

BUSINESS AGAINST CRIME SA NEWSLETTER

Edition 5



FOREWORD BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

In the fifth edition of the Business Against Crime South Africa (BACSA) newsletter we highlight some of the great strides that have been made by BACSA and the Eyes and Ears Initiative during quarter two of 2023.

BACSA has started an important new cycle of transformation and change as it prepares to serve as a vehicle to implement and deliver Business for South Africa's (B4SA) actions aimed at mitigating crime and corruption as part of the recently announced joint initiative between government and business.

During the period, BACSA together with its partners hosted a firearms control workshop for prosecutors, opened a child-friendly facility in Tembisa to assist in reporting gender-based violence, assisted KwaZulu Natal (KZN) during the recent tornado and storms and made several arrests.

Capacitating prosecutorial and law enforcement authorities to address the scourge of corruption and the legacy of state capture remains a strategic focus area for BACSA. The memorandum of understanding that was signed on 5 August 2022 by BLSA and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has proven to be beneficial.

It is evident from the arrests that were made during this quarter that cable theft is still a major problem in South Africa. The country's rail, power, and telecommunication lines are being stripped one line at a time. BACSA and its partners are fighting back against infrastructure crime; from the beginning of 2023 to date, thousands of rands worth of copper cables have been recovered, and several people have been arrested.

BACSA aims to combat crimes that are a threat to national economic interests and to ordinary citizens. The successes achieved to date would not have been possible if it were not for the powerful partnership between the BACSA, E2 and its partners.

We thank all our partners for their efforts in working together to make South Africa good for business, and business good for South Africa.

Managing Director: Business Against Crime SA

THE NEW BUSINESS AGAINST CRIME SA 2.0

The effects of crime and corruption are far-reaching, and it is for this reason BACSA will be the vehicle for Business to fight crime and corruption head on. In a joint initiative between government and business, BACSA has started an important new cycle of transformation and change as it prepares to serve as a vehicle to implement and deliver Business for South Africa's (B4SA) initiatives aimed at mitigating crime and corruption.

The primary goals of the new BACSA are to leverage and optimise existing business anti-crime efforts, eliminate duplication of effort and coordinate, and scale the extensive work already underway across the business sector. The organisation will continue to promote 'business getting its house in order' and leverage business information, expertise, and resources for the benefit of the national fight against crime and corruption. It seeks to further entrench and broaden strong relationships and partnerships with government, business, civil society, and other stakeholders in building a unified and meaningful response to crime and corruption.

Business Leadership South Africa's (BLSA) board approved the re-establishment of BACSA as a separate legal entity. BACSA will now act as a single point of contact for the government's interaction with businesses in the Joint Initiative to fight Crime and Corruption (JICC). The JICC will oversee high-priority initiatives jointly agreed to by business and government.

Currently a new BACSA board is being established and will be announced in due course. These board members will play a crucial role in guiding BACSA's strategy and ensuring its success in combating crime and corruption in South Africa.

Overall, the new BACSA represents a more unified and powerful force in the fight against crime and corruption, with a clear vision of leveraging business resources and expertise to contribute significantly to creating a safer South Africa, stemming the illicit outflow of funds and commodities, arresting rampant crime, as well as restoring public and investor confidence in the country so we can attract investment, create employment, and maintain safety and security.

For more information, see the joint statement issued on 8 June 2023 by the South African government and organised business on establishing the partnership initiative. [here](#)

THE ADVANTAGES OF JOINING EYES AND EARS



There is no better approach to solving challenges than the famous saying "two heads are better than one." Strategic partnerships enable teams to bring the best of their talent and strengths forward.

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.

E2's goal is to enhance the total situational awareness of the SAPS by utilising the geographic footprint, technology, and resources available in the private sector.

