

# BACSA NEWSLETTER



## FROM THE CEO'S DESK

As we launch this final newsletter for 2024 in the lead up to the Festive Season break, we take note of the release of the Crime Statistics for the second quarter (1 July to 30 September 2024) by the Minister of Police, Senzo Mchunu.

These statistics indicate an overall decline of 5.1% in community-reported serious crimes, including murder, rape, sexual offenses, and robbery with aggravating circumstances, as well as reductions in cash-in-transit heists, bank robberies, and truck hijackings.

While this stabilisation is welcomed, more needs to be done for meaningful improvement in the safety and security of citizens and businesses. Many of these serious crimes are underpinned by organised crime, some of which is unfortunately ingrained into the fabric of society. This will continue to hamper impact economic growth, and citizens' well-being, and requires extraordinary commitment and sustained measures to root out corrupt and unlawful practices and behaviours.

Notwithstanding the challenges which lie ahead, we applaud the commitment and tireless efforts of the Minister of Police, the National Commissioner and the SAPS, and their visible determination to change the crime and violence landscape for the better.

We also pledge our ongoing commitment and best efforts in tackling these matters in partnership with, and the support of, government.

The past year has been particularly busy for BACSA as it worked to re-establish itself as an independent NPO following its extraction from BLSA. This follows the decision by BUSA/B4SA that BACSA should serve as the primary coordinating structure on the Crime & Corruption Workstream (CCWS) of the government-business partnership, established under the leadership of President Ramaphosa.

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The CCWS has been an extremely intensive initiative requiring engagement with government at the highest possible level, under the leadership of the business co-leaders, namely Sibanye Stillwater CEO Neal Froneman, Remgro CEO Jannie Durand and FirstRand CEO Mary Vilakazi.

This year the Eyes and Ears (E2) Initiative has been at the forefront of several crime-fighting successes and initiatives. Before, during and after the 2024 national general elections E2 supported the law enforcement agencies in ensuring that the elections were safe and secure.

This partnership demonstrated that the fight against crime cannot be fought by the SAPS alone - civil society, communities, and government must all work together to fight this scourge.

In this newsletter you will read about the progress made within the B4SA Crime and Corruption workstream, the various workshops and initiatives BACSA has embarked on in the fight against crime, and the Eyes and Ears (E2) festive season safety tips.

I would like to thank the various government departments, law enforcement agencies, private security companies, donors, businesses, associations, and partners for their support during 2024. May our partnerships continue to go from strength to strength in 2025.

  
**BACSA CEO**

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## Crime and Corruption workstream update

On 1 October President Cyril Ramaphosa, several ministers and Business CEOs launched Phase 2 of Government Business Partnership – recommitting to a new era of economic growth, investment and jobs by increasing the pace of reforms and shifting national sentiment.

During Phase 1 of the partnership, initiated in 2023, the power of collaboration between government and business was demonstrated. It tackled some of the country's most pressing challenges in the areas of energy, transport and logistics, and crime and corruption, resulting in some key achievements.

BACSA, which is heading the Crime and Corruption workstream, has made some great progress over the past few months.

### **Joint Initiative against Crime and Corruption**

It continues to work closely with the Presidency and the Joint Initiative against Crime and Corruption (JICC) and has seconded a seasoned professional to the Presidency to serve as the interim leader of the JICC Secretariat.

The JICC, led by the National Security Advisor Prof FS Mufamadi, is being realigned to further prioritise the areas of business support and entrench itself within government's JCPS Cluster, and among its Ministers and DGs. Part of the realignment includes a review of

the current focus on building the State's capacity in financial and digital forensics and related investigations and prosecution of complex money laundering and corruption cases, as well as the work on infrastructure crime.

### **Workstream 1**

The Forensics Capacity Building (initiative?) has been fully planned in cooperation with the DPCI and National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), and SABRIC, and is ready for implementation. This is one of the core areas of focus of B4SA's fundraising drive that was initiated following the launch of Phase 2. A similar process is underway within government to allocate the necessary funding on the basis that the initiative requires equal funding from government and business.

Within Phase 2 of the business and government partnership, business support will also be extended to support the NPA and its agencies, at the request of the NPA.

