially to school children is Dagga.</li> <li>▪ Other drugs such as cocaine, rock and mandrax have been mentioned in one school.</li> <li>▪ In one school dagga was camouflaged in baked muffins.</li> </ul>
3. The major causes of drug abuse especially to school children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Peer pressure inside and outside school (to have sense of belonging in a particular group;</li> <li>▪ Adolescent stage (school children want to experiment the feeling)</li> <li>▪ Family background (Broken families, child headed families, orphanage, and irresponsible parents;</li> <li>▪ Environmental influence;</li> <li>▪ Financial constraints at home;</li> <li>▪ Lack of parental guidance, education and supervision at home;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Over-age, not interested in school activities, they end up teaching other children to take drugs;</li> <li>▪ Easily accessibility and affordability (being sold inside the school premises by other learners);</li> <li>▪ Absence of teachers in classes, children spend time outside classes, at the back of the toilets, is where they teach each other to take drugs;</li> <li>▪ School children coping from older people at home or from their role models at home;</li> <li>▪ School children being taught by older people at home or role models;</li> <li>▪ School children being send by older people at home to buy drugs, they end up developing, interest and want to taste;</li> <li>▪ Influence from the TV, magazines and role models;</li> <li>▪ Lack of recreational facilities ( entertainments) to keep school children busy after school;</li> <li>▪ Stress and depression inside and outside school;</li> <li>▪ Poverty (poor children are vulnerable to any situation, and it is very easy to convince them, they can be recruited to sell for other people)</li> <li>▪ Frustrations;</li> <li>▪ Lack of security and access control at schools;</li> <li>▪ Lack of information and knowledge about the consequences of drug abuse.</li> </ul>
4. Signs and symptoms of drug abuse that you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aggression;</li> <li>▪ Sleeping during lessons;</li> <li>▪ Laughing, talking and sometimes singing alone inside</li> </ul>

<p>observe in your school.</p>	<p>and outside class;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not doing school work;</li> <li>▪ Lack of participation in class;</li> <li>▪ Not maintaining eye contact with educators;</li> <li>▪ Arrogant;</li> <li>▪ Trembling;</li> <li>▪ Black lips;</li> <li>▪ Always rubbing faces;</li> <li>▪ Not respecting parents at home and educators at school;</li> <li>▪ Not cooperative;</li> <li>▪ Not trustworthy;</li> <li>▪ Burned fingers;</li> <li>▪ Smelling of drugs;</li> <li>▪ Arguing with teachers or other learners for no reasons;</li> <li>▪ Disrupt lessons;</li> <li>▪ Spend most of time outside classes;</li> <li>▪ Big and red eyes;</li> <li>▪ Speaking very loudly;</li> <li>▪ Absenteeism;</li> <li>▪ Learners in possession of drugs;</li> <li>▪ Fighting with other learners;</li> <li>▪ Stealing inside and outside school;</li> <li>▪ Not adhering to school principles and rules such as wearing school uniform, coming to school on time etc;</li> <li>▪ Gangs (boys behind the toilets during breaks and during periods where the teachers do not go to classes);</li> <li>▪ Gambling inside and outside school;</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bully and rude;</li> <li>▪ Fighting with teachers and with other learners;</li> <li>▪ Low concentration.</li> </ul>
5. Criminal activities related to drug abuse committed by school children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unreasonable assault;</li> <li>▪ Vandalism;</li> <li>▪ Carrying and usage of dangerous weapons;</li> <li>▪ Usage of vulgar words;</li> <li>▪ Burglary;</li> <li>▪ Theft of property and money inside and outside school;</li> <li>▪ Rape;</li> <li>▪ Sexual harassment;</li> <li>▪ Fighting to each other;</li> <li>▪ Robbery.</li> <li>▪ Possession and selling of drugs</li> </ul>
6. The source of the drug that is available in your area?	<p>Dagga is available at the following places in the communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Liquor outlets within the villages;</li> <li>▪ Members of the community (especially women)</li> <li>▪ Number of households within communities</li> <li>▪ Gangs within the communities;</li> <li>▪ Filling stations within the communities;</li> <li>▪ Shops and spaza shops within the communities;</li> <li>▪ Drug dealers within the communities</li> <li>▪ Educators within and outside schools</li> </ul>
7. Cultivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sekororo mountains</li> <li>▪ Sekhukhune mountains</li> <li>▪ Lerato school in Sekhukhune mountains</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blouberg/ Malebogo mountains</li> </ul>
8. school programmes on drug abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School do not have programmes specifically looking at drug abuse</li> </ul>

