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UCT launches short course on Urban Safety Governance for Senior City Officials

The University of Cape Town (UCT) will launch a short course titled 'Urban Safety Governance for South African Cities' this week. This is an initiative of UCT's Institute for Safety Governance and Criminology (SafGo) and the Urban Safety Reference Group of the South African Cities Network (SACN).

The course brings together 30 key officials from major cities in South Africa to engage with and discuss safety and security challenges and solutions.

Dr Guy Lamb, the Director of Safety and Violence Initiative at UCT, says: "This is the first course of such a nature offered on the African continent, and it seeks to provide participants with skills to think about urban safety in a more holistic and comprehensive manner."

The course is in line with South Africa's White Paper on Safety and Security and the United Nations' New Urban Agenda. Both documents provide roadmaps for building cities that can serve as drivers of safety, prosperity and wellbeing.

Dr Lamb adds: "The course is also being launched at an important point in time given the recent increases in key categories of violent crime in South Africa."

The five-day course is funded by UCT SafGo and the GIZ-Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP) Programme. SafGo is comprised of the Safety and Violence Initiative, the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice and the Centre of Criminology.

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