The past period has also seen further developments in the Infrastructure Crime initiative which has till now focused on electricity and logistics infrastructure, with other industry sectors being systematically added.

BACSA fully supports the partnership between business and government as it is essential in making South Africa good for business and business good for South Africa.

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## Signing of WC, Gauteng and KZN cooperation agreements

The signing of the Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal Cooperation Agreements for safety and policing in recent months demonstrate the importance of strong and reliable business and government partnerships. The agreements aim to enhance collaboration and coordination among all stakeholders in the different regions to address safety and security concerns effectively, with businesses and government pledging to make the best use of their collective resources.



Minister Senzo Mchunu at the Ekurhuleni Signing Ceremony

### Cape Town

On 30 August 2024 the national, provincial, and local governments, the SAPS, the City of Cape Town, Business Against Crime's Western Cape branch, community organisations and private security companies came together to sign the agreement.

### Ekurhuleni and Johannesburg

On 8 October 2024, the Ministry of Police officially signed Cooperation Agreements with the Gauteng Provincial Government, the City of Ekurhuleni, City of Johannesburg, and City of Tshwane metropolitan municipalities. Business Against Crime South Africa (BACSA), CEO, Dr Graham Wright was also in attendance.

### KwaZulu-Natal

The KwaZulu-Natal agreements were signed on 24 October 2024 by the Ministry of Police, the KZN Provincial Government, Provincial Commissioner and Metro Police Commissioner, as well as the eThekweni Mayor, District Commissioner and the City of eThekweni municipality.

The agreements will see all the parties cooperate in areas such as research & development, procurement, commissioning of technological infrastructure, sharing of data, physical resources, and skills, and establishing a programme to address sexual offenses and related gender-based violence and femicide.

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## Business Against Crime Western Cape Conference 2024



(L-t-R) Hugo van Zyl, Ian Cameron & Fouche Burgers

The Business Against Crime Western Cape Conference was held in October 2024, in Bellville, Cape Town.

The theme “Innovate, Collaborate, Leading way to a safer South Africa,” highlighted the importance of a holistic approach, stronger partnerships and innovative solutions in the fight against crime.



Ian Cameron, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police

### Below is the list of speakers and their topics:

- Fouche Burgers, BACSA executive programme manager: The E2 Initiative - Leading the Way to a Safer South Africa.
- Ian Cameron, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police: Actions that should happen within SAPS.

- Anroux Marais, MEC for Police Oversight and Community Safety: Western Cape Safety Plan.
- Tony Botes, National Administrator, Security Association of South Africa (SASA) - *Is the SAPS able to effectively combat crime in South Africa and the role the private security industry can play?*
- Jenni Irish-Qhobosheane, senior researcher at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime - *Extortion in South Africa- Understanding the Crisis and Exploring Solutions.*
- Hugo van Zyl, COO of the Insurance Crime Bureau - *The role of private organisations in the fight against crime.*

### Survey shows most farmers use technology to address crime

Like our global counterparts, South Africa is knee-deep in the fourth industrial revolution, using artificial intelligence and ChatGPT to help solve some of our daily problems.

The Free State Agriculture (FSA) / Vrystaat Landbou (VL) Rural Safety Committee conducted a survey in June 2024 among farming communities in the Free State to determine the use of technology to combat crime in farming communities.

The results of the survey were presented during a Farm Security and Safety conference on 21 June 2024 at

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Emperor's Palace in Johannesburg which was funded by the magazine Farmers Weekly.

The survey revealed that 86% of farmers are involved in a safety and contingency plan under a Farmer's Association with the SAPS within the National Rural Safety Strategy (NRSS); and that 96% of farmers use technological tools and equipment to address and prevent crime.

Most survey participants(74%) indicated that they have technological tools such as radios, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras (83%).



Radios connected to a control room in their respective areas have been used in 56% of reported incidents.

Two out of three farmers rely on informer or informer networks to address crime. With specific reference to livestock theft, participants indicated that in 67% of cases, successes and recoveries on livestock theft occurred from informer networks together with the Stock Theft Units (STUs) of SAPS. Out of 2805 animals stolen, 2142 animals worth R11.29 million were recovered. Only 11.43% of these recoveries involved camera networks.