Being part of the initiative comes with the following advantages for private sector partners:

- The fact that law enforcement and private security share the same objective is one of the key reasons why they must collaborate;
- E2 has grown beyond a relationship-building exercise to become involved in many activities, including dissemination of crime information, specialised training for private security officers (on such topics as protecting crime scenes), and emergency response planning;
- The joint initiative with law enforcement leads to increased public visibility and recognition of the partnership;
- An E2-approved structure provides a distinct competitive advantage during the tender processes to security service providers;
- The initiative includes access to resources, like air support (helicopters and drones), CCTV footage, ANPR, emergency medical and rescue services, etc. (not obligatory);
- Access to reserved resources, such as direct access to the E2 controllers located in the SAPS Provincial Operational Command Centres, is enabled;
- Sharing of criminal behaviours, patterns, and hotspots amongst all partners, leads to a better understanding and awareness of crime and maximises intelligence sharing;
- Quick access to history and live positioning of suspect getaway vehicles has resulted in the arrest of multiple criminal syndicates.

BACSA HELPS DURING KZN TORNADO DEVASTATION AND FLOODING , STORMS IN KZN

Through the E2 initiative, BACSA has once again helped KZN residents during their time of need. On 27 June several people were injured and seven people lost their lives after a tornado tore through parts of KZN.

After the tornado hit on the morning of 28 June, the SAPS Provincial Operational Command Centre which houses the E2 initiative in KZN sent private and government technical rescue and medical teams to various areas that were affected by the storm.



SAPS AUTOMATED NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION IMPLEMENTATION

The SAPS has requested the assistance of BACSA with its project to implement automated number plate recognition (ANPR) alert functions in 400 of its vehicles and at all border posts.

This is an exciting new initiative and a huge step in improving the SAPS's technology-assisted law enforcement capabilities under the E2 banner, which will make a significant difference in crime fighting and the E2's overall efficacy.

Through E2 approximately 350 vehicles are sighted multiple times per week but not processed fully due to the large number of alerts received by the Provincial operational command centres.

The in-vehicle applications will enable SAPS-wanted vehicle and cloned vehicle alerts to be transmitted directly to the officer in the ANRP-fitted vehicle and simultaneously to the BACSA Monitoring Centre. This will improve the recovery and processing rates of the alerts as these will be processed directly by the police officer while sighting the vehicle.

The goal is to implement ANPR in 200 vehicles by the end of 2023. An estimated 50 additional vehicle recoveries per month will translate to between R10 million and R12 million per year on recovered vehicles. The value to the country of increased arrests of wanted suspects, including murderers, rapists, and armed robbers, is immeasurable.



FIREARM CONTROL WORKSHOP TO NPA DURBAN



To successfully prosecute criminals, it is sometimes essential for prosecutors to have both theoretical knowledge and practical experience on some matters. On 26 April BACSA KZN, together with the SAPS, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and accredited shooting industry providers, hosted a firearms control workshop for prosecutors in Durban, aimed at helping them understand the Firearms Control Act and improve how they handle firearm matters in court.

The prosecutors received practical training on firearms and shooting.

During the workshop attendees said they wished they had received this training early in their careers, because it would have helped with the prosecution of the construction mafia and criminals who commit TRIO crimes (car hijackings, house, and business robberies) using "blank guns".

The NPA highlighted that they would be sending out memos on firearm control to their relevant departments. They strongly believe this will improve their conviction rate.

"It was a great privilege to partner with the NPA on this workshop. It shows that we are not only trusted by the SAPS and private security but also the prosecutorial authorities," said project manager at BACSA KZN Avishkar Motilal.

LAUNCH OF THE WEST COAST DISTRICT E2 IN MOORREESBURG, WESTERN CAPE



When it comes to crime in South Africa, no area is immune. Over the years South Africans in both urban and rural areas have been seriously affected by crime. It is for this reason E2 has since ventured into rural safety.

On 1 December 2022, Moorreesburg, a rural town in the Western Cape, established and launched the E2 West Coast District initiative. On 26 January, the E2 West Coast District steering committee was established and is currently being chaired by Colonel Moodley from the SAPS.

