

BUSINESS AGAINST CRIME SA (A DIVISION OF BLSA) NEWSLETTER



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FOREWORD BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR



From thwarting farm robberies and assisting in the arrests of cash-in-transit hijacking suspects, BACSA's Eyes and Ears (E2) initiative is making a difference to the lives of ordinary South Africans as well as ensuring businesses can continue their operations.

Each victory is important in the overall campaign to combat crime and corruption in this country while the initiative also had a direct impact on avoiding violence and looting during the EFF's protest action on 20 March.

BACSA is also increasing its focus on the important work of combating rising incidences of extortion and sabotage in numerous sectors of the economy.

The National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (Natjoints), which coordinates all security and law enforcement operations throughout the country, has implemented a joint strategy to address this scourge. A National Priority Committee governs the implementation of all activities and structures included in the strategy and BACSA continues to act as convenor of the committee's monthly meetings.

Work is underway on various issues including discussions to reduce the number of withdrawn cases due to inaccurate reporting by investigating officers. BACSA is also a founding member of the National Non-Ferrous Metal Crime Combating Committee (NFMCCC) which works with government and the police to tackle all infrastructure crimes.

Separately the Infrastructure Crime Forum (members: Transnet, Eskom, PRASA, City Power, Gautrain, and telecommunication companies) have agreed to share crime data. The aim will be to protect infrastructure through operational awareness.

We would like to express our gratitude to the E2 members and SAPS for their tireless efforts to combat crime. We acknowledge that the successes reported in this newsletter are directly

attributed to their commitment and dedication and we applaud their sacrifices, often made at great personal cost. We are privileged to partner with such a devoted and effective team.

Tebele Luthuli

Managing Director: Business Against Crime SA

Eyes and Ears Initiative (E2)

The Eyes and Ears Initiative (E2) is an official joint crime-fighting initiative between the South African Police Service (SAPS), BACSA, the Private Security Industry (PSI) and approved non-private security industry role players. Its goal is to enhance the total situational awareness of the SAPS by utilising the geographic footprint, technology and resources available in the private sector.

E2 was launched in 2018 and has become a well-established conduit for most of BACSA's initiatives in collaboration with the SAPS.

The EFF protest action and call for a national shutdown on 20 March 2023 was a good exhibition of business and security services working effectively together. The planned protest was projected to potentially bring hundreds of thousands of disgruntled people out into the streets, and there were concerns about violent looting, similar to the riots in July 2021.

E2 worked closely with the SAPS National Operational Command Centre, which coordinated the flow of information. Prior to the event, information obtained from the private sector was shared with the National Operational Command Centre for validation.

All E2 partners were constantly kept up to date and BACSA formed part of the planning meetings conducted by the SAPS at national, provincial and district levels and formed part of the national activation on the day. The private security industry provided 19 helicopters for air support along with drones, armed reaction vehicles and security personnel. These were placed based on recommendations by the SAPS to assist law enforcement. It made it possible for the police to plan and improve reaction times. This involved the joint integrated approach of all government law enforcement agencies and the private sector.

Personnel from BACSA, together with E2 personnel provided by the private security industry, were stationed in the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure, the National Operational Command Centre and Provincial Operational Command Centres to ensure that information from the private sector and the SAPS was channelled directly to senior intelligence and law enforcement structures and the private security industry.

Furthermore, additional security personnel were deployed at shopping centres and identified hotspot areas and placed on standby from Friday 17 March to Tuesday 21 March. E2 provided 195 public unrest information leads to law enforcement during that period.

The above well-planned and executed plan was critical to the successful efforts to maintain law and order on the day.

By 10 pm on 20 March, the SAPS had arrested more than 550 protestors for (among others) public violence, intimidation, damage to critical infrastructure, theft and attempted looting. Most arrests were in Gauteng (149) followed by the Northern Cape (95), Eastern Cape (80) and Free State (64).

The SAPS senior management complimented the role players within the E2 initiative for the early identification of incidents and coordination of the response within the private sector, which enabled violent and unlawful incidents to be detected and subdued quickly. It was mentioned publicly that without the E2 Initiative in KwaZulu-Natal, the outcome of protests would not have been as favourable as it was. It is also noted that the E2 initiative is firmly entrenched in operational plans by the SAPS and other law enforcement agencies.



