



SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**SALGA**

**MEASURES TO WAGE A CONCERTED BATTLE  
AGAINST ILLEGAL MINING( ZAMA ZAMAS) AND  
THE MANIFESTATION OF CRIMINALITY AND  
VIOLENCE IN THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES**

**By**

**Cllr J Dlabathi**

**Ministerial Briefing Session on Illegal Mining (Zama zamas)**

***11 August 2022***

# GREETINGS

- Chairperson of the NCOP, Hon Masondo,
- Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Hon Lucas
- Minister of Mineral resources and Energy, Hon Mantashe
- Minister of Police, Hon Cele
- Minister of Home Affairs, Hon Dr. MP Motswaledi
- Chief Whip of the NCOP of the NCOP, Hon Mohai
- House Chairpersons
- Hon MECs
- Ladies and gentlemen

# PURPOSE

- The purpose of the presentation is to:
  - Appraise the Ministers and MECs on SALGA's role in promoting transversal and pro-active approaches against criminality and violence in communities affected by illegal mining activities.
  - Outline a partnership driven 'whole of government and whole of society approach' to tackle complex and multifaceted challenges faced by affected communities.
  - Highlight the role of local government in building safer communities;
- **Integrated and preventative approaches are needed to complement the crime fighting efforts by the law enforcement agencies in the country.**



# BACKGROUND

Municipalities that are affected by illegal mining activities are suffering devastation on several levels such as:

- Violence and attacks among illegal miners, as well as towards community members including serious injury, rape and murder,
- Damage and illegal use of infrastructure such as water and electricity, as well as cable theft,
- Sinkholes and collapsing of roads due to unregulated digging / mining,
- Land invasion for informal settlements.
- Criminal elements from the possession of illegal fire arms to allegations of human trafficking.
- Lack of capacity to deal with heavily armed criminals
- Failure to rehabilitate mines after closure by mining companies and failure to enforce and lack of consequences by the responsible departments
- Hard to reach areas where the zama zamas hide

Efforts to curb the threat and fear of violence, criminality and destruction have mainly been isolated and there is a need for coordinated, holistic and prevention driven approaches that integrate national, provincial and local government in partnership with civil society and business.



# LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- **Common themes that can be derived from these legislative and policy frameworks are:**
  - Law enforcement and operations of the Criminal Justice System alone are not adequate to address high rates of crime and violence in the country
  - Efforts at prevention need to focus also on victims and potential victims
  - Activities aimed at preventing crime need to also address the fear of crime



