

CRIME — GAUTENG

1997



Crime and land invasions top council's agenda

By BRONWYN WILKINSON

Greater Johannesburg's newly elected officials are back at work after their end-of-year break and are to hold their first meetings of the year next week.

With only two Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council meetings between the local government elections and the recess, councillors had little to accomplish last year and less opportunity to show their mettle in their new

positions.

Several issues are likely to dominate council agendas this year. All three main parties have committed themselves to fighting crime. The burning issue of the devolution of powers will have to be solved, but councillors await a provincial decision on this matter.

The council will also have to battle the matter of land invasions and has promised to consider each eviction on its merits, but not to be soft on the issue. Finally, if the council

cannot convince more people to pay for their services, the TMC faces an enormous financial deficit.

This year will give the public a chance to gauge the performance of their new representatives according to their election promises. The three main parties in the council have already laid out their priorities for 1996.

Fighting crime is top of the priority list for the ANC, NP and DP, with the DP to push hard for the introduction of a

metropolitan police force.

The NP and DP intend working towards increasing the level of payment for services and the ANC promises to improve the delivery of those services. The ANC also plans to work on budget proposals that will address the needs of the city's poor and on trimming the administration and making it more efficient.

On the DP agenda, along with crime and payment for services, are ensuring the development of a cost-effective

infrastructure and pursuing privatisation.

In its turn, the NP promises that its councillors will also fight crime, increase the level of payment for services, increase housing delivery, fight unemployment and preserve public open spaces.

The TMC held only two meetings before it went into recess last year. The first meeting was dominated by the ANC and NP rejecting a proposal by the DP that councillors be paid according to a

record of their attendance at meetings. The second meeting addressed the hot issue of the devolution of powers. At that meeting a recommendation was made to the Gauteng legislature that would take the power to make local planning and development decisions away from local councils and place it with the TMC.

The TMC's executive committee holds its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, followed by the first full council meeting on Thursday.

38 Star 13/1/96

Probe into reporter's assault

Urgent inquiry into market agents who manhandled reporter and photographer investigating allegations of theft at the City Deep fresh produce market

By Anso Thom
Crime Reporter

A urgent internal investigation has been initiated by the acting head of the Metropolitan Financial Services Lucas Opperman into the assault of a Star Line reporter and a photographer of The Star at the Johannesburg fresh produce market last Thursday.

About 15 people were involved in the assault of Star Line editor June Bearzi and Naashon Zalk during an ongoing probe into claims of corruption and theft involving hundreds of millions of

rands at the City Deep fresh produce market.

The incident took place in Hall Number 1 when Bearzi took possession of a large box of cash sales slips made out by W L Ochse staff for vegetable sales.

Market agents have been accused of skimming off millions by circumventing the market's financial network and selling goods for cash on the floor.

When Bearzi approached Willie van der Walt who owns W L Ochse to question him about his apparent evasion of the market's financial system, he became confrontational.

Star 15/1/96

He and his staff manhandled Bearzi and Zalk and ordered them off the market floor. He later called security staff who helped the Ochse employees to remove the camera and reporter's handbag. The camera was handed to Van der Walt and he ripped out the film.

Acting Town Clerk Stan Verrier said the matter was viewed in a very serious light and he has requested that the findings of the internal investigation be available for assessment as soon as possible when a decision will be taken with regard to any further action on the matter.

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In view of claims of alleged corruption, theft and mismanagement made by Johannesburg certified fraud examiner Bartholomew Henderson in a Star Line article during September last year, the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council decided to refer the matter to the Auditor-General.

An independent team has undertaken an investigation into claims that the market was riddled with crooked deals and some agents were boosting their profits by skimming off millions in illegal cash sales.

A report was expected today.

Call for probe on market scams

Star 1/6/1/96 (38)

BY JUNE BEARZI
Star Line

Calls are being made for an independent inquiry into allegations of wholesale corruption and theft at the City Deep fresh produce market in Johannesburg.

There is evidence that market agents have been skimming as much as R400-million a year off the annual turnover. The acting town clerk, Stan Verrier, said on Friday that an investigation was

being undertaken by the auditor-general's office and its findings would be released on January 22.

However, Johannesburg attorney Aaron Stanger maintains that a precedent should be set in having independent auditors. "When there are charges of corruption the only way is to appoint a firm of entirely independent auditors."

► **Fresh produce market rotten to the core**
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Johannesburg fresh produce market now rotten to the core

A damning audit report completed last week by a certified fraud examiner confirms that the scandalous state of affairs at the Johannesburg fresh produce market, which could be costing the city millions, continues unchecked.

In an initial report made to the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council's (GJTMC) financial services department nine months ago, Bartholomew Henderson found that the market was caught up in a huge multimillion-rand web of corruption and gross mismanagement. His findings were highlighted in Star Line on September 26.

Although the financial services department was given the information about the rot pervading the market in April and adverse media reports appeared in September, the double dealing continues unabated.

In September Pieter Cruywagen from the Metropolitan Financial Services (MFS) described the corruption and theft as "isolated, infrequent and not widespread" and gave an assurance it had been halted. However, further investigations by Star Line and Henderson show it is still massive.

As a result the acting head of the MFS, Lucas Opperman, has been accused of failing in his fiduciary duties. According to Henderson, sufficient grounds exist to bring criminal and civil charges against at least one market agent and a wholesaler, while charges of flouting the city by-laws can be brought against eight others.

Fraudulent dealings in the city market are spreading unchecked and the metropolitan council is accused of failing abysmally to eradicate them. June Bearzi reports.

The main thrust of Henderson's audit report was to disprove Cruywagen's claims that "all is well at the market" and he details a litany of the blatant side-stepping of the computerised financial procedure controls. The report says that 10 agents and wholesalers could be involved and adds that the shocking state of the market's affairs was brought to the authorities' attention 19 months ago by a market inspector and later by himself.

Henderson's documents also allege that:

■ Each week market goods worth R1 067 220 were removed from the food halls without being captured on the financial network. A dealer involved in the sale of tomatoes was one of the worst offenders in generating prohibited cash sales slips. These allowed buyers to remove the goods while the agents and wholesalers pocketed the cash.

■ Wholesalers and agents on the market floor could have escaped the income tax net by circumventing the financial system because a far lower income and turnover would be reflected.

■ Possible cover-ups existed to conceal the massive shortfall of produce which was delivered but not reflected as sold on the com-

puter system.

■ The GJTMC which owns and manages the market has failed to recover about R30-million as it takes a 5% share of the market's turnover.

■ Certain agents kept two or more sets of books to conceal their sales figures.

■ Some market employees stole farmers' produce valued at tens of

Fraud expert says theft continues unabated

thousands of rands and used the proceeds to gamble on the horses.

■ Another market employee used stolen produce to stock his own greengrocer store.

■ A market inspector who reported the theft to his seniors was later threatened with violence and dismissed.

The audit report has also cast a dark shadow over a R93-million bid made last year by Botha Roodt cc, as well as the country's largest tomato supplier, ZZ 2 Beherende Beleggings, to buy the market.

(38) Star 16/1/96
Henderson deduces that, if the correct and far higher turnover at the market had been reflected, the GJTMC would almost certainly have secured a higher selling price. At this stage the bid has been put on hold.

The fraud examiner and the writer have continued investigations and have found vast numbers of the prohibited slips are still being generated by agents and wholesalers.

In reply to Star Line queries Opperman said that allegations made by Henderson in April had been investigated by the internal audit department of the Johannesburg administration but had been found to be overstated.

"Such matters of concern which were identified were reported on to the management of the market and remedial action recommended. At no time did anyone attempt to 'shrug off' any aspect of this investigation."

He explained that the matter had been referred to the auditor-general's office on October 24 for the appointment of an independent team to investigate further. Opperman said a report was expected by January 22 and asked Star Line to pass all further information in its possession to the auditor-general for investigation.

Soweto's cry for help as mobsters hold sway

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Community police forums cannot have meaningful role in fight against crime due to lack of funds and little support from Government

Star 29/1/96

**BY TROYE LUND
AND OWEN CORRESPONDENT**

The problem of funding CPFs still needs to be ironed out and the Safety and Security Ministry Sidney Mufamadi is scheduled to meet provincial safety MECs soon to discuss this the crime wave and other thorny issues such as the lack of vehicles, communication equipment and financing by community police forums (CPF).

In some communities, leaders of the forums fear to live at home because they have no protection against the very people they are supposed to be fighting against.

Safety and Security Ministry Secretary Azhar Cachalia said "this kind of intimidation is alarming and needs to be addressed urgently" but he added that CPFs were primarily a provincial function.

In Cape Town and Port Eliza-

beth, the forums are also experiencing birth pains, their main problem being the infiltration of the forums by gangsters and politicians using them for their own ends.

Peter Stevens, a British community policing adviser to the Western Cape police MEC, has confirmed that some forum meetings have been flooded by members of an undisclosed political party trying to oust the opposition party's members from their committee positions.

In Port Elizabeth, the South African National Civic Organisation is reportedly investigating similar allegations of criminals using the forums as a cover to commit serious crimes.

In Gauteng, Greater Soweto Community Police Forum chairman Weston Shabangu has warned that residents will increasingly take the law into their own hands "with disastrous con-

sequences" if the CPFs do not start operating properly soon.

Although many of Soweto's 44 suburbs now have some sort of CPF, Shabangu is adamant that these - and other - CPFs will soon collapse if the Government does not offer real assistance.

Mob rule and a kangaroo justice system could soon destroy Soweto unless the Government provides funds to help residents fight crime, community police forum leaders have warned.

This has emerged as CPFs, formed to involve the community in the fight against crime, are unable to fulfil a meaningful role due to a lack of infrastructure and little or no support from the Government.

Leaders have also told of CPF members being targeted by criminals and living in fear for their lives because they have joined the battle to rid their streets of thugs.

Theft and corruption at City Deep'

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A one-time employee claims that he was the victim of a Mafia-like terror campaign after he reported were cheating farmers and pocketing huge amounts of cash at produce halls. June Bearzi reports

A former produce market floor inspector says he was subjected to Mafia-like tactics and was told bluntly that paid hitmen would "get him" if he did not keep his mouth shut about theft and corruption at City Deep.

Henry van der Bergh of Rosetenville told Star Line he had paid dearly for his honesty in reporting the theft of produce valued at R250 000 to his superiors at the market in 1992.

He painted a graphic picture of well organised syndicates working from the market halls and robbing farmers of their produce. He also claimed certain produce salesmen lived the high life and flashed large bundles of cash made from the sale of stolen produce.

He explained that farmers were also being ripped off by agents who claimed they would not get payment for fruit or vegetables "as they had arrived at the market rotten and had to be destroyed". But the agents would take the perfectly good produce, sell it and pocket the money, Van der Bergh said. Fake notes would be made out to

I lost my home and my job, because I was honest

"prove" to farmers that goods had not been sold, but destroyed, he added.

"When I tried to do something to stop this I was hounded mercilessly by people with vested interests at the market."

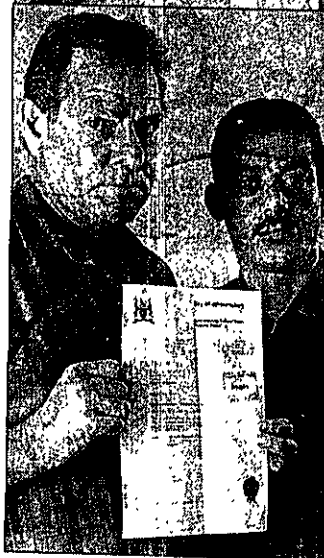
Van der Bergh said he was unable to take the strain of constantly living in fear and being victimised at his workplace and eventually resigned in 1992. He says he has been unable to get a permanent job since.

"Because I was truthful I have lost my home and car and now live a hand to mouth existence. I cannot believe this has happened to me and although I have received a R4 000 payout from the Johannesburg City Council after I went to lawyers this is a mere pittance for what I suffered."

Van der Bergh produced for Star Line a note from market master, Daan Spengler, dated April 15 1991 in which he wrote: "I am impressed with your positive attitude. Keep up the good work".

But the senior market staff's attitude changed in 1992, according to Van der Bergh, when he was promoted to the floor manager's position by the municipality's Human Resources section. He was responsible for checking agents' and salesmen's stock and theft on the floor and said he did not hesitate to take tough action when produce could not be accounted for.

He said he first became unpopular with his superiors when a market employee was put on early retirement when he was found guilty of clocking in his girlfriend's timecard while she



Threats and victimisation ... Henry van der Bergh and Mohammed Abbass say they blew the whistle on corruption at the fresh produce market.

he was warned by senior market employees that they would "sort me out for giving evidence at the hearing".

"When Human Resources department finally appointed me as a floor inspector I was determined to do my job as well as possible and to keep tabs on salesmen's stock. I made a grave mistake by being absolutely truthful about the losses on the floor and eventually was hounded out of my job."

Van der Bergh said the first incident involved a salesman for one of the large agents.

"When I checked I found apples worth R6 000 missing. But the salesman said I need not worry as his senior knew about it. I did not accept this explanation and took the matter further. When I checked on another agent I found fruit valued at R10 000 missing."

"I realised then that I had to keep a sharp eye on things and soon I did another stock check and found yet another agent's salesman could not account for apples valued at R45 000."

The salesmen said the goods were in the cold storage chambers but he was unable to show me where. I also reported him.

"I later found that these apples had been stolen by the salesman, re-packed

and then sent to a vegetable seller in Pretoria. The cash for the sale had been split between three people, one of whom is a senior market employee who still works there."

In continuing his checking Van der Bergh said he established another agent's salesman had moved R60 000 worth of fruit off the floor while yet another had misappropriated goods worth R130 000.

Yet another salesman was stealing crates of farmers' produce by ordering door inspectors to release the goods without the required removal permits.

"This salesman was a big punter and was using much of this ill-gotten cash to play large amounts on the horses virtually every day. I believed the farmers should be protected from this type of theft and corruption."

"The knives were really out for me when these people had to pay back the cash for the missing goods and I was victimised right out of my job."

Three other market employees have confirmed that they have witnessed the theft and corruption, and were subjected to harassment and victimisation

Acting Town Clerk for the Transitional Metropolitan Council, Stan Verrier, told Star Line that Van der Bergh

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Praise ... van der Bergh and Abbass hold a letter which van der Bergh received from the market master praising him for his positive attitude at work.

was away on a five-day jaunt to Sun City. The woman was fired. Van der Bergh had given evidence at the disciplinary hearing.

According to Van der Bergh: "She was being paid with taxpayers' money for not reporting for duty and the cheating of the clock cards went on for weeks."

Soon after this Van der Bergh said

o's produce market

(38) Star 30/1/96

reported that some agents
ports

Senior man in alleged market scam coverup

ETIENNE ROTHBART



A senior market employee was involved in a coverup three years ago when fresh produce agent Chris van der Merwe did a midnight flit after failing to pay huge sums of cash over to farmers for the sale of produce.

Star Line has learnt this from a reliable source who claimed that "damage control" was implemented by a senior staffer still in the employment of the market (Star Line has his name) who told the farmers that the cold storage rooms had broken down and the items had rotted.

To further conceal the theft, Star Line was told, a health inspector working at the market was asked to sign documents to say the "rotten produce" had to be destroyed. These fraudulent destruction notices were used to cheat the farmers, the source said.

Klipriver farmer Manuel Calaca said he had been aware of the wheeler dealings at the market for some time:

"This sort of corruption has a major ripple effect because when farmers are cheated out of payment for their produce they are unable to pay their labourers or for other essential items needed in a farming operation.

"The smaller produce farmers are the most vulnerable and simply cannot sustain these kinds of losses.

"Many farmers live in outlying areas and they have no way of knowing what happens to their produce once they have transported it to the market. This is why some of them are taken advantage of by some unscrupulous agents."

However, one former market agent, Anton Grobler, said he worked as a salesman in the potato section of the fresh produce market for 15 years but was not aware that there were widescale wheeler dealings in this hall. He was unaware, however, of the theft allegations made against Van der Merwe who at the time lived in Alberton.

Grobler explained: "It is not easy rip off farmers in the potato section because the price of potatoes does not change much on a day to day basis. Besides, we were a very close-knit group of people working in that half and generally knew what was going on."

"I cannot say the same about the fruit and vegetable sections as there are large fluctuations in prices which offer far greater opportunities for agents and salesmen to rake off some cash."

Market master Daan Spengler has not responded to messages and a fax sent to him for reaction to these claims.

ss say their lives were devastated after

had resigned from the market in October 1992.

He subsequently initiated legal action against the Johannesburg City Council in terms of industrial labour legislation and the case was recently settled out of court.

He also requested that information in their possession could be forwarded to the Auditor-General's office.

Off-duty policemen used to combat airport cargo crime

Melanie Sergeant

THE rampant cargo theft at Johannesburg International Airport has become something of a money-spinner for off-duty policemen.

After years of theft of cargo at the airport, a company called Special Cargo Surveillance claims to have "brought down claims from R1m to about R1 000 per month".

Industries with small, high-value imports, such as the electronics industry, have been particularly hard hit by theft. Millions of rands worth of pricey chips and computer systems have been stolen on arrival at the airport.

Special Cargo Surveillance MD Warren Geddes, who says he has a military background, claimed the thefts had dropped to R1 000 a month "almost overnight".

He said the company, which was set up five months ago, comprises about 10 policemen who do surveillance while off-duty, and he plans to employ more.

"We knew there were top people at the airport who were instrumental in the fraud, and we employed half of Johannesburg International's police force in their

spare time to stop the problem — and it's working well," he said.

He said that it was gazetted in the October Government Gazette that the policemen were allowed to own businesses or work to earn extra money in their spare time.

A government official said that, as in the old Police Act, policemen should get permission for any work done outside work hours — from a commander or from someone at a similar level.

An outraged Business Equipment Association executive director Les Wood said: "We believe police have a responsibility to minimise airport losses and to track down criminals involved."

"It is way beyond the bounds of credibility that police during their on-duty hours (and paid for by taxpayers) cannot minimise losses, yet during off-duty time, they claim they can do so for a profit."

"The customs department, police and airport authorities must resolve the cowboy situation at Johannesburg airport and not be involved in or form companies on the sly to make some extra money in their spare time," Wood said.

One company which is believed

to have suffered substantial loss, but did not want its name used said: "We have had to take extraordinary measures to bring the cargo theft problem under control. We are not prepared to identify the format which our actions are taking, but we have seen our insurance claims reduced dramatically over the past six months."

The spokesman said the theft was masterminded by "a ring comprising a few individuals, so it is unwise to discuss measures taken to stamp out the problem".

Asked about the cargo theft problem, an Airport Company spokesman said: "There are controls for access points into the cargo area, and we have started a permit system which is operational at the airport building and is being installed at the cargo area and which should be operational in a couple of months."

She said that cargo operators work on a "known-operator" principle so access is obtained only by people who know someone inside the cargo areas.

Cargo accepted by cargo agents and handling agents became their responsibility, she said.

BD 6/2/96 (38)

Tea packaging company to take Manuel to court

Susan Russell

 BD 7/12/96

A TEA packaging company is taking Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel to the Constitutional Court next month over legislation which forces them to purchase a quota of the locally grown product before they will be considered for a tea import licence.

YNUICO, which blends and packages tea under the name Red Label Tea for what the company describes as the "price-conscious consumer", are challenging section 2(1)(b) of the Import and Export Control Act which stipulates that tea companies must buy a pro rata percentage of the local product if they wish to apply for an import permit.

The company contends that implementation of this provision in this way violates section 26(1) of the constitution which guarantees the right to "freely engage in economic activity".

YNUICO also contends that the use of the word "freely" in section 26 must encompass the common law right to do so without unlawful interference. According to the company, section 2(1)(b) of the Import and Export Act unlawfully limits the right to import goods and thus curtails the right to economic activity.

The case was referred to the Constitutional Court from the Transvaal Provincial Division last year after YNUICO had applied for an interdict overturning the minister's refusal to grant an import permit unless it bought a pro rata percentage of local tea.

The court will be asked to firstly consider whether, under the disputed provision of the Import and Export Act, there has been a lawful delegation of power to the minister. The second issue the court will be asked to decide is whether the local quota requirement is a reasonable and justifiable limitation as envisaged by the Constitution.

YNUICO claims the provisions of section 2(1)(b) do not empower the minister to impose qualifying conditions to obtain a permit, but that any conditions he may wish to impose must form part of the permit.

Among the reasons advanced by the minister and his correspondents in the original court application justifying the implementation of a local quota requirement was that 18 000 people in rural areas benefited from SA tea estates through employment and ancillary benefits.

Big boost for SA health management

Kathryn Strachan

 BD 7/12/96

THE US-based Kaiser Family Foundation and the University of Cape Town have announced the creation of a major new programme aimed at promoting leadership and vision in SA public health management.

To be called the Oliver Tambo Fellowship in Health Leadership, this new initiative will annually allow 20 senior-level managers in the national and provincial health administration to participate in an intensive 18-month training programme.

The programme will be designed and administered by UCT's department of community health in close conjunction with the health department.

The foundation has provided an initial grant of R1.6m.

The goal of the programme is to cre-

ate an opportunity for those earmarked for senior ranks of government's health administration.

It will not only help in the current transition in the SA health system, but is intended to provide an institution based base for health management and leadership development over the long-term.

The programme will combine both SA and international expertise to focus on topics such as change management, public health financing, public policy analysis and creative problem solving.

UCT vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders, said the programme would make a significant contribution to SA health management.

Since the inception of the foundation's SA programme in 1987 it has committed R110m to support efforts to establish an equitable health system.

Report on market fraud is due this week

Theo Rawana

 BD 7/12/96

THE investigation into alleged wide-scale fraud and corruption at the Johannesburg Market was complete and a report would be handed to Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council CEO Nicky Padayachee by Friday, the Gauteng provincial auditor's office said yesterday.

The report was expected to be made public after Padayachee had seen it and discussed it with his council, said Shaiket Fakie of the Gauteng provincial auditor's office.

The matter was referred to the auditor-general's office in October after council executive committee chairman Colin Matigla and Padayachee were handed a document in which independent investigator Bart Henderson re-

ported "an under-recovery of R400m in under-the-counter cash sales".

The auditor-general's office informed the council last week that the investigation was progressing satisfactorily and that the report was expected to be released on Monday this week.

Fakie said the field work had been completed and his office was "tidying up" the report before handing it over to Padayachee.

Padayachee was expected to report to the auditor's office, and if no adequate steps seemed to be taken, "we will include it in our own financial report in April on how things went — to make the public aware", he said.

Padayachee had been phoned, Fakie said, and the office hoped to discuss the report with him on Friday.

"We will give him time to respond."

Irate businessmen threaten mass exodus from Marlboro

BY ANNA COX

Star 8/2/96

Marlboro businessmen are threatening to vacate their premises and rent them out to squatters because they feel the Sandton Administration is doing nothing to protect them against increasing squatting and crime in the area.

At a meeting to discuss security yesterday, all of the 50 factory owners present said they had suffered multiple hijackings, murders, robberies and burglaries.

One said he had been burgled 48 times in the past few years.

Said Mark Elders: "We are desperate. This is becoming a ghost town. Hundreds of factories have closed down over the past two years. The property values in this area are nil. You cannot give factory space away in this area."

"I had three staff members murdered here; I had four bakkies stolen. I have one left and I refuse to replace the others because they will only get stolen again."

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Nick Gonifas, who owns three factories and employs more than 100 people, said he was on the point of leaving Marlboro because of the crime.

The businessmen claimed that some factory owners who had left the area were letting their premises out to squatters.

"The Sandton Administration has done nothing to prevent this or stop it - they simply turn a blind eye. If this carries on we will all do the same."

Crime slows economic growth

(38)

Sowetan
26/2/96

Premier believes police must be well equipped to win against crime

By Pamela Dube
Political Reporter

ECONOMIC GROWTH and crime are synonymous with Gauteng and if the provincial government fails to fight crime, the "economic boom" so much talked about will fail.

That was the thrust of Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale's opening speech of the Gauteng legislature on Friday.

Topping the provincial government's agenda was "controlling crime, which threatens not only the lives and security of the people of Gauteng, but also economic growth and stability," Sexwale said.

And to successfully fight crime, law enforcement officers should be equipped adequately. "It therefore becomes imperative to not merely regard crime as 'Number One' on our agenda, but to treat crime as such in budgetary terms."

On the economic front, Sexwale said the province did well last year, and that their mission for 1996 was to do even better. He said his trip with a group of business people to South East Asian countries attracted almost R2 billion investment to Gauteng, which consolidated growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of above 4 percent in the province last year.

The provincial government's monetary and fiscal policy has seen private sector investment grow by between nine and 16 percent during 1995, with a capital of almost R20 billion being brought into the province.

The pending launch of the Gauteng Economic Development Agency in March "will play a critical role in promoting Gauteng as the economic gateway to South and Southern Africa", Sexwale said.

Sexwale, however, recognises that the inflow of investors in the province last year has not necessarily addressed the question of job creation. "The growth we have seen thus far has not yet made a dent in the shocking unemployment figures. One million people are without work in Gauteng alone," he added.

He said since May 1993 only 52 000 additional jobs had been created nationally. The gain, however, was smaller than the loss of 420 000 jobs during the 1989 to 1993 recession. "This is a crisis of massive proportions that threatens to undermine our hard-won national gains."

Sexwale also stated that labour should participate in the shaping of the economy.

"If we are to stabilise the economy, we cannot be faced with the threat of wild-cat strikes."

Authorities 'dilly dally' with report

Report alleges corruption at Jo'burg fresh produce market and is overdue

JOHANNESBURG authorities have for more than two weeks denied the media access to an attorney general's report which lawyers and politicians say should be available for public scrutiny.

"They are in breach of the Constitution's guarantees of government in the sunshine," lawyer Mr David Dison said yesterday.

The report on alleged corruption at a city fresh produce market was first discussed by the city council on February 13 but not released to the media.

It remained secret yesterday when the council referred it to the Office for Serious Economic Offences. Repeated requests for a copy of the document have been denied.

"It is a public document as far as I am concerned and should be made available to the public," said Ian Mr Davidson, the Democratic Party's spokesman on local government and former chairman of the city's management committee.

"This is a matter of extreme public importance," he said, adding: "It is a document which indicates there have been malpractices if not fraud at the market."

A statement by the council on February 13 said the report should remain confidential while comment was obtained from people and bodies named in it.

Yesterday the council said numerous requests for copies had been considered by its executive committee.

"It was resolved that the report be released on request only to those individuals or organisations who are entitled to information in terms of Section 23 of the Constitution."

This decision had been taken in order not to prejudice an independent investigation of the market, chairman of the executive committee Mr Collin Matjila said in a statement.

Section 23 of the constitution reads: "Every person shall have the right of access to all information held by the state or any of its organs at any level of government in so far as such information is required for the exercise or protection of any of his or her rights."

Dison said the council was interpreting this section in the most restrictive way.

"They are in breach of openness," he said. - *Sapa*.

(38)

Sowetan 29/2/96

Market report goes to OSEO

Star 29/2/96
BY JUNE BEARZI

Star Line

An Auditor-General's report into corruption at the Johannesburg fresh produce market has been handed to the Office for Serious Economic Offences.

There has been an outcry that the authorities have failed to show transparency by not releasing the report for public scrutiny.

Over the last two weeks the authorities have kept the report under wraps, refusing to allow Star Line—which helped expose the corruption—or other media access.

Lawyers and politicians have said it should be made available so that it can be monitored.

Advocate Jan Swanepoel, head

(38) (S)
of the Office for Serious Economic Offences, confirmed today that the report had been passed on to him and that talks would be held with the city council soon.

He refused to provide a copy of the report to Star Line: "We have a secrecy clause which prohibits us from releasing it."

The market report was first discussed by the city council on February 13 after which a statement was released saying it would remain confidential while comment was being obtained from bodies and people named in it.

"The authorities are in breach of the constitution's guarantees of government in the sunshine," communications lawyer David Dyson said.

Grim picture of crime in W Cape

ARG 1/2/96
TYRONE SEALE, Political Staff (38)

MORE than 1 000 serious assaults and 164 murders were reported last year in the Cape Town police district, which excludes the Cape Flats, northern areas and the southern suburbs.

The district encompasses Atlantis, Cape Town, Camps Bay, Kensington, Maitland, Melkbosstrand, Milnerton, Pinelands, Sea Point, Table View, Table Bay harbour and Woodstock.

The crime figures were supplied in parliament this week by Safety and Security Minister Sidney Mufamadi in response to a question in the national assembly.

In these areas police dealt with 164 murders and 107 cases of culpable homicide.

Reported rapes amounted to 290, nearly one attack each day.

Assaults with intent to do grievous bodily harm totalled 1 1392 while there were 3 024 cases of common assault.

Police opened 1 849 robbery dockets and investigated 24 887 thefts.

The housebreaking total was 4 513, and there were 36 cases of vehicle hijackings.

Report damns Johannesburg market

The auditor-general has produced a damning report on the lack of controls and systems at the Johannesburg fresh produce market.

There was a public outcry when the report, dated February 9, was presented to the Johannesburg council but not made public. The council referred the report to the Office for Serious Economic Offences, and released it only yesterday.

Vegetable growers have al-

leged a R1-billion fraud at the market and a coverup by the council.

The report portrays the market master, his staff and agents and producers in a very poor light.

And the auditor-general lists six pages of "irregularities and potential weak areas" in the market's systems.

The auditor-general found employees did not make independent checks into how much

produce was being bought on to the market, but relied solely on figures from agents and producers.

Of particular concern was "the apparent reluctance" of the market master and his staff to accept responsibility on whether the actual quantities brought into the market were in agreement with the actual documentation supplied by the agent, the auditor-general said.

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◆ Market probe

A conflict of interest existed at the market because agents were responsible for capturing stock details in the market computer system, in which they had to pay a 5% commission on produce sales, the auditor-general found.

If producers and agents were in collusion, producers could not only avoid the 5% commission by selling produce outside the market system, but also avoid levies to the control boards, which averaged out at 2%.

The auditor-general said the market did little "to sanction" those agents who contravened the market by-laws with regard to the misappropriation of other agents' consignments. The conduct of the market did little or nothing to deter the agents' behaviour."

The report said other weaknesses in the market's systems included security weaknesses in the barcoding system, lack of security regarding access to the market's computer system, insufficient reconciliation of documentation, and inadequate supervision.

Market management had abdicated its responsibility relating to the checking of stock leaving the halls. And certain of the market employees appeared to be poorly trained and supervised and did not have a clear understanding of their responsibilities.

The report also said wholesalers were trading on the market floor in contravention of market by-laws, and agents were contravening by-laws by allowing wholesalers to remove produce without paying for it.

The council, in releasing the report, said the auditor-general's findings had not yet been substantiated and it was taking measures to investigate properly. It recognised its responsibility to ensure the market was administered efficiently.

"Until all investigations are completed, the correctness of any allegation or information in this report should not be presumed," the council said. The report was not released earlier so as not to prejudice an independent investigation, council executive committee chairman Collin Matjila said earlier this week. - Sapa

Produce market hit by agency's collapse

By JAMES LAMONT

(38) CT(BR) 4/3/96

Johannesburg — The crash of a Pretoria-based agricultural marketing agency last week has ignited speculation over the future of the Pretoria fresh produce market in the wake of stinging corruption indictments against its Johannesburg counterpart.

Jacaranda marketing agency, a trader on the Pretoria fresh produce market, went into liquidation on Thursday night after an investor decided to withdraw his money before an agreed redemption date, said Piet Bothma, a director of the company.

"An investor has decided to bring an order against his money", which was due for repayment on 15 March, explained Bothma.

The investor's initial investment was R95 000.

However, Botha said, after interest service over 14 months, the owed sum was about R80 000.

Though a source in the industry claimed that the agency was being wound up because R1,5 million had been stolen from it, Bothma said there was no question of foul play.

The company, which sold farmers' produce on commission, has had all its assets frozen and awaits a court hearing on March 19.

All farm produce in the agency's care was handed to another agency.

Bothma explained that should the liquidation go ahead, he would lose everything.

He estimated the total loss of the agency, which had a turnover of R2 million a month, at R700 000.

The marketing agents' council had issued the liquidation order on Thursday, said Charles Hamilton, the deputy general manager of Pretoria market.

He said an audit was under way to establish the stock under the agency's control to make sure no one lost any money.

He confirmed that "problems between the partners" had caused one of the partners to request the withdrawal of his investment.

Recently, farmers have struck out at local produce markets, marketing boards and agents over high commissions and levies, and illegal cash sales. They have demanded the right to sell directly to wholesalers and consumers.

The Johannesburg metropolitan council has deferred the release of a report by the Gauteng auditor-general into allegations of fraud, corruption and mismanagement at the Johannesburg fresh produce market.

Hamilton, however, argued that the Pretoria market was clean by comparison.

He said: "We don't have the hassles that Johannesburg has. We are looking very carefully at the operations of market agents."

"The Pretoria market is being handled with a stern hand because of the problems with the Johannesburg market and we are so close to it," Bothma said.

Agriculture welcomes produce market report

BD 4/3/96 (38) ②
ORGANISED agriculture and market agents on Saturday welcomed the auditor-general's report on alleged corruption and mismanagement at the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market, and endorsed its recommendations.

The report listed six pages of irregularities and potential weaknesses in the market's systems. It has been referred to the Office for Serious Economic Offences for investigation of possible criminal prosecutions. It also makes a number of recommendations, from improved security to new computer systems and monitoring of cashiers.

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer commended the auditor-general for exposing irregularities at the market. He criticised Johannesburg city authorities for not protecting farmers.

"If a farmer has to pay for services, it is fair to expect protection against corruption," Bruwer said.

Farmers could not afford to appoint staff at markets to look after their interests. They depended on the ability and honesty of market masters and agents, he said.

Institute of Market Agents of SA (Imasa) Johannesburg branch chairman Mike Loutfie said agents were an integral part of the free market system and implementation of the report's recommendations would ensure a better-managed and more efficient market. "Imasa believes the recommendations made by the auditor-general are sound and in the interests of all parties involved in, or served by, the market system," he said. — Sapa.

Market fraud 'continuing unabated'



BY JUNE BEARZI

Star 4/3/96

Fraud amounting to about R1-million a day is continuing unabated at the Johannesburg fresh produce market while the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council is investigating an auditor-general's report that exposes serious flaws in the market, fraud investigator Bartholomew Henderson claimed at the weekend.

In support of his claims of unabated fraud at the market The Star was shown yet more illicit cash sales slips in Henderson's possession which were made out by market agents on Saturday morning. This system is used by agents and wholesalers on the

market floor to circumvent the computerised financial system.

"What more evidence do they need before they take urgent steps to prevent further losses? I provided them with evidence of fraud at the market in April last year and the TMC also had details of fraud provided by a former employee almost two years ago."

The R1-million estimate of the fraud committed daily ties in with the April report handed to the TMC in which Henderson said agents were skimming off about R400-million a year.

Evidence suggests that the TMC, which receives a 5% commission on all legitimately recorded sales on the market floor, could be losing up to R20-million a year.

Council accused of fraud coverup at produce market

Star 5/3/96 (38)

Investigator says auditor-general's report only showed tip of iceberg regarding wheeler-dealing and profiteering

BY JUNE BEARZI
Star Line

The Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council has been accused of covering up the vast extent of fraud and corruption at the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market.

This new twist to the market scandal comes after last week's report by the auditor-general confirming the existence of widespread irregularities in cash sales. He also slammed market master Daan Spengler and his staff for not performing their duties adequately.

Market critics, including fraud investigator Bartholomew Henderson and Independent Vegetable Growers' Association chairman Johnny Gonsalves, say the report has scratched only the tip of the iceberg regarding wheeler-dealing and profiteering at the market.

Henderson said yesterday the failure of the council's internal audit department to pass on several documents had severely compromised the auditor-general's ability to carry out a proper investigation.

The only market agent fingered



in the report is W L Osche. Yet a report compiled by Henderson almost a year ago showed that many market agents were also involved in illicit cash deals. This information was apparently not passed on to the auditor-general. Henderson is adamant that much of his evidence vanished after it was left with the council's internal audit department, which is responsible for monitoring the market's finances.

According to Henderson, other documents brought to council officials' attention would have shown how agents manipulated the market's computerised financial system to cover stock shortfalls. These occurred because of the huge volume of under-the-table cash transactions.

As a result of this manipulation by agents, farmers and the council had been losing millions of rands.

He explained: "The council was first made aware of corruption and theft 22 months ago when a former market inspector spoke out. In April last year I brought the matter to the attention of the council, but officials neglected to act until Star Line focused on the market. Now several more millions have been lost by the continued activities of crooked agents, and the council has had to pay more than R70 000 to auditors Ernst & Young for information that it received from me free of charge several months ago."

Gonsalves said yesterday: "The farmers will not rest until all the corruption at the market has been uncovered. The auditor-general's report focused only on one aspect of the fraud, illegal cash sales. Farmers want to know which agents have skimmed off funds, how they did it and how much was stolen.

As recently as Saturday, Star Line received more evidence that illicit cash sales are still taking place. In a response, the council said further allegations would be probed properly.

Farmers claim agents 'destroyed' produce before selling it again

By JUNE BEARD

In the ongoing Johannesburg fresh produce market scandal several angry farmers claim they were dealt severe financial blows because they were being systematically ripped off by crooked market agents.

In yet another development, a man who has given Star Line information about theft and corruption at the market has

Threats of violence

gone into hiding as he says he has been targeted by "tough guys" threatening him with violence if he continues to talk to the press.

A source with inside information about the market has explained how certain agents run their theft rackets by telling unsuspecting farmers that their goods have been "destroyed".

According to the source: "I have watched these agents taking crates of top class produce and disguising it by piling rotten fruit and vegetables on top. They call in an inspector who writes out a destroyal note. Once the agents have their 'proof' that the goods have been destroyed they re-pack the produce and sell it as their own. This way they pocket a fortune and the poor farmer gets nothing but a fraudulently obtained destroyal note."

A Vryburg farmer related how he was recently cheated out of 3 100 boxes of tomatoes by a large Johannesburg agent and only discovered the theft through a chance phone call.

The Johannesburg agent had told the shocked farmer that the entire tomato consignment had been destroyed as the produce was rotten.

The farmer later discovered that the agent

had sold the tomatoes to a Durban agent and had pocketed the cash.

Groot Marico farmers Hennie and Gail Smith described a similar experience and said they initially got absolutely no support from the market's management when they complained that agents were consistently claiming that their good quality produce "had been destroyed".

"In the beginning I thought it was strange that my one-day-old cabbages were being destroyed. I told the market management that none of my produce should be destroyed until I had examined it or given them permission.

"Despite this, the agent continued to tell me he had destroyed consignments of long-life tomatoes as well as fantastic quality boerepampoen which can be stored for at least one year.

"I demanded an explanation or proof that the goods had been destroyed but nothing was forthcoming."

She says market mas-

Severe financial losses

ter Daan Spengler only last week agreed to pay her out for some of the missing produce.

"Spengler knew all along about our problems but only took action because of the pressure from Star Line's exposés."

Six weeks ago former market security officer, Henry van der Bergh, related to Star Line how certain agents were stealing huge amounts of produce and pocketing the cash.

When he told the market's management Van der Bergh said he was forced out of his job by victimisation and terrorist tactics.

Council may allow suburbs to be fenced off for security

BY ANNA COX

Star 12/3/96

(38)

A draft policy on secure neighbourhoods which includes the temporary fencing off of suburbs and allows access control points has been formulated and is to be considered by the Eastern Metropolitan Substructure as a matter of urgency.

The report was drafted by the Sandton administration's department of urban planning and development in consultation with officials from other departments in response to the many requests received from residents for security measures in their neighbourhoods.

Numerous requests were received following the closure of certain streets in Hurlingham Manor, Extension 5.

EMSS acting chief executive officer Chris Schmidt said security measures would not include the walling off of suburbs. Incorrect press reports wrongly created the impression that the Sandton administration approved the erection of walls around the suburb, he said.

Temporary road closures were agreed to at the request of Hurlingham Manor to

reduce "rat-running" (racing through the suburb to avoid main roads) and as a means of making the area less attractive to criminals. All the costs of the closures and the erection of the crash barriers were borne by the community, said Schmidt.

Reports have shown that this, combined with the hiring of a private security company which uses golf carts to patrol the area, has cut the crime rate by 45%.

"The council is aware of the public's frustration with the fact that no proposals can be considered without a policy decision, but it is vital that these measures not be implemented on an ad hoc basis.

"It should be planned with the SA Police Services in such a way as to assist the police to combat crime and operate effectively. Emergency services must also be involved with the planning of the measures to be taken to allow for prompt response to emergency situations," he said.

No one would be permitted to erect control points or closures without council approval and any installation of this nature will be removed, said Schmidt.

Suburbs apply for security measures

Theo Rawana

AT LEAST six suburbs in Johannesburg's Eastern Metropolitan sub-structure had applied for security measures, which included temporary fencing of their areas, allowing access control, the sub-structure said yesterday.

Spokesman Dalene van Wyk said a number of suburbs had made security requests after the closure of certain streets in Hurlingham Manor Extension 5. Van Wyk refused to name the suburbs, but a local newspaper said Petervale voted for road closures after a series of armed attacks.

The substructure was considering a draft policy on secure neighbourhoods based on a report drawn up by the Sandton administration's urban planning and de-

velopment department.

Substructure acting CEO Chris Schmidt said the security measures would not include the walling-off of suburbs.

The report would be considered by, among others, the urban development, local technical services and public safety committees before policy recommendations were made to the substructure's executive committee.

Meanwhile a security company reported a 45% drop in crime at Hurlingham and Glenadrienne, thanks to its golf cart patrols.

Paramedic Security CE Barry Blyth said yesterday crime had been cut by 45% by local security patrols as Hurlingham and Glenadrienne turned to private policing. "Crime has been virtually halved in the suburbs since the

patrols began."

On the prospect of the concept being replicated in other suburbs, Van Wyk said: "That is why we are looking at policy on security."

Blyth said: "A strong security presence is an effective deterrent to criminals. In effect we are taking over the beat from the police, and we have proved our Cute Carts are a highly effective way to do it. They allow our security officers to drive at a speed that allows them to pay attention to what is happening around them."

The Cute Carts had been patrolling the two suburbs in 12-hour shifts for the past eight weeks. The carts, which were also being used for market research, had proved the theory that if any method decreased the crime rate, it should be used.

(38) PD 14/3/96

development committee

WOMEN'S RIGHTS FROM

Province calls crime summit

Sowetan 4/3/96

(38)

By Themba Molefe
Political Correspondent

New Mpumalanga anti-crime boss outlines campaign

MPUMALANGA'S fight against crime has begun in earnest with a major summit involving government, business, police and the public being planned for next week.

Newly appointed Mpumalanga anti-crime task group coordinator Maxwell Nemadzivhanani said full details of the summit would be released on Monday, when the province's crime awareness week begins.

'People policing'

Nemadzivhanani said the campaign would include the distribution of pamphlets at schools, the erection of roadblocks and the introduction of "people policing" - in which residents will be encouraged to look out for and report crimes.

"The public must put its gloves on and fight the scourge of crime. Investor confidence

is at its lowest ebb in Mpumalanga because of escalating crime which should now come to a halt," said Nemadzivhanani.

Anti-crime measures to be implemented after the intended summit will also be subject to the intense scrutiny of various police commissioners and Mpumalanga MEC for safety and security Mr Steve Mabona.

Premier Mathews Phosa is also being consulted and briefed, Nemadzivhanani said.

He told *Sowetan*: "Mpumalanga is a transit area for criminals. It is the drug trafficking, gun smuggling and poachers' route. These crimes will also be combated in the new strategy."

He noted that car hijacking, armed robbery and rape remain among the top 10 crime categories in the province.

Referring to the extent and spread of crime in the province he said: "New crime fighting strategies must formulate policies to accommodate all areas."

Nemadzivhanani, who is a former general secretary and still a member of the Pan Africanist Congress, is an anti-crime and intelligence expert whose skills were honed during his years in exile in Africa and abroad.

Cooperation

He said that since his appointment last month he had received outstanding cooperation from the police commissioners and generals in Mpumalanga.

He hoped that crime-fighting in Mpumalanga would eventually impact on national anti-crime policy.

Alarming increase in Gauteng crime figures

By DEREK RODNEY
Crime Reporter

Violent crime in Gauteng is still on the increase despite major police efforts to reverse the spiral of murder and mayhem.

Crime experts yesterday released alarming statistics for 1995 and made an urgent plea for all major role-players to consider more stringent action - especially in the granting of bail - to bring down the crime wave.

Comparative statistics show 27 392 more cases of violent crime last year than in 1994.

The National Crime Information Management Centre: Gauteng revealed that 666 283 cases were reported in 1995 and 638 891

the previous year.

Police classify violent crimes as murder, robbery, rape, hijacking, assault, taxi violence, hostel violence, and attacks on people in or around their homes.

Figures for 1995 show massive increases in truck hijacking (125,4%), hostel violence (31,8%), taxi violence (25,2%), assault (20,2%), rape (16,5%) and passenger vehicle hijacking (10,3%).

While there was a drop of 2,3% in Gauteng's murder rate, the province still recorded one-third of the country's murders.

Other crimes on the decrease last year were robbery with aggravating circumstances (7%) and the murder of police (23,2%).

"Minor" crimes, such as shop-

lifting and theft, decreased from 69 209 cases in 1994 to 48 708.

■ Safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte, accompanied by provincial police commissioner Sharma Maharaj, has toured Gauteng police stations to see what they are doing to improve efficiency.

During a visit to Duduza, near Heidelberg, yesterday, Duarte said police were hampered by the sheer size of the province, the lack of logistical support on the ground and the uneven distribution of police officers in disadvantaged areas.

But Duarte stressed: "We must concentrate on what we've got and what to do with it, rather than throwing money at inflating the SAPS's size."



27 392 more cases ... massive leap in reports of murders, robberies, rapes and hijackings in Gauteng from 1994 to 1995.

► Most-wanted bank robbers ... Page 2

Crime takes toll on Gauteng's psyche

(38) K12W18/5/196



We all need to join hands and fight like crazy to stop this ugly scourge from swallowing us, writes PETA KROST

Crime has taken a heavy toll on the minds and pockets of Gauteng. For every dollar stolen by it, the cost is ten high. Many people live in fear while others have become quite blasé about crime. For them, hearing about yet another hijacking or murder has become boring.

As provincial Safety and Security MEC Jesse Duarte says: "In many cases, the public is so used to crime, it has come to accept it. That is unacceptable - nobody should feel they have to get used to crime and violence."

According to Duarte, the crime figures are still unacceptably high. And while she speaks of the numbers of hijacking having dropped by 60% since 1985, it has split into ordinary rural areas, she is worried about the rapidly increasing number of rapes in the province. In January, 589 women were raped in Gauteng. In February there were 585 and there were another 658 in March.

The number of housebreakings, she says, is still dangerously high, especially in Johannesburg's wealthier areas "where homes are surrounded by walls and are difficult to police due to lack of visibility".

According to the MEC, child abuse is on the increase, with 5 485 crimes against children reported in 1985. Out of 12 000 reported rapes last year, 3 418 of the victims were girls under 18.

Duarte confirms that drugs have totally saturated the society. "Almost any drug is available including opium, cocaine, LSD, Mandrax and marijuana," she says.

In 1985 there were 2 281 reported cases of drug possession, which led to 2 419 arrests, but this is just a drop in the ocean.

"There is a lot of professionalism in the drug business and not enough policing. The only solution we have is infiltration into the syndicates."

One of the most worrisome problems



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC: Consible Frank van Schalkwyk (left) and Sergeant Roland Vass of the Bronx firing squad

about drugs, says Duarte, is that merchants target youngsters and sell at schools.

Drugs are rampant in many schools but school authorities continue to deny it, while 14 and 15-year-old girls are turning to prostitution and risking their lives to support drug habits," she says.

While Johannesburg's CBD druggings are down, there has been an increased number of shopowners becoming victims of armed robbery and sometimes murder.

Serial killers, fraud, corruption, tax violators, people selling property they do not own to the poorest folk, vehicle theft and illegal immigration - the list is horrific.

Unfortunately we cannot wish it all away. And people who fall victim to crime cannot help being traumatised, which affects their contribution to society.

"Crime has stopped me being able to feel

free in my own streets and we spend far more time worrying about our survival than helping to advance - Gauteng," says Ben Horowitz of Bryanston, whose love of Johannesburg has been tainted by the high level of crime.

Horowitz, a 31-year-old producer of advertising commercials and a father of two, was attacked while working and had his own gun held to his head.

To secure his family and his own, he says R800 a month for armed response and wants a perimeter electric fence and even more protection at his house.

"I am also upgrading my weaponry... I used to carry a .38 revolver but I am now swatting a light and reliable automatic handgun to wear all the time," he says.

When Horowitz was attacked the last at least R15 000 worth of equipment.

Complaints have no regard for the parents that will be dashed out to them. And the authorities seem to consider their rights more important than ours."

Horowitz feels that the Government needs to embark on a massive media campaign to "win the hearts and minds of the people" and only then in the fight against crime, and conquer the crime market by ceasing to buy stolen goods.

He has no desire to live in another country but dreams of the day he can throw away his guns, and his children can play safely in the streets.

His may be the wealthier person's point of view but the less fortunate are equally fed up with crime. South Africans live in a sad culture developed in the apartheid era, instead of feeling it is a civic duty to report a crime or come forward as a witness, most

see this as becoming an underground racket.

"So, many of us say nothing but complain to our nearest and dearest about how bad the police and government are. Rather than sitting back and attributing blame, we need to help those trying to help us. But instead of help, the police are told by the public that 'we pay your salaries' or 'you'd better do something now' because I don't pay my taxes for nothing."

These phrases are all too familiar to the average uniformed policeman who is still underpaid, looks death in the face daily and is in the frontlines in the fight against crime.

"We pay taxes too," says Sergeant Roland Vass (27) of the Bronx firing squad who has been a policeman for two years because he wanted to serve the community. There have been times when he wanted

to leave the police but stayed because "my wife makes me realise I would not be happy doing anything else".

Consible Frank van Schalkwyk (21) is far from his friends and family in Kimberley and has to appease his mother's constant worries about his safety by saying "nothing isn't so bad".

"She won't even watch the news just in case," Van Schalkwyk says.

Both policemen agree that crime "is out of control, but if we had more magistrates and vehicles we would be able to control it".

Lack of manpower means lack of backup in dangerous situations. However, policemen have felt the change of attitude towards them. In the past, the majority saw them as the enemy. "Now they speak to us but they have lost respect for us," says Van Schalkwyk.

Despite this, the police want to do a good job. But in the face of far more crime than policemen to deal with it, "you feel a bit helpless and that you are not doing enough even if you are working yourself to a standstill," Vass says.

But both policemen agree it is all worthwhile when "someone phones in to thank us - even though there is only one of these calls to nine combats".

"They don't feel a banker harassed for all criminals because, although they still have to do their duty, they can't help sympathising with the youngster who steals a loaf of bread."

"When it is a more serious crime, like someone murdering two people and feeling no remorse, I always think it could have been my wife or family," says Vass.

Dealing with it is something they "just have to do - because tomorrow there will be more violence to face," he says.

But if things started to get too much for them, they would rather go to their superior than a police psychologist, although the latter is becoming more acceptable in the service. Both feel strongly that the Government should stop spending money on changing superficial things like uniforms and badges and rather change the people in the uniforms.

Vass, a white policeman, says he does not feel his skin colour will inhibit him when it comes to promotion because "when it is essentially my turn, all this will be behind us and the best man for the job will get it".

They feel that the public, while critical, are not playing the game.

"People make themselves too vulnerable. They often don't have their street numbers displayed outside and if the police cannot find the right house, they make things easy for criminals, not us."

The truth is that crime is taking a lot out of this vibrant new South African society and we all need to join hands and fight like crazy to stop this ugly scourge from swallowing us.

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN HOGG

Ambassador may quit after second robbery

By **ANSO THOM**
Crime Reporter

Lebanese ambassador Charbel Stephan is threatening to quit the country after being assaulted by five armed robbers in his Lower Houghton, Johannesburg home – the second time in 10 days that he has been robbed.

"It is not safe and I am contemplating asking my government to leave," said Stephan whose nephew Mansour Stephan was escorting a guest to the gate at 11pm last night when the gang struck.

"Mansour was busy locking the gate when the men who had been hiding in the bushes appeared and held a handgun to his head," said Stephan. "They tied his hands with wire.

"They threatened him and or-

dered him to take them to the ambassador. I was in the bathroom when they burst through the door."

Stephan and his nephew were assaulted by four of the men and kicked in the face. The other robber filled a bag with household items including a cellphone and mobile phone.

"They kept on asking for money and I told them I didn't keep money in the house," said Stephan.

They handcuffed Stephan and hit him again when the safe was found to be empty.

"I have a firearm, but had no opportunity to use it," said Stephan who managed to activate the panic alarm. "They fled when the alarm went off."

Norwood police arrived minutes later and Stephan was taken

to a local hospital and treated before returning home. Police have posted two guards in the grounds.

"Ten days ago robbers broke a window and stole R50 000 worth of items," said Stephan. "I immediately sent a note to foreign affairs begging for protection, but there was no reaction.

"In my country, which is small, we have a special unit for protecting embassies. It is a shame for South Africa not to do the same," Stephan added.

He said other embassies, including those of Jordan and Kuwait, had been attacked in Pretoria.

Stephan has been ambassador to South Africa for four years. He asked his nephew to join him as he is single and "I didn't want to be here alone".

(38) Sowetan 20/5/96

Diplomats protection row

ARLT 22/5/96 (38)

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(38)

The Argus Correspondent

Envoys upset, but understaffed police can't cope

PRETORIA - Demands for police protection by the Lebanese Embassy, following two incidents this month, echo calls by other members of the diplomatic corps.

But police said they did not have the manpower to cope with all the requests because so many new embassies had recently opened.

According to international convention, host countries are obliged to provide security for diplomats.

Police said they would provide protection where specific threats existed but they were unable at this stage to protect all the embassies all the time.

Police had said there were too many embassies, for it to man, explained I-Cheng Loh, ambassador for the Republic of China and doyen of the diplomatic corps in South Africa.

On Sunday night Lebanon's interim ambassador to South Africa, Charbel Stephan, was handcuffed and roughed up by thugs at his residence in Houghton, Johannesburg. The intruders stole about R10 000 cash and goods.

This followed a similar incident on May 10 when burglars broke into the Lebanese Embassy and stole R50 000 worth of goods. No one was arrested after that incident.

Mr Loh is researching how many criminal incidents have been reported by the hundred-odd diplomatic missions in South Africa and expects to have the results at the beginning of June.

"I would say the diplomatic corps as a whole does feel somewhat uneasy about the rising crime wave, especially crime

affecting diplomats and diplomatic establishments," Mr Loh said.

"There are no safe areas in the country to go to. Waterkloof Ridge (a Pretoria suburb) used to be supposedly a safe area. But many embassies there have also been broken into."

Mr Loh said increasing numbers of diplomatic staff were becoming victims of violent crime, theft, muggings and carjackings and many embassies had been broken into.

"Just in my embassy we've had five or six such incidents over the past year," he said.

"None of us are millionaires though we pretend to live like them. I think this is where the problem lies," Mr Loh said.

Speaking about the attack on Mr Stephan at the weekend, Mr Loh said police could have done more to protect him.

He declined to comment on a statement released by the Department of Foreign Affairs which said police were too understaffed to provide protection for all diplomatic missions.

Mr Loh is negotiating with the department about police protection.

Sapa reports that Arab diplomats said yesterday that the weekend attack on the Lebanese Embassy in Johannesburg was the second in 10 days, and that the South African government's lack of security for diplomats in the country perturbed them.

"The Council of Arab Ambassadors is

gravely perturbed and concerned at the increased escalation of crime perpetrated against the Arab diplomatic community... and a lack of any actual tangible measures taken to protect diplomats and punish criminals," the council said in a statement.

National Safety Services spokesman Ray Harrald said diplomats in South Africa were not afforded the same VIP treatment status as the president and ministers.

"We don't provide a 24-hour service for diplomats and embassies, but the situation is such that if there is a complaint, diplomats can contact the area or provincial commissioner who will then make the necessary arrangements," Mr Harrald said.

He said with the present number of diplomats and their families, it was not a question of not wanting to provide a service, but a matter of logistics.

Top-level talks about attacks

(38) on envoys

ARL 23/5/96
The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. - Police protection at more than 100 diplomatic missions is expected to be discussed at a high-level meeting today.

The meeting between Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and all the foreign ambassadors will be at the Union Buildings this afternoon.

Ambassador I-Cheng Loh of Taiwan, the doyen of the diplomatic corps in South Africa, said Mr Mufamadi would brief them on the government's National Crime Prevention Strategy.

The NCPS was launched by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki yesterday.

Mr Loh said he expected some ambassadors to raise the issue of police protection at embassies with Mr Mufamadi.

"There is concern in certain quarters about this matter," said Mr Loh.

He said they would ask Mr Mufamadi to consider the possibility of linking security alarms at embassies to police stations in their areas.

The alarms were already linked to security companies contracted by the embassies and linking them to police stations would not need additional police, he said.

Today's meeting follows an attack on Sunday on Lebanon's interim ambassador, Charbel Stephan, who was handcuffed and roughed up by thugs at his residence in Houghton, Johannesburg. The intruders stole about R10 000 in cash and goods.

This followed an incident on May 10 when burglars broke into the Lebanese embassy and stole R50 000 of goods.

Other embassies have also been broken into.

National Police Commissioner George Fivaz said yesterday it was vital that effective joint strategies be found to counter the impact of crime on foreign diplomats.

He said it could not be regarded as the sole responsibility of the police to ensure the safety of foreign diplomats, even if sufficient police personnel were available to provide permanent protection.

Police had agreed to help beef up security at foreign diplomats' homes, but the thin blue line was already so stretched it might have to employ a private security company to protect its own head office, Commissioner Fivaz said.

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ARG 23/5/96

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"There is concern in certain quarters about this matter," said Mr Loh.

He said in most countries security at embassies was provided by special police guards.

"We realise it is not possible to do that in South Africa because there are not enough policemen."

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The protection of foreign diplomats "was vital to secure investor and economic confidence in South Africa".

He said it was a top priority that "all relevant role-players" become involved, including "the diplomatic community, the police and even the Business Against Crime initiative".

Commissioner Fivaz said crime against foreign diplomats had been magnified by the "unprecedented increase" of diplomatic representation in the country.

Diplomats, police to talk about increased security

The Argus Correspondent

ARG 24/5/96 (38)

PRETORIA - A top level meeting is to be held between police and the diplomatic corps to discuss ways of improving security and preventing further attacks on diplomats.

This was announced yesterday at a briefing chaired by Safety and Security Minister Sidney Mufamadi and attended by more than 100 members of the diplomatic corps.

The meeting followed an attack on a member of the Lebanese diplomatic mission at one of the mission's residences in Johannesburg last Sunday night.

Deputy Safety and Security Minister Joe Matthews told the gathering the attack could have been a blessing in disguise.

"We can now do something about providing a better level of protection and security to members of the diplomatic corps before the problem becomes too deadly," said Mr Matthews.

Mr Mufamadi said police would do everything possible with limited resources to provide a higher level of protection for diplomats - especially at embassies, high commissions, consulates and residences.

He said increased patrolling, again within the limits of resources, would be launched in areas with a high concentration of diplomatic missions or residences.

"But there is not much we can do to stop a diplomat from being mugged on Commissioner Street in Johannesburg," he said.

Mr I-Cheng Loh, Republic of China ambassador and doyen of the diplomatic corps in South Africa, said the corps was willing to help and would make available experience and information from their own countries that could help the police.

No date was set for the meeting but Mr Mufamadi said he wanted it to be held as soon as possible.

This was agreed to by the large diplomatic corps contingent.

Diplomats demand govt action on crime

Attacks worry envoys who feel authorities should at least provide some patrols to help protect them

Diplomats yesterday asked the Government to fulfil its duty to protect international representatives, their homes and offices.

The call came after Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi had briefed diplomats on the National Crime Prevention Strategy approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday - days after an attack on Lebanese ambassador Charbel Stephan at his residence in Johannesburg.

The dean of the diplomatic corps, Chinese ambassador I-ching Loh, pointed out to Mufamadi

that South Africa had a special duty under international conventions to protect diplomatic homes and offices.

"Could the Government of South Africa have taken certain means to implement this law and fulfil its duty?" he asked.

I-ching said dozens of crimes had been committed against diplomats in the past six months.

Mufamadi said the Government and diplomats had a joint responsibility for their protection, and appealed for co-operation on crime prevention.

One diplomat said interna-

tional representatives had begun to lose confidence in government dealings with crime, noting that many incidents against diplomats went unreported.

Another diplomat appealed for urgent preventive and deterrent measures to protect international representatives.

"We would like to see now and then a patrol ... it should not be too difficult," he said.

Mufamadi said immediate steps had been taken to patrol areas with a concentration of diplomatic missions and residences. -Sapa.

(38) Star 24/5/96

will cost an estimated R365-million. - Staff Reporter.

Clothing, textile industry hit by strike

More than 3 000 workers in the clothing and textile industry in parts of the Eastern Cape are on strike in a protest against "starvation wages", a statement from the Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union said yesterday. A union official said some workers were being paid as little as R48 a week. He named nine companies affected by the strike and said most were Taiwanese owned. The union is demanding a R30-a-week increase. - Sapa.

Special patrol for embassies

A special police patrol has been set up to protect embassies following three burglaries in the past six months. Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi said there had been a burglary at the Swiss embassy in Claremont, Cape Town, during which valuables including a string of pearls and two pairs of earrings were stolen. In break-ins at the Lebanese embassy in Norwood, Johannesburg, burglars netted goods and cash totalling more than R200 000. - Own Correspondent.

