

**POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGIES AS MECHANISMS FOR CRIME  
PREVENTION IN SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

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*The end of anything is sweeter than its beginning, Ecclesiastes 7:8a*

## ABSTRACT

The study examines some of the strategies undertaken by the Sedibeng District Municipality as mechanisms for reducing crime and fighting poverty. An exposition of poverty, crime and crime prevention is provided in the study. The LED and IDP projects that Sedibeng has in place to fight poverty and therefore reducing crime in the area are also provided in this study.

Some of the social programmes that are in place are: health; environmental health; education; safety and security; social security grants; sports, recreation arts, culture and heritage; housing; water; sanitation; electricity; and transport. Here are some of the findings that were made: firstly, poverty and crime affect everyone as they are a social issue; secondly, poverty is seen as an excuse for people to commit crime; and thirdly, there is no clear understanding about social crime prevention and how people can contribute to the initiatives of poverty alleviation and crime prevention

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## CHAPTER ONE

### Key words:

Crime, Sedibeng District Municipality; South African Police Service; Community Policing Forum; Poverty; LED; IDPs; Society; Law; Public Safety and Security.

### 1.1 ORIENTATION AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

According to the Sedibeng District Municipality (SDM) pro poor document, poverty can be defined in absolute and relative terms. Absolute poverty relates to the minimum standard needed to live. Relative poverty compares poor groups to other groups in society and recognises a standard of living, which is considered commonplace in society. Poverty refers to the inadequate income levels for subsistence and deprivation of basic needs (SDM: 8). Defining poverty in respect of income levels provides only one indicator of social deprivation. A broader definition looks at consumption levels, assesses access to resources and services and is informed by the nature of power relations and dynamics within society. Poverty reflects the extent of social marginalisation or exclusion experienced as a result of lack of power, information or resources. Given South Africa's apartheid legacy, which reflected politics of exclusion for majority of the population, this is true for most black people who still live in poverty. At an even deeper level, unequal gender relations in society have disempowered, particularly black women in South Africa (SDM: 9).

The apartheid legacy had also left the problem of inequality in South Africa. This results in tension and conflict between communities and groups, and lower potential economic growth (Van Wyk, 2004:79). The number of poor people in Sedibeng District Municipality (SDM) has increased, resulting in an increase in

crime in the region. Crime is a major source of social concern in South Africa. A glance at the daily newspapers indicates that a significant proportion of their columns are devoted to reports of murder, theft and accounts of sensational trials (Heidensohn, 1989:1). To help combat these crimes, SDM has embarked on poverty alleviation strategies of:

- Good governance and the creation of an enabling environment
- Human Resource Development
- Industrial and Big Business Development
- SMME Development
- Community Empowerment and Development
- Rural Development

Cabinet initiated the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) in March 1995. The strategy is the result of an extensive process of research and analysis and has drawn on international experiences. Both Business Against Crime and NGOs concerned with crime prevention have made a substantial contribution to this strategy.

The NCPS has the following objectives:

- The establishment of a comprehensive policy framework which will enable government to address crime in a coordinated and focused manner which draws on the resources of all government agencies as well as civil society.
- The promotion of a shared understanding and common vision of how we, as a nation, are going to tackle crime. This vision should also inform and stimulate initiatives at provincial and local level.

- The development of a set of national programmes that serve to kick-start and focus the efforts of various government departments in delivering quality service aimed at solving the problems leading to high crime levels.
- The maximisation of civil society's participation in mobilising and sustaining crime prevention initiatives.
- Creation of a dedicated and integrated crime prevention capacity which can conduct ongoing research and evaluation of departmental and public campaigns as well as facilitating effective crime prevention programmes at provincial and local level.

This National Crime Prevention Strategy is based on a fundamentally new approach by government. In particular, it requires the development of wider responsibility for crime prevention and a shift in emphasis from reactive "crime control"; which deploys most resources towards responding after crimes have already been committed, towards proactive "crime prevention" aimed at preventing crime from occurring at all.

The strategy focuses on a number of challenges, viz:

- Existing crime data is very unreliable and can be misleading. This places a priority on gathering reliable crime information so as to facilitate effective deployment of resources and dynamic strategic planning.
- Media representations of crime are very influential in shaping public perceptions. These are however; often disproportionately responsive to audible interest groups in society, rather than to less obvious, but important, crime issues. An effective communications strategy, based on reliable information, is important in properly informing public opinion in the fight against crime.

According to the National Crime Prevention Strategy, high levels of crime pose a serious threat to South Africa's emergent democracy. Violent crime often leads to

a tragic loss of life and injury, and the loss of possessions and livelihood due to crime is incalculable. Crime results in the deprivation of the rights and dignity of citizens, and poses a threat to peaceful resolution of differences and rightful participation of all in the democratic process

Crime casts fear into the hearts of South Africans from all walks of life and prevents them from taking their rightful place in the development and growth of the country. It inhibits citizens from communicating with one another freely, from engaging in economic activity and prevents entrepreneurs and investors from taking advantage of the opportunities that the country offers (NCPS 1996).

It is also manifested that there are different types of crimes in our societies meaning that, there should also be different causes of crime. The types and categories of crime are:

- Crimes involving firearms, which have significantly increased the level of violence, associated with crime, thereby increasing physical and psychological costs of crime to society.
- Organized Crime, including the organized smuggling of illegal immigrants, narcotics and gangsterism serve to generate higher levels of criminality and violence. Since the advent of democracy and the re-integration of South Africa into the international community, there has been a rapid growth in this form of crime.
- White Collar Crime places a burden on the economy and contributes to the prevailing sense of lawlessness
- Gender Violence and crimes against children are not only highly prevalent but have a profoundly negative impact on the rights and future well-being of women and children.

- Violence associated with inter-group conflict, such as political conflicts, taxi violence and land disputes are unacceptably common in South Africa and pose a threat to democratic tolerance and orderly co-existence.
- Vehicle theft and hijacking has increased substantially and has contributed to increased levels of fear and insecurity.
- Corruption within the criminal justice system, contributes to a general climate of lawlessness, and serves to undermine the legitimacy and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

The exact strategies and mechanisms that local governments adopt should be based on local crime prevention priorities and should preferably fit within the four-pillar framework set out in NCPS. It is vital that local government structures acquire the necessary skills to engage crime prevention issues and develop the required capacity to drive crime prevention projects.

The Criminal Justice Process aims to make the criminal justice system more efficient and effective. It must provide a sure and clear deterrent for criminals and reduce the risks of re-offending. Reducing Crime through Environmental Design focuses on designing systems to reduce the opportunity for crime and increase the ease of detection and identification of criminals. Public Values and Education concern initiatives aimed at changing the way communities react to crime and violence. It involves programmes that utilize public education and information in facilitating meaningful citizen participation in crime prevention. Trans-national crime programmes aim at improving the controls over cross border traffic related to crime and reducing the refuge, which the region offenders to international criminal syndicate.

The White Paper on Safety and Security (sec. 5) advocates a greater role for local government in the delivery of crime prevention. For municipalities, it detailed the following functions:

- Initiate, co-ordinate and participate in targeted social crime prevention.
- Work with local police to set joint local safety priorities and possible areas for local government intervention.
- Align municipal resources and objectives with a crime prevention framework to ensure that development projects take account of crime prevention.
- Effective enforcement of municipal by-laws

To balance the greater role given to local government, the White Paper (sec. 5) also outlined some new roles for Community Policing Forums (CPFs):

- Co-operate with local government to jointly set crime prevention priorities.
- Assist in the development of targeted crime prevention programmes.
- Identify flashpoints, crime patterns and community anti-crime activities
- Mobilize and organize community based campaigns and activities.
- Facilitate regular attendance by local councilors at CPFs meetings

The key conceptual guidance provided in the White Paper was that policing and crime prevention should be integrated and inter-locking. This aimed to address the historical gulf between the endeavours of the NCPS and those of the SAPS.

Sedibeng District Municipality is situated at the banks of the Vaal River. It has three Local Municipalities, namely; eMfuleni, Lesedi and Midvaal. All of these municipalities have different socio-economic challenges.

### 1. Emfuleni Local Municipality

- Vanderbijlpark, Vereeniging, Barrage, Sharpeville, Boipatong, Sebokeng and Evaton fall within this municipal area.
- There is a high level of urbanization, high levels of unemployment, and high levels of crime in the CBDs of Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark, robberies, theft of motor vehicles, theft out of motor vehicle and housebreaking
- There is no Metro Police Department in place in this Municipal Area

### 2. Midvaal Local Municipality

- De Deur, Meyerton and Kliprivier fall within this Metro area.
- There is a rapid development of informal settlements in De Deur, Tulamtwana, Ironside, Sweet Water, Wheeler's Farm, Jacksonville, Sicelo
- High levels of unemployment
- Increasing levels of burglary at residence in Meyerton
- High incidence of carjacking and truck jacking on the R59 highway and at Engen One Stop on the R59.

### 3. Lesedi Local Municipality

- Ratanda, Heidelberg and Devon fall within this Municipal area.
- Rapid development of informal settlements.
- High levels of unemployment especially in Ratanda.
- Bad lighting and access to roads.
- Impumelelo not accessible by emergency vehicles.
- Liquor misuse and shebeen operations in informal settlements.

The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Economic Development Projects in the Sedibeng District Municipality as outlined in the Municipality's review 2004/05 mention the following strategies for job creation:

- Establish a District Economic Development Agency
- Implement the Integrated Economic Development Plan
- Promote SMME Development
- Establish an SMME Service Providers Catalogue
- Coordinate SMME capacity and Skills Development
- Establish a Regional Business Chamber
- Establish an Agricultural Forum
- Support the Development of Emerging farmers

## **1.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

Following from the problem statement analysed, this study attempts to find answers to the following questions:

- What is meant by poverty, crime and crime prevention?
- What is the role of the Sedibeng District Municipality in fighting poverty as a means to crime prevention?
- What prompted the National Crime Prevention Strategy?
- What is the relationship between different role-players in crime prevention?
- What IDP and LED projects are in SDM for poverty alleviation and crime prevention?

## **1.3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- To give a theoretical exposition of poverty, crime and crime prevention in SDM.

- To define the role of Sedibeng District Municipality in poverty alleviation and crime prevention.
- To give the orientation of National Crime Prevention Strategy.
- Investigate the existing relationship of role-players and how it can be improved.
- Offer recommendations on how Sedibeng District Municipality can improve the LED and IDP strategies in alleviating poverty.

#### **1.4 HYPOTHESIS**

Crime is a concerned socio-economic and legal problem in Sedibeng region. An increased implementation of macro-economic strategies by the district municipality and other stakeholders' participation could positively result in reducing poverty and crime in the region.

#### **1.5 METHODOLOGY**

According to Kotler and Armstrong (1987: 101) data could be collected by telephone, personal interviews and questionnaires by mail. It should be noted that data and methodology are inextricably interdependent. This is mainly the reason why the research methodology and approach to be used for a particular subject should always take into account the nature of the data to be used in the resolution of the problem, with emphasis on meaning than on members. Bynard and Hanekom (1997:129) argue that the nature of research, unit analysis, data sources and the academic field in which a specific study is undertaken are instrumental in selecting the applicable research methods.

##### **1.5.1 Literature Study**

Techniques for this study consisted of a literature study and an empirical investigation. A study of available literature on poverty and crime was undertaken. These involved the study of: journals, books and internet sources.

According to Taylor (2005:1), a literature review is an account of what has been published on a topic by accredited scholars and researchers. Occasionally one will be asked to write one as a separate assignment (sometimes in the form of an annotated bibliography), but more often it is part of the introduction to an essay, research report, or thesis. In writing the literature review, one's purpose is to convey to his or her reader what knowledge and ideas have been established on a topic, and what their strengths and weaknesses are. As a piece of writing, the literature review must be defined by a guiding concept (e.g., research objective, the problem or issue one is discussing or argumentative thesis). It is not just a descriptive list of the material available, or a set of summaries.

Besides enlarging one's knowledge about the topic, writing a literature review enables one gain and demonstrate skills in two areas; namely:

- **Information seeking:** the ability to scan the literature efficiently, using manual or computerized methods, to identify a set of useful articles and books,
- **Critical appraisal:** the ability to apply principles of analysis to identify unbiased and valid studies.

A number of written sources were consulted for the purpose of this research. Most of the sources consulted are from Sedibeng District Municipality, for accuracy. A number of surveys were undertaken by SDM in order to make findings about the poverty and inequality levels in the region and crime as well. These are fitting for the study, for the findings recorded correspond with the general feeling of the residents; some were interviewed for the purpose of this study while with others it was a general talk, concerning the subject.

Some of the writings were obtained from the Internet, focusing on the different interpretations and definitions of the subjects that were researched (poverty; inequality and crime).

## 1.5.2 Method

The analytical-descriptive method was used along with the historical method. The analytical-historical method is defined as a method where the detail of an event, process or phenomena is looked into to get a clear understanding of the whole (Mouton, 1996:35). Crime is described and analysed and its causes are investigated. As a means to how it can be prevented will be derived during the survey.

### 1.5.2 Empirical Research and Design

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility. Crime affects the economy of the country and serves as a hindrance to business, foreign investments and so on. Due to financial constraints and also to limit the scope of this study the empirical investigation was conducted in two SAPS local municipalities, namely Emfuleni and Midvaal local municipalities, comparing the efficiency of each municipality's crime prevention techniques and strategies. The following research methods were applied.

#### 1.5.2.1 Interviews

Wessels (1994:404) believes that one of the most frequently used techniques of data are interviews and questionnaires. Interviews are particularly useful for getting the story behind a participant's experiences. The interviewer can pursue in-depth information around a topic. Interviews may be useful as follow-up to certain respondents to questionnaires, such as to further investigate their responses. Usually open-ended questions are asked during interviews (McNamara 1999:1).

- **Interviews by telephones**

Luck and Rubin (1987:106) are of the opinion that the telephone is definitely the most convenient means of reaching survey respondents. Nel, et al. (1988:168)

agreed and assured that this method is important for the interviewer to gain and maintain the cooperation and confidence of the respondent. In order to establish support, a pleasant and friendly telephone voice and a short introduction are essential. Luck and Rubin (1987:104) further stated that this was the traditional medium where interviewer engaged in face-to-face conversation with the respondents, which could take place in various types of locations.

- **Personal Interviews**

Personal interview is a well-known method of collecting data (Babbie, 1998:264). Interviews can either be formal or informal. Informal or structured interviews, prepared or standardized scheduled questionnaires are used to collect quantitative data. Informal or unstructured interviews are used to probe in-depth questions in order to gather qualitative data. Personal interviews may be time-consuming with time not taken up by the interviewee itself but used in arranging the appointment that suits both the interviewer and respondent.

The interview serves as a useful function; all questions are answered and that the respondent understands the instructions and questions. However, the interviewer can also cause errors. He or she may misunderstand the respondents' answers, but makes a clerical error in recording it, or it may simply record an answer even when the respondents failed to reply. To avoid this situation interviews can be recorded with permission of the interviewer (Luck & Rubin 1987: 106).

