

## - Media Release -

For Immediate Release

### **Business Against Crime South Africa Exists Because Of You, Madiba, and Congratulates You On Your 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**



**Business Against Crime  
South Africa**

**17 July 2008, Johannesburg** – Sipiwe Nzimande, CEO of Business Against Crime South Africa, and the Executive of the organisation heartily, with the rest of South Africa, extend their warmest congratulations to Nelson Mandela on his 90th birthday.

“Business Against Crime South Africa owes much to Madiba as this organisation was established at his behest in 1996 when he encouraged business leaders to play a role in assisting Government in the fight against crime”, says Nzimande.

“Inspired by his excellent leadership, his life of service and dedication to the country, business leaders rallied to the call of Madiba and sought to determine how best it could play this pivotal role in support of Government. In this way, the organisation is very much a brain-child of Madiba”, says Nzimande.

The organisation was formed in 1996 and to this day continues to harness and mobilise business resources, expertise, business process solutions and skills to assist Government to combat, in particular, the violent crimes: business robberies, house robberies, and vehicle hijackings.

“As a Non-Profit Organisation, we continue to draw inspiration from Madiba’s selfless life of sacrifice for the greater good and a better life for all”, says Nzimande.

Going forward, the support efforts of Business Against Crime South Africa will address primarily the following two areas:

- The improvement of the performance of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) so that it becomes an effective deterrent to crime; and
- The reduction of Violent Organised Crime (VOC) focusing on the trio crimes (house, vehicle and business robberies) which are matters of extreme urgency, given the rise in business robberies, particularly (by 47.7%), as reported recently by Government through the Annual release of the Crime Statistics.

“These levels of crime are unacceptably high, violent and deeply concerning as these are the type of crimes that threaten the feeling of safety and security of citizens, and travellers, within the country; make it difficult for businesses to operate freely, and ultimately threaten the fruits of our hard-won democracy”, says Nzimande.



“We have recently seen tangible results in Gauteng, and are now intent on strengthening and broadening the results of these gains to other priority provinces such as KwaZulu Natal, Western Cape and North West. This is part of a fight for a new type of freedom: freedom from the scourge of crime. Business Against Crime South Africa, with Government, hopes to be part of the solution that brings about this change. Given the gains made thus far, this vision is within our grasp when all role-players work in concerted partnership. Happy Birthday, Madiba may you enjoy many more years of prosperity. We at Business Against Crime South Africa hope to bring about a South Africa free from crime, so that all South Africans can truly enjoy the fruits of freedom and democracy”, says Nzimande.



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**Note to the Editor: - 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).*