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move that was "not in the best in-
tive Dormicum to the patients, a

Innovative plan to free CBD of rampant crime

By KURT SWART

Saturation policing around Johannesburg's crime-plagued CBD will ensure the area becomes a flourishing haven of peace and security.

An intensively patrolled "safety lung" is to be established, where citizens and tourists can interact in an attractive and safe environment, says Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte.

The "vision document" envisaging a crime-free CBD was announced at a press conference by Duarte and provincial Police Commissioner Sharma Maharaj.

"The safety-lung policy initiative is an integral component of the ministry's broad vision to reduce the level of crime in the CBD to improve economic growth and development," said Duarte.

The concept, seen as an integral part of CBD redevelopment, will extend from Marshall Street behind the Carlton Centre to Park Station in the north, and from Sauer Street in the west to Von Wielligh Street in the east.

It would entail dividing the city into blocks and creating "sectoral policing", installing closed-circuit television monitoring, increasing police visibility with motorcycle and foot patrols, intensifying tourist policing, and designating areas for hawkers.

Said Duarte: "This would lead to the reduction of crimes such as mugging, car theft and taxi violence, and would enhance social and economic life."

Duarte announced that all Gauteng legislature buildings, hospi-

tals and schools would be proclaimed gun-free zones. The cost of gun safes was being investigated and the policy would be implemented as soon as possible, she said.

"The essence of a gun-free vision is to restrict the carrying of firearms and so reduce the potential of violent crime. In the past six months Gauteng has seen a dramatic increase in serious crime. This includes housebreaking, and the use of firearms in housebreaking has increased so much it has



JESSE DUARTE

become almost the norm."

Economically motivated crimes such as burglary had also increased. Gauteng is overflowing with 18- to 35-year-olds who cannot find jobs. These people are the main perpetrators and are often recruited by gangs and syndicates.

"We have formed a technical implications committee, which is not just another committee. It is different. This is an implementing committee, monitoring how each

department puts the plan into action, and the successes and weaknesses.

"Who are we arresting? Mainly young black males between 18 and 35. I think this is an alarming statistic. The issue is economic development."

Crime statistics for 1995 were announced and showed an increase from 1994's 688 891 incidents in Gauteng to 666 283.

Among "serious crimes" there was a 2,3% decrease to 5519 in murders, but there were alarming increases in robbery (11 356 to 15 985 - 40,5%), rape (10 672 to 12 443 - 16,5%) and car hijacking (7 928 to 8 748 - 10%).

Part of the ministry's programme action was the safety lung concept, which, said deputy director for policy Sylvester Rakgoadi, would form part of the transformation of the city.

The CBD had undergone enormous change and in the past four years had been characterised by a sharp decline, with businesses moving to the northern suburbs.

"A major change is that the largest groups of consumers now come from black communities in the southern, western and eastern sectors of the metropolitan area, rather than from the northern sector which supports the Sandton and Randburg CBDs," said Rakgoadi.

Quality of life had declined and the overall increase in crime had created a threatening perception of the city.

TO PAGE 2

P.T.O.

Star 22/6/96

(38)

◆ Plan to slash CBD crime

(38) Star 22/6/96

We need to change this perception to attract investment. The CBD remains the economic heartland of the region, particularly in terms of shopping, entertainment and cultural facilities for most of the population."

Rakgoadi said the plan involved creating more pedestrian space for people to interact, including public markets, and creating a pedestrian plaza by closing some roads to public transport.

"The most affected will be the minibus taxi industry. Routes for taxis would be confined to the periphery of the city. Discussion with the taxi industry will ensue and a public participation programme would be embarked upon to solicit views of passengers and the general public. This will serve to popularise the safer-city concept."

The safety lung concept would involve a wide range of "relevant stakeholder groups". This would also entail an inclusive and transparent process involving relevant government departments and civil society.

"The Johannesburg Stock Exchange wanted to move from the city, but our plan, which will be implemented in stages, has kept them here."

Police tourist offices had already been erected and tourists could use policemen as their guides. Sectoral policing will be introduced next month, along with motorcycle and foot patrols.

Duarte thanked the business sector for responding to government initiatives. OK Bazaar Group had committed itself to installing the monitoring cameras in the CBD. SA Breweries had donated motorcycles for sectoral policing. BMW had obtained 100 high-powered vehicles for the highway patrol, and Liberty Life would sponsor entrepreneurial centres for youths.

Beaufort Wes

• None

PUBLICATIONS

YEAR	TYPE OF PLACEMENT	NO. PLACEMENTS

JOB PLACEMENTS

Tourists abducted: SA crime in world focus

38

PETA KROST

Own Correspondent

ARC 10/18/96

JOHANNESBURG. - The international focus on South African crime intensified again after the dramatic hijacking and subsequent disappearance of three tourists, believed to be British.

The men had hired an airport shuttle microbus to take them from Johannesburg International Airport to their Sandton hotel late on Thursday night. Police have been unable to establish any trace of the men - or their identities - since they were hijacked by five armed men a short while later in the northern suburb of Marlboro.

The driver was thrown from the vehicle during the incident. He recalled yesterday how the men had appeared "terrified" as they were driven away.

He reported the incident to the police, sparking an all-night search centred on Alexandra township. Police reinforcements were brought out from as far as the Vaal Triangle and Pretoria to assist. A search helicopter was also used.

Yesterday morning about 11am police found the empty silver-grey metallic microbus hidden off the road between shacks in Alexandra after an anonymous tip-off. Residents in the surrounding shacks said they had no idea when or how the bus had got there.

Despite of the manhunt that swept through the township until late yesterday, police had last night yet to establish the whereabouts or identities of the three men. It is understood they were still searching airline records for any information that could

■ To page 4, see picture

P.T.O.

Tourists abducted: SA crime in world focus

38

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ARG 10/8/96

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■ To page 4, see picture

P.T.O.

Police praised for action against gang

(38)

By 12/8/96

GATWENT safety and security MEC Jesse Duarte on Saturday commended the police for preventative steps taken to combat drug dealing and gangsterism in the Pretoria "coloured" township of Eersterus.

Duarte said there had been 15 arrests since a plan to reduce unacceptably high levels of drug- and gang-related crime went into operation in Eersterus on August 8. Police reports indicated there had been no shooting incidents since the plan was set in motion.

High police vehicle density, patrols, mobile road-blocks, cordons, searches and close monitoring of possible flashpoints were among steps being taken.

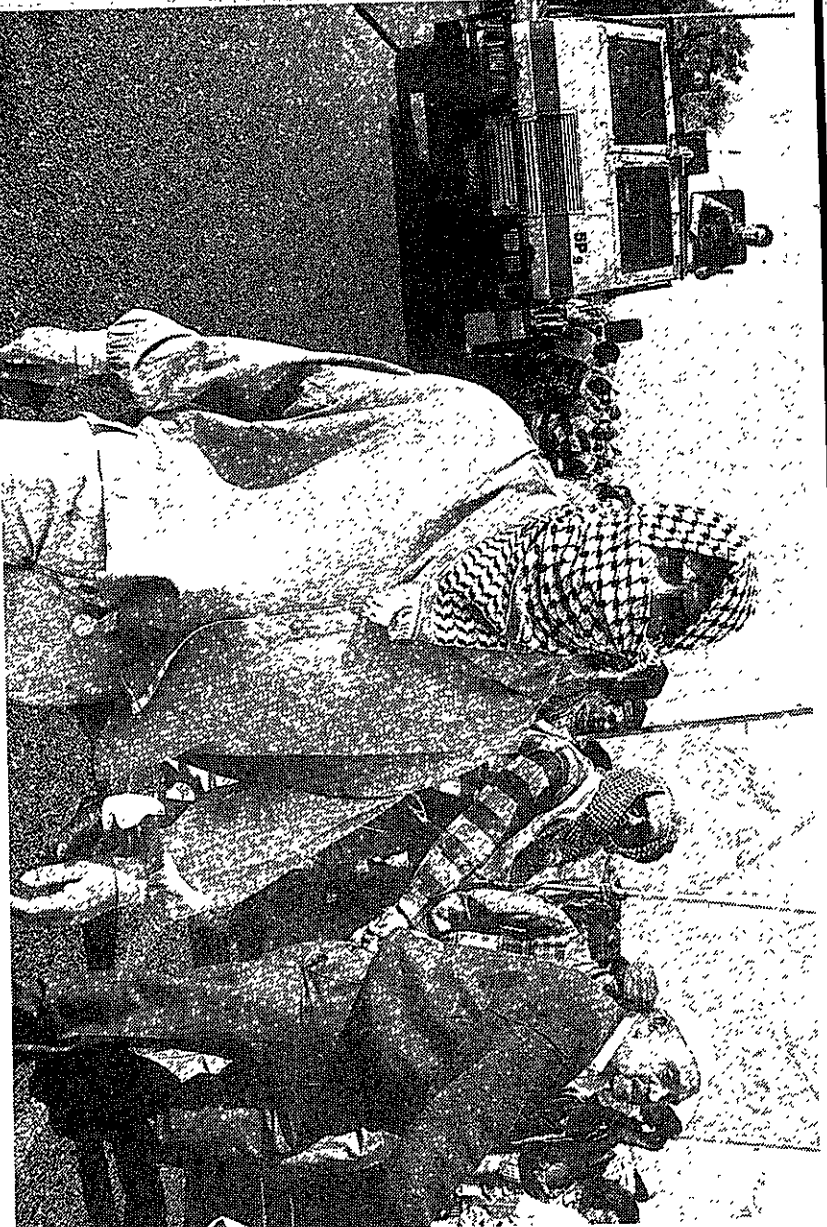
Safety and security ministry officials who went to monitor the situation on Saturday afternoon were told by police the plan involved close co-operation between interested parties, including the Eersterus police station, the community policing forum, the police public order, murder and robbery units and the area's police dog unit.

Pretoria police spokesman Capt Dave Harrington confirmed the operation was a sequel to a recent incident in Eersterus in which two people were shot dead and a third wounded.

The two dead people had earlier informed police that a gang member facing a double murder charge was breaking bail conditions. They were shot after the man facing the murder charges was rearrested.

Three suspects were arrested for shooting the two people. All those involved were believed to be members of the same gang.

The next day a heavy police contingent was moved into Eersterus to ensure calm. — Sapa.



Gatweng supporters of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) march to the Lenasia police station yesterday, accompanied by a large contingent of police. Pagad said the march was intended to encourage people to become police reservists and should also serve as a warning to drug dealers.

Picture: GARTH LUMLEY

Laudium residents to march on druglords

By JACQUI REEVES

Residents of Laudium, near Pretoria, plan to march on druglords' homes this afternoon but are determined that no blood will be shed in their campaign.

The Laudium-based People Against Crime and Drugs (Pacad) is worlds apart from the Cape Town vigilante group People Against Gangs and Drugs (Pagad), according

to group co-ordinator and teacher Carim Alli.

"We are using the group to mobilise the community against drug dealers and to make the problems widely recognised," he said.

Pacad supporters will march from the civic centre to the homes of druglords, and Alli is determined the event will take place without any trouble.

"Our members have been

asked not to carry weapons, and I will personally see that this is carried out."

He said the march was a protest by all the people of Laudium.

Muslim, Hindu and Christian prayers would be said during the march.

Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale met Muslim leaders yesterday and told them that although he understood the anger of the communities, he

could not condone people taking the law into their own hands.

"There is a need for us to understand how communities can come together to be part of the National Crime Prevention Strategy without taking the law into their own hands."

He called on people to come together as communities and work with law enforcement agencies.

(38)

More than 1 000 supporters of Pagad marched on the Durban City Hall yesterday to demand that corruption in the police and justice and correctional services be rooted out.

And they also warned the Minister of Justice, Dullah Omar, not to prosecute people who took the law into their own hands.

See Page 9

Police strive to combat crime

Sowetan 20/8/96 (38)

By Mokgadi Pela

A SENIOR Katlehong police officer has reiterated his commitment to ending crime in the East Rand township and thereby improving the quality of life of residents.

"We intend dealing a mortal blow to crime through our proactive policing unit using the Broken Window strategy," Senior Superintendent Phillip Mokoena told *Sowetan* in an interview yesterday.

According to criminologists, the theory says the repair of a single broken window in a building will deter further abuse of the building.

If left unrepaired, however, virtually every window in the structure will eventually be smashed.

Early repair of broken windows saves the whole building

"The untarnished truth is that crime in Katlehong and elsewhere is assuming unprecedented levels and has to be addressed immediately.

"From now on we are prepared to handle all types of crime with the same seriousness. Tolerating public disorder creates a street environment that intimidates law-abiding people and opens the way for more serious crimes."

Strategies police will use in Katlehong include:

- Getting illegal arms off the streets.
- Breaking the cycle of domestic violence.
- Reducing thefts and

hijackings of vehicles.

- Cracking down on petty offenders.

- Driving the drug dealers out of the township.

- Curbing the youth violence and crime in schools and on the streets.

- Rooting out corruption within the South African Police Services and;

- Increasing levels of safety and security through improved quality of life.

If people committing petty crimes are left unpunished, this will create an atmosphere of tolerance for disorder and soon rapists, burglars and drug dealers will flourish.

Teens 'responsible for many hijackings'

Deborah Fine

BD 20/8/96

TEENAGERS, some as young as 15, carried out a large percentage of car hijackings in Gauteng, suspended Brixton murder and robbery unit head Supt Charles Landman told the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

He was testifying at the trial of Zuko Nota, 18, and a 17-year-old boy charged with fatally shooting

Johannesburg doctor Stephen Pon during a hijacking at the Johannesburg Hospital last year.

Gauteng special anti-hijacking unit head Sen Supt David van Vuuren said it was possible that crime syndicates were recruiting youths to carry out hijackings because juvenile offenders were less likely to be imprisoned or receive stiff jail sentences, on account of their youth.

(38)

Gauteng anti-crime group at odds with Pagad

AKG 24/8/92

(38)

JACQUI REEVES
Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. - The Laudium based organisation People Against Crime and Drugs (Pacad) has distanced itself from the Western Cape's People Against Gangs and Drugs (Pagad) after inflammatory statements made by the Cape Town body this week.

Pacad chairman K K Kurtha said Pagad was misguided in warning investors to steer clear of South Africa, and that the statements could negatively affect much needed tourism. "I believe that the statements were made with a lot of heated emotion rather than considered thoughts," Mr Kurtha said. "We cannot afford to frighten off potential

investors when we so desperately need them to help create jobs and encourage economic growth. If there were more jobs available, there would be less of a need for members of our communities to turn to drug dealing to raise money," he said.

Mr Kurtha said that as far as relations between the two organisations stood, the only link was their common goal to rid their communities of criminal elements, more specifically, drug dealers.

"We identify with Pagad's cause, and share their frustration at the lack of effective police action, but we do not agree with their methods or their militant attitudes," Mr Kurtha said. But despite their attempts to ensure a peaceful march to the Laudium homes of alleged

drug lords last weekend, Pacad supporters battled to keep their tempers in check once they came face-to-face with the dealers.

Scuffles broke out between members of the Laudium community and residents of White Blocks, a suburb notorious for its drug dealers, when Pacad members threatened to "come back and kill" drug dealers.

Mr Kurtha said the threats emanated from heated emotions rather than specific intent on the part of Pacad, but did hint that vigilant-style action was not out of the question.

Posters held by Pacad supporters at the march read: "Dealers stop selling drugs, or else." When questioned, Mr Kurtha said they could mean "anything and everything". "We will exhaust all legal means of solving

the problems in our community, but if they continue to leave us unsatisfied, and the dealers still dealing, we will then have to consider different strategies," Mr Kurtha said.

But Mr Kurtha re-affirmed Pacad's commitment to work through legal procedures.

He added a common error made by South Africans was to associate only Muslims with both Pagad and Pacad. "People must realise that we are community organisations that have chosen to speak out against crime and drugs, and that we have members from all sections of the community supporting us, not just Muslims."

■ This week Muslims in Cape Town's prisons claimed they were being targeted by prison gangs as supporters of Pagad, purely on the grounds of their religious affiliations.

It's a catch-22 when development is anathema to the criminal underground

By EDDIE KOCH

Phola Park, on the eastern fringes of Johannesburg, was meant to have been a model of innovative housing in the early 1990s - a project to deliver low-cost shelter and municipal services to the urban poor.

A democratically elected development committee spent a year designing a township that would include not only cheap houses, but also well-lit streets, running sewerage, clinics, schools, a police station and proper refuse removal services. State funding was secured.

Then, on the day the model contract was due to be signed with the developers, a gang of residents armed with assault rifles arrived at a shack that served as the Phola Park development committee office, kicked down the door and shot two of its occupants dead.

Surviving members of the committee were hounded out of the settlement, many of them hunted down and killed in the weeks that followed. The assassins were from a criminal gang who used the shantytown to store stolen vehicles and contraband snatched in armed robberies in the wealthy areas of the city.

"The experience made us realise that for the criminal underground, development is anathema," says Julian Baskin, a planner who worked for the progressive non-governmental organisation, Planact, which spearheaded the project.

"The self-defence units in Phola Park kept the police out of the area. There were no street lights or proper institutions of civic government. And to change all of this with an effective development project, would have taken away the conditions that organised crime thrived on." Phola Park remains an impo-



CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE: While attempts are being made to improve the lot of millions who live in squatter camps, criminal elements want things to stay as they are

PHOTOGRAPH: MYKEL NICOLAOU

verished settlement on the edges of civil society - not the dreamt-of symbol of post-apartheid urban planning but a grim example of how South Africa's spiralling wave of criminal violence is deterring development.

The causes of the crime epidemic are complex. They relate to the massive legacy of inequality created by apartheid, the lack of legitimacy that the South African Police Service has inherited from its past role as enforcer of apartheid, and a grab-it-while-you-can attitude among white-

collar criminals over fears that the new Government will take away the privileges whites enjoyed under apartheid.

Some officials in the Safety and Security Ministry say there is evidence that old "securocrats" in the police service are deliberately unenthusiastic about their jobs because they realise that crime is the single factor that could unseat the new ANC-led Government in the next round of national elections in 1999. Crime has also had a big impact

on social development programmes. Linda Vergani, who heads the communication department of the Independent Development Trust, an NGO that runs large public works programmes in rural South Africa, says: "In many areas, we used government-allocated funds to build schools. But we found that everything would go missing from the site and the project would be paralysed." "The way we solved this problem was to get the local civic organisations involved in policing. The com-

munity elected these huge 'mamas' to guard the premises at night and ever since, work has been able to proceed."

A land reform programme, entitling families who were evicted from their land during the apartheid era to a basic restitution grant of R15 000 each, is similarly threatened by crime. People are reluctant to invest this money in productive farming activities because of fears that without proper policing in the rural areas, it is just a question of time before someone will come and steal their goats or the hoe.

But despite all this, foreign investment has continued to rise, contributing a net capital inflow that exceeded R30-billion between July 1994 and February 1996.

But economists are quick to point out that much of this was jobless investment in the stock exchange and that there is a clear reluctance among foreign investors to build new plants until the levels of violence have subsided.

An inquiry commission set up in the early 1990s into the causes of civil violence that racked the East Rand - where Phola Park is located - found there was a catch-22 syndrome.

"Development has to be delivered to eliminate the socio-economic triggers of violence; but the delivery of development itself often triggers more violence," the Goldstone Commission reported in 1993.

With 46% of South Africans listing crime before unemployment, housing and education as a national problem, that conundrum encapsulates a daunting new challenge for the Government at the close of a decades-long struggle to bring freedom and economic justice. - Sapepa-Papoo-IPS

Crime: Duarte calls a s

Apr 29/8/96

Death of soccer star Doctor Khumalo's father in hijacking 'the last straw' after series of murders

By Goba Ndhlovu
and Mike Masipa

The murder during a car hijacking of a former high-profile soccer star, who was the father of international player Doctor Khumalo, has been followed by Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte calling an urgent meeting with top police officers to discuss the rising crime wave.

Duarte said last night, hours after the killing of Eliakim "Pro" Khumalo (56), that crime in the province had reached crisis proportions and it demanded decisive steps. Representatives of the army, intelligence services and the provincial justice department are expected to attend today's summit meeting.

The decision follows the murders of several high-profile people in the province including Khumalo and top German businessman Erich Ellmer. There was an assassination attempt yesterday on leading horse trainer David Ferraris and, last week, an attack on the home of Constitutional Court president Mr Justice Chaskalson.

And countrywide this week five policemen have been killed - the latest being two detective-sergeants in Soshanguve who were attached to the Pretoria car theft unit (see report on Page 5).

This morning, police were confident of making arrests in connection with the murders of detective-sergeants Richard Khosa and Michael Baloyi, who were gunned down on Tuesday afternoon outside a house in Soshanguve, north of Pretoria, in what is believed to be a taxi-war related killing.

Khumalo, a former Kaizer Chiefs and Moroka Swallows stalwart, died at Baragwanath Hospital after he was shot from behind when four unknown men accosted him in Orlando East, Soweto, late on Tuesday.

The men fled the scene in his VW Jetta. A woman was arrested later in Hillbrow when she was found driving a vehicle fitting the description of Khumalo's car. She is expected to appear in court soon.

Hundreds of family members and friends gathered at Khumalo's home in Spruitview near Germiston last night to comfort his widow, Mabel.



Amid the grief, the family are awaiting the arrival of Doctor Khumalo from the United States today.

As the only son, custom demands that he be involved in making decisions, including the funeral details.

Khumalo's only daughter, Fikile, said she was not certain what time her younger brother would arrive.

Lifelong friend and co-player Benny "Goodman" Maseko struggled with tears as he recalled memories of their playing together.

The two met as juniors in the fourth team and eventually worked their way into the pride of Moroka Swallows.

"I am still dizzy and confused. I know he is dead but I just can't believe it yet," Maseko said.

Gauteng MEC for Sport, Re-

creation, Arts and Culture Peter Skhosana, along with hundreds of other people, sent his condolences, at the same time condemning the crime situation.

Soccer personalities were in shock. Chiefs' managing director Kaizer Motaung described Khumalo as "a perfect gentleman who would not hurt a fly".

In Cape Town police have launched a new initiative to have

suspects convicted on gang-related crime in a minimum of five years.

Western Cape Cc Leon Wessels said that part of a broader police aimed at breaking the hold gangsters and had on the community.

He said the police talks with the justice tional services depart

Duarte calls a summit

Apr 29/8/96

(38)

Khumalo's father in hijacking 'the last straw' after series of murders



Family portrait ... Eliakim "Pro" Khumalo with his son, Bafana Bafana midfielder Doctor Khumalo. Eliakim Khumalo was shot dead by car hijackers in Orlando East, Soweto. The photograph was taken from the family album.

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Lifelong friend and co-player Benny "Goodman" Maseko struggled with tears as he recalled memories of their playing together.

The two met as juniors in the fourth team and eventually worked their way into the pride of Moroka Swallows.

"I am still dizzy and confused. I know he is dead but I just can't believe it yet," Maseko said.

Gauteng MEC for Sport, Re-

creation, Arts and Culture Peter Skhosana, along with hundreds of other people, sent his condolences, at the same time condemning the crime situation.

Soccer personalities were in shock. Chiefs' managing director Kaizer Motaung described Khumalo as "a perfect gentleman who would not hurt a fly".

■ In Cape Town police have launched a new initiative to have

suspects convicted on any drug or gang-related crime locked up for a minimum of five years.

Western Cape Commissioner Leon Wessels said the move was part of a broader police strategy aimed at breaking the stranglehold gangsters and drug dealers had on the community.

He said the police would hold talks with the justice and correctional services departments to en-

sure that suspects convicted on any drug or gang-related charge faced a minimum sentence of five years in prison.

Wessels also announced that a team of 19 crack detectives from police headquarters in Pretoria, led by Director Willem Minnaar, had arrived in Cape Town to support local police in their fight against druglords, gangsters and corruption in the police force.

Blitz on hot spots

Sowetan 30/8/96 (38)

Angolan war veterans lead offensive against criminals

By Pamela Dube,
Rafiq Rohan and Sapa

THE fight against crime took on a new dimension in Gauteng and surrounding areas this week with the launch of Operation Anvil, a combined police, army and air force offensive led by former Angolan war veterans.

Since Tuesday police units backed up by the army have been flown in air force helicopters to crime hotspots in a major clampdown on criminals.

In the forefront of a force of more than 1 000 is Colonel Boks Pieterse, formerly second-in-command of the feared and now disbanded 32 Battalion, and Colonel Thinus du Toit,

who for three years commanded SA Air Force operations into Angola.

Pieterse, now senior staff officer operations, Witwatersrand army command, told a media briefing at Doornkop military base yesterday that the three-day operation, due to end today, was a proactive curb on crime in a wide area, including central Johannesburg, Soweto, the East Rand, West Rand and Vaal Triangle.

He said they were using classical army tactics of mobility and surprise to fight criminals.

Small police units backed up by the army were being flown to crime hot spots throughout the province to set up roadblocks and search operations.

Du Toit, now officer commanding Johannesburg forward air command post, said more than 100 air force personnel were involved in the operation.

In three months of similar combined operations elsewhere, the air force had been involved in solving 70 crimes in which R1,9 million in stolen goods had been recovered at a cost of R151 000 flying hours.

Meanwhile the crime wave seems to be shifting from ordinary citizens to leading personalities in the province, Gauteng MEC for safety and security Mrs Jessie Duarte said after a meeting with area commissioners.

On Tuesday soccer personality Elkim "Pro" Khunhato, father of soccer

star Doctor Khunhato, was killed by car hijackers in Soweto.

Last week German businessman Erich Ellmer was shot dead at his home and on Tuesday top horse racing trainer Mr David Ferraris was attacked Mafra-style leaving his home. These events, coupled with reports of housebreaking into the homes of Constitutional Court president Mr Arthur Justice Chaskalson and Gauteng MEC for public works Mr Paul Mashatile in the past few weeks, "surely indicate there is a trend here", Duarte said.

She was convinced that high-profile murders and attacks were connected to calls for disinvestment. "Of course we have no proof that

this is a deliberate attempt to scare off investors, but it just raises questions about the motives," she said.

She insisted, however, that violent crime was on the decline. Duarte blamed the media for negative publicity, saying "the media always give the impression that the police are not arresting the situation".

In the Western Cape, dozens of religious leaders were called to Parliament yesterday by the African National Congress to an unprecedented debate with President Nelson Mandela and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and Justice Minister Dullah Omar in the face of the crime crisis in the province.

BULLETIN BOARD

You're not tough enough, Pagad chief tells Jo'burg



FAROUK JAFFER: Shooting from the hip at Bosmont meeting

People against Gangs and Drugs chief co-ordinator Farouk Jaffer left Cape Town this week and turned up unexpectedly at a meeting planning an anti-crime protest march in Bosmont, Johannesburg, today. And then he hit out at the Bosmont organisers and called them ineffective.

About 80 people had turned up at the meeting on Tuesday. His attendance seemed to have caught some organisers by surprise and placed them in a difficult position.

They tried to play down Jaffer's militant approach, and not to have today's march associated with Pagad, Jaffer's reply was: "You have to be militant. People in this area are sure to be left behind. But there seems to be no strategy for Saturday's march." He also lashed out at the poor support at the meeting convened to organise the march. Jaffer said he was there after he had read a story published in *The Star* which said

one in three girls attending high school in neighbouring Westbury and Coronationville were likely to be raped by schoolmates or gangs.

"In Cape Town, we never get less than 2 000 people at meetings of this nature."

"I am very disappointed.

This type of action will achieve nothing. You must take the direct route and confront the problem head on. That is what we did in Cape Town.

"The only way to get results is to take the police to the druglord's house and hand over a memorandum. Give him 24 hours to stop business, and then take appropriate action," Jaffer said.

(38) *Star* 31/8/96

Pagad slams Gauteng's 'soft tactics' in drug war

(38) ARG 31/8/96
CLINTON ASARY

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. - Cape Town-based People against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) chief co-ordinator Farouk Jaffer has hit out at the tactics used by organisers of today's proposed anti-drug march in the Johannesburg suburb of Bosmont, calling them ineffective.

He also lashed out at the poor support a meeting to discuss the march received from the community. He said he went to the meeting because he had read a story about rape in the area.

"That is why I actually went to the meeting, after reading the story I wanted to see how the community would react. If I were a parent living in the area and had read that shocking story, then I would definitely make a point of going to the meeting, or finding out if any meeting was being planned," he said.

Jaffer was referring to a report in the Star newspaper. It said that one in three girls attending high school in the neighbouring areas of Westbury and Coronationville were likely to be raped by school mates or gangs.

"But the support the community gave the meeting was a disgrace, and judging by

that, the march could be a total failure.

In Cape Town, we never get less than 2 000 people at meetings of this nature," he said.

The planned march takes place in the West Rand suburb today, with the main focus to highlight the drug problem in the area.

"I am very disappointed, this type of action will achieve nothing, you must take the direct route and confront the problem head on, that is what we did in Cape Town."

"The only way to get results is to take the police to the drug lord's house and hand over a memorandum. Give him 24 hours to stop business, and then take appropriate action," Jaffer said.

Around 80 people turned up at the meeting that was held in a school hall in Bosmont on Tuesday night and Jaffer's appearance caught everyone by surprise.

His attendance also seemed to leave some of the organisers in a difficult position, as they had tried to play down Jaffer's approach to the matter, and did not want today's march to be associated with Pagad.

"You have to be militant, people in this area are sure to be left behind," Jaffer said.

"But there seems to be no strategy for today's march."

Crime threatens small businesses in Soweto

(38) Star 17/9/96

By BONGIWE MLANGENI

The crime rate in Soweto is threatening the jobs of residents employed by small businesses, some of which have been forced to close shop.

A businesswoman, who wanted to be identified only as Zeni, said that after her bread business was robbed more than four times, twice at gunpoint, she decided to abandon it.

"I feared for the lives of my employees and decided this was not worth it," she said, adding that all the robberies had occurred in one month, crippling her financially.

She said criminals were making it difficult for Sowetans to open businesses, create new jobs and develop themselves.

Despite attempts by police to curb crime in the area, a feeling of helplessness has gripped the small-business sector.

One businessman said that although some attacks were reported, most business owners were disappointed by the quick release of the assailants.

Thugs have also hindered the success of a brick-making project started by Twilight Youth Centre for Soweto's unemployed youth after four armed youngsters shot at the project co-ordinator during

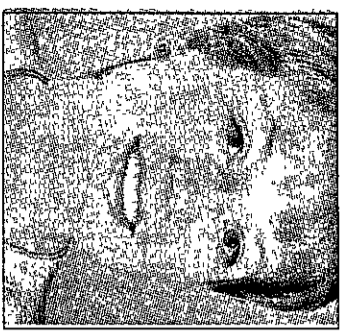
an attempted robbery.

Lucas Mogwerane said he was attacked outside the brickyard by four youngsters who pointed guns at him and demanded his car keys and money. Mogwerane was shot in the chest during a fight with the robbers, but is recovering.

"I am very disappointed because this means we can no longer be free in our own brickyard and township. This could also mean an end to the jobs created for these youngsters."

Police confirmed the attack and added that all cases reported by small businesses were being investigated.

Joining forces to hound out criminals



While the SA Police Service constantly receives criticism for not doing enough to protect the people of Johannesburg, the problem has been shown to be not so much a lack of manpower, but rather a lack of efficiency and management. **JACQUI REEVES** investigates the problem

an Robertson, the Safety and Security Secretariat's policy director, says introducing civilians to the South African Police Service in the form of the secretariat has made it more representative and accountable.

"In the past, internal investigations were exactly that: police investigating police.

"Now we have a more balanced structure that can monitor, evaluate and improve conditions along with the SAPS," he says.

One of the first and most successful projects initiated by the Safety and Security Department is the "safety lung" programme in the CBD.

The pilot project's progress will be monitored and expanded once crime is under control within the "safety lung" area.

Robertson says the plan is to concentrate on visibility of security staff, creating a sense of safety and security. "Having highlighted problem areas, we use undercover officers to monitor and observe criminal activity in the area and target possible crime growth areas."

Police gather intelligence by posing as hawkers or vagrants, keeping an eye on suspects.

Folicemen and women are assigned to patrol the CBD on foot, bicycle and motorbike.

Sectoral policing, which involves dividing a precinct into sectors to which specific officers are assigned, is one way the secretariat hopes to improve the effectiveness of these officers.

The policy has seen considerable success in Durban. "One policeman developed such a good relationship with his sector's shopowners that he had keys to all their shops. As most of the shopkeepers spoke Arabic, his station sent him on a language

course to improve his communication skills," Robertson says.

"Although we are a long way from this, this is the direction in which we are aiming."

Another group that has adopted this policy is the security team of the Central Johannesburg Partnership, a business-sponsored body that is working to redevelop the city.

CJP guards patrol the areas known as the central business improvement district and the south-western improvement district, and know most of the shopkeepers in both areas.

They are each allocated a sector to monitor and follow a beat which is altered every few weeks.

CJP business improvement district manager Franco Andreone says "security staff are constantly trying to outwit criminals."

"We cannot keep the same routes because the criminals watch us and plot our courses.

One policeman developed such a good relationship with shopkeepers that he had keys to all their shops

When we identify potential problem areas or areas with criminal elements, we can often get rid of them by increasing the number of staff and intimidating them into leaving," he says.

The CJP's successes have been impressive. Statistics are recorded on a weekly basis and are listed according to the type of crime.

Before the partnership was set up, an average of 27 muggings were reported in the area around the Holiday Inn Garden Court and the Carlton Hotel each month.

The CJP security team has brought that figure down to two or



THEY PROWL THE CROWDED STREETS: Sipho Michael Nyama is among the private security guards employed to help return the streets to Johannesburg's citizens

three a month. Although this beelied-up police and private security presence has

had an effect on the number of muggings, thefts and hijackings, police and the CJP agree that increased

public awareness is vital. "People have to become more conscious of their environment. Peo-

ple alone, and says the new trend towards forming partnerships with private sector bodies is the way to

(38) 21/9/96

ple do not need to feel terrified every time they go out into the city, but they must also be aware of the problems," Robertson says.

People travelling with their car windows open in city traffic, with bags on passenger seats, or talking on cellular telephones are inviting trouble, he adds.

Andreone says: "While we would love people to be able to walk around the streets safely wearing gold chains, we are not yet at that point, and we can't kid ourselves that we are. People must just be aware of their environment."

The CJP has 62 guards on duty, four supervisors, two controllers, and two site managers controlling the improvement areas.

None of the guards are armed with guns, carrying only handcuffs and batons.

The decision not to arm the guards was taken largely with public safety in mind.

"If a group want to rob a bank and are aware that security staff are armed, they will come prepared with their own weapons. This situation can very easily endanger innocent civilians," Andreone says.

Working in conjunction, the CJP and the SAPS are investigating the use of closed-circuit television, which is used with great success in Britain.

By keeping track of incidents within the city, police have identified crime trends in certain areas and use specific policing techniques to deal with them.

Hijackings rarely occur in the city centre, but do happen in areas that have easy access to major roads and freeways. This has helped police to narrow the areas needing patrols.

Busy pedestrian routes to shopping centres and malls offer easy pickings for muggers, and are especially monitored during lunchtime, when office workers visit shops and restaurants.

Robertson believes crime cannot be beaten by police alone, and says the new trend towards forming partnerships with private sector bodies is the way to

deliver results.

"Working with business and local authorities means we can look at more than just the criminal, and can address issues like city planning and cleaning as a united effort."

He suggests that a similar partnership could be forged between the SAPS and the SANDF, using the hi-tech equipment of the military.

"The defence force has technology that was developed to fight wars, and this crime is something like a war. The SAPS could gain a lot from using, for example, night-sight equipment."

Projects initiated by the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council's inner city development forum have led to improvements in street lighting, roads and pedestrian areas.

Police and the CJP believe demarcation of taxi routes and informal trading areas will also help the city to become more organised, more user-friendly and easier to police.

While the CJP's guards are trained to cope with dangerous situations and make swift arrests, they are a far cry from the stony-faced bouncers one sees outside nightclubs.

They attend city information tours and can help visitors or locals bewildered by the big city. They will also accompany people to automatic teller machines if either they or clients believe this is necessary.

Although the CJP and police claim many victories in the fight to reclaim the city from the clutches of the criminals, both admit that the fight is far from over.

Andreone says: "Johannesburg must be allowed to become the powerhouse of southern Africa.

By keeping track of incidents, the SAPS has identified crime trends and is able to employ specific policing techniques

"We are beating the criminals in relatively small areas at the moment, but the areas are expanding and we will succeed. The CJP, which was established in 1991, has targeted public safety, inner city housing, informal trading, transportation, marketing, retail and urban development as focus areas.

Much of its work is done in conjunction with existing initiatives and developments, especially community policing and local government forums.

The CJP hopes to expand the two improvement districts in time.

However, it says businesses within or bordering the current blocks can still join.

PHOTOGRAPH: ANTON HAMMERL

Serious crime has nosedived, say police (38)

Star 4/10/96

Operation Urban Strike a huge success, say upbeat officers

By ANSO THOM
AND LARA SMITH

Serious crime in Johannesburg and Soweto is reported to have dropped dramatically since the launch of Operation Urban Strike a month ago and police say it will drop even lower.

They have claimed that notorious gang hotspot Westbury, Johannesburg, experienced its first crime-free week last week as a result of police action.

More than 2 000 people have been arrested during the anti-crime drive so far, but police emphasise that the success of the operation follows increased police visibility, which acts as a strong deterrent to criminals.

Some 765 road-blocks have been set up in and around Johannesburg since the beginning of last month and more than 290 000 cars, 87 437 people and 1 027 premises have been searched.

This has resulted in the recovery of four stolen trucks, 57 stolen vehicles, 44 handguns and various other stolen items, including hi-fis, television sets, video machines, jewellery and cellular telephones, said police spokesman Superintendent Alta Stapelberg.

Quantities of dagga, cocaine and Mandrax were confiscated and police also seized counterfeit money, false identity documents and false passports.

Among those arrested were six people for murder, 12 for attempted murder, four for rape and attempted rape, 35 for theft, 25 for housebreaking and theft from homes and businesses, two for kidnapping and one for hijacking.

About 1 000 extra policemen from surrounding provinces were deployed in the Johannesburg and Soweto policing areas at the beginning of September, when the

operation was launched.

Briefing Gauteng Police Commissioner Sharma Maharaj this week, local station commissioners reported declines in priority crimes of between 30 and 60%.

"We meet every Wednesday with all the station commissioners, as well as commanders of specialised units. They supply us with feedback as well as their plans for the coming week.

"We discuss the problem areas and we task certain specialised units depending on the problem," Maharaj said at a meeting in Braamfontein on Wednesday.

"Increased police visibility has been the single most effective deterrent, as well as the choppers," Maharaj said, adding his office

was monitoring other areas surrounding Johannesburg and Soweto.

"Other police commissioners, especially in the Free State, North West Province and Northern Province, have

seen an increase in serious crimes such as hijackings," said Maharaj.

He reiterated that the operation would not end until crime had been brought under control.

"We need to change people's perceptions. We will never get rid of crime, but we are making a difference. The levels of crime are coming down. When and if the 1 000 extra policemen go away, our members at station level should be able to control the situation," Maharaj said.

Johannesburg commissioner Frans Malherbe pointed out that the annual police plan was in the process of being implemented.

"This is a long-term solution with police aids such as closed circuit television and watch towers being installed. These will be working effectively once the extra men are withdrawn."

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**Other
provinces
have seen
an increase**
”

Alarmed Fivaz wants solutions to street crime in city centre

Star 7/10/96

(38)

By LARA SMITH

Police Commissioner George Fivaz has reacted with alarm to reports in The Saturday Star that street crime is still rampant in central Johannesburg and has given Gauteng police five days to come up with solutions.

Reports of daily muggings and hijackings at the intersection of Bree and Sauer streets were "utterly unacceptable", particularly because they happened only

a few blocks from John Vorster Square, one of SA's largest police stations, Fivaz said yesterday.

"This state of affairs indicates a serious dysfunction in both grass-roots crime intelligence and community policing in the Johannesburg city centre."

The Saturday Star published pictures of muggings and thefts from vehicles during a stake-out of the Sauer-Bree street intersection.

Fivaz said the revelations of daylight robbery by criminals

were all the more alarming because they seemed to undermine the effectiveness of the police's Sword and Shield anti-crime plan.

"The Sword and Shield police plan is based on reclaiming the streets from criminals, especially by identifying crime hotspots. Failure to do this in South Africa's financial and economic heartland can only reflect negatively on the SAPS and discredit South Africa internationally," he said.

"I have therefore already

directed Gauteng provincial commissioner Sharma Maharaj to personally remedy this matter ... and furnish me with proposed remedial steps within five days."

Johannesburg Commissioner Frans Malherbe claimed crime has dramatically decreased in Johannesburg and Soweto since an extra 1 000 policemen were deployed there for Operation Urban Strike. He said he was unaware of the problem of gangs targeting motorists in the city centre.

Shopkeepers 'crying wolf' (38) overload a stressed force

From 9/10/96

By STUART KELLY

Police operating in the Smal Street district in central Johannesburg are buckling under the sheer weight of panic alarm calls from shop-owners using the Business Watch armed response system.

The police sergeant whose job it is to sit in front of the computer screen monitoring calls has to watch the printer churn out between 20 and 30 panic alarms every day - 99% of which, he says, are false.

"Nonetheless, the deal we have with Business Watch means that we have a duty to get to each one - fast. Somewhere under five minutes," said Captain Anton Jonker, officer in charge of the Smal Street rapid reaction unit.

This means investing an awful amount of time, expense and police equipment to maintain a security business venture many shop-owners in the area now believe they could just as well do without.

"They came and installed a fancy system with a panic button and everything," said Raj Desai, owner of President Man's Shop in President Street. "They also said the police would be regularly patrolling the area and signing my register booklet every day. Where are they now? All the companies seem just as bad," he added.

Once keen on the system, police are struggling to keep up. Already the renowned "scrambler unit", which once openly prowled the city streets, has been rendered obsolete. Only three of the original 12 motorcycles donated by CBD businessmen are in working order. The rest lie rusting in the backyards of the policemen who once rode them.

Spare parts are expensive and Busi-

ness Watch haven't volunteered to pay for them.

"Those scramblers were donated by businesses specifically to patrol the inner city," said Jonker. "Instead we had to use them for panic calls because of the sheer number we receive every day. We have between three and five men on rapid-reaction duty every shift and they now have to use whatever vehicles we can commandeer.

"Because the men have to get there fast, vehicles wear out quickly. We then wait up to four months for another one," he said.

At the same time Jonker recognises the need for a panic alarm system. The only problem with it, he believes, is the "cry wolf" phenomenon.

"Morale takes a dive when the officer knows he's going to his tenth false alarm of the day. His mental preparedness drops and this can be dangerous."

Testing response

In March last year an officer from his unit died on an emergency response for this very reason.

"Unfortunately it was the one call which counted," Jonker said.

Several owners openly admit to pressing the button every few days to test the response. On the day the *Saturday Star* paid a visit to the control room in Smal Street, one shop pressed the button three times in a morning.

"That's what we paid for," said another shopkeeper, who was reluctant to be named. Few care that the police are having to do the footwork. "That was the deal."

But some have different stories to tell. "We pressed it once by mistake - nothing ever happened," said Julian Levin, who works in a pharmacy in Lister Building in Jeppe Street.

At least 13 murders a day in Gauteng, statistics show

Star 11/10/96

(38)

One thousand women raped every
month in region while N Province is
safest place to live in terms of murder

STAFF REPORTERS

Cape Town

Crime figures released in Parliament yesterday confirm Gauteng's status as the crime and murder centre of South Africa.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said Gauteng experienced 2 624 murders in the first six months of the year, a toll topped only by KwaZulu Natal where crime and political violence claimed 3 265 lives in the same period.

The figures show that the monthly murder toll in Gauteng only once dropped below 400 when 379 murders were committed in April. The worst month was March with 515 murders.

The safest province in terms of murder is the Northern Province which suffered 323 murders in the six-month period while the Western Cape had 1 554 and the Eastern Cape had 1 735. Nationally, there were 11 698 murders from January to June.

Gauteng leads the pack in rape statistics with 6 183 rapes in the first six months. An average of 1 000 women are raped in the province each month.

The province also accounts for nearly a third of all burglaries.

■ Ten of the 11 men who appeared at Wednesday's mass identity parade at the Brixton police station were identified by some of the 210 hijacking victims.

Superintendent Marius Johnstone of the Brixton Vehicle Theft Unit said three of the men appeared in the Randburg Magistrates' Court yesterday to face charges of armed robbery.

He said the three men appeared in relation to a hijacking in Sandton last month.

The case of a policeman who was pointed out as a hijacker by a victim at the parade was passed on to police at Fairland, where the alleged hijacking took place.

Johnstone denied allegations by human rights lawyer Jan Munnik that examinations showed that electric shocks had been administered on suspects.

Although no shock equipment was discovered at Brixton during a raid on Wednesday morning, Munnik said yesterday there was "prima facie evidence" of torture.

Johnstone said police were willing to have further independent medical examinations to show "we have nothing to hide".

Mass effort to put crime on the run

(38) Mar 12/10/96

Police have launched a blitz on CBD crime following last week's exposé of muggings, robbery and theft on the city streets.
CRAIG URQUHART reports

Accompanied by a bodyguard, Gauteng MEC for Safety and Security Jessie Duarte visited the Bree and Sauer street intersection this week following the *Saturday Star* report highlighting the crime-infested area.

In an attempt to get a better understanding of the situation, Duarte mingled with shopowners and pedestrians.

Every shopkeeper she visited on Tuesday confirmed that the area was rife with crime. Shopkeepers spoke of ineffective and corrupt policemen and of chaos and anarchy outside their businesses - particularly on Friday afternoons.

They said criminals were free to move through the crowds on the pavements and among cars in the streets.

Hawkers in the area expressed their disillusionment with policing in the area, saying unformed policemen were rarely seen.

The MEC was also approached by pedestrians who said they had witnessed policemen releasing muggers they had apprehended after accepting bribes from them. Time and time again, she heard that the intersection - one of the busiest in the country - is rotten with crime.

Duarte expressed her horror at the situation and promised to take immediate action. Responding to all the allegations that plainclothes policemen operating in the area were colluding with criminals, she said she would continue with her efforts to weed out corrupt officials.

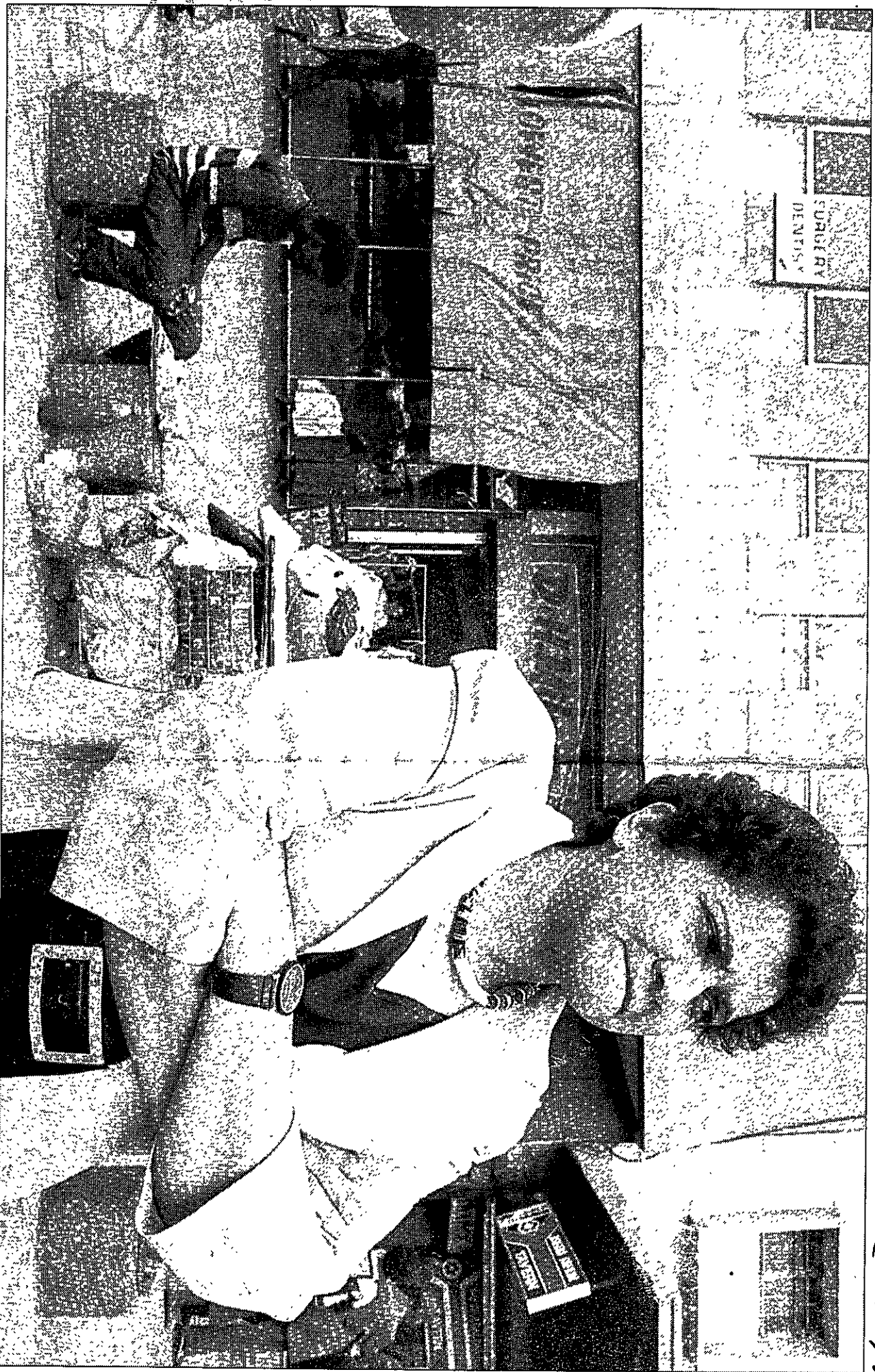
"We will continue to get rid of the rotten policemen - I don't take prisoners," she said.

Last week's *Saturday Star* report on the crime problem and allegations of police collusion with criminals has provided one of the most serious indictments of Gauteng's police in recent months.

Public reaction and police response was immediate: disillusioned city workers and business owners have called for comprehensive action to be taken at various crime-ridden intersections in the city centre.

Police, who have been slinging their praises about their effectiveness in reducing criminal activity in the city, particularly under Operation Urban Strike, have undertaken various damage control measures, including refocusing on trouble-spots which have eluded them.

This week, the Bree and Sauer street intersection came under close scrutiny from



CRIMEBUSTER: Gauteng MEC for Safety and Security Jessie Duarte made a recce to the intersection of Jeppe and Bree streets, which is one of the numerous crime hot-spots in the Johannesburg city centre. While on her tour of the area, Duarte, who was accompanied by a bodyguard, spoke to shopkeepers, business people and pedestrians who told her about the unacceptably high level of crime in the vicinity

PHOTOGRAPH: ANTON HAMMERSL

We will continue to get rid of rotten policemen. I don't take prisoners' - MEC for Safety and Security Jessie Duarte

We will continue to get rid of rotten policemen. I don't take prisoners' - MEC for Safety and Security Jessie Duarte

Whereas gangs blatantly operated at the corner last week, shopkeepers reported that they had "gone" amid an increased police presence in the area. Yesterday, police on horseback moved through city centre streets monitoring the situation.

But the criminal gangs who target motorists in their vehicles appeared to have moved elsewhere to continue their business. PG Autoglass assistant manager Kishore

Vallabh said the Main Street branch repaired about 100 smashed windows a day - and every driver had a tale to tell of mugging in and around the city centre.

Following last week's *Saturday Star* expose, Police Commissioner George Fivaz immediately directed Gauteng Commissioner Sharma Maharaj to compile a report proposing steps to fight crime in central Johannesburg.

Fivaz said the *Saturday Star* story indicated a "serious dysfunction in grassroots intelligence and community policing".

"This is all the more alarming because the Sword and Shield police plan is based on reclaiming the streets from criminals, espe-

cially by identifying crime hot-spots," he said.

Fivaz said the situation was "utterly unacceptable" as the intersection was only a few blocks away from one of South Africa's largest police stations, John Vorster Square.

In his directive, Fivaz requested Maharaj to personally intervene in ensuring the city's police properly implemented the Sword and Shield anti-crime plan.

"It would be a tragedy if the efforts of motivated police officials countrywide are discredited by non-delivery in a specific area," he said.

Tourism and foreign investment would depend on effective policing in Gauteng and

failure to do so would reflect negatively on the country's "financial and economic health" and discredit police.

Fivaz received the report yesterday and reacted favourably to it.

"The report contains a range of undercover and technical counter-measures to combat crime, specifically in this area."

Unfortunately, due to the nature of street crime, I am unable to divulge them yet, as this will warn suspects and merely displace them to other areas," he said.

It is essential that business and as many people as possible are involved in fighting crime in this country.

Another initiative in the pipeline will be the donation of a large office block in the CBD to the police which will be used as barracks and offices.

"It is essential that business and as many people as possible are involved in fighting crime because, if we don't resolve crime in this country, then we won't have a society in which we can live and raise our children," said BAC chairman Wendy Lucas-Bull.

Police arrested 16 people at various crime hot-spots this week following Fivaz's ultimatum. Twelve people were arrested on Tuesday and Wednesday for theft out of motor vehicles at the corners of Market and Joubert streets, Rissik and Smit streets, Wolmarans and Twist streets, and Empire Road and the M1 off-ramp.

One man was arrested for housebreaking and being in possession of an unlicensed firearm in Eloff Street on Wednesday. Another was arrested in Wolmarans Street after allegedly stealing R1 600 from a pedestrian. Two others were arrested for the possession of an unlicensed firearm in Quartz Street. Police recovered three stolen cellphones.

Police spokesman Director Azwimindi Nengovhela said crime reaction unit members were randomly patrolling all spots identified as "hives of criminal activity" and were not just limiting their actions to Bree and Sauer streets. He said this was because criminals moved to new hunting grounds when police identified a problem area.

Surprisingly, the *Saturday Star* was not approached by the police for copies of last week's photographs which clearly showed criminals attacking motorists at the intersection and could have been used to identify and incriminate them.

Yesterday, city police identified the following intersections as the most dangerous in Johannesburg: Bree/Sauer; Bree/West; Jeppe/West; Jeppe/Sauer; Rissik/Albert; Rissik/Anderson; Rissik/Marke; Rissik/Pritchard; Rissik/Wolmarans; Eloff Ext/Village; Eloff Ext/Paradise; Simmonds/Fredrick; Simmonds/Village; Main/Von Willeigh; Anderson/Von Willeigh; Moor/Feldberg; Kerck/Rissik; Klein/Plein; Commissioner/End; and Booysens/Village Main.

Despite ongoing problems with containing crime in the city, Business Against Crime (BAC) is forging ahead with several key projects to assist the Gauteng government in combating crime, including the installation of closed-circuit video cameras.

The cameras will be installed in the Johannesburg CBD, and will be linked to a central control room. They will cover hot-spot areas, and policemen in control rooms will be in contact with a specialised police scrambler motorcycle squad which will be dispatched to trouble-spots. It has been particularly successful in the United Kingdom and, closer to home, in Benoni, where a pilot project saw a 30% reduction in CBD crime.

New York's successful formula of tackling petty crime first begins to take effect in downtown Johannesburg

By CRAIG URQUHART

Uniformed policemen are to be posted in Johannesburg's crime hot-spots. And it is understood the postings will be "long term" - until problems have been rooted out.

This is a key proposal of the plan presented to Commissioner George Fivaz by regional police chiefs yesterday.

It follows strong criticism of policing in the city centre after the *Saturday Star* last weekend published a series of pictures of criminals smashing windows and steal-

ing from cars in traffic. The photographs and reports highlighted the crime-infested Bree and Sauer streets intersection.

Other proposals for a new-style policing of the city include a set of controls aimed at the activities of hawkers and minibus taxis.

MEC Duarte yesterday confirmed that police were now following the New York City police department's highly successful "broken windows" plan, which focuses on rooting out petty criminal activity as well as more serious crimes.

In addition to 16 arrests for serious offences in the city this week, there were also 70 for minor offences such as jaywalking and drinking in public.

Duarte said another measure that is already being initiated was the installation of closed-circuit television cameras at high crime areas and the more congested parts of the city.

Her department is looking at moving informal traders off the pavements and into "market areas". There are also plans under way to specify routes where

minibus taxis can drive in the city. She also plans increasing the number of policemen on horseback in the city centre. "We have to win this city back - we plan to reinstate respect for the law."

Within hours of this newspaper's report on the hell-run motorists and pedestrians had to endure, policemen swarmed into the area and quickly regained what had become one of the city's favourite hunting grounds for criminals. However, there are indications that the criminals simply moved elsewhere.

Just two blocks away, at the corner of Bree and West streets, eyewitnesses said they saw criminals smashing windows of parked vehicles and removing goods in broad daylight this week.

A local business owner, who has witnessed numerous vehicle break-ins and attacks on pedestrians and motorists in recent months, said he had confronted the criminals who operate in the area.

"We were told: 'You have your business and we have ours - don't get involved'," he said.

On Thursday afternoon there



SMASH AND GRAB: Armand Kaczanowski looks on while Samuel Scholz repairs his window after it had been smashed by criminals who stole his sunglasses in the city centre yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: RIAN HORN

FROM PAGE 1

(38) Star 12/10/96 ◆ Anti-crime campaign

However, this week he said the police were nowhere to be seen and another two vehicles were broken into in broad daylight.

"The only way for us to resolve this problem is to move out of town. We've been here for 12 years, but we've had enough - we're now definitely leaving now," said Pheiffer.

An official at the Inland Revenue offices, located nearby, said he was mugged recently on Rissik Street. "I've tried to get security guards on the streets, but I can't sneeze without Pretoria's permission," he said.

The Saturday Star also received calls from readers who said they had been targeted in their vehicles in other parts of the city, including the Selby off-ramp and Empire Road.

However, in the vicinity of the Bree and Sauer intersection, hawkers and shopkeepers who had expressed their disgust at the free reign criminals had in the area and the alleged collusion of policemen with them said this week they were pleasantly surprised at the changes that had already taken place. They added that for the first time in months they had not witnessed any criminal activity in the area. Uniformed policemen began patrolling around the intersection while plain-clothes officers introduced themselves to shopkeepers and kept an eye on the area.

Commissioner Frans Malherbe said police were conducting a major operation to "completely wipe out crime" in various parts of the city, including the Bree and Sauer intersection.

"We are not trying to chase them away - that doesn't solve the problem. We need to identify them, to arrest them, to have them brought before the courts and take them out of circulation," Malherbe said.

He appealed to members of the public to report all criminal activities, no matter how small.

TO PAGE 2

Business Watch, too, seen to be failing – and overhaul is recommended

Report sets off alarm bells over policing in the CBD

By CRAIG URQUHART

Allegations of widespread corruption, unaccountable policing and mismanagement of funds – preventing them from effectively combating crime in the Johannesburg city centre – have been levelled against the SAPS and the Business Watch system.

A damning report leaked to the *Saturday Star* claims Business Watch is failing, usually in connection with crime in the city centre, and understated and underpaid policemen are being badly managed.

Provincial Inspector General Johan van den Heever, who compiled the report for Commissioner Sharma Maharaj, paints a bleak picture of current crime prevention structures. Several senior police officers have been implicated for mismanagement and it is recommended that they be transferred.

The report says the popular panic button system, installed in 1992, has become a "major liability" for the city by a private company. It is also alleged that

resources as officers are constantly responding to false alarms. Subsequently police are neglecting ordinary citizens who cannot afford the panic buttons, making this method of policing unaccountable.

The general feeling is that members of the community were deceived over the purpose of the donations, contributions to the Business Watch, the purchasing of motorcycles, etc.

Responsibility

"The combatting of crime cannot be promoted by attending to alarms. The private security companies must control the attending of alarms in partnership with the SAPS," the report states.

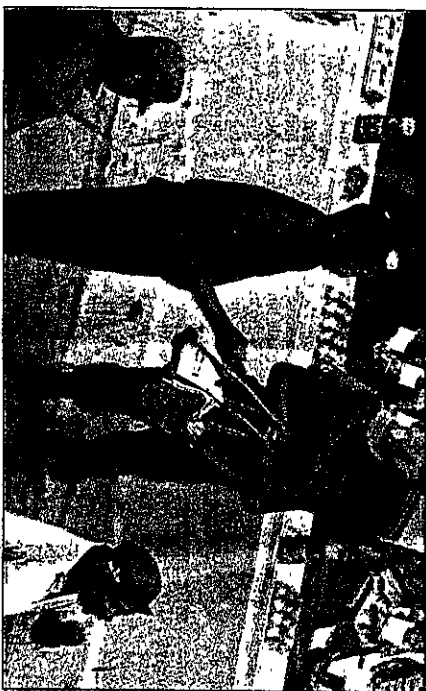
Granting MEC for Safety and Security Jesse Duarte said last night, "We will not tolerate any form of corruption... We will take all measures to get to the root of the problem and make sure corruption panels' button system, installed in 1992, has become a 'major liability' for the city by a private company. It is also alleged that

management services to study the document and make recommendations.

Area Commissioner Frans Malherbe said yesterday his office rejected the report. He conceded it had highlighted many policing problems he was already aware of.

Marinus Penning, who is preparing the new report, confirmed he had already established there were definitely problems with policing in the CBD. "We are lacking proper management and I will recommend that senior policemen are transferred."