Finally, Patton (1991: 349) found that the researcher's full attention must be focused upon the interviewer. He must be thinking about probing for further explanation or clarification of what he is now saying, formulating probes, relating current discussion with what he has already said, thinking ahead to add

a new question that has now arisen and was taken account of in the standing guide and attending to the interviewer in a manner that communicates to him that the researcher is indeed listening. In addition, there is a problem of taking notes even if shorthand is used in the process, which decreases a researcher's interviewing capacity; it is advisable that the discussions should be taped.

Semi-structured interviews with the selected members of the crime prevention organisations were conducted, viz the SAPS in Emfuleni and Midvaal to compare service delivery and public participation in crime prevention. In addition, a questionnaire was used to test the validity of research questions, objectives and the hypothesis on the effectiveness of strategies by the SDM in fighting poverty and crime prevention.

#### **1.5.2.2 Participant Observation**

Participant observation has a quite distinct history from that of the positivist approach to research. Positivist researchers employing questionnaires and surveys assume that they already know what is important. In contrast, participant observation makes no firm assumptions about what is important. This method encourages researchers to immerse themselves in the day-to-day activities of the people whom they are attempting to understand. In contrast to testing ideas (deductive), they may be developed from observations (Wikipedia, 2005).

##### The analysis of observations

There are four stages of analysis whose overall aim is the categorisation of collected data within the context of a developed theoretical framework.

- To select and define problems, concepts and indices (such as inequalities, social classes, class mobility, wages and status). Once established, observed phenomena are then placed within a

theoretical framework (say, theory of market inequality) for further investigation.

- A check on the frequency and distribution of phenomena (e.g., percentage of sample population in different social classes). This means to see what events and relations are typical and widespread. It is at this point that the distinction between qualitative and quantitative work breaks down (but not between good and bad research).
- The construction of a social system model; i.e., moving from substantive to formal theory, and the need to make broader links in observational studies (e.g., social class tensions and mobility in other parts of society). In analysing different contexts (say, various households, communities, and/or places), the researcher can then move to more formal theory composed of abstract categories (say, Marx's theory of class). Assisting in this stage of analysis is the use of units. A unit is a tool to use in scrutinising the data. Types of unit include 'class', 'status', 'practices', 'roles', 'relationships', 'organisations', 'settlements', etc. Each of these different units may have different questions asked of them by the analyst. Here, the development of an analytic framework during fieldwork renders the data both manageable and intelligible.
- The withdrawal from the field to a final analysis and write-up. Both distance and time are needed for reflection and analysis of the data. No matter how well the data are analysed, the results must be presented and communicated in a way that is both persuasive, well argued and accessible to the audience, demonstrating the authenticity of the descriptions and their analyses ([uk.geocities.com/qmparticipantobservation](http://uk.geocities.com/qmparticipantobservation)).

As it was important for the researcher to be knowledgeable in the subject, it was recommended that she becomes part of the survey, she could give her own interpretations of the subject, and how her feelings and observation about the subject compare with those of other respondents.

The researcher is involved in a crime prevention organization (Youth crime prevention desk) in the region and has therefore been a participant in noting data relevant to the research topic. Participant observation is a recommended technique since it is an unobtrusive data collection technique.

## **1.6 OUTLINE OF CHAPTERS**

The study consists of five chapters, namely:

**Chapter 1:** Introduction: Problem statement and research methods.

**Chapter 2:** Theoretical exposition of poverty and crime in the Sedibeng District Municipality.

**Chapter 3:** IDP and LED strategies for poverty alleviation in the Sedibeng District Municipality.

**Chapter 4:** Empirical study of poverty alleviation strategies as mechanisms for crime prevention in the Sedibeng District Municipality.

**Chapter 5:** Recommendations and Conclusion.

## **CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL EXPOSITION OF POVERTY AND CRIME IN THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

Poverty or stratification by social class was the first sociological variable ever looked into as a possible cause of crime. Some sociologists would say religion was the first sociological variable, but the field of criminology claims a slightly different heritage. There are two reasons why poverty came to be of interest: firstly it was an enduring social problem in all societies across time, like crime; and secondly it was suspected that something in the causes of poverty were the same as the causes of crime.

This chapter focuses on the following: the nature of inequality and poverty in South Africa; demographics of the Sedibeng District Municipality; poverty in Sedibeng; inequality in Sedibeng; and the causes and effects of poverty and crime in Sedibeng.

### **2.2 THE NATURE OF INEQUALITY AND POVERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA**

According to van Wyk (2004: 75), South Africa is classified as an (upper) middle income country by the World Bank in terms of per capita GDP (\$3010 in 1994) yet, absolute and relative poverty are still commonplace. It is furthermore indicated that the incidence of poverty and the level of human development in South Africa is more on a par with those of a low- income country (Whiteford et al; 1995: 17). In order for the government to formulate and implement economic policies and strategies to alleviate poverty, the government needs basic information about the scope, nature and incidence of poverty in South Africa.

A number of studies and surveys have been conducted to meet this need for information such as the following:

- The Statistics SA October Household Survey which obtains a wide range of information on district basis as well as on the income, employment and spending patterns of different households.
- The Statistics SA Census Survey. The most recent census was conducted in 2001. This data is used to calculate the Human Development Index for South Africa.
- The Living Standards and Development Survey (LSDS), which was undertaken by the South African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) in 1993 and obtained wide ranges of information on the living standards and poverty profile of some 8000 households. Other institutions, such as the RDP office, the World Bank and the Human Science Research Council (HSRC), use this statistical base to compile reports on poverty.

From the above information and sources, poverty in South Africa can be described on the basis of firstly, on the standard of absolute poverty such as the numbers and percentage of people living below the poverty line and the extent of the poverty gap. Secondly, the standards of relative poverty such as deciles percentages and Gini coefficients. Thirdly, on the composite indexes of development level, such as the Human Development Index (HDI). Hence, South Africa is characterised by extremes of wealth and inequality, classified as a middle-income developing country. It has 'two nations' within it viz a small number of very wealthy people and a large number of very poor people (Rubenstein 1995:14).

### **2.2.1 Poverty Lines and Absolute Poverty in the Sedibeng District Municipality**

Debraj (1998: 2) defines a poverty line as follows: "if a government guarantees to make income up to some particular level then it may be presumed that: that level

is the poverty line". This is a problematic definition because an uncharitable government may reduce the guaranteed income, thus reducing the incidence of poverty so defined while increasing the incidence of actual poverty.

According to Global Insight (2004), poverty line is a measurement of the minimum level of expenditure required for basic necessities plus an extra amount required to participate in daily needs. The poverty line separates the poor from the non-poor in society. According to the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the absolute poverty line in South Africa refers to a monthly household expenditure requirement of R 353 per household. However, the calculations by Global Insight reflect a higher figure of R678 required for one person. Below is a comparison of poverty line in nominal Rands for various household sizes between 2000 and 2003.

**Table 1: HOUSEHOLDS LIVING UNDER THE POVERTY LINE**

Household size	2000	2001	2002	2003
1	555	586	640	678
2	730	772	842	892
3	971	1 027	1 121	1 187
4	1 219	1 289	1 407	1 489
5+	1 456	1 539	1 681	1 779

Source: SDM 1:15

The poverty rate (the percentage of population living in poverty) is approximately 39%. In contrast, Urban Econ's estimates are 46% while Co-operative and Alternative Center (COPAC) is closer to 50 %. An average poverty rate for these figures is 45%. The differences in estimates show that poverty measurements depend on variables used. Using Global Insight's figures, to halve the poverty rate in Sedibeng would require more than double the people

employed and a decline in the unemployment rate from its estimated 47% to about 20% (Global Insight 2004).

#### **2.2.1.1 Absolute Poverty**

Absolute poverty in monetary terms can be measured only if a poverty line is established for a particular country or region. The poverty line is the level of income (expenditure) in Rand terms, in respect of which a person or household can be classified as absolutely poor (van Wyk 2004:76). A measure of absolute poverty quantifies the number of people below a poverty line, and this poverty line is thought to be independent of time and place. For the measure to be absolute, the line must be the same in different countries, this does not change when the income distribution changes. It is only possible when all consumed goods and services are counted and when purchasing power parity (PPP)-exchange rates are used. The intuition behind an absolute measure is that mere survival takes the same amount of goods across the world and that everybody should be subject to the same standards (Debraj, 1998: 2).

#### **2.2.1.2 Relative Poverty**

A measure of relative poverty defines "poverty" as being below some relative poverty line. An example is when poverty is defined as households who earn less than 25% of the median income is a measure of relative poverty. It may be added that if everyone's income in an economy increases, but the income distribution stays the same, relative poverty will also stay the same.

Debraj (1998: 3) argues that, the measures of relative poverty are almost the same as measuring inequality: If a society gets a more equal income distribution, relative poverty will fall. Following this, there is a feeling that the term 'relative poverty' is itself misleading and that 'Inequality' should be used instead. The phrase relative poverty can also be used in a different sense to mean "moderate

poverty". For example, a standard of living or level of income, which is higher than what is needed to satisfy basic needs (like water, food, clothing, shelter and basic health care), but which is still significantly lower than that of the majority of the population under consideration.

### **2.2.2 Inequality in the Sedibeng District Municipality**

According to van Wyk (2004:79), the greatest inequality that characterises South African society becomes glaringly evident when distribution of income between different races and households is measured. As indicated by the HSRC, significant income inequality leads to:

- Tension and conflict between communities and groups.
- Lower potential economic growth, since the potential market for manufactured goods is smaller.

The personal income distribution between households in South Africa differs considerably between racial groups. As a result of the apartheid policy of the former government, the personal distribution of income in South Africa is often given in terms of racial division (van Wyk; 2004:80). In 1993, the average per capita income of white households was around 12 times greater than the average per capita income of black households. It has subsequently declined but is still high enough to make Sedibeng one of the most unequal societies in South Africa and the world (van Wyk 2004: 80).

According to the Sedibeng District Municipality<sup>1</sup> (2004:19), households with no income almost doubled between 1996 and 2001. The percentage of households with no income in the three lowest income categories increased from 30% in 1996 to 45.6% in 2001. The percentage in the other categories decreased, indicating a considerable decrease in the average household income. The largest concentrations of households with no income are found in the former townships of Sebokeng and Sharpeville. Households living in extreme poverty are

concentrated in Evaton, Boitumelo, Sharpeville, Ratanda and Meyerton Park, which include Siqelo and Sihlaliwe in the Sedibeng District Municipality.

Although stabilising, there is a high inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient, which measured 0.59 in 2003 (SDM1 2004:18). Approximately 81% of the population of Sedibeng resides in Emfuleni. Nearly half the households in Emfuleni live below the respective poverty lines of 46.1% in 1999. The average shortfall per poor household per month amounted to R 462 (SDM 2003). There has been a substantial reduction in household size from 4.5 members in 1996 to 3.5 in 2001 possibly as a result of individuals maximising access to subsidised housing which has decreased household buying power.

### **2.3 DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY (SDM)**

Sedibeng is located in the southern part of Gauteng. Sedibeng District Municipality is situated at the Vaal River banks. It has three Local Municipalities, namely Emfuleni, Lesedi and Midvaal. All of these municipalities have different socio-economic challenges.

Sedibeng is one of the regions within Gauteng that is most hit by poverty. According to Global Insight, it has about 1 196 892 people, out of which 44% are below the poverty line who live in the Vanderbijlpark Magisterial District. Emfuleni has a predominantly urban population of 81%, while the urban population of Lesedi is 71% and Midvaal has an urban population of only 36% (Census: 1996). Approximately 40% of the population has only a primary education or less, indicating very low levels of literacy factors such as illiteracy and the state of the economy has a direct bearing on poverty. The total unemployment in the area almost doubled since 1997 with more unemployed females than males. Promoting people's participatory institutions, provision of

basic minimum services, containing the population growth rate and environmental sustainability are major concerns. There is increasing level of unemployment due to the decline in the formal job sector that can be attributed to economic decline and issues of globalisation (SDM1 2004: 1-2).

### **2.3.1 National Government Approach**

A third of South African households live in poverty. In many respects, the White Paper on Local Government (1998) sets the poverty alleviation agenda for municipal government. A poverty focus means that each municipality must strive to ensure that the needs of vulnerable and destitute households within its area of jurisdiction are adequately and sustainably addressed (SDM2 2004: 2).

Addressing poverty in Sedibeng will require that interventions be undertaken in a coherent manner across all three spheres of government that is national, provincial and local. Vulnerability to poverty is countered by the accumulation of assets and managing these assets in such a way that sustainable livelihoods can be generated. The essential task of poverty programmes or initiatives to be introduced at any level of government is to enhance the basis of poor communities, households and individuals by improving their access to physical and social assets (SDM2 2004:2).

### **2.3.2 Provincial Government Approach**

The poverty alleviation strategy of the provincial government (Department of Social Services) seeks to reduce and eliminate dependence and ensure self-reliance through the following strategies:

- Identifying and targeting the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and communities for poverty alleviation and reduction interventions.
- Integrating the Provincial Department of Social Services' poverty alleviation programmes and projects with other similar or relevant government programmes and projects, by focusing on programmes and

projects that will be inclusive and responsive to community needs and have the greatest impact in poverty alleviation.

- Creating a conducive environment for the poorest of the poor and persons within the poverty net to acquire the necessary skills and capacity to obtain employment and initiate projects that will translate into business ventures or become service providers.
- Facilitating access to a wide range of services and opportunities that will facilitate income generation by target groups.
- Developing capacity within communities to effectively participate in various social development programmes.
- Encourage and facilitate intersectoral, interdepartmental and intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration in poverty alleviation and reduction (SDM2 2004:2).

### **2.3.3 Local Government Approach**

A closer examination of the 1996 Constitution and the White Paper on Local Government (1998) indicates that within the South African context, local government like the other two spheres of government has a development role to play. At the core of South Africa's development agenda is the eradication of poverty and inequality, as it is recognised that there can be no long-term political and social stability within the country without this being achieved. The role of local government is clearly defined in terms of Section 152 of the 1996 Constitution with the objectives of Local Government defined as:

- Provision of democratic and accountable government for local communities;
- Provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner;
- Promotion of social and economic development;
- Promotion of a safe and healthy environment; and

- Involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government.

Further more, Section 153 of the Constitution outlines the developmental role of local government as follows:

- To structure and manage its administrative, budgeting and planning process to give priority to the basic needs of the community;
- To promote the social and economic development of the community; and
- To participate in national and provincial development programmes

It is believed that when the powers and functions granted to local government and the economic development challenges facing the country are considered, it is clear that one of the determinants of success for local government is their ability to impact positively on poverty and inequality.