Farming communities rely on private



security companies, control rooms, technology such as radios and cameras, involvement in a safety and contingency plan within the NRSS, and informer networks to ensure a safer agricultural sector in the Free State. The results of the survey indicated that safety in farming communities and rural areas cannot be attributed to one aspect or tool alone, but rather to a combination of different aspects, sources, and equipment, with collaboration playing a big role in ensuring a safe environment. The survey also indicated that farming communities lose hundreds of millions of rands to crime annually.

Even with the availability of new technologies, addressing criminality effectively requires cooperation between farmers, the SAPS and private security who are already servicing some of the rural communities and farming communities in the Free State within the NRSS.

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## Eyes and Ears Initiative Update



### Planned SAPS operation in Centurion

An increase in the theft and highjacking of Uber and delivery motorcycles in the Wierdabrug Sector in Centurion led to an operational plan being set in motion at several locations where riders normally congregate.

On 12 July 2024, the respective role players conducted registration and identification verifications at the identified locations, with two motorcycles found to have been previously stolen. The riders were detained



for possession of a stolen vehicle. The inspection of a Hi-Ace minibus revealed that its identification marks had been removed or altered. The vehicle was seized for tampering and taken to the SAPS Safeguarding Unit for further investigation. As the operation proceeded, a total of 12 illegal immigrants were arrested and detained at the Wierdabrug Police Station.

### Capacitating the command centres

Due to the success of the E2 Initiative in KZN, some districts have introduced specific response teams to attend to information received from the initiative. Controllers have been placed in the provincial operational command centre (POCC) by Buffalo Security to support existing Fidelity Security Services controllers. In the Umgugundlovu district operational command centre (DOCC) AET Security has placed a 24-hr controller which will capacitate the SAPS Umgugundlovu DOCC by screening and alerting relevant law enforcement officials and response units to incidents in the district.

### BACSA community engagement session in KZN

With the crime situation in South Africa reaching a boiling point, the police cannot fight crime alone and needs additional support. At a BACSA community engagement session in KZN, eThekweni community members were able to engage with SAPS to discuss crime prevention strategies, and several approached BACSA and the SAPS with a lot of information about undetected crimes in the community. Due to safety concerns, community members felt that they were more comfortable reporting these issues to stakeholders who are not directly linked to the police station. A few companies experiencing extortion also approached BACSA with information which was handed over to SAPS.

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## Successful blood drive in KZN



On 12 July 2024, E2 partners facilitated a blood drive in the Durban South area. The drive allowed for greater and easier access to donors and was an opportunity for the South African Blood Services (SANBS) staff to educate the community and recruit new donors. The donor target set by SANBS on the day was surpassed, and the initiative helped to promote community cohesion. BACSA and its E2 partners plan to host more blood drives soon.

## A safer city for all

On 28 August 2024, at approximately 13h00, members of the E2 Initiative and the Safer City Project together with members from MI 7 Security chased and recovered a stolen white VW Polo hatchback, on the corner of Prince Alfred and Boshoff Streets in KwaZulu-Natal. The vehicle, which had been stolen earlier that morning from Dickinson Road in Hayfields, collided with a MI 7 patrol vehicle before driving into the side of the Eagle Auto Sales building. The stolen vehicle was also used in a housebreaking at the same premises from which it was stolen. One suspect was apprehended, and two others fled the scene.

### Recovery of a stolen vehicle - Free State

On 5 September 2024, a report regarding a stolen Land Cruiser from Vrede, in the Free State was received by Eyes and Ears members. SAPIS/Oryx and Villiers SAPS profiled the vehicle. With the cooperation of private security companies, the vehicle was recovered, proving the success of the E2 structures and the collaboration between SAPS and the private security industry.

### Recovery of a stolen vehicle - Pretoria

On 12 July 2024, information was received about a stolen vehicle in the Pretoria area, leading to the launch of a multiple disciplinary operation to locate the vehicle. The E2 team monitored a vehicle matching the description when the suspects fled in the stolen vehicle and a high-speed chase ensued.

Measures to immobilize the vehicle were taken and it was stopped in Danville. Four suspects were arrested, and one vehicle, one jamming device, multiple motor vehicle computer boxes, multiple cell phones, car-breaking implements, and hand gloves were seized.