Penning said the panic button system was seriously flawed. "I am still trying to establish who actually has the system. Our duty is to see the whole of the city – not just certain businesses. The report claims Emergency Reaction Services, a private company, has been



FIGHT GOES ON: Police were active in the CBD yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: NAASHON ZALK

pany responsible for installing the panic alarms, made healthy profits at the expense of policemen in the area.

This week, the Johannesburg Policing Forum unanimously resolved to request the SAPS to halt monitoring and responding to alarms handled by private companies.

Chairman Paul O'Sullivan said the inability of police to stop responding to panic buttons was preventing the community policing forum from carrying out its own crime prevention initiatives. O'Sullivan has begun an investigation into the affairs of Business Watch, which he describes as a "non-existent entity" and has handed his findings to the SAPS.

Malherbe said the Business Watch system worked very well until the end of last year when it became more of a reactive than a proactive service, partly due to the panic button system. "There are perceptions that Business Watch is looking after people who can afford the buttons – if this is the case, I will scrap that system immediately." The Business Watch system started in Johannesburg and is endorsed by police in every major metropolitan centre. The last thing we will do is scrap it – we just need to get it back on track here."

Successes

Morris Marman, manager of Emergency Reaction Services and the Business Watch co-ordinator for the chamber of commerce, said he was asked by the police in 1992 to design a panic button system for the Business Watch. Police were getting calls for help only after the businesses had been robbed.

After initial successes, Marman said, the situation changed dramatically early this year when police visibility became almost non-

existent. Marman said he complained to the police commissioner that policing had disappeared in the CBD and the police scramblers were no longer seen. He said a subsequent investigation by police tried to lay the blame on the panic alarm system but gave no reason why visible policing had stopped.

It is ludicrous to blame the panic button system for the demise of policing in the CBD. The system was in the past a major deterrent to crime. There are only a handful of men who respond to the system out of the hundreds who are supposed to patrol the CBD. With correct police management, there is no question that police can return the CBD to a safe environment."

Marman said it was not the panic button system that was faulty but rather the operation of the system that was flawed. "If the panic button system is to be blamed for the demise of visible policing in the CBD, they are putting blame on the most useful tool the police have had in the CBD in recent years."

(38) Star 19/10/1996

Johannesburg a prime target for organised crime - expert

An American security specialist says international syndicates are the Aids virus of the modern state and pose a threat to national security

(38) *Stan* 25/10/96

DANIEL ROOMER
Crime Reporter

Johannesburg, one of the world's emerging cities, is ripe for exploitation by so-called sophisticated transnational organised crime syndicates, says a top international crime expert. Professor Phil Williams told an Institute for Defence Policy seminar at Midrand yesterday that transnational crime organisations were the Aids virus of the modern state. He said they posed more of a

threat to national security than to a country's financial systems. "These organisations are all geared towards making money and, as a result, they tend to use the (financial) system to their advantage," he said. Williams, director of the University of Pittsburgh's Ridgway Centre for International Security Studies, added that organised crime and money laundering would flourish in "weak" states that either could not control criminal activities or chose not to. According to Williams, the

organisations, which are structured as a network and not hierarchically, are difficult to infiltrate and eliminate. Originally parasitic and predatory, they eventually develop a symbiotic relationship with the state. For example, in Nigeria and Columbia, organised crime and the state organs have become so entwined that outsiders find it difficult to see where legal and illegal structures begin and end. Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban were identified as ideal breeding grounds for

transnational crime. The development of global cities, where there is a concentration of financial power and a sophisticated infrastructure, facilitates criminal contact between organisations, which are not limited by national borders, trade tariffs or laws. Worrysome trends included the growing sophistication of these groups in infiltrating financial and state structures, the increase of global crime alliances and the corruptibility of weakened states, said Williams.

Cops strike back in city crime war

By CRAIG URQUHART

Nov 26/10/96

(38)

Three weeks after the *Saturday Star* exposed how criminals operated freely at intersections in the city centre, police say they are beginning to win the battle at Johannesburg's crime hot-spots.

However, the fight is far from over and there are still reports of attacks on motorists and pedestrians at the notorious Bree and Sauer intersection.

In the week following the report, law and order finally returned to the area which had seen hundreds of incidents of petty and violent crime this year.

Police reinforcements - uniformed and undercover - were sent into the area and shopkeepers, hawkers and pedestrians breathed a sigh of relief.

Over the past two weeks, however, there have been indications that criminals are trying to regain control of one of their favourite hunting grounds.

On Tuesday afternoon an unidentified motorist chased two men who had climbed into his vehicle at the Bree-Sauer intersection. He was unable to apprehend the men, who failed to steal anything.

Not fast enough

On Wednesday evening, Joanne Krus, a member of the ANC's Gauteng parliamentary caucus, was waiting for the robots to change on Sauer Street when her passenger window was shattered.

"I know this intersection is notorious, so I purposely stopped in the middle lane. I didn't see a thing - he came from nowhere and my only reaction was to accelerate away," she said.

However, Krus was not fast enough to prevent her assailant from removing her handbag, which contained R50 and her "life story". Her birth certificate, identity document, house keys and cheque book were probably tossed into the nearest bin.

"This is ridiculous. Does Johannesburg have to be vacated by 5.30pm every day because everyone is so intimidated?" she asked.

When the *Saturday Star* accompanied members of the robbery reaction unit on Thursday, there were undercover policemen operating in the area who were responsible for a spectacular arrest following the killing of a taxi driver at the Bree Street taxi rank.

After hearing gunfire, the policemen apprehended two suspects at the corner of Jeppe and West streets. A stolen police firearm with the serial number filed away was also recovered.

Police say that while crime figures are way down in the city and they have identified and tackled other hotspots since the *Saturday Star's* initial report, a shortage of personnel is preventing them from stamping out crime altogether.

"We are in a situation of crisis control - I cannot pretend that everything is okay," said area commissioner Frans Malherbe. He said the moratorium on the recruitment of new members into the service - effective since 1994 - had seen the number of policemen working in the city drop to 24% below the recommended quota.

"We're not happy, but we realise that there is a lack of funds from the Government at the moment."

However, Malherbe said he was confident that the moratorium would be reversed and he would be able to forge ahead with plans to wipe out criminal activity in the city.

Cameras

These include the installation of hi-tech closed-circuit television cameras in the city - including the Bree-Sauer intersection - the erection of observation points, lookout towers and platforms in high-density areas, and the transfer of senior policemen to actively combat crime.

The robbery reaction unit has closely monitored the Bree-Sauer intersection in recent weeks and claims there are uniformed and undercover policemen patrolling the area.

The unit, which consists of 40 undercover policemen, has arrested 72 suspects in the city over the past three weeks for crimes including murder, attempted murder, theft out of motor vehicles and possession of unlicensed firearms.

Inspector Gary Davies, second in command of the unit, said one of the problems of tackling the so-called smash and grab crimes, where motorists are targeted in their cars, is that many of the culprits are minors. When they are arrested, they claim they are working for adults and they invariably end up back on the streets.

Davies said it was imperative that motorists keep their doors locked and windows closed when driving in town to deter all the "cellphone and necklace" thieves.

Meanwhile, despite their recent successes, many policemen say morale remains low in the SAPS, mainly because the service is shortstaffed.

As a trained and experienced policeman, Constable Ruben Dhlamini is stuck under a mountain of paperwork in an office at



LOOKING FOR GUNS: Members of the robbery reaction unit searched a Hillbrow apartment on Thursday after receiving a report that unlicensed firearms were being sold. Accompanied by uniformed members of the SAPS, they thoroughly searched the flat, and an outside courtyard, but came away empty-handed

PHOTOGRAPH: NAASHON ZALK

John Vorster Square.

"I want to fight crime, I want to be on the streets, but they say they can't afford to let me go," Dhlamini said.

He added there were many other qualified policemen at the

station who were tied down by mundane paperwork and prevented from actively combating crime.

"The answer is to get civilians off the streets to do this work for us and let the police-

men do their job properly," he said.

One officer, who requested anonymity, said there was a small minority of "criminal" policemen in the service who were frustrating their efforts to

combat crime and ruining the reputation for the entire SAPS.

"We know who they are. We know where and how they operate, but we just haven't been able to catch them," he said.

Youth held after exposé on crime in city centre⁽³⁸⁾

Star 26/10/96
Police this week arrested a youth photographed in the *Saturday Star's* recent exposé of criminal activity at the corner of Bree and Sauer streets.

The man is being held in custody and will appear in court on Monday.

And in another development on Thursday, police stationed in the area in response to the *Saturday Star's* exposé arrested a man minutes after shots were fired at the Bree Street taxi rank.

Undercover members of the robbery reaction unit heard gunshots at the taxi rank and, after calling in reinforcements, chased a group of men who had just been involved in the killing of taxi driver Elliot Msibi.

Within five minutes, 14 police vehicles were at the scene and a police helicopter was circling overhead.

While the entire area was cordoned off, the robbery reaction unit members caught up with the suspected hitman a block away, at the corner of Jeppe and West streets.

The man was arrested along with the driver of a getaway car, and they will both appear in court on Monday.

Three weeks ago the *Saturday Star* exposed how criminals operated freely at intersections in the CBD.

In the week following the report, some semblance of law and order returned to the area after police flooded the area. Since then, regular patrols by uniformed police have resulted in a substantial drop in criminal activity.

SAPS spokesman Brigadier Frans Malherbe reported last night that three arrests had been made this week.

Police say they are starting to win the war against crime.

Over the past two weeks, however, there have been indications that criminals were trying to regain control of one of their favourite hunting grounds in the CBD.

SEE PAGE 8

Pretoria feeling pinch as crime declines in Johannesburg

By DEREK RODNEY
Crime Reporter

Crime in Johannesburg is declining, due largely to the influx of policemen from other provinces for Operation Urban Strike – but Egoli residents' good fortune has turned out to be far from good for their provincial neighbours north of the Jukskei River.

The latest police statistics

show Pretoria is increasingly feeling the pinch of crime as syndicates move north.

Comparative statistics for Pretoria show that serious crime increased by more than 10% from September to October, which has resulted in an announcement that specialised operations will be in place over the festive season.

The increase in serious crime statistics is in sharp contrast with

statistics for other Gauteng regions, which show an average decline in crime of 11% over the past few months.

In Pretoria, however, crimes such as burglaries (residential and business) and vehicle theft have shown an alarming increase over the past two months.

The police tracing unit for the area, supported by a newly established burglary assistance team,

have arrested more than 70 suspects in the past two weeks.

Pretoria area commissioner Corrie Naudé said: "We did take a knock in September and October, but even with the slight increase in crime, Pretoria is still safer than Johannesburg." He added there had been a significant overall decline between January and October in priority crimes such as murder, rape, hijacking and burglaries.

stay 19/11/96

(38)

DP plan for crime busting hailed as 'constructive' by Government

(38)

BY MONDLI MAKHANYA

Political Reporter

Star 20/11/96
The Democratic Party's recently released crime prevention strategy has received a thumbs up from the Safety and Security Department, which said the document would get "proper attention" from the Government.

In a statement yesterday, Safety and Security Secretary Azhar Cachalia said the "Winning the War Against Crime" document represented a constructive "departure from the reactive and unhelpful way that the crime debate has been approached thus far".

It would be referred to the National Crime Prevention Strategy Team in the Safety and Security Minister's office for consideration.

The DP released the document at the weekend as an alternative to the Government's own policies. It argues for localised anti-crime measures, the setting up of an anti-crime fund, the confiscation and sale of criminals' properties and improvement in the "effective punishment of offenders".

Cachalia said the Government "particularly welcomed" the DP's suggestion that cities and towns become the focus of crime prevention initiatives. He said this was in line with current government thinking.

Cachalia said however that the DP's proposals that Crime Prevention Councils replace Community Policing Forums would be problematic as this would make the police accountable to locally elected structures instead of the national and provincial authorities.

He said the DP's emphasis on effective punishment, victim support and the need for performance measurement would enhance government initiatives.

COPS CAN'T DO IT ALL

(38) FM 22/11/96

The latest crime statistics from Gauteng amply illustrate the effectiveness — and limitations — of putting more police on the streets.

The deployments of an extra 1 000 police officers and nearly 500 soldiers in Johannesburg and Soweto at the beginning of September brought an immediate reduction in vehicle hijackings, armed robberies, attacks in and around homes and various forms of theft.

But the operation, dubbed Urban Strike, did not prevent a simultaneous rise in murders, rapes and serious assaults. Indeed, the increased visibility of the police may have contributed to the extraordinary rise in rape reporting as victims are then encouraged to report their ordeals to the police.

22 CURRENT AFFAIRS

One may conclude from this that more visible and vigorous policing is effective in cutting some, but not all, crimes.

Crimes that rely on stealth or which take place behind doors or in homes, such as rape, murder and child abuse, are not preventable by simply increasing police visibility, says Gauteng police spokesman Azwinndini Nengovhela.

Nonetheless, he says, the impressive reductions in more public forms of crime such as hijackings and armed robberies indicate that raising active police deployments is indispensable to the campaign. "Maybe this will send a message to the powers that be that the moratorium on police recruitment must be lifted."

The 140 000-strong police service loses about 5 000 officers each year through retirement and resignation. Since 1994 no new recruits have been brought in, starving the lower ranks. There are now fewer constables than sergeants.

The government has already agreed in principle to lift the two-year-old moratorium. Safety & Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi has asked police management to speed up its human resources plan that was undertaken with the amal-

gamation of the 11 homeland and other police forces into one.

But even with resumption of recruitment, it will take at least two years for the new police officers to become effective.

Meanwhile, crime-weary Johannesburg residents have lost patience with government's dithering over plans to put more "bobbies" on the beat.

The city's 22 police forums launched a petition campaign last week to put public pressure on police authorities to drop the police hiring freeze. They want more active police and more civilians to handle administrative duties.

According to the police's own estimates, the city's police stations are nearly 57% understaffed, requiring a further 2 000 officers to operate effectively.

Stations like Rosebank and Sandton are running 80%-65% below allocated staff levels. Rosebank is nearer 90% understaffed as only 35 of its 58 staff are actual police officers.

The shortages could be wiped out overnight if police management took steps to free the estimated 2 500 trained officers who are deskbound. All it would take to put these officers on the beat, says Johannesburg community police

area board chairman Gerald Heine, is for the authorities to lift the moratorium on hiring civilians for police clerical work.

There may be as many as 500 ex-police officers in the Johannesburg area who would rejoin the force if the moratorium on hiring active police officers were also lifted, says Heine.

Campaign manager Neil Jacobsohn intends to orchestrate a letter and media publicity drive. Draft letters of support for the campaign will be sent to businesses and private citizens throughout Gauteng with the request that they be signed and forwarded to Mufamadi.

Ironically, it is the relative success of Operation Urban Strike, scheduled to end on December 20, which galvanised the forum's campaign.

Government cites budgetary constraints as the reason for poor police staffing and says it cannot afford to raise staff levels permanently. Despite National Police Commissioner George Fivaz's denials, the police budget seems destined for more severe cuts next year.

"If you count the cost of lost investment and job opportunities due to crime, then the money spent on policing is not a cost but an investment," Jacobsohn says. ■

Mandela regrets PW's TRC stance ⁽²⁵²⁾

By ELLIS MNYANDU ^{Star 23/11/96}

Durban - President Nelson Mandela said yesterday he regretted the "uncompromising stance" of former president P W Botha.

Mandela also urged Botha to go before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to explain crimes committed during his term of office.

"It is regrettable he has made a statement of that nature," Mandela said.

"His duty is to go to the TRC and give his own version of what happened," said Mandela. The president went on to say that, as things stood, the evidence seemed to point to former president Botha having knowledge "about some of the gross violations which we are complaining about".

Botha said, after two hours of talks with Truth Commission chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Thursday, that he had nothing to apologise for or seek amnesty for.

"I am not guilty of any deed for which I should apologise or ask for amnesty. I therefore have no intention of doing this," the 80-year-old ex-president said in a statement after talks with Tutu, who set out to seek Botha's co-operation in uncovering the past.

Mandela said Botha was an old man, no longer well, who might expect to be honoured as a former statesman.

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TO PAGE 2

Red tape stymies fight against crime ⁽³⁸⁾

By CRAIG URQUHART ^{Star 23/11/96}

The Johannesburg CBD's safety lung - a core community policing project to stamp out crime in the city - is in danger of collapsing as red tape prevents its full implementation and morale among policemen on the streets shows signs of reaching new lows.

The concept, which should have been up and running this month, has now been delayed until February and all the current role-players agree that without its full implementation, it simply cannot work.

Still, police claim they have gained the upper hand in their fight against crime, and official figures show that crime is, indeed, down in the city centre. Whether these statistics indicate a long-term downward trend or an expected reaction to Operation Urban Strike remains to be seen, but problems in the police force remain deep-rooted.

"We are gradually implementing the safety lung but it is very difficult to assess its successes so far because of the role Urban Strike has played," said Gauteng safety and security deputy director for policy Sylvester Rakgoadi.

He said Urban Strike, which has seen an extra 1 000 policemen deployed in Gauteng, would gradually be phased out over the next few months and the Safety and Security Department was currently working on contingency plans to replace the extra personnel.

TO PAGE 2

E A T I N G

◆ Safety lung ⁽³⁸⁾ ^{Star 23/11/96}

Rakgoadi said his department was aware that there were flaws in the policing system currently in place in the CBD.

When the *Saturday Star* interviewed dozens of policemen working within the jurisdiction of John Vorster Square this week, they said a shortage of equipment and policemen on the beat was preventing the safety lung from working effectively.

One senior policeman, who declined to be named, said there was a "serious communication problem between management at the top and policemen on the street. "They (the average policemen) really don't know what is going on - they don't know where they stand with promotions, salary increases and the back-pay they are owed. Somewhere, they are stalling over these issues," he said.

Other policemen said a fundamental flaw with policing in the CBD was that when police concentrated on high crime areas, criminals simply moved elsewhere.

This week, the manager of a supermarket on the corner of Bree and West streets was robbed of R26 000 by two men armed with AK-47s. Police responded four hours after he called the police emergency number and pressed a panic button linked to John Vorster Square.

Despite incidents like this, some of the specialised units at John Vorster are chalking up remarkable successes. Over the past 48 hours the narcotics bureau has arrested 11 people and confiscated 1,2kg of cocaine valued at R1,3-million, 690 Ecstasy tablets valued at R35 000 and 60kg of dagga worth about R60 000.

Pacad march to Lenasia police station

By GORA NDHLOVU

Star 25/11/96

About 150 members and supporters of the People Against Crime and Drugs (Pacad) marched to the Lenasia police station yesterday to present a second memorandum demanding that police step up their fight against crime.

They gave police until December 20 to reply.

Pacad is demanding that police be more visible, respond more quickly to calls, investigate cases faster and deal promptly with corrupt policemen.

Outside the Lenasia police station, Soraya Ebrahim, the mother of murdered 5-year old Yaseen, broke down in tears as she related how criminals broke into her house and strangled the boy.

Members of the crowd demanded that police explain why the woman suspected of the killing had been released.

Yunus Hattia described how his son Ebrahim (29) was shot dead outside their home two years ago.

"Four hijackers waylaid me near our garage entrance. As I stepped out of the car they demanded the car keys. But just after I handed over the keys, the car alarm went off at full blast. As my son walked out to see what was happening, he was shot five times through the head. The hijackers made off with the car," Hattia told the crowd.

He said the hijackers were later arrested and granted bail of R1 000 each. They skipped bail, however, and have not been seen since.

Chief Constable O. H. Hall promised to respond to the memo, as demanded by the organisation.

Produce council issues warning on corruption

Louise Cook

(38) (3) ED 27/11/99

THE Agricultural Produce Agents' Council, a statutory body regulating market agents, warned at the weekend that it would "aggressively pursue" market agents who were guilty of corruption or misconduct.

The warning followed months of investigation by the SA Police Service's Office for Serious Economic Offences (OSEO) into alleged corruption at the Johannesburg fresh produce market.

Audit firm Ernst & Young, appointed by the OSEO to help, completed a report in December. This has not been released and the firm was subsequently

asked to investigate new aspects of the allegations.

The council said the public should report to it any irregularities at fresh produce markets. "The council ensures that agents comply with codes of conduct and regulations of trade. In the case of fresh produce, the council ensures that agents abide by the rules governing trust account administration."

The furore started two years ago when an investigator suggested about R400m had been lost due to mismanagement and ineffective systems. Some farmers support the allegations, saying profit has not been passed on to them and documentation fails to meet requirements.

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Legal network rallies resources to help fight crime

Stephen Laufer

(38)
b05/2/97

CRIME-fighting efforts by the attorneys-general of Natal and the Witwatersrand are receiving support from lawyers in Durban and Johannesburg via a legal network organised by Business Against Crime.

Network chairman Wendy Lucas-Bull said yesterday prosecutors would receive assistance with research, preparation of cases and argument. If successful, the projects could be repeated in other jurisdictions.

The Durban project was already in full swing and initial meetings with Witwatersrand attorney-general Andre de Vries had taken place last week.

Business Against Crime board member David Gordon said major Johannesburg law firms were keen to participate and had offered help with research and management techniques. Bigger firms had "enormous resources" and were keen to help prosecutors at the discretion of the attorney-general.

Initial discussion had indicated that help could be given in the form of access to libraries, the Internet and legal training courses run by the major firms for their own staff.

The ability of well-resourced accounting firms to make a contribution was also being discussed. Many of them had particular forensic skills and could be of assistance in combating white collar crime.

Bad apples face action

Star 15/2/97

(38)

The Office for Serious Economic Offences said yesterday there appeared to be grounds for prosecuting certain agents at the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market following its probe into alleged fraud at the market.

Director Jan Swanepoel said the results of the OSEO's investigation had been handed to the Witwatersrand attorney-general to decide on prosecutions.

On Thursday, Gauteng provincial auditor Shauket Fakie said investigations by his office into alleged fraud at the market was "top-quality work" that thoroughly investigated all allegations of irregular financial practices.

Fakie was reacting to media reports questioning the thoroughness of investigations done for his office by accounting firm Ernst & Young's forensic auditors following claims that

millions of rands may have been lost through irregular activities at the City Deep market.

He was speaking at a meeting he called with Sapa to discuss the attorney-general's findings.

Market agents have been accused of illegally "skimming" from cash sales, and other irregular practices.

At the meeting, Ernst & Young's Mike Savage said the illegal use of cash sale slips had been stopped.

Market director Tony Thompson said two market agents had their permits withdrawn last week and had been asked to vacate the market premises.

Swanepoel said that since prosecutions may be instituted, he was not in a position to disclose the contents of the Ernst & Young report "or the nature of the evidence". - Sapa

Now Pagad takes its message to Gauteng

38

AGS 4/3/97

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - Cape Town group People against Gangsterism and Drugs has plans to expand and will be hosting several meetings in Gauteng this weekend.

Pagad national organiser Abdus-Salaam Ebrahim said the Gauteng tour would include a mass meeting in the former Indian and Coloured townships of Lenasia and Eldorado Park, south of Johannesburg.

The culmination of the Pagad programme will be a march through Hillbrow, arguably one of the areas worst-hit by crime in the province.

Mr Ebrahim said the Gauteng visit was part of the run-up to Pagad's national conference later in the month.

The three-day conference will begin on National Human Rights day, March 21, and will focus on issues including the drafting of a constitution for the organisation.

"We also hope to work out where it is that we are heading - and a key topic at the conference will be to decide on the nature of Pagad's relationship with the Government," said Mr Ebrahim.

He envisaged a stronger relationship developing with police and denied speculation that Pagad may be transforming itself into a political party to contest the 1999 general elections.

Ayoob Mungalee, an organiser at the Eldorado Park Muslim Council (EPMC) - hosts of the Pagad visit - said the time had come for all forces fighting crime and drugs to stand together and present a united front.

"There has been a tendency for many people to view Pagad as being in opposition to the police or the government. This could not be further from the truth, and the EPMC will be inviting the government, the police, as well as the major political parties, to share the platform with Pagad in Lenasia and Eldorado Park."

ES HEART DISE

Jo'burg gets 100 more crime fighters as traffic officers pulled from desks jobs

Star 8/3/97

(25) (38)

By JACQUI REEVES

The war against crime in Johannesburg's central business district has been intensified with the addition of a further 100 "peace officers" to the city's streets.

Traffic officers who have been working as administrators or control room operators have been put back on the beat and will take up their positions from Monday.

Hilow Maeko, the strategic executive for metropolitan public safety and emergency services at the Johannesburg council, told the *Saturday Star* that the council could not wait for national legislation to save the city.

"The legislation for metropolitan policing is not yet ready but

we felt we could not just stand by and watch crime in the city continue to escalate," he said.

Maeko added that visible policing was the key to fighting crime in the city.

"It was a waste to have qualified crime fighters sitting in offices. This plan will get them back out on the streets, where they can be seen and make a real difference."

Civilians will be employed to fill the positions vacated by the peace officers.

The bulk of the new officers will be deployed on foot, and they will be in direct radio contact with all other peace and police officers in the area.

Peace officers will be able to call for back-up assistance during a crime in progress or problem situation - and will imme-

diately be joined by the closest officer in the area.

Although the peace officers will still be expected to perform their traffic duties, their new task will also be to prevent crime, and they will be empowered to make arrests.

All case investigations and paperwork will be taken over by members of the South African Police Service once the arrest has been made. The new team will take the number of city crime fighters to 209.

The peace officers will be introduced to the public on Monday at a parade that will end at the Noord Street taxi rank.

Gauteng MEC for Safety and Security Jessie Duarte will address the crowd along with the mayor of Greater Johannesburg, Isaac Mogase.

Council tears down part of suburb's safety fence

(38) *Star* 11/3/99

NATASHA PINCUS

Northern Council will now have to fork out thousands to repair damage caused by its administrative bungling

By ALMA COX
Sandton Bureau

Administrative bungling by the Northern Metro Council has led to parts of a security fence around the suburb of Hurlingham Manor being ripped down.

Only a last-minute telephone call from local councillor Frieda van Rooyen to council officials prevented workers from removing the entire R600 000 fence which residents put up last year to improve security in their suburb.

The incident arose from the fact that according to the new council demarcations, Hurlingham Manor which used to be an Eastern Council Sandton suburb, now lies within the Northern Council area. Residents, however, still pay rates to the Eastern Council.

The Eastern Council approved the closure of the suburb last year, but the Northern Council does not yet have a policy on closing off suburbs.

Van Rooyen said a complaint about a gate being locked, denying pedestrians access, had led to the fence being ripped down. But workers were instructed only to

remove the pedestrian gates and not the entire fence.

The fence is now to be repaired by the council at an estimated cost of about R7 000.

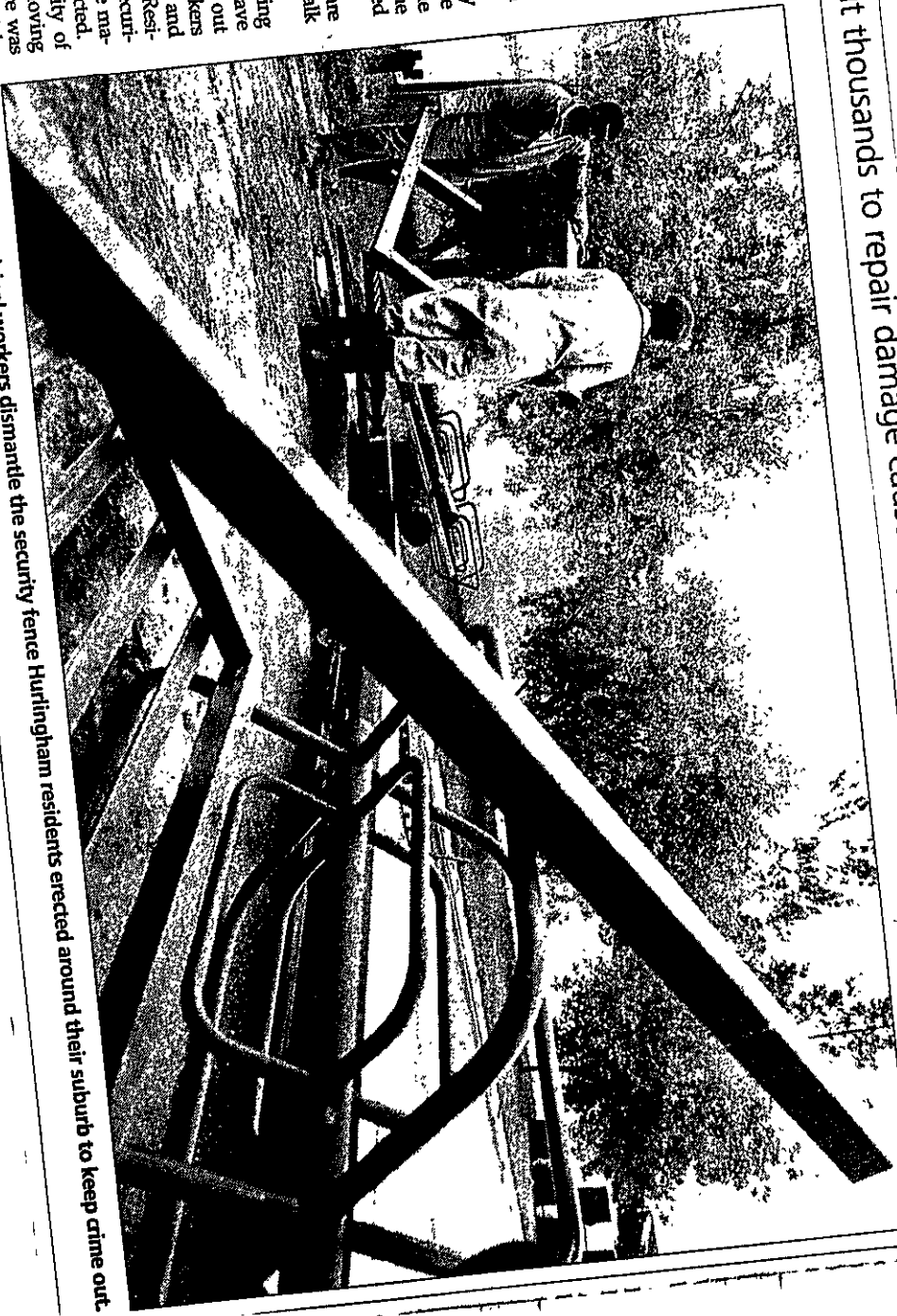
Since the closure of the suburb in January last year it has become one of the safest in the northern suburbs, said Hurlingham Manor Residents' Association chairman Dale Stephens. Police figures showed that crime had dropped by 95%.

Stephens said he was angry about the removal of parts of the fence. He believed that someone who objected to the closure of the suburb had deliberately locked the gate to cause trouble.

The pedestrian gates are never locked. People can walk freely through our suburb.

"The council, before taking such drastic action, should have telephoned residents to find out what was going on. Their workers cut poles with blowtorches and signs have been removed. Residents now have to pay for security guards to watch over the material until the fence is re-erected.

"We question the legality of the Northern Council removing the fence when the closure was approved by a full council of the Eastern Council."



Destroyed ... municipal workers dismantle the security fence Hurlingham residents erected around their suburb to keep crime out.

Council tears down part of suburb's safety fence

(38) / Stra #19 11/3/99

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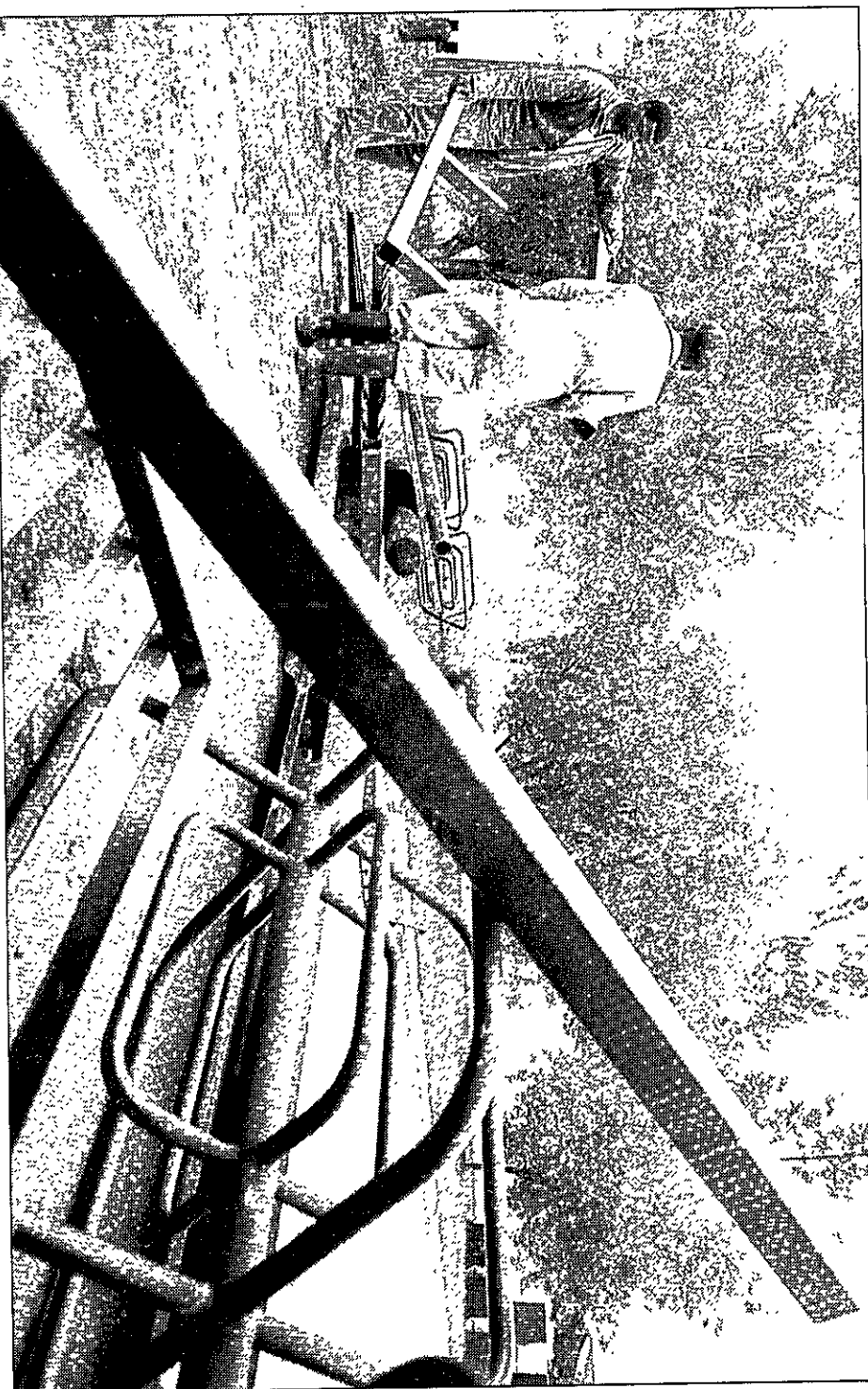
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It's Operation Counter-attack for Jo'burg

Visible police in dayglo vests over their uniforms will lead the way in the CBD blitz against crime

(38)
Star 29/3/97

By JACQUI REEVES

Renewed investor interest in Johannesburg's central business district appears to be loosening crime's stranglehold over the area.

News that multimillion-rand projects are being undertaken in what have been considered crime hotspots has given local investors, the police and the community the kick-start required to draw people back into the city.

A police strategy to make city officers more identifiable and visible will be up and running next week - and will hopefully enhance this improved spirit.

As from Monday, all city officers will be wearing dayglo vests over their blue and grey uniforms.

Each day, more than 150 police officers patrol the streets of the city, yet very few are seen by either the community or the criminals.

"I could hide 1 000 police officers in the city every day by just putting them on our streets. Among the throngs of people and narrow sidewalks they are virtually impossible to distinguish," says the recently appointed head of John Vorster Square police station, Director Dawie Botha.

Botha believes more-visible policing will go a long way in changing public perceptions that CBD crime is not being fought.

Hilow Maeko, the metropolitan council's strategic executive for public safety and emergency services, is capitalising on this



VISIBLE POLICING: Two of the city's patrolmen wear the new dayglo vests PHOTOGRAPH: TJ LEMON

changing mindset to improve community involvement in crime-fighting.

Within weeks, Johannesburg's street cleaners and hawkers will be assisting the police in the targeting of flashpoints with vital intelligence.

"Who better to ask than the people who spend all day on the streets? We are currently working with these two groups to plan how they can best assist the police. The key to making this co-operation a success is to ensure anonymity and confidentiality for any person who reports crime," he said.

Watchtowers in key crime points are also due to be installed in high-crime areas, helping the SAPS to police a greater area with fewer officers.

Some projects have, however, become tangled in reams of red tape and have yet to see the light of day.

The city's safety lung, which was supposed to have been operational by November 1 1996, has not yet been delivered, along with the planned sectoral policing project.

Delayed projects are, however, not the only setbacks easing the work of the criminal. Some of this help is coming from the authorities themselves.

Botha said weeding out corrupt officers was a major priority in his department.

"It is all very well sitting in planning meetings working out how to break open a syndicate, but the corrupt officers are sitting right there with us.

"By the time we get to the syndicate, they have been tipped off and there is no one for us to arrest," he said.

Police officers are not the only authorities working with the criminals.

Titus Malaza, executive officer for metropolitan traffic services, said bribery within the traffic department was rife.

"We are fighting corruption within our own ranks and are sniffing out officers who are abusing their positions."

Malaza said officers target areas where traffic offences regularly occur, stop the offending drivers and threaten them with fines.

"They then suggest to the drivers that there could be an easier way to sort out the problem. They ask for cash, and let the individuals go."

Malaza said that in some instances, officers were so bold they asked the drivers if they were carrying ATM cards - and accompanied the drivers to draw cash.

TO PAGE 2

P.T.O.

City Deep syndicates cracked

Star 11/4/97

38

400-strong multinational gangs have stolen goods worth millions from containers

By DEREK RODNEY

Police and private-sector investigators have uncovered a web of organised crime syndicates, collectively numbering more than 400 active members, operating in Johannesburg's City Deep container depot.

Months of investigations by a group of policemen and company risk managers, funded by the container industry, have uncovered in-depth involvement of Portuguese, Chinese and Indian syndicates with strong international links.

The syndicates, with the collusion of at least one specialist police unit, pilfered goods from containers last year on a scale that is estimated to have cost the industry more than R70-million.

By the time the R1-million private-sector investigation was launched in May last year, up to three containers were being stolen

or pilfered a day. Repeated attempts to improve security failed.

Industry representatives reported hundreds of complaints to the Kaserne Truck Theft Unit, which had been instructed to deal with the problem. But they were frustrated because cases were thrown out of court or else docks disappeared.

With fresh resources and manpower made available by companies, the investigation team soon identified new syndicates. One of its findings was the gross inefficiency and misconduct by members of the Kaserne unit which led to the transfer of six members, including the commander, to other units in November.

A criminal investigation is pending against the policemen.

Information gleaned from the more than 3 000 employees who operated as the eyes and ears of the operation revealed that

flashily dressed handlers, driving expensive cars, were dealing with their runners in plain sight with little fear of police intervention.










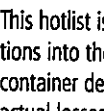
The syndicates are extremely efficient in stripping cargo once a truck pulls into a warehouse.

"We have observed instances where a 6-metre container, which took more than three hours to load with a forklift truck, was stripped of its cargo in 17 minutes," said another team member, CX Container Services manager Bux Coetzee.

"These guys have warehouses and storage areas nestled in among legitimate business in broad daylight and nobody suspects anything," he said.

The introduction of a new commander at the renamed Johannesburg Transito Theft Unit in November, aided by industry investigators, has already led to the arrest of 15 suspects.

BLACK MARKET TOP 10 "HOTTIES"

- 1  Imported liquor
- 2  Cigarettes
- 3  Car accessories; alloy wheel rims
- 4  Electronic goods
- 5  Footwear
- 6  T-shirts and leatherware
- 7  Precious metals; refined copper
- 8  Canned, processed and packaged food
- 9  Imported food condiments
- 10  Babyware and accessories

This hotlist is based on investigations into thefts from the City Deep container depot and is derived from actual losses incurred in 1996

Source: Container Industry

Anatomy of how the 'puppet masters' do their business

CRIME REPORTER

Syndicates targeting City Deep operate along definite operational lines. They have multimillionaire bosses who, through a war of attrition over the past 15 years, have established themselves as the depot's crime puppet-masters.

The most visible members of the syndicate are the "runners". They do the dirty work and are desperate South Africans with no permanent employment. They generally steal for meagre payment, sometimes as little as R50.

Syndicates sometimes use specialised squads for hijackings. They may also act as bodyguards for those who control the network

of runners. The handlers are usually identified by their flashy clothes and expensive cars, and are the syndicates' eyes and ears for information.

The Chinese, Indian, Portuguese and South African handlers are trusted aides who report to a manager whose job it is to secure police protection, buy insiders such as customs officials, organise shipments of stolen goods, and deal with black-market buyers and sellers.

It is rare that these managers are caught during routine investigations.

The managers are trusted lieutenants to their crime bosses and in many instances are family

members. Most crime lords have already diversified their criminal activities into legitimate business interests and are now "respected" businessmen.

Although there are rival syndicates in the industry, investigations have revealed that a large measure of co-operation currently exists between syndicates as to which cargoes are allocated to any particular syndicate.

"Sometimes one syndicate will hit a container, ship it to a 'safe' warehouse and use the distribution channels of another syndicate to get the goods on the street or sold to legitimate businesses at so-called discount prices," said one container theft investigator.

Team says the next big task is plugging gaps in procedure

The City Deep investigation revealed key problem areas that highlighted the container industry's ignorance and apathy towards the crime problem.

A detailed report compiled by industry representatives focuses on improving procedural processes as well calling on more involvement from legitimate businesses that are victims of this form of crime.

Some problem areas identified include slack control over transit times from depot to customers; a lack of sufficient stand-over facilities, forcing trucks to park next to public roads; poor reporting rates; and insufficient investigation by police.

Team member Marietjie Batchelor believes that the recipe to curbing this form of crime can be adapted to help other crime-bat-

tered industries but adds that there has to be a collective will from within each industry to put aside competitive jealousies and work together with the police in tackling the problem.

"The most difficult part was working out the bad apples among the police, and we now have a team that is doing the job with us," she said.

Risk managers from the indus-

try are still working closely with their police counterparts and are sharing their industry knowledge with the relatively new policemen.

"Crime is not going to go away, but the first step towards a solution is admitting there's a problem and then rolling up the sleeves and getting to the bottom of it, no matter what it takes," Batchelor said. - Crime Reporter.

Banks warn of stricter steps to curb robberies

STW 15/4/97 (38)

BY STUART KELLY
AND PATRICK PHOSA

Banks yesterday warned of stricter public security measures to curb daylight robberies as police announced they were holding 18 suspected robbers.

However, police spokesman Azwinndini Nengovhela said none of the gangs the 18 belong to could be linked to Saturday's bloody gunfight in Randburg which left three people dead during yet another robbery.

Gauteng Police Commissioner Sharma Maharaj said the arrests, all made prior to Saturday's bloodbath, were the result of hard work by a special investigation team of 10 detectives. Drawn from the murder and robbery units of Brixton, East Rand, Vaal

Rand and Pretoria, the team was set up by Gauteng detectives' head Louis van der Westhuizen on March 13 to combat the surge in bank robberies in the province.

Maharaj said 17 of the 18 suspects had been charged with robbing banks or were in the process of being formally charged.

Four gangs have been identified as being responsible for the robberies of 43 banks in the Johannesburg area in the past three months, making off with an estimated R5-million.

Area Commissioner Frans Malherbe said there was no specific plan of action to deal with bank robberies. He said police were relying on detective work and tipoffs from the public to crack down on bank robbers.

Last year bank robberies were declared a national priority crime and police and the Council of South African Banks (Cosab) joined forces to combat the scourge.

With the public and banking staff living in perpetual fear, Cosab said armed robberies had

become their number one concern.

"The public who make use of banking facilities and banking staff are desperately afraid. This scourge is affecting us all," a spokesman said.

"We should

look into the removal of firearms from anyone entering a bank and a further tightening of security measures."

Identikit of South Africa's 14 most-wanted bank robbers were released by police in May last year, among them Lebr Tsotetsi (26), branded most wanted bank

still at large. Tsotetsi's four aplices were arrested and convicted for their involvement in the armed theft of R17 000 from a bank in Raf on the West Rand.

“
**The public
and staff
in banks
are afraid**
”

Hijacking and housebreaking take a back seat as bank robberies soar

By PEIA KROST

Hijackings and housebreakings in Gauteng have fallen off significantly this year as bank robberies skyrocket, indicating that the province's criminal underworld could be shifting targets.

In Johannesburg, violent robberies in homes have dropped 12,4% in the first three months of this year compared to the same period in 1996 - and by 22% in March alone - while car hijackings have decreased 6%.

But there has been an unprecedented spate of bank robberies in

Gauteng - 48 since January. The tally continued to climb yesterday, with gangs striking two Nedbank branches.

After the first robbery at Heathway shopping centre in Blackheath, a gang of three led police and traffic officers on a wild car chase across Johannesburg that ended in a shootout in Soweto, leaving one robber dead.

Barely six hours later, between four and six men, one armed with a hand-grenade, entered the bank's President Street, Johannesburg branch, jumped over the counters and emptied the cash drawers before fleeing.

National Detective Services

Spokesman Senior Superintendent Sharon Schutte said it was highly possible that in organised crime, such as armed robberies, the perpetrators might change their targets depending on the areas where they think police are most lax.

"It is possible that they see police cracking down on hijacking and home robberies because it is getting too hot for them in that field, and they move over to robbing banks," she said. "It could also be a question of supply and demand - possibly there is a glut

of cars, and they now need cash."

But the police plan to catch up with these career-hopping crooks: a task force has been set up in Gauteng specifically to trace the bank robbers operating in this province.

A team of 11 detectives at each murder and robbery unit in the province will investigate the holdups in their areas.

Senior East Rand Murder and Robbery Unit detective Superintendent Rudi van Oist was elected this month as the team's co-ordinator. While he believes there are a num-

ber of extremely well-organised gangs

operating in Gauteng, Van Oist said the task force had not yet identified exactly how many there were, or their modus operandi.

Since the task force was formed on March 13 it has arrested 21 suspects, many of them for multiple robberies and murder. One of the suspects is believed to be a policeman.

"Next week we will begin putting together profiles of the robbers and will look for similarities in the particular crimes," Van Oist said. He was confident of his team's

ability to curb the robbing spree but, he warned, "it won't happen overnight".

"Once we start profiling, we will know who is still out there and who has already been arrested. The problem is that if there is a gang of 16 working together and we arrest three, they splinter and regroup with other men."

"They know where the cameras are and often where the safe is ... we can't rule out inside help in some of the cases."

A large number of robbers were illegal immigrants, he added.

opening up all over the US - including LA - and there is no

WEST DETROIT - "MURKIN" "YES" "NO" "ANYONE" had anticipated," he

Bank staff bear brunt of brutal attacks

Row 26/4/97 (38)

By PETA KROST

Behind the bulletproof glass of a suburban bank, an attractive 20-something bank teller cried unconsolably on to the shoulder of a colleague. Yesterday was the second time in three weeks she had been held at gunpoint by bank robbers at Nedbank's Heathway Centre branch in Blackheath.

She was just one of the distraught bank workers who, even hours after the robbery, were still reeling from the incident. The fact that of the three robbers, one was killed in a shootout with the police and another was arrested, was little consolation because today she has to return to her job at the bank.

Yesterday's heist was the 48th attack on a Gauteng bank since January.

The heads of financial institutions and front-row banking staff are fearful because they know that nothing, not even the most expensive security precautions, can stop these robbers.

"Our defences are irrelevant and all our security precautions are being negated because these criminals come in looking first for lives to put under threat, not money, and

that way they get whatever they want," says Council of South African Banks (Cosab) chief executive Bob Tucker.

All South African banks have special trauma counselling departments to deal with staff who have fallen victim to robberies. But Tucker explains that no matter how good these departments are, "nothing can stop the damage done by the vicious threat to one's life and the ultimate damage it has on the fabric of our society".

As the banks spend more and more money on security measures, robbers use new tactics to circumvent these precautions.

In latest robbery trends, gangs get through the security doors and metal detectors undetected because their lethal weapon is petrol instead of guns, according to a bank security official. This method was first came to light this week after robbers doused seven Melville Standard Bank workers with petrol and threatened to set them on fire, before escaping with a large

amount of cash. "This is unfortunately becoming a common occurrence," said the source.

While some tellers may feel secure behind bulletproof glass, robbers take that security from them by bringing handgrenades along which, if detonated, would destroy the glass.

"It is absolutely useless to beef up security further," said a senior management official. "We are literally spending millions on unproductive stuff because if someone points a gun in the direction of a client or staff member, we are going to do exactly as they say - we cannot afford to lose lives.

"We are at our wits' end. What do you do when people come in with five or six AK-47s?" the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Despite the wave of robberies shaking the industry, banks remain tight-lipped on the amounts of money that are stolen and, as far as possible, the methods used by the gangs. "Why let the robbers know how much you have and where to find it - would you publish how

many pieces of jewellery you have?" Tucker asked.

Nevertheless, the money lost in bank robberies so far this year amounts to

millions of rands. The losses are all carried by the banks themselves.

"We cannot afford to insure money, the premiums would kill us," said a senior banking source. "The amount stolen is negligible compared to the amount spent on securing the money and dealing with the trauma related to these crimes," Tucker said.

A major concern for banks is that the criminal justice system is failing them and that no matter how far they go with securing themselves, unless justice is done, they have no chance of bringing down bank robberies.

However, Tucker said he had spoken to Finance Minister Trevor Manuel this week and he also planned to meet Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi about the latest wave of robberies.

"We are offering to assist (the Government) in formulating strategies and pooling information and carrying out the new strategies," Tucker said.

Amount stolen is negligible compared to what's spent on securing the money and dealing with the trauma'

R20-m stolen in Gauteng bank robberies over past four months

shaw 10/5/97
By JACQUI REEVES

(38)

More than two-thirds of the cash that has been stolen nationally in bank robberies during the past four months has been stolen in Gauteng - a whopping R20,3-million out of the total of R30,4-million.

And bank customers countrywide will be digging deep into their pockets to pay for the often bloody robberies, in the form of soaring bank charges, as financial institutions battle to recover their costs.

The ever-increasing number of robberies has left banks unable to insure against losses, with the shareholders, depositors and borrowers carrying the can.

Information released yesterday by the Council of South African Banks (Cosab) showed that 10 years ago, large banks were insured for an estimated loss of R1,3-million a year. Since the beginning of last year, they have lost R135,7-million in bank robberies.

In the first four months of this year, 164 bank robberies have been staged countrywide. Gauteng holds the dubious title as the bank robbery centre with 100 attacks since the beginning of this year, while KwaZulu Natal trails a distant second with 27.

Yesterday Cosab broke its long and strict silence on the robberies, when its chief executive Bob Tucker told a media briefing that the public had a right to know. Cosab and the police did, however, remain tight lipped about the details of the attacks.

Tucker said figures detailing the amounts stolen at individual banks, the modus operandi of the gangs and the names of victims would not be released. "We don't want to publicise how to commit a bank robbery, and we certainly don't want gangs to know how much is potentially available at the banks," Tucker said.

Internationally, South Africa's escalating bank robbery figures are becoming notorious. During 1996 Britain lost barely the equivalent of R1-million in branch robberies - in contrast with the more than R100-million South Africa lost in the same year.

"Concerns from overseas bankers have been raised, and we debated whether we should have this conference and release the aggregate figures, but because of the rumours and false perceptions flying around, we thought it necessary," Tucker said.

Banking halls are, however, not the only cash-points being targeted. Last year, banks lost R3-million in "after-hours" burglaries, while R7,3-million was ripped out of ATMs with explosives and crowbars. With the cost of repairing and replacing the damaged units, that figure rose to R15-million.

A private security firm, SBV, which handles cash in-transit for South Africa's largest banks, spent R165-million last year securing the movement of cash to branches, government pension paypoints and other venues. Despite this investment, the company still suffered a R41,6-million loss.

black enamel

JHANNES VOGEL

TO PAGE 2

◆ Bank heists

Tucker said South Africa's dependence on cash was creating the opportunity for robberies to occur on a huge scale.

"All of us should try to move towards the use of electronic banking services instead of cash. That method is cheaper, easier and much safer," he said.

Tucker recently met Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi to discuss the crisis and will meet Justice Minister Dullah Omar next week.

"We are not happy with bail conditions and wish to discuss the entire judicial process. Even if the robbers are incarcerated, there are too many examples of escapes and early releases," Tucker said.

Cosab said it was considering all the processes involved in the maintenance of law and order, and not just solutions to the bank robberies.

(38) (38)

shaw 10/5/97



Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale marching around the Johannesburg CBD with hawkers' organisations after an address at the Johannesburg City Hall yesterday at which he urged the fractured sector to unite against crime.

Picture: GARTH LUMLEY

Johannesburg's hawkers launch anticrime campaign

Bonile Ngqivaza

BD 14/5/97

JOHANNESBURG'S fractured informal sector yesterday launched a crime prevention campaign at the Johannesburg City Hall which it is hoped will supplement government and business initiatives.

The launch was attended by hundreds of informal traders from hawker organisations.

Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale urged them to organise into street blocs working with the police.

Taking his model from the street committees prevalent in townships in the 1980s, Sexwale said the move could be complementary to the SA National Civics Organisation's "Operation Mpimpa" (Operation Inform).

"We don't want you to risk your lives — we'll ask the police to do that. We want you to be the eyes and the ears of the government in this fight against crime," he said.

Sexwale also urged them to consider forming an umbrella body. "We can't fight criminals successfully if we are divided."

The People Against Gangsterism and Drugs Gauteng branch handed the provincial government a 24-hour ultimatum to address the growing drug problem, warning that it would be forced "to do something about the problem".

Syndicate targets owners of small shops

Star 15/5/97

(E8)

Fraudsters impersonate Industrial Council agents who demand one-off payments from employers allegedly underpaying

By CHRIS STEVY

Hundreds of cafe and supermarket owners in Gauteng are allegedly being extorted by a crime syndicate impersonating Industrial Council agents collecting "underpaid" wages.

Thousands of rands are demanded in "one-off" payments in exchange for promises not to prosecute.

The Star has obtained a video recording showing an "agent" collecting money from a cafe owner.

The activities of the syndicate were confirmed by Restaurant and Food Services Association of South Africa (Catra) president Jimmy Michaelides, who said about 50 complaints had been received in the past two months alone.

However, preliminary investigations carried out by Catra indicated there were hundreds

of victims every week, who, according to Michaelides, were either "too scared" to report the incidents or who actually believed they had "done something wrong" and didn't want to come forward.

Police in Muddersdrift confirmed yesterday that two men had been arrested. Charges of corruption were being investigated, and the docket was expected to be forwarded to the senior state prosecutor next week for a decision.

The syndicate's operations are believed to have started about six months ago, but have intensified in the past couple of months. Their main targets appear to be cafes, smaller convenience stores, fast-food outlets and greengrocers.

The members use their apparent inside knowledge of the new Labour Relations Act and the Bargaining Council's collective agreement to intimidate

employers into believing they are not complying with these.

Traditionally, agents of the Bargaining Council would visit employers to ensure that the terms and conditions of the collective agreement are upheld by both employers and employees, to resolve disputes and to collect government-sanctioned levies and fees.

The modus operandi of the alleged impostors is to "inspect wage books or computer records, find some form of non-compliance, sit down and work out an amount, and then say to employers: 'I won't prosecute you if you pay me so much.'"

Michaelides said: "They intimidate guys into paying. It's all cash transactions. They don't give receipts."

These "agents" also often carry copies of Government Gazettes. In some cases, bogus agents claim to represent the Department of Labour.



Pay up or else ... a bogus Industrial Council agent collects money from a cafe owner, one of hundreds who have fallen victim to a syndicate whose members demand thousands of rands for "underpaid wages" and "non-compliance" with labour laws.

Tokyo admits (32) crime failure

Sowetan 28/5/97

By Pamela Dube

GAUTENG premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale has admitted the provincial government's failure in combating crime.

Addressing *Sowetan* staffers yesterday, Sexwale said a lack of adequate policing powers by the provincial government hampered crime prevention. "I'm powerless. I have no authority over the police and cannot command them to do anything," he said.

Sexwale was a special guest of the Media Workers Association of South Africa.

For the first time Sexwale publicly agreed with the Inkatha Freedom Party's position that provincial governments needed more policing powers. However, there was hope.

The recent decision by Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi to give provincial ministers more policing powers was welcome, Sexwale said. "But I hope this is not just ceremonial."

On the upsurge of crime in Gauteng, Sexwale said there seemed to be well-organised syndicates in every form of crime. "At one stage it was car hijacking, then rape and now they have moved into bank robberies."

In the past three months

Johannesburg and the surrounding areas have had to deal with over a 100 bank robberies. Sexwale observed that bank robbers were well-trained and precise criminals who seemed intent on crippling the country's life-line - the financial sector.

Among those arrested in these deeds were people not only from the military wings of the liberation movements, but also police and soldiers who left their jobs or volunteered for packages from the former SAP and South African Defence Force.

Sexwale suggested that community structures that used to operate in the 1980s should be revived to fight crime, adding that his cabinet was already discussing the move.

● Sexwale and housing MEC Dan Mofokeng yesterday officially launched the Windmill Park Housing Project on the East Rand where at least 200 homes out of 680 were under completion.

Gauteng housing spokesman Mr Jubie Matlou said 490 stands had already been handed over to builders in the area to build top structures.

He said R10 million was given to builders and contractors who could not access bridging finance from financial institutions.

We take the wraps off crime spree

May 10/6/97

(38)

Over 14 000 'A-category' offences committed in Johannesburg area in April alone while authorities delay release of the grim figures.

By Rodney Victor

In spite of a clampdown on police stations releasing current crime figures to the public, The Star was yesterday given a complete breakdown of April statistics from 20 police stations four months before they are due for official release.

The statistics provide details of 14 410 serious or "A-category" crimes committed in the Johannesburg area, excluding Soweto, in April. Serious crimes include murder, rape, hijacking, robbery, theft and fraud.

In terms of new police regulations, which have been criticised because they suggest a move back to the era of police control over news of police activities, statistics are to be collated on a quarterly basis and then released three months later. The new policy has the backing of Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi.

The Freedom of Expression Institute, which monitors media freedom, said yesterday the new policy "raises the danger of the media and the public having to rely on rumours and inaccurate information".

Institute chairman Raymond Louw called on Mufamadi to commit himself to the principles of openness and transparency.

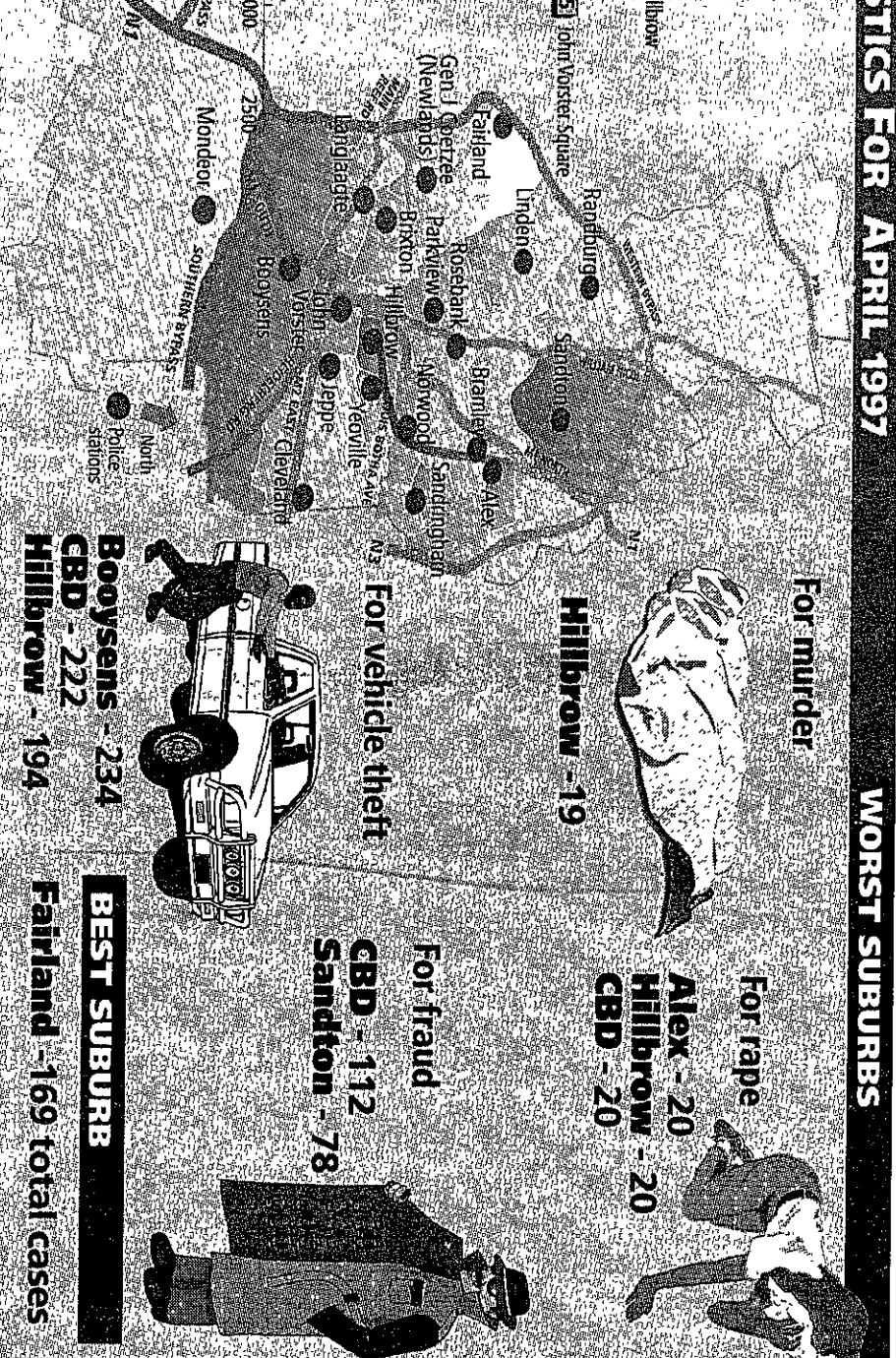
But Director Joseph Ngobeni, a spokesman for commissioner George Fiyaz, said last night the move was directed at preventing distortions.