Since local government is the sphere of government closest to the citizens, it is responsible for the provision of household infrastructure and services, an essential component of social and economic development. This includes services such as water, sanitation, local roads, storm water drainage, refuse collection and electricity. Good basic services apart from being a constitutional right, are essential to enable people to support family life, find employment, develop their skills or establish their own small businesses. The provision of household infrastructure can particularly make a difference to the lives of women, who usually play the major role in reproductive work that sustains the family and the local society.

#### **2.4 DEFINING POVERTY IN SEDIBENG**

The World Bank's 2000 World Development Report defines poverty as an unacceptable deprivation in human well-being that can comprise both physiological and social deprivation. Physiological deprivation involves the non-

fulfillment of basic material or biological needs, including inadequate nutrition, health, education and shelter. A person can be considered poor if he or she is unable to secure the goods and services to meet these basic material needs. The concept of physiological deprivation is thus closely related to but can extend beyond, low monetary income and consumption levels. Social deprivation widens the concept of deprivation to include risk, vulnerability, disempowerment and a lack of autonomy and self-respect. Given the definitions of deprivation, deprivation often goes beyond physiological deprivation and sometimes gives greater weight to social deprivation. Local populations (including poor communities) should be engaged in the dialogue that leads to the most appropriate definition of poverty in a country (Cook 2001: 2).

According to the definition above, poverty is characterised by the inability of individuals, households or communities to command sufficient resources to satisfy a socially acceptable minimum standard of living. Poverty is perceived by poor South Africans themselves to include alienation from the community, food security, crowded homes, usage of unsafe and inefficient forms of energy, lack of jobs that are adequately paid and secure and fragmentation of the family. In contrast, wealth is perceived to be characterised by good housing, the use of gas or electricity and the ownership of major durable goods such as a television set or fridge (Poverty alleviation and gender strategic framework, SDM2: 4-5).

Sedibeng District Municipality pro poor strategy (SDM1: 9), argues that poverty refers to inadequate income levels for subsistence and deprivation of basic needs such as food, water, shelter, sanitation, health, education and information. According to this definition, inequality serves as an inevitable source of poverty in the region. Poverty reflects the extent of social marginalisation or exclusion experienced as a result of a lack of power, information or resources.

There is a feeling that a focus on poverty implies a focus on increasing the ability of households to engage in practices, which sustain livelihoods. The District Municipality can influence the manner in which service delivery is promoted in the District and promoting secure livelihoods for communities through public service delivery.

#### **2.4.1 Definition of poverty for IDP use**

Poverty in the South African context is historically, economically and socially defined. In other words, it is more than low or inadequate income. It refers to physical and spiritual necessities, assets and income. A loss of assets or the inability to accumulate assets because of apartheid policies, that is, access to ownership or, occupation of land and housing is often what precipitates making someone vulnerable to being in a state of poverty (SDM2 2004: 5).

#### **2.4.2 Generic Definition of Poverty**

Generically poverty is defined as the inability to attain a minimal standard of living, measured in terms of basic consumption needs or the income required satisfying them, it is conventional to draw up a poverty line reflecting the monetary value of consumption which separates the poor from the non-poor (SDM2 2004: 5).

Poverty in an area can be measured by means of female-headed household. It has been stated that illiteracy and poverty are major obstacles to the advancement of women. According to the Department of Welfare (undated: 91), female unemployment is higher than that of their male counterparts and women also tend to be employed at lower levels than males and therefore earn less.

### **2.5 DEFINING INEQUALITY**

Inequality can be defined in terms of being the opposite of equality, a state of social organisation that enables or gives equal access to resources and

opportunities to all members. However, there are a number of possible objectives for a policy aimed at reducing inequality, such as increasing the relative income share of the least well-off, lowering the income ceiling, facilitating upward mobility, promoting economic inclusion, avoiding perpetuation of the advantages conferred by wealth and achieving more favourable comparisons against international yardsticks (Poverty alleviation and gender strategic framework, Sedibeng District Municipality: 5).

Internationally and nationally, there are different types of inequalities that are brought about by different causes.

### **2.5.1 Economic Inequality**

Economic inequality is usually measured as income inequality. The Gini coefficient is the most commonly used in criminology and it weighs extreme outcomes in inequality. Weightings are done to the tails of the distribution. The Gini coefficient ranges from "0" where everyone is fairly equal to "1" where one person has all the wealth and everyone else has none. Gini indexes of as low as 0.10 have reached statistical significance in relationship to crime (Liebbrandt et al 2005: 4).

### **2.5.2 Wage Inequality**

It is observed that wage inequality overcomes some of the income reporting problems associated with using income inequality and just counts wages instead of total family income. The economy of Sedibeng has the constant widening of the gap between rich and poor in terms of the distribution of wage income. The ratio of a university-educated worker's wages to a high school graduate's wages (a commonly seen measure) always seems to be widening (Liebbrandt et al 2005: 5).

### **2.5.3 Racial Inequality**

According to Hoogeveen and Ozler (undated), the concept of relative deprivation is revised to a concept of "resource deprivation" cluster. According to this concept, crime is the greatest in cities that have extensive residential segregation; i.e., blacks live on one side of the tracks, whites on the other.

There is a feeling that unequal economic racial and class conditions have traditionally been associated with hidden economies. These are transactions that are unreported and often illegal or outside the view and control of the state.

### **2.5.4 Crime and Business Cycle (Unemployment)**

It is argued that more crime occurs during economic downturns and this is generally true, for the region, Evaton can be an example in this regard. Juvenile delinquency, for example, is often referred to as a crime of affluence because it goes up during economic upswings, that is, when unemployment is low.

In a conversation with ex-convicts, there is a feeling amongst them that unemployment does cause crime among ex-offenders, as no employer wants to hire a person with a criminal record. Unemployment also has stronger effects at the neighbourhood rather than aggregate level. It also depends on how one defines unemployment. In the next sections, the causes and effects of crime in the Sedibeng District Municipality will be discussed.

## **2.6 CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF POVERTY AND CRIME**

Crime in South Africa has increased dramatically since the late 1980s. While recent evidence suggests that some categories of crime are stabilising, national crime levels remain high. Much of the country's recorded crime takes place in the major cities. Of these, Sedibeng District Municipality is characterised by some of

the highest levels of criminality (Johannesburg City crime Prevention Strategy 2001).

Reducing the level of crime in the Sedibeng District Municipality (SDM) relies on a multi-faceted strategy that draws on the resources and skills of a variety of role players. This is because crime cannot be ended through policing interventions alone. Some types of crime, such as those associated with high levels of alcohol abuse, for example, are most effectively prevented through initiatives which aim to undermine the causes of and opportunities for crime. The police are not always well placed to carry out such interventions. And since the causes of (and by definition the opportunities for) crime vary, people and places will be affected in different ways.

Crime prevention thus refers to those activities that are intended to reduce or prevent the occurrence of specific types of crime (or the fear thereof). This can be done either by altering the environment in which they occur, or by intervening more broadly to change the social or other conditions that are thought to have causal significance with regard to them. Reducing crime also requires that much greater effort be directed towards providing support and advice for those who have already been victimised. This not only supports the process of police investigations but should also seek to ensure that revictimisation does not occur (National Crime Prevention Strategy, 1996).

This section looks in detail at the types of crime most likely to have the greatest impact on the South African public, especially in the SDM as determined by the seriousness of the crime and its prevalence in the research. Thus while murder, for example, is a serious crime, it is also one that, according to the official statistics, occurs only about 22,000 times each year, compared to some 500,000 recorded assaults, 300,000 burglaries, and 225,000 robberies. It shall also address the different types of crime in SDM, with reference to the local municipalities and

their places of demarcation; the categories of crime as outlined in the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS); the role of national and local government in preventing crime as outlined in the NCPS.

## 2.7 THE NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY (BACKGROUND)

The development of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) began after the former South African President, Mr. NR Mandela, in his opening of Parliament address in 1995, called for more attention to be paid to solving the problem of crime (Rauch 2001:2). The Ministry of Safety and Security responded to this call with a dual approach: the police were asked to develop an operational plan for improved and intensified policing (this became known as the Community Safety Plan) and the civilian staff of the ministry was tasked with developing a longer-term crime reduction approach. The early phase of developing this long-term approach was led by one of the Minister's civilian advisors, who drew together a small team of civilian experts on crime and policing matters. When this committee proposed the development of a wide-ranging anti-crime strategy, a new group of government officials was set up to take forward the development process. This later group of officials and consultants from six government departments, chaired by another of the Minister's civilian advisors, became known as the NCPS strategy team (Rauch, 2001).

The policy framework provided by the NCPS envisages crime prevention as the shared task of all sectors of government and civil society. It sees prevention happening on four "fronts" represented by the four pillars of the strategy:

- Enhancing the deterrent (preventive) effect of the criminal justice system by increasing efficiency and certainty in the system;

- Blocking opportunities for crime in physical environments and in systems by redesigning environments and systems, using an approach known as crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED);
- Public education programmes about crime and its prevention, as well as programmes aimed at changing the moral climate of the society into one which does not tolerate violence or law-breaking; and
- Tackling the multinational dimensions of the crime problem through more effective border security and building strong and developmental relationships with neighbouring and friendly countries.

The four-pillar framework and the seven priority crimes should be viewed as a matrix in which each of the pillars offers a variety of methods to prevent each type of crime, thus building a range of "tools" which would, over time, reduce the occurrence of that type of crime (Singh, 1997: 5).

### 2.7.1 The Aims of the NCPS

The NCPS as part of a broad developmental approach aims to reduce the levels of crime in South Africa by

- Building and integrating a comprehensive policy framework to guide various government departments, as well as shape and rationalise the way in which they utilise scarce financial resources;
- Generating an understanding of the objective of preventing rather than merely controlling crime, which is shared by all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders;
- Setting out a programme which identifies priority areas for action; and

- Maximising community participation in crime prevention and building confidence in all South Africans that crime will be reduced.

These are all very substantial demands and expectations, especially on a government going through a difficult and thorough process of democratic transformation. Both because of this, and because of the deeply-rooted nature of crime in South Africa, the NCPS does not seek to merely adopt "quick fix" or remedial measures which cannot offer a sustainable reduction in crime, but rather attempts to generate targeted, specialised and prioritised short-, medium- and long-term programmes which recognise that safety is a basic need of all South Africans. In so doing, the NCPS also aims to prioritise the needs of victims of crime (Singh, 1997: 5).

#### 2.7.2 Principles Underlying the NCPS

The policy framework provided by the NCPS was underpinned by a set of principles aimed at informing the approach taken to crime prevention in any setting in South Africa. These principles are outlined below.

- Government alone cannot solve the problem of crime. Crime prevention fundamentally requires partnerships with a range of non-governmental role-players.
- Tackling crime requires more resources than the criminal justice system alone can provide. The NCPS suggests a move away from traditional approaches to crime control based on notions of "security" and criminal justice, to a new approach which emphasises social rather than state prevention.
- The focus of prevention efforts and of the criminal justice system in particular, should be on victims, rather than on the traditional pursuit of offenders.

- Effective prevention strategies are based on a differentiated and "disaggregated" approach to crime - an approach which begins with a careful analysis of each crime problem, followed by the development of strategies appropriate to the particular problem.
- New crime prevention approaches must be based on recognition of public fear of crime, and must build confidence.
- All prevention programmes require a set of social values and morals that are intolerant of and resistant to crime. All prevention efforts must contribute to changing the attitudes of citizens towards law breaking and co-operation with the justice system.
- All prevention efforts must be congruent with the constitutional arrangements and in particular, the Bill of Rights (Singh, 1997).

## **2.8 THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CRIME PREVENTION**

Local government, in conjunction with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and a variety of other role players, has an important role to play in controlling and preventing crime. As advocated in Chapter 7 of the 1996 Constitution, Local government is the level of government closest to the citizenry and is in a unique position to initiate and actively participate in local crime prevention exercises. Also, local government through reorienting many of the services it provides, can begin to address some of the opportunities for, and causes of, crime. Indeed, many of the functions of day-to-day local level crime prevention are inherent to the services performed by local government (Crime in Johannesburg, February 1998).

City and town government is the level at which planning can take the needs of local communities and their particular crime problems into account. Potentially, this provides an effective link between local representatives, municipal

departments and the national police service. Local government is well placed to co-ordinate the activities of various departments that can contribute to crime prevention. There are also real incentives for municipal authorities to ensure a safe locality: revenues are increased through, among other factors, the provision of a safe environment and actively encouraging investment by business (Crime in Johannesburg, February 1998).

There is also an important political dimension: many local politicians are under increasing public pressure to be seen acting against crime. Developing and implemented local crime prevention policy will ensure that ward councillors respond to the needs of their constituents. The advantages of focusing crime prevention at the level of cities and towns, however, are little in evidence among metropolitan and municipal government in South Africa. Few successful local government crime prevention initiatives have been recorded in the country and there is comparatively little experience to draw from. Evidence from elsewhere suggests that knowledge of what works for crime prevention (and perhaps more importantly of what does not) will only be gained incrementally through targeted interventions in relation to particular crime problems in defined localities (Crime in Johannesburg, February 1998).

A process has slowly begun in South Africa: many local governments have, independently of national initiatives, attempted to improve their crime fighting capabilities. In some places, measures - although often limited to target hardening or projects which focus on wealthier parts of the city where funds are available - have been taken to intervene in the built environment in a way that enhances safety. In Durban, the city police have long performed policing functions in support of the South African Police Service (SAPS). Local government is therefore, although on a limited scale, becoming involved in crime prevention (Crime in Johannesburg, February 1998).

## 2.9 CATEGORIES OF CRIME AS OUTLINED BY THE NCPS

A closer observation of the NCPS outlines the different categories of crime in the country. These categories are not only recognized at national level but also provincially and locally. Hence the strategy advocates a major role of crime prevention to the local authorities for it is the sphere of government closest to the community. The crimes of major concern to the government were identified as:

- Crime involving firearms: The easy availability of firearms is a major contributor to the prevalence of inter-personal violence and lethal crime in South Africa. Statistics on offenders and victims in gun killings from the National Victim Survey and the Department of Health Mortality Survey showed that almost all offenders and victims are young men from ages 18 to 30 (offenders) and 16 to 35 (victims); (NCPS, 1996).
- Organised crime: The recognition, largely absent from the original NCPS, that much of South Africa's crime problem is organized. By tackling organised crime, government believes it will be able to impact on vehicle crime, drug trafficking, trade in illegal weapons and endangered species as well as money laundering and certain forms of commercial crime (NCPS 1996)
- White collar crimes: Commercial crimes although often perceived as "victimless" rob the South African economy of billions of rands every year, thereby reducing opportunities for economic growth and development. A continued focus on white-collar crime would ensure that the strategy is balanced to include a focus on "the crimes of the powerful" and to reduce poverty (NCPS 1996).
- Inter-group conflict: This type of crime needed to remain a national priority in the light of continuing conflicts in KwaZulu Natal, the taxi industry, and the Western Cape. This focus would enable the government

to deal with problems of vigilante groups, organised gangs and political conflict (NCPS 1996).

