

TIP-OFF



Business Against Crime
South Africa™

Efforts to Reduce Violent Crime Bolstered in Honeydew Cluster



The SAPS and Private Security Company partners after the signing of the Honeydew cluster agreement.

Further to a MOU signing last year which roped in Private Security companies to collaborate with the SAPS to enhance the rapid response to crime incidents in the Honeydew station area, this initiative has now been expanded to the entire Honeydew cluster.

At the end of June with the facilitation of BACSA, the South African Police Service (SAPS) entered into partnership with the Security Industry Alliance (SIA) to optimise communication between the Honeydew Police and the security companies working within the Honeydew cluster. The initiative forms part of the Government/business partnership that aims to reduce the unacceptably high levels of the Trio Crimes in the country (i.e. Business, Residential and Vehicle Robberies). The Honeydew cluster through the signed MOU will help to strengthen a crack down on violent crimes and, in particular, house robberies.

Security companies which participate in the partnership are required to fully comply with a number of set requirements. These include:

- Full compliance with legislation and, in particular, the Private Security Regulatory framework;
- The voluntary re-vetting of all security personnel to ensure that all personnel involved within the initiative are of sound standing; and
- Entering into a contract for the dedicated industry-police communication system established at the Honeydew police station Client Services Centre.

Siphiwe Nzimande, outgoing CEO of Business Against Crime South Africa, said that the initiative was important as no single entity could fight violent crime in isolation. "BACSA supports the joint venture which seeks to combat crime in a co-ordinated fashion. The unacceptable level of violent robberies

required an increased level of commitment from all role-players and stakeholders, including the private security industry. The targeted initiative, combining the forces of the private security industry and the police, provides a compelling model for replication to address hot-spots and maximise the use of *all* available resources. It is only through such a co-ordinated response that we will be able to stem rampant criminality and provide effective support to the SAPS."

The practical benefits of the initiative include:

- The optimised management of crime scenes;
- A multiplier effect in relation to the available manpower to the police;
- A greater number of vehicles available to respond to calls requiring police assistance;
- Targeted assistance to assist the police to respond more effectively to situations of crime; and
- Assistance ensuring the satisfactory preservation of crime scenes until forensic and other investigative units are able to examine these, question witnesses and collect evidence.

"Through the MOU, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) between the private security companies, their members and the police is currently being drafted by the SAPS Head Office. This SOP will form the backbone of efforts to roll-out this initiative to other police station clusters," says Lorinda Nel, BACSA Project Manager.

Though early days, a number of successes have already been achieved through the joint partnership. Among these, the arrest of over 15 suspects for various crimes, including business and residential robbery, syndicate operations, motor theft and attempted murder.

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Siphiwe Nzimande, outgoing CEO of BACSA, provides an update on the latest developments.

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Microdots Come of Age



Nissan SA's General Manager: Corporate Risk, Ronald Barrie, accepts an award presented by BACSA for leadership in applying the microdot technology to its vehicles.

A great deal of interest in the value of the microdot technology has been generated by the recent efforts of BACSA and partners. Partners have been concerned to find ways to reverse the relative ease with which a vehicle's identity or its parts may be changed, concealed or cloned through the overlay of a false identity.

Such vehicle crimes make it difficult for law enforcement agencies and licensing departments to identify and recover stolen vehicles and parts. However, whole of vehicle marking or microdotting promises to change this as an effective measure for the recovery of stolen and unidentified vehicles in the country.

Though not a new technology, awareness of the microdot technology was raised and its effectiveness was proven through a controlled test explosion, earlier this year. Microdots placed on a boarded SAPS vehicle were exploded and placed under extreme conditions through the test. After the explosion conducted on the Kroonstad Military base, the microdots placed on the exploded vehicle by all four microdot suppliers present were found to still be identifiable ([Read more](#)). Covered extensively in the media, the test helped to prove the resilience of the technology beyond a doubt.

Following the once-off, live explosion, the Microdot Standard (SANS 534-1) was launched. Business Against Crime South Africa (BACSA) and key partners, including the South African Police Service (SAPS); the Department of Transport (DoT); the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS); the Vehicle Security Association (VESA); Nissan South Africa (Nissan SA); and four Microdot suppliers in South Africa (Datadot, Holomatrix, Impimpi and Recoveri), were present to support the value of the technology.

Fouché Burgers, BACSA Project Manager and Chairperson of the Standard writing Committee outlines what the Standard (SANS 534-1), entails. "The Standard specifies the characteristics of the technology and how it should be used. Requirements include the application of the unique identification carriers (i.e. the microdots), as well as the processes required to ensure the integrity, authenticity and confidentiality of the microdot production,

supply, storage and application system. The Standard defines the minimum performance requirements of the adhesive used to affix the microdots to vehicles and prescribes the requirements for the after-market installation of the microdots on vehicles, including surface preparation.

"The Standard also makes recommendations regarding the security of the information systems or databases that link information related to the microdotted vehicle and the stored data on this.

"When microdots are applied to standard, we can now be confident that a vehicle and all its parts can be easily identified. The technology is nothing short of DNA for a car – indelible and lasting."

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R1.5 Million Donated to Improve Road Safety and Combat Crime



Ronnie Napier, Chairman of the SAIA Board, presents a cheque for R 1.5 million to BACSA.

Ronnie Napier, Chairman of the SAIA Board, at a cheque handover event which saw SAIA donating R1 535 000 to BACSA on behalf of its members, said that motor vehicle crashes had replaced theft as the primary point of concern for insurers. "In addition, the unacceptable levels of crime in South Africa remain of great concern to the South African Insurance Association (SAIA), its members and the country at large," said Napier.

In acknowledging the contribution on behalf of BACSA, Siphwe Nzimande said, "SAIA has over the years been an effective anti-crime partner. BACSA looks forward to making inroads in the fight against crime and in branching into preventative measures that will enhance road safety with the donated funds. Partnerships in the fight against crime are reliant on the contribution of all stakeholders, whether this comes in the form of expertise, resources and/or the sharing of information. BACSA thanks SAIA for its tangible support," said Nzimande.

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For comments on articles in this issue, please contact Deborah Hunt on deborah@bac.org.za

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