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## Recovery of unlicensed firearms and ammunition



On 26 September 2024, members from the E2 Initiative, SAPS Crime Intelligence, and members of AET security company worked on an intelligence-driven operation in the Wartburg area, in KwaZulu Natal and arrested a suspect in possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition. A .38 special handgun, two rifles, and an undisclosed amount of ammunition were recovered.

## Tuck shop extortionists arrested

On 14 October 2024, members of the Provincial Anti-Economic Crime Task Team received information about five males carrying firearms who were extorting money from spaza shops at the Cosovo and Samora Machel areas, in Cape Town.

The members reacted swiftly, and on arrival in the area community members confirmed the incident and that the suspects had gone towards Philippi. The suspects were traced to Browns Farm where they were found carrying backpacks.

They were stopped and searched, and coins and packets of cigarettes were found in their possession. An assault rifle and two prohibited firearms were found hidden under the mattress in a shack. The two suspects were arrested.

## Anti-extortion seminar hosted by BACSA KZN



In an effort to educate the public about extortion during October 2024 Business Against Crime South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal's (KZN) Branch together with SAPS Organised Crime Division hosted an anti-extortion seminar for small businesses at the Hollywood Bets Sharks Business Centre.

There were presentations on what to do if you are being extorted, available resources, the impact of extortion, reporting extortion, and the anti-extortion specialist units available in KZN.

The seminar was well received by the attendees and the engagement was highly interactive. Small business owners felt empowered and even had the opportunity to report undetected crimes relating to extortions confidentially to SAPS and BACSA representatives.

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## Wanted kingpin arrested in Western Cape



The assistance of a local private security company, Gordon's Bay Security (GBSEC), was requested by the SAPS Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (HAWKS) Pretoria in the search for a person and a vehicle of interest in a case involving money laundering and fraud (romance scamming) to the value of R3.4 million.

GBSEC members identified the vehicle on the morning of 3 October 2024 and confirmed all movements to the HAWKS

members, who made their way down to the Western Cape. On the morning of 4 October 2024, marked and unmarked GBSEC vehicles with the assistance of Gordon's Bay SAPS waited for the vehicle.

Just before noon, the suspect was spotted in the Strand area and the call was made to activate the E2 Initiative. Details of the suspect's vehicle were broadcast to all security partners within the Helderberg area, while the Strand Neighbourhood Watch was also called in to help search for the vehicle and suspect.

The vehicle was spotted by a GBSEC unit and E2 was notified. Security vehicles from GBSEC, Vetus Schola, and ADT together with the City of Cape Town (CoCT) Traffic Department swooped in from all directions, while Strand Neighbourhood Watch members blocked side roads to prevent an escape.

The HAWKS soon arrived on the scene and took the suspect in for detention. After further investigation, GBSEC units together with Vetus Schola, ADT and CoCT Traffic accompanied the HAWKS to an address in Gordons Bay where the latter arrested the kingpin of a Lyttelton case involving over R3.4million in fraud and money laundering (romance scamming).

BACSA commends the dedication, attitude and contributions of Mr Heyns De Waal at GBSEC, DPCI SAPS members, CoCT Traffic Department, Vetus Scola and ADT in the apprehension of this wanted criminal.

## Anti-poaching success

On 16 September 2024, suspects were caught harvesting rock lobster in the Kleinmond Marine Protected Area, in the Western Cape. The swift action taken by the Overstrand Municipality's Task Team, and the Marine and Coastal Unit during a late-night integrated operation led to the arrest of four men for allegedly harvesting 202 live West Coast rock lobsters without a permit.

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## 30 tons of stolen maize found

In September 2024, four suspects were arrested after being found in possession of a truck with 30 tons of stolen maize in Hoopstad/Hertzogville, in the Free State.

The SAPIS/Syntell structure collected all the information and activated the SAPS with the assistance of the E2 controllers stationed at the SAPS National Operational Command Centre (NOCC), all of which was only possible through the partnership of the E2 Initiative. Private security identified the truck and with the cooperation of SAPS, four suspects were arrested, 30 tons of maize were recovered, and two vehicles and one firearm were seized. This was another victory for the Agri sector's investment in the SAPIS/Syntell structure.