- **Vehicle Theft and Hijackings:** Figures for vehicle crime in South Africa remain unacceptably high and violence which has come to be associated with these crimes generates high levels of fear in our community (NCPS 1996).
- **Corruption within the criminal justice system:** Recognition that if this problem is not effectively addressed, it will undermine all government's efforts in respect of crime prevention (NCPS 1996).
- **Inter-personal violence:** Making more explicit some of the content of the NCPS, this new focus will enable government to prioritise violence against women; violence against children, murder; assault and aggravated assault, which make up the bulk of South Africa's violent crime problem. A new focus would require social crime prevention to prevent young people from becoming perpetrators of violent crimes, and a range of strategies to prevent certain groups of people from becoming victims, and repeat victims, of these crimes amongst are women, children and the elderly (NCPS, 1996).

### 2.9.1 The Types of Crime in SDM

The three local municipalities that make up Sedibeng have got their own problems, that is, the types of crime and causes of crime thereof. There is no single type of crime that occurs consistently in order for the SAPS to be able to develop one strategy for all the demarcated areas of municipalities that can somehow overlap to the other because social crime prevention is a joint venture. Below are the types of crime prevailing in SDM.

#### a. Corruption

##### Key points

- Although instances and allegations of 'grand corruption' receive much media attention, ordinary citizens are vulnerable to petty corruption. In total, 7% of SDM residents had been asked to pay a bribe in the past year, for instances, when they are being serviced, the person helping will be asking for a cool drink or something in return.
- Cash bribes were by far the most common form of currency in corrupt transactions.
- Traffic officials were most likely to demand bribes and in turn every request for a bribe was met by payment from members of the public surveyed.
- The other most common services for which bribes were demanded include policing, employment in the public sector, pensions/social welfare grants, and public utilities. The vulnerability of the poor to non-delivery of services due to corruption in all these categories is a cause for concern (Burton et al 2003: 1).

It should be noted from the outset that the victims do probably not report many incidents of corruption or attempted corruption. Some victims may be aware of their perceived 'complicity' as the bribe payer (albeit on demand, possibly accompanied with the threat of withholding a service) and would worry that by answering the questions they might implicate themselves. Others may not be aware that being asked for a bribe in return for a service is a crime, and may instead see this as a 'normal' transaction fee required to ensure the delivery of services. Similarly, requests for 'favours' and 'gifts' may be overlooked as a form of corruption. These acts typically involve the purchase of a cold drink, alcohol or a meal in return for speeding up a service or the efficient delivery of a service.

Some members of the public may regard this as simply an accepted form of gratitude (Burton et al 2003:1).

Considering that corruption is one of the types of crime that are likely to be under-recorded by victim surveys, the fact that it was the second most prevalent crime in the country is a matter of concern. Respondents when asked by the researcher, "over the past year, any government official asked or indicated that they would be receptive to either money, a favour or a present in return for a service that they were legally required to perform." If all three variants of corruption—money, favours and gifts—are added together, corruption was the second most frequent crime type recorded by the survey with 5.6% of SDM reporting experiences of corruption. While only cash bribes are counted, corruption ranks third (Burton et al 2003: 2).

#### **b. Housebreaking (Residential Burglary)**

##### Key points

- Survey respondents thought housebreaking was both the most commonly discussed crime and the most prevalent crime in their neighbourhoods.
- These opinions are backed up by the broader survey findings as more survey respondents indicated that their household had been a victim of housebreaking (7.5%) than any other crime type and that housebreaking is the only crime type whose prevalence increased since 1998. Most of the house breakings occur in the suburbs, in Einfuleni: Three Rivers, Vanderbijlpark, and Vereeniging.
- The only crime feared more than housebreaking is murder.

According to the residents within the Vereeniging policing precinct, housebreaking is the most commonly experienced crime in the SDM with 20%

saying their household had been burgled in the last two years. This would suggest that on a suburban block of 14 houses, chances are that one would be burgled every year. Not surprisingly then, the response indicates that housebreaking is also the most commonly discussed crime with 50% of respondents saying they talked about housebreaking with friends, family or colleagues over the previous weeks. It was also perceived as the “most common crime in the area” by 40% of respondents—a higher percentage than that accorded to any other crime type.

Most of the burglaries discussed by respondents occurred at night (70%) but were as likely to occur when the residents were at home (50%) as when they were absent (50%). Just under half of the cases (40%) involved entry through a window while in 30% of cases a door was simply smashed open. A small number of these ‘burglaries’ were actually home robberies as six incidents resulted in injury to residents. Electronic equipment was taken in 50% of the incidents in which property was taken, and cash was taken in another 20%.

### **c. Assault and Sexual Assault**

#### **Key points**

- Assault and sexual assault are almost as difficult to capture in a household survey as they are for the police to detect. As a result, there were too few sexual assaults to be analysed in detail.
- Assault is not a single crime but a variety of offences encompassing among other things, domestic violence, bar room brawls and street attacks.
- Assault and sexual assault mainly occur in the townships between people in relationships.

Crimes of assault and sexual assault are extremely difficult to capture in any survey and are difficult for the police to handle, for many of the same reasons. Some degree of physical beating is felt by many to be acceptable in some relationships, such as parent-child, elder-youth, and even husband-wife relationships. Similarly, in some communities consensual brawling in various contexts is considered normal, especially between male peers. Certain forms of verbal provocation or other slights are felt to justify physical retaliation by segments of the public. While the law has recently been updated to allow for spousal rape, this concept still escapes many South Africans. As a result, there is disharmony between community practice and the letter of the law. Exactly the same physical attack could be deemed a criminal assault in one community and not in another and opinions on the matter can vary across time, even for the same victim (Burton et al 2003: 13).

#### d. Stock Theft

##### Key points

- Black and white residents on plots are most at risk.
- Most victims were poor, which suggests that the impact of stock theft on a household is likely to be severe.
- Few victims reported theft of stock to the police, largely because they did not think the crime was important enough, or that their property would be recovered. This perception is understandable given that of the few victims who did report, only 4% were aware that an arrest was made and 4% said their stock was recovered.

Stock theft does not go unnoticed however. Stock theft is clearly a crime that is resolved primarily outside the criminal justice system. Low reporting rates may be related to the accessibility of the police in rural areas, the use of traditional

authorities to resolve the matter and the fact that those positive outcomes after reporting are rare. Less than 10% of respondents felt they knew who stole their animals at the time of the survey and that recovery of their property had occurred in less than 5% of cases. This is a pity because the impact of this loss on poor households could be significant.

Reducing the impact of stock theft could take two paths. One being, safer security, the police could assist by recommending safety measures before victimisation occurs. The other option is to increase the rate of recovery after the fact. Making livestock easier to identify or track could advance this. The state could become involved in registering ownership and marking animals accordingly. Low cost ways of doing this could be developed and marking stock may also have a deterrent effect.

For the purpose of the study, four types of crime that appear mostly as not serious but the implications thereof are serious were looked into. Most of these crimes occur in the central business districts and the households of people who are being looked at as "well off". There is car theft mostly in Midvaal; the Meyerton Bridge is identified as a major car theft spot. Evaton, Sharpeville and Sebokeng in Emfuleni have a large number of rapes. In Lesedi there is a problem of substance abuse, which leads to crime.

### **2.9.2 The Organisational environment and Challenges facing SDM**

There are different organisational challenges that face Sedibeng such as policing, the criminal justice system, public values and education, environmental design, social crime prevention and internal municipality operations. These are discussed as follows:

**a. Policing**

- There is a lack of communication between the SAPS and Community Policing Forums (CPFs). At one of the CPFs and SAPS meetings, it was evident that some of the police officers take the community counter part of CPFs for granted. They are viewed as civilians who think they are above others or think they know more than the police (CPF meeting, Vereeniging SAPS, November 4: 2005).
- There is a lack of public phones to call safety emergency services such as ambulances and police.
- Some of the CPFs members are being called spies and are therefore exposed to danger by corrupt SAPS members. The behaviour of police makes communities disrespect them.
- Sector policing is not effective where areas allocated are too big. There seems to be no consistency in the way problems are tackled.
- There is no guaranteed safety after crime has been reported for undocumented individuals are not arrested.

**b. Criminal Justice System**

- Reporting of criminals to the SAPS does not end up in arrests for there is a problem of police not taking proper statements from victims.
- There is a slow response to reported crime by SAPS and the investigation process is too slow. There was a case of a vehicle that was reported as stolen by a member of the community. He said the only feedback he had received from the SAPS was that there were no leads in tracing the suspects and therefore the case was closed. Another incident was that of common assault where the victim identified the suspect. She was also told that as there was no medical evidence the suspect could not be arrested,

overlooking the fact that there had been eyewitnesses. This results in the community losing faith in SAPS, and taking the law into their own hands (SDM Crime Prevention Strategy 2004).

**c. Public Values and Education**

The community does not normally report domestic violence. In most instances the victims are dependent on the culprit and due to their need for survival they succumb to the crime. There is a lack of reporting of crime by students in schools and the sharing of information between schools is non-existent (SDM Crime Prevention Strategy 2004).

**d. Environmental Design**

Most of the townships have no Apollo lights and where they exist they are not operating properly. Liquor abuse and the operation of shebeens are seen as a serious source of crime. In rural areas, there is a problem of not being able to access emergency vehicles as emergency vehicles cannot easily reach people due to poor roads (SDM Crime Prevention Strategy 2004).

**e. Social Crime Prevention**

Poverty and the unemployment of youth and parents plus peer pressure increase crime. Street committees efficient in dealing with crime especially youth related crime are replaced with ward committees that are not as effective.

There is a lack of understanding of crime prevention especially social crime prevention, which makes role clarifications and responsibilities of the structure doubtful. Furthermore there is a lack of feedback with regard to cases investigated and this frustrates community structures (SDM Crime Prevention Strategy 2004).

#### **f. Internal Municipality Operations**

There is a lack of commitment from the stakeholders to sustain programmes or initiatives once they have taken off the ground. Implementing some of the well-planned programmes is another problem and this lapse increases the incidence of poverty in SDM.

The minutes of the CPF meeting (November 2005) records that the SAPS is also frustrated by the fact that there is a lack of sufficient support by local municipalities to crime prevention initiatives, poor attendance of meetings at all levels and it also believes that the enabling factors of environmental design should be sorted out by local municipalities (Sedibeng Crime Prevention Strategy, 2004).

#### **2.10 CONCLUSION**

Poverty is defined as the inability to attain minimal standards of living. It is characterised by the inability of individuals, households or communities to command sufficient resources to satisfy a socially acceptable minimum standards of living. It resulted as a legacy of the previous dispensation of apartheid of inequality.

Social crime prevention is aimed at every stakeholder identifying him or herself with the responsibility of fighting crime. This is a joint venture across all departments of government and spheres of government. Community participation is important in reducing crime in the region and the entire country as well. The next chapter shall focus on the various LED and IDP plans the Sedibeng District Municipality has in place to alleviate poverty in the region.

## **CHAPTER 3: THE VARIOUS LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED) AND IDP PROJECCTS IN SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPLITY**

### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

Poverty and deprivation have been among apartheid's most damaging and pervasive legacies. The fight against poverty and the protection of the poor and the most vulnerable has therefore been a strong and tangible commitment of the Sedibeng District Municipality. Addressing poverty in South Africa will require that interventions be undertaken in a coherent manner across all three spheres of government, that is, national, provincial and local.

The essential task of poverty programmes or initiatives to be introduced at any level of government is to enhance the asset base of poor communities, households and individuals by improving their access to physical and social assets. This task for local government in South Africa will require a radical change from past outlooks and policy formulation processes. Indeed, until the closing years of apartheid, local government in South Africa was not strongly concerned with issues of economic development and less so with the question of poverty alleviation. The new local government in South Africa needs to be innovative in promoting both the economic and social development of localities, including poverty alleviation.

This chapter describes the locality of Sedibeng and shall focus on the Integrated Developmental Programme (IDP) and Local Economic Plan (LED) in SDM, in fighting poverty, and the initiatives taken by other stakeholders in alleviating poverty and crime in the region.

### **3.2 The Locality of the Sedibeng District Municipality**

Sedibeng previously known as Lekoa Vaal, found its name from the Vaal River which is the natural resource; and greatest asset that has the potential to attract

local, national and international tourists. It is a district that is primarily an eco-tourism and heritage destination because of the massive Vaal River and historical happenings that have occurred in the area. The Sedibeng District was established in 2000 and includes the rich history of Evaton, Heidelberg, Sharpeville, Boipatong, Sebokeng, Vereeniging, Vanderbijlpark, Vaal Oewers, Vaal Marina, and Suikerbosrand and many more interesting sites. Sedibeng is situated in the South Eastern Gauteng, approximately 60 km from Johannesburg, along the scenic Vaal, Klip and Suikerbos Rivers. A variety of attractions are offered encapsulating a vast cultural heritage and historical events, including the political breakthroughs that led to the country's turn about.

### **3.3 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED)**

Cloete in (van Wyk 2004:110) recognises local government as the first sphere of government because it is the oldest form of government and affects the populace most directly. Local government has its own origins in early tribal villages and primitive communities where it was established long before the concept of a nation- state evolved. Because of the early origins of local government, it has over the ages assumed such diverse forms that some authors find difficulty in arriving at a common definition for local government.

Reddy (1998:8) however identifies and describes the following characteristics of local government:

- **Locality:** smallness is implied and a sense of community consciousness on solidarity.
- **Legal personalities:** the local government system owes its existence to law. The municipality has particular powers in terms of the Constitution and national and provincial law.

- **Autonomy:** it has the ability to make binding decisions and policy choices within a legally stipulated framework and allocate resources and provide services.
- **Governmental power:** it has the authority to perform formal functions associated with government, such as raising tax revenue, spending of money and issuing and enforcing of regulations.
- **Participation and representation:** those making decisions directly on its affairs will have been elected. It is often assumed that local citizenry have a better chance of participating in local government than in central government institutions. The reason for the existence of local government is to promote citizen participation in bringing about local development that is discussed in the next section.

### 3.3.1 Defining LED

According to an understanding of the concept of LED, one can say that local economic development (LED) offers local government, the private and not-for-profit sectors and local communities the opportunity to work together to improve the local economy. It focuses on enhancing competitiveness, increasing sustainable growth and ensuring that growth is inclusive. LED encompasses a range of disciplines including physical planning, economics and marketing. It also incorporates many local government and private sector functions including environmental planning, business development, infrastructure provision, real estate development and finance (van Wyk 2004: 110).

Van Wyk (2004:111) argues that Local Economic Development refers to the development of the economic basis of a community, or simply to the promotion of the competitiveness of enterprises. The Green Paper on Local Government describes LED as follows: "LED is not something separate from the daily work of the municipality. It does not require a department of its own; rather all activities

of local government need to promote economic growth. The overriding challenge of South African local authorities is inequality and poverty, which can and should be addressed through all the functions of a municipality”.