### 2.1.3 Information about SANCA

SANCA is a Non- Governmental Organization that is specifically helping people suffering from drugs and substance abuse in the Province. The center is providing the following programmes:

Therapy;  
 Education and training on prevention and coping mechanisms;  
 Medical treatment;  
 Learner support programmes;  
 Peer counselors;  
 Peer educators;  
 Poppets (programme of primary prevention education through stories);  
 Capacity building;  
 Empowering existing programmes.

Most of the learners that are being attended at the center are being referred by the parents or the schools. The center is offering outpatient treatment because they don't have enough space and resources to accommodate patients. As a result most of the patients are no longer coming back for check up or after care; they just collect first treatment and disappear.

The center is treating more specifically patients who are having dagga problems, because is easy to treat dagga problem even if the patient is not admitted.



Other hard drugs like heroin is very difficult to treat, if is already on the advanced stage, and the patient must be admitted and only few survived, most of the patients are dying.

Most patients that are being attended at the center more specially blacks are using dagga. Few cases of heroin and cocaine more especially in whites.

People that are abusing hard drugs are being referred to other Provinces for treatment, and come back to the center for after care.

## CHAPTER 3

### 3.1 Recommendations based on the findings

Drug abuse is a criminal offence that needs immediate attention in the Province because it does not affect the drug users only, it also affects the people around them and it affect the image of the Province and the country.

It is a problem that cannot be left unattended that is why a study raised a concern to investigate the, causes in order to come up with the recommendations to reduce and stop drug abuse in the Province. After secondary data and primary data collection these are the recommendations to reduce and stop drug abuse in the Province particularly in our schools:

- The possession, use or distribution of drugs is unlawful and prohibited in South African schools. The relevant Departments (SAPS, Department of Health and Social Development and Department of Education) must make sure that the message is delivered clearly and consistently in all the schools and communities in the Province
- There is a need for a Department of Education and Health and Social Development to develop a Provincial drug prevention strategy (the strategy must come with the programmes to help the Province to prevent drug abuse and give opportunity to those who are already addicted to get help). The Strategy must be developed in consideration of the National Drug Master Plan and the Drug Abuse Policy Framework. The Department of Education must then make sure that every school in the Province develop its own drug policy based on the Provincial Drug Prevention Strategy with strict measures; the policy must be well presented and

made available to all school learners and parents; priority must be given to the following:

- Developing safe and supportive environment that value human dignity and celebrate innocence;
  - Educating both parents and children regarding drugs and the abuse thereof;
  - Developing a range of responses for managing drug related incidents within the schools, taking in to account confidentiality, the nature of the incident, the circumstances of the learner involved and the needs and safety of the school;
  - Building capacity by giving educators, particularly those who are working with drug related incidences, access to professional development opportunities;
  - Regular monitoring and evaluation of the policies and procedure for managing drugs in schools.
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- The Department of Health and Social Development together with the Department of Local Government and Housing (Municipalities) through workshops and awareness programmes must educate parents/ guardians to be responsible for the life style and behavior of their children; they must be concern on what is happening on the every day life of their children. They must educate, monitor, guide and know their where about of their children from their early stages so when they go out from home to meet other children they can be able to differentiate the good from the wrong ones.
  - Parents/ guardians must be examples at home they must make sure that they behave well in front of their children. Most children love their parents, they trust them, they regard their parents as role models, and

they tend to believe that what ever the parent is doing is the good practice, what ever the parent is telling is right. Parents must use the opportunity to give their children best education at home while they are still young. If a parent takes drugs in front of a child, the child will obviously regard it as good practice and the parent will fail to convince the child that is not.

- The Department of Education must make sure that School Management, parents/ guardian are working together in referring children for drug testing if there is a reasonable suspicion that a child might be using drugs in order to help the child.
- Department of Education and Health and Social Development must make sure that schools involve outside organizations such as SANCA and other NGO's specializing in drug education and intervention and other associated programmes to augment the education provided by school-based educators.
- The Department of Health and Social Development and the Department of Education must make sure that there is a center within the Province where drug abusers ( learners ) can be treated as in - patients where they can be able to sleep over and be monitored until they finish the treatment and therapy;
- The Department of Education must make sure that educators take responsibility to monitor and supervise the learners at school; they must make sure that children are always in classes during lesson time. They must not be given time to spend outside the class or behind the toilets because it is believed that is where they get enough time to experiment.

