

- Media Release -

For Immediate Release



Business Against Crime
South Africa

Business Against Crime South Africa Holds a High-Level Business Briefing To Give Progress on the Fight Against Crime

21 August 2008, Johannesburg – On Tuesday the 19th of August 2008, Business Against Crime South Africa held a high-level briefing of business leaders on the Step Change Initiative in the fight against crime. This briefing focused particularly on the two priority areas being the work groups that are co-chaired by Business and Government leaders:

- The reduction of Violent Organized Crime; and
- The improvement of the Criminal Justice System.

In his introduction, the Chairman of Business Against Crime, **Mr Mark Lamberti**, drew the attention of business leaders to the responsible custodianship, governance and control demonstrated by Business Against Crime in the expenditure of their donations. He advised them that over the past year a review of activities and expenditure had resulted in the rationalization of efforts, structures and staff numbers to achieve the maximum return on effort and money spent. He highlighted the constructive role that was played by Business Against Crime in the discourse around the dissolution of the Directorate for Special Operations (Scorpions), which involved crafting and submitting to Cabinet and to Parliament a motivation for the retention in any new structure, of those attributes that international precedent had proven essential in the fight against organized crime and corruption. “We at Business Against Crime understand the longer term social challenges but we are resolved to make a short term impact by assisting in the drive to make crime a less attractive occupation than it is today. We believe that working with SAPS and government, our focus on the Criminal Justice System and the Violent Organized Crime initiatives, can make a difference. The responsibility for the safety and security of all within the borders of our country is not one that government can delegate or abdicate. But equally, each of us, as individuals or corporations must play our part.” said **Lamberti**

Adv Johnny de Lange, Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ and CD), gave a keynote address on the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System. He painted a sobering picture of the dysfunctional state of this system. Advocate de Lange strongly emphasised the need for the continued support of an organisation such as Business Against Crime South Africa which helps Government to combat crime. He provided an impressive overview of the far-reaching, evolutionary and revolutionary changes that comprise the seven point plan approved by Cabinet to revamp the Criminal Justice System (CJS). This seven-point plan was prepared with the support of Business Against Crime South Africa who remains committed to providing continued implementation, coordination support and capacity to deliver in the short, medium and long-term to enable Government to remove system blockages and improve the performance of the entire system from investigation, court processes, incarceration and rehabilitation. “This is a radical journey that seeks to reward the country with a Criminal Justice System that will deliver swift and equitable justice on criminal matters, and thus act as an effective deterrent to crime on a sustainable basis and improve its legitimacy and bolster public confidence in government’s efforts” said **de Lange**. Respected businessman and Business Against Crime South Africa director, **Mr Roy Andersen**, highlighted successes in addressing the Trio Crimes (i.e., Business and Residential Robberies and Vehicle Hijackings), particularly in Gauteng where the strategy has been aggressively piloted. He showed that the Violent Organized Crime working group’s efforts have had a substantial impact in Gauteng, which accounts for 52% of the national robberies, with a much lower trio crime increase of 1.74% compared to the overall increase of 38% experienced by other provinces.



Andersen highlighted that where business and Government concentrated their joint efforts, as had been the case in Gauteng over the past year, a significant impact is achieved. The objective for 2008/9 was to roll these Gauteng successes out on a broader scale to the provinces affected by the displacement of crimes, i.e. KwaZulu Natal, Western Cape and North West. Announcing the receipt of commitments from 11 major donors **Siphiwe Nzimande, CEO of Business Against Crime South Africa** said "This briefing of donors and business leaders has reinvigorated their commitment to crime reduction through Business Against Crime in support of our Government".



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Note to the Editors: - About Business Against Crime South Africa

Business Against Crime South Africa has, since 1996, supported Government in its fight against crime in order to make South Africa safe and secure. This partnership was re-invigorated in August 2006 through the support and involvement of Business Leadership South Africa (BLSSA), Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and a range of business associations. In order to give effective support to Government, Business Against Crime South Africa has mobilised partnerships with representative associations / organisations which focus on crime matters on behalf of the business sector. These include the South African Banking Risk Information Centre (SABRIC), the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA), the South African Insurance Association (SAIA), the South African Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA), the Security Industry Alliance (SIA), the Casino Association of South Africa (CASA), the South African Council of Shopping Centres (SACSC), the South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA), the South African Post Office, the South African Tourism Services Association (SATSA) and other tourism associations and organisations the South African Jewellery Association, the Restaurants Association of South Africa (RASA),



the Johannesburg Securities Exchange (JSE), Chambers of Commerce and Industry South Africa, Chamber of Mines, the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA), the Retail Motor Industry (RMI), the South African Chamber of Business, the South African Fraud Prevention Service (SAFPS), the Overseas Security Advisory Council, the Life Officer's Association (LIO).



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