### 3.3.1.1 LED approaches

According to Eales & Holden (2003:2), the practice of local economic development can be undertaken at different geographic scales. A local government pursues LED strategies for the benefit of its jurisdiction, and individual communities and areas within a local government's jurisdiction can also pursue LED strategies to improve their economic competitiveness. Such approaches are most successful if pursued in partnership with local government strategies. LED are thus about communities continually improving their investment climate and business-enabling environment to enhance their competitiveness, retain jobs and improve incomes. Local communities respond to their LED needs in many ways, and a variety of approaches can be taken that includes:

- Ensuring that the local investment climate is functional for local businesses;
- Supporting small and medium sized enterprises;
- Encouraging the formation of new enterprises;
- Attracting external investment (nationally and internationally);
- Investing in physical (hard) infrastructure;
- Investing in soft infrastructure (educational and workforce development, institutional support systems and regulatory issues);
- Supporting the growth of particular clusters of businesses;
- Targeting particular parts of the city for regeneration or growth (areas based initiatives);
- Supporting informal and newly emerging businesses;

- Targeting certain disadvantaged groups ([www.mvula.co.za](http://www.mvula.co.za)).

In implementing these poverty alleviation initiatives, SDM supports the SMMEs in the district as outlined in the IDP plan.

The Water and Sanitation Diary (2000) identifies LED to be a process of identifying and using local resources to create sustainable economic and social development in local areas to assist in:

- Creating more jobs;
- Developing local markets;
- Growing small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs);
- Addressing poverty; and
- Ensuring community empowerment.

There are many stakeholders at local level that participate in LED. Local government is one of the major stakeholders and can adopt two different approaches to LED: Firstly, local government can promote and attract business to their area by offering incentives such as cheap land and tax rebates. The hope is that businesses will then create jobs and widen the tax base. Secondly, local government can support local groups to "kick-start" local economic and social development. These groups can take responsibility for LED themselves by developing their own plans to generate money, and create jobs. Municipalities can creatively combine both approaches.

### **3.3.1.2 Government departments that have programmes that support LED**

The following government's departments support the LED at local level:

a. The Department of Trade and Industry's spatial development initiatives (SDIs) seeks to develop specific areas/ regions by developing clusters of projects in an area and then encouraging the private sector to invest such as the Maputo

Corridor. It encourages government to priority infrastructure that is important for investment.

b. The Department of Land Affairs' Rural Development Framework is a policy focusing on small towns and rural areas. It provides funds and training for rural communities to set their priorities for LED. It tries to improve income and employment opportunities.

c. The Ministry for Provincial and Local Government and Department's Consolidated Municipal Infrastructure Programme (CMIP) assists municipalities to provide internal bulk and connector infrastructure to support household infrastructure. The process focuses on skills transfer and the promotion of SMMEs and labour intensive construction. The Department has a Social Plan Fund established by the Jobs Summit. This provides institutional support and funding for local authorities with declining economics due to job losses. Further more the Department has a newly established LED Fund financing LED projects to a maximum of R1.5 million per municipality.

d. The Department of Public Work's Community Public Works Programme aims to reduce unemployment by creating job opportunities, educating and training people. The ultimate purpose is to build the capacity of communities to manage their own affairs.

### **3.3.2 Local Economic Development Strategies and Instruments in the SDM**

Van Wyk (2004:134) points out that before compiling an LED strategy, it is necessary to perform a SWOT- analysis of the local economy. This will identify firstly, the social-economic base of the locality and secondly, the development capacity available locally.

### **3.3.2.1 Generic Strategies**

According to Porter (1980) generic strategies were used initially in the early 1980s and seem to be even more popular today. He outlines the three main strategic options open to organization that wish to achieve a sustainable competitive advantage. Each of the three options is considered within the context of two aspects of the competitive environment:

#### **a) Locality Development**

Locality development refers to the physical use of and planning for the use and management of land. Land availability is vital for LED and any strategy will fail unless suitable sites for selected projects are available. According to Blakely (1989:141), the objectives of locality development are image building, amenity improvement and lastly business improvement. In order to achieve these, the following tools required are:

- Land banking: this is the practice of industrial and commercial land.
- Speculative building: these are shell buildings left unfinished until tenants are found.
- Zoning regulations: zoning can promote LED by setting aside sufficient amount of land for industrial and commercial use.
- Townscape: the reason for this is to make the central business district attractive by development of a visual theme for central town area. It will and can express the community's identity.

#### **b) Business Development**

The objectives of business development are to create a good business climate especially for:

- Business start-ups

- Business attraction
- Business expansion and retention
- Nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship (van Wyk 2004:135).

This can however be addressed through:

- One stop centres: information centres designed to serve as contact point between various businesses and local government. They must have information on all relevant matters
- Group marketing system
- Promotion and tourism programmes
- Research and development initiatives
- Entrepreneur development activities.

### c) Community Based Development

Community based development initiatives are activities that are inspired by or aimed at serving particular social groups in a locality. The aim of these is usually to generate socially useful, labour intensive projects (van Wyk 2004:136). The basic objectives are to

- Generate employment for particular groups
- Gain control over the neighbourhood economy
- Inspire self help and co-operative group-oriented assistance
- Operate for public benefit
- Promote democratic management

The SDM can actively stimulate and support community based initiatives by

- Developing revolving loan funds as seed capital for community projects
- Subcontract to community groups the delivery of community services
- Develop facilities for community groups

- Make equipment available for use

### **3.3.2.2 SEDIBENG INTEGRATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (SIEDP)**

The SIEDP strategies and projects are closely related to the poverty alleviation and gender equity programme. In the poverty alleviation and gender equity programme, the actions being undertaken, strive to facilitate and build the capacity of the local communities in such a manner that will support all the LED related projects of the IDP (IDP Review 2005/06: 49).

Local authorities exert great influence on the local economy. They are responsible for providing infrastructure and services that are vital both for economic growth and for meeting the development needs of local citizens. There are, however several tools to be used for LED success in every municipality. This section shall focus on the different tools used in LED in the SDM.

Strategies that were developed for the promotion of LED provide a framework within which all activities can be accommodated and aligned. This framework sets the scene for a coordinated and focused approach towards the stimulation and development of the local economic environments. Specific and development programmes are categorized as follows:

#### **a) Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMMEs)**

SMMEs rather than large companies are the true engines for local economic development (IRI & NBI 1998:8). The small businesses and emerging entrepreneurs are being supported through existing institution such as Vaal/Gaumac and this includes a focus on developing linkages with big businesses (SDM Pro Poor 2004:41).

#### **b) Community Empowerment and Development**

This focuses on poverty alleviation through food security, social regeneration, environmental projects, youth development, HIV/ AIDS prevention and care and community leader capacitating (SDM Pro Poor 2004:41).

SDM has the social grant in place to cater for those who are elderly and cannot find employment and also those living with HIV/ AIDS as well as people with disabilities and children of single parents who cannot afford the minimum standard of providing for a child.

#### **c) Rural Development**

This focuses on rural assistance and service centers, supporting emerging farmers as well as commercial farmers (SDM Pro Poor 2004:41).

#### **d) Human Resources Development**

This aspect focuses on training and skills development in partnership with tertiary institutions, developing business skills through apprenticeship mentorship, bursaries and sponsorships (SDM Pro Poor 2004:41).

According to the SDM Pro Poor (2004: 41), one of the key projects for taking the Integrated Economic Development Plan (IEDP) forward is the establishment of an Economic Development Agency (EDA) for Sedibeng. Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) funding is therefore sought. The tourism sector is not included in the strategy or instruments for SDM had compiled a separate Tourism Development Strategy.

#### **e) Tourism Development Strategy**

The SDM will facilitate the growth and development of a dynamic, vibrant, sustainable and responsible tourism industry in Sedibeng, in partnership with public and private sector stakeholders and civil society and in a manner that

builds on the area's rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage, builds capacity, encourages entrepreneurship, contributes to improving the quality of life of all residents and offers excellent service to visitors (SDM Tourism: 2006).

### **3.3.2.3 Overarching Values**

The SDM is guided by the core values outlined in the IDP projects namely:

- Professionalism: exemplified by an adherence to best practices, standards and the pursuit of excellence
- Equity: exemplified by a workforce subscribing to the values of no racialism, non-sexism, democracy and unity
- Commitment: exemplified by the willingness to go the extra mile
- Consistency: exemplified by the pursuit to excellence in local government initiatives
- Anti-corruption: exemplified by adherence to best practice, standards and a code of conduct, honesty and truthfulness of both politicians and officials
- Transparency: exemplified by the accountability of the Council to all stakeholders especially the communities (SDM Tourism: 2006).

### **3.3.2.4 Principles**

The following principles, which are based on the concept of 'Responsible Tourism' as outlined in the National White Paper on the Development and Promotion of Tourism in South Africa (1996), specifically guide the activities of the SDM in relation to tourism planning and development planning:

1. Tourism should be government led, private sector driven and community based. Government will provide the enabling framework for the industry to flourish and effective community involvement will form the basis of tourism growth. Tourism development will be underpinned by sustainable environmental practices; it is dependent on the establishment

of cooperation and close partnerships among key stakeholders. Tourism will be used as a development tool for the empowerment of previously neglected communities and should particularly focus on the empowerment of women in such communities.

2. Tourism development will take place in the context of close cooperation with other provinces and states in Southern Africa. It will support the economic, social and environmental goals and policies of provincial and national government

### **3.3.2.5 Objectives**

In planning, developing and facilitating tourism in the district, the SDM aims to develop the synergies between district and local municipalities, defining roles and responsibilities and a culture of working together in a mutually complementary rather than competitive manner. Further, it plans to work in partnership with the public and private sectors and civil society, forge partnerships with national, provincial and local public, private and civil society stakeholders.

The SDM aims to market the region's attractions and tourism products, make accessible and share relevant information with the industry and the public, develop excellent and innovative tourism products in partnership with public and private sector stakeholders and communities. The municipality further aims to develop and maintain the physical infrastructure, facilities and amenities necessary to support tourism and create jobs, promoting investments and ensuring that economic benefits and opportunities are spread to residents throughout the area ([www.sedibeng.gov.za/tourism](http://www.sedibeng.gov.za/tourism)).

The SDM plans to build human resource capacity, facilitate training for new and emerging entrants into the industry and upgrade the skills of existing service providers. In addition, plans are to ensure that all communities are aware and informed of the benefits and opportunities presented by tourism, and empowered to take advantage of these, and improve the overall physical environment of the district to create a better impression for potential tourists ([www.sedibeng.gov.za/tourism](http://www.sedibeng.gov.za/tourism)).

### **3.4 STRATEGIC PROGRAMS**

The SDM has got the following strategies in place to promote LED in the region. Amongst these strategies are (Sedibeng Tourism: 2006):

Sedibeng Institutional Arrangements

Partnership Strategy

A training and capacity building strategy

Accreditation, registration license, quality assurance programme

Community awareness program

A database of tourism products and services (customised and electronic)

A tourism enterprises database

New product development strategy

Tourism signage plan

Investment and funding strategy

SMME support strategy

Public awareness strategy

Land use environmental management for tourism programme

Tourism research programme

Tourism marketing strategy

### 3.5 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

According to SALGA (2000: 8-9), IDP is a fairly common sense approach to planning. IDP is a process that aims to maximise the impact of scarce resources and limited capacity through planning and development interventions strategically and holistically. It is designed to promote socio-economic development in local areas. It can achieve this by

- Levering funds from other spheres of government, donors and the private sector through packaging projects and programmes
- Facilitating the creation of an environment that is conducive to investment and local economic development.
- Proposing direct interventions in the economy through providing incentives, and developing economic infrastructure.

#### 3.5.1 Legal Imperatives

The *Municipal System Act*, No 32 of 2000 states that each municipal council must adopt a single, inclusive and strategic plan for the development of its municipality. This plan should:

- Link, integrate and co-ordinate plans and take into account proposals for the development of the municipality
- Align the municipality's resources and capacity with the implementation of the plan
- Form the policy framework and general basis on which annual budgets must be based
- Be compatible with national and provincial plans and planning requirements (SALGA 2000: 8-9).

It is a legal requirement that every municipality compile an Integrated Development Plan. The *Municipal System Act*, No 32 of 2000 also requires that the IDP be implemented, that the municipality monitors and evaluates its

performance with regard to the IDPs implementation and that the IDP be reviewed annually to effect improvements.

The Municipal Systems Act further states that the Municipal Council

a) Must review its Integrated Development Plan annually in accordance to with an assessment of its performance measures in terms of Section 41 and to the extent that changing circumstances so demand.

b) May amend its IDP Integrated Development Plan in accordance with the prescribed process. The review and amendment process must adhere to the requirements for public participation set out in the Municipal Systems Act (2000). The preparation of the Sedibeng District Municipality IDP involves three local municipalities namely: Emfuleni, Lesedi and Midvaal and should emanate from a close planning relationship between the district and the three local municipalities as well as between the DM, Province and National government.

The next section shall focus on IDP key elements and process that took place in SDM IDP peer review for the IDP 2005/ 06, with the objective of fighting poverty and crime prevention.

### **3.5.2 Member of Executive Committee (MEC)'s Comments**

The SDM IDP Preview 2005/06 makes the following insights, in accordance with the provisions of Section 31 of the Municipal Systems Act. Comments on the Integrated Development Plan for the Sedibeng District Municipality in relation to that of the other local municipalities in the district were made by the MEC for Development Planning and Local Government. These are (IDP Review 2005/06).

a) **Supporting the priority to enable faster economic growth and job creation**

- Too little emphasis is placed on plans on the macro-economic analysis of the situation. The bulk of the proposed economic interventions are centered on either

LED or tourism, which will in all likelihood not be sufficient to regenerate the economy in the region.

- The economic downturn in the region should be addressed as a provincial and national concern and Sedibeng need to be involved in the development and implementation of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS).
- The LED strategy of the District is in-ward looking.
- The municipality needs to constructively involve the private sector in the IDP process.

**b) Support for fighting poverty and building safe, secure and sustainable communities initiatives**

- In contrast to previous years most of the required sector plans were either completed or nearing completion
- A specific issue that is recognised for provincial, local and cross boundary engagement is the pressure on Sedibeng to provide housing for the broader region
- The importance of rural development was highlighted in all the IDPs in the district
- The Gauteng Urban Edge was recognised and respected in all the IDPs; it is a policy measure that needs engagement in the district as to its aims, exact location, implementation and implications.
- In terms of poverty alleviation the targets that have been set in the district IDP are quite high.
- With reference to the provision of essential basic services including water, sanitation and electricity as well as associated infrastructure, clear targets and timeframes must be met.

**c) Priority to deepen democracy and realize the constitutional rights of the people**

- It is evident that the IDP-reviews in the district was based on public participation and driven by municipalities.
- The process of public participation can be improved by the translation of IDP material into the dominant local languages, confirmation of the responsibilities of councilors and the involvement of Community Development Workers.

**d) Supporting the priority to develop healthy, skilled and productive people**

The lack of economic expertise in the municipalities in the district has been raised as an issue of major concern, especially as the region is under severe economic pressure due to a decline in its traditional industrial base.