During breaks strict supervision should be arranged (e.g. LRC and educator to maid the toilets).

- The Department of Education, Health and Social Development and Department of Local Government and Housing (Municipalities) must work together to identify the causes of school children to abuse drugs in their specific areas. Although causes might differ from child to child but it is very important to identify it. For example, a child may decide to join the gangs who abuses drugs due to lack of basic needs or poverty at home. The intention of the child to have a sense of belonging where he/she can be able to get basic needs like food, shelter and clothes, not to take drugs, but it becomes a condition you can't belong if you don't behave their way. In this situation the child may be referred to relevant Departments for help.
  
- The Department of Education must make sure that there is a security and access control in every school in the Province, because, if there is none it becomes easier for anybody to access the school. This is where other people from outside the school get chance to come and sell their stuff. It is also easy for school children to go out and collect their stuff any time using their own entrances. Everybody coming to the school must be searched when coming in and when going out.
  
- The Department of Education must make sure that people who are selling food to the school children during breaks must get permission to sell from the school Management and be monitored. The school management must make sure that they know exactly what those people are selling and their selling must be guided by the school policy.

- Drugs (more specially dagga) is easily accessible and affordable in the Province, it seems like is legal where people are selling it publicly. They are now relaxed, their drugs businesses are flourishing, their market is getting bigger and bigger, of which is destroying the future of our communities, Province and our country. Now is the time for the Government to act, they must feel that is a criminal offence, they must be arrested and be charged. It is recommended to SAPS and Department of Justice to take the lead.
- The Department of Justice and Health and Social Development must make sure that parent's separation does not affect the children; they must make sure that they take care of their children and provide basic needs and support to their children. Their fights and arguments must not affect their children.
- Department of Sports Arts and Culture together with Department of Local Government and Housing must make sure that there are sports and recreational facilities within the communities to keep children busy after school.
- The Department of Education and Health and Social Development must make sure that they facilitate the processes of awareness programmes where adolescent's peers can be educated on the consequences of drug abuse and other issues of life.
- The Department of Safety Security and Liaison (Through community relations), Local Government and Housing (through Municipalities) and SAPS must encourage the communities to work together against drug abuse, it must be known to all the people that drug abuse is a criminal offence, people must be responsible for their children and their future,

and they must work with the police. If they know or suspect a drug dealer within the community they must call the police. Parents must adopt the style of every child is my child, so that every child can respect every parent within the community.

- SAPS and Department of Education must make sure that Adopt a cop, adopt a school programme is being implemented, if possible in all the schools in the Province, so that the school children can be aware that any time a cop may come in the school, they will make sure that they always stay away from drug abuse and criminal activities.
- The Department of Education must make sure that schools informs the Police of any criminal activity that are happening inside the school premises to the Police; they must not protect their children with the intention to discipline them internally. A criminal offence is a criminal offence, and it must be reported to the police so that every child in the school can be aware that if you commit criminal offence you will be charged.
- The Department of Safety, Security and Liaison must make sure that Specific cases which were reported during the interview processes are being investigated.

### **3.2 Conclusion**

Drug abuse is affecting our communities, our Province and our country. It also destroys our future generations and future leaders (present youth). According to the findings in general, in the Province it seems as if nobody cares, the way drugs are being sold it seems as if is a legal business. Those

who were expected to act against drug abuse are those who are in the front line of drug dealers. Considering our findings it becomes clear that drug abuse do contribute to crime, although the research project was looking specifically to schools.

If drug abuse in schools can lead to crime, generally it means drug abuse itself is a serious problem it can also lead to crime even in the community. This is the time for every body to act against drug abuse, if drug abuse can receive attention and be treated as HIV/AIDS in the Province the drug abuse problem can be reduced and stopped. This generally means criminal activities related to drug abuse will reduce and stop.