Through E2 BACSA is committed to creating safer urban and rural communities.

"With the collaboration and communication between the private security industry, SAPS and the E2 control centre, this partnership has proved to be a great tool for fighting crime in one of the main arterial roads to and from the Western Cape, but also the West Coast District as a whole," says programme manager at BAC Western Cape Mr Billy Laubscher.

Mr Burgers adds that South African crime fighters need to rethink their community safety strategies and join forces with E2 to allow for a greater reach.

LAUNCH OF THE GAUTENG QUALIFIED DRONE PILOTS



In 2022, after noting the technological gap within the SAPS, the Fidelity Security Group and BACSA provided 13 young Gauteng SAPS members with Fidelity UDS drone pilot candidate training.

On 21 July 2023 a graduation ceremony July for the newly qualified drone pilots was held at Randjespark in Midrand, where Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant-General Mawela expressed the belief that the pilots would help enhance e-policing in Gauteng. He added that the Gauteng Province was identified as the pilot project for this training because of the high number of crime incidents noted in the recent crime statistics.

The General also thanked Fidelity UDS and commended E2 for their collaboration and relentless support of SAPS.

Mr Morne Du Toit, general manager at Fidelity Security echoed the sentiment, saying the E2 structure is pivotal in providing training to the SAPS.

THE FIGHT AGAINST GBV CONTINUES





With the gender-based violence (GBV) rate in South Africa being five times higher than the global average, it is essential for business, communities, government, law enforcement and NGOs to come together to help fight this scourge.

Recent crime statistics show that between January and March this year, a total of 10 512 rape cases were registered, which translates to around 116 cases of rape a day. During the same period 969 women and 245 children were murdered.

"South Africa has notoriously high levels of violence against women and children. We cannot operate as though everything is normal, while women and children in this country are under attack," says BLSA CEO Ms Busisiwe Mavuso.

On average it takes a GBV victims even attempts before they leave a toxic relationship, while only 9% of child victims report being abused. It becomes easier for a victim to sum up the courage to finally walk out – and stay away – when they receive support from family, friends, and various organisations. It is for this reason that on 23 June Business Leadership South Africa(BLSA) partnered with Matla a Bana, an NGO that fights child abuse, to create a facility with state-of the art audio and visual recording equipment that will assist forensic social workers at the Tembisa South Police Station to collect evidence from victims of GBV and sexual crimes.

Based at the Tembisa South Police Station, the facility will be used by the Tembisa SAPS Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit, which focuses on high-priority cases and serves police stations in Tembisa, Ivory Park, Rabie Ridge, Edenvale, Olifantsfontein, Sebenza, Norkem Park, Kempton Park and OR Tambo.

"We are very concerned about the reporting of sexual abuse, especially in light of the fact that recent crime stats show a decline in rape cases. As it is commonly accepted that rape is under- reported, one can only believe that victims and the general public do not trust the reporting system. We hope that by equipping and supporting the legal justice system, we can make a difference," says Matla a Bana founder Monique Strydom.

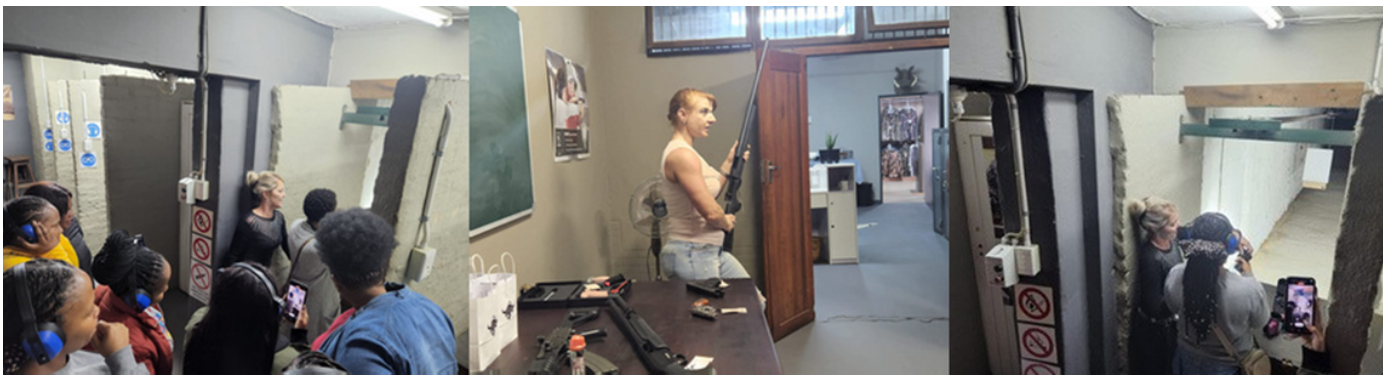
"BLSA is committed to helping provide safe environments for the country's most vulnerable citizens so they can easily report these crimes," concludes Ms Mavuso.