## Law enforcement member arrested in stock theft crime

While conducting a Blue Light Operation on 7 August 2024 from 16h00, members received information from Crime Intelligence regarding suspects planning stock theft in several areas in the Free State. There were indications that a SAPS member was among the suspects.

Members then conducted a Waylay Operation. The description and registration numbers of the suspected vehicles were "flagged" on the Syntell camera systems in the area and movements were monitored.

On 8 August 2024 at 02h00, the members managed to intercept the identified vehicles in the R70 Ventersburg / Senekal Road and arrested seven suspects in possession of suspected stolen property (livestock produce). The carcass of a slaughtered animal was found in their possession. The two vehicles they used were seized.

Follow-up investigations continued throughout the day together with Odendaalsrus Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit (STES) as well as Crime Intelligence, and the location of the stock theft scene and two vehicles were identified.

Members continued to an abandoned farm in the Senekal District and managed to recover two Bonsmara Cross Cows as well as seven calves with an estimated value of R124 000. One of the suspects arrested was identified as a SAPS member.

## CIT robbery foiled



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On 4 August 2024 a cash-in-transit robbery was foiled when a multidisciplinary team pounced on would-be robbers leaving eight dead in Khayelitsha, Cape Town.

A multidisciplinary team comprising of members from the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI), intelligence operatives, Special Task Force members, and security company officials followed up on vital information about a possible cash-in-transit robbery in Khayelitsha.

The team approached the suspects, who started firing shots at police. The police retaliated and eight suspects were shot dead, with five arrested.

A total of seven AK 47 Rifles, two R5 Rifles, one R4 Rifle, one Dash prod Rifle, two 9mm pistols, three improvised explosive chargers, and numerous magazines filled with rounds of ammunition were seized.

### **East Rand jewellery store robbed – suspects nabbed**

Two vehicles were spotted travelling at a high speed on the R59 highway in Alberton by one of the tactical units. Backup was requested to establish why the vehicles were driving recklessly.

The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Police Department (EMPD) and the CPS tactical units attempted to stop the vehicles at Klipriver Drive and a shootout occurred. The suspects were fleeing from a jewellery store robbery where a member of the public had been shot.

Two suspects were arrested. Both getaway vehicles were recovered together with one unlicensed firearm as well as the jewellery taken during the robbery. It was also established that both getaway vehicles were taken in hi-jackings in Linden and Berea, Johannesburg.

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### E2 Safer Festive Season - Kidnapping



Over the past few years, there has been a spike in the number of kidnappings in South Africa. With the festive season in full swing, community members need to be on high alert. It is not only the rich and famous who get kidnapped but also ordinary South Africans from disadvantaged communities.

The recent 2024/2025 Q2 SAPS Crime Statistics indicate that there has been a 7.6% decrease in kidnappings. Between July and September, a total of 3995 people were kidnapped in South Africa.

Most kidnappings involved a ransom demand, while extortion and human trafficking also contributed to the high numbers.

In 2024, the top six police stations that had kidnapping cases in South Africa were:

1. Orange Farm in Gauteng
2. Vosloorus in Gauteng
3. Kempton Park in Gauteng
4. Umlazi in KZN
5. Tembisa in Gauteng
6. Evaton in Gauteng

Here are some tips to follow should a loved one be kidnapped or go missing:

- Report the matter to your nearest police station or contact the Bureau for Missing Persons as soon as possible; you do not need to wait 24 hours.
  - Take a recent photograph of the missing person with you to the police station so that it can be scanned into the National Bureau for Missing Persons database. This database is a Crime Stop project and police all over the country use it.
  - Give any information that might help to identify the person, such as their age, height, hair colour, eye colour, and any identifying marks such as scars or tattoos. You may be asked to fill in forms giving all this information.
  - A detective will be assigned to the case. You should make sure that you have the name and contact details of the detective and keep in contact with them.
  - You should give that detective any new information about the missing person that you get after you have reported the case.
  - Remember to inform the police should the missing person be found.
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## E2 Safer Festive Season - Hijackings and road safety



Hijackings in South Africa have skyrocketed over the past couple of years, but the recent 2024/2025 Q2 SAPS Crime Statistics painted a picture of hope for South Africans.