### **3.5.3 Peer Review Process**

The Peer Review Process is a joint programme between the Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG) as well as SALGA. According to the SDM IDP preview 2005/06, the Peer Review Process aims to assist the municipality to assess its current achievements and capacity in order to achieve its goals and objectives. These assessments focus on the following:

- Sustainable development,
- Leading and learning,
- Democracy,
- Good governance, community engagement and performance and resource management.

The SDM IPD review emanated from the Peer Review and integrated these into the processes to ensure improved service delivery. In terms of the IDP Review Guidelines, IDPs are reviewed based on 4 primary areas of intervention, that is, Annual IDP Review, the IDP Process, and Amendments in Response to Changing Circumstances and Comments from the MEC. Throughout the year, as

the IDP is being implemented and its performance is monitored, new information becomes available and major unexpected events may occur. This information is then used to make immediate changes to planning and implementation. After Sedibeng's first round of the IDP, and in compliance with the need to annually review it, a number of issues required refinement to ensure that the IDP was indeed:

- Strategic;
- Implementation orientated;
- Participatory and
- Integrated.

The review is in line with the national objectives of the government to provide basic services and needs to local communities and to fight poverty. The next section shall focus on the review.

### **3.6 ECONOMIC OVERVIEW**

The Sedibeng economy showed a steady growth of 2.2% for 2004 and a further projected economic growth rate of 3.8% for 2005. The growth rate of 2.2% is less than the Gauteng economic growth rate as well as the national economic growth rate. Sedibeng experience high levels of poverty (51% of the people of Sedibeng live in poverty) and an economy that does not yield the concomitant jobs, this is further compounded by low levels of skills (SDM IDP, 2005/06: 19).

In spite of the fact that a substantial share of Gauteng's industrial manufacturing is located in Sedibeng, the area faces industrial decline in conjunction with increasing urbanisation pressures. Both unemployment and poverty rank the highest in Gauteng. Sedibeng's economic structure is characterised by a dual economy, which manifests in a split between the formal (developed) and informal (developing) economies, known colloquially as the first and the second

economies (SDM IDP, 2005/06: 19). It is these economic hazards that poverty alleviation schemes aim to tackle.

### **3.7 SOCIAL OVERVIEW**

#### **a) Health**

Three public hospitals serviced by Gauteng are located in the District that largely provides free service to the poor, namely Kopanong Hospital in Vereeniging, the Sebokeng Hospital in Sebokeng and AG Visser Hospital in Heidelberg. Primary health care is rendered through clinics located in urban and service centres.

- **Number of Clinics in Sedibeng Local Municipality in 2002**

There is a total number of 38 clinics, 1 satellite and 6 mobile units in SDM, namely: a) Emfuleni 27; b) Midvaal 4 clinics and 1 mobile unit and c) Lesedi 7 clinics, 1 satellite and 5 mobile units.

There is an oversupply of health facilities in urban areas as opposed to newer settlements and rural areas and audits of clinics show that they are in various stages of disrepair with some too small to render a comprehensive service. The rationalisation of clinics is seen as one means to address this issue and there is currently a Memorandum of Understanding between Gauteng Province and Sedibeng to jointly plan and work on the future funding and devolution of Primary Health Care to the District to resuscitate the objective of poverty alleviation. The process includes a plan to seek donor funds to build clinics where prioritised using savings from the rationalisation of clinics to operationalise new ones (IDP 2005/06: 21).

- **HIV and AIDS**

HIV and AIDS have a significant impact on poorer communities. It does not only reduce productivity but also significantly increases vulnerability and dependency levels (Ababio 2005: 334). The pandemic affects largely economically active or potentially economically active individuals and has a significant negative impact at both household and societal levels. Caregivers are faced with additional responsibilities and HIV and AIDS related deaths often increase the vulnerability of children as they are either orphaned or become de facto household heads in the absence of healthy adults (IDP; 2005/06: 21).

Notably, the zero-prevalence rate is increasing from 15% in 1996 to 29.4% in 2000. Widespread marketing and promotion of Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) is required to reduce referral counselling and testing. Significant challenges in the fields of HIV education awareness, prevention and care remain, particularly with respect to the dissemination of anti-retroviral (IDP 2005/06: 21).

The IDP's programme centers on community mobilization and communication; prevention and education services in support of behaviour change (supply of condoms, VCT and PMTCT) as well as care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS. The district is aiming to rollout the comprehensive treatment care and support including ARV dissemination; establish a broad Home Based Care Learnership Programme and work with existing civil society institutions operating within the field as well as other role-players to deliver home based care to communities living with the disease and promote Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) (SDM pro poor: 54).

The SDM will roll out Multi- Purpose Community Centers (MPCC). These will play an important role as training centers and as a central base for

implementation and coordination of community development programmes (SDM pro poor: 54).

#### **b) Environmental Health**

The existing situation with regard to environmental health is outlined in key findings sourced from the Sedibeng State of Environment Report (SOER), which includes the following:

- Articulate pollution in Sedibeng (mainly Emfuleni and Midvaal) exceeds international health standards by more than 200%. Approximately 70% of this is due to coal burning by households and dust while the remainder is due to industrial activities and motor vehicles, posing potential public health concerns. A survey by the Vaal Research Group (VRG) showed that 79% of respondents in a survey in Emfuleni felt that they were affected by air pollution and half the respondents felt that they were badly affected.
- High levels of water pollution are found as a result of high levels of Ecoli as well as heavy metals from industrial pollution both of which emanate from both inside and outside the SDM.
- Wetlands are highly sensitive and show signs of disturbance largely as a result of human settlement.
- Although a large proportion of bigger industries in Sedibeng currently prescribe to ISO 14000 or are in the process of prescribing, significant air and water pollution persist. The SOER recommended establishing a registry of ISO 14 000 industries and prescribing industries of a certain to apply for ISO 14 000 compliance.
- Measures to improve environmental reporting across the District are needed. There has to be an improvement in monitoring and enforcement of point source and non-point source of water and air pollution, which affects the health of

Sedibeng residents. Also, improved regulation of industries is required - a responsibility of the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (GDACE).

- SDM and the local municipalities have not yet adopted Environmental Management Systems. This is problematic since it does not set a good example to the private sector or show commitment to environmental management. However, lack of capacity remains an issue (IDP 2005/06: 22).

#### **c) Education**

There is a high rate of non attendance (29%) of school or other educational facilities in Sedibeng. The problem is most severe in Midvaal where 38% of children do not attend education facilities, followed by 31% in Lesedi and 27% in Emfuleni. This indicates that children are not being exposed to Early Childhood Development (ECD) which is considered fundamental to children's growth and development and forms the foundation for a successful school career (IDP review 2005/06: 19).

#### **• Quality of Education**

Education facilities vary a great deal across the local municipalities. Approximately 50% of school buildings are said to be in a poor condition and 23% have poor road access. The absence of adequate water and sanitation facilities in some schools remains a problem particularly in Lesedi and Midvaal and to a lesser extent in Emfuleni. 12% of schools or 38 schools exceed the recommended pupil to teacher ratio. There is also a shortage of 34 libraries in the District. Education levels are improving although the level and type of skills required by the economy need to be improved upon (IDP review 2005/06: 23).

#### **d) Safety and Security**

A survey by the Vereeniging Research Group (VRG) found that nearly a third of households were affected by crime in the previous 12 months, which translates into 1 in 4 households being exposed to crime over this period. Implementation

of the Social Crime Prevention Strategy outlined in the IDP is pivotal to alleviating crime as it focuses on strengthening basic service delivery in government departments central to crime prevention. The strategy includes the departments responsible for social welfare, health and education as well as the police, courts and prisons. A Disaster Management Plan is in place in Sedibeng. This is particularly important given the potentially devastating impact disasters can have on poor and vulnerable groups given existing hardships and the standard of living.

The following constitutes correctional services statistics:

- Sentenced Prisoners = 382
- Unsentenced Prisoners = 894
- Juveniles Sentenced = 39
- Juveniles Unsentenced = 223
- Absconders = 343
- Absconders Trailed = 34
- Probationers / Paroles = 807

The information referred to above covers the geographic area of the Vaal Triangle and the Northern Free State formally known as Groenpunt Management Area (IDP review 2005/06: 23).

**e) Social Security grants**

As part of a broader strategy aimed at combating poverty the approach is on the individual. The following social security points exist in Sedibeng.

- **Local Number of Number of Pay-Points Number of Municipality  
Service-Points Satellite Point**

Emfuleni: Sebokeng, Bophelong, Louisnus, Bophelong & Mpho-Siphiwe, Roshnee, Vaaloewer Evaton Sharpeville - Care of Aged Boipatong & Rus-ter-Vaal  
Midvaal: Vereeniging, Kliprivier, De Deur & Meyerton, Rand Vaal, Vaal Marina  
Lesedi Heidelberg & Impumelelo, Jameson- Impumelelo & Ratanda park,

Shalimaridge, Alra Park Ratanda & Bloekomspruit (IDP review 2005/06: 23). The following table shows the different social grants and how these are allocated.

**Administration of social grants in Sedibeng District Municipality**

<p><b>Children in need</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor children up to the age of 14 of are entitled to a child support grant of R180. The grant is allocated on the basis of income-based means test of primary caregiver.</li> <li>▪ Children up to the age of 18 identified as being "in need of care" in terms of the Child Care Act of 1984 and placed by the courts in foster care, are eligible for a monthly Foster Care Grant of R560.</li> <li>▪ Disabled children up to the age of 18 and in permanent home care are eligible for a Care Dependency Grant of R780; children disabled by AIDS also qualify.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Province is in the process of improving access to grants.</li> <li>▪ The provision of social security grants will be transferred to a new agency over the next three years.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Disabled</b></p>	<p>A disability grant of R780 applies to disabled individuals including people disabled by AIDS who are unable to work increased from R740.</p>	<p>Province is in the process of improving access to grants. The provision of social grants will be transferred to the new national agency over the next three years.</p>
<p><b>Aged</b></p>	<p>Men and women over the age of 60 are entitled to a pension of R780 increased as of 1 April 2005</p>	<p>Province is in the process of streamlining delivery of pensions. The provision of social security grants will be transferred to the new national agency over the next three years.</p>
<p><b>Unemployed and indigent</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indigent policy includes amongst others rates rebates.</li> <li>▪ Grants in Aid of R180.</li> </ul>	<p>Each local municipality has its indigent policy</p>

Source: SDM pro poor: 46

The distribution of welfare grants is being outsourced to a national agency. A number of residents receive relief from these social grants, especially single mothers and the elderly. Children can be looked after well without government being blamed for negligence. It is the mothers who have the ultimate say as to how they are going to utilise the grant provided.

#### **f) Sports, Recreation, Arts, Culture & Heritage**

Sports, Recreation, Arts, Culture and Heritage are currently attracting attention from communities all over the Sedibeng Region. Programmes, Projects, Activities and Exhibitions are well attended and stakeholders participate to ensure that the mentioned activities are according to their needs. Although sport facilities are not utilized to their full potential there is still a need to develop, maintain and upgrade identified facilities. The need for facilities and development in rural areas has risen and the involvement of stakeholders from the rural communities is crucial in broadening the service (IDP; 2005/06: 24).

Performing Arts facilities are underutilized and a turn-around strategy must be developed to serve the needs of the communities and to ensure that the developmental role of the Sedibeng District Council is achieved. Facilities need to be upgraded to comply with norms and standards required by both artists and audiences. Historical research and heritage related matters are well attended to. Communities, individuals and cultural groups participate to ensure that their history is well documented, researched and preserved. Heritage sites and facilities play a major role in attracting domestic and international tourists. Educational tours based on historical information are popular amongst young and old. Due to the rich and diverse history of the region research projects,

cultural mapping and community awareness programmes are envisaged (IDP 2005/06: 24).

#### **g) Housing**

The majority of the population has access to shelter through formal (81.8%) and informal housing (18.2%). Backlog statistics vary according to source. For example, the SDM Status Quo Report noted the backlog as 52,300 units while Gauteng Provincial Government notes qualified need as 71,442 units. While these figures indicate a significant difference in estimations, the proportion of demand is greatest in Emfuleni given the size of the population in the area. Also, the majority of new low cost housing developments have been located in Emfuleni. Qualified need provides a new measure of housing demand and refers to the number of households who are potential seekers of new housing who are desirous of subsidised housing and who qualify for a housing subsidy (Gauteng Provincial Government, 2005).

A large scale of provincial housing projects has been implemented in Sedibeng, and the plans exist for further development as outlined in the Municipality Housing Plan (MHP). According to the MHP, Sedibeng has been allocated 6% of Gauteng's housing budget (approximately R118 million), for the 2004- 2006 period.

#### **h) Water**

Access to water in SDM is good as the majority of households (98%) in Sedibeng have access to piped water. Of this majority, only 10% of the population must leave their residences to get access piped water. Less than 2% of the population has alternative access to piped water such as boreholes and springs. All households are entitled to Free Basic Water (FBW) that means that the first six

kilolitres are free. FBW has been extended in the District, but varies according to each local municipality. All households receive FBW in Emfuleni, while 41% receive FBW in Lesedi and 87% in Midvaal (Gauteng Provincial Government, 2005).

There is still a question of how are meter readings taken, for the free basic water does not do much of a relief. But there is an expression of gratitude towards government, for having this in place.

#### **i) Sanitation**

Statistics on access to sanitation vary slightly. Strategic Environmental Focus notes that household sanitation is good with 83% having flush toilets. Similarly, the Co-operative Policy and Alternative Center (COPAC) found that almost 80% of households in Sedibeng had access to a flush toilet, 2% utilise the bucket system and 3% of the population have no access to toilets. 10% of the population utilise pit latrines without ventilation while ventilated improved pit latrines only account for 1%. Areas exhibiting a high concentration of households with no access to sanitation facilities are found in Evaton central, Bophelong 1, Meyerton Park, Tshepiso 1 and rural areas in Emfuleni, Lesedi and Midvaal (IDP review 2005/06:26).

Sanitation is important, as it has to do with healthy living, poor sanitation can have an adverse impact on people. Even though there is a system of free basic water, there is a feeling that, most of this water is being used up for sanitation, people do not see much of its benefits, and this applies mostly to low-income households.

#### **j) Electricity**

According to 2001 figures of the households, approximately 14% of households in Sedibeng are not electrified - with the split between local municipalities as follows: Midvaal (37%), Lesedi (27%) and Emfuleni (10%). Approximately 86% of households use electricity for lighting and 77% for cooking, indicating the usage of alternative energy sources for cooking. Coal is still used by 13% of households for heating purposes and by 4% of households for cooking. Approximately 16% of households continue to burn coal. Lesedi has the highest percentage usage of coal; however, due to the large number of households in Emfuleni, this area still has the highest number of coal-burning households, with an impact on air pollution. While electricity users are entitled to up to 50 kilowatts free electricity, only Lesedi has extended this to all electrified households, while the policy only applies to indigent households (with incomes below R500 per month) in Emfuleni and Midvaal (IDP 2005/06: 26). The issue of electricity is of interest to the respondents, for they feel that, even though most households are being electrified it does no remedy to the low-income households, especially those led by single women or mothers. There are still other basic needs to be provided for, by such households.