It did not affect the police's commitment to transparency.

TOTAL CRIME STATISTICS FOR APRIL 1997

439	Alexandra	1437	Booyse's
702	Blairley		
581	Brixton		
438	Cleveland		
169	Fairland		
596	Genl Coetzee	1840	Hillbrow
672	Jeppie		
220	Langlaate	2035	John Vorster Square
661	Linden		
545	Mondeor		
515	Northwood		
410	Parkview	1042	Randburg
382	Rosebank		
174	Sandringham		
452	Yeoville	1110	Sandton

Crimes include: possession of illegal firearms, rape, drug dealing or use, murder, burglary residential premises, burglary business premises, robbery vehicles, robbery business premises, robbery residential premises, theft general, theft out of vehicles, theft of vehicles, fraud, commercial crimes



WORST SUBURBS

For murder

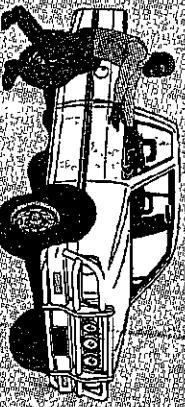


Hillbrow - 19

For rape

Alex - 20
Hillbrow - 20
CBD - 20

For vehicle theft



Booyse's - 234
CBD - 222
Hillbrow - 194

For fraud

CBD - 112
Sandton - 78

BEST SUBURB

Fairland - 169 total cases

"Before November last year, crime statistics were not audited and therefore not credible. We no longer want to release crime information in this way," he said.

In spite of the crackdown, the Star was leaked information for April which gives a breakdown of crimes.

It shows that Johannesburg's worst crime area was the CBD and environs, with 2 035 serious crimes reported.

Hillbrow was second with 1 840 cases, followed by Booyse's with 1 437, Sandton with 1 110 and Randburg with 1 042 cases. Johannesburg's most crime-free precinct was Fairland with 169 cases. Other low crime areas were Sandringham with 174 and Rosebank with 362.

Murders: Hillbrow, with 19 cases, had the most murders in Johannesburg. Alexandra had 13 and Booyse's 11.

Housebreaking: Randburg

led in housebreaking with 239 cases, followed by Booyse's with 174 and Sandton with 132.

Car thefts: one is the first likely to have one's car stolen in Booyse's, with 234 vehicles taken. In Hillbrow, 194 cars taken, the CBD 222 and Sandton 166.

Hijackings: hotspots were the Bramley policing area - highlighted by The Star two months ago in a crime hotspot expose that led directly to the

clampdown on statistics - with 72 instances and the CBD with 49 hijackings.

Rapes: most common in Alexandra, Hillbrow and the CBD, with 20 cases each. Guns: places where illegal possession of firearms was rife include Hillbrow with 17 and Jeppie with seven.

Fraud: most common in the CBD where 112 instances were reported, with 78 in Sandton and 49 in Randburg.

These figures will now go forward to police headquarters for review together with figures from May and June. The "audited" report will be issued in September.

Yesterday The Star attempted to get an explanation for the clampdown from Mufamadi and Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte. Neither had replied to the faxed list of questions at the time of going to press.

New names for John Vorster Square mooted

By Gill Gifford
Crime Reporter

Johannesburg Central Precinct, Johannesburg Central Police Station and Gauteng Police Station were the three names nominated at a public hearing yesterday to rename John Vorster Square, Johannesburg's largest police station.

Hearing chairman Visi Mavuso of the Gauteng legislature said suggested names would be reviewed by a committee at the end of the week, passed by the legislature and implemented by the cabinet.

The Johannesburg Central Community Policing Forum nominated Johannesburg Central Police Station as appropriate, because the name was geographically based.

The Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union and John Vorster Square's uniform branch favoured Johannesburg Central Precinct.

Inspector Moses Moseko, on behalf of the John Vorster uniform branch, said: "The word 'precinct' is more modern - you hear it in movies and on TV."

When asked whether the names of any prisoners who had died in custody at the station had been submitted, Mavuso said: "John Vorster is tied with bad history. We need to ensure the new name is free of any negative connotations."

Johannesburg CBD to get closed-circuit TV

By LEE-ANN ALFREDS
City Desk

Closed-circuit television cameras are to be installed in Johannesburg by the end of this year to help fight crime in the central business district.

The cameras are expected to be operational by January 1, according to Central Johannesburg Partnership executive director Neil Frazer.

He said consultants were being appointed to undertake further research into the project, known as the CCTV project.

The consultants - who were expected to be appointed by the end of the month - would research the project for a further three months before it was put out to tender.

Frazer said the project, which has been in the pipeline for years, was a joint operation between the Greater Johannesburg council and the private sector. A team had visited England to study the impact of the cameras and it had been given the go-ahead earlier this year.

The cameras would go a long way towards implementing the concept of "visible policing" - the most effective tool against crime, he said.

Frazer also said he was certain residents would see a ma-

Star 16/6/97 (38)
for change in Johannesburg's CBD by the end of the year in reaction to Anglo American Property Services' (Ampros) announcement that it had put its CBD buildings up for sale.

Ampros said the buildings in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban, valued at R300-million, would be sold because of losses in the past two financial years. Included in the buildings are 11 Diagonal Street in Johannesburg.

The announcement made on Wednesday created panic in some quarters and has led to speculation that Johannesburg's attempts at revitalising the city had been dealt a blow.

However, Liberty Life Properties director Eric Bernstein said he could not understand what all the fuss was about. He said Liberty Life had no intention of selling off property as there were no buyers and that they were not losing as much money as Anglo had done.

Sanlam Properties assets general manager Fanie Lategan said his company was not "disinvesting or investing". He said Sanlam's vacancy rate was less than 10% and most of their CBD buildings were in Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria which did not have as many problems as Johannesburg.

Police, army to protect banks

(38) CT 16/6/97

JOHANNESBURG: Bank robberies in the CBD have become so bad that a major bank closes its branches on Saturdays, and security forces are taking drastic action.

THE POLICE and army have put in place measures to curb the spate of Saturday bank robberies in the Johannesburg CBD, police said yesterday.

This follows an announcement by Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sydney Mufamadi that police and army personnel will protect inner-city banks.

Asked when the programme would be implemented and what shape it would take, National Crime Prevention and Reaction Services spokesman Captain Martin Aylward said last night: "We have certain things in place

already, but prefer not to make it public as that would also alert the robbers of what we are up to."

Nine Nedbank branches no longer operate in the CBD on Saturdays because criminals have been taking advantage of congestion in the area to escape after daring hold-ups.

Mufamadi told a media briefing in Pretoria that the government could not allow criminals to force banks in CBDs to close on Saturdays.

"Many people only get a chance to go the banks on Saturday, and I am therefore able to

announce that the Minister of Defence and I have agreed that police and army personnel will protect the affected branches," he said.

Operational details would be worked out with the Council of South African Banks (Cosab), he added.

Cosab chairman Mr Bob Tucker has welcomed the minister's announcement. "The statement is consistent with what the SAPS has promised to do," he said yesterday.

Tucker added that the efforts were paying off. More bank robbery attempts were being thwarted and suspects arrested. "There is no doubt that there is a drop in the robberies. Hopefully we are on the right track," he said.

Mufamadi said that a quick-response unit using police and military helicopters had been established to counter bank robbers.

"We have arrested a number of suspected ringleaders of the latest spate of robberies, and believe we have begun to make significant progress," he said.

Sapa reports there were at least two bank robberies in Johannesburg on Saturday.

Security guards delivering cash to the First National Bank in High Street, Brixton, were overpowered by two men at about 9am. The robbers shot one guard in the back and escaped with a bag of money. They then fled with two others in a white BMW. Police from the Johannesburg

Robbery Reaction Unit traced the vehicle to Auckland Park and arrested two suspects. Both were aged about 25 and were from Soweto.

The stolen money was not recovered, but police confiscated two pistols with the serial numbers filed off.

The second robbery was at the Trust Bank at the corner of Bree and Rissik streets in Johannesburg at 9.45am. Four armed men entered the bank and held up customers and employees, while two others waited outside.

Police arrived and arrested the two outside. They recovered a bag containing money, which the four dropped while making their escape on foot. Two cars and two firearms were confiscated.

Police, troops to

Minister promises aid so hundreds of people will not be affected by weekend closure of financial institutions

By **RODNEY VICTOR**
AND **TEFO MOTHIBELI**

The police and defence force have put in place measures to curb the spate of Saturday bank robberies in the Johannesburg CBD, police said yesterday.

This follows Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi's announcement on Friday that police and army personnel would protect inner-city banks that have been hit by Saturday-morning robberies.

Asked when the programme would be implemented and what shape it would take, National Crime Prevention and Reaction Services spokesman Captain Martin Aylward told The Star last night: "We have certain things in place already, but prefer not to make them public as it would also alert the robbers of what we are up to."

Nine Nedbank branches no longer operate in the CBD on Saturdays because robbers have been taking advantage of congestion to escape after hold-ups.

Mufamadi told a media briefing in Pretoria on Friday that the Government could not allow criminals to force banks in CBDs to close on Saturdays.

"Many people can only go to banks on a Saturday, and I am ... able to announce that the Minister of Defence and I have agreed that police and army personnel will protect affected branches," he said. Operational details would be worked out shortly with the Council of SA Banks (Cosab), he said.

Cosab chairman Bob Tucker has welcomed the minister's announcement. "The statement is consistent with what the SAPS has promised to do in their efforts to deal with the crime situation," he said yes-

terday. Tucker said the police efforts were receiving a good response and more bank robbery attempts were being thwarted and suspects arrested.

"There is no doubt there is a drop in the robberies. Hopefully, we are on the right track," he said.

Mufamadi said on Friday that a quick-response unit using police and military helicopters had been established.

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Number of ringleaders arrested

They then fled with two other men in a white BMW.

Police from the Johannesburg Robbery Reaction Unit traced the vehicle to Auckland Park and arrested two suspects.

The stolen money was not recovered, but police confiscated two pistols with the serial numbers filed off.

The second robbery was at the Trust Bank at the corner of Bree and Cassel streets in Johannesburg at 9.45am. Four armed men entered the bank and held up customers and employees, while two others waited outside.

Police arrived and arrested the two outside. They recovered a bag containing money and confiscated two Toyota Corollas and two firearms.

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(38)

guard inner-city banks

Spy cameras to go up in Joburg

CBD gets closed-circuit TV in battle against crime

ARL 16/10/97

(38)

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38

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - Closed circuit television cameras are to be installed in Johannesburg to help fight crime in the central business district.

The cameras are expected to be fully operational by January 1 next year, according to Central Johannesburg Partnership executive director Neil Frazer.

He said consultants were being appointed to do further research into the project. The consultants, who are expected to be appointed by the end of the month, would research the project for a further three months before it was put out to tender.

Mr Frazer said: "I think by October or November the project should be in progress. We will definitely be able to begin on January 1."

Mr Frazer said the project, which had been in the pipeline for several years, was a joint operation between the Greater Johannesburg council and the private sector. A team had visited England to study the impact of the cameras, and had been given the go-ahead earlier this year.

The cameras would go a long way towards implementing the concept of "visible policing", which was the most effective tool against crime, he said.

While he could not say where and how

the cameras would be used, Mr Frazer indicated that they would most likely be placed in high-risk crime spots.

Mr Frazer forecast a major change in Johannesburg's CBD by the end of the year in reaction to Anglo American Property Services' (Ampros) announcement that some of its buildings there were for sale.

An Ampros spokesman said buildings in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban, valued at R300-million, would be sold because of losses in the past two financial years. The buildings for sale included 11 Diagonal Street in Johannesburg.

The announcement last Wednesday created panic in several quarters, and led to

speculation that Johannesburg's attempts at revitalising the city had been dealt a severe blow.

Mr Frazer said there had been a "terrible overreaction to the exercise, as buildings changed hands all the time".

Liberty Life Properties director Eric Bernstein said Liberty Life had no intention of selling property.

Sanlam Properties assets general manager Fanie Lategan said Sanlam's vacancy rate was less than 10 percent.

Most CBD buildings were in Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria, which had fewer problems than Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth.

Pagad breakaway group threatens violence in Rosebank

Star 4/7/97

(38)

By **RODNEY VICTOR**

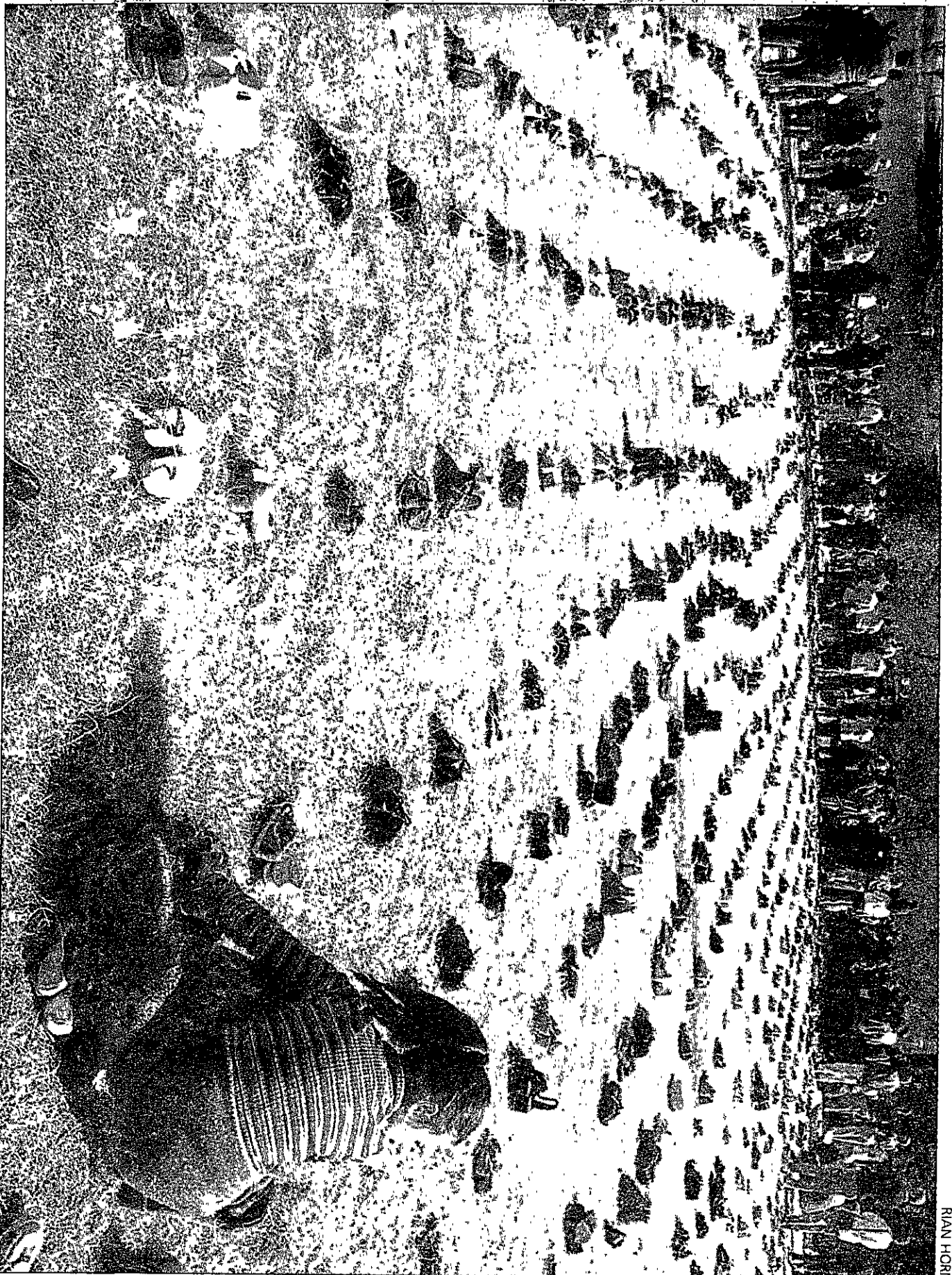
Police will be on standby at popular Rosebank nightspots this weekend following the threat of violence by a radical group

which has broken away from People Against Gangsterism and Drugs.

Michael Saad, leader of the new group, phoned The Star yesterday to say the group

planned to take action against clubs where drugs were sold.

The group had warned the clubs concerned to get rid of bouncers selling drugs, but they had not done so, he said.



RIAN HORN

Symbols of loss ... a little girl remembers the tragedy in her young life at the Community Chest Silent Shoe March yesterday at Zoo Lake, Johannesburg.

Rows of shoes mute testimony to crime victims

BY THEMBAKAZI SIBEMQA

AND SAPA

21/9/97

More than 2 000 scuffed and worn shoes lay on the winter grass at Zoo Lake, Johannesburg, yesterday, a silent testimony to the victims of crime who had once worn them.

Families and friends left poems, candles and flowers along with the shoes.

The display - at the Johannesburg Community Chest's "Testimony of empty shoes - a silent march," - were intended as symbols dedicated to people affected by violence or of loved ones lost, said the chest's Brenda Taylor.

A list of crime statistics, attached to a tree showed that last year 5 789 murders, 7 173 attempted murders and 12 938 cases of rape were reported in the province.

Director of the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, Graeme Simpson, said at the ceremony the shoes showed the suffering that all South Africans endured no matter whether they are from rich white suburbs or poor black townships.

"They all have one thing in common - they all died horrible deaths."

One of the many mute messages was attached to a pair of white takkies, with a bunch of roses. It read: "Iain Henderson, 23-year-old gunned down outside his house parking lot".

The shoes will be donated to charities.

Report on crime in Gauteng 'alarming'

By Ronille Ngqiyaza

BD 22/7/97 (38)

THE Democratic Party (DP) said a report indicating Gauteng had at least 108 organised crime syndicates and that there were serious incidents of corruption within the criminal justice system, was alarming. Provincial police commissioner Sharma Maharaj represented the "threat analysis" report as part of an SA Police Service (SAPS) briefing on the state of policing in Gauteng during Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's visit to the province.

Compiled by the provincial organised crime unit between January and April, the audited report shows 48 syndicates were involved in crimes relating to drugs; 26 to vehicles; 10 to gold and diamonds; and nine to credit cards.

Peter Leon, DP provincial safety and security spokesman and Gauteng leader, said yesterday it was time government brought the National Intelligence Agency, police and military intelligence together under the direction of Mbeki to combat the scourge of crime. Leon said if the report was correct, the situation was extremely alarming and the question that needed to be asked was what was government and the police doing to rectify the situation.

"My impression is the police have been fairly ineffective in infiltrating the syndicates. It is time that the deputy president stopped talking about the situation and used his enormous powers to deal with it."

Leon said steps taken to deal with the "plague" of hijacking in Gauteng had been inadequate. Commenting on the low fines and lenient sentences for convicted syndicate leaders and members cited in the report, the State Advocate Society said each case should be understood according to its own merits.

"There is a lot of generalisations containing sentences and no useful comment can be made based on statistics," a spokesman said.

SA Law Commission spokesman Willie van Vuuren said the organisation's working committee had approved publication of an issue paper on mandatory minimum and maximum sentences.

"We would like to invite suggestions from the public and all interested parties on whether mandatory sentences should be provided for in legislation."

Apathy blamed on corruption

Star 5/8/97 (38)

'Criminal is seen on the same corner the next day because public is afraid'

BY **DEREK ROONEY**
Crime Reporter

Police are concerned about public apathy and the perception that crimes are not worth reporting because of corruption in the force.

At least 50 John Vorster Square policemen have been convicted of serious crimes in the past 10 months and more than 380 are being investigated for crimes ranging from reckless driving and assault to rape, armed robbery, corruption and murder.

CBD commander Superintendent Jan Otto said public perceptions of crime in the inner city had been skewed by media coverage of attacks in the Small Street Mall and hit-and-run crimes involving roving bands of criminals.

"The reason the criminal is seen again on the same corner the next day is that the public is often too afraid to lay charges

when a suspect is caught, and ease of bail being granted encourages witnesses to back down," Otto said.

Pedestrians and irate shop-owners have accused police of inefficiency and collusion with marauding gangs sometimes numbering more than 15 members, who ruthlessly attack unsuspecting tourists or first-time visitors to the city's heart.

Many expressed frustration at the lack of any action once cases were reported, and attributed the decline in reported crime to the public's lack of faith in CBD police.

"It is horrifying for law-abiding citizens to see these crimes splashed on newspaper pages, but the truth of the matter is that reported muggings and other CBD crimes such as purse-snatching and smash-and-grab incidents have declined significantly since policing efforts were intensified in July last year," Otto said. He added that at least 150

policemen were deployed in four identified policing sectors daily and they were now being supported by more than 100 army personnel.

John Vorster Square internal investigation unit head Captain Peet Marais said 50

Truth is that muggings are down significantly

policemen, excluding the 50 who had already been convicted, had been positively identified and linked to serious crimes such as murder (seven), corruption (seven) and armed robbery (two). Investigators were finalising their cases for trial.

Many more policemen had faced internal disciplinary measures such as demotions, transfers and fines.

"A major problem for investigators is getting complainants to lay charges and getting witnesses to come forward so that we can get enough evidence to go to court," Marais said. The unit now had between 380 and 390 cases against police on hand, with between 50 and 80 cases reported each month, he added.

Ironically, this figure is down from the 120 cases a month average at the beginning of 1996. "I believe the reason is because of the widespread exposure of corrupt police and their prosecution, and our efforts to crack down on crooked policemen is finally starting to bear fruit."

John Vorster Square station commissioner Director David Botha said a 24-hour hotline to his office was available for anyone wishing to report corrupt police. The hotline numbers are (011) 884-3577 (w) or 834-5549 (fax).

Jo'burg 'winning war on hijacks'

Star 28/8/97 (38)

Police statistics show 10% fewer motorists robbed, but use of firearms and violence is increasing

By GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

Hijacking in Johannesburg is on the decrease, according to the latest unaudited police statistics, but hijackers are becoming more violent.

Superintendent Kevin Twiname of the anti-hijacking unit said 935 motorists were hijacked in the Johannesburg area from May to July this year, compared with 1 050 hijacking for the same period last year. This was more than a 10% drop - or 103 fewer cases.

"The figures include trucks and cars, and although statistics can be easily misinterpreted, it appears to be an overall decrease in Johannesburg," Twiname said.

People more aware and are taking precautions

A major concern, however, is the use of excessive violence. According to Twiname, firearms are used in almost all reported cases and one in five victims are injured or murdered.

Twiname also said that while Johannesburg's hijacking rate was down, hijackings in Soweto were on the increase.

Mark Shaw a researcher at the Institute for Security Studies confirmed this trend today, saying that an as yet unreleased victim survey showed that most hijacking victims were black and did not come from Johannesburg's northern sub-

urbs, where it is generally perceived to be more dangerous.

The Johannesburg anti-hijacking unit, a sub-component of the Brixton murder and robbery unit, is a 22-member specialist team which focuses solely on cases where victims are injured or murdered, shots are fired or where arrests are made soon after an attack.

"We have found that most hijackings happen on Thursdays and Fridays between 4pm and 8pm or early in the mornings, and about the time people leave for work," Twiname said.

This, he said, indicated a trend in which hijackers were moving away from business areas where visible policing was a priority, into residential areas where victims were more vulnerable to attacks outside or near their homes.

Another new hijacking tactic is the robbery of new cars directly from dealers.

"The guys set up appointments for what turn out to be test drive scams in which they steal the car from the salesman. This may be because new cars are often not fitted with tracking devices," Twiname said.

Michael Erasmus, sales manager for Lindsay Saker Rivonia, said he was aware of two sales people hijacked on test drives - both in the northern suburbs.

"It is likely they are targeted because new cars are generally fitted with tracking devices only on request from the buyer," Erasmus said.

"But hijacking definitely seems to be decreasing. People are not scared to buy minibuses any more.

"People seem to be more aware of the crime and are taking sensible precautions," Erasmus said.

Jo'burg's high crime rate has potential German investors running scared

A gateway to riches closed by the

By NEWTON KANHEMA

Stuttgart — The chairman of Daimler-Benz, one of Europe's biggest corporations, has written to President Nelson Mandela expressing concern about South Africa's high crime rate, which has begun to turn away potential German investors.

Jürgen Schrempf, who is also chairman of the Southern Africa Initiative of German Business, told Mandela that because Johannesburg was considered the gateway to investment in the subcontinent, the high crime rate in the city was a hindrance to investment in southern Africa.

Schrempf received a reply from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who assured the German business community that the Government was doing something about the situation.

New offensive

Mbeki specifically noted the appointment of South African Breweries chairman Meyer Kahn as chief executive officer of the South African Police Service as part of a new offensive against crime.

The letter from Schrempf comes several months after German businessmen expressed concern about security in areas such as Gauteng. Their fears arose after a German businessman died in an attempted hijacking in Johannesburg.

A survey of German or German-affiliated companies operating in South Africa found that

half had been affected by crime in recent months.

A spokesman for Schrempf, Josef Gorgels, said the Daimler-Benz chairman was hoping the appointment of Kahn would help to turn the situation around.

Gorgels said the crime situation in Johannesburg had made the task of German businessmen keen to push investment "a mission impossible".

"We are trying to mobilise investment and skills to Africa. Africa is practically unknown to the entrepreneur of medium size. The image of Africa is very bad. The present situation in Kenya and Congo makes our lives difficult.

"Every time you speak to investors they always agree with all the things you tell them. Then comes the question: 'What about security in Johannesburg?'"

Gorgels acknowledged there was "a distorted perception" of Africa in Germany.

"But remember we do not live on facts but perception. For South Africa this has reached a serious level."

He said potential investors would have to take experts to Africa if they invested there, but it was almost impossible to find a family who wanted to go to South Africa.

Gorgels said a crime-infested city was worse than a war zone. "With war one knows where the fighting is taking place. At least you know where the frontier is, but with this sort of crime there are no fronts, you cannot be safe anywhere."

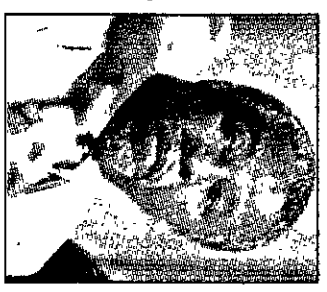
The message of Gorgels and Schrempf was one heard repeatedly during a two-week visit to Germany sponsored by the German government.

There is a marked enthusiasm for doing business, not only with South Africa but also with other countries of the Southern African Development Community.

German government officials and businessmen say Pretoria should push the development of the SADC region into a common market of 140 million people, much like the European Union, which has been a major success over the past few decades.

"The message is to develop this common market. Many of the countries in the neighbourhood South Africa has maintained protectionist policies and that trade relations are tipped in favour of South Africa," one businessman said.

South Africa's protectionist policies and its lack of competi-



ASSURANCE: Mbeki sent a reply to concerned businessmen

tiveness, especially when measured against other "high-wage" countries, was also cited by many as a drawback.

Referring to international forums such as the SADC, Gorgels observed that the "SADC should work hard and be stronger and work together in the global economy as joint forces".

The Germans are strongly pushing the line that the way the industrialised world can best help Africa is through investment and not through aid handouts.

As part of a R10-billion arms package which has been offered to the SA National Defence Force for its re-equipment programme, the Germans have proposed a number of counter-trade proposals which they claim will help to generate thousands of jobs.

Importance

Mbeki is due to visit Germany in October as part of the German-South African Bi-national Commission, which is regarded by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria as of equal importance to the South African-United States Bi-national Commission, which recently held a series of sessions in Washington.

Gorgels said a German business organisation planned a number of visits to southern Africa in the coming year, and would also host several seminars in Germany to encourage investors and entrepreneurs to consider southern Africa.

Fear of fear (38) / 30/8/97

Hopes grow for end to CBD crime as 'super-cops' are called to battle

By CRAIG URQUHART

An elite proactive police unit is being set up to "wipe out" crime in the city centre, with more men, a faster reaction time and a broader mandate than any other unit.

The new special task team will be bolstered by "heavy-weights" within the SAPS to establish an effective, highly specialised unit to combat serious crime in Johannesburg.

Although numerous other plans have been tried and tested - frequently without success - both the safety and security ministry and the police believe they have turned the corner in their fight against crime. "The crime

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levels have stabilised and I think we are on the verge of seeing an overall drop (in Johannesburg). I'm sure this unit and many of the other initiatives we are working on will have an impact," said Director David Botha, station commander of Johannesburg Central police station.

When she revealed the plan to the *Saturday Star* yesterday, Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte promised:

■ Enough policemen - uniformed and undercover - patrolling the streets, with police vehicles stationed throughout the city ready for any emergencies.

■ "Police will be able to get to the scene of any crime within the

city limits within two minutes, and will be able to cordon off large sections of the city if criminals have escaped."

■ The existing SAPS robbery reaction unit, established in 1986 as an elite undercover unit to combat escalating crime in the city centre, will be incorporated into the new unit.

Duarte said the task force would differ vastly from existing specialist units because responsibility for it would be centralised under the SAPS's area commander for Johannesburg.

It would also have a brief to prevent and combat every sort of crime, from petty offences to hijacking, bank robbery and rape.

Johannesburg's 'safety lung' project still does not have life of its own

By JACQUI REEVES

Star 6/9/97

(38)

New deadlines were announced this week for Johannesburg's closed-circuit television (CCTV) project.

The project forms part of the city's much-vaunted "safety lung" campaign - a project that was meant to have been breathing on its own more than four months ago.

The new deadlines claim the CCTV system will be operating in the city's central business district by March 1 1998.

When challenged in the provincial legislature on the altered deadlines, MEC for Safety and Security Jessie Duarte lashed out at her challenger, the Democratic Party's Peter Leon.

A war of words ensued, with Leon referring to Duarte as the MEC for "paranoia and insecurity" and claiming she was sounding "shrill and hysterical". Duarte returned the blow when she accused Leon of becoming a "petty little individual".

While the other members appeared to be wholeheartedly enjoying the debate, heckling and laughing at will, the seriousness of the issue appeared to become lost among all the misguided mirth.

Addressing the standing committee on safety and security hours before the sitting of the legislature, Sylvester Rakgoadi, the department's deputy director of policy planning, detailed the status quo of the safety-lung projects.

Rakgoadi said the "stakeholder committee" that had been established to oversee the CCTV project had decided to opt for a high-quality system that could be expanded to Johannesburg's entire inner city. He said the focus of the project would initially be on the quality of the system, followed by the cost factor and then the time it would take to implement the project.

Challenging the MEC on this prioritisation, Leon called for an end to "moving

time-frames" where deadlines were never kept.

Duarte then accused Leon of ignoring any successes that have been achieved in the CBD, saying she would not allow him to demoralise "good police officials". She also laid the blame for the delay in the CCTV project on the funder, Business Against Crime, which initially promised an amount of R1-million to the project but eventually offered only R100 000.

Two months ago the *Saturday Star* published a litany of unfinished projects that have marred the safety-lung project. While some progress has been made on certain projects, Rakgoadi was loath to be pinned down on the issue of deadlines.

He finally agreed that the new CCTV deadlines were "realistic", and were flexible only to the point that delivery may occur before the deadline, but not thereafter.

He said a project manager had been appointed to guide the process, which began with a feasibility study on August 1.

On the issue of sectoral policing, Rakgoadi said the project was operating in 12 sectors in the city, and that resources such as radios and luminous vests had been requested from the police service's logistics department,

which would improve the success rate of the sectors.

Newly revised deadlines for the CCTV project in Johannesburg's CBD are:

- Project commenced - August 1 1997;
- Finalisation of project requirements - September 30 1997;
- Finalisation of tender documentation - October 30 1997;
- Issue of tender documents - November 1 1997;
- Completion of tender review and contract award - January 1 1998;
- Finalisation of shop drawings/equipment selection and start site - February 1 1998;
- Target for fully functional operation - March 1 1998.



BLASTED: Jessie Duarte was slated for shifting deadlines



Taking the law into their own hands ... the barrier in Bird Street, Mayfair, intended to keep criminals out.

Residents block off part of Mayfair

Star 11/9/97 (38)

Series of attacks leads to illegal erection of railings – a move not welcomed by everyone

By **Bunny West**
City Reporter

Residents of a Johannesburg suburb have taken the law into their own hands by closing off part of their street without council permission.

A block of upmarket townhouses and 16 palatial homes in Bird Street, Mayfair, have been separated from the rest of the suburb by strong railings and a controlled entry point manned by guards.

The unauthorised closure by the group of homeowners about two weeks ago has led to complaints from minibus taxi drivers, who say their route to and from the industrial area in Church Street has been lengthened, and a spaza shop owner, Isaac Dlamini, who claims he has lost all his passing trade.

"Many of my customers walked from the station up Bird Street, but now detour along 14th Avenue. My little shop is directly opposite the closed side of Bird Street, and all my pass-

ing trade is gone," Dlamini said.

Taxi drivers, who used to use Bird Street as a short cut to factories in Church Street because the traffic was less heavy, claim they now have to negotiate a series of traffic lights, which slows down their progress.

But residents inside the enclosed suburb – called Crown North Extension 2 – say the barrier has made them feel safer after several armed attacks on residents over the past three months.

"The railings are a good idea, but it is inconvenient for both residents and visitors. For the sake of everyone's safety we must put up with the inconvenience," said Mohammed Anver Varlawa, a spokesman for the townhouse residents.

Mohammed Salim Hadjee, speaking on behalf of the homeowners, said the idea of erecting a barrier had followed several visits to enclosed suburbs in eastern Johannesburg.

"We wrote to the council

several times asking for permission to erect a barrier and did not receive a single reply, so two weeks ago we went ahead with the project," Hadjee said.

Until a proper guardhouse has been built, cars and pedestrians entering the road are not stopped, but this situation will change when the shelter is completed.

The Northern council, under whose jurisdiction Mayfair falls, was not available for comment.

Kill rate drops in Gauteng

Sowetan 16/9/97 (38)

By Ido Lekota Political Reporter

CONTRARY to common belief the Western Cape – and not Gauteng – is the most dangerous province, recent crime statistics released by National Police Commissioner George Fivaz reveal.

Figures presented by Fivaz to the portfolio committee on safety and security indicated the Western Cape had the highest murders-to-population ratio – 37,8 murders to 100 000 people in the first six month this year.

Gauteng comes second with 34,1 murders to 100 000, followed by the Northern Cape with 33,5 then 30,7 for Kwazulu-Natal.

The report showed 1 476 murders were reported in the first six months, an all-time high within the province, a 19,8 percent increase from the 1 232 reported in the same period in 1994.

Gauteng, on the other hand, has shown an 18,8 percent decrease from 3 115 in 1994 to 2 530 this year in the same period.

At 2 811 Kwazulu-Natal still has the highest number of reported murders but this must be seen in proportion to the province's large population. The province also had the highest decrease in the number of murders from 4 314 in 1994 to 2 811 this year – a 34,8 percent decrease.

Alexandra and Moroka are Gauteng's crime hotspots

By GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

Alexandra in Johannesburg and Moroka in Soweto have been identified as Gauteng's worst crime areas, and are to benefit from a reshuffle of provincial resources, Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte said yesterday.

Duarte said, while recently released crime statistics for the province revealed a decline in murder and other serious

crimes over the past year, Alexandra and Moroka recorded alarmingly high statistics.

"We have been looking at where, when and why crime happens in these areas," she said, adding that all available assistance would be sent to the two crime hotspots.

Alexandra's main problems were a high-density population, a lack of thoroughfares, housing problems and an influx of illegal immigrants.

Problems contributing to Mo-

roka's high crime rate included a large number of shebeens, where shootings and stabbings were regularly reported during weekends, and a high density of shacks.

Gangsterism and alcohol abuse were other problem issues in the township, Duarte said.

But apart from the two problem areas, crime-fighting initiatives in Gauteng appear to be paying off, according to Provincial Commissioner Sharma Maharaj.

"At this stage we are satisfied that, given the additional staff deployed in the city and high visibility policing, there is a decline in crime and problems of the past have stabilised," Maharaj said.

He added that the establishment of a specialist bank robbery unit had resulted in "a tremendous breakthrough" regarding arrests as well as a 15% drop in bank robberies and a 50% decline in attacks on cash-in-transit vans.

Pretoria fears Johannesburg's crime is 'spilling over'

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — Armed robberies and hijackings have shown a dramatic increase of 76% and 47% respectively in Pretoria in August compared with the same month last year, causing major concern among police that violent crime from Johannesburg was spilling over to the city.

Referring to national crime statistics released last week, the Pretoria area commander, deputy commission-

er Corrie Naude, said that as in the rest of the country, the Pretoria police had stabilised or decreased crime in the area. National statistics showed that of the 20 most serious crimes, 11 had been stabilised and nine cut.

"But police management is seriously concerned about the increase in certain crimes in the Pretoria region. Robbery in which firearms were used increased by 76% and car and truck hijackings increased by 47% in August this year compared with the same

month last year," Naude said. Pretoria had 174 car and truck hijackings from June to August this year and 498 armed robberies during the same period.

Naude said that to put the statistics in perspective, one had to keep in mind that armed robbery over the past 12 months, compared with the previous year, decreased by 1,233% and hijacking by 4,33%.

Of 48 police stations in the Pretoria region, those hit hardest by armed robbery and hijacking in the past month were the upmarket suburbs of Brooklyn and Garfontein, and the traditional black suburbs such as Mamelodi, Soshanguve and the coloured township Bertrams.

Residential housebreakings were down 2,8.

Bonnie Ngqiyaza reports the Gauteng safety and security department has released statistics indicating an overall decrease in criminal activity in the province — particularly of high

priority crimes including murder and drug trafficking.

Safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte said yesterday that while these two priority crimes had declined in greater Johannesburg, the trend in at least three Soweto townships and Alexandra seemed headed in the opposite direction. Giting Jaharu, Moroka and Meadowlands as the most affected areas, she said the drug problem in these areas appeared to be centred on schools. Substance abuse, rather than

drug dealing, was prevalent, she said. Duarte attributed the general decline in crime in greater Johannesburg to the SAPS's continuing campaign against drug dealers in Hillbrow and its surrounds, and the high rate of arrests of would-be drug pedlars at Johannesburg International Airport.

Sepa reports that Duarte said while statistics showed a decline of armed bank robberies and robberies of cash in transit in most areas, in some areas there were increases of up to 60%.

BD 17/9/97

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Sowetan 26/9/97 (38)

792 held in anti-crime swoop

A TOTAL of 792 people were arrested for various offences in ongoing anti-crime operations in the greater Johannesburg area in the week ended on Wednesday.

Police spokesman Inspector Mark Reynolds said yesterday the majority of those arrested were illegal immigrants, of whom 466 had been held. In the serious crime categories 15 people were arrested for murder, 13 for rape, 74 for robbery, 64 for burglary, 40 for vehicle theft and hijacking, 23 for drug-related offences and 21 for illegal possession of firearms.

Twenty-two stolen vehicles were recovered along with stolen goods valued at about R380 000. Forty-three unlicensed firearms were seized. — Sapa

Victim study confirms some trends but also provides some surprises

Street survey wises up on crime stats

(38) Star 4/10/97



Crime is a major topic of conversation. But just how many of the stories being told around dinner tables reflect the true picture of the scourge? **JACQUI REEVES** looked at a recent survey and found some surprising results

When crime researchers went out on to the streets of Johannesburg recently, they had one mission: to randomly select 800 victims of crime, and to interview them about their experiences.

After only 1 200 interviews, the researchers had their sample: crime victims, it appears, are a dime a dozen in the City of Gold.

The results of the survey, which were released exclusively to the *Saturday Star* this week, serve to help distinguish daily truths from urban legend.

The announcement this year that the SAPS would release updated crime statistics only every quarter was met with outrage. While police defended their actions, the public and media accused them of having ulterior motives and of hiding the truth.

"Treating statistics with a fair amount of circumspection is, however, not a new trend. Author Mark Twain once remarked there are 'lies, damn lies and statistics'." How to use these statistics, though, to make real changes in the crime-ravaged South African society remains the challenge.

The survey, conducted by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), was a joint venture between the council-driven Safer Cities project, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the International Centre for Crime Prevention, and is considered a cornerstone for the future development of crime prevention strategies at local level.

There are currently many developments against crime at a local level, but these are largely occurring outside any national government-initiated framework.

In a report on the Safer Cities programme in April, Mark Shaw of the ISS wrote that while the National Crime Prevention Strategy allowed input for national projects, the strategy lacked local content.

He said that, given that crime problems vary from locality to locality and require specific strategies, the failure of the NCPs to encourage and structure local initiatives may in the long term weaken the effectiveness of the entire national strategy.

With this in mind, Greater Johannesburg's metropolitan council created the Safer Cities project, aimed at co-ordinating crime prevention at a city level.

The victim study took the form of a street survey, where people were approached randomly to complete the sample of 800 individuals, with considerations

De Kock said the SAPS was trying its best to produce more comparable figures for crimes involving individuals, vehicles and homes, but it would take many years to develop a system that accurately collated all the specific information the technique demands.

"We will have to wait until we have all the new census figures and all the updates on, for example, housing units and stock ownership, before we can complete crime ratios by area and other specifics," he said.

A key element to victim surveys is to expose the difference between the number of crimes committed against the number of reported crimes, commonly known as the "dark figure" of crime.

In the Johannesburg survey, a startling 66% of all mugging and robbery victims did not report the incident to the police, while 75% of all assault victims also chose not to call in the law.

Incidents of crime where property was involved did, however, present a very different picture.

In most of these cases, insurance companies demand a police reference number, with the result that all of the sample's hijacking victims reported their cases to the police, along with 98% of the car theft victims.

One statistic that did not surprise researchers was that close on 79% of all sexual abuse or harassment victims chose not to notify the police.

Of the minority who contacted the police, 97% admitted they were dissatisfied with the way the police dealt with their report.

In a twist to the widely held belief

EXTENT TO WHICH THE VICTIM WAS KNOWN TO THE OFFENDER

Crime Category	%
Assault (with weapon)	~95
Assault (without weapon)	~90
Murder	~95
Rape	~75
Sexual abuse/harassment	~79



demographics of Greater Johannesburg. Researchers considered any experience with crime within the past five years applicable for the study. One of the survey's most startling findings dealt with the racial categories of victims.

In most of the violent crimes, Africans were victimised disproportionately, given their share of Johannesburg's metropolitan population. More than 80% of all the victims of common assault, rape and murder were African.

Chris de Kock, the head of the Crime Information Management Centre of the SAPS, said this latest study debunked long-held perceptions that whites were being predominantly targeted in violent crimes such as hijackings.

"In traditionally black townships, light delivery bakkies and combis are a scarce commodity, and are frequently hijacked and stolen from their owners," he said. De Kock said the up-and-coming black middle class of South Africa, and more specifically of Gauteng, was fast becoming a prime target.

"This developing middle class is becoming a target because, while people may be living in the suburbs, their friends and family are still in the townships and they visit them frequently," he said.

Shaw said that the more mobile people are, the more likely they are to be hit by crime.

"When you live and work in only one area, your chances of becoming a victim appear to be less."

"Rather than being strictly an issue of race, this trend appears to be becoming more of a class and lifestyle issue, where a greater degree of mobility increases your chances of being victimised," he said.

Criticism has recently been levelled at police statistics, with academics and researchers challenging the comparative rates presented, and how realistic these rates are.

Critics of police statistics claim that rather than comparing the number of vehicles hijacked with the number of vehicles owned, police "weight" the statistics and compare them to the population as a whole.

"The same criticism is levelled at rape figures, where the SAPS compares the statistics against the entire population, while according to current South African legislation, only women can be raped.

In such instances, the reality is that victim figures could be substantially higher than the public is led to believe.

in the victim survey found that 88% of all questioned rape victims (particularly in the urban context of Johannesburg) did not know their attacker at all.

De Kock said although the very high percentage of victims who said they were dissatisfied with the service they received from the SAPS was cause for concern, police officials were "not that surprised".

He said they were aware of the deficiencies in detection and investigation.

"We know the quality of investigation is not up to scratch - we have picked this up in our own analyses of clearance rates - so we have to improve our quality and focus on priority crimes," he said.

The survey also questioned respondents on their place of residence, rather than where the crimes were committed.

Because most burglaries happen at the home, the researchers concluded that the majority of these crimes (48%) happen in the suburbs.

Most victims of common assault (43%) live in informal settlements. More than half of these crimes occur near the home, leading experts to suggest that many of these assaults happen in informal settlements, and could be related to shebeens.

Interestingly, most of the hijacking victims (43%) are black and live in the suburbs, followed by 29% living in the inner city.

This suggests there are more Africans living in suburbs than expected, and that these people have lifestyles which predispose them (or increase their risk) to hijacking.

Police scepticism about the practical use of statistics in crime prevention is something De Kock said he is fighting to overcome - with increasing success.

"The SAPS is slowly but surely realising that statistics can be one of the best indicators for effective crime prevention. They are beginning to realise that accurate statistics are the basis of crime prevention tactics," he said.

Although De Kock admits statistics are "a struggle to sell" he believes Singapore is proof that the battle can be won.

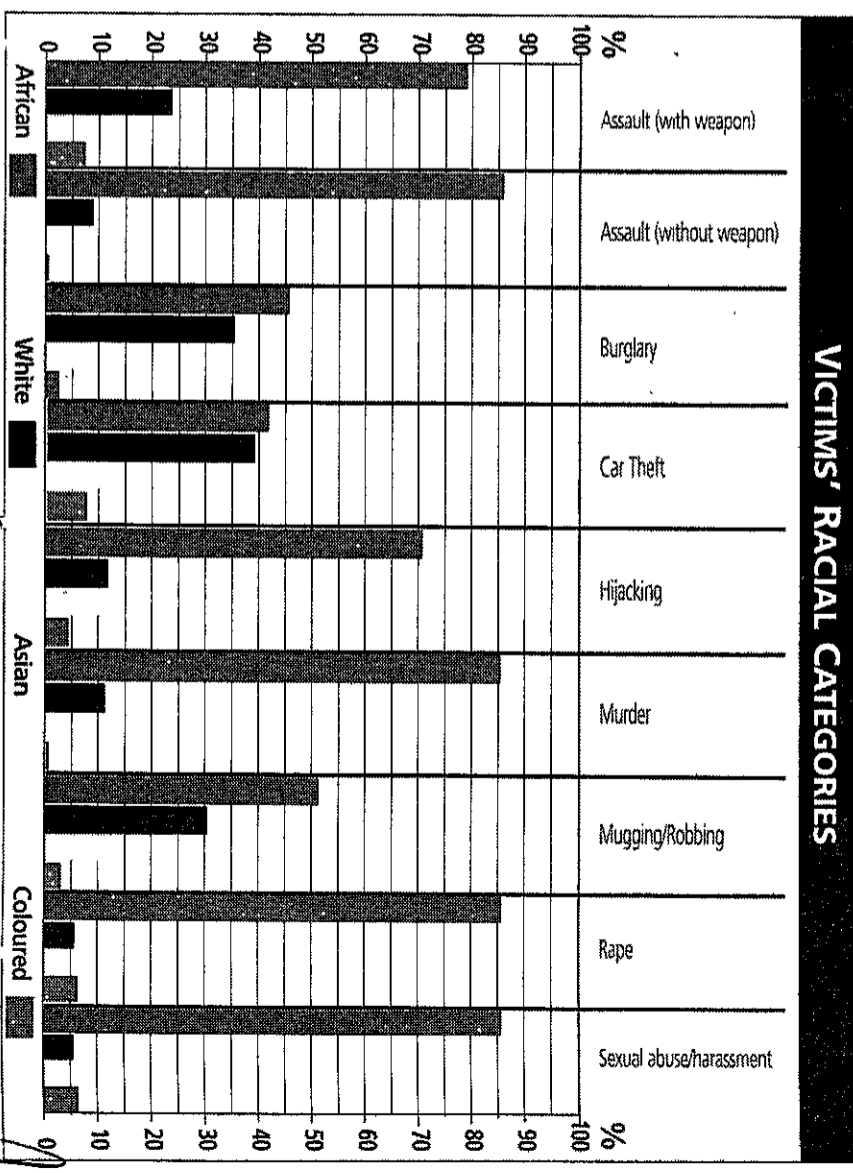
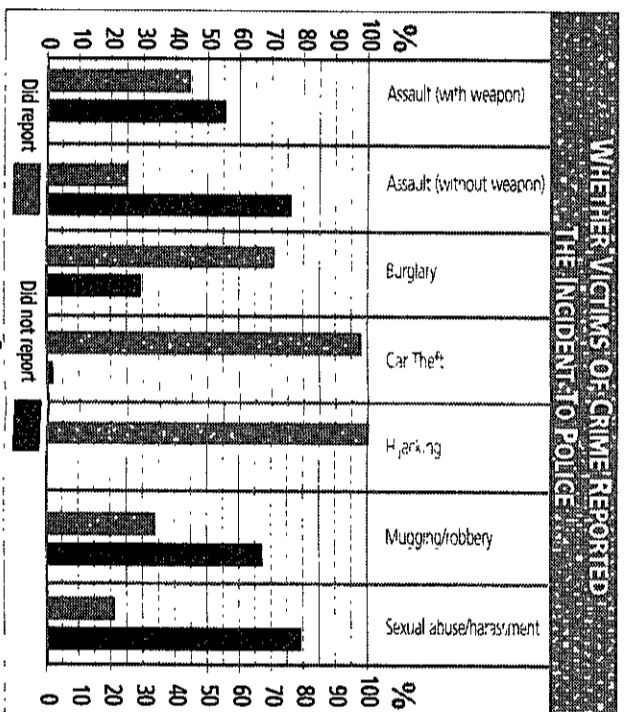
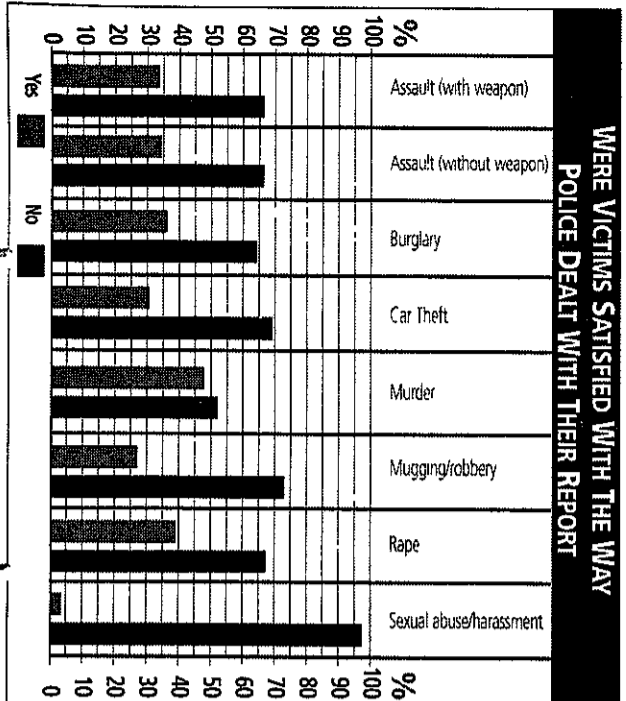
After 17 years of fighting for the use of statistics in strategic and operational analysis, statistics now form the basis of all police interventions in Singapore.

Rory Robertshaw, the co-ordinator of the Sater Cities project, said three main objectives were being pursued: the project hoped to help prevent members of the public becoming offenders, to help victims avoid becoming repeat victims, and to improve the urban environment to help combat crime.



GRAPHIC: JASON ASKEW

GRAPHS: THIRY MORLAND (statistics courtesy of the Institute for Security Studies)



4 held after gang attacks Pagad cars in Gauteng

By Gill Gifford
Crime Reporter

Stow 7/10/97
(38)

Four men, allegedly members of the Fast Guns gang, were arrested in Westbury and Bosmont, western Johannesburg, after an attack on cars belonging to a member of the People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) yesterday. This is the first open confrontation between Pagad and gangsters in Gauteng.

Police spokesman Inspector Mark Reynolds said two cars, owned by a Bosmont man who is a Pagad member but whose identity could not be confirmed today, were damaged at 9.30pm. The Pagad member and his wife came out of their property. They called the men, who entered the house to speak to the couple.

"The man was threatened and told to stop his Pagad activities..." said Reynolds.

Sophiatown police arrested two 21-year-old men near the attack scene.

"One of the men was found in possession of a 9mm pistol. Ownership details of the gun are still being checked," Reynolds said today.

Members of the Johannesburg flying squad and dog unit joined the investigations and a third man was arrested at a block of flats in Westbury, western Johannesburg at 2am today. A fourth man was arrested at a house in Mayor Avenue, Westbury.

Reynolds said the suspects were being held at the Sophiatown police cells, and were expected to appear in court soon to face charges of intimidation and malicious damage to property.

Meanwhile, two more homes on the Cape Flats were attacked early today as the spiral of violence between anti-drug campaigners and gangsters continued. Sapa reports Hopes for peace between gangsters and anti-crime campaigners appear to be dwindling after at least 16 homes were attacked since the start of the weekend.

Today, a house in Bridge town came under attack shortly before 3am.

Police said a group of people fired on the house in Bluebell Park, a house in Sherwood Park, Manenberg, was fired at by a group of men, police said. Also, no one was injured in this incident.



Intimidation ... a member of Pagad is ready to stand his ground. An attack by the Fast Guns gang on Monday night was the first by gangsters on Pagad in Gauteng, and drew threats of retribution if these acts continue. The car in the background was not one of those damaged in the attack.

Pagad warns gangsters after attack

Star 8/10/97 (38)

Smashing of windows of cars draws threat of a Jo'burg war, with warning that 'If they continue with this type of thing we are prepared to go all the way'

By Mike Masipa
Crime Reporter

The Gauteng arm of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs yesterday threatened a full-blown war on local gangsters and drug dealers following Monday night's attack on a member's house in Bosmont, western Johannesburg.

Four alleged members and a leader of a gang called the Fast Guns were arrested in Westbury and Bosmont after the attack on Pagad member Isaak Williams' house in Bosmont.

The attackers smashed the windows of Williams' two luxury German cars parked in the yard at about 9.30pm.

Williams (43) said two men knocked on the gardener's

back door, mistaking it for his.

His wife later went out and the men went into the house to tell Williams that "the attacks will stop on condition you stop your activities with Pagad".

Pagad has since moved

Four suspects due to appear in court tomorrow

Williams' family to a "safe house".

Gauteng Pagad leader Ayob Mungalee said the attack was the first between gangsters and Pagad in Gauteng.

Similar clashes in the Western Cape have claimed several

lives over the past few weeks.

Mungalee said "the same situation could well happen in Gauteng if the gangsters continued their unprovoked attacks on us".

He said Pagad had at least 5 000 members in Gauteng, of whom 40% were non-Muslims.

"If they (gangsters) continue with this type of thing then we want to warn them that we are prepared to take this all the way. We can confront them," Mungalee said.

He commended the police on their swift reaction to the attack on Williams' house.

"I think we were headed for a bloodbath had the police not been as co-operative as they were.

"It shows that, together, we can overcome the scourge of

drugs and gangsters in our communities," Mungalee said.

Johannesburg police spokesman Inspector Mark Reynolds said local police launched a search for the two suspects, and two 21-year-old men were

Police are praised for their speedy reaction

arrested near the scene of the attack.

"One of the men was found in possession of a 9mm pistol. Ownership details of the gun are still being checked," Reynolds said.

Members of the Johannes-

burg flying squad and dog unit joined the investigations, and a third man, aged 26, was arrested at a block of flats in Westbury, western Johannesburg, early yesterday.

A fourth man was arrested at a house in Mayor Avenue, Westbury.

Reynolds said the four suspects were being held at the Sophiatown police station. They were expected to appear in court tomorrow, when they would face charges of intimidation and malicious damage to property.

Mungalee and a group of heavily armed fellow Pagad members yesterday pointed out a house where police arrested the men and claimed the attack on Williams' house had been carried out from there.

Attitudes to crime have hardened — survey

Bonlie Ngqiyaza

JOHANNESBURG residents' attitude to crime and punishment had hardened with many indicating they wanted more police deployed and harsher penalties for offenders, a survey released yesterday by the Institute for Security Studies said.

The survey, which estimated that over the past five years as many as 65% of Johannesburg's residents had been victims of crime, was co-ordinated by the Safe City project with sponsorship from the Dutch government and the United Nations. It said the majority of the 800 respondents, out of 1 225 interviews, conducted, were critical of government's responses to crime.

The survey was the first to be conducted on Johannesburg's streets rather than in peo-

ple's houses and had respondents selected from informal settlements, suburbs, townships and the inner city across the metropolitan area, the institute said.

Only a small proportion (12%) of victims of crime thought the death penalty would help make Johannesburg safer — a view shared equally among race groups, with 5% of black and 5,3% of white victims endorsing it.

Of all the crime types considered, only serious property crimes like car theft, hijacking and burglary corresponded to police statistics. These had high rates of reporting because of insurance requirements, the institute said.

Reporting rates for a series of violent crimes, including mugging and robbery and all categories of assault, were comparatively low. Police statistics for these crimes failed to reflect their extent accurately. For example,

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only 25% of people who said they were victims of assault without a weapon and 34% of mugging and robbery victims reported these to the police," spokesman Antonette Louw said. The survey indicated that 6% of people in Johannesburg were victims of mugging and robbery.

Of those victims who reported their crime to the police, the vast majority — across crime types — were dissatisfied with the way police dealt with their report, particularly victims of sexual harassment and abuse (97, 1%), it said.

Although the reasons for the dissatisfaction varied, it appeared that poor service rather than inability to solve their case or return their property was an issue. This suggested that in the short-term improvements in police follow-up and improved service and attitude at the charge office rather than an improved case clearance rate, would improve

public perceptions of the police.

The institute said blacks in the Johannesburg metropolitan area were disproportionately victimised — particularly with regard to violent crime such as assault, murder and rape. More than 80% of the victims of these crimes were black while only 67% of Johannesburg's population was black.

Regarding property crimes, whites and Asians were disproportionately affected — for burglary and car theft 35% and 40% of victims were white and Asian respectively, while whites made up only 21% of the population.

The survey showed that while the majority of hijack victims lived in the suburbs, they were predominantly black (72%).

A comprehensive report of victim trends and profiles would be available early next month, the institute said.

Statistics show that the rot starts in Gauteng's copshops

By PETA KROST (239)

11/10/97
robbery following close behind.

More than 1 000 members of the 32 000-strong Gauteng police force have been charged for committing crimes – an average of eight policemen per station.

These horrifying statistics, released this week, emanate from research done between January 1996 and May 1997 for the Gauteng ministry of safety and security.

The most serious offences committed by policemen include murder, rape, corruption, armed robbery and fraud.

The most "popular reasons" cited for Gauteng police suspensions were policemen being connected to "unspecified serious crimes", with murder and corruption taking a joint second place on this list. In Soweto, the most common reason for suspension was also given as unspecified crimes, followed by murder; while on the West Rand, rape is the second most common offence.

In Pretoria, murder, corruption and other unspecified crimes were equally common but in Johannesburg, corruption tops the list, with armed

Since January 1996 in Johannesburg there have been 197 policemen – an average of 10 per station – charged with crimes, while 79 members were suspended. In the whole of Gauteng, 239 policemen have been suspended during this period.

There are 2 771 departmental charges facing Gauteng police, which include petty offences like late-coming, absenteeism without consent, insubordination, failure to respect a lawful command by a senior officer, and misuse of police vehicle or state property.

Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte said it was "heartening to know the police were being open about this" and that "it takes a special individual to come into the police and remain untainted".

She said one had to take into account that "from their own admission to these problems, the police are clearly serious about self-cleansing".

The research also showed that the numbers of resignations and staff shortages were exceptionally high.

Cape officials track down 238 cases of social welfare fraud

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — A total of 238 cases of social welfare fraud amounting to R1,9m in overpayments was identified in a few Western Cape welfare offices by a special task team appointed by provincial health and social welfare MEC Ebrahim Rasool.

Cases where beneficiaries had received irregular payments had been reported to the police. In addition, investigations or action had been instituted against 28 administration officials suspected of fraud. Four officials from old age facilities and one from the Post Office had also been identified as being involved in irregular activities.

This was just the tip of the iceberg, the task team, commissioned in April last year and led by Ernst & Young's Timothy Steele, found. Corruption and fraud within the welfare system was widespread.

In its report, released yesterday, the task team suggested that as much as R20m a year could be saved if findings related to the Worcester and Beaufort West offices, the focus of its study, were extended to the rest of the province.

The task team said that basic changes had to be made to systems to put a stop to the irregularities, which were mainly due to a lack of control and

demotivated staff. Social security applications should be captured onto the computer system at the point of interview to remove opportunities for fraud and cut down on bureaucratic methods.

A standard costing system should be developed for subsidised institutions such as old age and childrens' homes and homes for the disabled, and all individuals in these institutions should be means tested.

Once the social security and subsidy systems had been upgraded, the finance and provisioning systems could be reviewed. Implementing these systemic changes could save as much as R80m a year, the report noted.

