

"I want to congratulate you on the work you are doing in an attempt to ensure that our people can live in peace and safety."

Dullah Omar: Minister of Justice

14 December 1998

"In order to create a more caring society, we need to take back our streets, ensure good neighbourliness and take control of dispute resolution in a structured manner. The promotion of a safe and healthy environment is an object of local government. The Peace Committees have a proven track record in addressing the need for constructive community-based dispute resolution."

Clarence Johnson: Mayor, Boland District Municipality

29 October 2001

"The Peace Committee has become a valuable asset to the community as it has given them an opportunity to take ownership not only of a problem, but also the solution of crime and criminality in their communities."

Andrew le Fleur: Magistrate, Worcester

30 October 2001

"...this is a new approach to getting people involved in solving their own problems whatever they have. It is an initiative where communities are drawn in and be part of the solution of whatever problems the community would experience."

Charmaine Manual: Mayor – Drakenstein Municipality

October 2007

"... we have found in areas where the project has been running ... the crime rate has come down, there's a lot of harmony, there's a lot of respect in the communities for the peace committees and the police ..."

"what better way is there to have community participation than through this peace projectit's working, it's working ... it's something that has been designed that can have long term solutions ..."

Ganief Daniels: Area Commissioner - SAPS

October 2007

"... we need more peace committees in the area so that those people would not have a lot of bad luck with regard to the cases."

Supt Dyantji: Mbekweni SAPS - [read more about Mbekweni here](#)

October 2007

"When the people have a problem they come to the peace committee and they will solve the problem. So the members of the community will go to the committee at any time to talk. They will sit down and make peace."

Jane Xhaso: Peace Committee Coordinator

October 2007

"the formal legal system had no credibility with especially the black communities ... we proposed a system whereby communities themselves could get involved in the legal system as such ...the immediate impact was that we had an almost 50 % decline in the number of cases coming to court because of the peace committees who play a very important role."

Magistrate le Fleur: Worcester

October 2007

"The CPP is a good idea because it helps a lot of people, first those who are doing the job, like being member of the peace committees, you see there is a lot of unemployment, so by bringing the peace committees they give us a lot of employment. They did provide us with some money for the members. So I can say that it is a good idea."

Neliswa "Baby" Sambokwe: Peace Committee Coordinator

October 2007

"I think that Peace Committee members feel ... that at the end of the day they save souls."

Mandisa Chabalala: Peace Committee Coordinator

October 2007

"the Peace Committee has a good history and a long history ... they have been very successful in bringing people together, bringing harmony to live together, peaceful, to live like a community.

"... they have been successful in the manner in the cases that they get they have succeeded in bringing those families / individuals to peace. The Peace Committees are there to improve the lives of our people.

"... you cannot build a country with aggression ... we can rebuild a country when people have sober minds who know and care about others ... 'Unbuntu' – humility".

Ward Councillor Xhaso

October 2007

"... They (Peace Committees) try to deal with the matters that come before them ... in a manner that is forward-looking and respectful. ... They commit themselves to neutrality and to a process of healing intended for further safety and security in their communities.

"... This suggests to me that, quite apart from the crime control effects that the Community Peace Programme may have, South Africa needs the Peace Committees as avatars of a democracy that is locally vibrant and participatory."

Diana Gordon: Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice City University of New York

January 2008

"The Community Peace Programme has had an excellent track record of success in conflict resolution ..."

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond M Tutu

May 2008

"The remarkable achievement of peace and stability in our country needs to be maintained and secured ... A lone voice in a crowd is often lost, but when many voices join in a message of unity, they roar like a lion ... This vibrant interconnectedness of communities is the true strength of our country."

**Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi: Former Minister of Public Services and Administration
May 2008**

"The resolution is better resolved by the people involved in the conflict themselves."

**MEC Leonard Ramatlakane: Department of Community Safety
May 2008**

"There is no way we can have development if we don't have peace."

**MEC Cameron Dugmore: Department of Education
May 2008**