The statistics revealed that there was a 9.4% decrease in hijackings during Q2. Most of the vehicles hijacked during the quarter were hatchbacks, sedans and coupes, followed by bakkies and panel vans.

As the festive season approaches, many of us will be heading out onto the road and leaving our homes for vacation destinations. Make sure you, your family and your possessions are safe during the holidays. This means taking extra precautions while driving on the roads.

### **Before heading out on a long road trip, you should:**

- Take your car for a roadworthy inspection and make sure your tyres and brakes are in good working order.
- Check that you have a reflective triangle and a good quality flashlight that you can use to warn motorists should your car break down.
- Obey all traffic regulations when travelling and comply with the instructions of Law Enforcement officers.
- Avoid driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol, which is illegal and extremely dangerous.

More people are prone to drop their guard as they enjoy the festivities, but getting lost in the moment heightens the risks of falling prey to hijackers. Here are a few hijacking prevention tips for the festive season:

### **Always be alert while driving**

- When stopping at traffic lights or stop signs, ensure there is enough space between you and the vehicle in front of you to be able to get away.
  - Keep your windows closed when stuck in traffic.
  - Sitting in a vehicle while it is parked on the pavement increases your chances of getting hijacked. Be cautious.
  - If you feel that a car might be following you, rather change routes and drive to your nearest police station.
  - Most hijackings occur around your home so always be extra cautious when approaching your place of residence.
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### **Be cautious**

- If you have an electric gate, wait for it to open while you are still on the road before
- pulling into your driveway – this makes it difficult for would-be hijackers to box you in and enables you to pull away should the need arise.
- If you are opening a manual gate, leave the keys in the ignition and the engine running while doing so unless there are children in the car, in which case turn off the ignition and keep the keys with you. The keys can be used as a negotiating tool to get the children out of a hijacked vehicle to safety.
- When being told to stop by law enforcement, do so immediately.
- If you are stopped by a law enforcement vehicle but are sceptical about its legitimacy, slow down, indicate to the driver that you acknowledge him, and drive to the closest police station.

### **Should you or a loved one get hijacked remember to:**

- Stay calm.
- Do not make direct eye contact.
- Do everything the perpetrators tell you to do.
- Do not resist, threaten, or provoke the hijackers.

## **E2 Safer Festive Season - Make sure your home is safe**



House robberies are prevalent in South Africa and while the recent Q2 SAPS Crime Statistics showed a slight decrease (1.3%) in housebreakings, it is important for South Africans to always be on guard and on high alert.

According to the statistics, the police stations that received the highest amount of robbery at residential reports are as follows:

- Kwazakele in the Eastern Cape
- Inanda in KZN
- Rooderpoort in Gauteng
- Khayelitsha in the Western Cape
- Plessislaer in KZN
- Thembisa in Gauteng

**With the festive season in full swing, it is important that you make the following provisions to safeguard your home from burglaries.**

- If are going to be travelling, inform your security company that you will be away and ask them to do a check to make sure that the alarm and all motion sensors are working.
  - Also leave an emergency contact number with them.
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- Make sure that your CCTV cameras and electric fence are working.
  - Double check that all doors are locked and that all windows are shut properly before you set out.
  - Unplug all unnecessary appliances, such as the TV, coffee maker and kettle to protect against damaging power surges.
  - Do not store any jewellery or valuables in your home while you're away. Rather put them in a safety deposit box. If you have no choice, make sure to lock these away safely, out of plain sight.

**Additional tips to make sure your home is safe while you are away:**

- Make sure to park your car out of sight, preferably behind a closed garage door.
- Arrange with a friend or neighbour to check on your property occasionally and collect your post. Other subscriptions should be put on hold for the time you are away on holiday.
- Don't leave a message on your voicemail that says you are away on holiday.
- Never post your travel plans on social media platforms and share these selectively.
- Don't leave a spare key under the flowerpot, door mat or any other place outside of your home. Rather leave it with a trustworthy neighbour or family member.
- Consider using a time switch to turn your lights on at random times in the evening, rather than programming them to switch on at the same time every day.