During 2022 BLSA together with Matla a Bana allocated a state-of-the-art facility to the Moroka SAPS Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit at the Protea Glen Police Station in Soweto.

SELF DEFENCE SEMINAR IN THE UGU DISTRICT IN KZN

In the spirit of Women's Month, BACSA sponsored a safety seminar for women in the South Coast areas in KwaZulu Natal at the request of businesses in the area. Facilitated by women presenters, the seminar took place on 17 August 2023 at Simms Firearms shop in Uvongo.

The attendees were captivated by some of the self-defence equipment (pepper spray, tasers, knives); they also received information on the legal use of firearms for self-defence. Businesses stated that they were very grateful for the intervention and reported that they are looking forward to working with BACSA in future. The initiative was also well received by SAPS in the area.



SELF DEFENCE TRAINING IN WESTERN CAPE

On 17 August 2023, BAC Western Cape and Section 49 Tactical Consultants, also held a self-defence class at the SAPS Pinelands Sports Grounds. Section 49 taught techniques, strategies, and mind-set to effectively and efficiently take control of any street situation quickly, focusing on fast, powerful, practical and adaptable street self-defence techniques.

The training was conducted under the watchful eyes of Shihan Cobe, seventh-dan black belt holder and chief instructor of Tiger Academy of Martial Arts, Sensei Marcellino a third-dan black belt holder and Sempai Selvyn, a former private security service provider and at traffic officer.

These dedicated karate martial artists spent an hour training the SAPS ladies on the basics of self-defence.

Lt Col. Botman said the session was very informative and interactive and that the instructors instantly made her, and the other participants feel very comfortable, and created a safe space for all of them to participate. "The instructors covered various scenarios which helped open our eyes to all the possible places we would need to defend ourselves, and conversely, they helped us to understand how to avoid certain situations," added Lt Col. Botman.

She extended her sincere heartfelt appreciation to BACWC and Section 49 for the initiative.



BUSINESS AGAINST CRIME WESTERN CAPE VISIBLE POLICING AWARDS FOR AUGUST 2023

In an effort to boost staff morale and the quality of service rendered by the SAPS, Business Against Crime Western Cape (BACWC) recently launched monthly Policing Awards. The first Policing Awards were held on 17 August 2023.

Brigadier Malwela and her committee established three categories for the awards: Visible Policing Personnel of the Month, Detective Services Personnel of the Month and Service Delivery Personnel of the month.

The first recipients were as follows:

- Sergeant N Memela; Sergeant L Tsilana and Constable S Cetywa from Maitland Flying Squad received the Visible Policing Award;
- Constable C Swiegelaar from Still Bay SAPS received the Detective Service Award; Constable J Galant from Strandfontein SAPS received the Service Delivery Award.



The recipients received a SAPS certificate, a BACWC Shield and a gift voucher.

Lieutenant-General Thembisile Patekile, Major-General Preston Voskuil, Major-General Maqashalala Bongani, BACWC CEO Billy Laubscher, and BACWC Chairman Hubert Paulse were there to hand out the awards to the amazing members and challenged them to continue living and upholding the SAPS brand.



