



**Business Against Crime  
South Africa**

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**Crime fight being slowly won - Business Against Crime South Africa**

Business Against Crime South Africa today said independent information it had gained from the business sector supports the SAPS crime statistics released this morning which show that the fight against crime is being slowly won.

“The business sector plays a vital role in the national fight against crime and has, through Business Against Crime South Africa, endeavoured to mobilise and coordinate its resources in joint anti-crime initiatives in close association with the government,” Fihla commented.

Fihla said that there are early signs that this cooperation is paying dividends. Reductions in crime have been recorded in vehicle hijackings and theft and gunshot related injuries.

Business Against Crime South Africa has, since 1996, supported the government in its fight against crime in order to make South Africa safe and secure, thus encouraging investment and growth opportunities.

“Many of the crime challenges are now being tackled in a coordinated manner. Success is reflected in the crime statistics released by the SAPS, as well as information obtained from the business sector independently,” he said.

But Fihla said while successes were being notched up, some areas remained a challenge like armed robberies, primarily targeting cash in the banking, retail and other sectors.

“These may have declined in real terms during the period under review but we are worried about the apparent increase in the sophistication and the violent nature of these robberies. As a result the business sector, through Business Against Crime South Africa, and the law enforcement agencies are stepping up their cooperation to find effective ways to tackle this problem.”

The South African Banking Risk Information Centre (SABRIC) revealed statistics, which show:

- Bank robberies have fallen by 19% in the past year. During the last four years, bank robberies declined by 75%. Gauteng has experienced a decrease in these crimes but remains the province with the highest incidence of bank robberies.
- Incidents of cash-in-transit robberies have shown a marginal decrease during the past year, although cash lost has fallen by 21%.

Fihla said with the cooperation of the banking industry, SAPS has arrested a number of high profile criminals involved in cash-in-transit robberies.

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Association Incorporated under Section 21

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The Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA), which maintains a database on crimes at 4500 retail outlets, said they had seen an increase in armed robberies at retail outlets, although the amount of cash stolen appeared to have decreased. The amount lost has declined by 50%.

The CGCSA said this type of crime may have become more organised, with a larger number of perpetrators, because of security measures instituted at many stores.

The greatest success achieved during the period under review had been in vehicle hijackings and theft, according to Fihla.

“The South African Insurance Association (SAIA) has reported a decrease in both vehicle theft and hijacking, which has contributed towards the achievement of record profits by the short-term insurance industry.”

Fihla said the information provided by SAIA had also been verified by tracking service providers, Tracker and Netstar, which had reported a 43% and 33% drop in hijacking incidents amongst their subscribers respectively. They had also reported a drop in vehicle thefts.

Success was also achieved in reducing the number of gunshot wound cases, which Netcare 911 said had declined by 43% in the last four years. Fihla said whilst this didn't record all gunshot incidents in the country, Netcare 911 had attributed the fall to stronger policing and more stringent gun ownership legislation.

“These trends from across various industries show that concerted efforts by the government and interested parties to reduce crime have restricted crime levels, notably in the last two years,” Fihla said. He added that the level of violence in crime remained unacceptably high.

“Even though violent and contact crime has declined, it remains a concern for all South Africans. Not only does violent crime cause immense human suffering, it inhibits domestic and foreign investment and encourages capital flight. These factors in turn increase poverty, inequality and other factors which are associated with a higher prevalence of crime,” Fihla remarked.

He said it is incumbent on all South Africans to work on eradicating crime and promoting positive moral values in society as a whole.

For more details on any of the above figures and interventions, please contact:  
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