

BUSINESS AGAINST CRIME SA NEWSLETTER

Edition Six

March 2024



Executive update- The evolution of BACSA

You will have read in edition five of this newsletter that BACSA, which has operated as a division of Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA) since 1 June 2020, has been established as a separate legal entity following BLSA board approval.

BACSA is now the single point of contact for the Government's interaction with Business for South Africa's (B4SA's) Crime and Corruption focal area. The initiative is chaired by Sibanye Stillwater CEO Neal Froneman and Remgro CEO Jannie Durand is the deputy chairperson on behalf of B4SA, and jointly managed through the Joint Initiative on Crime and Corruption (JICC), chaired by the Director General in the Presidency.

BACSA's changed status has also led to the appointment of the board which comprises Neal Froneman (Chairperson), Jannie Durand (Deputy Chairperson), BLSA CEO Busisiwe Mavuso, Pick n Pay Chairman Gareth Ackerman, SBSA CEO Lungisa Fuzile, ABSA Chairman Sello Moloko, Business Unity South Africa CEO Cas Coovadia and my own appointment as CEO, effective 1 November 2023.

The primary goal of BACSA is to facilitate the delivery of a safe and secure environment for business by:

- Strengthening collaboration and partnerships between the business sector and government agencies in addressing priority crimes;
- Optimizing and scale the extensive work already underway across sectors; and
- Mobilize the broader support and involvement in anti-crime efforts across society.

Several important initiatives are underway and benefitting from joint efforts between government and business to address the unacceptably high levels of crime, violence and corruption in the country. These initiatives leverage information, skills and resources resident in the private sector and which are typically not readily accessible to agencies within the Criminal Justice System (CJS) - to strengthen law enforcement and building critical capacity across the CJS in agreed and selected priority areas.

The continued commitment of the private sector to support and resource these joint initiatives, despite the current challenging economic climate, is extremely pleasing and gratifying. This commitment stretches back to the formative years of BACSA following its establishment in 1996 to more recent times with the establishment of the Business/Government partnership under the leadership of President Ramaphosa.

The continued role of the private sector in supporting national anti-crime efforts and BACSA, as an enabling mechanism is critical given the changing crime landscape, as evidenced by the explosion of cybercrime amid the increased sophistication and growth of organised criminal syndicates. This has been exacerbated by the purposeful weakening of the CJS during the decade of State Capture.

This edition provides updates on some of the initiatives undertaken by BACSA in partnership with a range of private sector organisations and the relevant parties within the criminal justice system. These include current and emerging challenges such as the construction mafia and extortion, through improved information sharing, cooperation and targeted interventions between the private sector and law enforcement. These initiatives, which hold the relevant parties accountable, provide enduring and meaningful benefits to law enforcement as well as the private sector.

The organisation remains critically dependent on ongoing financial support from the business sector and is committed to provide value to the national anti-crime efforts and to specifically addressing the requirements of business.

Dr Graham Wright
BACSA CEO

Meet the BACSA CEO and board members



Neal Froneman
Sibanye Stillwater CEO and
BACSA chairman



Jannie Durand
Remgro CEO and BACSA
deputy-chairman



Sello Moloko
ABSA Chairman



Busisiwe Mavuso
BLSA CEO



Lungisa Fuzile
SBSA CEO



Gareth Ackerman
Pick n Pay Chairman



Cas Coovadia
Business Unity South Africa
CEO



Dr Graham Wright
BACSA CEO

Fight Crime and Corruption

Steady progress is being made in the Crime and Corruption focal area of the Business for South Africa (B4SA) and Government partnership.

For example, we have identified specific JCPS priorities where private sector support and assistance can be provided, on an arms-length basis, to preserve the independence and integrity of the criminal justice system (CJS) agencies/departments. The planned interventions are typically of a short- to medium-term nature given the mandate and expected timelines of the B4SA/Government partnership.