Theft on farm

On 3 February 2023, seven suspects were arrested for housebreaking and theft and possession of stolen property following a burglary on a farm in Vierfontein. A multi-disciplinary team assisted in arresting the suspects who were found with two vehicles, a taxi that stole seeds and a weed killer to the value of R650,000. Four farmworkers and three suspects from Khuma were involved.



Cash-in-transit robberies

On 10 January 2023, an alleged cash-in-transit robber was caught and found with R60,000 in cash after the assistance of a multi-disciplinary team that was working together to identify six vehicles involved.

A 29-year-old man appeared in court in connection with a cash-in-transit heist in North West. The suspect appeared at the Wolmaransstad Magistrate's Court over allegations that he was among a group of people who rammed into a cash van travelling from Klerksdorp to Wolmaransstad. North West Hawks spokesperson said the van was blown up, and the group made off with cash and firearms belonging to the security guards.

The suspect was arrested only hours after the heist. He was found in Potchefstroom with a vehicle that matched the description of one used in the heist. He also had R60,000 in his possession.

Drugs

On the evening of 10 January 2023, members of the Douglas SAPS received information from the organised crime unit about a wanted suspect driving a red VW sedan to Douglasdale. This information was operationalised by the SAPS and PSI and the vehicle was stopped and searched, finding 699 full mandrax tablets. Three occupants in the vehicle were immediately arrested for dealing in drugs and the vehicle was seized.

On 14 January 2023, the Anti-Gang Unit confiscated Mandrax tablets worth R1.6m in Lentegeur, and a 43-year-old female was arrested on a charge of dealing drugs.

On 27 January 2023, the Somali owner of a spaza shop was arrested for the possession of a tik to the value of R180,000. It is believed that he was keeping the drugs for a gang.

On 04 February 2023, members of a multi-disciplinary team with the Endangered Species Unit arrested three suspects in Racing Park, Milnerton for illegal possession of crayfish with an estimated street value of R9m.

On 12 March 2023, members received information about drugs that were at an address in Parow. The house was searched and the members seized Tik to the value of R 5,500, cocaine with an estimated street value of R 27,000, and an undisclosed amount of cash. Two suspects aged 28 and 29 were arrested and detained at Parow SAPS on a case of possession and dealing of drugs.



Source: <HTTPS://youtu.be/eKLTgUTGGDs>

Theft of cellphone tower batteries

On 26 January 2023, a roadblock was set up to stop a vehicle previously linked to cellphone tower battery theft in Rustenburg. Suspects saw the roadblock and fled into bushes, where a shootout occurred. Backup was provided and K9, Chopper and Drone were made available to SAPS to assist with their search. One suspect was arrested. Nine Cellphone Tower batteries were found in the vehicle.



Stock Theft

On 7 February 2023, PSI received a complaint of stock theft of four cows and two calves to the value of R80,000 that were stolen in Hartbeesfontein. Two suspects were arrested and the cattle were handed back to the owner.

On 13 March 2023, four suspects were arrested and one vehicle was seized at Reddersburg by Agri members for stock theft and trespassing in terms of the Stock Theft Act. This operation was a team effort after excellent camera analysis by

Smithfield members and 13 sheep were already ready for loading and transporting but were stopped by this operation.



Suspicious vehicle

On 8 February 2023, members of Gordons Bay security noticed a suspicious Black Chev vehicle travelling slowly in a high-risk area. It was confirmed that the vehicle was stolen and members notified E2 OCC control and law enforcement. Strand SAPS arrived swiftly and arrested the driver, who is also the suspect in a rape case.



Illegal firearms

On 16 February 2023, an ex-German citizen was found and arrested with 44 firearms and ammunition at a warehouse during an operation.



The following were confiscated:

- 44 firearms (including nine rifles, handguns, a cannon and pistols)
- 11 firearm parts, considered firearms in terms of the Firearms Control Act
- Two full LDV loads of an assortment of rounds of ammunition.
- Substantial quantities of gunpowder
- Numerous boxes used for storage of firearm magazines.