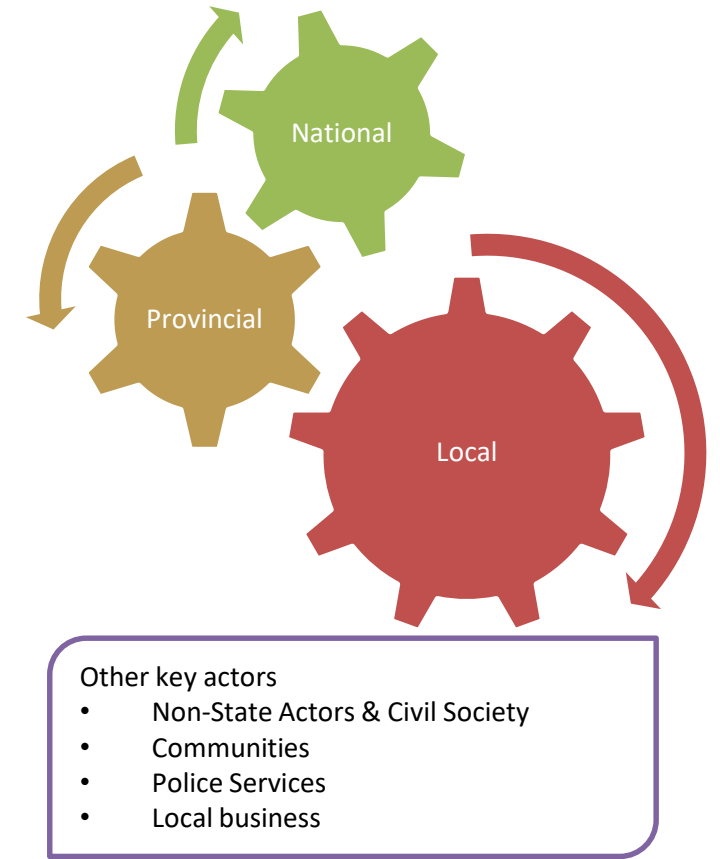
# Policy Framework

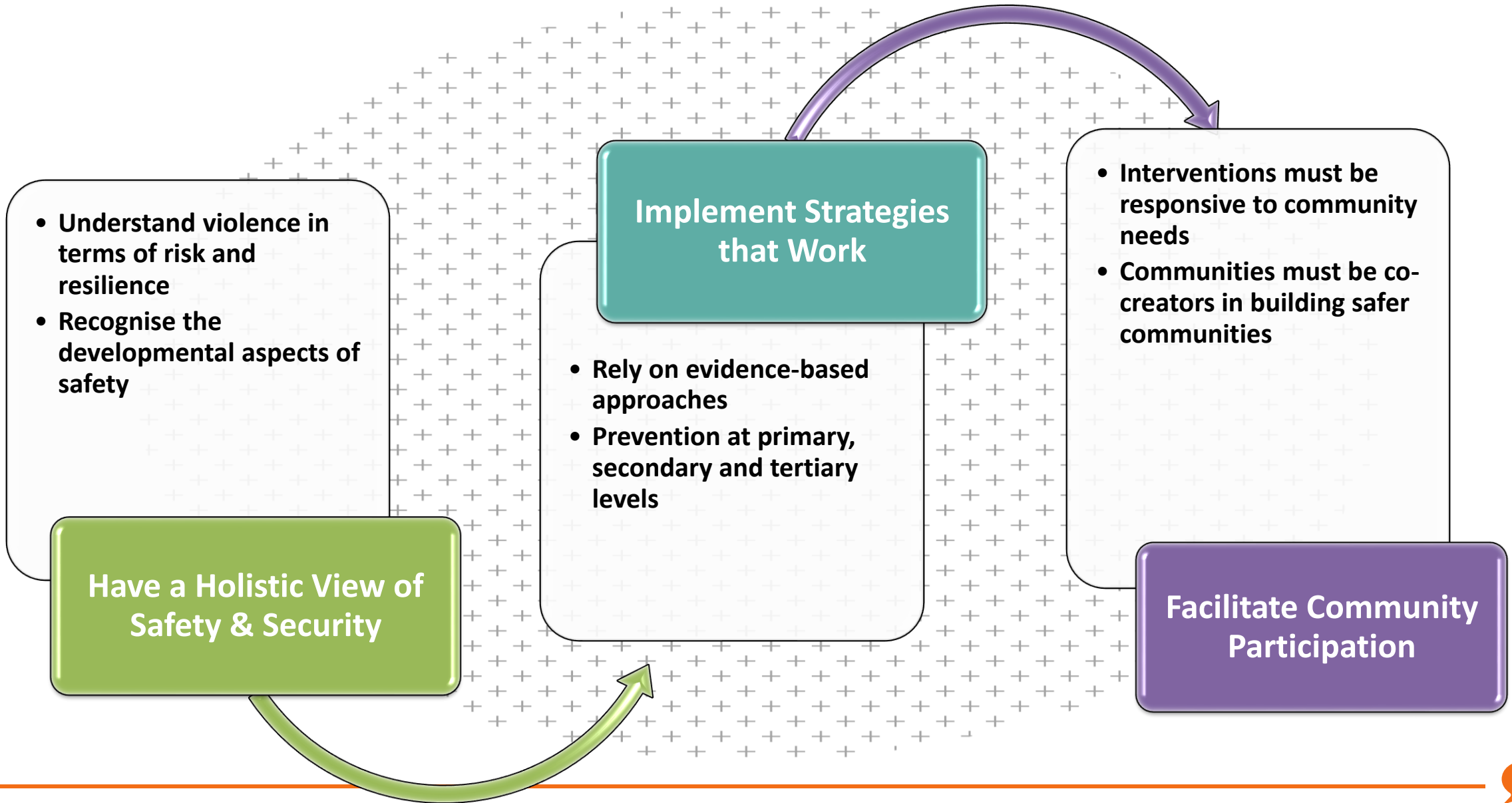
- The 2016 **White Paper on Safety and Security (WPSS)** seeks to build safe and resilient communities, ensuring safety of all is the basis for improved quality of life as envisioned in the National Development Plan.
  - The **Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS)** operationalises the WPSS and recognises that safety is not the responsibility of the police alone, and advocates for a ‘whole of government’ and ‘whole of society’ integrated approach to crime and violence prevention.
  - The **National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP GBVF)** addresses the nationwide pandemic of GBVF.
- 
- **Aligned localization** of relevant strategies such as the NSP-GBVF and the ICVPS in partnership approach (LG, National Departments, Civil Society).
  - Coordination of coordination and implementation structures such as the **Community Safety Forums (CSF), Rapid Response Teams (RRTs)**



# WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH AND WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH

- Community safety cannot be delivered by a one sphere of government alone. **A whole of government approach is required.**
- Collaboration with non-state actors is required to expand into a whole of society approach
- The Constitution recognises the different spheres of government at national, provincial and local level as distinctive, yet emphasizes the interdependent and interrelated nature of government providing:
  - It provides a comprehensive approach and mechanism for an integrated response to crime and violence prevention.
  - Local government, specifically Councillors, are well placed to roll out crime and violence prevention interventions at local level.
  - The responsibility of local government in provision of safety and security as well as crime and violence prevention is derived from the key legislation and policy frameworks mentioned.

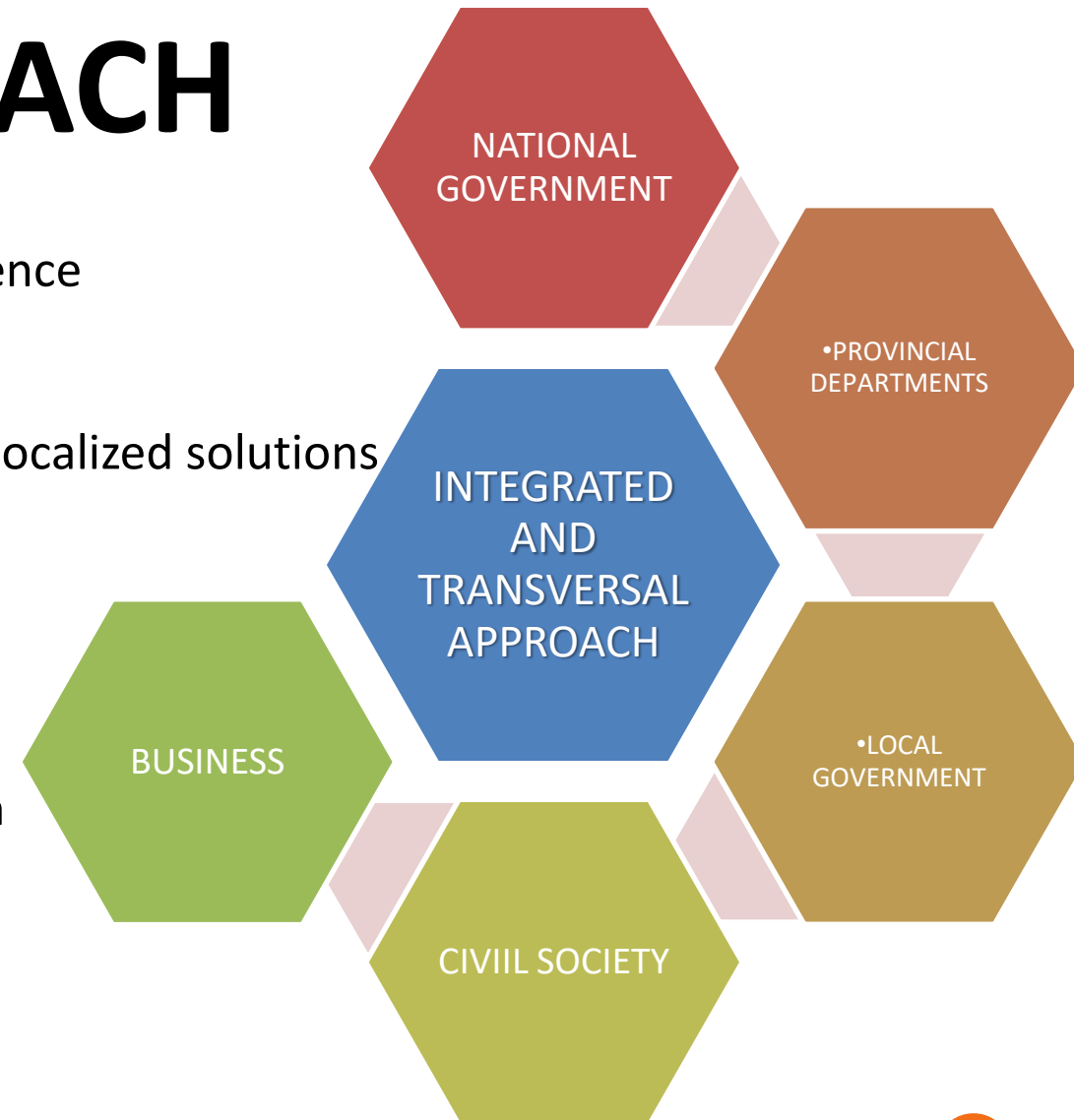






# PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

- Regulation of mining activities and environmental aspects
  - Law enforcement and response to criminal activities and violence
    - Improved relationship and trust
    - Visible policing
  - Community centered and participatory processes to develop localized solutions and implement targeted interventions
    - Partnerships with local NGOs and businesses
    - Awareness raising interventions
    - Activation of community members
  - Take into account the most vulnerable members of the communities such as women, youth, children and people with disabilities
    - Basic services
    - Social services
    - Safe places such as shelters for victims
    - Economic opportunities for community members
- Establishment of pro-active interventions to prevent violence and criminal activities before they take place



# LOCAL COORDINATION STRUCTURES AS IMPORTANT DRIVER OF SAFETY IN COMMUNITIES

- Community Safety Forum as multi-stakeholder platform for joint planning, implementation and monitoring of coordinated efforts to building safer communities:
  - Drive integrated and collaborative planning and implementation of crime and violence prevention initiatives;
  - Be a platform for communities to identify safety challenges and develop appropriate solutions; and,
  - Enhance communication, participation and sharing of information of safety issues.
- Alignment with other coordinating structures such as Rapid Response Teams for GBVF driven by DWYPD and specialised local structures driven by Civil Society or other local actors.
- Coordination structures need to be aligned to the needs of the community with the aim to join efforts and resources towards a common objective. Parallel and/or competing structures are to be avoided.



- South Africa has a strong and coherent policy framework on Community Safety, but there is a need for **improved coordination** regarding the implementation efforts.
- **Partnerships** based on an ‘all of government’ and ‘all of society approach’ are required to tackle complexities of criminality, violence and destruction of infrastructure.
- Join operations and consistent road blocks, and police visibility until the problem is contained
- Local Government has an important role to play in driving a community safety agenda – especially through **coordination and strategic partnerships.**



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS

- Participatory and community centred approaches are key
- Effective intelligence to deter and catch the criminal cartels
- Transversal approach: focus on community safety outcomes across the core functions of the municipality
- Proactive identification and protection of areas susceptible to illegal mining





SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**SALGA**

**THANK YOU**