Crime and corruption priorities are as follows:

- **CJS capacity building** – with a particular focus on building the requisite skills and capabilities for complex investigations and prosecutions (such as money laundering, with the requisite guard-rails in place to preserve independence). This typically includes digital forensics and equipping investigators with specialist skills (such as forensic accounting). The intended outcomes of this initiative include the removal of South Africa from the FATF grey list, the establishment of critical forensic capability in the CJS and the improvement in the detection and prosecution rates of serious organised crime and corruption.
- **Strengthening law enforcement** – through the acquisition and sharing of data and information resident in the private sector and the mobilization of private sector resources. This includes the expansion of the current BACSA Eyes and Ears (E2) partnership with the SAPS and the mobilisation of private security and civil society surveillance capabilities.
- **Modernisation of the Gauteng 10111 Call Centre** – supporting the SAPS by leveraging the private sector's inherent competitiveness, knowledge and experience in call centre design, management and operations. This will ensure sound investment decisions in critical infrastructure, the enablement of necessary technology platforms, the improvement of environmental design, capacitation of call centre management and staff, and the improvement of the overall call-taking and dispatching functions, amongst others.
- **Critical infrastructure security** – securing critical infrastructure, such as the rail and road transport networks, to enable the efficient transport of goods. In the short period since its inception, this Priority Committee has mobilised resources from across the JCPS (Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster) and the private sector and has begun to reduce the vandalism and theft of network infrastructure, thus improving the flow of goods.
- **Behaviour change and Mobilising civil society** – aimed at achieving a 'whole of society' involvement in improving ethics and values to address the prevalence of fraud and corruption across society, and enhancing similar initiatives across government, business and civil society.

Implementation of the tourism safety initiative



On 31 August 2023, the BACSA E2Monitoring Centre was established as a national centre to facilitate crime-related incidents reported through the SECURA Traveller application, a tourist-friendly app that features a panic button to report incidents.

A service provider initiates and monitors incidents until the individual in distress confirms that they are safe and secure, while tourism ambassadors located throughout the country provide aftercare.

The Minister of Tourism, Minister Patricia de Lille, visited the BACSA Monitor Centre on 31 August 2023, and commended business on the establishment of an operational information-sharing centre, which could be utilised to implement an essential service for tourists.

BACSA facilitates workshop for construction mafia task teams

The construction mafia, also known as the business mafia, is a growing problem. To help address this BACSA in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) recently facilitated a workshop for anti-extortion task teams titled: Attending to Business Mafia Complaints.

The workshop was held at Toti Masonic Centre and was aimed at task teams within the SAPS, eThekwin Metro Police and Road Traffic Inspectorate.



The participants were briefed on the modus operandi used by business mafia syndicates and were given information on how to combat these syndicates, the relevant charges to be opened and elements of writing a statement to ensure convictions for these types of incidents.

The attendees were also guided on how to use E2 for early activation and informed about the resources available to them through the E2 Initiative.

BACSA was applauded for initiating the event and for taking the lead against combating business mafia syndicates in the province by the POCC Commander and Brigadier Mzinayane as well as Capt Thomas from the SAPS' Organised Crime unit.

BACSA believes this training will lead to more arrests and convictions, and ultimately a reduction in this form of crime in the province.

Clamping down on extortion in KZN

On 6 November 2023, business mafia suspects tried to take over Qala Quarry in KZN. BAC KZN together with private security personnel and SAPS members, managed to mobilise enough manpower to outnumber the kingpin and his associates. A total of 11 suspects were arrested for fraud, intimidation, and trespassing. Five rifles and six handguns were confiscated.

BACSA's Construction Security Conference

Over the past few months, the construction/ extortion mafia has been making headlines in the City of Cape Town.

On 21 February 2024, BAC Western Cape hosted the Business Against Crime Construction Security Conference at the Peninsula Hotel, Cape Town, aimed at unifying role players in the fight against extortion and sending a powerful message that communities are not breeding grounds for crime, and that together a safer, more resilient Western Cape can be built.



