



### MESSAGE FROM THE CEO'S DESK— EMPHASIS ON CRIME STATISTICS 2012/3



MEDIA RELEASE

19 September 2013

BACSA calls for an integrated approach to reduce crime in South Africa.

Commenting on the annual 2012/13 crime statistics released this morning in Pretoria by the Minister of Police, CEO of Business Against Crime South Africa (BACSA) Adv Simi Pillay-van Graan said:

"BACSA is concerned about the high rate of crime, which continues unfortunately to be unsatisfactorily high. While significant efforts are being made by Government to address it by focusing on effective law enforcement, the dynamics surrounding the rate and type of crimes that are prevalent are dependent on many factors, including social conditions such as poverty, loss of employment and lack of family support amongst others.

We strongly believe an integrated approach involving most government departments, generous participation from business' and communities is the only way to change the situation drastically.

Business participation is critical to enabling an effective strategy to combat crime nationally, and as a united front we plan to continue to provide government with the support it requires to address crime. BACSA appeals to businesses who are not involved in fighting crime in the country to come on board and strengthen Governments' hand. The role of business in supporting the criminal justice system is important not only because it is imperative that all incidents of crime are reported, but due to the need for proper or reasonable security measures to protect property and person.

BACSA is proud to see that the non-ferrous crime combating committee is bearing fruit. Alongside the SAPS and state owned enterprises such as Eskom, Telkom and Transnet, BACSA has driven this initiative since 2004. BACSA's business partners made significant investments in this initiative which shows that there is a definite need for a Public-Private Partnership to effectively deal with crime.

Although there has been increase in small businesses in the country which means there is a larger base, we are concerned about the rise in the number of small business robberies. Small businesses are an easy target for criminals considering most keep their operational expenses to a minimum and cannot afford high levels of security. To alleviate this, BACSA is involved in an initiative to design a cash management system specifically for small businesses which is safe and cost effective. We are also exploring various other security measures appropriate for small businesses, which will be piloted soon. Visible policing around small business is essential, but we also believe Small Business Associations should involve law enforcement agencies as a key stakeholder to prevent them from becoming victims of crime.

Truck hi-jackings have gone up considerably. It is an area of concern by business and has been raised with BACSA over recent weeks. It is directly related to the illicit economy in the country. BACSA is in the process of having discussions with big businesses that are subject to truck hi-jackings to develop an anti-hijacking strategy. This will focus on stabilizing and eradicating the illicit economy in South Africa.

Corruption continues to be a problem. In the same way that it takes at least two parties to commit a corrupt act, it will take two parties to curb the problem. Crime thrives on opportunity, and we need to identify and curtail those opportunities which most commonly lead to crimes occurring.

While Government is guided by legislation and law enforcement policies, business has a responsibility to ensure that it does not become a catalyst for criminal conduct indirectly. Good governance is critical, along with responsible leadership, to ensure that any form of unethical conduct, dishonesty or criminal conduct does not have an opportunity to thrive.

As more people participate, crime control becomes more effective, the fear of crime reduces and the quality of life improves. As a result, we are actively involved in a number of projects which focus on community participation. Community Police Forums (CPF) for instance are an integral part of the national approach to crime prevention and safety. We encourage members of all communities to join their local CPF, and to establish parent based anti-crime forums at schools because awareness is one of the most powerful measures of prevention.

BACSA strives to make a positive impact through its strong partnerships with Government, the SAPS, The Department of Justice and the Department of Correctional Services.

Our message remains, that crime is something we all need to tackle together."

**Adv. Simi Pillay-van Graan**

Please visit our website : [www.bac.org.za](http://www.bac.org.za) to watch a YouTube video and listen to an audio clip where Adv. Simi Pillay Van Graan unpacks the crime statistics.





## UPGRADING OF VICTIM FRIENDLY FACILITIES IN THE WESTERN CAPE— FUNDED BY THE SPAR GROUP WESTERN CAPE

The Western Cape SAPS have 150 police stations, excluding satellite stations and contact points. Every station has a Victim Friendly Facility (VFF) that gives support to all victims of crime. Over the years the interior and furniture in the VFFs have deteriorated extensively. The need arose to upgrade the VFFs so that victims of crime do not be subject to secondary victimisation.

To this end the Spar Group Western Cape has engaged BACWC to roll-out a programme to upgrade all 150 VFFs in the Western Cape. A project team consisting of BACWC and SAPS was established to determine the parameters of the programme. BACWC is the project manager, SAPS the implementing agent and the Spar Western Cape the funder of the programme. Ultimately subsequent to completion of the upgrades all 150 VFFs should look similar.

To date 18 VFFs were upgraded and re-launched. The re-launching of these VFFs was attended by Deputy Provincial Commissioners, Provincial Head Visible Policing, Cluster Commanders, Station Commissioners and station management. These re-launches are also attended by top government and politicians of both the Provincial government and the City of Cape Town. The VFFs were well received by victim support volunteers responsible for the initial debriefing of victims of crime, and the community at large.