BACSA IN THE MEDIA

*CLICK ON UNDERLINED TOPIC TO LISTEN TO THE INTERVIEW



ROELOF VILJOEN SPEAKS ON THE CONSTRUCTION MAFIA



TEBELE LUTHULI SPEAKS ON THE CONSTRUCTION MAFIA



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ROELOF VILJOEN SPEAKS ON THE CONSTRUCTION MAFIA

SOME OF E2'S SUCCESSES FOR THE PAST QUARTER

ARMED ROBBERY AND MURDER

- On 4 April, a number of suspects robbed farm workers of their cellphones and cash on a farm in Kroonstad in the Free State. On the same day the suspects also went on to rob and kill another victim on the Kroonstad Road. E2 partners identified the vehicle involved in these crimes and apprehended one suspect in Brandfort. A firearm was also recovered.
- On 5 May two suspects were arrested in Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape for armed robbery and murder. The two suspects shot and killed a farmer and stole his firearms and a vehicle in Rouxville in the Eastern Cape on the 4 May. The bakkie was tracked and traced using the E2 initiatives service providers cameras. The information was distributed to the Eastern Cape SAPS members by the E2 partners. The two stolen firearms and vehicle were recovered.
- On 13 May five suspects were arrested in the North West for armed robbery. The suspects had stolen a large quantity of gas cylinders in Kimberley in the Northern Cape. A total of 1 068 gas cylinders were recovered, while two trucks and a Ford Ranger were seized.

BUSINESS ROBBERY SUSPECTS APPREHENDED

- On 28 May seven suspects were arrested in Queenstown in the Eastern Cape after they were found in the possession of stolen cell phones, numerous money bags with coins and jackets.
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- The suspects stole money from KFC in Cathcart Road and cell phones from PEP Cell on Robinson Road. The SAPS also seized two vehicles.
- On 21 June E2 members received information regarding suspects who were on their way to commit a business robbery at PEP store in Greytown in KZN. The vehicle was spotted and monitored. While trying to break into the store during loadshedding the suspects were apprehended on the premises. Five suspects were arrested while house breaking tools were seized, and their vehicle was impounded.

STOLEN VEHICLE AND DRUGS FOUND

On 13 April E2 members were dispatched to track and recover a stolen motorcycle. Two suspects were arrested, and the motorcycle was recovered in Croftdene, KwaZulu Natal. The suspects were also found in the possession of Methcathinone, known as the drug cat, house breaking tools and a knife.



HOUSE ROBBERY IN KZN

Two vehicles, two televisions, four cell phones and a set of keys for a Mercedes Benz were recovered after two house robbery suspects were arrested.

On 18 May E2 partners together with the SAPS were conducting investigations and identified a suspicious vehicle. The vehicle was identified as have being used in a house robbery in Isipingo and Malvern in KZN. Two suspects were arrested and property from the house robbery was found in the vehicle.

MOST WANTED CRIMINAL ARRESTED

One of KwaZulu Natal's most wanted business and house robbery suspects was arrested, in Westville, KZN. The suspect was arrested on 22 June after he barricaded himself in the ceiling of his home for approximately two and a half hours till E2 members flushed him out.

COPPER CABLES RECOVERED

- On 11 April four suspects were arrested in Bethulie in the Free State, for destroying essential infrastructure. The suspects were found in the possession of 840KG worth of copper cables, which were recovered.
- On 23 May a vehicle suspected to be carrying stolen cables from Wesselsbron was identified and stopped in Welkom in the Free State. After the vehicle was stopped the four occupants fled the scene. The cables were however recovered.
- On 13 May, four foreign nationals were arrested in Bothaville in the Free State, after their vehicle was stopped by the SAPS. The SAPS found that the suspects were in the possession of a ton of copper cables that was possibly stolen from Eskom's infrastructure. The copper cables were estimated to be worth R200 000.