"To date, forensic investigations have led to savings to the department in excess of R50m and if the recommendations on systems and data clean-up are followed, savings of approximately this quantum could be achieved annually over the next five years."

In addition to the fraud uncovered by the task team, Rasool also discovered last year that officials had been involved in the irregular award of a R150m contract to Nisec to pay pensions. Thirty staff members are facing fraud charges in this regard and Rasool indicated his intention to take legal action against Nisec to reclaim R150m of welfare money allegedly lost.

(35) BD 14/10/97 (297)

Crime still worries Hillbrow traders

(38)

Concern that situation will worsen if high profile of police and council officials is not maintained

By Rodney Victor

The streets of Hillbrow are much cleaner following a two-week blitz on crime and grime in the suburb, but shopkeepers say they are not necessarily safer.

Police arrested 443 people, and council officials collected 1 750 tons of rubbish during the cleanup, but Hillbrow businessmen still express concern that the situation will deteriorate again if police and council officials do not maintain their high profile in the area.

At a news conference yesterday Hillbrow police spokesman Senior Superintendent

Danie Louw said police had arrested 391 illegal immigrants and 52 other people for crimes that included robbery, rape, possession of stolen property, vehicle theft, theft out of vehicles, dealing in drugs and soliciting for prostitution.

Council spokesman Richard Brown said the city's environmental health department had inspected 129 buildings and fined 98 landlords whose premises were infested with vermin or were exposing residents to other health hazards.

Johannesburg's new hawkers unit had fined 215 street traders for contravening trading by-laws, he said, and traffic offi-

cers had issued 819 fines. Shopkeepers said the suburb was noticeably cleaner and

“It's the

foreigners

who have the buying power

less congested, but added that the cleanup needed to be maintained to be effective. “You can't come in and clean

up once and then expect a miracle,” said long-time Hillbrow pharmacist Harry Lifs.

Hairdresser Mavis Masekwa said the police had concentrated mainly on illegal immigrants. “They should have focused on the criminals, because crime is still here,” she said.

Several shops reported a significant drop in turnover during the cleanup.

“Hillbrow is always full of people, but it has been only half full recently. Business has been very slow,” said fast-food manager Chris Vundla.

Shopkeeper Maude Leo said she had hardly seen a foreigner in her shop for two weeks.

“It's the foreigners who have the buying power. Maybe they will feel safer now that this is all finished and they can start coming back,” she said.

Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte said she supported a move to intensify the anti-crime-and-grime blitz in Hillbrow to focus on more serious crimes: “Everything is going according to plan and we are thus far very satisfied with the campaign. We would like to see more action against drug trafficking and child prostitution.”

She called on the community to support the cleanup by police and the metro council.

Star 28/11/97

Jo'burg Pagad unit held after drugs clash

Star 31/10/97 (38)

Proof that pressure is on us, not dealers, claims movement

By GILL GIFFORD
AND CECILIA RUSSELL

After a week of tension, culminating in a shootout between the vigilante group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) and alleged drug dealers in Lenasia, Johannesburg, this week, police have clamped down on the group and arrested eight people.

All are due to appear in the Protea Magistrate's Court today after an identity parade.

Pagad leader Ayob Mungalee said the arrests are proof that the police are putting pressure on Pagad to stop their activities.

He said that on Wednesday night members of the group went to visit an alleged Lenasia drug dealer to "ask him to stop dealing in the drugs and to come to mosque with our members on Friday". They were threatened by a man holding a gun.

Mungalee claims that Pagad members disarmed the man, but when police arrived on the scene, the man's gun was returned to him, and he opened

fire on them. Pagad returned fire but withdrew when other alleged drug dealers in the area arrived.

According to Mungalee, of the eight people arrested only four were Pagad members. The commander of the group, only identified as Yusuf, was among those arrested.

The others were Isak Williams, Anwar Samodien and Khalil Ebrahim. The other four were arrested while visiting the home of a Pagad member.

"They are to appear in an identity parade today. Those who are not recognised will be released and those pointed out will be taken to court for a bail hearing," Mungalee said.

"We are not denying that our members were involved in the incident, but they were acting in retaliation. They have been held in custody for almost 48 hours, and police are threatening to hold them for seven more days on the grounds of time needed for further investigation," said Mungalee.

But Pagad members, claiming police intimidation, maintain they will continue their stand against drug dealers and

gangsters and a bus load of supporters would be offloaded at the Protea Magistrate's Court in Soweto.

"The police have told us they will oppose bail and ask for our people to be kept in custody for another week if we protest at the court. But their threats will not stop us. We just feel that if police spent as much time and effort fighting crime as they did fighting Pagad, we would have less crime to worry about," said Mungalee.

Captain Deon Hall of the Lenasia police confirmed that several arrests had been made in connection with a shooting on Wednesday night.

"An attack on an alleged drug dealer's house did take place, and a man was shot and is in hospital. We cannot say much as investigations are at a sensitive stage and we don't want this thing to erupt into a Cape Flats-type situation."

Mungalee said the shootout followed a week of action by Pagad members in the Greyville, Lenasia, area. He said the area had about 24 drug dealers "who were holding the community to ransom by terrorising them".

Illegal barriers must go

(38)

Council warns residents that anti-crime barricades will be removed

By Anna Cox
Sandton Bureau

Johannesburg northern suburbs residents have closed off more than 200 roads during the past few months in bids to cut crime. But at least half the closures are illegal, and local councils have served removal notices on many residents.

Greater Johannesburg's Eastern council says barricades — usually booms manned by armed guards — are illegal if they are erected before council approval has been given. The Northern council says all 20 of the blockades in its area are illegal.

However, residents tired of waiting for permission to close their suburbs to criminals have gone ahead, at their own expense, and are employing full-time security guards at the entrances to their suburbs.

The Eastern council claims this has led to traffic congestion on certain roads, concentration of pollution, difficulties with refuse removal and increased operating costs.

The council has a security neighbourhood policy which was approved in April 1996. It allows closures under certain conditions, but very few applications have been approved.

The Northern council is working on a similar policy.

The Eastern council is unhappy that communities are disregarding its policy and has

served notices to residents to remove the illegal barricades.

But residents, concerned for their safety, have vowed to fight the council all the way.

Eastern council spokesman Keith Peacock said the council was aware of the security problems residents faced. It was one of the first councils to develop a policy sympathetic to residents who wanted roads closed temporarily, he said.

He added that the use of boom gates was not permitted at all in terms of current legislation, and the council did not have the power to change this.

"The council would prefer communities to comply voluntarily. However, if, after notification, roads remain closed, the structures will be removed by the council," Peacock said.

Rivonia resident Reinoud Boers, who recently closed off parts of the suburb with gates and booms, said no crime had been reported since the beginning of October, when three roads were closed off and one access point was opened.

"We had a bad spate of robberies, hijackings and break-ins, so we decided to go ahead and close off. We could not wait to go through the lengthy procedures required by the council," Boers said.

An SAPS spokesman said although road closures were welcome and did help to reduce crime, they needed to be backed up by neighbourhood and block-watches to maintain them.

Residents act to keep roads closed

Star 21/11/99 (38)
BY ANNA COX

Two high-powered committees have been formed to prevent the Eastern council from opening about 100 roads in Johannesburg's northern suburbs, where residents have illegally installed boom gates and electric fences to keep criminals at bay.

One committee will examine residents' constitutional rights and lobby for changes to the law that prohibits them from closing the roads off; the other will lobby the council for a reprieve until February.

Last week the council gave residents who put up barricades without permission 14 days to remove them, saying road closures were getting out of hand.

It said the barriers caused traffic congestion on other roads, created difficulties for refuse removal and cleansing operations, as well as emergency services, and restricted pedestrian movement. The council said it had received numerous complaints from the public.

Residents are adamant that the barriers have reduced

crime, and say they will do all in their power to keep them.

They say they are tired of waiting for officials to give them permission to close off suburbs, and claim that applications made 18 months ago have still not been processed.

Kew resident Dawn Piper, who lives in a road which has been closed without permission, says it is not an elitist move by northern suburbs residents. More than 60% of people living in the road had been victims of crime.

"Many of us are struggling to pay for the additional security, but it is our only alternative. By keeping our own road under control, it gives police, who are understaffed, less of an area to cover," she said.

Atholl resident Terry Fransman said homeowners in his street had previously employed a 24-hour foot, bicycle and vehicle patrol, yet in four weeks there had been two hijackings.

"We decided to limit access by closing off roads, and since then, in about 18 months, there has only been one house break-in,"

he said. The council has approved the closure of the road.

Eastern council DP councillor Gail Daus, who was a member of a task team which developed the policy on road closures, said the council took more than 18 months to approve the policy and a further four months to decide how, and by whom applications would be considered.

"In the past two months there has been only one properly convened meeting to consider applications. This demonstrates the unwillingness of the ANC to take the residents' requests for temporary road closures seriously. Citizens have a constitutional right to a safe environment. In these abnormal circumstances, communities should be encouraged to ensure their own security where they are able," she said.

Council spokesman Keith Peacock said the council was bound by an executive committee decision, taken by all political parties, to remove the barriers, and that the council was still willing to discuss a solution with residents.

Robbery still top of crime list in Gauteng

Southern 11/12/97 (38)

**By Ido Lekota
Political Reporter**

ROBBERY remains the most serious crime in Gauteng, with the taking of cash in transit coming second, according to statistics by the provincial ministry of safety and security. Revealed by MEC for safety and security Mrs Jessie Duarte at a media

briefing in Johannesburg yesterday, the statistics show that the rate of murder has increased by 71.6 percent between 1994 and this year. The trend of robbing cash in transit increased by 39.4 percent between last year and this year. White collar crime, meanwhile, has increased by 6.8 percent between 1994 and this year. Duarte ascribed the high increase in

robbery to the high rate of unemployment in the province and the fact that people not originally from Gauteng flocked to Johannesburg with the hope of finding jobs. "Thirty percent of the people living in Gauteng now are not originally from the province," she said. Duarte also disclosed that her ministry was embarking on a R55 million

campaign to build police stations to bring police services closer to communities in the province. She said the building of police stations in Alexandra, Ivory Park, Orange Farm, Diepkloof and Eldorado Park would start soon.

On corruption within the police, Duarte revealed that senior police officers may soon have to declare their income statements for inspection as part of the anti-corruption campaign. "We are currently investigating the legality of demanding that senior police officers show us their income and expenditures," she said. So far 700 police officers have been prosecuted for crimes largely related to car hijackings, armed robbery and bribery, Duarte said.

Mufamadi fails on pledge to guard banks on Saturdays

(36)

Undertaking given after nine branches closed

By GASANT ABARDER

Star 23/12/97

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi has not kept a promise to have police and army personnel stationed outside Johannesburg CBD banks that were forced to close on Saturday mornings because of armed robberies.

Mufamadi made the promise in June when he presented South Africa's national crime statistics for the first three months of 1997.

The Nedbank group announced in May that it was closing nine of its city centre branches on Saturday mornings after a series of robberies made easy because of crowded Johannesburg streets.

A few days after Mufamadi's promise, National Crime Prevention and Response Service spokesman Superintendent Martin Aylward told The Star: "We have certain things in place already, but prefer not to make them public as it would also alert the robbers of what we are up to."

Now Aylward has admitted that police and army personnel had not yet been drafted in to guard banks in the six months since the promise was made.

"We had visible policing in Pretoria and Johannesburg with the flying squad and air force. We did not have men guarding banks on Saturdays - we don't have that kind of manpower and the banks have their own guards," he said.

At the media briefing in Pretoria on June 13, Mufamadi said he "could not allow criminals to force banks in CBDs to close on Saturdays".

"Many people can only go to banks

on a Saturday, and I am ... able to announce that the Minister of Defence and I have agreed that police and army personnel will protect affected branches," he said.

Mufamadi's spokesman, Director Joseph Ngobeni, had no answers for The Star when asked why the promise had not been carried out.

Instead, he criticised The Star for "never doing good-news stories".

However, later he said there was a difference in meaning in "a promise and a commitment".

"What the minister said was not a promise. He merely showed concern and commitment to fighting crime. This was what he tried to show in his original statement," Ngobeni said.

Ngobeni added the procedure was that the minister came up with the policy, but it was up to the operational people (the police) to follow through with a plan of action.

Council of South African Banks (Cosab) chairman Bob Tucker confirmed that the organisation had met Mufamadi in June, but said he was not aware of any action taken by police to guard inner-city banks.

"They (the police) are being highly co-operative. I know that a task team is working very closely to prevent bank robberies, but I don't know enough detail to say if any police or army members were deployed at banks," he said.

It was frustrating that "a few big professional syndicates who will stop at nothing are on the loose", Tucker said.

"The presence of police at city bank branches will not make a difference now. It has gone way beyond that," he added.

All quiet o Waterfr-

Randburg's Waterfront shopping and entertainment complex was once considered a haven for violence, drugs and excessive alcohol consumption. **RICHARD CLARKE** reports on how a tough new manager and his team have restored a sense of relaxed enjoyment

It is now more than three years since the Randburg Waterfront opened to much fanfare, with patrons' cars overflowing onto Republic Road. It opened with the emphasis on one-stop shopping and entertainment.

There were dire predictions from some local residents regarding the possibilities of drunken behaviour and easy access to drugs.

Originally, about half of the Waterfront was taken up by places where alcohol was sold, and this did indeed lead to unpleasant incidents. According to one bouncer who worked there in the early days, bouncers had to use a boat in order to get around fast enough to deal with trouble.

There was trouble with under-age drinking and easy access to drugs for teenagers.

But a great deal changed when Paul O'Sullivan was appointed managing director of the Waterfront just over a year ago.

In the early days, bouncers had to use a boat just to get around fast enough to deal with any trouble

Firstly, he decided there would be zero tolerance of liquor and drugs abuse, whether in the open or in the car park.

The idea of zero tolerance stems originally from the New York police chief who succeeded in dramatically diminishing crime in that city, and it has been mooted as an approach to policing in South Africa.

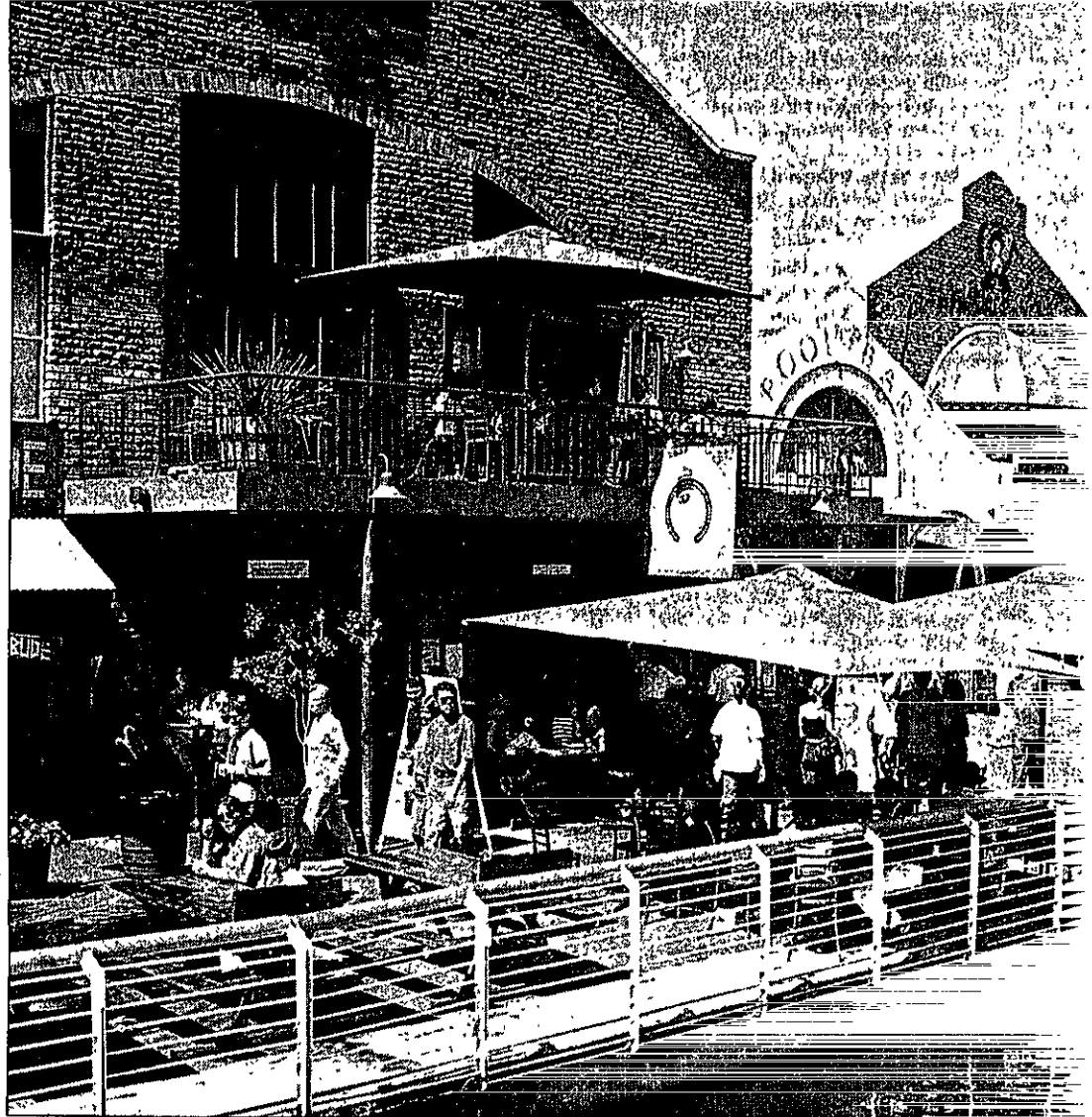
After an appearance on Carte Blanche in March, O'Sullivan has become known as "Major Dad". He has clearly had some success with his plans, as the satellite police station which was stationed at the Waterfront has since closed down.

As Superintendent JB Hayes of Linden police station says: "Those officers were needed elsewhere and now form part of the crime prevention unit that polices a sector of which the Waterfront is only one part."

In conjunction with the Linden police's flying squad, officers make periodic visits to the Waterfront, and any officer on duty is welcome for free coffee at the 24-hour Wimpy restaurant.

O'Sullivan says: "The police cannot get to the Wimpy without making a trip around part of the Waterfront, and this makes the public aware of their presence."

In the process of his approach to managing the Waterfront, the number of pubs and restaurants has dropped from 50 to 30, while Pick 'n Pay has had a turnover increase of 25% and is looking for an



SHOPPING WITH A DIFFERENCE: Being in the open air next to water sets the Randburg Waterfront apart from its

Zero tolerance approach drives out baddie

increase in floor space. This corresponds with an approach to make the Waterfront more family friendly, with more shops and fewer pubs.

Although no clothing stores have closed, some restaurants and pubs have gone under. O'Sullivan explains this with a simple formula: perceived value compared to cost. If the latter is more than the former, the customer is dissatisfied; if vice versa, the customer will be back.

There are some astounding pub successes at the Waterfront, among them The Docks, McGinty's, Morgan's Cat and The Waterfront Arms, and this shows the inherent logic in the perceived-value formula.

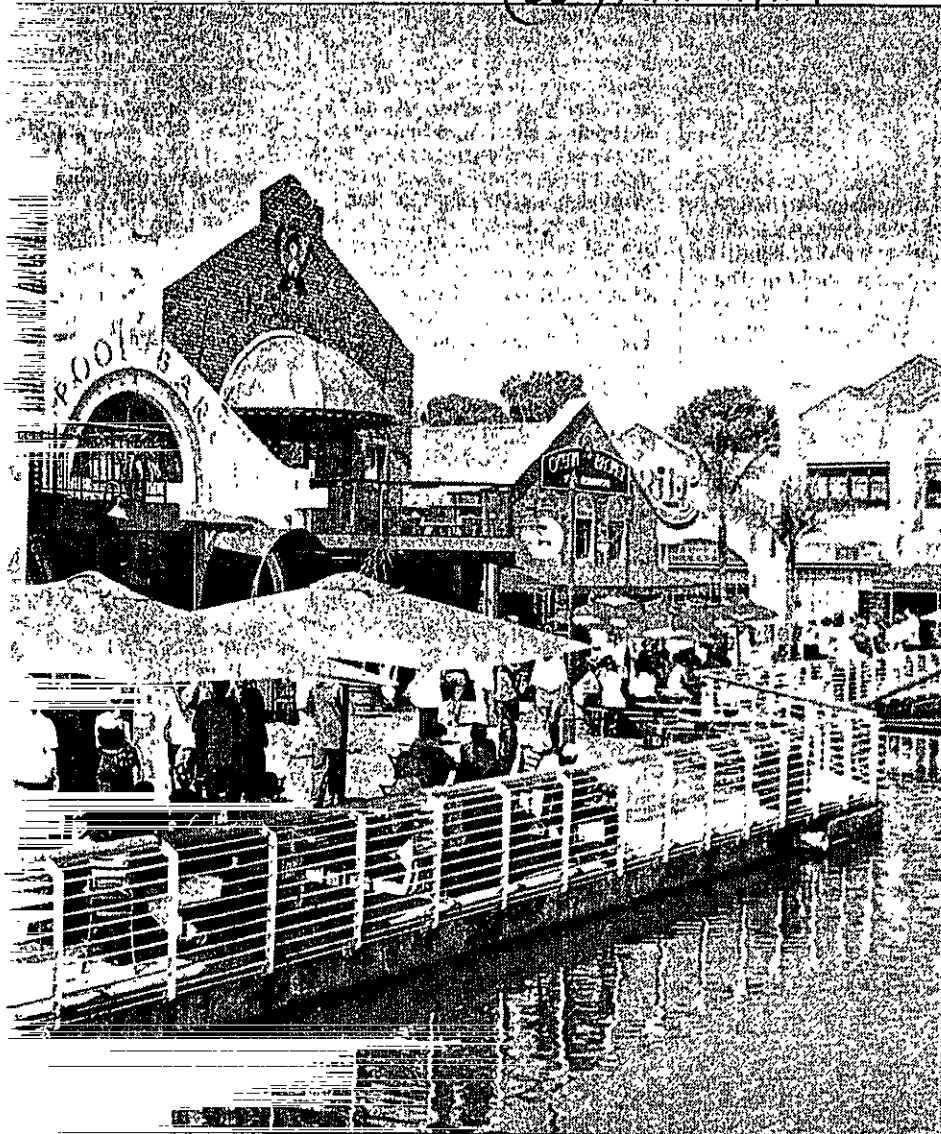
The approach to law and order at the Waterfront is not all about force, although O'Sullivan does have what he terms guest relations officers - big guys who move in to subdue overzealous and rough patrons.

There is also a Christian presence, which includes teachers and professionals. They are there specifically if kids are caught drinking until their parents and teachers are aware of it. One thing is that, depending on where there are different levels of

One thing this reporter has seen is that a number of families with children are enjoying the Waterfront

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(38) 8/19/12/98



Randburg Waterfront apart from the average mall

Photograph: RICHARD CLARKE

ves out baddies at Randburg centre

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There is also a Christian group of volunteers, which includes mums, dads, school-teachers and professional counsellors. They are there specifically to give support if kids are caught drinking and/or smoking until their parents arrive. The critical thing is that, depending on the situation, there are different levels of response.

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LOUS.

One thing this reporter noticed was the number of families with parents and children enjoying the Waterfront at 10 o'clock

on a Friday night, which would never have happened a year ago.

A further change at the Waterfront is the addition of a multidominational coffee shop on the same site where a bar used to serve alcohol to youngsters. Another bar caught doing the same thing is now being used as a venue for the Gauteng Sea Cadets, while ME Stores trades from premises originally occupied by a pub.

Unrelated to other changes at the venue,

Morgan's Pool Bar now collects flip tops from beer cans in aid of wheelchairs for the disabled or for dogs for the Blind Association.

Far-reaching but positive changes, you might say, but some people question certain aspects of the plan.

Some tenants believe there is an autocratic attitude prevalent at the centre. Although they see a certain logic about it all, they would like to be more involved in the decision-making processes. On the flip-side is that management questionnaires never receive more than a 20% response.

O'Sullivan is used to getting results, and he makes decisions and ensures they work. Two actions he took in line with the zero tolerance philosophy were banning all leaflets and begging.

A humorous side to the begging situation happened while I was on patrol with O'Sullivan and security guards in the car park, and they stopped to chase beggars who were harassing people at the main entrance. Those who immediately condemn such heavy-handed-behaviour should have witnessed how fast the supposed cripple ran away with his crutch!

But, jokes aside, it was an eye-opener to see the machinery that works behind the scenes to make sure patrons have a pleasant stay at the Waterfront.

Even the hefty guest relations officers are trained to use minimum force and not to allow any altercations to affect other

Guest relations officers are the big guys who move in to quell disturbances caused by unruly patrons

restaurant or pub patrons.

Next time you're at the Waterfront, remember the people who work long hours to ensure your stay is a happy and safe one, and notice how swiftly the security staff move in before matters get out of hand.

O'Sullivan is not yet finished with his programme as there are still premises lying empty, but he is confident this matter will be rectified in the next few months.

He adds that he would feel happy taking his wife to the Waterfront, and observes that would have been out of the question just 18 months ago.

At present there is little shelter when it rains, but there are plans to install steel and glass covers for the walkways. This would prevent patrons from being closed in like most other shopping malls and would still allow them to enjoy being next to the water.

The zero tolerance approach to running the Waterfront means that drug dealers have moved elsewhere. The Cresta shopping centre and Sandton City are possibilities for a similar approach, but at the moment there is no co-ordinated plan in the northern suburbs, where many teenagers have the buying power that marks them as easy targets for dealers.

CRIME - CAUTION

1998 - 1999

Corrupt cops are sabotaging public's fight against crime

By PETA KROST

Crime Stop's operations are being hampered by police inefficiency and corruption. Information from the public about crimes across Gauteng goes to waste because policemen are either too lazy, undertrained or overworked to follow it up.

In some cases, corrupt cops use the information passed on to them in good faith by Crime Stop to commit more crime - for instance by "re-stealing" stolen cars that informers have informed Crime Stop about.

"Sometimes absolutely nothing is done with the positive information that is passed on to the relevant police units," said Crime Stop commander Jaco Louw.

The toll-free informer service has been lauded in the past by police management as a good tool for solving crime. The public and policemen can give information anonymously to help police investigations.

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An average of 8 000 calls come in to Crime Stop each day. Every week a maximum of 600 calls supply information that is useful for the solving of a crime.

While Crime Stop can boast numerous successes, far too many tipoffs are never followed up by police investigators.

"This is usually because either the policemen are not trained properly or they themselves could be involved in crime," Louw said.

He said corrupt policemen would do what they could to stop Crime Stop from uncovering their wrongdoings. However, there was nothing they could do to prevent being fingered by anonymous informers.

"Corrupt cops need to watch their backs," Louw said. "We often get tipoffs on police misconduct from people who are clearly policemen or police wives who would never call if they had to identify themselves."

TO PAGE 2

Corrupt cops harm crime fight

(38)
251
He told of a specialised vehicle theft unit which regularly received information from Crime Stop in the past. Because of the corruption, however, no arrests were made.

"After about a year, the unit itself was investigated and the corrupt policemen removed," he said.

"It is always best when you know you can trust a particular policeman implicitly and can bring the informer and policeman together to work on the information."

He said it was often difficult to know who to believe: the policemen or the informers.

"There are cases when policemen might recover the stolen vehicle and sell it," Louw said. "The informer who saw the policemen take the car then phones Crime Stop for his reward, only to be told that the information did not pan out. Who do you believe? It is possible that through investigations of their own, another unit recovered the car before the others got there."

Afraid

Once an informer gave information about hidden boxes of stolen groceries, Louw recalled. The police then told Crime Stop how they confiscated six boxes of groceries. The informer was taken aback as he explained that the police had in fact taken 13 full boxes. In that case the informer came forward and made a statement. But often the informers do not want to come forward because they are afraid, Louw said.

A Crime Stop employee explained that she was sometimes fobbed off when she made follow-up phone calls to units to which she had passed on information. She had been told "not to listen to informers", that "informers cannot tell us what to do", that "we are too busy" or that "we'll come back to you about it".

Sometimes she is told that her informer must come in and make a statement, which informers often consider too dangerous. "Part of the reason people contact Crime Stop with valuable information is because they can remain in the safety of anonymity," she explained.

The hierarchical snobbery that exists in police ranks has also proved to be an obstacle. When a low-ranking policeman checks up on what a senior detective has done about a tipoff, the latter may be dismissive of the younger officer.

"I would generally take up this issue, as I have done recently, even if it means going to the area commissioner to complain," Louw said. "This (attitude) cannot be allowed to get in the way of effective policing."

Sometimes information passed on from Crime Stop is lost. Crime Stop has put in place various security checks to be able to keep track of the information. One man, considered an extremely reliable source by Crime Stop, explained that, often, information he had provided was never investigated.

Star 17/11/98
Confiscate
"Sometimes when I give information about a break-in - exactly where the stolen goods and the thieves can be found - the police might go there and confiscate the goods and not even attempt to arrest the suspects," he told the *Saturday Star*.

Following another tipoff to Crime Stop, the policemen confiscated stolen goods in a flat. "They left a note for the suspect to report to them at the nearby police station," he said. Obviously the suspect did nothing of the sort.

Police spokesman Inspector Mark Reynolds said Crime Stop was "one of our assets and one of the systems that works best in the police service. If there are problems, I am sure something can be done to rectify this situation."

Between June and December last year, 1 105 cases were solved because of calls to Crime Stop.

Stolen Telkom cables hits business

By **BUNTY WEST**

An estimated R10-million in Telkom cables has been stolen by organised syndicates since June last year, causing major disruptions to the East Rand's telephone service.

Irate subscribers have been without service for up to six weeks at a time, and several are fed up with lost business.

Norman Stuart of Young, Stuart and Associates in Germiston has resorted to diverting all calls to his cell phone after complaints to Telkom fell on deaf ears.

"Last year, from September 26 to October 19, and then from November 26 to date, the two main lines and our dedicated Internet line have been out of order. We are trying to provide a professional service in Africa which

in turn will benefit South Africa. Yet our goals are blocked through Telkom's third rate service and apparent lack of interest," Stuart said.

But the East Rand manager for telephone services, Dino Chetty, said the situation was not extraordinary.

"There have been 213 thefts of copper cable over the past 18 months in the area, and customers have had to suffer phone cuts for six weeks at a time. Sometimes the thefts are so bad that a complete infrastructure has had to be re-established, which takes time," he said.

Telkom is replacing manhole covers, a point of entry for the thieves, with electronic covers, and employs security guards to patrol severely hit areas.

Chetty promised to restore service to his customers as soon as possible.

(38) () SPAN 22/11/98

SANCO

The chickens come home to roost

The State begins to probe as criminal charges mount

The Office for Serious Economic Offences (Oseo) has begun to look into allegations of fraud and corruption against the SA National Civics Organisation (Sanco), an umbrella body for the township "civics" that sprang up in the mid-Eighties as alternatives to apartheid-sanctioned black local authorities.

These civic bodies were at the forefront of the Eighties' rent and bond boycotts and contributed to the ANC's campaign to render townships "ungovernable".

Sanco has since denounced the perpetuation of these boycotts. But it has been implicated in acts of violence against the State, landlords, banks and their property, and individuals.

What was once an ANC ally has come to be regarded by the party as disruptive to its RDP projects and its Masakhane campaign for resumed rent and service payments.

The mounting complaints against Sanco may evolve into a full-blown criminal investigation by Oseo.

Johannesburg inner city landlords have alleged that Sanco is still using disruptive tactics, trashing the rental market. This has made the owners vulnerable to give-away property bids by Sanco, they say.

"Any possible costs to the public and to local councils as a result of Sanco's actions are of concern," says Auditor-General Henri Kluever. "If proof exists, this needs to be investigated."

Oseo's involvement follows a report late last year on the financial status of Sanco's national office by auditors Price Waterhouse. The report states that "the draft financial statement at March 1997 indicated insolvency".

This is strongly denied by Sanco president Mlungisi Hlongwane.

Sanco founder and Sanco Investment Holdings (SIH) chairman Moses Mayekiso has been quick to draw a distinction between Sanco's "political arm" and its investment companies, SIH and Sanco Development Trust, as well as its community development vehicle, Ilima. SIH has investments of about R30m in blue-chip companies. Hlongwane, who is also a non-



Mayekiso . . . in business, not politics

executive director of SIH, asked at an SIH board meeting last Friday how Sanco could be bankrupt "if it has a 74% share in SIH". Sanco's shareholding in SIH is held by Sanco Development Trust.

A Sanco spokesman supporting Hlongwane's denial of bankruptcy says Sanco made a loan (reportedly R6m) to SIH when it was formed. Whether that amount will redeem Sanco's debts remains to be seen. Meanwhile, Johannesburg sheriffs are frequent visitors to Sanco's offices, seeking to attach property to redeem its debts.

Owed substantial amounts of money in rent because of what they say are Sanco-led boycotts, many downtown Johannesburg landlords interviewed by the *FM* claim they are now unable to pay the council for services and have therefore been served summonses by the council.

Landlords attest to a systematic breakdown of landlord-tenant relations as a result of interference by Sanco. This tactic has resulted in what the landlords say is

their near or actual bankruptcy, and is followed by offers from unofficial Sanco organisers to buy the buildings for "petty cash".

Hlongwane, in the company of Sanco city organisers, has allegedly told at least one property management company that Sanco plans to use government housing subsidies to buy the buildings. Hlongwane, however, completely denies this and any wrongdoing on the part of Sanco. He says he cannot answer for people who claim to be acting on the organisation's behalf, and believes aggrieved landlords tend automatically to associate intimidatory tactics with Sanco.

Landlords say they feel trapped between Sanco on the one hand, and on the other the city council and Gauteng government, on which current and former Sanco members serve.

Sanco's national housing chief, Sandi Mgidlana, sits on the National Housing Board and is a ward councillor for Joubert Park, one of the main trouble spots.

In an apparent effort to ease the crisis, Gauteng Housing MEC Dan Mofokeng, a former Sanco secretary-general, says complaints of exploitation of landlords and tenants are now to be dealt with by the newly constituted Landlord Tenants Board.

Over the past two to three years Sanco inner city branch workers have advised tenants to put their rental money into "club accounts" rather than pay the landlords, and have arranged to pay for council services only, though not all council bills

have been met. Costly evictions for non-payment, which have been borne by landlords, have been followed by break-ins to buildings and these "tenants" being convicted and fined by the State, while Sanco distances itself from their plight.

Death threats have been made to the partners of one property management company and to several landlords, though these cannot be directly attributed to Sanco.

Gauteng Democratic Party housing spokesman Ian Davidson tells the *FM* he plans to call on the Attorney-General "to investigate the criminal liability of Sanco's leadership and the trustees of a certain Vukani Trust into which rental monies have been paid, and for which we have proof, as well as individual Sanco members who have collected monies from tenants which was due and payable to landlords".

He says Sanco's leadership has "ignored its political responsibility while the Attorney-General has ignored the criminal liability of Sanco's members".

Alison Goldberg

Crime dives, so guards become ambassadors

By JACQUI REEVES

On the streets of Johannesburg, council cleaners constantly battle to stem the tide of rubbish gathering on pavements throughout the day. Pedestrians tuck bags and parcels firmly under their arms, watch their backs and make sure they've removed their jewellery before they hit the streets.

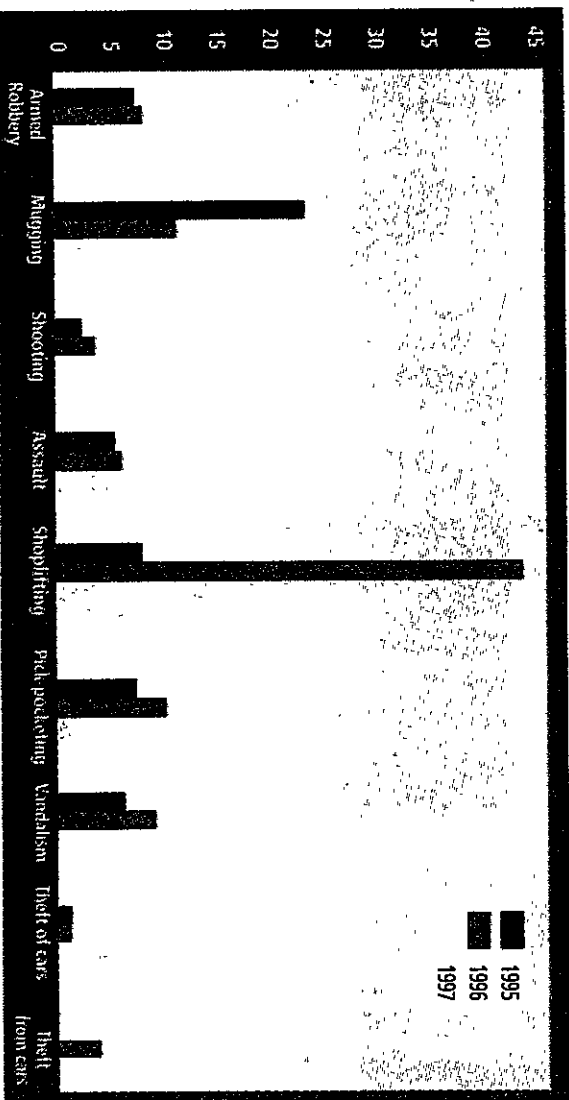
For the thousands of people who work and live in the city, this is a way of life.

Promised projects by local and provincial authorities to upgrade the city are many, but delivery is slow, resulting in a public that is fast becoming sceptical of any new proposals. Good intentions, it appears, are not enough to satisfy the people of the City of Gold.

The now well-established business improvement districts (BIDs) are, however, proving to be oases of success in the fight against crime and grime.

BIDs are sectors of the city where businesses contribute to a central fund to employ private security and cleaning services. The BIDs are managed by a Section-21 company, the Central Johannesburg Partnership (CJP). There are already four improvement districts operating in Johannesburg, offering additional security and cleanliness to the people of the area.

The Central Improvement District (CID), which stretches lengthwise from the Carlton



STEMMING THE TIDE: During the past three years, crime in the Central Improvement District has steadily decreased in all but one category

GRAPHIC: CENTRAL JOHANNESBURG PARTNERSHIP

Centre across to the Holiday Inn Garden Court and from Von Brandis Street across to Von Willeigh Street, received another boost this week.

In addition to their duties as security officers, the 45 foot patrolmen who walk the 12 blocks of the CID have a new task, that of city ambassadors.

In their bright yellow caps and epaulettes they are being asked to do much more than just protect the public; they now also have to guide, advise and direct lost and vulnerable tourists.

"People are always stopping us, asking things like where

the closest bus stop is or where they can cash their travellers' cheques," said security officer Marius Wynne.

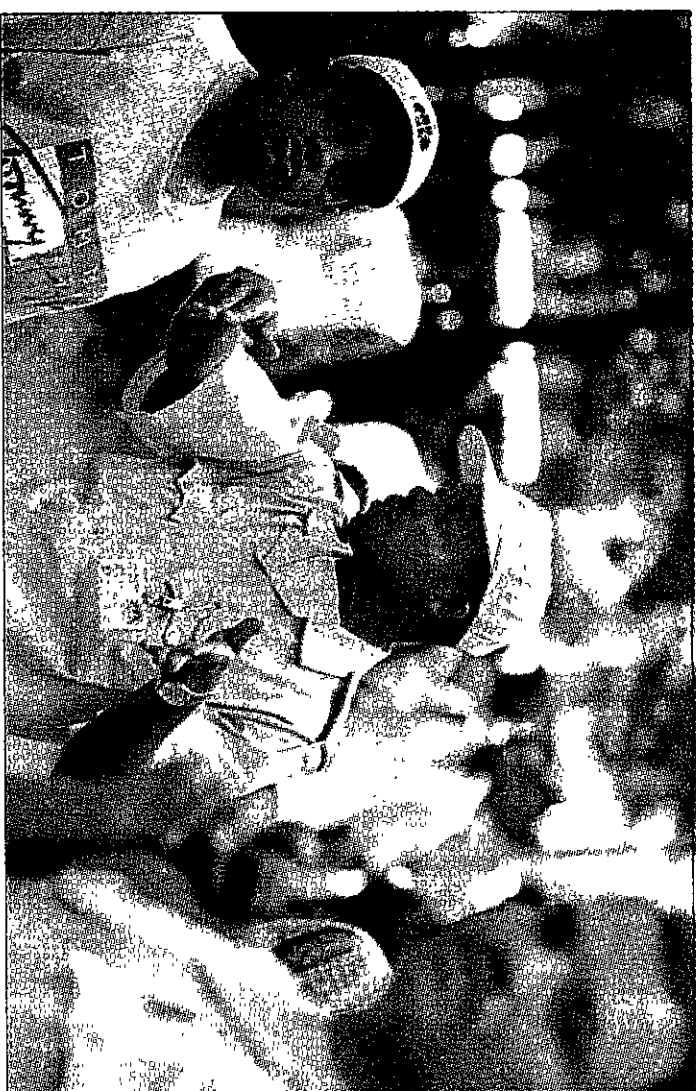
Last year security guards in the CID answered more than 16 000 non-crime-related queries. Most of those were about shops, transport routes and hotels.

The two-month city ambassadors course, presented by the CJP in association with the South African Tourism Authority, is aimed at creating a greater tourism awareness among the officers, empowering them with accurate and useful information about the city.

On the course, officers were briefed on the history of Johannesburg, transport routes, tourist attractions, city management, security issues and general city orientation.

A central control room on the ground floor of the Markade building is open to the public and is used to co-ordinate the movements of the security staff.

Darlington Langa, who along with Marius Wynne emerged top of the ambassador class, has been working with the CJP since its inception four years ago. Langa said he had seen many changes in the CID since he first



TIME ON THEIR HANDS: City ambassadors Darlington Langa and Marius Wynne take time out to chat to a city store-owner about crime in the area

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS ADLAM

set out to protect the public.

"When I first started here we used to arrest between four and 10 people every week and the arrests were often for serious crimes. That simply doesn't happen anymore," he said.

The only crime that has seen an increase in the CID is theft of motor vehicles.

CID manager Franco Andreone said this was a common trend throughout the city.

"There appears to be an increase in the number of vehicle thefts, which form part of a larger insurance scam," he said.

"People hand a copy of their car key to the thief who then 'steals' the car without appearing particularly suspicious, as he has a key."

Last month's closure of the Small Street Mall satellite police station has apparently not made a huge difference to the

CID.

Andreone said CID guards had always taken suspects to Johannesburg Central police station for processing and that the newly established travelling police kiosks were helping to increase police visibility in the city.

Harriet Brooms is one of the female security guards employed by the CJP to walk the

She said that although men think they can get away with crime when she's around, criminals in the area are fast learning not to tangle with her.

After an arrest, a suspected thief who was desperate to escape began to attack Brooms as she led him to their old basement control centre.

Brooms not only defended herself, she directed a swift blow to the man's jaw, and delivered the slightly dazed suspect to the police.

The CID also employs nine street cleaners who last year, in addition to the council service, filled 13 500 refuse bags with street rubbish. They also removed 2 000 illegal billboards, and painted 52 traffic light poles and 166 street poles.

As photographer Chris Adlam and I walked along Kruius Street back to our vehicle, we were stopped by security officer Webster Sibanda.

Noticing Adlam's camera bag, Sibanda assumed we were tourists and asked if we were new to the city and whether we needed any help.

Sibanda said he can usually "read" who the tourists are and keeps an eye on what they are doing and who else might be watching them.

As city ambassadors are trained in the other three improvement districts, citizens of Johannesburg can expect to see this attention to detail with increasing regularity.

(38) XAN 7/2/98

Tuesday February 12 1998

Tourists urged to use protection services in city

By KOLISA VAPI

2003 (38)
2003 12/12/98
Police have urged tourists to make use of tourist protection facilities to avoid being mugged in Johannesburg's danger spots following three attacks on five tourists who were robbed of more than R45 000 in three days.

Alexander Z from the US was held up on Tuesday at the corner of Elöff and Pritchard streets by four men who took R200 and a Visa card. He was unharmed.

On Sunday, two German tourists, Andreas S and Klaus G, were confronted by two knife-wielding men on De Villiers Street. They were robbed of travellers cheques, passports, US dollars and German marks.

Two other German tourists were attacked at the corner of Von Brandis and Market streets last week. Their attackers grabbed cash and a R3 000 camera.

Police spokesman Captain Andy Pieke said yesterday the tourists might have fallen victim to muggers because they did not ask for protection from the tourist protection services.

Information on tourist protection is available at Johannesburg Central police station, Johannesburg international airport, the Central Johannesburg Partnership and the SA Tourist Bureau.

Johannesburg car-guard schemes to be regulated (28)

BY LE-ANN ALFREDS
13/1/96

The Greater Johannesburg Metro Council moved to stop the scramble for territory between rival car-guard schemes with an announcement yesterday that the burgeoning industry would be regulated within two months.

The move, which will make Johannesburg the second major South African city behind Durban to regulate the industry, is expected to reduce street crime in the inner city and provide income for hundreds of unemployed people.

It comes at a time when the car-guard industry in Johannesburg is soaring and growing competition has resulted in confrontations and turf wars.

One caller said several clashes had occurred in the past two months in Rosebank and Parkview.

Parking attendants in car-watch schemes guard cars in exchange for donations. While all donations are kept by the attendants, they have to pay out money daily for the hire of the Greater Johannesburg Metro Council.

Robertshaw said the regulation was to ensure the public received good service; guards were not exploited; and there was co-ordination between the schemes, police and traffic officers.

Existing traffic by-laws which regulate the collection of donations will be used to ensure compliance. The regulations will be enforced only in public spaces in the inner city.

Robertshaw said R400 000 had been secured from the provincial government for the project management, office rents and the training of about 300 guards.

He said proposals had to be submitted by February 24 and schemes would be selected within a month.

Accredited schemes would be obliged to train their guards in proper surveillance techniques and customer service. Guards would not have to pay more than R10 a day for a bib.

Schemes would be allocated areas to prevent conflict.

Braamfontein Parking Attendants' Project co-ordinator Carol Schachinger said regulation would be "wonderful".

She said that Braamfontein's car guard scheme had proved highly successful.

"Crime statistics for this area have really come down."

Council gives nod to car guards

Sowetan 17/2/98

SAPS supports initiative to provide security by informal organisations

By Justice Mohale

THE Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council (GJMC) has officially recognised the informal car guards project, saying it will form part of the city's crime prevention strategy and the creation of jobs for the unemployed.

Chairwoman of the GJMC's public safety and emergency services committee Ms Nkele Ntingane told *Sowetan* that the objective was to formalise and enhance the role of informal street parking attendants.

She added that the council's involvement in car guard programmes was to apply existing by-laws to ensure effective public service.

"Our involvement would instil a sense of security in them. This will also ensure coordination between the state law enforcement agencies and the guards," she said.

Ntingane said the spiralling crime wave in Johannesburg had prompted the council to support any project that would ensure the safety and security of the public. "That's why we decided to recognise and give these organisations permission to operate freely."

The council has raised R400 000 for the project. The money will be used for training, buying uniforms and communication equipment, a base station and rentals, she said.

She said this was the first of a range of crime prevention programmes in the process of finalising a strategy to combat crime in the Johannesburg metropolitan area.

Ntingane said the South African Police Service fully endorsed the initiative. The council appreciated the security provided by organisations in the city but would urge them to apply for permission so they could be allocated areas of operation.

Police take action to win back the streets ⁽³⁸⁾

8/10/98 20/2/98

Sector plan, designed to tackle mugging, robbery and general crime, has been operating in Jo'burg for several months

By GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

Inner-city crime is being fought with a new system of sector policing that police hope will be the answer to SAPS chief executive Meyer Kahn's promise to "win the streets of Johannesburg back from crime" by mid-year.

Earlier this week Kahn said that if there had been no progress in fighting crime in Johannesburg hotspots, he would leave his office.

But Johannesburg police spokesman Superintendent Chris Wilken said strategies to fight crime in the inner city were already in operation.

"We have divided the city into three sectors, all of which have been divided into another 12 sections. And this has been done in conjunction with an upgrade in general policing and an increase in manpower," Wilken said.

Sector one, the priority area, encompasses the CBD and is divided into five blocks or patrol beats.

"The sector is controlled by a superintendent in charge and four captains who head the four rotating shifts, with each shift having 45 members on duty at a time. The men work 12 hours on and 12 hours off, following a four-days-on and four-days-off routine," explained Wilken.

The sector-one area has been allocated four mobile caravans which are used as contact points or crime-reporting stations, and are moved around the city daily.

Sectors two and three are

INNER-CITY CRIME STATISTICS OVER 1996 & 1997			
	1996	1997	% change
Robbery (motor vehicles)	693	587	-15,3%
Robbery (business premises)	357	331	-7,3%
Robbery (residential premises)	27	58	+53%
Bank robberies	10	29	+65,6%
Robbery (mugging)	2068	1830	-11,5%
Rape	153	205	+25%
Theft of motor vehicles	1931	2524	+23%
Theft out of motor vehicles (ie car radios and valuables)	2620	2247	-14,2%
Residential housebreaking (while residents are not home)	278	206	-25,9%
Business premises break-ins	1631	1492	-8,5%
Murder	150	111	-26%
TOTAL	9918	9620	-3%

both manned by a captain with 40 members. Area two includes Fordsburg, Mayfair and the western parts of the city, while sector three covers Selby, Eloff Street Extension and the southern parts of Johannesburg.

"The majority of the men work in uniform. And although it sounds impressive to say we have 180 men available, they are actually required to cover a massive area and their visibility is not as high as we would like," Wilken said.

The sector policing plan was designed to crack down on increasing reports of muggings, bank robberies and general crime in the city, and has been in operation for a few months.

"We are planning to develop

a system to record the successes of the system, and report them daily or every second day," said Wilken.

But the sector policing model is solely responsible for crime prevention, and operates independently from other units.

When crime breaks out in the city, sector policemen have the backup of the flying squad, highway patrol, dog units, public order policing and the robbery reaction unit.

"But we know that as soon as there is a clampdown on crime in one area, the criminals simply move. So the men stay in close contact with police stations surrounding the city to make sure control is maintained," said Wilken.



On the spot ... inner-city policemen on the scene of a CBD shooting. The detectives are part of beefed-up reaction units backing the newly implemented sectoral policing strategy.

Car-guard scheme meets with apathy

By LEE-ANN ALFREDS
City Desk

Plans to regulate the burgeoning car watch industry have fallen flat despite the council's planned Car Guard Project.

The response to calls for applications have been so poor that the Greater Johannesburg metro council has been forced to extend the deadline.

It has also raised the possibility that existing schemes will continue to operate without being registered, creating friction with the council.

The council announced the plan to regulate the industry earlier this month to ensure that car guards were not exploited and that the public received good service.

The project was also seen as an important tool against crime in the inner city as it increased visible policing and discouraged petty crime.

Car guards are informal parking attendants - normally unemployed and homeless people who watch cars in exchange for donations. At the time of the announcement, February 24

was stipulated as the deadline for proposals. But Tuesday came and went with only two applications - from Helpmekaar and Pull Together, forcing the council to extend the deadline, project co-ordinator Richard Brown said.

The council had initially indicated that there was place for four to five schemes. Two private security companies had fetched proposal forms but had not submitted applications. "It's a bit strange. It was very well publicised. There was enormous press coverage," he said.

Brown said the later deadline would put pressure on the council, as they had to complete the project by the end of August in accordance with the provincial government fund granted to train and equip guards.

He said he would also approach existing operations personally to ask them to apply.

He could not say what would happen to operations which failed to apply for registration. "The only way it will affect existing schemes will be if we demarcate and allocate their areas to someone else," he said.

Brown 27/2/98

(78)

Gauteng department causes delay in installation of inner-city security cameras

By **THEMBA SEPOTKELE**
AND **BUNTY WEST**
City Desk

The call for tenders for the installation of 24 high-tech security cameras in Johannesburg's inner city has been delayed until the R1,5-million pledged by Gauteng's department of safety and security has been received.

Project committee chairman Neil Fraser said yesterday that while all the money needed

for the project had been pledged, no money had been received from the safety and security department. The cost of the project is estimated at R4,5-million.

"Although funds have been approved in principle from the SAPS, local businesses and the department of safety and security, until the money is actually in the bank, no tenders can be called for," Fraser said.

He said the delay in calling for the tenders was unlikely to

postpone the installation of the cameras, which was scheduled for September. The cameras are expected to be operational in December.

Fraser's comment followed an announcement by Gauteng's safety and security department on Friday that the surveillance cameras will be installed in the inner city between Noord and Jeppe streets, and Klein and Harrison streets, where most muggings and robberies occur.

The safety and security de-

partment has pledged R1,5-million for the project, with an additional R120 000 for marketing and publicity.

The SAPS will contribute about R2-million, and a business plan has been completed and signed by all stakeholders.

Johannesburg Community Forum chairman Paul O'Sullivan said camera video recordings would be used as evidence to convict criminals, and that the privacy of citizens would be assured.

(38) Star 2/3/98

NEWS NATIONAL

R5-m for CBD crime prevention project (387) Sowetan 3/3/98

THE Gauteng safety and security department, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and Business Against Crime (BAC) will contribute about R5 million towards the installation of close circuit television (CCTV) in Johannesburg.

The CCTV, to be installed in the central business district, will go a long way in the prevention and detection of crime in the city which has become a hunting ground for

criminals.

Department deputy director Mr Sylvester Rakgoadi said a stakeholders committee will oversee the project.

Rakgoadi said his department had committed R1,5 million and a further R120 000 will be used for marketing and publicity. BAC has contributed R100 000 for a feasibility study.

Rakgoadi said the SAPS would con-

tribute R2 million as soon as the business plan for the project was approved.

"Once completed the project will also help to maintain public order while at the same time enhance a sense of security for members of the public."

"The first phase of CCTV is located between Klein, Harrison, Noord and Jeppe streets," said Rakgoadi. - *Sowetan Reporter.*

Tight security but heists up

CT 4/3/98

(38)

JOHANNESBURG: Levels of violence expected only in war situations have been used in bloody cash-in-transit heists and, despite a R500-million investment in improved security over the past year, bank robberies have increased, the Council of SA Banks (Cosab) announced yesterday.

Its research, which contradicts police statistics showing a decline in armed robberies, also states that the justice system has exercised too little expertise in prosecuting robbers and fraud perpetrators.

"We are not saying that government statistics are wrong, they may well be correct. The difference comes in the way we define and categorise the crimes. And the reality is that bank robberies have increased," Cosab chairperson Mr Bob Tucker said.

He said that while more than R500m had been spent on combating bank robberies last year, there had been 465 robberies, in which R136m was stolen. This was up on

408 bank robberies in 1996 when R105m was snatched.

The police late last year reported a 29,4% decrease in robberies, a figure disputed by the banks.

Tucker said: "In May last year banks broke with tradition and released bank robbery statistics and the amount of money stolen. This succeeded in highlighting the problem and provoked action, and we believe the arrests that followed had a lot to do with the energy that was triggered by shocking facts."

Nearly 50 heist suspects were arrested in the past few months, and police say this shows they are winning the war against crime.

Brigadier Mossie Myburgh, a former SA Police Service Syndicate Fraud Unit commander and head of the police component of the Office for Serious Economic Offences, has been appointed to carry out a new strategy that will see Cosab introducing a high-tech assault on the methods used by robbery gangs and syndicates.

Myburgh, dubbed "Mr Crime Fighter" by Cosab, will take up his new position on March 16. He has been tasked with upgrading Cosab's data bank and analysing the information to draw projections of crime patterns, examining the methods of robbers, enhancing co-operation with the police, supplying the Justice Department with correct information to enable them to oppose bail more effectively and to set up a skilled prosecuting team.

His R10m crime strategy project is also aimed at educating employees on information security.

Tucker said media hype around attacks on cash-in-transit vans had created the impression that armoured vehicles were "big tin cans easily broken open with a crowbar".

"The (January) highway heist in Sandton was pulled off by men carrying AK-47 rifles loaded with armour-piercing bullets — the kind used by armies to attack a tank."

Crime: Greeks see minister

Star 5/3/98

(38)

Members of the South African Greek community expressed dissatisfaction with the spate of killings of Greek businessmen when they met Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi at the Hellenic Cyprus Brotherhood Club in Bedfordview this week.

More than 250 Greek retailers had lost their lives through violent crime in South Africa last year alone. People were tired of funerals, said Gary Ttappous vice-chairman of Hellenes for Human Rights, Equity and Justice.

The community was influential. People of Greek origin represented 0,2% of the population but generated 8% of the country's gross domestic product. They had created jobs for 500 000 South Africans, Ttappous said.

The crime wave was causing many job-creators to leave the coun-

try, he added. Twelve of his friends had emigrated in the past year.

Criminals no longer feared the law because their chances of being caught were slim. "Unless the Government prioritises the fight against crime, the future is grim," Ttappous said.

Mufamadi said the Government realised crime levels were intolerably high, but was optimistic the country was getting on top of the problem.

Asked about the reimposition of the death penalty, Mufamadi said the Government was responsive to the wishes of the people, but it also felt it had to lead.

"I am convinced that if we can make sure the police arrest criminals and that the courts sentence them appropriately, then not so many people will call for the death penalty," he said. - Staff Reporter

'I set up the heists'

Bitter former MK cadres speak about their new 'careers' planning big cash-in-transit attacks

by Silla Grobbelaar (3B) Star 7/3/98

An embittered former Umkhonto we Sizwe cadre has admitted to the *Saturday Star* that he helped to set up several of the cash-in-transit robberies in which R100-million was taken and a dozen people lost their lives.

The man, who gave his name only as Peter, said he worked as a "scout" for the gangs planning the heists. He said his former comrades in MK, together with other criminals, were part of a number of "cells" behind the heists.

He and several other former MK men have decided to go public to pressure the ANC into doing something about the plight of former fighters. They all still have their ANC membership cards from years gone by.

He said: "The MO (modus operandi) was to make friends with a low-ranking security guard in SBV (the security company transporting large amounts of cash for banks) or one of the other companies.

"After a while we'd get friendly and he would tell me, for a fee, who in the company dealt with schedules and timetables and who would be willing to deal with us."

The gang would pay those contacts "thousands" for the information, he added.

Peter said there were several cells that held regular meetings in Pretoria and a number that met in Bedfordview. The meetings were used to plan robberies.

Vulnerable spots

Other ex-MK fighters who spoke to the *Saturday Star* claimed that some of the money taken in the heists was "being sent out of the country to start businesses".

Their remarks confirmed earlier reports by this newspaper quoting a police informer and security industry sources as saying money was being channelled to neighbouring states such as Botswana.

One ex-MK man claimed that the money "might even be used one day to start a party to challenge the ANC".

Peter, who is crippled by a bullet he took in combat in Angola, said the robberies were easy for the former guerrillas. "The MK cadres are very experienced. After the 1992 raids, they know every vulnerable spot in and around Johannesburg - that's why they can, and do, plan the attacks with military precision.

"The police can't or won't catch them because some of the police are in on it too.

"Think for yourself," he said. "The police and security guards are so poorly paid, what will stop them from making more money?"

He said also some of the policemen involved were ex-MK members. "It's just a case of comrades dealing with comrades."

Peter's confession came in an interview at a café in Yeoville, but only after a number of telephone conversations over a period of days, and an eventual five-hour trip around Johannesburg suburbs during which photographer Thys Dullaart and I met a dozen or so ex-MK fighters and former ANC exiles.



POWER DANCER: Muzie Cekwana lifts Jeanette Jarvie in Savannah, choreographed by Cekwana for the West performed last week at the gala evening of the B Vita Dance Umbrella 1998

P.T.O.

Parents call on police to raid schools

8/01/98 9/3/98

(38)

Eldorado Park pupils form self-defence units and ask to be armed, while teachers do searches to counter gang violence

By JACQUI REEVES
Education Reporter

Embittered parents in Eldorado Park, west of Johannesburg, are set to call on the police to mount surprise raids on schools in a bid to halt growing gang activity and playground violence.

Violence and intimidation on playgrounds and in areas around schools has, say many parents and pupils, reached a critical point. Many believe police intervention might be the only "shock therapy" that will solve the problem. Just a month ago, a 14-year-old boy was shot by two of his classmates.

Pupils and parents in the area, who all spoke on condition of anonymity, told of gangs walking on to school grounds and mugging people in toilets, a girl gang known as the Makaveli Queens terrorising pupils at one school, and playground brawls between gangs.

Gauteng Education MEC Mary Metcalfe said any police raid on a school would have to be done in close co-operation with the staff and only if there was sufficient concern to warrant the use of a controlled search.

Although school governing bodies have the right to call in police assistance, Bheki Khumalo, spokesman for Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu,

said parents needed to understand their role in discipline.

"Schools are there to reinforce the discipline that students should be getting at home," he said.

Charmaine Arendse, chairwoman of Willow Crescent Secondary School's governing body and a member of the steering committee for high schools in the area, said she would be inviting principals from the area to join her this week at a meeting with the local police to discuss the problem.

"Parents from all over the community have said police action may be the only way to help make their kids safe at school. So we need to get the principals behind us if we are going to ask the police to become involved," she said.

A spokesman for the provincial commissioner's office said police would be willing to raid schools if the community made the request.

School managers, parents and children say pupils are scared of possible reprisals if they report an incident to school authorities or the police.

"The gangs will come back and make your life hell if you speak, so most kids just keep quiet," said a Grade 8 pupil.

Ahmed Sulliman, principal of Silver Oaks Secondary School, has taken a tough line. A wall

has been constructed around the school to keep outsiders out, and the main gates are locked during the day to keep the pupils in. Sulliman said regular blitzes, in which teachers search pupils, have helped to tighten discipline.

