

Traditional leaders on crime prevention in the OR Tambo District Municipality

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Abstract

This article outlines methods that are used by the traditional leaders in the prevention of crime in the OR Tambo District Municipality (ORTDM), which consists of, amongst others, areas such as Bityi, Mqanduli, Lusikisiki and Esphaqeni. It is largely known that police play a major role in many community crime prevention activities and this article is not meant to replace such legal authorities. However, through the literature, it has been proven that in one way or another, legal authorities require local cultural expectations to be altered and that tends to pose a threat to the powers' of traditional leaders, as custodians of norms and values of the society. Nonetheless, findings, as gathered through a questionnaire and analysed by STATA version12 statistical software, reveal the following: a) traditional leaders have not yet disavowed their responsibilities, b) They are able to identify the onset of criminal behaviour in their communities and c) devise various methods for the reduction crime. This article, with the use of historical and current mandate of the traditional leadership institution, has recommended a plan of action for crime prevention in the ORTDM.

Keywords: Community safety; crime prevention; democratic pragmatist; juvenile delinquency; traditional leadership.

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