Copper cable theft

On 06 March 2023, six suspects were arrested, and two vehicles were seized in Welkom, for the theft of Eskom cable in Wesselsbron. The operation recovered 630kg of copper. Another case will be opened in terms of the Essential Infrastructure Act.



Poaching

On 08 March 2023, information was received from an informant of suspected rhino poaching at Hertzogville. A suspicious vehicle was stopped. Four suspects were arrested and one hunting rifle (with serial number removed); 12 rounds of .375 ammunition; two hunting knives; one silencer and six cell phones were recovered from the vehicle. The four suspects will be charged with conspiracy to commit a crime (rhino poaching) under the NEMBA Act

10 of 2004 sec 57 (1) and Possession of restricted firearms and ammunition.



On 15 March 2023, in the Kusane area, members spotted a suspicious white Toyota Hilux, and after a vehicle pursuit ensued, the vehicle was stopped and searched, and two suspects were arrested for poaching. Two unlicensed rifles, one licensed rifle and one licensed 9mm were recovered.



Hijacked vehicle recovered

On 17 March 2023, information was received of a vehicle that was suspected to be hijacked at KwaMashu men's hostel. The vehicle was recovered and one suspect was arrested on charges of kidnapping, unlawful possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of live rounds. One .38 special firearm with four live rounds were recovered as well as liquor to the value of R100.



Business robbery

On 23 March, information was received of a business robbery at PEP Cell at Ndumo, about 400km from Durban. The store was robbed of an undisclosed amount of cash and cellular phones. Pep risk immediately communicated information to BACKZN and E2 partners were activated in that area. LPR cameras were checked, and a possible vehicle was identified. This information was circulated to the SAPS and the SANDF based at the Ndumo SANDF base. The vehicle was spotted

by the SANDF and stopped. One suspect was arrested, and the stock was recovered.



On 24 March 2023, members received information of a business robbery at an Ackerman's store in Mpumalanga involving six suspects using two vehicles.

The vehicles were spotted in the Cato manor area. Upon patrol, the area members noticed two similar vehicles to the vehicles used in the business robbery and decided to stop and search the two vehicles.

Registration plates were found in the boot of the car, which had also been used in the business robbery. Four suspects were arrested, and an undisclosed amount of stock and cash were recovered.



Extortion

On 26 January 2023 in KZN, a complaint of disruptions to work activities by a business forum was received via the E2 initiative. Approximately 40-50 people were outside the company gates, which were chained and locked from the outside.

Work was being disrupted and employees were held against their will. After further investigation, we established that the two men were the instigators and are part of a business forum. PSI and SAPS immediately acted and cut the chains to open the gates and work resumed. Two suspects were arrested.



On 04 February 2023, Martin & East, a civil engineering company in the Western Cape, reported an extortion case at Nyanga taxi rank. Criminals were demanding R2,500 for the release of their staff transport vehicles. The extortion task team was activated by the E2 project manager, the vehicle was recovered and two arrests were made.

Drug awareness campaign in KZN

On 14 March 2023, members of the E2 project under the Umlazi K9 unit in conjunction with Ntuzuma Social Crime Prevention members presented a drug awareness campaign at JE Ndlovu High School in Ntuzuma as part of the National Crime Prevention Strategy for School Safety.



Xtreme for Kids Cycle Tour

On 01 March 2023, Matla A Bana, sponsored by BACSA, began the National Child Protection School Tour for 2023.

The Xtreme for Kids Cycle today tour ran from 1-12 March, during which the team cycled from Johannesburg to Cape Town via various provinces – a total of 1,900km in 12 days. They ended the tour by cycling the Cape Town Cycle Tour.

The cyclists are joined by a school team which consists of a presenter and actors. They do a self-protection education programme with scholars.

The team was accompanied by SAPS Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences members at each school should any child want to disclose information.

The Xtreme for Kids Cycle Tour aims to reach deep into rural areas to educate children on child protection. These children are the most forgotten and are very seldom if ever, exposed to this type of intervention. Each child receives a Survivor Guide and an Awareness badge.



On 11 March 2023, the Extreme for Kids cycle tour sponsored by BACSA ended at Willowbridge Mall in Bellville without any incidents and was welcomed by SAPS and BACWC. Monique Strydom, the CEO of Matla a Bana, expressed her appreciation for the assistance of BACWC during the event.

