

IMPUMELELO CASE STUDIES

JUSTICE AND SECURITY



Impumelelo series of best practice No 7





Focus on Justice and Security

Few issues are of greater concern to the average South African than the safety of their person and possessions in a society wracked by high levels of serious crime. This publication in the Impumelelo best practice series looks at the context in which the democratic state is wrestling with what is an intractable problem. It reports on 13 initiatives that in various ways aim at improving the security of citizens and ensuring that poorer communities, in particular, are able to gain access and redress from the institutions of justice.

The 13 case studies described here were all winners of an Impumelelo Award during the period 1999 to 2003/4. They include a wide range of projects emanating from both the various levels of government as well as partnerships with NGOs. Some of them attempt to improve the capacity of the South African Police Service in combating and preventing crime; others are directed at providing support to the Department of Justice and the many victims of crime who find access to state protection an arduous and alien experience.

The case studies are grouped according to the main aims of the project leaders. Three main categories are identified: crime combating and prevention; community education and support; and easier, more effective access to the courts. As is the case with most initiatives aimed at improving the lot of the more deprived sectors of society, this grouping should not obscure the fact that projects often pursue multiple objectives. For example, a project focussing on crime prevention may also be concerned with an improved service from the nation's judicial system.

Contact details for each project are provided at the end of the case studies. A list of references that includes some of the best recent work of academics and analysts can be found at the end of the booklet.

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