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# **LIMPOPO TOURISM SAFETY AND SECURITY STRATEGY**

**"Tourism Safety for growth and development: Towards 2010 and beyond"**

**November 2006 – November 2009**

**Compiled by EMCY Socio-Economic Consultants for  
Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism  
Limpopo Tourism and Parks  
Department of Safety, Security and Liaison**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism is an interactive relationship among tourists, local businesses, host Governments and communities. Limpopo Province identified tourism as a strategic objective of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy. It is a primary or secondary economy driver and job creator. The Tourism industry is vulnerable to external factors such as crime, attacks and disasters, either natural or man made. These considerations led to the design of this Integrated and multi-disciplinary Tourism Safety and Security Plan for Limpopo Province.

Limpopo Province is one of few South African Provinces experiencing lower levels of recorded crime, thriving tourist sector and economic development. The cultural groups and topography enables the province to offer rich and diverse cultural heritage providing a memorable experience to tourists. Actual crime levels, perceptions of personal victimisation and violence are the biggest threats facing the Tourism Industry.

This Tourism Safety and Security Strategy is engineered to enable relevant role players in Limpopo Province to coordinate multi-disciplinary role players to improve levels of safety within the Tourism industry.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This draft Limpopo Tourism Safety and Security Strategy (LTS&SS) is a product of three interdependent processes. They are Literature Study, a Provincial Tourism Safety Summit and high-level interviews undertaken to address identified gaps. These interdependent processes identified strategic areas of intervention for the LTS & SS. To produce a strategy for Limpopo, the commissioning Departments will present the strategy at various consultative and intergovernmental forums for ratification and approval. Figure 1 below, diagrammatically illustrates the broad methodology.

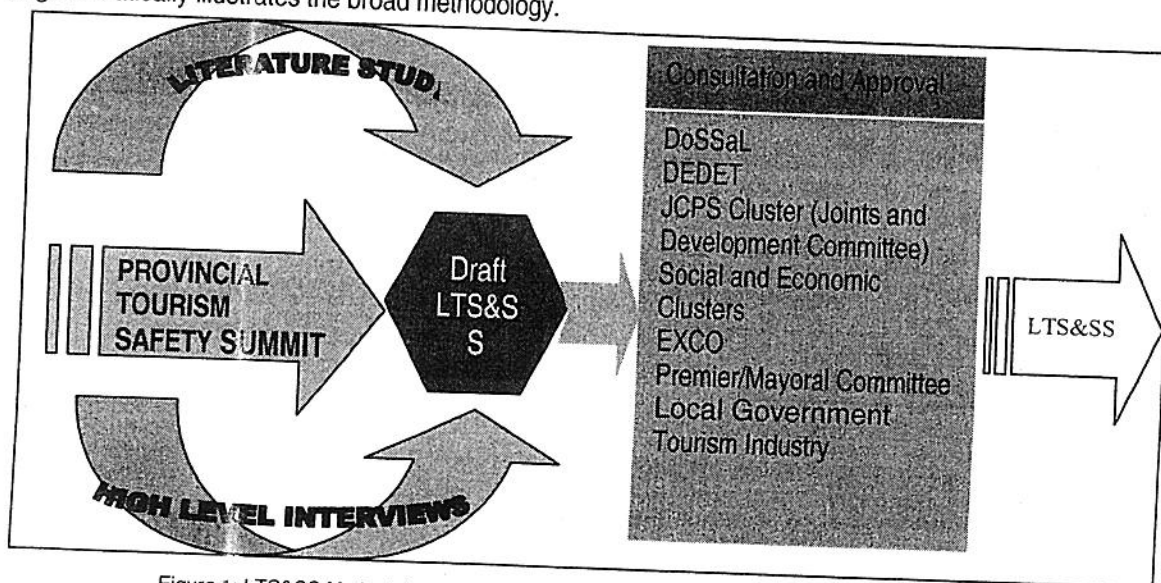


Figure 1: LTS&SS Methodology

### 3. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO CRIMES AGAINST TOURIST

The crimes associated with the tourism environment have a remarkable correlation with trends and seasonality. This is due to a variety of reasons, tourist crimes generally involve one of several scenarios;

- Tourist as an accidental victim (in the wrong place at the wrong time, targeted as an easy mark).
- The location is conducive to crime, due to its nightlife, hedonistic culture and myriad potential victims.
- The industry itself provides victims, as tourists are more prone to taking risks while on vacation.
- Terrorists or other groups may specifically target tourists, singling them out for hostage taking or even murder.

