

Perspectives of crime prevention in the risky society of OR Tambo District Municipality

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Abstract

In the OR Tambo District Municipality (ORTDM), Eastern Cape province of South Africa, crime remains an indisputable fact for most members of the society. Society's morals shows signs of being at the brink of lapsing; some people are forced to abandon their homes. This is despite many legislative directives to avert the situation. This study sought to evaluate the role of traditional leaders in community policing and crime prevention in the community of ORTDM. Interviews were carried out with 58 village heads and headmen as key informants. Four focus group discussions were conducted to collect the participants' insights on the role of traditional leaders in community policing and crime prevention. Participants were identified using purposive and convenience sampling. The findings revealed that community policing is an effective strategy for crime prevention and that traditional leaders play a pivotal role in the success of community policing and crime prevention. Traditional leaders play an integral role in the recruitment of members of community policing, assist with organising the business community to cooperate with the police in the fight against crime and play a vital role in encouraging the community to attend crime awareness campaigns arranged by the police.

Keywords: Community safety, crime prevention, culture, gender-based violence, traditional leadership, victimisation.

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