Although other schools in the area also use teacher raids to check for weapons and drugs, some pupils feel the actions of the teachers are leaving them unarmed and defenceless.

Numerous pupils claim to have been targeted by the gangs on their way to school or on their way home.

Ebrahim Evans, the deputy principal at Willow Crescent Secondary School, said organised gangs outside schools were creating problems for pupils.

Sulliman said: "The students feel they have to group together for safety to protect themselves from the gangs outside of the school, and they want to be armed to do this."

He said the groups were not formed with the intention of being gangs but rather as a method of self-protection.

Sapa reports that a young man and two children, a six-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy, were killed when a running gunbattle erupted between the Dixies and the Junky Funkies gangs at Bonteheuwel on the Cape Flats late last night.

Alcohol linked to criminality

Socio-economic conditions top the list as the biggest contributor to crime in the Greater Johannesburg area, followed by alcohol and firearms, according to a recent survey.

The survey of 38 Johannesburg police commissioners on what they believed caused crime was conducted by the University of the Witwatersrand's Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation.

Housebreaking was listed as the top crime problem for station commanders and the study also showed that a repeated

link was made by the commissioners between crime and substance abuse, particularly alcohol.

"If there's no food, no roof over your head, then something has to be done and the easiest way to do it is by means of small crimes and they sometimes lead to big crimes," said one of the commissioners interviewed.

Janine Rauch, the head of the project, noted: "The references to alcohol were universally made in relation to violent crime such as assault, rape and murder." Sapa

8
71887

Star 13/3/98

(38)

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

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HOUSE AND CONTENTS

Collection of art. The property of the owner, a renowned Art Dealer, now relocating.

Opposite Redhill School and the Sandton Police Station, on Summit Road (Summit Road), turn into Woodburn Road and then turn into Woodburn Place.

LARGE LUXURY HOME IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC

in, with good borehole water. Comprising lounge, family room, TV room, study, bedrooms (main en suite). Double staff quarters with full bathroom. Covered patio for entertaining. Covered parking for 4 cars plus parking for 8 additional cars.

CATALOGUED AUCTION

CONTENTS OF HOME:

Collection: Two Henry Moore watercolours, L Pissaro oil, two Sir Leonardo Coccorante (1680 to 1750) on copper, John Piper Portway, A Vickers, J van Dyk, David Roberts and many Gerard Bengu mixed media, Louis Knehla Maqhubela oil, Ngatane oils, Tinus de Jongh, W H Coetzer, Adriaan sche, Corne Bosch, Errol Boyley plus many more.



C

Rampant corruption in licensing office

False registration forms and other misdemeanours

C rime syndicates now control the Johannesburg licensing department to such an extent that provincial parliamentarians want the defence force called in to normalise the situation.

Only the army, they say, can cope with intimidation on such a grand scale that municipal security guards have fled, and a member of the SAPS anti-corruption unit, sent to investigate, left after just two months, saying he feared for his life.

Crime syndicate members and their agents are free to roam the building and conduct illegal transactions without any monitoring.

The extent of the corruption is horrifying.

A widespread problem is the forging of vehicle registration documents. Initially fraudsters were using colour photocopies of the original motor vehicle licence and registration certificate, but their work has been made easier by simply paying staff at the department to steal the original for them.

It has been alleged that between 6 000 and 9 000 blank vehicle registration documents have disappeared from the licensing department's Loveday Street offices in the past three months. With an ordinary colour laser printer it is easy for a member of the public to use these documents to register any vehicle in their name.

The forged certificate of registration that the *Saturday Star* has in its possession was printed on a stolen original, and is so well done that the



Monday
Wikipedia

8/18/98

Licence to kill? It's easy

Members of crime syndicates are able to phone a contact in the Johannesburg licensing department before they hijack a car and - with that car's registration number - are able to get the engine and chassis numbers. Before a car is stolen or hijacked, it can already be registered in the name of the new "owner". In the past few months, the names of fraudsters inside the licensing department have been passed on to the internal inspections division as well as a special unit of the SAPS set up to help the licensing department - but action has been slow or not forthcoming at all.

stations. These positions are rotated every three months.

Another scam involves affidavits: the *Saturday Star* has in its possession a blank affidavit form, signed and stamped by a police officer, which anyone can buy for R50.

The affidavits are used in applications to obtain duplicate registration documents for a vehicle - and, for R2, a "go-between" will lend you a pen to fill in your forms. For R20 he or she will actually fill in your form for you.

Sources within the department said a police officer, sent to arrest a licensing official for allegedly trying to use forged documents, was so severely intimidated that he left, and the official was never apprehended. He still works in Loveday Street.

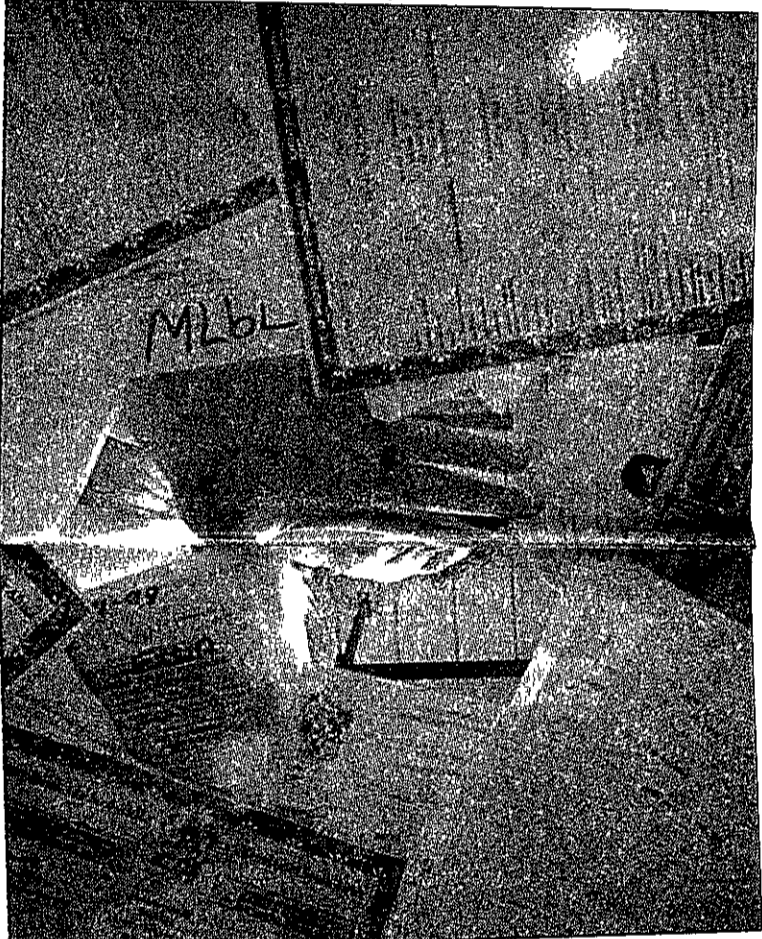
The police have also been implicated in vehicle registration fraud. The *Saturday Star* managed to obtain five original application forms that were confiscated in just one week at the Johannesburg licensing office.

Each application had a "legally" obtained clearance certificate from the police, but either false ID documents or false registration certificates accompanied the clearance certificate.

If a car has been stolen, it needs a clearance certificate before it can be registered in the new

owner's name.

There are seven stations where the public can take their cars, along with all relevant documentation, to get cleared. Police officials physically



ENOUGH ALREADY: An official from Johannesburg licensing department surrounded by just one week's takings of forged registration documents. PHOTOGRAPH: RIAN HORN

There's no money to clean up the mess and the skulduggery

In July last year the public safety and emergency services committee of the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council set up a task team under the leadership of councillor Kate Lortimer to try to find solutions for the problems at the licensing department.

Some of the recommendations it came up with were that all acting positions be filled by November 1997; that when the National Traffic Information System experiences "down time", the doors of the licensing department should be closed; that security guards from the council should patrol the building; that stricter control should be exercised over private roadworthy-testing stations; and that an investigation be done into security documentation and scanning machinery in order to limit forgery.

According to the executive officer of traffic management services, Titus Malaza, the traffic department does not have the money to implement the recommendations of the task team.

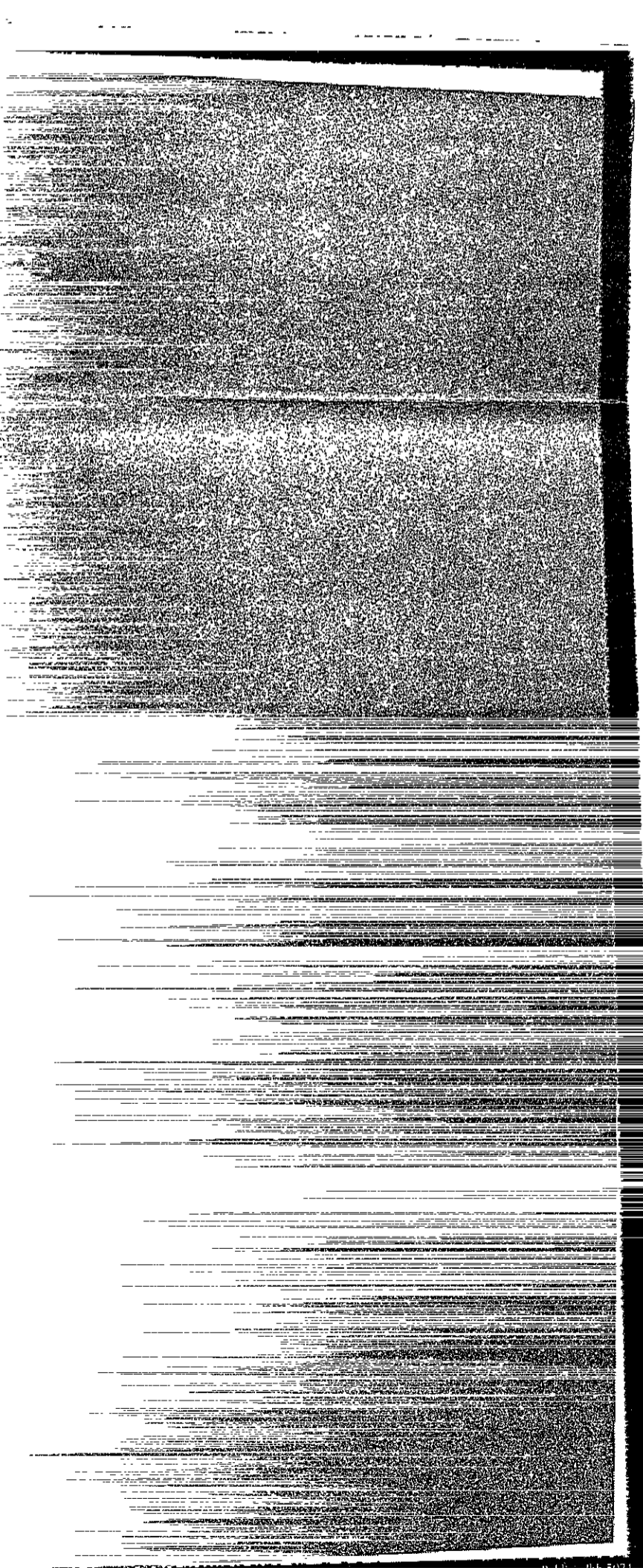
"We don't have permanent managers at any

of our offices, we desperately need manpower but there just is no money.

"We would like to register vehicles the same way they do in other countries, where the public fill in their vehicle registration forms and return a week or two later to pick up their licence. We believe this will help to cut out corruption."

On the issue of the 6 000 missing registration certificates, Malaza said: "I'm not aware of documents being missing. If they are indeed missing, the Johannesburg office should have informed me about it."

The *Saturday Star* did try to contact officials from the two staff unions at the licensing department, but they were not available. The strategic executive for public safety and emergency services, Hilow Mabele, refused to comment on the situation at the licensing department. The chairwoman of the licensing task team, Kate Lortimer, was unavailable for comment. Attempts to contact outgoing Gauteng Transport MEC Paul Masatlle were unsuccessful.



picked up that it was false was the incorrect spelling of very simple words.

Under normal circumstances, licensing department cashiers have to sign for these blank forms, and at the end of the day they have to sign for the batch that remains and give an account for those that are missing. But because of staff vacancies in the top five managerial positions in the department, these cashiers are left largely unsupervised.

About 21 of the 107 cashiers at the Johannesburg licensing department are acting in managerial po-

against the documentation. Once all the information checks out, a clearance certificate is issued.

Police spokesman Captain Siphon Ngubane said: "We are aware of the fraud being committed by police officers with regard to clearance certificates. The anti-corruption and vehicle-theft units are investigating several cases of clearance certificate fraud.

"The South African Police Service sees this matter in a very serious light and action will be taken against anyone found guilty of such a crime."

Africans lagging behind on productivity

Africa represented 13% of the world's population, but produced only 1,7% of the world's total wealth, Pan-African Productivity Association president Jan Visser told a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity's labour and social affairs commission in Pretoria this week.

The OAU meeting was also presented with a World Economic Forum report on African competitiveness.

According to the report, South Africa came seventh, but compared with 46 other developed countries, it ranked only 44th. - Sapa



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Crime happens because people let it happen. Crime also happens because people refuse to get involved. But, as Heather Hogan reports, there is at least one Johannesburg citizen who has rolled up his sleeves and decided to come out fighting

The bus commuters' guardian angel

At first, Paul Davidson, a regular bus commuter, was unaware of muggings and pickpocketing on Johannesburg's buses. Then, in conversation with clients and fellow church members, the 54-year-old labour relations consultant, of Rosettenville in Johannesburg's southern suburbs, was horrified to discover how often the attacks occurred.

But instead of using the information merely as a dinner-table topic, he decided to do something - mainly because 70% of the victims are pensioners. For two years now, Mr Davidson has been patrolling buses in his spare time.

"I have an interest in the aged. It was because of their complaints about the situation that I became involved," he explains.

At first, Mr Davidson tried to cooperate with the police and bus services - with little joy.

Almost a year ago, he sent several faxes to Johannesburg's Metropolitan Bus Service spokesman Esther Dreyer and National Police Commissioner George Fivaz, but was met with silence. He sent a second batch of faxes this month. So far he has had no response.

In his two years as self-appointed "protector", he has seen it all: gangs of pickpockets and muggers who prey regularly on bus commuters. Mr Davidson knows their faces and their modus operandi - and they definitely know his.

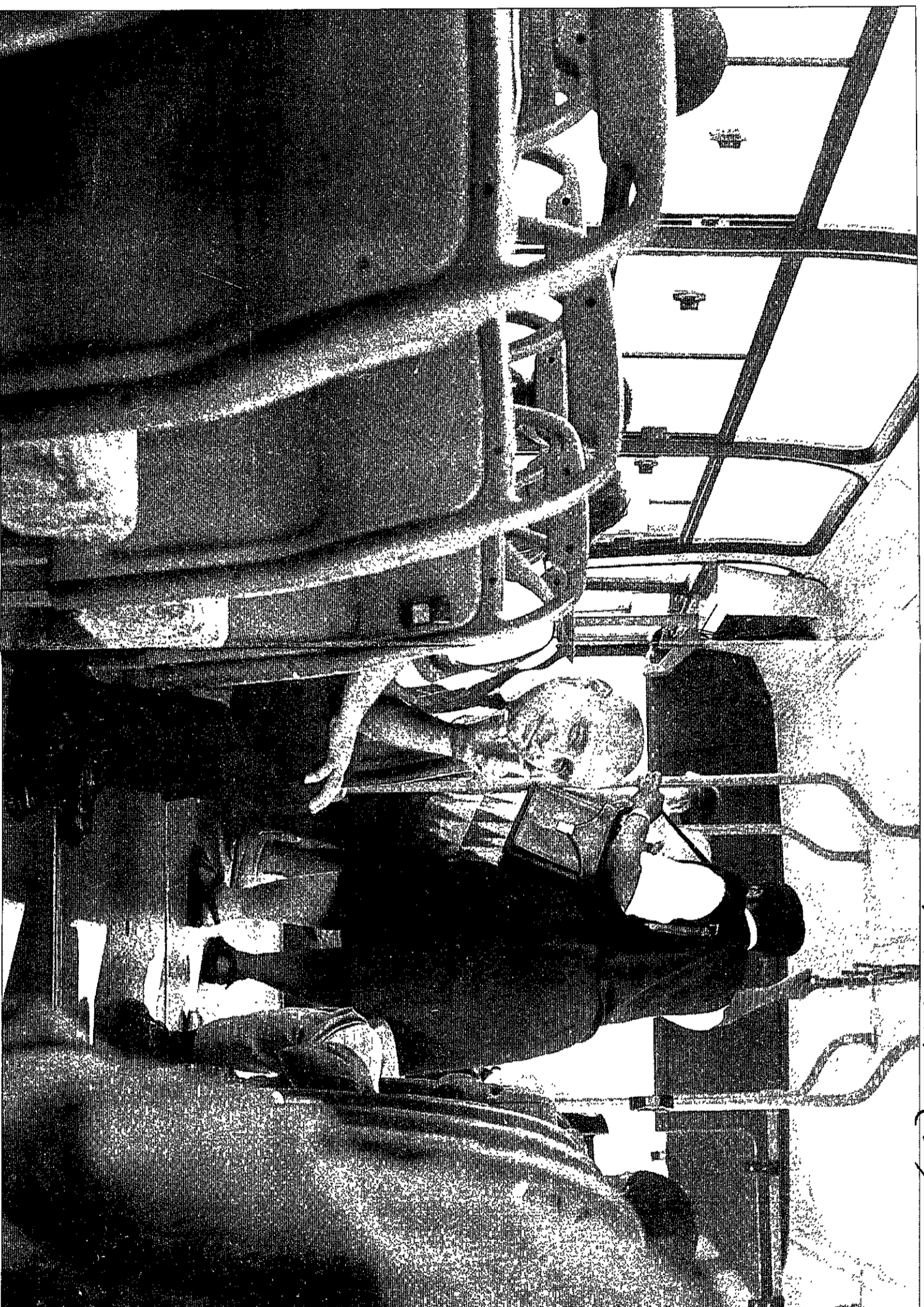
"I know them when I see them, and they know me. Intervene when I see them about to tackle somebody. I demand that they get off the bus, and they do," he says with a wry smile.

The slightly built Mr Davidson has never come to physical grips with the muggers, but they have threatened him. "They say they'll stab me for interfering."

No one pays him for his "service". He has simply taken it upon himself to become the "guardian angel" of the bus commuters.

ART 26/14/98

(38)



people.

Passengers are reluctant to press charges against the pickpockets, fearing what the thieves will do to them once they are released from custody.

But without the victims' statements, Sergeant Bekker and his men are helpless to stop the criminals - and the muggings continue.

The buses travelling to Johannesburg's southern suburb seem to be a favourite of the muggers. But the Yeoville/Hillbrow routes, the Eastgate bus and those travelling from the Magistrate's Court are also hard hit.

Mr Davidson travels along the bus routes he believes the pickpockets are most likely to target - those going to and from hospitals and where older people are more commonly found.

Pickpockets seem to target passengers towards the end of the month, as many people have their wages, which are often paid in cash, on them.

Another favourite day is the 7th of every month, when pensioners get their pensions. Business slacks off until the middle of the month when disability and veteran grants are paid out.

Mr Davidson believes the police could stop the muggings if they patrolled the buses more regularly. What shocked him most was when a driver told him that they "refused to put their lives on the line for passengers".

Come what may, though, he will continue patrolling the buses, protecting those in need of his help. He will keep an extra vigil on pension-payout days.

But Sergeant Bekker says police are winning the battle against the muggers and arrests have already been made. He says plainclothes officers have been stationed on the buses since last year.

Unfortunately, many of the thieves are repeat offenders who, once out of prison, simply return to their old ways.

Police are understaffed and cannot be everywhere at once, Sergeant

PROTECTOR: In his two years as self-appointed protector, Paul Davidson has seen it all: gangs of pickpockets and muggers who prey regularly on bus commuters

are helping them, but they must be aware of it... They've told me they are not going to put their lives on the line - even though they know it's happening.

"They say they have reported it, but that they get no backup from their own superiors. I mean, if a driver knows what's going on, then the possibility is there that he is perhaps getting something out of it."

When approached for comment on the allegations, Metropolitan Bus Service customer services manager Toinette van Nickerk said the company believed in the honesty of its drivers.

But passengers still suspect that drivers work in collusion with the criminals, despite the assurances.

Barely a day passes without some unfortunate soul being mugged on a city bus. Poverty-stricken pensioners are robbed of their pensions before a driver's eyes, while other passengers find themselves without

wallets in the blink of an eye.

Just how safe are you and your valuables on Johannesburg buses, and who are these criminals who Mr Davidson can identify?

Take the "Cheetah Bag" thief. Late in the afternoon on April 1, the Number 46 bus travelled down Eloff Street Extension towards Rosettenville.

A well-dressed man sat on the long seat in the front of the bus, his black suit and brown straw hat immaculate. At a casual glance, he might have been just another passenger on his way home. But it was impossible not to notice the large plastic bag he was carrying. The bag, with the image of a cheetah's head printed on it, bulged with purses and wallets.

An old woman disembarked at a bus stop along the route. The thief was right behind her. Without a moment's hesitation his fat fingers tore her sling-bag from her shoulder. Then, like a magician, he was gone.

The bus pulled off and left the old woman standing dumbstruck and helpless.

Then there is the "Professor" - a tall, fat man who is always smartly dressed. His gang is one of the oldest.

There is also a man known to the police as "Fats". He resembles the "Professor" in many ways, he's just fatter - there's no kinder way to put it. But his obesity is no obstacle; on the contrary, he uses every inch of his body to help his cronies trap their victims. "Fats" usually wears jeans and a T-shirt or a white anorak. His pickpockets are the most active.

Another very active thief, called "Scarface", has terrible scars all over his face. His gang is relatively small. "Scarface" originally worked for the "Professor" and then for "Fats", now it would seem he is self-employed. Sometimes he receives help from a young woman who acts as a decoy.

According to Sergeant Beker, of the South African Police Service, some of those involved are "part-time" pickpockets.

"These men might only rob somebody every six months or so, if they're short of cash. As for the more permanent pickpockets, they alternate between buses and trains. Every time the buses get 'too hot' because of police efforts, the thieves start working the trains. It's a vicious cycle."

In some cases, the mugger's plans have taken a humorous turn. Stanley, a 68-year-old retired fireman, was carrying a huge, bulging object in his back pocket. "Scarface" decided Stanley was his next victim.

He followed him, pushing and showing the old man as they climbed off the bus. During the fuss, "Scarface" stole the object out of Stanley's pocket.

But Stanley had the last laugh: in his haste, the thief had mistaken a

wallet.

But not all victims have been so lucky.

Mr Gomez, who receives a disability pension, and his wife were travelling on the South Hills bus when muggers grabbed him. Mr Gomez made the mistake of struggling. The muggers pulled a knife and pointed it at him and his wife.

"They rummaged through my pockets, but found nothing, except my bus ticket. They threatened us, then threw the ticket on the ground and left us alone," he recalls.

The couple may have escaped physical injury but the emotional trauma stays with them. Pensioner Robert Wood of Turfontein was another victim. He was mugged minutes before being interviewed.

As the retired fitter and turner climbed on to the No 46 bus at Turf Club Street, he heard somebody

was behind him, pushing him on to the bus with his huge stomach. Mr Wood fell on to the long seat at the front of the bus, and "Fats" sat down beside him, squashing him into the corner of the seat.

"Another gang member leant across and took my wallet out of my breast pocket," he says.

Mr Wood clearly remembers screaming to the driver, "Stop! Stop! I want to get off", but the driver, who had witnessed the crime, turned away. Ignoring the helpless pensioner, he kept his eyes on the road.

One bus driver said that he - and his fellow drivers - had been instructed not to get involved, even if they were aware that a mugging was taking place. The bus company denied that such an instruction had been issued.

Victims are of all ages, races and sexes but, according to Sergeant Beker, 70% of victims are elderly

another.

Although picking somebody's pocket at knife-point falls into the category of armed robbery, which carries a stiff sentence, some pickpockets are out of jail in less than a year. Others are let out on bail almost immediately and never even reach jail.

In the meantime, Sergeant Beker and his men are still trying to stop the pickpockets, but they need your help to do it.

Avoid being a victim by staying alert. Hang on to your bags - and, ladies, don't carry your purse in your bra because this is an open invitation to thieves.

If you are elderly and need to fetch your pension, try not to travel alone.

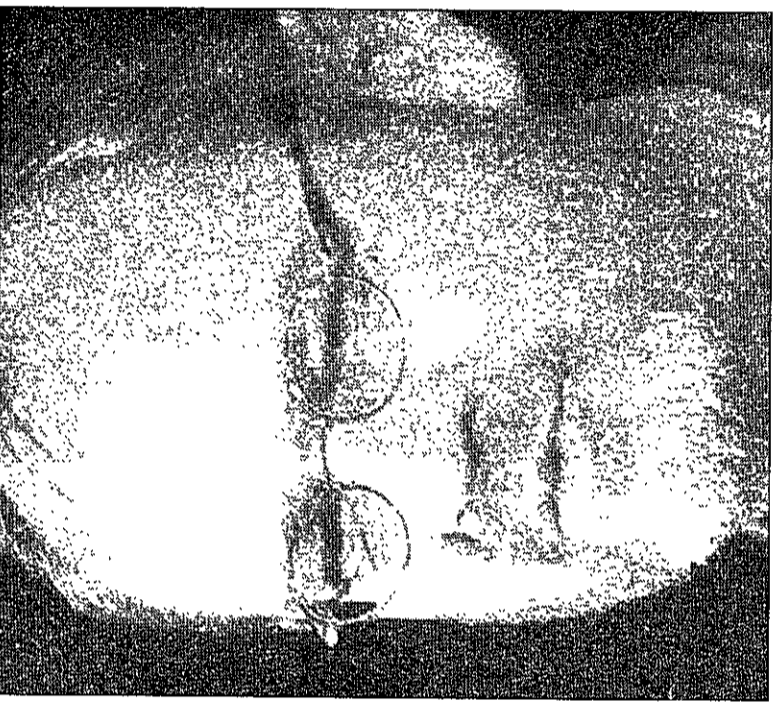
"The whole aim of my patrol is to stop this thing," says Mr Davidson. "If the criminals find they're getting away with it, then what's to prevent other people from doing it?"

'TV shows muggings, overdue debate', programme confirmed to it,

NITHATO MOTLANA: interview was withdrawn



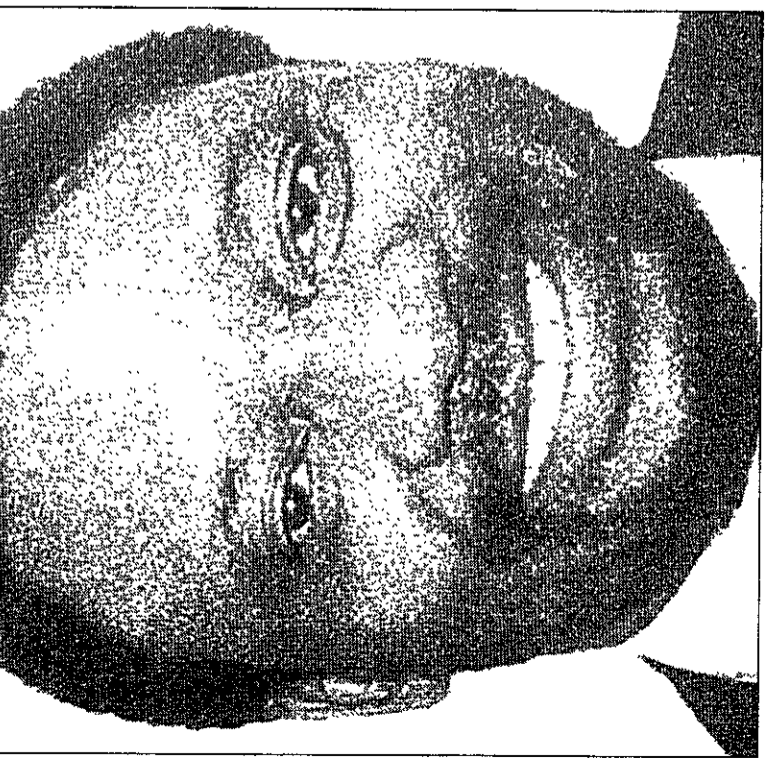
MAX DU PREEZ: programme sparked off debate



PAM GOLDING: showed Pilger around a Cape Town mansion



CYRIL RAMAPHOSA: was slated in the documentary



JACQUIE GOLDING-DUFFY
NATIONAL MEDIA EDITOR

Socialite Edith Venter, a patron of the Cancer Association, believes she was "ambushed" by TV journalist John Pilger in his documentary *Apartheid Did Not Die*, which was screened on SABC 3 earlier this week.

Ms Venter said she was under the impression that the thrust of the RTV crew's interview was "to highlight differences between first and third world fashion" when filming took place last year.

She was shown wearing designer garb and expensive jewellery in shots that were used to highlight the disparity in wealth between black and white South Africans.

"I'm disgusted by what happened to me. When I was asked to do it last October I thought it concerned fashion and trend differences between the first and third worlds - whether

we had good couturiers here or not. I said of course we do. To show how good they are, I modelled a few outfits. I was asked, in passing, about the situation in the country and I spoke about the work I have done with cancer patients as my way of giving back to the community. What he (Pilger) has done is twist everything, juxtapose me against a squatter camp, misconstruing things.

"I find it sleazy and take strong exception to it," she said.

Other prominent people who also appeared to have been "ambushed" by Pilger include top estate agent Pam Golding and Anglo American corporate spokesman Michael Spicer.

Ms Golding was filmed making admiring remarks about former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as she showed Pilger around a Cape Town mansion. Mr Spicer was tackled about the mining industry's attitude to the huge casualties in gold mining, illustrating

Pilger's point of "nothing has changed" since the new dispensation.

Ms Golding chose not to comment as she has not seen the programme while Mr Spicer was on holiday "with family", according to Anglo American.

Nthato Motlana, chairman of New Africa Investments Limited, was interviewed by the TV crew, but his insert was omitted from the final edited version of *Apartheid Did Not Die*.

According to insiders at Nail, the "stark omission" of "a well-respected black business man with a struggle history" meant Pilger's documentary was "evidently not balanced".

Pilger could not be reached for comment despite repeated efforts. Cyril Ramaphosa, deputy chairman of Nail and former African National Congress secretary-general, was attacked in the documentary. Mr Ramaphosa's office said he "did

not watch the documentary" and was "unable to comment".

The thrust of Pilger's documentary, screened simultaneously in Britain and South Africa, was that the country was still gripped by an economic apartheid, with a handful of people still controlling the country's wealth.

Freedom of Expression chairman Mandla Seleane said Pilger's documentary was "informative" and "provocative" in a number of respects, but "those of us who are familiar with John's work might feel, however, that he was not nearly as probing as he could have been".

Raymond Louw, a media commentator and editor and publisher of Southern Africa Report, said Pilger's "attack on Cyril Ramaphosa was unjustified and my overall impression was that Pilger was sad that we did not go the socialist route".

Mr Louw said the documentary was a "mixed bag". "It was seriously

inaccurate in parts, but accurate in others and quite devastating in yet others. There is no doubt that he had his own agenda and the programme conformed to that agenda.

"Nevertheless it was important for South Africans to see this and debate it."

Pilger brought the world's attention in the late 1970s to the full horror of the Cambodian genocide. He has gained a reputation as a crusading journalist, highlighting the plight of the East Timorese and Aborigines of his homeland.

Max du Preez, former editor of *Vrye Weekblad* and producer of the award-winning TV programme *Truth and Reconciliation Report*, chaired a debate after the screening.

This week Du Preez said that despite the film's shortcomings, Pilger created debate across South Africa. "It took a foreign journalist to bring out a debate that should have been thrashed out a long time ago. He has created national debate

round the questions of an economic apartheid and 'was our revolution betrayed?'"

Du Preez said that it was a "good time" to have a national debate since "we have done the reconciliation bit" and "now, as a nation, we have to reconstruct our country".

He said he received wide reaction to the debate and most calls he fielded from viewers were those pleased "with this kind of feisty current affairs".

Kehla Shubana, an analyst at the Centre for Policy Studies, said that "as a foreigner, Pilger was free to participate in the debate of South Africa", but "the stance he took in raising certain issues was done with a certain agenda already in mind".

"He disregarded any evidence that would've gone against the conclusion he was working towards, a dis-appointment in the South African government."

Nowetu Mpati, a Congress of South African Trade Unions repre-

sentative, said this week that while the documentary succeeded in "highlighting the disparities in wealth in our country", it failed in "crediting government with some of the gains made since 1994".

Pilger's reference to 87% of black children having poor health was one of the stark inaccuracies, she said.

SABC head of television news Allister Sparks said the disclaimer that appeared before the screening of *Apartheid Did Not Die* "is not unusual" and "will become a consistent policy while I am here".

Sparks said documentaries of a socio-political nature that were not made by the SABC and not under its editorial direction would carry a disclaimer. "It is only right and proper to make it clear to the viewing public that although we are showing them the programme and while we have to take editorial responsibility for it, it was not made, produced nor researched by the SABC and does not reflect the view of the SABC."

Body in freezer: suspect will finish jail terms for murder, kidnapping before extradition

SIMON MARKS

Washington DC - The American suspected of murdering Pretoria game hunter Willem Wittmakers faces so much legal trouble in the United States that he may never return to South Africa to face justice, according to sources in both countries.

Jimmie Thomas, 54, was arrested this week by FBI agents in Reno, Nevada. He faces extradition to Twin Falls, Idaho, where he is wanted for the murder last November of his ex-wife's boyfriend, 38-year-old Steven Louder.

sources say they may send a team of detectives to Idaho "some time in the next month" to interview Thomas.

Thomas remains the prime suspect in the death of Mr Wittmakers, whose bullet-riddled body was found stuffed into a freezer at his home in Merlo Park, Pretoria, 10 days ago.

In an interview from prison this week, Thomas described Mr Wittmakers as his best friend. He said he was shocked and upset when detectives told him of the murder.

"I've been so upset over it, I haven't slept," said Thomas, who repeatedly denied any involvement

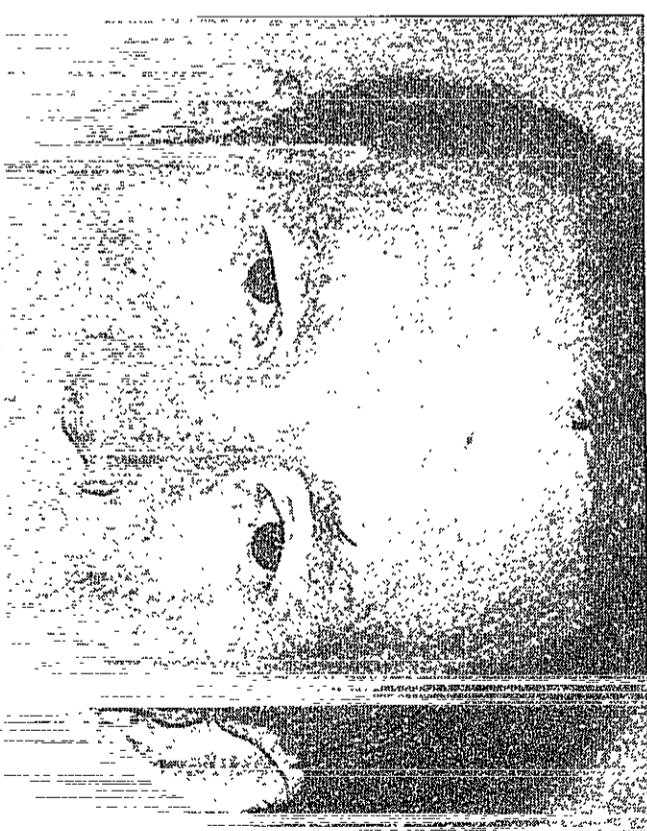
US officials say they believe Thomas made several trips to South Africa and appears to have viewed the country as a home-away-from-home to which he could flee whenever he needed refuge from American law enforcement.

Thomas's first brush with the law occurred in 1978 in California, where he was charged with the murder of an associate to whom he reportedly owed money. The trial ended with a hung jury.

Idaho prosecutor John Lohspeich says Californian authorities have spent 20 years trying to

shot and killed Mr Louder on November 14 in front of Thomas' ex-wife, who has since moved to an undisclosed location and is expected to be the chief prosecution witness against her former husband.

Following Mr Louder's murder, Thomas flew back to South Africa. He says he remained at Mr Wittmakers's Pretoria home until March 25, when he returned to the US. He aroused the suspicion of customs officers at John F Kennedy Airport, who demanded to inspect a cache of five shotguns he was carry-



Celtic singer Shane claims German paper too crock to rock,

Bonn - Celtic rocker Shane McGowan, who scored hits like *Streams Of Whiskey*, disappointed German fans when he was unable to perform after a drinking session in an Irish pub in Cologne.

A German daily paper, Bild, said McGowan had been due to perform on Wednesday night at the Jameson's Distillery Pub and sing numbers from his *Crock Of Gold* CD.

The daily, Bild, added that McGowan had been in no fit state to perform and pictured him nursing a pint of stout under a headline: "Concert downed - three times over the

Blacks, whites rally together on rural crime

WHITE farmers and a black "protection force" angered by rising rural crime and a spate of attacks on farms rallied in a small SA town yesterday, demanding tough government action.

The unlikely sight of white farmers and their black neighbours taking

to the streets of Marble Hall, about 200 km northeast of Johannesburg, was aimed at pushing the government into recognising the fear they live under. "Farmers are being targeted. It's frightening," said the farmers' spokesman Brett Bayford

"There's no strong deterrent. It's got to the stage where criminals feel they can do anything." Whites are not the only victims. Black farmworkers and businesses in rural areas are also under attack and have formed a vigilante group. — Reuter.

PM 8/4/98

(28) (38)

New management for fresh produce market

Star 4/14/88 (38)

Move follows complaints of mismanagement and corruption

By Les-Ann Auerbach
City Desk

Johannesburg's fresh produce market at City Deep is to be set up as a separate company in the first move by the city to dispose of some of its assets to enable it to focus on its "core" business.

The move was approved in principle by the Greater Johannesburg metropolitan council last week and comes in the wake of long-standing complaints about corruption and mismanagement at the market.

Final approval is subject to a study of the legal and other implications of the move. Consultants are to be commissioned to carry out the study. Trade unions and other stakeholders will also be consulted. Corporatisation entails the setting up a separate company - which could be controlled by

the council - which would oversee the management and operations. Now, the market forms part of the council and is supervised by a council official.

Tony Thompson, executive officer in charge of the market, said in a report to the council, corporatisation was intended to "provide the council with a real income, retain ownership of the facility, appease the producers and deal with the view that the market was not core business."

He said the financial problems Greater Johannesburg was experiencing was causing major problems for the market because it had caused all infrastructural improvements to be stopped as the organization's profits were used for other council functions.

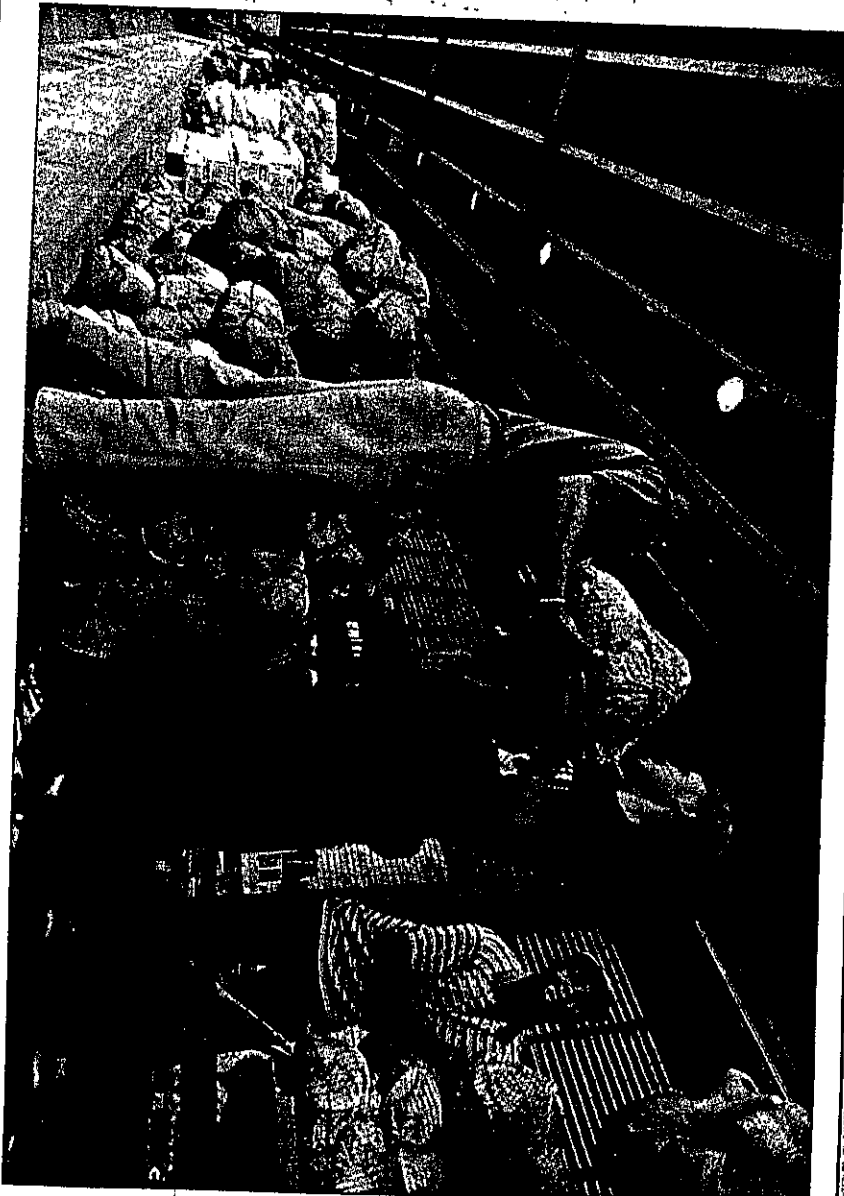
"The general perception is that the council has spent the market's surplus. The market

not only cannot grow, but cannot even meet the current production floor space required. Unless there is capital injection to create space and replace the electronic sales system, the market will not be able to accommodate the new role-players and additional produce," the report said.

Thompson also told The Star earlier that corporatisation would allow the profits made by the market to be put back into the concern.

This was necessary to improve the administration and systems of the market which has been dogged by allegations of corruption for years.

These allegations led to a probe by the auditor-general in 1985 while earlier this month the National Agricultural Marketing Council announced it would initiate another investigation into claims of fraud and mismanagement.



Men at work... getting on with the job at the fresh produce market, which will soon be set up as a separate company.

Council kicks out corrupt builders

By Joshua Raboroko

THE National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) has expelled 64 building companies for various reasons, including corruption and disappearing with deposits, in an attempt to protect consumers against unscrupulous property developers.

In addition, 58 other property developers have been suspended while their cases are being investigated by the council after allegations that they ripped off homeless people of millions of rands.

The NHBRC was established in 1996 to protect consumers against contractors who built shoddy homes.

In a separate case, the Masakhane Development Trust, which collected huge deposits ranging from R4 000 to R10 000 from scores of home seekers, had their contract rejected after failing to comply with the council's regulations.

These drastic actions against builders were announced by NHBRC managing director Mr Peter Allsopp at a conference of

the South African Residential Developers Association at Sun City in North West yesterday.

Allsopp said about 29 of the companies which have been expelled and 27 of those which had been suspended were from Gauteng while the rest were from KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and Northern Province.

Most of the builders were found to have either been liquidated, absconded with consumers' deposits, had court judgments against them or had committed some or other fraud.

Source: SA 14/98

Allsopp said his council was to hear 1 603 complaints from consumers who claimed they were dissatisfied with homes that had been built for them, or with the deposits they had paid.

About 836 of these cases had been finalised and were pending judgment.

The NHBRC received 100 complaints a month from disgruntled homeowners and would be home owners. Allsopp said the council rejected 215 applications from new builders, and inspected 1200 newly-built homes a week.

Abandoned 'skeleton houses' a silent testimony to crime-infested

PETA KROST
in Johannesburg

Walkerville's armed response company is teaching plot owners how to shoot properly - because they claim the community is caught up in a serious war against crime. The firearm training could pre-

vent another tragedy such as happened at Zesfontein recently, when Angelina Zwane was killed by a bullet fired by a local plot owner. Most residents have more than one gun per household - and much like Zesfontein, the Walkerville area is plagued by crime. Residents are nervous.

Almost every house in Walkerville visited this week had been attacked, some a number of times. Their nervousness has a lot to do with two horrific incidents: the Eikenhof killing in 1993 when a woman, her 14-year-old son and a 13-year-old girl were murdered in a drive-by shooting by Apla members

(Azanian People's Liberation Army, the Pan African Congress's armed wing); and the terrorising of their community by the "December Gang" in 1996. The gang raped, murdered and tortured many residents. Another aggravating factor is that the area is surrounded by squatter camp townships. Dotted around the

worst-hit areas are skeletons of houses whose owners fled the area because of crime, abandoning properties they could not sell. There is no Walkerville police station - the nearest one is at De Dur which covers an area of about 350km². Many people had despaired that

the police were not able to protect them.

German-born resident Helmut Klein, whose home has been robbed three times in recent years, said: "We used to sit outside in the evenings, but it's too dangerous now. Instead, we barricade ourselves inside at night."

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RR4 25/4/98

Walkerville

Crime puts community under siege

span 25/4/98
Walkerville residents hone shooting skills

BY PETA KROST

Walkerville's armed response company is teaching local plot owners how to shoot properly - because they claim the community is caught up in a war against crime.

The firearm training could prevent another tragedy such as happened at Zesfontein, on the East Rand, when Angelina Zwane was killed by a bullet fired by a local plot owner.

Most residents have more than one firearm per household - and, much like Zesfontein, the Walkerville area, south of Johannesburg, is plagued by crime.

Most houses in Walkerville visited by the *Saturday Star* this week had been attacked, some a number of times. The people's nervousness has a lot to do with two horrific incidents: the Eikenhof killing in 1993 when a woman, her 14-year-old son and a 13-year-old girl were murdered in a drive-by shooting by members of the Pan African Congress's armed wing Apla, and the terrorising in 1996 of their community by members of the "December Gang", who gang-raped, murdered and tortured many residents.

Another aggravating factor is that the area is surrounded by squatter camp townships. Dotted around the worst-hit areas are skeletons of houses whose owners have abandoned 4- to 8-hectare properties they could not sell.

There is no Walkerville police station - the nearest one is at De Deur, which serves an area of about 350sq km. Many people despair that the police are not able to protect them.

German-born resident Helmut Klein, whose home has been burgled three times in recent years, said: "I have made it clear to the cops that if someone sets foot on my property, I will blow them away."

His grandchildren are not allowed to play alone in their expansive garden and his house is now fortified. "We used to sit outside in the evenings but it's too dangerous now. Instead we barricade ourselves inside at night."

Over the years, Clive and Moira Horton have been burgled more times than they can remember. From their home they can see a squatter camp.

"We have been cleaned out three times but we are the only ones in this particular neighbourhood who have not been

attacked," said Clive Horton. "Some people in this area have just fled, no one knows where. There was a beautiful old double-storey thatched house which was literally flattened within two weeks of the owners leaving."

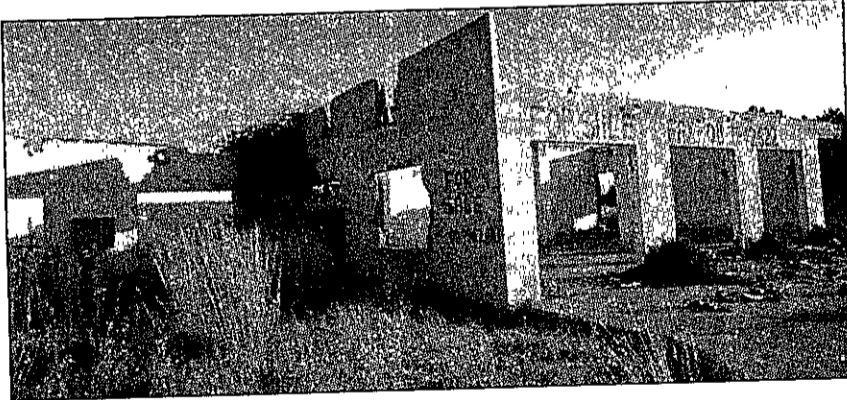
One of their neighbours managed to escape and run to the Hortons for safety when a group broke into their house.

While the Hortons were being interviewed yesterday afternoon, they were locking their valuables and objects of sentimental value in their hidden walk-in safe because they were going on holiday.

"We have no choice - if we don't do this we will come home to find it all gone," said Moira Horton. "It happens whenever we go away."

They had three attempted break-ins over Christmas and recall that one year they had 12 burglaries. No insurance company will insure them.

Moira is too afraid to be in the house on her own. The couple would sell their home, given the opportunity - but they say no one will buy it. Clive said it would cost R1,2-million to replace and he would not



UP FOR GRABS: This was once a beautiful home in Walkerville, until its owners fled. They were unable to sell the property and it was ransacked

get a fraction of that. Until a few years ago, the Hortons farmed. "We gave that up because all our stock kept being stolen."

They no longer invite guests over because of the dangers and they rely on a radio phone because the telephone wires were stolen. Much of the fence that encircled their property was stolen, so they made the razor-wired enclosure much smaller.

Val Simpson, who recently turned 60, is taking shooting lessons. She and her husband park their cars under their bedroom window. "Our bakkie and all our garden furniture was stolen within one month, so now we're not taking chances."

In the wealthy Golfview section, the plots are better secured than your average Sandton home. By night, many of those who do have buzzers and bells do not respond to them.



BARRICADES UP: Clive and Moira Horton's Walkerville home has been broken into more times than they can remember. Razor wire is part of the solution **PHOTOGRAPHS: CATHY PINNOCK**

Terry and Jeff Groenewald feel secure. They have five dogs, a security alarm, new burglar bars on their windows, an electric fence atop a high wall surrounding their property, and firearms. They are also part of a neighbourhood watch, in which the residents are connected to a citizen-band radio and have to check in at certain times every day. If they don't, the others involved investigate. If someone calls for help, one man from each house goes to check it out.

The Groenewalds claim crime is not a problem in Walkerville and attribute all the fear to people gossiping.

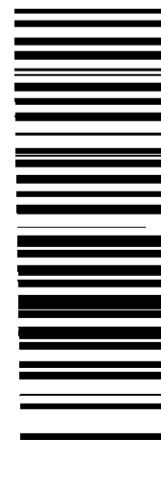
"If someone is attacked, the story spreads and is embellished so much it is no longer recognisable," said Jeff. "People must be security conscious, though. It is essential everywhere."

He told of the elderly woman in their street with 23 dogs and another with seven German shepherds. The couple did not feel property prices had dropped and told of how one of the neighbours eventually sold their magnificent house on a huge plot for R600 000 after between two to three years of trying to sell it.

Senior police reservist John Sampson, who is co-owner of the local armed response company, said housebreaking was on the increase in the area because "whichever way you travel, there is a squatter camp".

"These days, you don't see children on bicycles and people walking, while women jog in groups," he said.

"People are becoming switched off to gunshots because they hear them all night." A month ago, Sampson added, two armed-response guards from another company were stabbed and robbed of their weapons.



Jo'burg business gives real support to anti-crime fight

By Mike Masipa

(98) Star 20/4/98

SA Police Services' chief executive Meyer Kahn's dream of making Johannesburg streets safe by mid-year received a boost yesterday when Business Against Crime (BAC) announced 11 of the 20 stations earmarked as pockets of excellence had received sponsorship.

BAC launched the Support Partnerships for Police Stations (SPPS) at a workshop in Johannesburg yesterday and announced the immediate induction of five support teams for five major police stations across the city.

According to BAC's Barbara Holtmann, the SPPS aims to support Kahn's vision of creating pockets of excellence through Programme Johannesburg, a police plan to improve the level

of service in the SAPS and thus bring down the crime rate.

Kahn has vowed to resign if the plan fails to make the streets of Johannesburg safe.

Delegates at the workshop yesterday discussed ways to carry the plan forward.

Kahn could not attend because he was in Cape Town to brief the parliamentary safety and security portfolio standing committee on Programme Johannesburg. The meeting was, however, postponed at the last minute.

Kahn addressed the workshop via a video recording in which he emphasised the importance of winning the war against crime in Johannesburg.

Any business wanting to sponsor a police station can telephone Holtmann at (011) 883-0717 (work) or 082-444-8824.

All is not quiet on Westbury's front

M+G 22-28/5/98 (38)

Tangeni Amupadhi

Gangs have triumphed in Westbury — Johannesburg's equivalent of the Cape Flats ganglands — after promises of big business and politicians have come to naught.

In recent weeks four men have been slain in gun fights — an event familiar to this dirt-poor community which, for decades, has enjoyed the notoriety of having South Africa's highest mandrax consumption rate.

Westbury's rows of drab grey council houses and flats have for decades been a no-go zone after dark. With the exception of the drug barons, their clients and the gangsters who do their dirty work, very few enter this township south-west of Johannesburg. For 40 years the Fast Guns, Varados, the Spaldings, Majimbos and FBI gangs have ruled supreme.

The rich pickings from the drug trade — they sell dagga, mandrax and, more recently, crack-cocaine or *gafief* — have helped support the area's football teams and kept starvation from many doors. In turn the gangs have spawned several smaller offshoots, and younger members now control a lucrative trade in stolen cars and chop-shops.

The community claims the police have turned a blind eye for decades because the drug money has kept their palms well greased. Two years ago, the station commander of the police station in neighbouring Sophiatown, under whose jurisdiction Westbury falls, was changed in an effort to fight crime. But even this seems to be just one more plan that has not worked.

"Quick-fix solutions won't work," says Glen Steyn, executive director of Conquest for Life, an organisation working with the youth to try to "change the mindset" of Westbury residents. Many young people regard gangsters and druglords who drive luxury cars and live in large houses as their idols.

Steyn says plans to fight gangsterism in the area have always been ad hoc: more police are brought in, and more promises are made by businesses, politicians and individuals. "They run here when the press is around and make promises as long as they can get mileage," he says.

In the run-up to the 1994 elections, Westbury was fiercely contested by the National Party and the African National Congress, both of which made grand promises of restoring peace and bringing prosperity.

Among those who stand accused of failing to deliver on their promises to the community are the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (Nocsa), the government and companies which run factories adjacent to Westbury.

its more affluent neighbours, has become a hijacking hot spot where, in broad daylight, the Truckadore *skollies* hijack entire trucks or pull goods from them.

Despite the fact that it is surrounded by dense industrial areas, Westbury has an unemployment rate of more than 70% — among the highest in the country.

Steyn believes this is because coloured people are left out: "It's hard to find a job because of affirmative action. Companies say they want blacks only. Some of these people are selling drugs because they cannot find jobs."

But they all have explanations for the lack of delivery. JSE representative Suzette Plantema denies promises were ever made by the JSE to set up various projects, including a vocational training centre.

She admits, though, that the JSE said it would help the community find money for programmes to keep youths off the streets. This has not happened.

Chris Day of Nocsa says the pledge it made two years ago to get involved through sport still stands, but it is waiting for the provincial Department of Safety and Security to get involved.

ANC representative Fahdiel Moosa concedes several government programmes have "fizzled out because of lack of interest" from schools, but adds they will be restarted.

Several companies in the area, including Nampak, Tastic Rice, Phillips and Anchor Yeast, say their business is negatively affected by gangsterism. Tastic Rice's depot manager, Larry Slabbert, says workers are afraid to make deliveries in Westbury. Other companies say their goods trucks are hijacked in the area, but none is making a concerted effort to deal with the problem.

Fuel Road, which divides Westbury from

Down with crime: A former gangster tries to dissuade Westbury children from going down the same track he did. PHOTOGRAPH: SHAUN HARRIS



Diplomats fear for their safety (39)

MD 28/5/98

JOHANNESBURG: Foreign diplomats have made an urgent appeal to the Department of Foreign Affairs to improve security after several recent attacks on diplomatic personnel. In his latest letter to the department, dated May 14, Bulgarian ambassador Petko Draganov, a former doyen of the diplomatic corps, wrote that foreign diplomats were increasingly concerned about their safety.

He appealed for more patrolling and "swift and decisive action" against perpetrators as a deterrent.

One diplomatic mission member said personnel feared that those in the diplomatic services were being targeted. Diplomatic number plates distinguished staff from other citizens, making them vulnerable.

The latest victim was the Saudi Arabian charge d' affaire, Soud Zedan, who was robbed near Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, at the weekend.

Earlier this month Nigerian diplomats were robbed of personal goods worth about R130 000 by people posing as policemen on the Soweto highway.

Personnel fear those in the diplomatic services are being targeted

In March four Angolan government representatives were robbed of items worth R30 000 by men posing as policemen.

Last month the Mozambican minister of works, Roberto White, and his staff were attacked by three

bogus policemen outside Johannesburg airport.

A burglar broke into the Waterkloof, Pretoria, residence of the United Arab Emirates ambassador, stole appliances and "petrol bombed" the house the same month.

Deputy head of the German embassy said: "Our statistics show that once or twice a month a member of our embassy falls victim to a mugging, a burglary or an armed attack."

Foreign affairs spokesman Marco Boni said the government was extremely concerned about the security of foreign diplomats. Draganov's letter to the department had been referred to the Safety and Security department.

"Criminal attacks on diplomats are part of the greater problem of crime in the country. We don't believe that it is an orchestrated campaign against the diplomats," Boni said.

● South Africa's crime problem was cause for "serious concern" and was hampering German business initiatives in this country, German ambassador Uwe Kaestner said yesterday.

He told the National Assembly's foreign affairs portfolio committee business people from the SA Initiative of German Business were hampered by the crime problem. —
Own Correspondent

Fortress Sandton contributes zero to the rule of law

The fencing off of suburbs in SA is pitting the affluent against the rule of law and doing little in the real fight against crime, argues Jonny Steinberg (78)

A CYNICAL left-wing adage says that the rich build palatial mansions and employ the state to defend them from the poor.

No more. Drive through northern Johannesburg and Sandton and you will find large tracts of suburbia fenced off and patrolled by private security firms.

The affluent have begun to lose faith in the state and are paying private agencies to police their neighbourhoods. This is not an isolated SA phenomenon. In Mexico City and São Paulo, much of the middle class lives in cobble-stone villages insulated from the city by towering walls and men bearing automatic weapons.

Private policing for the rich is a common feature of societies in which inequalities are large and a cash-strapped state is turning back on public services. We are joining a club with an old pedigree across the Latin American and Asian continents.

Nonetheless, there are a number of SA peculiarities that bear mentioning.

The movement by the affluent to fence their neighbourhoods is probably the most sustained and energetic wave of civic action this country has witnessed since the township uprisings of the mid-1980s. Neighbourhood associations need to demonstrate the support of 80% of residents before local councils will grant permission to fence. Levels of organisation are thus extremely high, and active support almost pervasive when enclosure takes place.

The movement to fence and enclose is raging like wildfire across affluent neighbourhoods. The two largest SA security companies alone patrol more than 140 enclosed areas, so far believed to only be in Gauteng and Durban. The latest enclosure, in northern Johannesburg's Waverwood, will cover more than 600 homes when it receives council ratification later this year.

Is this mass mobilisation of the rich for better or worse? Those in the thick of it insist they are helping

Steve Margo heads Sandton Protect, a nonprofit company that handles the administration of neighbourhood enclosures on behalf of resident associations in northern Johannesburg.

"This is police support work in the strictest sense," he argues. "The police are under-resourced, they don't have sufficient numbers on the ground, and this is about the community coming forward to fill the gap. And it works. In some areas crime is down by 70%, sometimes 80%."

However, Margo's position is fiercely contested by Business Against Crime's Barbara Holtman. "It surely makes little sense to pump massive amounts of money into streets already the most resourced in the country. The poor are the most frequent victims of violent crime, yet their neighbourhoods are often barely policed."

Holtman's point has disturbing implications. While it is impossible to gather hard evidence in this regard, there can be little doubt that enclosures do more to displace crime than to reduce it. As hijacking and other crimes find the affluent more difficult to rob, they will turn to poorer neighbourhoods. These, in turn, will increasingly place policing in their own hands as well, but not through the ordered establishment of well-defined sections 21 compounds and the deployment of professional security personnel. It would not be unfair to say that organisations like Pagad are the security firms of the working classes.

In this sense, neighbourhood enclosures not only fail to fight crime. They fuel a worrying syndrome: the further retreat of state organs from neighbourhood life and their substitution by increasingly restless residents' associations.

From the vantage point of a coherent crime prevention strategy, the resources the affluent are spending on private policing are



A move to enclose the local area is all the rage in affluent neighbourhoods

being squandered. Reducing crime, rather than displacing it, requires bolstering a detective service trained to crack organised syndicates. It requires building a criminal justice system that swiftly convicts those who break the law — and it needs an emphasis on intelligent social spending: providing training and jobs to targeted groups is a more potent way to fight crime than placing scores of armed personnel on street patrol.

If precious resources are wasted on walls instead of being funnelled into the national interest, the buck ultimately stops at the state, not the rich. Redistributing resources in a democracy, whether to fight crime or for other reasons, requires the willing consent of the well-off. If the state fails in its most basic commitment to uphold the rule of law, the affluent will spend their money warding off the poor, and not helping them.