Below is a list of behaviours that increases the risk of Tourists becoming victims of crime:

- Carrying and flashing large sums of money,
- Visiting dangerous locations, or walking in isolated areas or alleys,
- Leaving valuable items in public view
- Looking like a tourist (Camera, backpack, appearing lost, and consulting a map.)

### 4. STRATEGIC PILLARS

A major criterion in selecting tourism destination and travel is perceptions of personal safety and security. As such, the Limpopo Tourism Safety and Security Strategy identifies five strategic pillars as diagrammatically illustrated in figure 2 below.

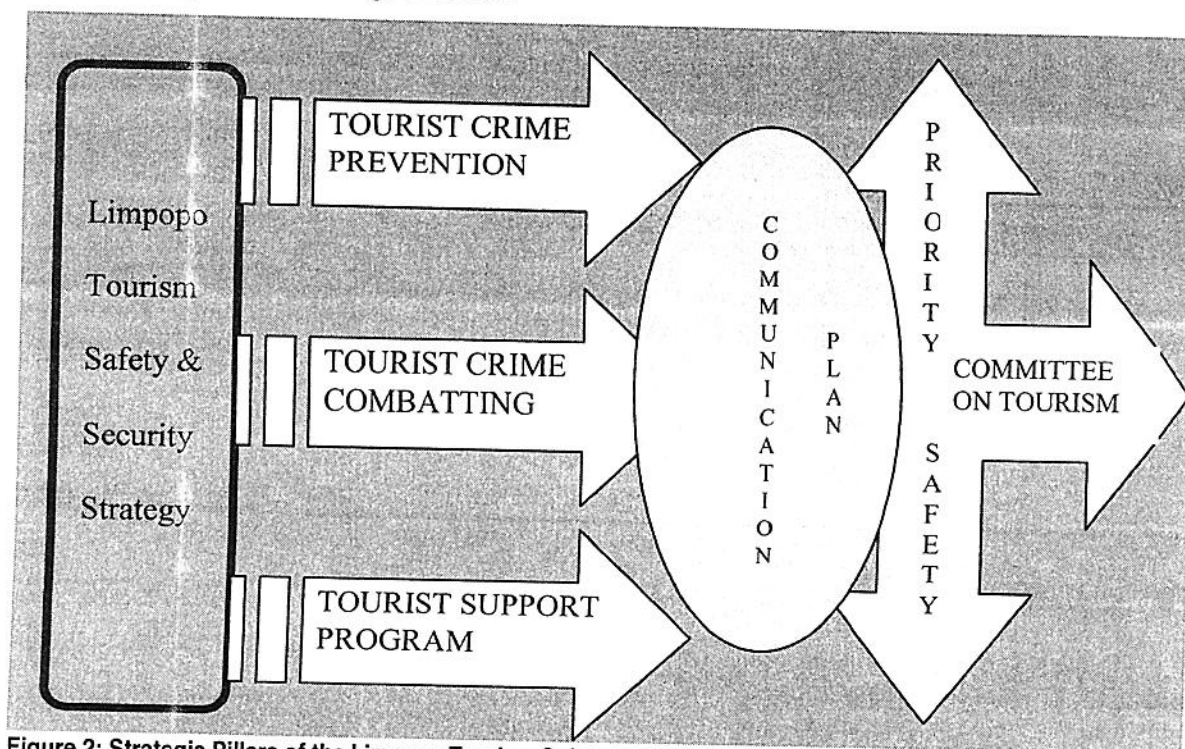


Figure 2: Strategic Pillars of the Limpopo Tourism Safety and Security Strategy

They strategic pillars are:

- ⇒ **The Priority Committee on Tourism Safety and Security.** SAPS and Limpopo Tourism and Parks will jointly lead the priority committee. Role players relevant to Tourism Safety will constitute the priority committee and will operate at Provincial and Local Levels of government. The **Provincial Priority Committee** will be responsible for developing an overarching strategy, provide resources, monitor and evaluate implementation of strategy at local level. The **Local Priority Committee** will be responsible for localising provincial strategy, implementing and provide regular reports to the Provincial Priority Committee. The priority committee will provide regular reports to the Provincial JCPS and the Social Cluster.
- ⇒ **The Communication Plan.** The priority committee will establish an interdepartmental task team consisting of Communication Officials of organisations that form part of the priority committee. This task team will coordinate all communications relating to Tourism Safety and Security in Limpopo Province.
- ⇒ **Tourism Crime Prevention Plan.** The priority committee will develop and implement interventions designed to prevent crimes against tourists. This plan will combine initiatives that prevent offences, rehabilitate those who offended and manage the environmental causes of crime.
- ⇒ **Tourism Crime Combating.** The priority committee will develop and implement initiatives that will combat crimes against tourists. This may include creating a dedicated capacity to fast track investigations and the prosecution of crimes committed. This will require the piloting and use of innovative programs to obtain statements from tourist victims and ensure that they testify in court.
- ⇒ **Tourists Support Program.** The priority committee will design and implement a program to provide support to Tourists who are victims of crime. Support provided may include; referrals to counselling services, replacement of lost property, regular feedback regarding progress.

## 5. ACTIVITIES PER PILLAR

Below are activities for each of the strategic pillars of the Limpopo Tourism Safety and Security Strategy. These activities emanate from the literature study, inputs at the summit on tourism safety and discussions with relevant role players.

### 5.1. Priority Committee on Tourism Safety and Security.

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
Lack of Coordination amongst sector role players, community and SAPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Priority Committees at Provincial and Local level to enhance coordination amongst sector role players such as SAPS, LEDET, DSSL and municipalities.</li> <li>Refine this strategy into an operation plan for Provincial and Local Priority Committees on Tourism Safety.</li> <li>Develop a memorandum of understanding that amongst others outlines roles and responsibility of participating organizations, seniority of officials representing sectors in priority committee, decision making power of the Provincial and Local Priority Committees, provision of secretariat services etc,</li> </ul>	SAPS and LTP
Lack of Resources (finance and HR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant role players (government and private sector) must avail resources and budgets for Tourism Safety.</li> <li>Budgets and resources must make provision for specific projects on Tourism Safety.</li> <li>Use volunteers to perform various essential services and where possible recruit and train of tour guides.</li> </ul>	SAPS and LTP
Strategies and implementation plans are not reviewed continuously and adjusted to address relevant challenges in relations to Tourism Safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and evaluate the Overarching Tourism Safety and Security Strategy.</li> <li>Provincial Priority Committee to annually monitor and review overarching provincial safety and security strategy.</li> </ul>	DoSSaL, DEDET and SAPS.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually develop a strategy and operational plans informed by lessons learnt annual assessment of the Tourism Safety and Security Strategy.</li> <li>• Integrate annually the overarching strategy into Local Government Integrated Development Plans, and operational plans of key departments and forums.</li> <li>• Train and develop communities so that they benefit from Tourism.</li> </ul>	
An advocacy program on Tourism Safety does not exist.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development an advocacy and lobbying program with a comprehensive implementation plan. This should include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic presentation to decision-making forums of issues relating to Tourism Safety and Security to key stakeholders.</li> <li>• Lobby community, community based organization and relevant agencies on how they contribute to enhance tourism safety and benefit from tourism.</li> <li>• Integration of Tourism Safety issues to relevant organizations strategic and operational plans.</li> <li>• Sharing and learning from initiatives implemented aimed at enhancing levels of safety enjoyed by Tourists.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>Limpopo Province does not have a comprehensive database on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime and accidents experienced by Tourists.</li> <li>• Game theft,</li> <li>• Health risks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a database on incidences of crime and safety issues.</li> <li>• Ensure that relevant role players gather and share information relating to crime and safety issues experienced by Tourists.</li> <li>• Improve Crime Intelligence and coordination amongst security agencies in Limpopo Province.</li> <li>• Regular analyse incidences of crime committed against tourists to identify the root causes (e.g. crimes resulting from land claims)</li> </ul>	SAPS, SANDF, Private Security, SITA and Relevant role players.