#### **k) Transport**

In general the state of transportation infrastructure is good although there is empirical evidence to suggest that there is a gradual decline in the condition of road infrastructure generally. Also, road infrastructure in rural areas and marginal and low-income areas such as Sebokeng, Evaton, Sharpeville, Boipatong, Bophelong and Ratanda are in a poor condition. It has been estimated that 14,000 households in Sedibeng are without adequate roads (IDP 2005/06:227).

Significantly, almost half the population (48%) does not travel to work or school. Of those who do travel, it is significant to note that walking and cycling account for 47% of all commuter trips. It is unclear whether these figures would be reduced if public transport improvements were made. It is important to note that although walking and cycling are utilised as major transport modes, they receive little or no attention. Also, the needs of the physically disabled are not recognised and there is a need to address accessibility for this segment of the population. Private vehicle transport is low (23%) compared to other municipal areas and minibus taxis are only responsible for 19% of trips. Many of the taxi routes are operating at capacity that indicates increased demand.

Rail commuter services are underutilised in spite of it being the cheapest mode of transport and it has been suggested that this is due to the lack of connectivity to major road infrastructure (IDP 2005/06: 27).

### **3.8 STRATEGIES**

Through a process of stakeholder and internal workshops, the Sedibeng District Municipality developed, with the intention to realise its broad developmental vision, the following strategies and objectives that would ensure that strategies are achieved, thereby realising the broad developmental vision:

Strategy 1: To create a financially viable and sustainable local government.

Strategy 2: To establish a culture of good corporate and co-operative governance.

Strategy 3: To consistently communicate in an effective and efficient manner with all stakeholders.

Strategy 4: To contribute towards the growth and development of the District's economy.

Strategy 5: To integrate environmental, social and economic development issues into spatial planning and implantation.

Strategy 6: To alleviate poverty in pursuit of a better life for all.

Strategy 7: To deliver cost- effective, efficient and quality sustainable services to stakeholders (IDP 2005/06: 31).

### 3.9 CONCLUSION

The apartheid dispensation has left a need for equality among the residents of South Africa, making the government's responsibility of service delivery challenging in addressing poverty and inequality. The Sedibeng District Municipality as a sphere of government also has its own programme of developing the local economy through the LED and IDP. The following needs are being met through the LED and IDP: housing; water and sanitation; electricity; and transport. For social welfare, these are being provided for: health; HIV/AIDS; sports and recreation; social grants; safety and security and education. There is a significant change in the lives of the residents of SDM, especially those that live below the poverty line with the grants the government provides as well as social amenities. The next chapter shall focus on the empirical study applied for conducting this research.

## **CHAPTER 4: EMPIRICAL STUDY OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGIES AS A MECHANISM FOR CRIME PREVENTION IN THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter aims to report the findings of the empirical research that was conducted for the poverty alleviation strategy as a mechanism for crime prevention in the Sedibeng District Municipality. The chapter begins with an exposition of research methodology theory; the target population and sample; pilot study; exposition of data collection and specific data to be obtained. Literature review is explained as a tool for data collection; interview and participant observation. A questionnaire for the interview was designed so as to gather data. This was done so as to test the hypothetical statement made in Chapter One.

### **4.2 METHODOLOGY**

According to Kotler and Armstrong (1987: 101) data could be collected by telephone, personal interviews and questionnaires by mail. It should be noted that data and methodology are inextricably interdependent. This is mainly the reason why the research methodology and approach to be used for a particular subject should always take into account the nature of the data to be used in the resolution of the problem, with emphasis on meaning than on members.

Bynard and Hanekom (1997:129) argue that the nature of research, unit analysis, data sources and the academic field in which a specific study is undertaken are instrumental in selecting the applicable research methods.

### 4.3 SPECIFIC DATA TO BE OBTAINED

Data collection is concerned with the design of the questionnaire, while the data collection technique explains the administering of the questionnaire and to gather the survey data (Dalton, 1991:136). Purley and Rordan (1990:102) developed the following five methods for effective research

- To interview, you ask individuals for information about the topic. You must prepare questions, including probes that will cause you to ask more questions;
- To survey, you must ask a group of people to respond to a written question. You must prepare questions and an answer form that is easy to evaluate;
- To observe, you watch the situation in action, looking for response actions and basic facts and their significance;
- To test, you compare two items of some criterion or set of criteria; and
- To use the library, which is a method of finding information

A list of questionnaire was designed to gather information from the respondents. This was conducted in a form of an interview. The questionnaire was not given to each respondent as to promote an active participation. The respondents were briefed about the research topic so as to establish an understanding by all.

In a recent study, Morison (1998:119) reported that it was important for the researcher first to do a thorough literature search of previous theoretical and empirical work in the relevant field and then to relate his or her work to the existing literature. Morison calls the process by means of which a measuring instrument such as a questionnaire or a scale is developed, operationalisation. This instrument should constitute a measure of the key concepts in the research question. In other words, the process should involve compiling for purpose of measurement, a list of characteristics devoted to the concept. For the purpose of this study, the question answers were put in a form of a questionnaire as it

appears on page 90. In the same study with regard to the measuring instrument, Morison (1998:127), expressed the opinion that the nature of such an instrument should be determined by a range of factors including formulation of the problem, the nature of the phenomenon and the methodological preferences of the researcher.

#### **4.4 COMPILING A DATA PLAN**

In compiling a data plan, it is important to consider the internal and external data first, since these represent data which is ready to be gathered (Luck & Rubin, 1987:100). Primary data is of cardinal importance and entails the collection of proper information. Leedy (1989: 86) describes primary data as the data which is the nearest to the source of the truth as this provides a better reflection of the true facts than any other source. Primary data also refers to data which has never been collected before. It can be obtained by individuals, families and representatives of public institutions through observation, interviews and structured questionnaires.

Primary data can be collected in a structured and unstructured way. A formal questionnaire could be used with formal questions, which are addressed to all respondents. On the other hand, the interview is guided by answers to the questions. The researcher is also allowed to ask direct instead of indirect questions with reference to feelings and attitudes (Kotler & Armstrong, 1985:100).

Luck and Rubin (1987: 117) are of the opinion that planning and collecting primary data can be classified in four phases, namely

- The data should allow the researcher to reach his or her objective;
- The researcher should decide which type of data is needed to support his or her research successfully;

- The researcher needs to decide from whom the primary data will be collected; and
- Which methods of communication should be applied.

According to Luck & Rubin (1987:117), the gathering of secondary data on the other hand is far easier and less time-consuming, mainly because it has been gathered and made available by others. Knowledge of secondary data sources and availability is essential for this is constantly needed in planning and conducting studies. For the purpose of this study, a list of interview questions was designed. Respondents were to answer the questions.

#### 4.5 THE TARGET POPULATION AND SAMPLE

According to Mouton (1996:135), a population can be defined in two step process, that is, the population to which the researcher wishes to generalise and the sample frame which is a set of cases from which sample will eventually be selected. Nel, et al (1988:96) as well as Luck Rubin (1987:209) describe the population as the total number or instructions from which the researcher is trying to draw conclusions. Luck and Rubin (1987: 212) go on by giving an overview of the steps to be followed in sampling, it is as follows:

- define population from which the sample is to be drawn;
- establish a frame with that population;
- choose the method of selecting the sample;
- determine the size of sample that is needed; and
- write instructions for identifying and selecting actual members of sample.

The research population comprised members of the SAPS, CPF members, the business sector and the civil society. The research sample was limited to fifteen respondents, due to the constraints of resources such as finance and a limited scope of a mini- dissertation..

#### **4.6 PILOT STUDY**

According to Babbie (1998:159), there is always a possibility of error no matter how carefully a researcher may design the questionnaires. The surest protection against such errors is to pre-test the questionnaire on a limited number of subjects from the same population that of which the eventual project is intended (Welman & Kruger, 1999:146). A list of questions were discussed with different stakeholders before the research was undertaken. There was a positive response among respondents, this was done four weeks before the research was undertaken.

#### **4.7 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH**

Qualitative research is designed to reveal a target audience's range of behaviour and the perceptions that drive it with reference to specific topics or issues. It uses in-depth studies of small groups of people to guide and support the construction of hypotheses. The results of qualitative research are descriptive rather than predictive ([www.qrca.org/whatis\\_qr.asp](http://www.qrca.org/whatis_qr.asp)).

Qualitative method aims to provide an understanding on the basis of rich contextual and detailed data (Mason 1996: 4). It enables the researcher to see the world from the point of view of participants. It leads to exact quantities of which generalisations can be based (Guy et al. 1987:256). Today, qualitative methods in the field of marketing research include in-depth interviews with individuals,

group discussions (from two to ten participants is typical); diary and journal exercises; and in-context observations. Sessions may be conducted in person, by telephone, via videoconferencing and via the Internet. For the purpose of this study, interviews were conducted in a form of group discussions. Participants were encouraged to speak freely how they perceive the subject being investigated. The next session shall discuss the reason researchers use qualitative research.

#### 4.7.1 Why Use Qualitative Research?

Several unique aspects of qualitative research contribute to rich, insightful results:

- Synergy among respondents, as they build on each other's comments and ideas. The dynamic nature of the interview or group discussion process, which engages respondents more actively than is possible in more structured survey.
- The opportunity to probe ("Help me understand why you feel that way") enabling the researcher to reach beyond initial responses and rationales.
- The opportunity to observe, record and interpret non-verbal communication (i.e., body language, voice intonation) as part of a respondent's feedback, which is valuable during interviews or discussions, and during analysis.
- The opportunity to engage respondents in "play" such as projective techniques and exercises, overcoming the self-consciousness that can inhibit spontaneous reactions and comments ([www.qrca.org/whatis\\_qr.asp](http://www.qrca.org/whatis_qr.asp)).

The next session shall discuss the advantages of qualitative research.

#### 4.7.2 Advantages of Qualitative Research.

Qualitative research offers a number of advantages in that it helps the researcher to:

- Develop hypotheses;
- Understand the feelings, values, and perceptions that underlie and influence behaviour;
- Identify customer needs;
- Capture the language and imagery customers use to describe and relate to a product, service, or brand;
- Establish parameters (relevant questions, range of responses) for a quantitative study; and
- Explore specific information obtained in a quantitative study, to better understand the context and/or subtext of the data ([www.qrca.org/whatis\\_qr.asp](http://www.qrca.org/whatis_qr.asp)).

The next session shall discuss the various tools that were used for collecting data; and their analysis will also be provided.

#### 4.8 Literature Review

According to Taylor (2005:1), a literature review is an account of what has been published on a topic by accredited scholars and researchers. Occasionally one will be asked to write one as a separate assignment (sometimes in the form of an annotated bibliography), but more often it is part of the introduction to an essay, research report, or thesis. In writing the literature review, one's purpose is to convey to his or her reader what knowledge and ideas have been established on a topic, and what their strengths and weaknesses are. As a piece of writing, the literature review must be defined by a guiding concept (e.g., research objective,

the problem or issue one is discussing or argumentative thesis). It is not just a descriptive list of the material available, or a set of summaries.

Besides enlarging one's knowledge about the topic, writing a literature review enables one gain and demonstrate skills in two areas; namely:

- **Information seeking:** the ability to scan the literature efficiently, using manual or computerized methods, to identify a set of useful articles and books,
- **Critical appraisal:** the ability to apply principles of analysis to identify unbiased and valid studies.

A number of written sources were consulted for the purpose of this research. Most of the sources consulted are from Sedibeng District Municipality, for accuracy. A number of surveys were undertaken by SDM in order to make findings about the poverty and inequality levels in the region and crime as well. These are fitting for the study, for the findings recorded correspond with the general feeling of the residents; some were interviewed for the purpose of this study while with others it was a general talk, concerning the subject.

Some of the writings were obtained from the Internet, focusing on the different interpretations and definitions of the subjects that were researched (poverty; inequality and crime).

#### **4.9 Interviews**

Wessels (1994:404) believes that one of the most frequently used techniques of data are interviews and questionnaires. Interviews are particularly useful for getting the story behind a participant's experiences. The interviewer can pursue in-depth information around a topic. Interviews may be useful as follow-up to certain respondents to questionnaires, such as to further investigate their

responses. Usually open-ended questions are asked during interviews (McNamara 1999:1).

#### **4.9.1 Interviews by telephones**

Luck and Rubin (1987:106) are of the opinion that the telephone is definitely the most convenient means of reaching survey respondents. Nel, et al. (1988:168) agreed and assured that this method is important for the interviewer to gain and maintain the cooperation and confidence of the respondent. In order to establish support, a pleasant and friendly telephone voice and a short introduction are essential. Luck and Rubin (1987:104) further stated that this was the traditional medium where interviewer engaged in face-to-face conversation with the respondents, which could take place in various types of locations.

#### **4.9.2 Personal Interviews**

Personal interview is a well-known method of collecting data (Babbie, 1998:264). Interviews can either be formal or informal. Informal or structured interviews, prepared or standardized scheduled questionnaires are used to collect quantitative data. Informal or unstructured interviews are used to probe in-depth questions in order to gather qualitative data. Personal interviews may be time-consuming with time not taken up by the interviewee itself but used in arranging the appointment that suits both the interviewer and respondent.

The interview serves as a useful function; all questions are answered and that the respondent understands the instructions and questions. However, the interviewer can also cause errors. He or she may misunderstand the respondents' answers, but makes a clerical error in recording it, or it may simply record an answer even when the respondents failed to reply. To avoid this situation interviews can be recorded with permission of the interviewer (Luck & Rubin 1987: 106).

Finally, Patton (1991: 349) found that the researcher's full attention must be focused upon the interviewer. He must be thinking about probing for further explanation or clarification of what he is now saying, formulating probes, relating current discussion with what he has already said, thinking ahead to add a new question that has now arisen and was taken account of in the standing guide and attending to the interviewer in a manner that communicates to him that the researcher is indeed listening. In addition, there is a problem of taking notes even if shorthand is used in the process, which decreases a researcher's interviewing capacity; it is advisable that the discussions should be taped.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted for the purpose of this study; they involved interviews with CPF members, SAPS members and people from the business sector.

- **Profile of the respondents**

Firstly, the respondents were asked to indicate their gender:

- Out of the twenty respondents, fourteen were female and six were male. Women are seen as more interested in community matters than men. Again in our country we are at a point of promoting women participation in general affairs.

Secondly, the respondents were asked to indicate their age:

- 8 respondents were of the age range between 18- 24
- 6 respondents were of the age range between 25- 31
- 1 respondent between the age range of 32-37
- 5 respondents were of the age range between 38- 44

Thirdly, the respondents were asked to indicate their occupation:

- Seven respondents are students who are actively involved in community developmental programmes, and have been active for three years respectively.

