

- Media Release -

For Immediate Release



**Business Against Crime
South Africa**

Business Against Crime South Africa Participates in Parliamentary Hearings on the Proposed Establishment of the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI)

6 August 2008, Johannesburg – Sipiwe Nzimande, CEO of Business Against Crime South Africa, and Dr Graham Wright, Deputy CEO of Business Against Crime South Africa, presented the views of Business Against Crime South Africa on the restructuring of the Directorate of Special Operations (DSO) and the Establishment of the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI) in Parliament yesterday. These views were presented with the sole purpose of assisting Government and Parliament to steel an effective bastion against crime and corruption and were motivated by the deep concern that escalations in the levels of corruption and organised crime continue to pose a grave threat to the country's hard won democracy, and place the physical, social and economic well-being of its citizens at risk.

Business Against Crime South Africa expressed its concurrence with Cabinet that 'there is a need to address organised crime in a more comprehensive fashion' and strongly supports the view of the Khampepe Commission that a dedicated and focused response to organised crime is an absolute necessity.

We emphasised that given the sophisticated and evolving nature of white collar and organised crime in the country, any new unit, such as the DPCI, mandated to fight corruption and organised crime should embrace key specific attributes that contribute to success in fighting organised crime effectively.

Business Against Crime South Africa emphasised that international best practice and precedents indicate that these attributes are imperatives for success in any organised crime investigative unit. To increase the barriers to organised crime and corruption, the unit requires:

- The necessary legal framework and structure and independence to take action within the limits of its authority, while held accountable for its performance;
- The integration of crime information, through its intelligence-gathering, investigative and prosecutorial functions – the value of the case team approach was mooted where Business Against Crime South Africa recommended that the integration of prosecution in case teams should not be precluded as an integral aspect of case team effectiveness;
- An intelligence-driven orientation with adequate financial resourcing;
- A task team approach to draw on complementary competencies from other Departments and law enforcement agencies as needed;



- High-level skills which are appropriately remunerated but which are also retained through other measures such as rules, regulations and a code of conduct to guide and motivate the Directorate;
- Appropriate oversight, possibly through the establishment of an oversight body, to regulate and limit the concentration of power of the National Commissioner.



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“Clarity on authority and structure is required. We suggested that the head of the DPCI should report directly to the National Commissioner. Furthermore, we recommended that Section 16 be amended to sufficiently clarify the scope and powers and thus the mandate of the new unit to fight organised crime. Currently, too many matters rely on decisions from the National Commissioner. The development of special regulations, guiding principles, values and guidelines for the exercise of power can assist to overcome this”, says Nzimande.

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For further information contact:

Business Against Crime South Africa
Deborah Hunt
Marketing and Communications Manager
Tel: 011 883 0717
E-mail: deborah@bac.org.za