**Even if you are not going away, here are some tips to make sure you're safe at home:**

- Always keep security gates locked – even if you are entertaining outside.
- Keep an eye out for suspicious people roaming your neighbourhood and report them.
- Don't leave outside lights on during the day.
- Stay together - use a buddy system. Attend festivals with a friend or group of friends and agree on a buddy system beforehand.
- Inspect locks on windows and doors to make sure they work.
- Don't leave your belongings unattended unless stored securely.
- Keep your purse close to your body or your wallet in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket.
- Trust your instincts. Be alert to your surroundings.

## **E2 Safer Festive Season: Gender-based violence**





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The rate of gender-based violence in South Africa is alarming – and it is getting worse. The Q2 2024 /2025 FY SAPS Crime Stats indicate that between 2022 and 2024 there has been an increase in the crimes (murder, attempted murder, and assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm) committed against women and children.

According to a recent study conducted by the Human Science Research Council, 33,1% of women over the age of 18 years have experienced some sort of physical violence in their lifetime. Incidents involving abuse and assault against women and children generally increase over the festive season. While every situation is unique, these steps could help you before, during, or after you have experienced abuse.

### **General Safety Tips**

1. Trust your instincts: If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, leave the situation.
2. Stay informed: Know your rights and local resources.
3. Build a support network: Surround yourself with trusted friends, family, and authorities.
4. Stay connected: Keep a fully charged phone and accessible communication devices.
5. Document incidents: Record dates, times, locations, and details.
6. Stay in well-lit, populated areas.
7. Avoid walking alone at night.
8. Keep emergency contacts handy.
9. Learn self-defence techniques.
10. Carry a whistle or alarm.

### **Be Prepared**

Have emergency helpline numbers such as:

1. National GBV Command Centre (0800 428 428)
2. SAPS Crime Stop (08600 10111)
3. Lifeline South Africa (0861 322 322)
4. POWA (People Opposing Women Abuse) (011 642 4345)
5. National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233)
6. National Sexual Assault Hotline (1-800-656-HOPE)

### **Reach Out**

Do you have someone that you can trust, like a friend or relative, that you can call for support? Let them know you may need help during this time. If they are uncomfortable with this, reach out to others that will help. Delete the text if the abuser regularly checks or has access to your phone.

### **Signal for help**

Create a code word with a trusted person or group so that they are aware when you need help. If you have children old enough to understand, then discuss this plan with them too.

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## Planning to leave

- Pack a bag. Items to pack include your documents (ID, passport, children's birth certificates, marriage certificate, protection order, etc.), medication, spare cellphone if you have one, money/bank cards, change of clothing, toiletries, small toys for children, and anything else that is important to you.

## Legally speaking

- Ensure that you have copies or have taken photographs on your phone of any important document in case you are unable to get hold of them before you leave. This includes a protection order if you have one.

## Leaving

- Know ahead of time where you want to go to. This could be to a friend or family member's house (but, let them know beforehand if possible), a shelter, a hospital, a community centre or a police station. Police officers can refer you to a shelter. If you cannot leave on your own, please contact any of the help numbers listed above for assistance.
- Staying safe
- Apply for a protection order if you don't have one already. Shelters can assist.
- Magistrates' courts also remain open during this time.

## Thanking our contributors

BACSA thanks all the contributors and role players in the fight against crime and making South Africa safer for all those who live in it.

The organisation thanks the SAPS and all law enforcement officials including, BAC Western Cape, Dr Jane Buys from the Free State Agriculture (FSA), Centurion JOC, Wierdabrug SAPS, Tracker, Safer City Projects, MI 7 Security, SAPIS/Oryx, Lyttleton SAPS, Safeguard APS, Monitor Net, Seek Security, Proshield Security, Axon Security, AET Security, Mr Jurg Kruger at SAPIS/Syntel, Villiers SAPS, Ernst Conradie, Adjutant Van Eeden, SAPS Crime Intelligence, EMPD, CPS tactical units, DPCI (HAWKS), Mr Heyns De Waal at Gordons Bay Security, Strand Neighbourhood Watch, Vertus Schola, ADT, City of Cape Town (CoCT) Traffic Department, Hollywood Bets Sharks Business Centre, Buffalo Security, SAPS Organised Crime, Odendaalsrus Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit (STES).