- Two respondents are members of the SAPS.
- Four respondents are in the business sector.
- Seven respondents are CPF (employed and unemployed).

Below is the questionnaire that was used for conducting this research:

Questions	Strongly disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1. Is crime a major problem in SDM?	0%	40%	60 %
2. Is it fair to attribute poverty and crime to apartheid?	30%	40%	30%
3. Is there enough community involvement in poverty alleviation and crime prevention?	30%	50%	20%
4. Do you think there is a link between crime and poverty?	0%	40%	60%
5. Is local government effective in poverty alleviation and crime prevention initiatives?	20%	40%	40%
6. In your opinion, does poverty cause crime?	20%	20%	60%
7. Are you aware of the poverty alleviation strategies in SDM?	0%	50%	50%
8. Are you satisfied with the housing provided by government?	20%	50%	30%
9. Do you think that the level of education in SDM is good in order to create a society of literates?	20%	50%	30%

10. Are the social grants helping in addressing the issue of poverty in SDM?	20%	40%	40%
11. Do you have a problem in accessing emergency services such as ambulance and other medical facilities?	60%	30%	10%
12. As there is an over supply of health facilities, is the public encouraged to use these facilities?	20%	40%	40%
13. With the VCT out for the public to use for HIV, are these well marketed, do people know about this facility?	30%	40%	30%
14. About sport and recreation, in your opinion do you think that this strategy is working in order to control and prevent crime among youth?	10%	40%	50%
15. Can arts and culture be viewed as a strategy for poverty alleviation?	20%	50%	30%
16. Do you think that the SAPS is doing its role to protect the residents?	10%	60%	30%
17. Can we agree that SDM is really playing its role to make the life of its residents better and secure?	10%	40%	50%
18. Is there co-operation between the municipality and SAPS in dealing with crime?	40%	40%	20%

19. Are all stakeholders in crime prevention acknowledged and supported?	50%	30%	20%
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### Findings of the interviews

When asked about poverty and crime, the CPF members said that poverty and crime affect them all hence their involvement in crime prevention. Poverty is seen as an excuse for people to commit crime. There is a slight problem with their involvement though. It is argued that some of the SAPS still do not understand the concept of social crime prevention and this makes it difficult for them to participate fully. On the issue of poverty alleviation initiatives by the SDM, they believe that the SDM is really trying and should be applauded by its achievements thus far, for many who did not have houses now have a shelter; they have access to clean water; even though there is room for improvements, especially where roads are concerned.

The SAPS members interviewed are the ones in social crime, they also argue that poverty alleviation should be everyone's responsibility, for the more the people are stricken by poverty, the more likely they are to commit crime. On the issues of crime prevention, they argue that generally there is support from the top management of the station and it is believed that it is just a matter of time till the SAPS members who are not in social crime prevention understand it; there is hope for a better reception for all stakeholders in crime prevention. The SAPS is also under the frustration caused by lack of partnership with the justice department. They argue that when the court of law decides that the crime committed is not worthy to be trialled, they are kept in the dark and will see a perpetrator walking in the streets, making the community to lose faith in them even more.

The respondents in the business sector however had a different opinion about crime and poverty. They argue that crime causes poverty, because due to shoplifting and other types of crime committed to their business, it is hard for them to employ new staff. Instead of creating jobs, jobs are reserved for those already working, leaving the unemployed more impoverished.

A summary of the interview findings as contained in the interview questions are as follows:

- There is a problem of crime in Sedibeng, all respondents are affected by it on different degrees.
- There is still apathy from community members in poverty alleviation initiatives, which makes poverty alleviation difficult to achieve for poverty affects the socio-economic status of the Sedibeng.
- The poverty alleviation strategies by the SDM are effective and well appreciated by the community, these are known by most of the community members.
- The community appreciates Housing and education as strategies. Education is believed to have a great impact on the socio-economic status of the District for when people are literate they will be better positioned to initiate more poverty alleviation techniques.
- Social grants are a great relief to "poor households". Emergency facilities, even though difficult to access are available to all.
- Health facilities as this is paramount, are being accessed by all as well as services like VCT.
- Arts and culture and recreational facilities are applauded by most as this keeps people from committing crime especially young people.

- There is lack of co-operation between the SAPS, community and members and SDM in crime prevention and all these stakeholders are committed to making SDM a secure place for all.

#### 4.10 Participant Observation

The Wikipedia the free encyclopedia highlights that participant observation is a major research strategy which aims to gain a close and intimate familiarity with a given group of individuals (such as a religious, occupational, or deviant group) and their practices through an intensive involvement with people in their natural environment. The method originated in field work of social anthropologists and in the urban research of the Chicago School.

Participant observation has a quite distinct history from that of the positivist approach to research. Positivist researchers employing questionnaires and surveys assume that they already know what is important. In contrast, participant observation makes no firm assumptions about what is important. This method encourages researchers to immerse themselves in the day-to-day activities of the people whom they are attempting to understand. In contrast to testing ideas (deductive), they may be developed from observations (Wikipedia, 2005).

##### The analysis of observations

There are four stages of analysis whose overall aim is the categorisation of collected data within the context of a developed theoretical framework.

- To select and define problems, concepts and indices (such as inequalities, social classes, class mobility, wages and status). Once established, observed phenomena are then placed within a theoretical framework (say, theory of market inequality) for further investigation.

- A check on the frequency and distribution of phenomena (e.g., percentage of sample population in different social classes). This means to see what events and relations are typical and widespread. It is at this point that the distinction between qualitative and quantitative work breaks down (but not between good and bad research).
- The construction of a social system model; i.e., moving from substantive to formal theory, and the need to make broader links in observational studies (e.g., social class tensions and mobility in other parts of society). In analysing different contexts (say, various households, communities, and/or places), the researcher can then move to more formal theory composed of abstract categories (say, Marx's theory of class). Assisting in this stage of analysis is the use of units. A unit is a tool to use in scrutinising the data. Types of unit include 'class', 'status', 'practices', 'roles', 'relationships', 'organisations', 'settlements', etc. Each of these different units may have different questions asked of them by the analyst. Here, the development of an analytic framework during fieldwork renders the data both manageable and intelligible.
- The withdrawal from the field to a final analysis and write-up. Both distance and time are needed for reflection and analysis of the data. No matter how well the data are analysed, the results must be presented and communicated in a way that is both persuasive, well argued and accessible to the audience, demonstrating the authenticity of the descriptions and their analyses ([uk.geocities.com/qrpm/participantobservation](http://uk.geocities.com/qrpm/participantobservation)).

As it was important for the researcher to be knowledgeable in the subject, it was recommended that she becomes part of the survey, she could give her own

interpretations of the subject, and how her feelings and observation about the subject compare with those of other respondents.

#### Findings of the participant observation

The researcher has been involved in crime prevention for two years at the time of writing. The general observation in regard to the relationships between various stakeholders in crime prevention is as follows:

- There is still no clear understanding of the concept of social crime prevention. This is a joint venture whereby everyone affected by crime must pull in the weight of trying to prevent it. The Education Department argue it is a community safety and security department's responsibility. The justice system always have commitments for not showing up to the CPF meetings.
- Local government has a role to play in crime prevention as legislated. The district councillor for safety and security is active in community works and is mostly present at functions hosted by the SAPS for crime prevention.
- The police is also aware of the issue of poverty alleviation, hence they are involved in helping local charities.

#### **4.11 CONCLUSION**

The findings of the research reveal that there is still a big problem of poverty and crime in the Sedibeng District Municipality. This is however the legacy of apartheid as viewed by many. SDM is satisfactory in service delivery according to the study and the social grants are relieving many who are impoverished. The community is very appreciative of the houses, even though there are some

complaints as compared to other parts of the country for some houses, as argued by some of the respondents are better for an average family while others are too small.

Members of the community, the SAPS and CPF are eager to bring an end to poverty and crime. This can be achieved through a joint venture of different departments in fighting crime and improving the socio-economic status of the region. The next chapter shall focus on further research findings, recommendations and conclusion.

## CHAPTER 5: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to give a description of the respondents regarding poverty and crime in Sedibeng District Municipality. It also aims to provide solutions on how Sedibeng can best involve the community in alleviating poverty and preventing crime in the region.

The aim of this study was not necessarily to provide a statistical data, but rather to gather qualitative information. The results of the interview were analysed in terms of aggregated categories. An analysis of how the respondents view the concepts of poverty and crime and related matters are tabled below:

### 5.2 RESEARCH FINDINGS

5.2.1 Gender	SAPS members	CPF members	Business
Females	5%	50%	15%
Males	5%	15%	10%
5.2.2 Race			
Black	10%	60%	10%
White	0	15%	5%
Coloured	0	0	0

All of the respondents are well aware of the status quo of crime and poverty in the region. They all wish to participate in making their community a safe place to stay in and take pride in and also to be active in economic development in helping those who are being classed as living under the poverty line.

### **5.2.3 Conceptualising Poverty**

A number of respondents (40%) are of the opinion that the previous political dispensation of apartheid should be blamed for the socio-economic status in the region and the country at large. While 30% share the feeling that, the past should be left where it belongs in the past, people should rather help the government to better improve the lives of every residents in the country, going to the notion that “ democracy is the government of the people by the people for the people”. The government can only do so much, but if the residents join force and not look at the problem of poverty as the government’s problem, the government can further take pride in its constituency and try to deliver services that are readily to be received by the people, for it seems as if there is a dilemma as to what will please the people. 30% of respondents are just trying to cope with the way things are hoping for the better.

### **5.2.4 Conceptualising Crime**

Crime affects every one. Every respondent feel that people who commit crime have no excuse, they are just not loyal to the government of the day. They are of the opinion that the government by delivering houses, electricity, water and other basic services is really doing its best, especially with social grants which is a relief to women who have left with kids, people with disabilities and also the elderly. What the respondents feel is that it would be better for people to meet the government half way by appreciation.

### **5.2.5 Feelings about Social Crime Prevention**

Respondents who are involved in crime prevention, on different levels though, feel that there is still lack of understanding as far as social crime prevention is concerned. The department of community safety is really trying to workshop

people about the matter. 30% of the CPF members feel that if there were some form of incentive given to volunteers, people would be more interested in volunteering. While there is a general feeling that when workshops are conducted, those that are not in social crime prevention component are not the ones necessarily needing the workshop but officers from other components do.

### 5.3 TESTING THE HYPOTHESIS

The aim of this study was also to test the preliminary statement made in Chapter One, namely that:

- Crime is a concerned socio-economic and legal problem in Sedibeng region. An increased implementation of macro-economic strategies by the district municipality and other stakeholders' participation could positively result in reducing poverty and crime in the region.

According to the findings made, the statement has been validated. More public participation in crime prevention will enhance a safer community for all.

### 5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sedibeng District Municipality should accept that no matter the amount of projects and programmes implemented, time is the determining factor in solving the problem of poverty and crime in the region and the country as a whole. To create an economic viable municipality, it is essential for the municipality to take these recommendations into consideration in creating a better place for all

- When making the initiatives for poverty alleviation, the Municipality should establish a committee made up of different role- players in poverty alleviation. This should not be based on political party members only to promote democracy and transparency in its affairs.

- The Municipality with the power vested in it, should foster a standing relationship with different stakeholders in fighting poverty and crime. Workshops should not be conducted separately as voiced by some concerned role- players in crime prevention, so that there can be a clear understanding between all role-players, as to what each one's function is.
- The municipality should pledge its support to poverty alleviation and crime prevention initiatives undertaken by anyone. This should not be based on favouritism, but on who is willing to do the job.
- SMMEs should be given preference in financial assistance, for this is good for the economic development of the region.
- In preventing crime in the area, the municipality should take the initiative by calling for meetings on crime prevention at the police stations; this will boost the morale of the volunteers in crime prevention.
- Stakeholders, especially in crime prevention should be encouraged to know of the relevant policies governing them, so as to make their job easier and more interesting and every department should be encouraged to participate in crime prevention; this will help promote poverty alleviation.
- The business sector should be involved in helping the municipality in imparting skills to the young people in the region, to prevent the graduates from exiting the area due to lack of employment.

## 5.5 CONCLUSION

The first objective of this research was to provide a descriptive explanation of crime and crime prevention and poverty in the Sedibeng District Municipality. To meet this objective, the exposition of poverty and crime in Sedibeng was

provided for in Chapter Two. The chapter also outlined the relational patterns between various stakeholders in crime prevention. The study does reveal some of the causes of crime and its effects on the socio-economic status of the region and the country as a whole.

The second objective was to provide the remedies that the Sedibeng District Municipality has for the problem at hand. This is achieved through Local Economic Development and Integrated Developmental Programme. This was provided for in Chapter Three. The purpose of providing these strategies is to show the commitment the government has in making lives better for all. It is evident that the municipality is also committed to the national government's objectives, as promoting participatory government; the residents of SDM are willing to improve socio-economic status of the region. This is seen when the business sector joins forces with the department of community safety in trying to prevent crime in the area and the civil society.

To give a better understanding of the region, the demographics of the population in the region was provided for in the same chapter, outlining the structure of the municipality area, and its demarcation.

In Chapter Four, the research methodology applied in data collection is discussed. It is also indicated that quantitative research methodology has been applied and data collection instrument used was the interview. Literature review was relied upon for the specific information of the concepts investigated.

In Chapter Five, the analysis of the findings of the research was provided for. The hypothesis for research was seen to have been validated. Recommendations and challenges facing the municipalities were outlined.

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## APPENDIX

## APPENDIX

### QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is an investigative tool that is used for the fulfilment of the study; the researcher is a student for the degree Master in Development and Management in the department of Public Management and Administration at the North- West University.

Questions	Strongly disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1. Is crime a major problem in SDM?			
2. Is it fair to attribute poverty and crime to apartheid?			
3. Is there enough community involvement in poverty alleviation and crime prevention?			
4. Do you think there is a link between crime and poverty?			
5. Is local government effective in poverty alleviation and crime prevention initiatives?			
6. In your opinion, does poverty cause crime?			

7. Are you aware of the poverty alleviation strategies in SDM?			
8. Are you satisfied with the housing provided by government?			
9. Do you think that the level of education in SDM is good in order to create a society of literates?			
10. Are the social grants helping in addressing the issue of poverty in SDM?			
11. Do you have a problem in accessing emergency services such as ambulance and other medical facilities?			
12. As there is an over supply of health facilities, is the public encouraged to use these facilities?			
13. With the VCT out for the public to use for HIV, are these well marketed, do people know about this facility?			
14. About sport and recreation, in			

your opinion do you think that this strategy is working in order to control and prevent crime among youth?			
15. Can arts and culture be viewed as a strategy for poverty alleviation?			
16. Do you think that the SAPS is doing its role to protect the residents?			
17. Can we agree that SDM is really playing its role to make the life of its residents better and secure?			
18. Is there co-operation between the municipality and SAPS in dealing with crime?			
19. Are all stakeholders in crime prevention acknowledged and supported?			