There is a cruel irony in this syndrome. It is in advanced industrialised countries, where a well-oiled state machine has a good chance of administering successful projects, that the rich have been prepared to throw their money at social problems. Witness the rapid construction of

these are being debated, it is important to clarify what they are and what they are not.

In the meantime, neighbourhood enclosures are particularly vulnerable to legal challenges by their opponents. The closing off of public roads by private citizens currently lies in a twilight zone between illegality and tacit acceptance.

Placing a pallisade fence across a street is not in itself an offence, but dripping a boom over a road and regulating the traffic that passes through it is unambiguously illegal. For now, resident associations are defying the law and local councils are turning a blind eye to violations. Indeed, moves are afoot by a number of councils to redraft local government legislation to allow for road closures. There is little doubt, however, that were anyone to litigate against it, the constitutional court would strike down such legislation, for private roadblocks constitute a flagrant violation of freedom of movement.

It is only a matter of time before the disgruntled use the courts to outlaw enclosures. When this happens, we can expect a powerful and popular movement of civil disobedience, as the fears of the affluent ring against the rule of law.

Britain's welfare state in the wake of the Second World War, when the nation embarked on a determined and collective effort to bring those at the margins back into common life. Or the consolidation of West Germany's social democracy in the 1950s which mobilised the pain of a nation reeling from the failure of a dark and inhuman adventure.

Historically, it is in countries most in need of social redress, those characterised by massive inequality and scant public resources, that the rich are most reluctant to plough money into the common interest. The risk on returns on investment in state projects is simply that much higher. So the rich pay what amounts to a private tax in such matters as their own safety, but neglect the national interest in the process.

The affluent certainly have a right to spend their money on private endeavours that serve those who pay for them. They are not susceptible to the criminal justice system. They make no contribution to crime prevention, and very little to deterrence. Once initiatives like

Anti-crime protest halts traffic

PRG 8/7/98
Johannesburg - Traffic in parts of central Johannesburg was brought to a standstill when an anti-crime motorcade of about 120 vehicles moved through the city this morning.

The protest was sparked by the death of a shopowner's 20-month-old toddler in a robbery about two weeks ago.

Cars, carrying banners reading "Protect our children" and "Peace and security" formed part of the procession.

Toddler Danny Zhong was shot in the head during a robbery at the Mr Beijing shop in central Johannesburg on June 26. His father, Tom Zhong, was injured during the shooting.

(38)
In an interview this morning, an emotional Mr Zhong said: "This was a terrible heartbreak. Who knows who is going to be next - which baby is going to be next?"

"We came here in 1991 hoping for a better future. If I had known this was to happen I would have stayed away."

Organiser and Gauteng Chinese community leader Cecil Leong said those who had been affected by crime had been voiceless long enough.

SA Chinese Business Community spokesman Donald Wang said incidents like Danny's killing were destroying investments in the country.

"Crime is destroying everything," said Mr Wang. - Sapa

Suicide heist suspect carried police ID card

BY GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

A heist suspect who committed suicide after being cornered by Carlton Centre staff during a rush-hour shoot-out between robbers and SBV cash-in-transit guards yesterday has been identified as a suspended policeman from the Orlando detective branch.

Nobody was injured in a wild shootout between SBV cash-in-transit guards and 11 robbers during an attempted heist in central Johannesburg's rush hour yesterday.

Three of the suspects have been arrested.

The dead policeman had been suspended since 1996 for alleged involvement in armed robberies, police said. He cannot be named as his next of kin have not been informed.

He was found to be carrying a police identity card and an AK-47 wrapped in a blue cloth overall. The policeman shot himself in the head after being cornered by security guards in the Carlton Centre while trying

to escape.

Superintendent Chris Wilken, police spokesperson for Johannesburg, said that five SBV security guards had collected cash and left the basement exit of Trust Bank, situated at the intersection of Eloff and Main streets, when they were ambushed by 11 men who circled the van on foot.

Wilken said a shootout between guards and robbers broke out.

"Three of the men jumped into a white armoured bakkie with false registration plates and the others fled on foot in all directions," said Wilken.

The SBV guards jumped back into their van and chased the suspects' vehicle, which collided with a private car while jumping a red traffic light.

All three alleged robbers jumped out after the driver lost control of the bakkie. They were immediately arrested by police. Police said today seven suspects were still on the run. An AK-47 and a shotgun were found hidden in the basement at Trust Bank.

Gauteng still has more incidents of crime than national average

Some categories on decline but fearful members of the public remain sceptical

BY GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

While the latest crime statistics, released yesterday, show that crime has continued on a stabilising and downward trend, Gauteng's figures are higher than the national average on everything but stock theft.

Gauteng rates tops on housebreaking at residential properties, other robberies, car theft, other thefts, and fraud and robbery with aggravating circumstances, and ranks second in theft out of vehicles, attempted murder and rape, according to statistics released in the quarterly report of the Crime Information Management Centre.

However, of the 20 most serious crimes reported nation-

ally between January and March this year, six have decreased and 12 have stabilised. Rape, which increased last year, has also stabilised.

Antoinette Louw, researcher for the Institute for Security Studies, said public fear of crime was a more important issue than looking at a three-month trend to determine the crime situation.

Referring to a recent victim survey, Louw said: "The majority of people don't believe statistics, and think that crime is increasing. We are talking about a general fear of crime which is not helped by releasing statistics."

She said public scepticism over official crime data posed a serious challenge to government policy-makers, particularly with an election coming up. She said data in categories such as murder and property crime were generally accurate, but rape, assault and mugging figures were less likely to reflect reality because only 30 to 40% of cases were reported.

"But this is the situation everywhere, with South Africa rating slightly lower than developed countries," said Louw. Crimes which have increased are robbery and illegal

possession of firearms. The surge in robberies is attributed to the category being regarded as "a disorganised crime committed by single or petty criminals".

Superintendent Johan Strauss of the Crime Information Management Centre said: "An increase in the number of incidences of illegal possession of firearms is actually a good sign as the crime is heavily dependent on police action for detection. Most cases are identified during actions like roadblocks, which means the SAPS is doing its work."

Strauss said while statistics indicated crime was stabilising and on a downward trend, levels were still high and more work needed to be done to reduce it to acceptable international norms.

Figures downplay rape, assault

(38) 17/7/98

Joburg passes crime test

Author of 'The World's Most Dangerous Places' gives thumbs-up to often dreaded city

By FEMIDA CASSIM

Canadian author Robert Young Pelton sweated heavily as he traipsed apprehensively around Johannesburg last week: when would the cold-blooded hoards of muggers, robbers and thieves he had heard so much about come and "liberate" him of his money and tourist paraphernalia?

They never did - and a relieved Pelton decided that the horrific stories he'd heard about the Golden City being one of the most dangerous places outside a war zone were greatly exaggerated.

In fact Pelton, co-author of the gung-ho Fieldings travel guide titled *The World's Most Dangerous Places*, feels so relieved that he intends bringing his wife and daughter for a visit sometime.

And, following his personal mission to test the general overseas perception that we live in a society bent on mayhem and destruction, he had this to say: "South Africa does not deserve a chapter in my book because it is definitely not the most dangerous place outside a war zone. In fact, I plan to bring my wife and daughter here." Pelton is no stranger to danger. The

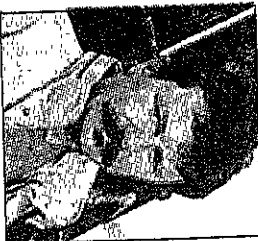
960-odd page *The World's Most Dangerous Places* is a personal odyssey to some of the hotspots around the world and is written for those who prefer holidays where their snapshots are taken while ducking bullets or being strangled by an anaconda deep in a South American jungle.

Many of the "tourist" sites discussed have been personally visited by Pelton and his co-authors Coskun Aral and Wink Dulles.

Pelton believes Algeria deserves the dubious honour of being the world's most dangerous place.

He decided to visit Johannesburg instead of Cape Town or Durban because of its reputation for being the most dangerous city in South Africa.

With a bag on one shoulder, his video camera on the other, a camera hanging from his neck, a cellphone, a pair of expensive sunglasses and a money pouch dangling around his waist, he walked the streets of the city anxiously waiting to be mugged. "Instead of being scared, I probably scared everyone else with all the equipment I carried," said Pelton.



BLAMES PRESS: Robert Pelton feels it's relatively safe

He reckons that crime against South African citizens is higher than crime against tourists.

He blames the foreign press for focusing only on the doom and gloom in South Africa.

"When I go back to the States I will do my best to reassure people about your country and insist it is a relatively safe tourist destination," he said.

The World's Most Dangerous Places is a must for adventurers, adrenalin junkies, thrill seekers, the curious and easily amused, and the media. It's a comprehensive guidebook that aims to provide travellers with a look at the world's worst hotspots.

It is filled with hints on how to avoid treading on landmines; how to survive minibuses, taxis and other transport; how to behave; and what to pack for your journey.

Some of Pelton's adventures include breaking American citizens out of a Colombian jail, setting up the world's first video interview with the Taliban leaders in Afghanistan, numerous visits to and through war zones, and thundering down forbidden rivers in

leaky canoes. He has had several close encounters with death and attributes his survival to luck.

He offered the *Saturday Star* several tips for tourists visiting South Africa:

- Get a map.
- Read up as much as you can about the different places you intend to visit, and don't rely solely on tourist brochures. Read local newspapers.
- Don't be afraid to speak to local people and taxi drivers, because most people are eager to help.
- Always expect there could be danger wherever you go.
- A sensible precaution is to use traveller's cheques instead of cash.
- For peace of mind, ensure that all your equipment is insured.
- Carry a money pouch but don't put it around your neck.
- If you fear you will be a victim of crime in downtown Johannesburg, ask the police for assistance.
- Always make sure that valuables are not in your bag and are hidden elsewhere.
- If robbers want your bag, do not hesitate to give it to them.
- Invest in velcro ankle bracelets to store your money in.
- The worst advice Pelton has heard is: "Try not to look like a tourist."

STAN 18/7/98 (38)

Major cleanup of licensing office

By JACQUI REEVES

A six-week offensive against criminals at the Johannesburg licensing department has transformed the once-infamous hotbed of corruption and bribery into a virtually crime-free zone.

Forensic auditors, police investigators and National Crime Prevention Strategy staff were called on to help bring about the changes, which might be used as models for licensing departments across South Africa.

The crackdown followed extensive coverage by The Star of the shambles at the licensing office.

Less than two months ago, thousands of false roadworthy and registration certificates were being issued each week, insurance fraud in the form of registering "ghost trucks" had taken root, and packs of blank registration documents were

being stolen by staff.

Officials were also taking bribes for a wide variety of activities and the relationship between union representatives and management had virtually broken down.

The Star yesterday arrived at the Loveday Street department for an unannounced visit and was immediately greeted

The Star's campaign pays off

by security personnel controlling access to the building.

All visitors are issued with a slip of paper giving them access to the specific floor that should be visited. No customer is permitted to wander between floors and the paper is needed to gain access to processing areas.

The processing floors, which were once crammed with

touters offering photographic services, registration documents and fake licences, are now totally clear. Queueing systems have been upgraded, reducing waiting periods from more than an hour to 10 minutes.

A single queue, controlled by a departmental official, means that the public can no longer gain access to tellers known to them in order to conduct corrupt dealings. Investigators are currently building cases against corrupt cashiers, who have taken their "work" outside the building and are collecting false documentation during their lunch hour.

The man who tried to break the back of the syndicates, acting head of licensing Gerrie Gerneke, and his team will visit the Durban and Cape Town licensing departments next week to see if their crime-busting strategies could be moulded to suit the needs of KwaZulu Natal and the Western Cape.

Millionaire does the chores at old-age home

(169)

9 dismissed over Jo'burg licence scam

BY CECILIA RUSSELL

Police Staff

Star 20/7/98

The Greater Johannesburg Metro Council has dismissed nine employees since a joint anti-corruption operation into licensing scams in the Johannesburg licensing department was launched six weeks ago.

The council and the Gauteng provincial task team intend to take the lessons learnt from this cleanup operation to other licensing departments in the province to prevent the spread of the rot.

The operation was the result of the committee's investigation into the scams and a series of articles written in The Star about the crime-ridden department.

The stringent measures instituted, which included ongoing investigations of the SA Police Service anti-corruption unit and the establishment of an internal anti-corruption unit, had meant that the situation in the department had normalised, MEC for Local Government Sicelo Shiceka said.

He said the council was considering laying charges against some of the dismissed employees. The police had also arrested one person in connection with the issuing of false learners' licences.

Driver's licence examiners were rotated regularly and the tests were checked at random to prevent further false learners' licences from being issued, Shiceka said.

Other steps are planned to consolidate the achievements, Shiceka said, including the employment of 57 staff members to fill vacancies.

The council would be spending R221 000 on 26 printers to enable it to reconcile face-value documents in a day, and closed-circuit TV will monitor examination rooms.

Council to remove illegal road barriers

DB 118198 (38)
Deborah Fine

THE Johannesburg eastern local council is to begin removing illegal road closures and security booms that have been set up by residents to block access to suburban public roads in reaction to an increase in crime in more affluent areas.

The council's media spokesman, Keith Peacock, confirmed last week that notices had been sent to residents informing them that unless they applied for council permission for the closures within 14 days, the structures would be taken down.

He said the eastern council was one of the few local authorities that had a policy of supporting communities who wanted to introduce security measures, including road closures.

In terms of the policy, residents were required to approach the council for permission to erect barricades and place community notices calling for objections. The council would then investigate any objections as well as the effect of the proposed closures on traffic flows, pedestrian access, emergency and related services.

While some residents had followed the proper procedure and obtained the necessary permission, others had simply sealed off roads without consulting the council or communities affected by the closure, or had applied for permission but had then erected the structures before authorisation was granted.

Peacock said that it was illegal to close off public thoroughfares without government permission. He said a meeting would be held with residents next week to discuss the matter.

Steve Margo, the operations director for the police forum of the Sandton Precinct Community, said his organisation supported the removal of all illegal closures.

The precinct is a non-profit company set up to provide support for local police stations, and has been actively involved in assisting residents to set up legal road closures in line with council policy.

He said closures had proven effective and had cut crime by up to 90% in some neighbourhoods.

Anger as council removes illegal booms

Star 4/9/98

(98)

Residents fume as riot squad watches while workmen rip barricade out of ground

By ANITA COX
Sancton Bureau

The removal by Greater Johannesburg's Eastern council of barricades in Gallo Manor and Buccleuch yesterday would be the first of many, council spokesperson Clifty Kotiah said.

The residents' associations responsible for the illegal bar-

ricades would be billed for their removal, he said. The cost had not yet been calculated but it would be "a couple of thousand rands".

"While we are aware of the crime situation and we fully sympathise with residents and in fact support them where we can, we cannot allow people simply to erect barricades where they want. Each applica-

tion has to be considered on its merits and in the light of service-delivery and emergency needs," he said.

The closure in Gallo Manor was in fact a closure within a closure. The whole suburb around Honeysuckle Crescent has been blocked off with booms. Residents expressed anger when council staff accompa-

nied by a riot squad van and seven policemen, went into the area to rip the R90 000 boom out of the ground.

Giovanni Santoriello, chairman of the Honeysuckle Residents' Association, said he was outraged.

"We submitted our applications two years ago and the papers were lost. I spoke to council officials in good faith

and they asked us to resubmit our application.

"This is the last thing we expected because we were dealing on amicable terms. Crime has dropped to almost zero since we closed off this road.

"We don't want booms either, but until police can provide us with the protection they should, this is what we have to do," he said.

Removal of boom upsets Sandton residents

Deborah Fine

(38) 50 4/89/98

A GROUP of residents in Gallo Manor in Sandton has vowed to take on the Johannesburg eastern local council after municipal workers tore down a private security boom yesterday erected by the residents at their own cost as a neighbourhood security measure.

The dismantling of the boom in Honeysuckle Crescent marks the start of the council's campaign to remove several booms erected throughout Sandton's suburbs, without municipal permission, in response to rising crime.

The council said unauthorised booms disturbed traffic flows and jeop-

ardised emergency access routes.

Honeysuckle Crescent Residents Association member Ron Keschner warned yesterday of "chaos" and said residents would embark on "a range of activities", including picketing, as a protest against the council's actions.

He said residents spent R90 000 to erect the boom, streetlights and a wall in their neighbourhood in response to a number of housebreakings and car thefts. Each household paid an additional R200 per month to hire a security guard to man the boom.

He denied the boom was unauthorised, saying residents had lodged an application for permission months ago.

Study reveals that violent crime affects mostly blacks

Jonny Steinberg

(38)

MOST victims of violent crime in the Pretoria metropolitan area are black, but Pretoria remains among the safest cities in SA for all its inhabitants — a report released last week has revealed.

The report — published by the Institute for Democracy in SA (Idasa) — showed that 57% of recorded murders and rapes in Pretoria last year were reported to police stations in the areas of Soshanguve, Rietgat, Mamelodi and Atteridgeville — a suggestion that violent crime was concentrated in the city's black townships.

The report also found that while violent crime made up 21% of recorded crime in white suburbia, half of all crimes committed in the townships were violent. "If there is any policy implication here it is surely that anti-violence measures should concentrate resources in the townships," said the report's author, Antony Albeker.

The report found that Pretoria was one of the least violent

metropolitan areas in SA. "Compared to Johannesburg — just 60km away — Pretoria is relatively free of the high-profile crimes of hijacking and bank robberies. Johannesburg and Soweto recorded a combined total of more than 3 700 car hijackings and nearly 1 350 truck hijackings last year. Pretoria had about 420 recorded car hijackings and 100 recorded truck hijackings. Similarly, while 95 bank robberies occurred in Soweto, only 27 were recorded in Pretoria."

While violent crime was concentrated in Pretoria's townships, the report found that property crime was concentrated in white suburbia. Nearly 50% of all vehicle crime was recorded in Sunnyside, Pretoria Central and Brooklyn.

However, those property crimes which were reported in the townships were much more likely to be violent than property crimes in the suburbs. Nearly 47% of all violent robberies were recorded at Mamelodi, Rietgat, Pretoria Central and Soshanguve.

BD 15/9/98

No-go zones in CBD,

There are some criminal-infested buildings where police and fire department officials are afraid to enter

BY PHOMELLO MOLWEDI

Despite attempts to reverse the urban decay of Johannesburg's CBD, a number of buildings in the area and in Hillbrow have become no-go zones, where even police and fire department personnel fear to go.

In Hillbrow and the CBD there are more than a dozen buildings which have become islands of anarchy, occupied and controlled by people - some of them criminals - who effectively reject law and order by not paying for services and bar entry to any public officials. Some of these buildings are the nerve centres from which criminal gangs launch their robbery, theft and assault sprees.

Superintendent Chris Wilken of the Johannesburg police said the most dangerous places were in the Hillbrow policing area. He identified certain buildings as no-go zones for the police. Worcester Court in Smit Street, Sunbeam House in Soper Road and Yannah Court in Pieter- sen Street topped the list.

Captain André de Klerk of the Hillbrow police said they find it difficult to attend to complaints in these buildings because there is always a possibility of attacks. Normally at least 10 police officers enter the buildings - and only by day. He said these buildings are housing illegal occupants and criminals who use them as havens. De Klerk said there had been instances when police were attacked and robbed of their firearms.

Dan Hurley, acting head of the fire safety division in the metro emergency management services, said fire safety standards throughout the inner city had deteriorated rapidly. He said there was a culture of non-compliance with safety regulations. "There are buildings in the inner city where our inspectors have been threatened with assault if they refuse to leave," said Hurley.

Wilken admitted that there were buildings in the CBD rumoured to be occupied by criminals, but that there was no proof at this stage that criminals frequent only one or two buildings. Sibusiso Buthelezi, a councillor in the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council, admitted there was a vacuum in the control of some buildings and areas

in the city. He said the council was working with the police in enforcement programmes.

Earlier this year when Housing MEC Dan Motokeng launched a landlord-tenant dispute resolution board to curb rent boycotts, illegal evictions and violence, he said the provincial government was aware of buildings in the inner city being run by gangsters.

In the past five years, Johannesburg's inner city has seen an exodus of companies to office premises in the suburbs.

There is a general perception among business people that the inner city is deteriorating and that the place is no longer suitable for business purposes.

Gerald Leisner, managing director of Anglo American Property Services, the

SMW 19/1/98

biggest owner of commercial buildings in the inner city said: "The main cause for business flight is poor management of the city. If the city can get proper management, it can still revive and flourish."

This week, Southern Sun announced it was closing its hotel in the CBD because of the high crime level.

The police cite lack of manpower as the main impediment in their fight against crime. They maintain, however, that crime in the CBD has started to level off.

However, optimistic businessman Michel Rubinek, who opens The Wall restaurant in Fox Street today, believes there is still life in the CBD: "If the people run away to the suburbs, crime is going to follow them - criminals always go where the cake is."

Hillbrow (86)

Installation of anti-crime cameras in city put on hold

Star 1/10/98 (38)

Funds desperately needed to proceed with R4,5-million surveillance project

By THEMBA SEPOTOKELE

The much-vaunted plan to install 24-hour surveillance cameras in Johannesburg to curb crime has been put on hold due to lack of funds.

It is unclear when the R4,5-million CCTV project will begin after the R1,5-million donated by Standard Bank to the Business Against Crime (BAC) was used for the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS) which incorporates the departments of police services, justice, welfare and correctional services in the fight against crime. Standard Bank had pledged R2-million.

The ICJS seeks to streamline the justice department to be more effective. The cameras

were scheduled to be installed between Noord and Jeppe streets, and Klein and Harrison streets - Johannesburg's crime hot spots - by last month.

Initially, Gauteng's safety and security department had pledged R1,5-million, with an additional R120 000 for marketing and publicity of the project.

Provincial acting head of safety and security, Susan Pienaar, said her department was willing to transfer the R1,5-million it had pledged until additional funding was available.

She said the SAPS had raised R1,5-million, while MEC Paul Mashatile was pursuing other funding options.

In a letter from projects committee chairperson Neil Fraser to Mark Hill of the Johannesburg City Watch, an as-

sociation incorporated under Section 21 responsible for the project, Fraser said the SAPS had informed them that no funds would be forthcoming from budgets and they had to apply for RDP funds.

"This is a blow as we were led to believe that the first phase of the Johannesburg CCTV was a priority. Until they make the funding available it is not possible to unlock the moneys which have been approved by the provincial government."

Fraser said the business sector funding had also become problematic.

"I was advised by the previous BAC managing director, Eric Tochnell, that the R1,5-million business contributed would be made available by BAC from funding specifically

provided by Standard Bank for the CCTV project.

"This commitment was withdrawn by BAC after Tochnell left, and they have basically funded the costs of the consultants' fees and some sundry payments of about R150 000," Fraser's letter reads.

BAC national MD Willie Scholtz said BAC Gauteng was responsible for the CCTV project.

Scholtz said BAC national gave BAC provincial R146 000 towards the feasibility study of the project. He said the project had been handed to BAC Gauteng, while the national body channelled its energies to the vehicle crime project, border control, commercial crime and to support the office of the national public prosecutors.

Real power is economic

Industrial park in state of collapse

By Shadrack Mashalaba

ONCE a thriving park with business "bursting at the seams", the Emdeni, Soweto, industrial park belonging to Business Partners, formerly the Small Business Development Corporation Limited, has become a "ghost building".

The premises were built in 1982 and completed about three years later. It was one of Business Partners' numerous businesses throughout the country to enable small entrepreneurs to enter business.

However, the effects of vandalism, intimidation and crime, and in some instances the perception that Soweto has a high rate of crime have taken their toll on these premises.

In the case of Emdeni, only five tenants are operating in the now dilapidated building which initially housed 21 entrepreneurs.

Business Partners said the Emdeni business park was one of many of their premises that had become victims of arson and vandalism.

The premises, according to general manager of properties Nazeem Martin, were twice destroyed by fire - with six units destroyed in 1989 and other two in 1996.

None of the eight units were rebuilt, he said.

"Since its inception, the park was primarily occupied by tenants who were involved in motor vehicle and other related businesses. Over the years there have been allegations that many of the motor vehicle and related businesses were 'chop shops' dealing in stolen motor vehicle parts," Martin said.

When Business Partners, through legal and related actions, persuaded all tenants who were allegedly engaging in illegal "chop shops" to vacate their units, almost half of the units were



Lawrence Tshifura, a tenant at Emdeni Industrial Park, says a lack of security is threatening the existence of their businesses.

PIC: CLEMENT LEKANYANE

vacated, he said.

Many of the remaining tenants were also not operating economically viable businesses.

"They were also forced to close their businesses with the result that there are now only five tenants operating from the park," Martin said.

Businesses reluctant

In the case of the vacated units, said Martin, the result had been constant vandalism.

Despite "low rentals, seldom covering operating costs", businesses were still reluctant to operate at the premises.

Some of the reasons for this reluctance, he said, included the perception that the area had a high crime rate and that the Emdeni premises are next to an informal settlement.

"Business Partners has therefore had limited success in attracting tenants to the Emdeni park."

But some of the remaining tenants dispute Martin's allegations.

"While the tenants have to take blame for the collapse of the park, Business Partners cannot insulate itself from the blame," said one of the remaining tenants, Lawrence Tshifura.

"There has never been any unity of purpose on how to take care of our park," he said. He said a series of meetings with tenants to build a strong committee to look at problems also proved fruitless.

Although he agreed that there were many "shady" businesses that operated from the premises, high rentals and accumulation of arrears were among the reasons that led to business people leaving the area.

*Sevetaan
19/10/98*

38

Dial C for corruption on new hotlines

Ferial Hatfajee

At the front line of the corruption battle in Gauteng, Barbara van Jaarsveld has bagged a rotten principal. Her quiet schoolmarm demeanour gives way momentarily to a victorious grin. The principal will be charged for rigging out his school's electricity to 10 surrounding shacks.

"He ran extension chords from the school and charged R100 for each line," says the woman who runs the Gauteng's corruption hotline. The toll-free line has notched up 312 calls since its inception in March.

Small-time crooks like the electricity-purveying principal have been nabbed. So have government employees who use official cars as taxis by night. A hospital superintendent who received illegal cheques worth some R1,4-million has been suspended.

The hotline is the brainchild of MEC of Economic Affairs for Gauteng Jabu Moleketi. Posters plastered around the province implore: "Be a responsible citizen and help the government to stamp out the rot in our civil service."

What's the rot? "Corruption in the form of theft, bribes demanded,

MHG 27/11-3/12/98 (54) (38)

mismanagement, poor treatment of the public by government officials."

"The hotline is only the tail-end of our fight against corruption," says Roland Hunter, the superintendent-general of Moleketi's department.

Lower-profile efforts include tightening up financial systems to cut down on fraud. Hunter has become a ghost-buster: he is spearheading an audit of the government computer system to ensure that ghost workers who collect cheques every month are exorcised.

Van Jaarsveld is also responsible for investigating cheque fraud. Her department has recouped R3,5-million of the estimated R6-million lost to fraud this year alone. A whiteboard is updated daily with the amounts recovered.

The department works with the police, the Health commission, the public protector and other authorities to investigate and eventually charge wrongdoers.

The following are a range of hotlines that you can call if you happen across corruption.

- Gauteng government corruption line 0800 600 933. A reference number is assigned and you can call and check periodically on the investigation.

- Pensions hotline 0800 117 669. No reply when the *Mail & Guardian* tried it.
- Kwazulu-Natal government fraud and corruption line 0800 313 233. Answered after three rings. The three staff members will take a complaint and assign a reference number on any corruption complaint.
- Post Office Crime-buster 0800 033 554. Answered after three rings and then five minutes in an automated queuing system. You can lay a complaint about tampering with mail or theft. A reference number is assigned.
- Telkom 0800 110 830. Answered after four rings. If you want to complain about technicians who demand backhanders, you must provide their registration numbers, names, vehicle and details of the misdemeanour. A reference number will be assigned.

Private army

puts thugs

on the run

Own team of guards yields brilliant results

By PETA KROST

The "luxury" of watching their kids playing outside without fear - that's one bonus for Kensington residents who have banded together and grabbed the crime monster by the throat.

But one of the best dividends to come out of their scheme is that two insurance companies have launched pilot projects in the area which will include reductions in premiums of up to 25% - between R150 and R250.

The Kensington community project, which has already led to an astounding 90% drop in crime in certain areas, could be a blueprint on how other crime-plagued Johannesburg suburbs tackle the problem.

Police this week confirmed that crime in the Kensington area has dropped "astronomically" since street committees were organised and full-time guards hired to patrol each street.

This is how the system works: Two years ago, the community banded together to form street committees. Each member of a street committee contributed to the cost of a full-time guard patrolling their street. Now, between 3,000 and 3,500 homes are protected by about 90 security guards, otherwise known as bobbies on the beat.

Each street has its own bank account and employs its own guard. Where there are more contributors, there are more guards. The security guards carry panic buttons and have armed-response back-up.

Shan 14/11/198

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Before the system was installed, Clayton Fowlds, now 15, was attacked and his bicycle was stolen.

It was not safe for children - even teenagers - to be out alone.

"Now, I feel secure enough to let Clayton ride his bike on the street again," says his mother, Gail Fowlds.

"I'm even happy for him to walk from the bus stop, a fair distance away. A neighbour's 12-year-old child even walks home from school."

Fowlds says she now sleeps peacefully, which was something she certainly did not do during the height of Kensington's crime wave, which included hijackings, murder, robbery and rape.

Furious

Advertising executive Peter Hugo was hijacked and robbed on his property two years ago, which motivated him to help set up the system.

"I was furious and cursed at all people in uniform. I used to stand on the veranda every night, watching every night, I watched cars with darkened windows cruising the area, sometimes with no number plates. There was always some dubious character at the bus stop. That loitering and cruising stopped after we installed the guards."

Hugo says eight crimes took place at his home in the 10 years before guards were posted. "Since then, the only crime in our street was the stealing of a car battery."

Hugo's insurance company has reduced his premiums by 15% due to the reduced risk.

"So my contribution to the guards is mostly covered by the money I save on insurance."

Before the new system, neighbours were largely strangers. Now, most people know each other and there are regular street parties.

Lawyer Lara Bezuidenhout says it is wonderful to be able to leave her car in the street and carry the groceries inside without looking over her shoulder. "We are all involved with the guards, and give them meals and chat to them. We have had the same man here for as long as I can remember," she says.

But there is a dark cloud hanging over the Kensington residents: an enterprise the Security Officers' Board (SOB), which regulates private security in South Africa, is intent on closing down the company hired by the committees because they are allegedly underpaying their guards.

The community are furious because they say they can't afford to pay the guards more money - and, they claim, the guards are happy to work for them.

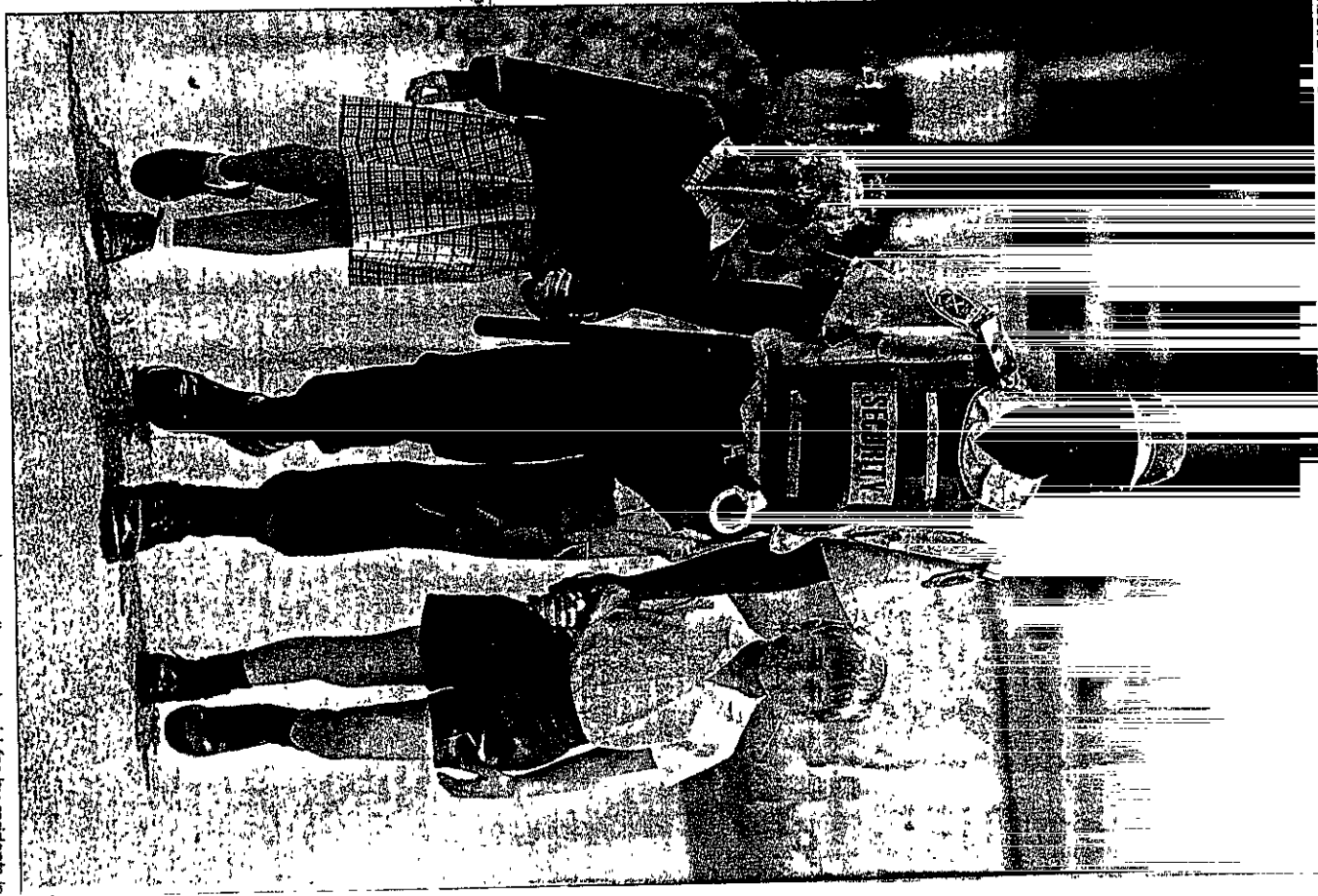
Kensington, residents explain, is not a wealthy area and they refuse to go back to the days when murders, hijackings and rapes were frequent occurrences in this leafy suburb.

Many residents repeatedly fell victim to crimes, while others moved out of the area.

So while residents are proud, and people feel safe, the battle between the security company, the residents' central committee and the SOB rages.

■ TO PAGE 2

P.T.O



RECLAIMING THE STREETS: Two youngsters are escorted home by a security guard paid for by residents in Kensington. The fall in crime incidents has been 'astounding'.

Photograph: CHRIS ADAM

Waterfront c

(38) 2/1/99

Two injured in New Year outrage

JACKIE CAMERON AND JOHAN SCHRONEN

A powerful car bomb exploded at the V&A Waterfront last night damaging three cars and injuring at least two people.

The roof of the car which contained the bomb was flung metres into the air and jagged pieces of metal, glass and other pieces of shrapnel rained down between people running for cover. Flames shot into the air after the blast.

Miraculously only two people were slightly injured and another was treated for shock.

"I cannot believe nobody was killed," said eyewitness Rodney Jardine of Athlone. Others described scenes of panic and terror in the aftermath of the second Waterfront blast within months.

Witnesses described a thunderous bang, the sound of glass shattering and screaming as people fled.

A strong smell of cordite hung in the air after the blast.

The explosion happened shortly after 7pm last night in the parking lot just metres away from the entrance to the Victoria Wharf. A white Toyota Corolla was blown apart by the blast, which damaged several other cars. One was shifted metres across the parking lot.

Police cordoned off the area and said the bombed car was parked directly under a surveillance camera monitored on a 24-hour basis.

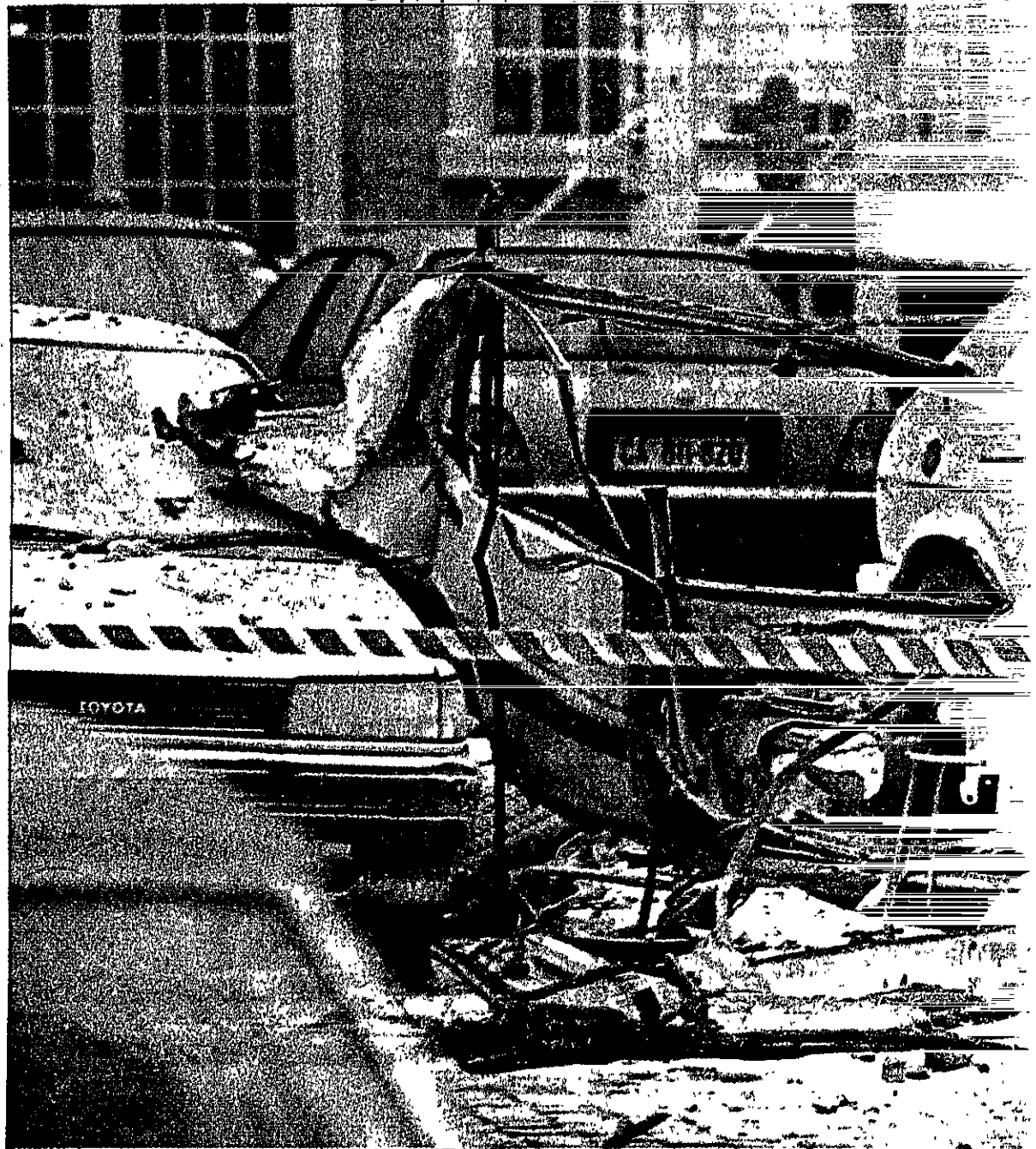
Video footage of the suspected bomber parking the car could help police close the net on suspects.

Serious violent crimes unit investigators rushed to the Waterfront last night and were negotiating with officials there to obtain images from the video tapes in a bid to identify the culprits.

Late last night, an eerie silence hung over the area, broken only by crackling radios as explosives sniffer dogs were led from car to car.

A second car was identified as containing a possible bomb, and police were gathering information about the owner.

At the time of going to press late last night, the area had still not been declared safe - not even for police officers and emergency personnel who were on standby.



AFTER THE BLAST: the remains of the car that contained the bomb. Witnesses described a thunderous bang, the sound of

Alan Styles, bodyguard to a top Gauteng businesswoman, was injured in the explosion. Styles, 25, from Northcliff, Johannesburg, and his wife, Lynn, were on a working holiday in Cape Town to protect a Johannesburg businesswoman.

Warren Williams, an employee of one of the shops in the centre, was treated for shock.

Waterfront spokeswoman Maureen Thompson described the bombing as a "despicable act".

"We are just glad no one was seriously injured in the blast. Clearly we will be looking again at further

improving security measures at the Waterfront. This may cause some discomfort, but people's safety is of prime importance."

The blast comes only four months after the devastating pipe bomb at Planet Hollywood Restaurant, which killed two and injured 26.

No one has claimed responsibility for last night's blast.

Police believe the bomb was in a car in a Waterfront parking area.

One eye-witness told investigators he saw a man get out of a car near the scene, seconds before the bombing, and then "hurry away".

The shattered pieces of the bombed car were spread hundreds of metres away from the explosion; the bonnet was found about 300m from the cordoned-off area and the car's lights lay metres away.

Cape Town fire-fighters arrived at the V&A within minutes of the explosion and evacuated the area.

Western Cape Premier Gerald Morkel, who visited the scene of the blast, said it was "totally unacceptable" to start the New Year with urban terrorism attacks.

He said there had been more than 700 bomb attacks in the province

and no one

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Picture: ANDREW INGRAM

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Town fire-fighters arrived at the V&A within minutes of the explosion and evacuated the area.

Western Cape Premier Gerald Coetzee, who visited the scene of the explosion, said it was "totally unacceptable" to start the New Year with terrorism attacks.

He said there had been more than 100 bomb attacks in the province

and no arrests.

He said the province should be given policing powers and the budget that went with that to allow the province to look after the safety of the people.

Ebrahim Rasool, African National Congress leader of the Western Cape, said many would speculate on the motive for this "cowardly act".

"Already it is being suggested that it's the work of those responsible for the ongoing campaign of terror in our province."

Eyewitness accounts - page 2

The security forces and the South African Agricultural Union have issued a document outlining special security measures following the growing number of attacks and murders which are taking place on isolated farms across the country

'Farmer's remedy' prepared to help stop homestead killings

By MORGAN CHAMBERLAIN
Petrol Bureau

(34) Star 4/1/99

A "farmer's remedy" has been prepared by the security forces and the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) to prevent attacks on isolated homesteads.

It has been a devastating 1998 for farmers, with more being killed in rural attacks than in any previous year, according to the latest statistics issued by the SAAU.

By the end of November, there had been 668 farm attacks in which 138 farmers and 42 attackers were killed. These figures have since increased marginally as a result of isolated attacks which have taken place during December in KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga.

Over the year, most attacks took place in the Free State, North West Province, KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga.

The SAAU says the death toll is 54 more than for the same period in 1997 and 17 more than in 1995, the previous worst year.

The number of attacks has increased steadily since 1991, when there were 237, compared to 551 in 1995 and this year's 668.

The highest number of deaths of farmers took place in May (89) and March (72).

Attackers were targeting weapons and vehicles of which 387 and 146, respectively, were stolen in the 668 attacks.

Farmers were this week urged to put into practice suggestions contained in a "farmer's remedy" document on how to prevent attacks.

The document sets out how to make safety precautions a priority in rural areas, giving suggestions for the home, farmyard, employees, movements and communication with security forces.

"The large-scale incidence of farm attacks has forced farmers

SAAU says economic prospects not expected to improve much

By MORGAN CHAMBERLAIN
Petrol Bureau

Economic prospects are not expected to improve much over 1998 especially with the added possibility of lower world prices for particular crops, according to the annual economic review.

SAAU economic boss on Thursday said there was for the year ending September 1998, that gross farm income was influenced mainly by field crops the cost of which had risen 76% as a result of a cut of at most 19% and 22% respectively in income generated from maize and wheat.

Intermediate and services prices as well as salaries and wages had cost farmers over R17 billion and as a result there had been a "cut back on fertiliser and fuel which in turn impacted on field crops."

In view of the fact that winter cereal crops are expected to be lower, depressed market prices in the local and

foreign markets makes it unlikely that agriculture's economic performance will improve.

As far as 1999 is concerned, two factors are bound to worry farmers - unpredictable weather conditions and the real possibility of low prices as stipulated by the United States Department of Agriculture, said the boss.

"Large crops in the United States have led to the lowest dollar prices in decades for some crops."

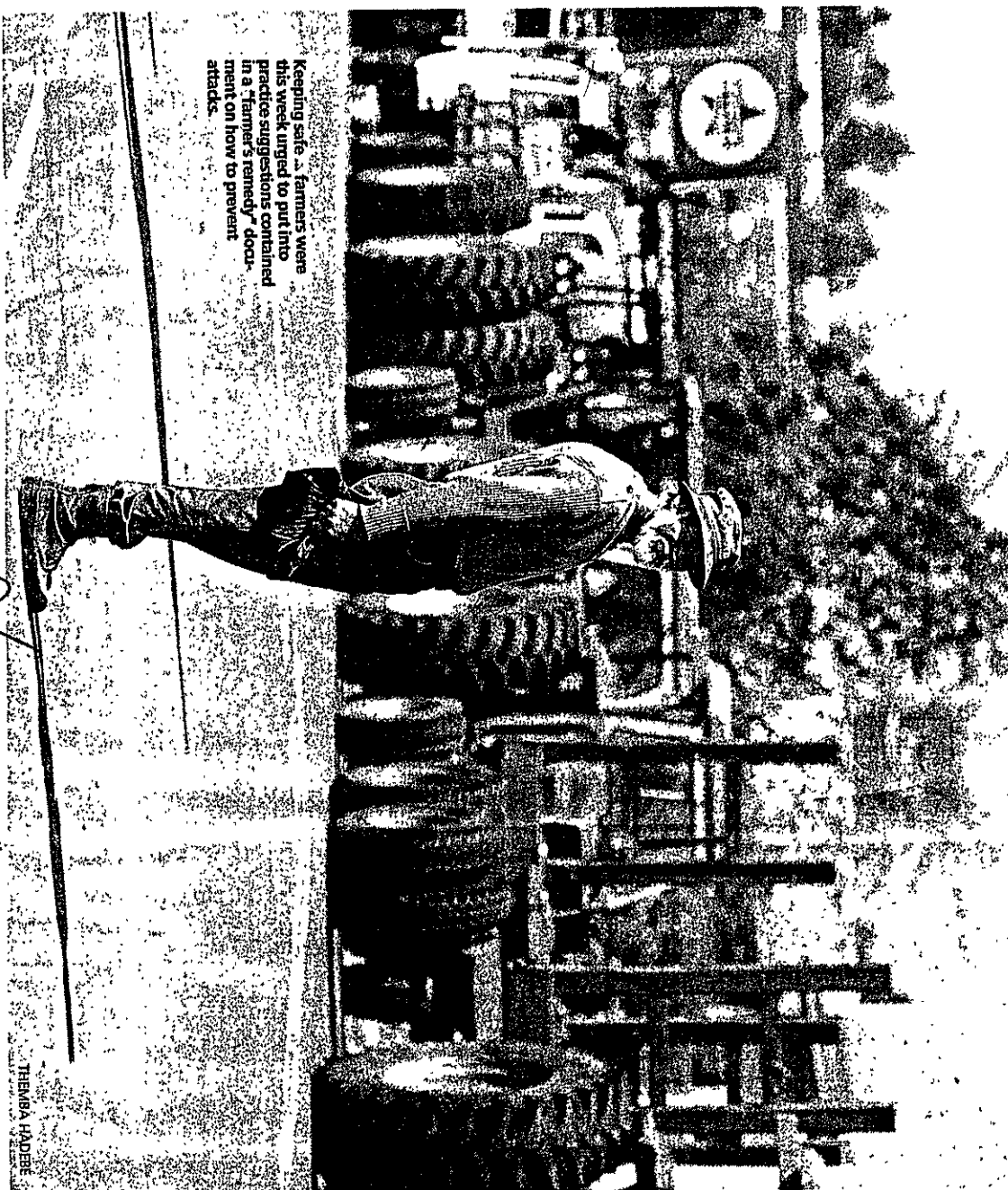
"This spells trouble for export countries such as South Africa who have to face the consequences of low prices with little support measures which farmers enjoy in other export countries."

Dr. Toit adds that the weather will be a determining factor in agriculture contributing to a potential economic upturn for south Africa.

He says that if rainfall in the mid and late summer months proves to be at least average, the agricultural sector will almost certainly make a substantial contribution to stimulating economic growth.

starting safety on the farm with guard dogs, additional lighting and extra vigilance, farmers should also pay attention to what they hear during conversations about strange happenings, trouble or vehicles on neighbouring farms.

Involvement in local army commandos, the police reserve



THEMBA MADIBE

Keeping safe... farmers were this week urged to put into practice suggestions contained in a "farmer's remedy" document on how to prevent attacks.

More police to hunt Westbury gangs 'running amok', vows police chief

NEO NTSOMA

By Selby Bokera
Crime Reporter

In a bid to curb renewed gang-related violence in Johannesburg's coloured townships, Gauteng Police Commissioner Sharma Maharaj yesterday promised to increase the number of members of the gangster violence investigative unit.

Even as Maharaj toured the violence-ravaged township of Westbury yesterday, news filtered through that yet another man was shot and wounded at a shopping complex in Newclare, west of Johannesburg, in apparent ongoing gang violence.

The man, whose name was not released, was rushed to the nearby Helen Joseph Hospital, where his condition was reported to be stable.

Maharaj was accompanied by high-ranking police officials in his tour of Westbury.

"We need to increase the capacity of the investigative unit to 40 members; to augment the public order policing unit from Soweto, who are patrolling the area 24 hours a day. We have identified the problem and various activities of the gangsters are targeted," he said.

He said there were four bands of gangsters involved in the warfare who were fighting over the drug trade and for ter-

ritorial control.

Maharaj appealed to the community to come forward with information that could lead to a crackdown on gangsters who, he said, ran amok in the community.

Maharaj walked about and chatted to embattled residents, enquiring about their concerns.

Angry Glen Steyn, a resident who heads a non-governmental organisation in the area, said the gangsters broke into his office on Wednesday and threatened his staff. He described life in Westbury as "hell".

"We need action here, not the commissioner moving around. We know who they are and where they live, but people are afraid of reporting to the police because no action will be taken against the culprits," said Steyn.

Another resident, who did not want to be identified, said the area was quiet during the day but, shortly after the sun set, the shooting started. She said she was afraid to live in Westbury as bullets flew every day: "Nobody dares to venture outside at night."

Four people - Clinton Brown (31), Ellington Petersen (21), Wayne Pienaar (25) and Dominic Singh (19) - have been killed, and seven critically injured, in the resurgence of violence since the festive season.



Concerned ... Westbury resident Glen Steyn tells Gauteng Police Commissioner Sharma Maharaj and Director Azwimndini Nengovhela how gangsters broke into his office and threatened staffers.

Westbury

Where blood and mothers' tears never stop flowing

This week concerned top policemen visited violence-wracked Westbury - a suburb where gangster related crime had led to the murders of several youngsters in past weeks. **JOHANNES VOGEL** asked the community, especially mothers, about their tense situation.

Star 9/1/99 (38)

While millions of South Africans optimistically greeted the start of a new year, a grief-stricken Westbury, Johannesburg, mother mourned the death of her son, who was executed by a mob of about 15 who pumped 27 bullets into his body.

Bridget Louw was just another numbed mother who had to bury a child amid the ongoing and senseless bloodshed in the area.

On the second day of 1999 a heart-broken Louw stood by a grave and scattered soil to pay her last respects to her beloved son Dominique Singh, gunned down at the age of 19.

She cannot understand what motivated the people who murdered Dominique. She said neighbours had witnessed how a large armed gang came to her house to look for him.

Popular

He was not at home, but the mob found him on his way back and gunned him down near a church in the area.

"He did not deserve to die like that. He was popular among the locals and never caused any trouble. We were best friends," a visibly moved Louw told the *Saturday Star*.

She and other mothers whose sons have been senselessly murdered have made a passionate plea to Westbury families to stand together and help stop the slayings.

But the rifts in this shell-shocked neighbourhood make co-operation

almost impossible.

A *Saturday Star* investigation found a community whose lives have been shattered by years of killings and the inevitable revenge attacks. Mistrust among residents, and sometimes even the closest of friends, is the sad result.

Families have been split: one brother might be a gangster and the other a police reservist.

Even grieving mothers fight and



CONCERNED: Gauteng Police Commissioner Sharma Maharaj

point accusing fingers at each other.

But both the community of Westbury and that of the adjoining suburb of Newclare are unanimous in pointing fingers at the local police, in whom they have lost faith.

Residents accuse policemen of co-

operating with the gangsters and benefiting from the bad elements in the suburbs.

They complain that the police hardly ever attend to their calls and come only to "pick up the bodies".

"Even when we phone 10111 they either do not respond, or tell us to contact our local police station," several residents told the *Saturday Star* this week.

Some residents claimed some police officers were intoxicated when they went to report incidents at Sophiatown police station, while others were told that no official vehicles were available to respond.

Bizarrely, mothers who spoke to the *Saturday Star* said the killings would stop only if family members were prepared to implicate their own sons.

Janet Louw, mother of Charlton Joko who was gunned down in June 1996, told us she had had to do most of the investigation herself to try to see justice done.

She said "the system" had failed her and that the killer was still roaming the streets of Westbury.

"Do people and these cops have any idea how it feels to face the murderer? To watch him freely walking the streets? He's arrogant enough to do that. And while he walks free because of poor investigative work, I have to carry the emotional scars, a prisoner of my emotions," she said angrily.

Louw said she would spend as much energy as possible to unite people in the area so that they could stand up

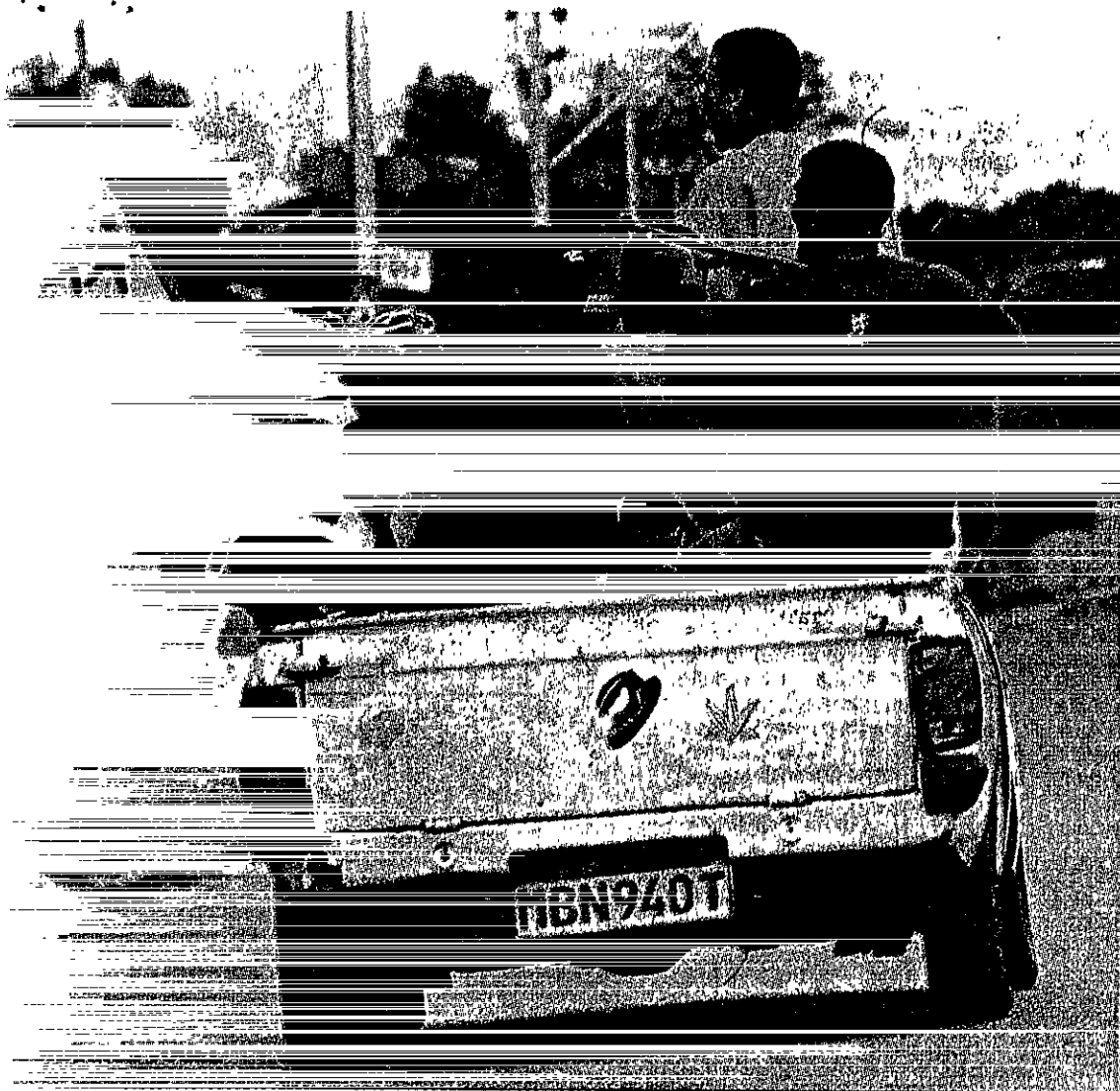


EARLY GRAVE: Residents of Westbury put 27 bullets into his body

against the "rotten elements in the community".

Many people came forward and shared their feelings. Others were too scared to speak out. This is an area where fear rules and divides.

When it gets dark in Westbury, people lock their doors and wait in



CULTURE OF VIOLENCE: A bakkie-load of youths armed to the teeth is a common sight in the blood-spattered suburb of Westbury. Ironically, many of these guns could be harmless look-alike toys, but to shell-shocked residents of Westbury, who constantly live with fear, it makes no difference – they dive for cover

■ Also see Page 1



GRAVE: Residents of Westbury gather for the burial of Dominique Singh, who was only 19 when a mob of bullets into his body

the "rotten elements in the city".
people came forward and their feelings. Others were too afraid to speak out. This is an area where fear rules and divides. When it gets dark in Westbury, people lock their doors and wait in

fear for the evil forces to crawl from their hiding places to claim another victim.
"We are never safe here. The bad guys first shoot out the street lights and the next moment strike. You are alone. Nobody would come to protect you," said a man at one of the many

flats in the area.
"There are no police around," he added, shaking his head.
He said the people of Westbury had learnt to remain silent: "If we knew we would be protected when we speak out it would be great," he whispered.

In the wake of the spate of killings, Gauteng police commissioner Sharma Maharaj visited the area this week.

He admitted that in the past some policemen had worked with the gangsters, but he added that such behaviour would not be tolerated.

"There might even be current members who are helping the gangsters, but the only way we can get rid of these corrupt police officers is if the community come forward and give statements to the police."

Maharaj said more policemen would be assigned to the area to help stamp out corruption.

He added that various accusations directed at the police were not always justified.

Sceptical

But residents were sceptical about Maharaj's visit: "They just drove along the main road for 10 minutes and they think that will solve the problem," a bystander said. "Westbury doesn't need another PR exercise: we need tough cops who will restore law and order."

Detective Wayne Musgrove of Sophiatown police station appealed to witnesses to come forward with information about the killing of Singh and other related incidences. He said he would do everything possible to bring the killers to book.

Any witnesses should call the confidential toll-free number/0800-11-12-13 or contact Musgrove at (011) 477-1390.

Gang violence takes deadly toll in Westbury

Star 12/11/99 (p. 8)

Passer-by opens fire without provocation, killing man and injuring three other people in area notorious for gangster feuds over drugs and territorial control

By Selva Borana
Crime Reporter

A man was killed and three youths were injured when an assailant opened fire on a group of people standing outside a house in Westbury in ongoing gang violence at the weekend.

Captain Andy Pike said 26-year-old Shane Swiegiand died in hospital from stomach wounds. Two girls and a 15-year-old boy were admitted to hospital with various injuries.

Pike said a man was walking in the area when he spotted a group of people standing outside a house and, without any provocation, unleashed several shots.

"Police know the name of the suspect and they are investigating," Pike said.

Five people have been shot dead and 10 seriously injured since Christmas in a re-

surgeance of the gang warfare which had been dormant since the middle of last year.

The conflict, which centres mainly on the drug trade and territorial control, mainly involves the Fast Guns and Majimbo gangs.

A resident, who asked not to be named, said people had lost confidence in the police because they had failed to protect them from the gangs. No one was willing to speak to the police for fear of being labelled as an informer.

Terrified residents have accused the police of colluding with the factions. "Things have got out of control here," the resident said.

He said the violence had resumed towards the end of last year when members of the Majimbo were released on bail, and it had now escalated into a low-scale war.

"It gained momentum dur-

ing the Christmas break. Police are not doing enough to curb the carnage," he said.

Bridget Louw, whose son Dominic Singh (19) was killed by unknown assailants on December 27, said she was baffled by her son's death because he had not been a gang member.

Singh's body was near Louw's house. It is believed that more than 20 bullets had been pumped into his body.

"Westbury is in a bad state," Louw said yesterday, fighting back tears.

Police spokesperson Inspector Mark Reynolds said the police were maintaining a visible presence in the area.

A team of detectives from Sophiatown was investigating gang violence in Westbury.

Reynolds added that if residents were too afraid to report crimes to the local police station, they could call the toll-free Crimestop number 0800-11-12-13.



Street scene ... Westbury residents try to lead a normal life despite gang violence which has erupted in the area after a brief period of peace.