## 5.2. Communication Plan

### 5.2.1. Communication

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
Communication strategies relating to Tourism and Tourism Safety are not integrated. This often results in different and contradictory messages being issued to Tourists. Furthermore, communication officials of Government Departments and those employed by the Tourists industry do not share information critical to enhancing efforts to improve Tourism Safety. There is therefore a need to create a platform for participation and sharing of information in regards to tourism related issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Priority Committee should establish a Task Team to coordinate communication activities relating on Tourism Safety and Security.</li> <li>The Task team must integrate Tourism Safety and Security in current Tourism Industry marketing and communication strategies.</li> <li>The Task Team must share information; develop a common approach to respond to media enquiries on Tourism Safety and Security.</li> <li>Increase tourism safety awareness by improving information utilizing the following mediums: Tourism Talk Programs on radio, Community Awareness Campaigns, website dedicated to Tourism Safety and Security.</li> <li>Develop Interdepartmental contingency plans to manage communications in times of victimization, crisis and/or emergencies.</li> <li>Continuously review existing communication strategies to identify and address gaps in relation to communication on Tourism Safety.</li> </ul>	DoSSaL, and all relevant Departments

### 5.2.2. Communication infrastructure

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
The peripheral areas of Limpopo Province are not fully covered by static and mobile phone networks. The Limited network coverage is risk factors that increase vulnerability of Tourist to crime and unnecessary crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit areas in the province that are not covered by mobile and static phones.</li> <li>Meet the Department of Communication, ICASA, Telkom and Cellular phone service providers to recommend that they should expand their networks into peripheral areas.</li> <li>A 24-hour information line to be established and maintained.</li> </ul>	SAPS, LTP and DoSSaL

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
Road signs, maps and information boards have not been changed to reflect new names in Limpopo Province. The different names confuse tourists who are not familiar with the province. Road signs and information boards do not exist or are poorly positioned in rural parts of Limpopo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Roads and Transport to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install new improved road signage and information boards reflecting new names.</li> <li>Install Road Signs and Information boards in rural areas of Limpopo Province.</li> <li>Maintain road signs, information boards and road reserves to improve visibility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Develop pocket maps with new town and road names for distribution.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maps to be strategically distributed and placed in areas where they can be easily accessible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Department of Roads and Transport, Limpopo Road Agency and Municipalities

### 5.3. Tourism Crime Prevention

#### 5.3.1. Preventing Crime in Transport Nodes

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
Valuables in luggages of Tourists are stolen at transport nodes. This is particularly the case at airports. This is however not a measure problem in Limpopo Province. It is expected that incidences of luggage theft may increase in response to regular use of the Polokwane Airport by Tourists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vet all luggage handlers.</li> <li>Improve electronic surveillance of luggage areas utilizing CCTV cameras.</li> <li>Introduce and regular use of bag wrapping machines.</li> </ul>	SAPS, ACSA and Department of Transport and Road
Individuals operating public transport that do not comply with set safety standard endanger the lives of Tourists visiting Limpopo Province. Some of these vehicles are not registered and insured. Tourists do not know safe transport service providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All public transport providers must be required to register and be accredited by the relevant government department.</li> <li>Department of Road and Transport to ensure regular testing of drivers and vehicles that specifically transport Tourists.</li> <li>Develop compulsory resting areas for drivers of vehicles that transport tourists.</li> <li>Publicise names of registered and accredited service providers and drivers.</li> <li>Ensure that accredited and registered service providers insure vehicles and passengers.</li> </ul>	LT&P, Department of Transport and Roads and Transport Operators.

### 5.3.2. Preventing Crime in Ports of Entry and Exit.

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
There are perceptions that corruption rampant at ports of entry and exit increases the number of immigrants and goods entering and exiting illegally the country. Furthermore, currency is illegally sold and exchanged at border posts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vet officials working at ports of entry and exit.</li> <li>• Improve surveillance of ports of entry and exits using CCTV and physical surveillance.</li> <li>• Regular exchange of personnel working at ports of entry and exit.</li> <li>• Investigate and convict officials suspected of corruption at ports of entry and exit.</li> <li>• Special Investigative Unit to cease assets accumulated from proceeds of crime by officials found involved in illegal activities at border posts.</li> </ul>	Department of Home Affairs, SAPS, NIA, SASS, Special Investigative Unit.

### 5.3.3. Improve levels of Safety in Wildlife, Eco and Adventure Tourism Areas.

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
The level of safety in areas offering Wildlife, Eco and Adventure Tourism is unknown. These areas are found in different part of the provinces. Facilities and services offered in these areas are not always correctly graded in terms of their safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit places offering Wildlife, Eco and Adventure Tourism. The audit should identify environmental health and safety risks and measures currently in place to mitigate against identified risks.</li> <li>• Develop minimum safety standards that wildlife, Eco and Adventure Tourism areas must meet and comply with</li> <li>• Design an accreditation and registration system for those service providers who meet minimum safety standard.</li> <li>• Publicize names of service providers who meet minimum safety standards.</li> <li>• Develop a legislation making insurance compulsory for service providers and participants.</li> </ul>	LT&P, DoSSaL and Municipality.