Parallel with this programme the SAPS, BACWC, the Western Cape Department of Social Development and Department of Community Safety are providing support and training to the victim support volunteers. The VFFs are a safe haven for all victims of crime and to upgrade these facilities are of pivotal importance. However, without the victim support volunteers it will be an empty shell; therefore the unselfish and important role these volunteers play at all the VFFs should be acknowledged.

**BONNIEVALE VFF RE-LAUNCH**



**CAPE TOWN VFF RE-LAUNCH**



**DELFT VFF RE-LAUNCH**



**MILNERTON VFF RELAUNCH**



**SOMERSET WEST VFF RE-LAUNCH**



## SMISHING—A NEW THREAT TO CELLPHONE USERS (SOURCE: VODACOM)

**Phishing** is the act of attempting to acquire personal information such as login or usernames, PINs, passwords and bank account details by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.

**SMS phishing** or **SMiShing** is a form of criminal activity using SMS (Short Message Service) to acquire similar information as with **Phishing**. SMS phishing uses cell phone text messages to deliver the **bait** to induce people to divulge their personal information. The **hook** (the method used to actually capture people's information) in the text message may be a website URL, but it has become more common to see a telephone number that connects to an automated voice response system or even a real person.

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## CONT. FROM PAGE 2....SMISHING—A NEW THREAT TO CELLPHONE USERS (SOURCE: VODACOM)

Some examples are shown below:



There are also some well-known Scams like the "RICA", "Coca Cola" and "Nokia" which all claim that your cell phone number has won a prize and to contact a certain number to claim. Unsuspecting customers will then be hoaxed into divulging personal information.

Vodacom advises on the following steps to protect our Customers:

- Keep your cell phone number and cell phone as safe as you would your wallet
- Do not reply to an SMS from an unknown sender
- Do not provide your cell phone number to unknown parties
- Do not react to information from unknown parties

Vodacom offers 3 different ways to report a suspected SMiShing Scam or Hoax:

- By calling 082111 free from any cell phone and speaking to a consultant.
- By accessing Vodacom's Facebook page on [https://www.facebook.com/Vodacom/app\\_311682605533427](https://www.facebook.com/Vodacom/app_311682605533427)
- By using the Vodacom Web Page: [https://help.vodacom.co.za/portal/engine?handler=script&script=template&view=html&context=template&name=main\\_fraud&category=Hoax&hoax=Fraudulent%20Communications](https://help.vodacom.co.za/portal/engine?handler=script&script=template&view=html&context=template&name=main_fraud&category=Hoax&hoax=Fraudulent%20Communications)

What happens next?

Vodacom has a dedicated Department that will vet the validity of the SMiShing. Once confirmed, the necessary action is taken and the matter is investigated,

## RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF 22 SEXUAL OFFENCES COURTS BY THE END OF 2013/14

Media Statement released by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development at the launch of the Butterworth Sexual Offence Court on the 23rd August 2013.

### Justice in action as Minister Radebe launches the Butterworth Sexual Offences Court, Eastern Cape

The Butterworth community members became the first to witness the re-establishment of the sexual offences courts. The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe officially launched the Butterworth Sexual Offences Court in the Eastern Cape today, 23 August 2013. This is one of the 22 courts that will be re-established by the end of the 2013/14 financial year, featuring specially trained officials and equipment to reduce the chance of secondary trauma for victims of sexual offences.

The courts will feature a proper screening process to identify cases that fall within the sexual offences category; a special room where victims will testify; a private waiting room for adult witnesses; a private waiting room for child witnesses and victim support services. It will also include a designated court clerk and a court preparation programme for witnesses to prepare for court and to provide debriefing after they have testified.

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## CONT. FROM PAGE 3....RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF 22 SEXUAL OFFENCES COURTS BY THE END OF 2013/14

The personnel requirements for each Sexual Offences Court include: Presiding officer, 2 Prosecutors, Intermediary Interpreter, Designated court clerk, designated social worker, Legal aid practitioner and Court preparation/victim support officer. Speaking at an Imbizo which followed the official launch of the court, Minister Radebe encouraged community members “not to suffer in silence” but to use the facilities that government had brought to their communities to fight the scourge of rape and gender based violence. He also appealed to the community members to work with the police and report cases to fight these kinds of crimes. “We are committed to put in more resources into these courts so as to reduce secondary victimization and to ensure that justice is accessible to all in South Africa. Our doors are open for you to come and report cases”, Minister Radebe said.

In attendance at the Imbizo was the Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr. John Jeffrey, the Deputy Minister of the Police, Ms Maggie Sotyu. The Premier of the Eastern Cape, Ms Noxolo Kiviet, the Eastern Cape MEC for Social Development, Ms Pemmy Majodina, as well as the executive Mayor of the Amathole District Municipality, Councillor N. Konza. The MEC for Social Development commended a female member of the community who offered her house to be used as the “Home of Hope” in the community.

The Minister called on all role-players in the Criminal Justice System to intensify their integrated efforts to fight sexual violence.

### **Issued by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development**

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