BAC Western Cape Conference 2023



On 27 October 2023 Business Against Crime hosted a crime prevention conference at the Peninsula Hotel. The aim of the conference was to come up with strategies that will help South Africans, businesses, SAPS and non-profit organisations fight against crime,

At the conference it was emphasised that cross-sectoral collaboration is essential because crime is a complex and multifaceted issue that cannot be addressed by a single sector or organisation.

Team work is dream work

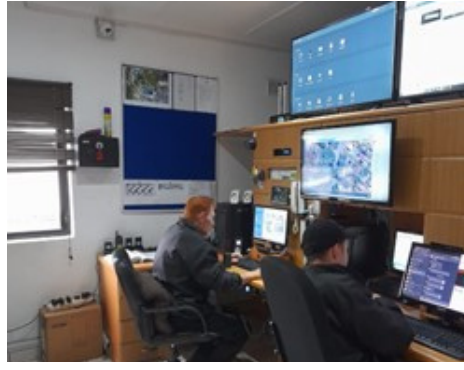
The war against crime cannot be won by a single entity alone. During this quarter BACSA and its partners met on several occasions to further amplify and solidify their initiatives to fight against crime.

Recently the KwaZulu Natal Eyes and Ears Initiative hosted the Festive Season Planning meeting for all E2 partners. The aim of the meeting was to activate resources and to include the E2 partners in SAPS operational plans for the festive season.

On 14 November 2023, a Security Symposium was held in Gauteng where all BACSA, E2 partners, from private security and SAPS were in attendance.

On 17 November 2023, BACSA hosted a work session with national and provincial SAPS members. At the session, BACSA identified challenges and possible solutions, and also emphasised our commitment to assist the SAPS in ensuring that this partnership is successful.

Launch of the Ugu and Ilembe Districts in KZN



During the fourth quarter of 2024 the E2 Initiative was launched in Ugu District in KZN, followed by the launch of the Ilembe District Operational Command Centre (DOCC).

BACSA Project Manager in KZN Avishkar Motilal, provided training to the designated SAPS and private security members in Ugu District. The private security control room is currently being used by the SAPS and municipality to monitor municipality CCTV, which observes public areas, including blue flag beaches.

A few days after the launch of Ilembe DOCC, E2's, private security members, farm watchers and the SAPS, spotted a suspicious vehicle that was found to have been involved in a farm attack. The suspects were arrested – another example of the essential role that E2 (and teamwork) plays in the fight against crime.

Rural environment seminar in Free State

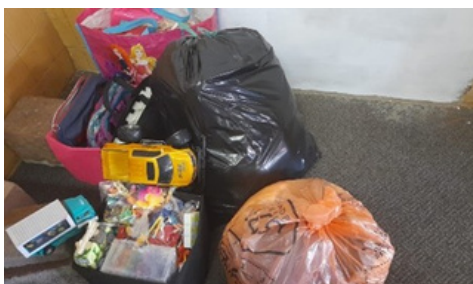
Late last year the Rural Environment Seminar was hosted in the Free State Province.

BACSA National Project Manager and former SAPS Brigadier Johan Kruger led the seminar and introduced E2 to the agriculture stakeholders and law enforcement.

With state-of-the-art equipment such as cameras and impeccable communication portals planted throughout the nine provinces, Kruger emphasised that BACSA aims to keep South Africa and its people safe.

Although the Free State currently does not have an E2 representative, Kruger assured delegates that the recruitment process would be transparent and that a suitable candidate will be chosen regardless of whether they are an SAPS, private security industry or approved non- private security industry role-player.

BACSA lends a helping hand



BACSA is not only about fighting crime and corruption but also helping communities in need. Recently BAC KZN and other E2 partners hosted a blood drive and a toy and clothing drop-off drive.

The aim of the drive was not only to replenish the low blood stock levels but also collect toys and pre-loved clothing items for communities who are less fortunate.