### 5.3.4. Addressing Factors contributing to Tourism Insecurity

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
<p>The following behaviour of Tourists contribute to their victimisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They leave valuable items exposed and passers-by may see these items and get tempted to smash &amp; grab.</li> <li>• Tourists' dress code makes them more distinguishable identifying them as easy targets (Jerseys on their hips).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve crime awareness amongst tourists visiting the province.</li> <li>• Improve visibility of deterrence.</li> <li>• Use properly capacitated tourists' guides.</li> <li>• Train Police Officials and Private Security Guards to</li> </ul>	LTP and SAPS, DoSSaL, Municipalities, Tourist Industry, Private Security Industry.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some tourists come from countries where the levels of crime are very low and do not expect to be victims.</li> <li>Carrying large sums of money.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>value tourist.</li> <li>Local Priority Committee on Tourism Safety to coordinate patrols in areas frequented by tourists.</li> <li>Advice tourists to ensure their valuables are locked up.</li> <li>Encourage use of cash cards and debit facilities instead of cash.</li> <li>Encourage those intending to play a role in the Tourism industry to have facilities for cash cards, credit cards and debit cards.</li> </ul>	
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#### 5.3.5. Increase visible policing

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
The topography, vastness of the province and limited number of SAPS personnel reduces visibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use Private Security Companies to complement SAPS.</li> <li>Recruit Tour Guides and place them in strategic areas where they can be of assistance to Tourists.</li> <li>Establish an Academy to train Guides.</li> </ul>	LTP, DEDET, SAPS, Private Security Company.

#### 5.4. Tourism Crime Combating

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
There are perception that SAPS and Emergency Services are very slow in responding to distress calls from residents and Tourists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAPS and emergency services to evaluate current service levels and address shortcomings</li> <li>Slow response by SAPS must be documented and reported to DoSSaL, ICD and Provincial Commissioner.</li> <li>Provincial Commissioner to instruct SAPS officials to prioritise distress calls from Tourists.</li> <li>Municipalities and Department of Health must issue directives to relevant service providers to attend distress calls from Tourists speedily.</li> </ul>	SAPS and LTP Municipal Disaster Centres

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
The process to investigate and prosecute a crime is longer than the duration of a tourists stay in South Africa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast track investigation and prosecution of criminal cases involving Tourists.</li> <li>• Establish and use Community Courts to adjudicate quickly minor offences.</li> <li>• Fly back Program               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes available funds to enable Tourists to fly back to Limpopo to Provide Testimony to Courts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Video Conference Facilities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make available mobile Video Conference facilities to South African Courts to enable a Tourists who was a victim to testify and follow a court proceeding.</li> <li>• Work with Interpol to identify secure areas that can enable a victim to testify from a country of origin</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	SAPS and DOJ&CD

## 5.5. Tourism Support Program

### 5.5.1. Health Safety.

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
Tourists do not know potential health risks like Malaria, bilharzias etc. Tourist becomes ill while on vacation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website dedicated for Tourism Safety to provide information of current health risks and success of treatment programs. Unnecessary panics should not be created.</li> <li>• Deploy travel clinics in high risk areas and highly frequented areas.</li> <li>• Ensure that tourists have easy access to medical care facilities, including medical rescue.</li> <li>• Encouraged tourists industry to ensure that Tourism Package include health insurance.</li> </ul>	DOH, Municipality, Tourism Industry



### 5.5.2. Empower and Support Tourists Victims of Crime

Problem Statement	Proposed response	Lead Department
<p>Limpopo Province does not have a dedicated capacity to empower and support Tourists who become victims of crime. Such victimisation if not properly managed attracts negative media attention. This negatively impacts on programs and initiatives aimed to increase the total number of tourists visiting Limpopo Province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limpopo should establish a dedicated Victim support program for Tourists.</li> <li>• The program can include coordinating processes to replace lost properties, counseling, media management and provision of feedback on case progress.</li> <li>• Develop protocol to guide service provision to Tourist Victims.</li> </ul>	<p>Social Development, SAPS, LT&amp;P</p>