SAPS Western Cape Excellence Awards

On 11 November 2023, SAPS members who go beyond the call of duty were recognised for their hard work and efforts at the SAPS Western Cape Excellence Awards, hosted at the Century City Conference. BAC Western Cape was one of the sponsors of the event.



BACSA applauds the women and men in blue who received awards on the day – as well as the thousands of dedicated

SAPS members who are committed to making South Africa a safer and better place not only for its citizens but also for businesses to operate in.

BAC WC Provincial Junior Commissioner Project



BACSA understands that it takes a village to raise a child. BAC Western Cape recently hosted the Provincial Junior Commissioner Project and the Provincial Junior Commissioner Project "meet the parents/principals," event.

The aim of this initiative is to foster a positive relationship between law enforcement agencies and the youth in their communities.

BACSA is proud of the amazing group of young men and women who attended. We trust they will continue to show courage in the face of adversity, helping them change their lives and the lives of others.

Armed robbery foiled

Recently two suspects were arrested for armed robbery of a fresh produce retailer in Overberg, in the Western Cape. The suspects stormed the shop and stole a large sum of money. During the robbery two armed response members who responded to the incident were also shot.

A quick response by a multidisciplinary team led to one of the two suspects being arrested while the other fled the scene.

A firearm and approximately R40 000 in cash were recovered.

The second suspect was spotted on CCTV footage. He was apprehended by the authorities. And a firearm was recovered

R15 000 worth of copper seized



On 18 October 2023, a vehicle that was involved in copper cable theft in and around the Virginia, Hennenman, Kroonstad areas was intercepted in Hennenman.

The vehicle had been monitored for a period of time as part of an intelligence gathering exercise driven by Waylay Ops and conducted by a multidisciplinary team. Five suspects were arrested after copper cables weighing 100kg and worth R15 000 were found inside the vehicle.

It is suspected that the cables were stolen at the Geneva Railway substation on the R70, in Kroonstad.

Rhino poachers arrested

Since 2007 almost 10 000 rhinos have been poached in South Africa alone. Late last year a vehicle was pulled over with the assistance of SAPS flying squad after information was received that they were possibly involved with rhino poaching.

The four male occupants were arrested after they were found with rhino poaching tools, a 458 rifle, nine rounds of ammunition, a silencer and three hunting knives. The vehicle was pounded.

Cross pavement robbery an inside job

It is said that most criminal offences are committed by people who have inside information. On 21 February 2024, a Fidelity Cash Solution security officer was allegedly robbed of R125 270 at gunpoint and his service pistol was stolen.

The security officer was interviewed by authorities and admitted to being involved in the planning of the crime. He also admitted to being involved in another incident that happened in Isipingo in January 2024.

Further investigation from the authorities led them to a residence in Umlazi U- Section where the security officer's accomplices resided. Upon arrival the police officers were confronted with a hail of bullets and a shootout between the police and suspects ensued. Two suspects were fatally wounded, and two firearms were recovered.

Copper cable thieves nabbed

Over the past few years there has been a significant increase in copper cable theft across South Africa. Recently E2 members received information from the local farming and security community in the Free State that a vehicle suspected to be transporting stolen copper cables was headed towards Welkom.

The vehicle was stopped and searched by the SAPS in Welkom, and four roles of stripped copper wire was found in the car. The five males in the vehicle admitted taking the copper wire from Oryx Mine near Theunissen.

The copper wire found in their possession weighed 69000 grams, with a total value of R7 797.00 The suspects were arrested, and the vehicle was also seized.

Abalone thieves caught on camera

Authorities across the board are using technology in the fight against crime. On 3 January 2024, members of the SAPS received information about abalone poachers in the North West and requested assistance from SAPIS/Syntell.

With the use of agri cameras SAPIS/Syntell was able to assist the SAPS to locate and apprehend the suspects who were found with abalone in their possession.