Campaigining for safer cities

Councils, forums can seal success of projects

NORMAN JOSEPH
METRO REPORTER

Local authorities and community police forums are the two lynchpins for success of the safer cities programme.

Cape Town's Safer Cities Programme manager Omar Valley called on local authorities and forums to get actively involved in crime prevention and awareness programmes.

A municipality and a forum were in a strong and favourable position to launch anti-crime campaigns in communities, he said.

Mr Valley, former schoolteacher and head of the provincial community safety department, single-handedly completed a research study in the Western Cape last July on the safer cities concept.

Mr Valley, who had recruited the Oostenberg municipality, said he had several meetings in various towns, including Gugulethu and Mitchell's Plain, appointing task teams and project managers to spearhead various projects.

In many of the town neighbourhoods he had visited, youth development, family violence, school safety and victim empowerment programmes were launched.

These programmes had been sponsored by the City of Cape Town and organised mainly by community police forums in respective areas.

A local authority and forum would initially be the key roleplayers in the programmes while other community organisations came on board.

Mr Valley said most local authorities in the Peninsula had made provi-

sion on their budgets to accommodate safer cities programme projects.

Municipalities as far away as De Aar and Mossel Bay had asked Mr Valley to present the concept to community police forums.

The United Nations has donated R1-million to the City of Cape Town for the safer cities programme.

Mr Valley encouraged municipalities to have a law enforcement and crime prevention component.

Cape Town Municipality took a leading role in this regard by adopting the promotion of community development as one of its seven strategic priorities.

This priority list is pasted on every noticeboard in Cape Town's civic centre.

Mr Valley said there was a need for residents to join community

police forums and neighbourhood watch groups to "strengthen these structures" against crime.

One Cape Flats area which had had some success was Kullis River.

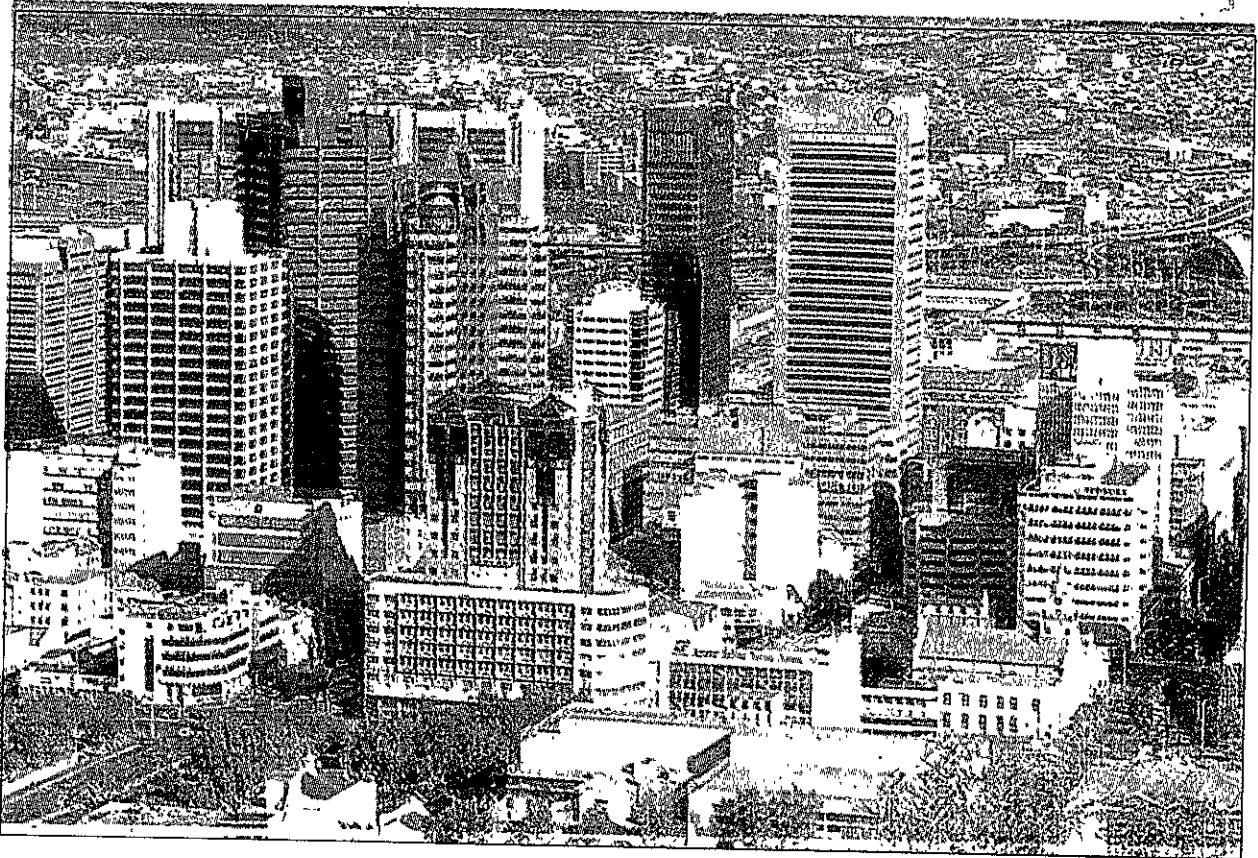
Kullis River Community Police Forum leader Justin Lottering said burglaries and thefts from motor vehicles were on the increase in more affluent parts of Kullis River, Eerste River, Blue Downs and Sarapia.

He said the forum had formed good relations with the Oostenberg municipality, the business sector, taxi associations, schools and neighbourhood watches, and had started the Unite Against Crime campaign.

The safer cities programme has generated tremendous interest from local councils and is earmarked to become a major anchor in combating crime on the Cape Flats.

(38) ARG 13/1/99

P.T.O. For Picture



JIM MCLAGAN

How to make this city safe? programme manager Omar Valley wants greater involvement from local authorities and forums

Street committees in pilot project

By MIKE MASIPA

The street committee system - used so effectively by township communities in the old South Africa - will be put to use to combat crime and vigilantism across Gauteng if a pilot project in Ivory Park, Midrand, succeeds.

The North Rand township has been plagued by acts of vigilante terror recently. In the latest episode last week, four suspected criminals, reported to be Mozambicans, were necklaced by a group of 400 vigilantes in Goniwe Section in Ivory Park.

Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Paul Mashatile held a meeting with Ivory Park residents and police on Monday to discuss the problem of vigilantism, said by police to be escalating. Five people were killed in numerous attacks on suspected criminals in the area last year.

Safety and Security spokesperson Delca Maluleke said residents told Mashatile that they "were sick and tired of criminals breaking into people's houses, stealing their belongings at gunpoint, raping young girls and murdering people with impunity."

"The meeting, however, agreed that vigilantism was not the way to go ... that the community must mobilise against crime in a co-ordinated way, respecting the law."

One such way was the street committee system which Mashatile suggested be implemented. The system replaced apartheid local authorities during the struggle against apartheid.

Maluleke said the department wanted to revive the structures as a pilot project in Ivory Park and would extend it to other areas if successful.

Residents told the MEC that although those attacked

last week were foreigners, it should not be seen as a campaign against non-South Africans.

Ivory Park police station commissioner Captain Lucas Mashigo said police and community representatives would meet today to plan how the envisaged street and block committees should operate. Mashatile will return to the township on Sunday for a progress report.

"The block and street committee is a great idea. As police, we need to know who handles each area so that we can monitor every section and ensure that it works within the law," said Mashigo.

Meanwhile, no one has been arrested in connection with last week's vigilante attack but Mashigo said he "expected a breakthrough soon" because people were reacting positively to the plea to come forward with information.

Korean firms (38) issue warning in wake of murder

Star 5/2/99
BY HYEWOOK CHEONG
Star Foreign Service

Seoul, South Korea - The Samsung and LG groups have ordered workers in South Africa not to leave their quarters at night, and the Daewoo Group has issued a warning to all its overseas branches, following the murder of Yong Koo Kwon, president of Daewoo Motors in southern Africa, in Sandton on Tuesday.

The media played down the possibility of withdrawing from South Africa, and Korean news reports of Kwon's death focused on the dangers facing South Koreans in postings all over the world - not only in South Africa.

Daewoo executive Kang Dae-hyun was murdered in October 1994 after being attacked by Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria. Just 14 days later, another South Korean worker was kidnapped and killed by a robber during a business trip in Hong Kong. In April last year, trade representative Park Kum-shik, of Sun-ki Trading, was killed in Moscow.

Daewoo spokesperson Chang Se-chan said: "Although we do not have any plans to pull out of South Africa, Daewoo has lost a key member in the overseas sales team.

His untimely death has sent a shock wave throughout our company."

On Wednesday, the phone rang at Kwon's Seoul residence as his son Tae-wook and Kwon's wife returned home from paying for his college tuition. The family were in high spirits as their youngest son had been accepted into a top university.

The 19-year-old boy picked up the phone, assuming his father was calling to congratulate him, but the call brought the devastating news about his father's death.

Kwon's wife, Yoon Young-bok (48), said: "I cannot believe his life has ended in vain, when he lived life with such strength."

Kwon was sent to Johannesburg in January last year. It was his fourth foreign appointment since he joined the company in 1971.

After being separated from his family for over a year, Kwon was upbeat about their upcoming visit next week.

Daewoo has sent a company representative to escort Kwon's wife and two sons to Johannesburg. Though funeral arrangements have yet to be made, Daewoo officials say it is to be held in Seoul once the investigation is over.

Elite unit to fight hijacking in Gauteng

Supercops raring to go with the vital task of stopping vehicle thieves in their tracks, and nailing kingpins behind scourge that is blighting the province

By Mike Masipa
and Matthew Burbidge

Gauteng's safety and security department will launch a crack squad of supercops, backed by justice department staff, next month, tasked solely with tackling hijacking in the province, it was announced yesterday.

Safety and security MEC Paul Mashatile met the national Director of Public Prosecutions, Bulelani Ngcuka, yesterday to discuss the establishment of the unit, which will consist of "highly skilled, experienced and dedicated personnel".

Safety and security spokesperson Delca Maluleke said the unit would be made up of more than 16 investigators, 13 intelligence officers, two advocates, and prosecutors from both Ngcuka's office and that of the attorney-general of Gauteng.

The idea was based on the success of a similar project in KwaZulu Natal.

All hijacking cases in Gauteng will go directly to this unit and will not be handled at police station level.

The squad, which will be known as the Special Investigative Unit, will have its headquarters in Ngcuka's office in Pretoria, and will operate with

its own fleet of specialised vehicles.

Mashatile said the number of convictions for vehicle hijacking was far from satisfactory.

The new unit was expected to make more arrests, and secure convictions more quickly.

Mashatile said the unit would also focus on people who bought stolen cars. Chop shops

vehicles for the task.

The unit would also work closely with vehicle-licensing and border-control authorities. "We want to close all the loopholes and start investigating the trade (in stolen cars). It has become huge."

Mashatile said the unit would initially deal with cases in Johannesburg, Sandton and Randburg, after which it would expand to Pretoria and the West Rand.

Maluleke said the team had already been selected and was "raring to go... they could actually begin with the task at any moment".

"Hijacking has been a serious problem for too long, and it will need a co-ordinated approach and highly modernised investigative capacity to deal with it effectively.

"What we are doing is simply to get to the kingpins of the crime and destroy the core of the whole thing," Maluleke said.

Mashatile said he was "elated at such an initiative", which was "long overdue, given that hijacking is a priority crime".

He added, however, that what was needed was proper implementation and supervision of the project to ensure that hijacking kingpins were prosecuted successfully.

“
We want to close all the loopholes, probe trade in stolen cars
”

would be obliged to register with their local authority and with the police.

In addition, chop shop owners would be obliged to list every vehicle that came through their doors, on pain of being "close" down.

Mashatile said he could not say how much it would cost to set up the unit, and that he would be appealing to Business Against Crime to donate

Sandton's novel plan to curb crime

Residents urged to invite a policeman to live in their home

Star 13/2/99
(38)

Want to be completely safe from criminals? Do what an elderly Sandton couple did and invite a policeman to live with you.

Some Sandton residents are banding together with their local policemen to prevent crime. When you walk into the Sandton police client service centre or the old change house, there are huge signs that ask you to keep the doors closed on account of the atmosphere.

Some of the largest, dark wooden corners and entry floor tiles are familiar with police stations. Instead, you are greeted by friendly staff who are ready to help you with your problems. They are the Sandton police officers who have taken on the role of the officers on duty in the area.

You know you've walked into a place where there is not only a demand for good service but a strong effort to provide one.

One of the initiatives of the newly launched Sandton Community Policing Forum is to make its police officers even more part of the community through a major scheme. Residents are being encouraged to offer low-cost accommodation to

some of the officers in order to make them a part of the area they police.

Most of the officers live in Soweto, Pretoria, Krugersdorp and far-flung areas on the East Rand.

Since there are no public trains or buses to Sandton from these areas, transport has become one of the biggest challenges for these officers.

In 1996 an elderly couple from Parkmore were being burgled regularly in desperation. They approached the Sandton police for help. Constable Sam Morolong, who has been working at Sandton police station for more than two years, wanted accommodation in the area because he was responsible for transporting the officers to work.

But residents are asking for rent of between R1 500 and R2 000 - almost a couple's entire monthly salary. "The rates here are high, which is probably why people are asking so much," says Morolong.



Claudia Mpepe

haven't had any burglaries."

But Morolong also wanted to own his own home. When the opportunity arose to buy a home in Pretoria West, he took it.

"There is no way I can afford to buy a home here. So now I have to take three taxis to get to work by 7am. When I work a late shift I still stay over in Parkmore."

Morolong believes that having police officers stay in the area that they police would go a long way towards building loyalty in these communities.

"When I stayed here permanently I used to patrol my area at weekends. I would walk around my neighbourhood and check on things that looked suspicious. It would concern me if any of the houses in my street were burgled. I really felt part of them."



CHIN UP: Constable Sam Morolong next to the encouraging pictures sent to policemen by local children
Photograph: CAHY RINNOCK

Members of the community have placed an advertisement in the local newspaper asking that accommodation for constables from Sandton police station be provided.

But residents are asking for rent of between R1 500 and R2 000 - almost a couple's entire monthly salary. "The rates here are high, which is probably why people are asking so much," says Morolong.

"We are not pleading poverty," says the station commander, Senior Superintendent Patrick Kemp. "But what we are asking is for Sandton residents to work with us."

When we launched the community forum last year we had a phenomenal response, but what we really need is a real commitment to Sandton police have to cover an 80 square kilometre area with a staff of 195, which includes jogjammers, reservists, satellite stations, and permanent administrative staff. Ideally they need 750 members of staff.

"We feel that the only way we are going to win the war against crime in our area is if we bring a true partnership with residents and police," says Morolong. "We need a real commitment from the secretary of the police forum."

Sandton is a very demanding community and I think it would be very difficult to understand the conditions under which some of these officers are performing their duties.

"We are not pleading poverty for people to contribute their skills, knowledge and

commitment."

According to Kemp there is a lot the public can do to prevent crime.

"Many people fear crime but somehow still live in a cocoon, thinking it can't happen to them. Two of the major crimes the community forum would like to focus on to increase public awareness is house robbery and hijackings. If you see a suspicious-looking person or vehicle outside your property when you come home, drive past and don't stop."

Another crime that can be prevented is smash-and-grabs. You hear about it every day but people still leave their bags on the seat instead of locking them in the boot."

The Sandton Community Policing Forum will be holding its next meeting on Thursday 18. Contact Maggie Leithner on (011) 883-5277 for more details.

Palisades plan for Houghton Estate comes under fire (38) BD 19/2/99 Deborah Fine

A BID by homeowners in Houghton Estate to virtually close off their suburb is an indictment of the inability of the SA Police Services to curtail violent crime, according to resident Ed Reeves.

Reeves represents a section 21 company set up by 180 residents who want to seal off nine blocks with palisade fences, and restrict access to three entry points, manned by armed response units.

The blocks, bound by Oxford, River, Eleventh and Riviera roads, include former Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale's home.

Reeves said yesterday that the decision to ask the Johannesburg eastern local council for permission to close off Houghton Estate was motivated by two housebreakings by armed robbers, two murders and five armed hijackings in the past year.

Residents of other northern Johannesburg suburbs, like Wendywood and Gallo Manor, have reported dramatic decreases in burglaries and hijackings since access was restricted by road closures.

The Houghton plan has come under fire, however, from six local objectors who have lodged protests with the council, and also from residents of neighbouring Killarney.

They say road closures will hamper emergency vehicles and worsen traffic congestion. One said she did not want to live in a "paranoid, alienating, classist area". The objectors say the section 21 company failed to properly advertise its intentions and invite objections.

Reeves, a hijack victim, said the number and size of the company's posters complied strictly with municipal requirements.

Ward councillor Mike Moriarty said he was not contacted about the plan. The council's planning and development committee would consider the application and objections.

Job losses not result of export competition

Reneé Grawitzky

LABOUR market reforms introduced in SA since 1994 did not appear to be especially stringent by international comparisons, an International Labour Organisation (ILO) report has found.

But the report, released yesterday, cautioned that in the context of accelerated international integration of economies, "excessive protective regulations could have unintended negative consequences on employment creation and enterprises' capacity for adaptation".

The report said it was too early to assess how far the recent labour reforms would go in meeting the challenge of creating jobs in a global economy.

The report found that the introduction of trade liberalisation since 1994 had not contributed to massive job losses.

This was in spite of arguments by organised labour that trade and financial market liberalisation had "substantially" aggravated "the employment situation".

The report said it was difficult to isolate the effects of globalisation from those of other processes which had occurred

since 1994, such as macroeconomic changes in the country.

Employment levels had fallen faster before the start of trade liberalisation, while import-competing sectors had not been affected by job losses to the same extent as export-oriented sectors.

Research showed job losses were not directly associated with greater import competition. They were caused by "production rationalisation or rightsizing", which affected export sectors.

One of the report's aims was to examine the extent to which the social and eco-

mic imbalances during the transitional period might have restricted the potential gains from globalisation.

The report said SA began to liberalise its economy from a "base of extreme racial inequalities and high levels of unemployment". In this context, the effect of liberalisation on inequalities appeared to be relatively less important.

Labour Minister Membathisi Mdlalane said the report would help shift the debate in SA away from the "realm of polemic and unscientific speculation to a systematic and informed engagement".

Municipal policing in Gauteng set to become a reality

Pearl Sebola

MUNICIPAL policing in Gauteng should become a reality by the end of June, Safety and Security MEC Paul Mashatile says.

Mashatile said in Johannesburg yesterday at the launch of the safety and security focus month that local authorities were ready to implement the metropolitan policing system. The training of instructors had started.

Municipal police services would enforce municipal bylaws and traffic officers would be

given the power to investigate cases, said Gauteng premier Mathole Motshhega.

He said community courts, which government had been promising, were "no longer a pipe dream". Locations in Johannesburg and Khayalami had been identified in which to implement pilot programmes.

Motshhega said the anti-hijacking unit would be launched next week.

Several events — including police raids and roadblocks in "strategic areas", sports gatherings and roadshows by members of the provincial executive

council to mobilise communities on crime prevention — had been planned as part of the campaign which would cost the Gauteng government R300 000.

"The campaign will focus on dealing with crimes against women, children and youth, and violent crimes like car hijacking, murder, armed robberies and the theft of firearms," he said.

Mashatile and Motshhega would also visit various areas to promote the system of block and street committees which would operate under the auspices of the statutory community policing forums and

the local police.

Motshhega urged communities to get involved in crime prevention initiatives. Meanwhile, the provincial safety and security committee yesterday heard a proposal from a private company wanting to build "one-stop" police stations and magistrate courts in previously disadvantaged communities.

Safety, Security and Justice Property Holdings said the buildings would be leased to government. The centres would ensure that police stations became focal points in communities.

Funds for city police

Pearl Sebolao

(38)

(251)

THE Gauteng government has not taken a decision about what role it will play in the funding of municipal policing, despite the fact that a metropolitan police are expected to become a reality by the end of June.

Safety and Security MEC Paul Mashatile told the provincial safety and security committee yesterday that his department had only made provision for facilitating the establishment of metropolitan police.

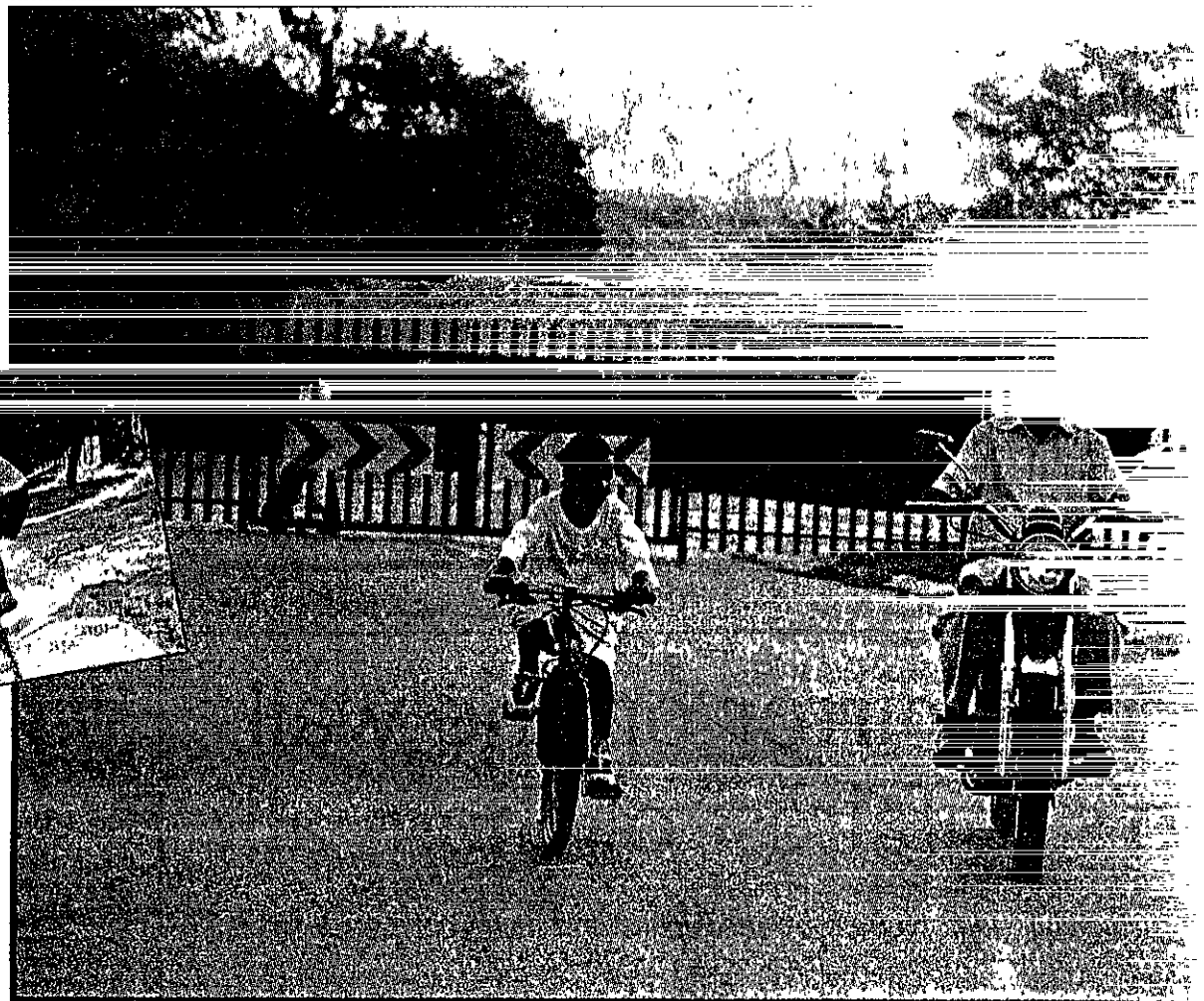
Mashatile said R35 000 had been budgeted for this financial year. It would go towards setting up the stakeholder base and facilitating the establishment of metropolitan policing. The cash strapped local authorities would take the responsibility of funding this service.

He admitted that the budgeted amount might not be adequate, as additional expertise would be required and more people would have to be recruited.

Mashatile said the training of instructors had started and local authorities should be ready to implement the programme by the end of June.

DB 10/3/99

Suspicion and fear have given way to suburban bliss in a neighbourhood whose residents have taken the fight against crime into their own hands, writes LAURICE TAITZ



TWO years ago, the Maponya family moved from cramped Alexandra to Gallo Manor, a sprawling far northern Johannesburg suburb of large ranch-style homes.

Mothibi Maponya, a TV and radio producer, viewed the move as a step up from an East Bank house in the township to a landscaped property big enough to accommodate two new cars, an office and a swimming pool for their children.

A month later, their neighbour, a white man, was shot dead. A week or two after that, another neighbour's car was hijacked, and the Maponyas stood by helplessly while the getaway car sped past their gate.

Suddenly the Maponyas didn't feel safe at all and wondered whether they'd made the right choice.

"We were very concerned about the high level of crime; kids' bicycles were being stolen from them while they were on them, so we couldn't even let Kgabane and Siphon ride theirs in the street. We just didn't feel good about it," he says.

Eight years earlier, the residents had clubbed together and bought themselves a police station. But staff and resource shortages within the police force put an end to that plan.

Crime continued to spiral — even lift schemes were being hijacked — until a year ago, when residents proposed turning Gallo Manor into a gated community.

"We were very supportive," says Maponya's wife, Thandi. "We said, 'We'll pay.'"

Ten months after the idea became a reality, the suburb that hit the headlines for its high crime rate has practically eliminated serious crime.

Today, its 800-odd homes are ringed with metal-spike fencing, patrolled by private security cars and guarded by sentries at all exits. Most of the access roads have been closed off; the remaining five are guarded by day. Just two stay open after 8pm. For the privilege of living

within this self-styled fortress residents pay R110 a month — an amount offset in most cases by a 30 percent reduction in their household insurance.

"It has made all the difference," says Maponya.

Life in Gallo Manor, where a bottom-end faux hacienda will set you back about R350 000, has changed irrevocably, and most agree it has been for the better.

Ask anyone and you'll get more or less the same answer: children are back playing on the streets, people are walking their dogs after dark and neighbours are starting to greet each other as they drive home in their up-market family sedans.

Security cars cruise the streets day and night in search of suspicious activity.

Maponya speaks for all when he praises these 24-hour patrols. "The other day I was outside my house chatting to a friend and one of the cars stopped to check

on us." Far from feeling threatened, or even insulted, by such close scrutiny, he was impressed. "You can't ask for better than that."

Tony Greenfield has lived on Dalfodil Street for 17 years. One of the prime movers behind the gated community idea, he remembers when life in Gallo Manor was hell.

"We had residents being murdered, children being shot at and lift schemes hijacked. One of the worst incidents was when the hijackers drove off with the kids still in the car. We had regular robberies — everything from petty theft to houses being cleaned out. I was scared to enter my own driveway."

Everyone who has lived in the suburb for longer than two years has a "war" story to tell.

"At night we had gunfire in the streets," says residents' committee member Graham Fine. "If you think this is a bleak picture we

are painting, you should know we are not exaggerating."

In the month before the suburb was enclosed seven hijackings were recorded in four days. The gates closed on Gallo Manor on June 20 last year. Since then, there has been just one serious crime — a hijacking — and the patrolmen on duty that day were so mortified they traced the criminals to Tembisa and arrested them. Like any momentous event, the date of that hijacking is imprinted on the collective memory of Gallo Manor *inwoners*. It was August 11.

Like early settlers, the people of Gallo Manor have redefined the terms under which they live, creating their own boundaries and new frontiers. Life in the laager has also given life to its own distinct vocabulary.

Housewives natter about the demise of "schedule-one defences". Paramilitary-style security has taken on a softer, more

neighbourly appearance, with sentries now described as "static wardens".

In the reception area at Coin Security Group headquarters in Sandton, pictures of the way things used to be hang on the walls: guards in riot helmets, tank-like armoured cars and automatic weapons. But in Gallo Manor the security image has changed. The security guards wear black pants and white shirts — more school yard than parade ground. They've even changed the colour of their patrol cars — from camo-brown to blue and white — to make them less intimidating to residents.

The company's Pieter Venter says the wardens and patrolmen should know everything about the suburb they're protecting — from being able to recognise residents on sight to the names of gardeners, domestics and "even the names of their dogs".

Despite having to go that extra

RIGHT UP THEIR STREET: Mothibi Maponya and his sons cycle without fear through their suburb, where (above left) it is now safe

It's boom time suburb once unc

(38)



their suburb, where (above left) it is now safe for children to be on the streets

Pictures: ELIZABETH SEJAKE and CATHY PINNOCK

n time in a ce under siege

(38)

ST 14/3/99

Gulnaaz DeShmukh, who lives a few kilometres away in Wendywood Extension 4. "We are waiting for the booms to be legal. And then ours are going up."

DeShmukh says she feels as if her house has been under siege. "We have had a number of attempted robberies. Last year, I came home while my house was being broken into. It was broad daylight... It was like these people had been watching me and reading my mind because I had left the alarm off. When we arrived one of them was hiding outside with a gun. The day after, we spent R20 000 on burglar bars. I have to open 100 locks to get in and out."

Fine is sensitive to criticism about living in a gated suburb. He says he would be a lot more critical of the enclosure if he didn't live in it. "Unfortunately, the state doesn't provide us with fundamental safety."

The Gallo Manor enclosure has the support of 90 percent of residents. According to one committee member, domestic workers, asked for their consent, "were quicker to sign on the dotted line than householders".

Despite the consensus within the walls, the Johannesburg metropolitan council has other views on the matter which it plans to test in court. While road closures are legal, with the council's permission, restricting access to the suburb is not.

But until the fences are pulled down, life goes on — and Maponya can safely enjoy playing on the streets with his children at sundown.

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Despite having to go that extra

mile to get out of the suburb and perhaps — during peak times — having to queue at access points, most people wouldn't have it any other way. Says Fine: "Kids growing up here don't know any better. At peak times it takes a few minutes extra to get to school, but that's no price to pay for your child's safety."

At the local primary school a framed poster of homilies headed "Children learn what they live" hangs outside the principal's office. Among the homilies is one that the parents of Gallo Manor take very seriously: "If a child lives with security he learns to have faith."

The first thing Alistair Wilson sees when he walks out of his front door is the sentry hut and the candy-striped boom at the gate. "It is," he says with confidence, "the best thing we could have done."

"The first week we moved here someone jumped over our wall

and tried to carry off our garden furniture. Since then we have put up razor wire and had an alarm and panic buttons installed. Now with the guards it's a hell of a lot safer — they're so close I can have eye contact with them when I leave my house."

Sandton estate agent Amanda Calder says security Gallo Manor style is a definite selling point. "Our average client wants a house with alarms, burglar bars, electronic gates and Rottweilers," she says.

Far from putting off prospective buyers, such macabre wish lists are expected to enhance property prices in the suburb.

However, another real estate prediction yet to be borne out by figures has it that, as prices rise in enclosed suburbs, surrounding, unfenced suburbs will fall prey to much of the crime that's been pushed their way, causing a concomitant drop in values.

You don't have to tell that to

... of people will not
... be able to vote. This is also the

WAMPARA



Protesting ... members of the Chinese community of Johannesburg outside President Nelson Mandela's house in Houghton.

15/3/99
Chinese community's protest against crime fails to reach Mandela

BY LUMKA OLIPHANT (38)

Members of Johannesburg's Chinese community yesterday expressed disappointment because no one was present at President Nelson Mandela's Houghton home to receive their memorandum expressing concern about crime.

"Not even his secretary came out to receive the memo-

randum," said the director of the *Chinese Gazette*, Andrew Huang, after members of the community had gathered at Mandela's home to present the memorandum.

Huang said the Chinese community would try again after Mandela returns from a state visit to Europe.

Mandela's spokesperson Parks Mankahlana said the

president was aware of the march and had said he would meet the Chinese delegation after he returns to South Africa on March 19.

Mandela's office had earlier said the president's secretary-general, Jakes Gerwel, would contact the Chinese leaders to set up a meeting.

The demonstration followed the death of businessman Fung

Tung Chuang, who was shot at his Bree Street clothing store on February 28.

The demonstrators called for the reinstatement of the death penalty and a more efficient criminal justice system.

"South Africa cannot be a better place if criminals who advocate violence and 'break the law have the upper hand," said Huang.

Chinese call for return of hanging in wake of trader's killing

(38) (38) Stav 16/3/99

BY BUNTY WEST

The family of a Taiwanese businessman, who was gunned down in his Bree Street, Johannesburg, shop, is trying to come to terms with his death two weeks after the shooting.

On Sunday, a demonstration by more than 600 members of the Chinese community was held at the Wits Great Hall before they drove to the Houghton home of President Nelson Mandela to protest against the murder of Fung Tung Chuang (51) at his shop on February 28 by two robbers.

After the cremation of the body in Johannesburg, the

motorcade drove to the Buddhist temple at Bronkhorstspuit, where the remains will be interred until they can be returned to Taiwan.

The family, who live in Wendywood, Sandton, were too upset to speak to the media about their loss and appointed a spokesperson, Jack Tsao, to speak on their behalf.

He said Chuang was well respected in the community because of his willingness to help people on both a personal and business level.

"This was not the first time that thieves attempted to rob him. He fought them off before and they got nothing. This time

he just wanted to protect himself and his son, and he died. It took just a few seconds to snuff out the life of a good man.

"The family came to South Africa looking for a new life, but now they have lost their breadwinner. In Taiwan, if you murder or rob someone, you are sentenced to death. It is time that South Africa applied the same rules," Tsao said.

According to police spokesperson Superintendent Chris Wilken, the men entered the shop just after 1pm and demanded cash from Chuang. He handed over about R7 000, but instead of lying on the floor as he was told, pulled out a gun

and shot at the two men.

They returned fire and Chuang was shot in the chest, stomach and jaw and died on the spot. In the exchange of fire, one robber was killed and the other escaped without the money, but he was struck by at least one bullet.

Chuang's son Willy (18), who had crawled to the back of the shop, returned to his father's body but he was already dead, said Wilken.

Traders in the area say they are under siege from robbers and murderers who are frightening away business. Another local businessman was shot dead during a robbery last year.

Terrified train commuters seek protection

Star 26/3/99
Passengers claim they are soft targets for gangs of armed criminals (38)

By GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

Thousands of Johannesburg train commuters stare violent crime in the face every day as police and Metrorail security battle to bring crime under control.

While Metrorail is looking at new security measures, and a police task group has been established to combat train attacks, passengers who have been attacked or mugged claim they are soft targets for armed criminals.

The problem was highlighted by a report in *The Star* this week describing the ordeal of well-known cartoonist Dr Jack and a group of friends, who were robbed by armed attackers on a train between Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Budget and manpower constraints faced by Metrorail mean that security personnel on trains are limited. While the company runs 1 200 commuter trains on the Witwatersrand each day, there are only enough security officers to safeguard 50 trains at any given moment, according to Craig Nto, assistant manager of Metrorail's protection services division.

The biggest problem protection services faced, he said, was under-reporting. The second was a lack of highly visible security guards.

Superintendent Martin Aylward, police spokesperson for crime prevention and response services, said a work group had been established on December 9 "to focus on the problem surrounding crime prevention and the investigation of crimes on trains and at railway stations".

still have nightmares about it."

Deon and Adele Wehmeter were attacked in separate incidents. Adele was mugged about two years ago and robbed of her bag. Deon was held at knifepoint in November last year while travelling on a mid-morning train from Springs. His attackers licked his finger to remove his wedding ring.

David Brown, a city commuter who uses the Vereeniging train, has been attacked three times. In the most recent attack last month, he was hit in the face with a bottle, but kept hold of his briefcase.

Jacky Coetzee, who used to travel on the same line, was robbed at knifepoint on one occasion and then mugged for her handbag when getting off.

Rina Kotze was one of eight people who were held up by an

“
**I turned and
was staring
down barrel
of a gun**
”

armed gang at Elsburg station two weeks ago.

"Five guys pulled out guns and made the two men lift their hands while they pulled their wallets out of their pockets. One of them put a gun in my ribs while he ripped off my chain. They took our bags, everything," Kotze said.

She said the group petitioned Metrorail management for improved security following violent attacks on two other commuters.

"They have given us one female security guard armed with a baton at our station" Kotze said.

Metrorail spokesperson Bintu Petsana said the company made use of contracted security as well as its own staff, and was working closely with the police.

But commuters are getting a raw deal in the meantime. One couple, who asked not to be identified, were held up, robbed and left naked on the train.

"One guy tried to stab my wife, and when I stepped in, someone tapped me on the shoulder," the man said. "When I turned around I was staring down the barrel of a gun. The guys took everything from us. I

Most violent crooks in SA are from Zimbabwe - police

Warning that false figures will fan hate for foreigners

PETA KROST

Top policemen revealed this week that the majority of violent criminals robbing banks and homes in Johannesburg were Zimbabwean - and not South African.

"We can definitely say at least 60% of bank robberies and serious house robberies are perpetrated by Zimbabweans," said the commander of the Brixton murder and robbery unit, Johan Steyn.

"In fact, it is higher than that percentage if you look specifically at house robberies."

Superintendent Steyn - whose unit investigates only the more violent house robberies and where elderly people are involved in the greater Johannesburg area - said he was working on the Zimbabwean "problem" at the moment because of its magnitude.

But Johannesburg police liaison officer Mark Reynolds said it was important to note that just because there were many Zimbabwean criminals, it did not mean all Zimbabweans in South Africa were criminals.

Human Rights Commissioner Jody Kollapen said he had difficulty in accepting the police claims.

"If this was so, then court processes and press reporting of the courts would have revealed this by now."

Mr Kollapen said if the figures were exaggerated then it would

"feed into" political parties' attitudes. He added that he had recently tried to get such figures from the police but was told they did not keep them.

Well-respected detective and former acting head of the Brixton murder and robbery squad Willie Steyn said that as many as 99% of the foreign African criminals the unit dealt with were Zimbabweans, with just one percent Mozambican.

"Now I think there are more Mozambicans, but not many," said Mr Steyn, who has retired from the police.

"As I recall, 90% of criminals who break into homes, commit armed robbery and rape are Zimbabweans."

Another top detective, Piet Byleveldt, said that while the authorities might not agree with the detectives: "I know it to be true because I deal with the investigations and I also know how difficult it is to get these guys back from across the border when they prove they are Zimbabweans."

Jane from Operation Camelot - a consciousness-raising campaign about rape that was started by the parents of two young girls who were raped two years ago - said that five Zimbabwean men attacked her family. This gang has been linked officially by the police to 65 other crimes - including murder and rape - and unofficially to 250 cases in Johannesburg.

"Within three weeks, one of them had been arrested and the rest had returned to Zimbabwe," said Jane.

"We knew where they were because we have contact with the Zimbabwean minister of foreign affairs. Three of them were arrested and released in October 1997 after waiting months for the South African Government to repatriate them."

She explained that by January, one of these men had returned to Johannesburg and robbed the Taiwanese Embassy in Houghton where he was shot in the hand and arrested. Another man arrested initially on the Camelot rape case tried to escape and spent nine months recuperating at taxpayers' expense at the Garden City Clinic.

"I cannot see why they can't just walk across the border and bring these guys back to face their crimes," she said.

"It makes me sick that these criminals just come and go as they please and nobody seems to have the power to stop them."

While these allegations imply there are huge numbers of Zimbabwean criminals, there are actually only 309 Zimbabweans in jails in South Africa. Of these, 248 are convicted and the rest are awaiting trial, according to correctional services spokesperson Barry Eksteen.

"This is a large proportion of foreigners in South African jails," Mr Eksteen said.

However, the police say that the reason for the low numbers of convicted Zimbabweans is because the criminals escape back to the safety of their own country.

Centre for Policy Studies senior researcher Maxine Reitzes said the other side of the picture was that foreigners were clearly the victims.

After interviewing many people from other African countries who are living here she said: "These people are not disproportionately involved in crime but rather disproportionately victimised by police and criminals".

Ms Reitzes said that given their vulnerable status, local criminals considered people from neighbouring countries as soft targets.

"We have much anecdotal evidence to suggest that police turn a blind eye to crimes against foreigners and at worst actually participate in the crimes," she said.

"Criminals might report the presence of foreigners to police who then go in and arrest them, leaving the foreigners' homes open to theft. The police are alienating some of their potentially best allies."

The Zimbabwean High Commission's press secretary Morgan Dube would not comment.

"There is no way I would know if there was such a high number," said Mr Dube. "How can they possibly know if all these criminals are indeed Zimbabweans? I have never heard of this before."

(20/9) (38) ARG 27/3/99

B0 31/3 1999
Death penalty
not a solution,
says Mandela

38
Jonny Steinberg

THE death penalty would not be restored while the African National Congress was in power because "slaughtering people" was not a solution to crime, President Nelson Mandela said at his Pretoria residence yesterday.

Mandela was speaking after meeting representatives of SA's Chinese community who handed him a memorandum detailing their concerns about the crime wave.

Mandela was flanked by Pei Chun Mao, a Chinese South African whose husband was gunned down in central Johannesburg six weeks ago.

"We did not even raise the death penalty issue this time round, because we knew we would get nowhere," community leader Gino Feng said yesterday. "But we brought to his attention that Chinese people are still dying."

More than 1 000 Chinese marched to the Union Buildings in July last year to demand the restoration of the death penalty after a 20-month-old boy was killed in a robbery.

Feng said SA's 50 000 strong Chinese community would have left SA long ago if they were not bound to the country by economic need. "We are manufacturers," Feng said. "We cannot get up and leave like traders can. But in our hearts we left this country a long time ago."

Mandela commended the Chinese community leadership for its restraint. "You could have called on people to take the law into their own hands, but you did not."

Mandela assured the Chinese community that it was not the only target of violent crime.



President Nelson Mandela met Pei Chun Mao, centre, and her son Vincent Lee, left, at Mandela's Pretoria residence yesterday. Mao's husband was killed by robbers outside his shop in central Johannesburg six weeks ago.

Picture: TREVOR SAMSON

ST(CM) 474/99

Schools get R3m to fight crime

(38)

NATALIE KAMMIES

~~(38)~~
SCHOOLS in the Western Cape were this week given R3,1-million by the Education Department to fight gangsterism and vandalism.

Representatives of 208 high-risk schools were given R15 000 each at a meeting at Mzamomhle Primary in Philippi. The money is expected to be used on burglar bars, other security and alarm systems linked to armed response units, but the schools will make the final decision.

The department has spent R11-million a year for the past four years on security contracts at 80 high-risk schools. This will be replaced by the new system aimed at making schools use their own initiative and eventually take full responsibility for their own security.

Brian Gilbert, deputy director general of the department, said crime cost millions of rands a year and undermined morale and transformation.

"The era of armed guards in our schools is no longer affordable because more guards mean fewer textbooks and teachers."

Peter Present, of the department's physical resource planning directorate, said: "We always had these 200 schools needing security, but we never had the budget because it was tied up in the other 80 schools."

The cancellation of the contract means the R11-million will be available for other projects.

Vandals and
burglars
wreak havoc

SIPHOKAZI MGUDLWA

With winter just around the corner, the principal of Siviwe Primary School in Guguletu is a worried woman.

The school has been burgled 14 times in the past year - without a single arrest being made - and 16 classrooms are without doors. Many windows are broken.

Ms Poppy Jaca said: "Most of the things that we have worked hard for in this school are gone and I am scared that if something is not done now we will be left without a roof to keep the children dry."

Fridges, lawn mowers and doors are among the items stolen.

"There is a caretaker, but he is scared because the criminals are always armed.

"The worst thing is that they do not just steal, but they vandalise the school by breaking windows and doors," said Ms Jaca.

After many break-ins the school installed a security gate, but it was shot out and broken.

"Earlier this year, we replaced 16 doors in classrooms and the administration block, but within a month they were stolen and vandalised again," said the angry principal.

Siviwe is one of the schools that has benefited from the R15 000 each given to 208 high-risk schools by the provincial education department to fight gangsterism and vandalism.

Ms Jaca said the money had come at the right time. "We desperately need security here."

Mzamomhle Primary in Philippi is an example of what can be done when parents and teachers work together. They started fixing the school in December, repairing broken doors, painting, cleaning toilets and installing a burglar alarm.

Deputy principal Eric Titipana said the school would be completely renovated by the end of this year.

R3-m boost for security at schools

208 get extra R15 000 each

SIPHOKAZI MGUDLWA
STAFF REPORTER

A total of 208 schools targeted by gangsters and vandals in the Western Cape have been given R15 000 each to beef up security.

The provincial education department has raised its R11-million security budget by R3,1-million to help high-risk schools.

Brian Gilbert, deputy director general of the Western Cape Education Department, presented cheques of R15 000 each to representatives of 208 high-risk schools at a function at Mzamomhle Primary in Philippi last week.

He said: "The Western Cape Education Department has made the safety of our schools a priority and made an additional R3,1-million available over and above the R11-million we spend annually on security."

Armed guards at schools were not the answer, he said. More guards meant fewer textbooks or fewer teachers.

The department has spent up to R44-million on security at 80 high-risk schools in the past four years.

However, they will now introduce a system aimed at encouraging schools to take responsibility for their own security.

The schools that have been given the funds will be expected to report back to the department by the end of

June on how they have spent the money.

In another new funding move, the department's directorate of physical resource planning has also implemented a system of unscheduled maintenance from April 1.

In terms of this, schools will be given money directly to sort out problems such as blocked drain-pipes or lavatories, broken windows, doors and light switches.

An amount of R15-million from a total budget of R17-million will be used for this.

The remaining R2-million will be managed by the department's head office for problems such as fire damage, underground electrical cable repairs and burst pipes.

Peter Present of the physical resource planning directorate said: "The department is aware of the scope of the unscheduled maintenance needs at our schools.

"To ensure we succeed with this programme of empowering our schools and communities, the budget for 1999 has been increased by R3-million to R20-million."

By employing local contractors, schools will help to empower their communities.

The funding is allocated to schools in line with the South African Schools Act, the National Norms and Standards for School Funding and the Government's policy of school-based management.

ARG 6/4/99

Crime at Dainfern complex angers residents

BD 23/4/99

(38)

Jonny Steinberg

DAINFERN, a luxury residential development north of Johannesburg prided for its security, has this month suffered four break-ins, including an armed robbery.

The development, which sports a golf course and several multimillion-rand properties, is home to some of SA's most senior corporate executives. It is closed in by several kilometres of wall and palisade fencing.

The development's only access point is staffed by guards 24 hours a day.

Residents say armed robbers gained entry to the development by prising open a section of the fence on the perimeter.

During the armed robbery an intruder tried to shoot a resident, but failed as his gun jammed.

On Monday about 300 residents, at a

protest meeting in Dainfern Country Club, complained to Dainfern's management that no substantial measures had been taken to resecure the development.

Dainfern developer Johnnic should have surrounded the entire development with a solid wall, not fencing, they said.

"More guards were stationed at the perimeter and a constant patrol established, but these measures petered out after a couple of days," said a resident who asked not to be named.

However, a pamphlet distributed by the Dainfern board of trustees said a dawn helicopter patrol was being carried out and a ring of armed guards had been stationed around the perimeter since the break-ins.

Residents have formed a crisis committee, consisting of two representatives from each of the development's residen-

tial villages, which met Johnnic representatives on Wednesday night to discuss the issue.

A resident who attended the meeting would not be drawn on what had transpired.

Dainfern general manager Alan Corrigan refused to take questions yesterday. His secretary said a trustees' meeting would be held last night, and that Corrigan would comment once he had a mandate from the trustees to do so.

Board of trustees member Patrick Ronan appealed to residents yesterday to "avoid a hysterical reaction".

"In this development's eight-year history this is the first trouble we have had," Ronan said.

"Given the unbelievable level of crime in Johannesburg we are doing remarkably well," he said.

Saturday Star was right on city crime figures

Star 22/5/99
By PETA KRÖST

Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi and police management have confirmed a contentious *Saturday Star* report that a high number of serious crimes in Johannesburg are committed by Zimbabweans.

A Safety and Security Secretariat investigation has identified serious discrepancies between a specialist investigation unit figures and those in the police Crime Analysis Computer (CAS) system.

The police system did not pick up the severity of the problem.

However, Mufamadi cautioned the public not to use this as an excuse for xenophobia.

He said the number of foreigners committing crime was "just a fraction" compared with South African criminals committing crimes in other countries.

Mufamadi added that SA had become a favoured destination for organised crime, which did not respect borders.

"The solution is co-operation with other countries' authorities," he said.

While satisfied with the findings of the report, Mufamadi said it was "preliminary" and was a precursor to an even more intensive investigation.

Probe ordered

All this was initiated after a report in the *Saturday Star* in which the commander of the Brixton murder and robbery unit said that at least 60% of bank robberies and serious house robberies were perpetrated by Zimbabweans.

After seeing the report, Safety and Security Secretary Azhar Cachalia ordered an urgent investigation to validate this and other statements in the *Saturday Star* pointing to Zimbabweans being involved in serious crime in Johannesburg.

The Safety and Security Secretariat monitoring and analysis unit compiled a report on the findings which showed that, from a sample of 66 of some of the worst Brixton murder and robbery criminal cases, 43 Zimbabweans were arrested for the crimes.

The report was handed to both Mufamadi and national police commissioner George Fivaz.

Chris de Kock, national head of the police's Crime Information Analysis Centre, was consulted immediately after the *Saturday Star* article was published. He disagreed with the article, saying that according to the police's CAS system, there was a very low involvement of Zimbabweans in crime.

■ To Page 2

Zimbabweans indeed a major factor in crime

■ From Page 1

Yesterday, De Kock told the *Saturday Star* that, after seeing the secretariat's report, he had initiated a thorough monitoring on how data was input into the CAS system countrywide.

According to the secretariat's report, the disparity between CAS and Brixton figures arose because "Zimbabweans lie about their nationality when arrested, which, according to Brixton detectives, is a ploy to avoid deportation and/or bail opposition".

"It is clearly a human, not a system, problem," said De Kock. "The CAS system is recognised around the world as being very advanced and highly effective, but it is only as good as the input it is fed."

When a murder or bank robbery took place, the information was entered into the system accurately. But when people were arrested, months and sometimes years later, the police officers did not necessarily go back to the case on CAS with all the detailed information.

While Mark Shaw, head of the monitoring and analysis unit, accepted there were significant numbers of Zimbabwean criminals in Johannesburg and that this problem needed to be addressed, he cautioned that the report's figures were "an over-



SYDNEY MUFAMADI:
Safety minister warns
against xenophobia

estimation", based only on arrests. He also noted that SA criminals far outnumbered any foreign criminals.

Although the Brixton police cited a number of methods they use to find out whether the suspects were Zimbabwean, Shaw queried their accuracy. A disproportionate number of illegal foreigners lived in the Greater Johannesburg area covered by the Brixton police, he added.

The report said that, according to the detectives: "Zimbabweans are extremely

successful at committing bank robberies and other serious crimes as a result of their often having been trained in military tactics and techniques."

The detectives said one arrested suspect was found to have held the rank of captain in the Zimbabwean African National Union, and others were Zimbabwean African People's Union cadres.

The report stated that there were many Zimbabweans working as security officers for banks, who gained access to privileged information through security systems in order to plan robberies.

Another factor was that movement through the border between SA and Zimbabwe was easy.

De Kock explained that the economies of both Mozambique and Zimbabwe were in decline and that South African currency was freely usable there.

These foreign nationals, particularly the illegal ones, were also easily exploited by South Africans as they were unable to complain to the authorities.

Star 22/5/99

(38) (38)

Safe behind their walls

But Joburg's secured suburbs are illegal and isolating

ARL 24/5/99

As Tony Greenfield sees it, there are two ways to survive the crime wave in South Africa. You emigrate, or you fend for yourself.

And because he feels he does not belong in Australia or New Zealand ("I was born and bred here. I am South African"), the Greenfields - along with more than 800 other families - now live in a Johannesburg neighbourhood all but closed off behind red-and-white booms, manned day and night by the uniformed guards of a private security company.

They keep tabs on who enters and who leaves.

Before the residents of the Wendywood neighbourhood in Sandton took the drastic step of cutting themselves off from the rest of the world, there was a violent crime in their area almost daily.

Two residents were shot dead by car hijackers last year. Mothers taking their children to school have had to give up their cars at gun-point. A 14-year-old boy was shot in the leg.

Mr Greenfield's wife and son were confronted by four armed hijackers while seeing visitors off at the gate. They were unharmed, but for Mr Greenfield enough was enough.

The government was doing nothing to help Wendywood, the police were powerless, he had to do it himself, even if it was illegal.

"When they start hurting your family, the gloves are off," he says. A majority of the 827 households



PETER THORST ASSISTANT EDITOR

in Wendywood agreed to close off the neighbourhood.

Thirteen entrance roads were sealed with iron gates. Five entrance roads stayed open, but were protected with booms and guards. At night, three of those are closed too.

The guards recognise residents by stickers on their car windows. Suspect cars or people are tailed by security company vehicles that are permanently on patrol in the area.

This is how Wendywood joined a growing trend in the wealthy northern suburbs of Johannesburg.

According to an estimate that the local government confirms, 200 neighbourhoods of different sizes have closed themselves off in the past few years. Around 140 000 people reportedly now live behind street gates and booms.

Closing off roads is officially prohibited by the Road Traffic Act, but the local authority is powerless against this citizens' revolt against insecurity.

Behind the walls, the oversized dogs, the razor wire and the electric fences, the people of Sandton have opted for isolation.

But it is no longer, as in the old South Africa, the isolation of one

racial group. The new black elite and middle class have started to move into the wealthy neighbourhoods. Today it is the isolation of a multicultural group of neighbours behind booms.

It has worked in Wendywood. Since the area was closed off last June, the car hijackers have disappeared. "We only have party theft now, like car radios," says Tony Greenfield.

For a one-off payment of R500 and a monthly contribution of R110, the people of Wendywood can live a life that is considered normal elsewhere in the world.

"You see people jogging in the street, and walking their dogs", says Mr Greenfield.

"The children cycle on the streets, and the schools are safe again. For the first time, people are getting to know their neighbours. We even had a street braai recently."

Spiralling crime is one of the main themes in the campaigning for the June elections.

The statistics are horrifying. In almost all categories South Africa belongs among the most dangerous countries in the world.

Last year, 24 875 people were killed, out of a population of 40 million. A total of 29 418 attempted murders were reported, 49 820 rapes and 15 111 car hijackings.

Opposition parties blame the ANC government for not spending enough on the police. New National Party posters cry

out for the hanging of rapists and murderers.

The ANC sees crime mainly as a result of the apartheid past and socio-economic circumstances. Transformation of the police and the judicial system will take time: a quick fix does not exist.

While the politicians tussle over the issue, ordinary South Africans are applying their own measures.

In black townships various forms of "street justice" have emerged, with residents "trying" alleged criminals and often meting out sentences with sticks and spanks, or worse. In other areas residents patrol the streets as part of their "neighbourhood watch".

A more rigorous solution is the closing off of whole neighbourhoods in Johannesburg, where crime is a very real threat.

Sandton Precinct Operations Director Steve Margo helps residents with the technical and legal aspects of it.

He now manages 12 closed-off areas, and nine closures are under preparation.

Mr Margo sees only the positive side. It takes the strain off the police, the value of houses in protected neighbourhoods increases, some insurance companies offer lower premiums and - most important - residents feel safe again.

"In every area we have closed off, serious crime has dropped by 50% to 80%. The people are all too happy. We have a lot of backing, as much from black families and domestics."



Safe as houses: residents leave their Johannesburg walled suburb at a boom controlled by security guards

The local council knows that, and therefore responds cautiously. The Eastern Metropolitan Local Council has set conditions for road closures, including a traffic plan, and a poll among residents.

But most neighbourhoods have not waited for council approval. They have taken the law into their own hands. In a test case, the council has now taken two areas in Bryanston to court for illegal road closures.

Until the court judgment, there is a truce.

The effects on the traffic flow in the northern suburbs is noticeable: shortcuts through back streets have become impossible, and the main arteries have become busier.

"We are very mindful of the serious crime problem, and we understand that people want to protect themselves," says council spokesman Cliff Korhah.

"But the problem is: where do we draw the line? One group sees what the other group gets away with. If people illegally close off roads, what do we say to people who illegally sell

their goods in the streets? Or to people who illegally run a business from home? If we lose control completely, our reason for existence will fall away."

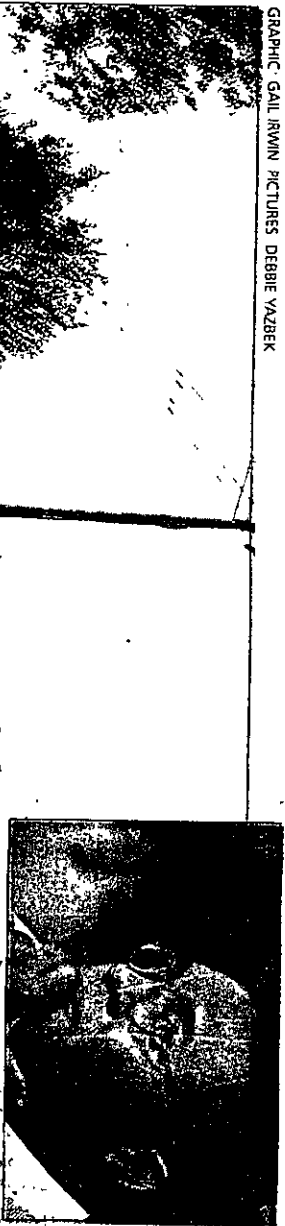
For Mr Margo it is not hard to predict what will happen if the council starts taking away the booms.

"We will have a Third World war here. If people are not allowed to protect their families and their possessions, you will get vigilante groups in the streets, and there will be shooting everywhere. This is a way to keep people quiet."

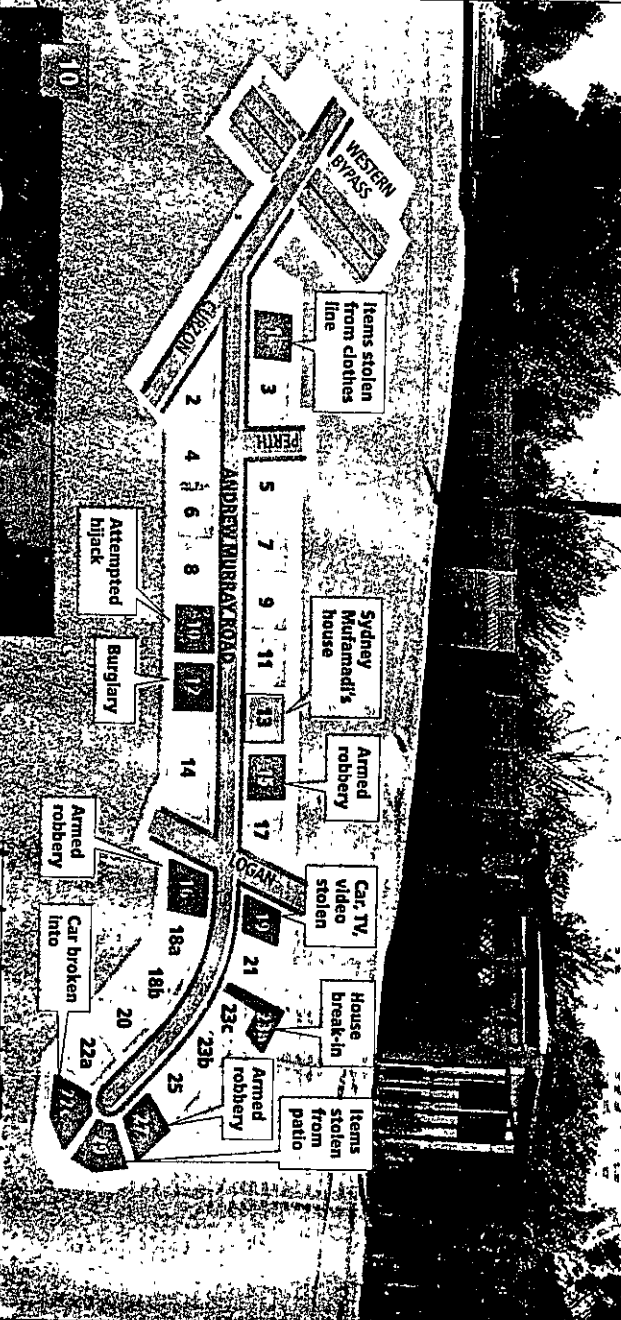
Mufamadi's home-street of crime

Star 21/11/99

GRAPHIC: GAIL IRWIN PICTURES DEBBIE VAZBEK



Mufamadi ... living in a crime-stricken neighbourhood.



De Villiers ... lives opposite Mufamadi and is the victim of an attempted car hijacking.



Martin ... called on the minister to get involved in what was happening on his doorstep.

Residents, who expected road to be safer, say minister has failed them

By Vivian Wazary and Ramon Laaker

Sydney Mufamadi is surrounded by crime - and not only in his portfolio as Minister of Safety and Security. Ten of the 30 homes in his street in the Sandton suburb of Bryanston have been targeted by criminals in the past seven months.

Now the residents, who expected their area to be safer since Mufamadi's arrival about two years ago, are asking: "Why Mufamadi, why are you not helping to fight crime in your own street?"

Mufamadi's home, the only one in the street with a 24-hour policeman on guard, has not been hit.

Although wanting the minister to intervene in some positive way, residents admit that a blockwatch in their area had deteriorated due to lack of support from residents themselves, and that crime had since increased.

Resident Misty Barnes said Mufamadi had never belonged to the blockwatch. "He could have joined if he had wanted to," she said.

The most recent robbery, on Sunday night, occurred only 100m from Mufamadi's modest home in Andrew Murray Road. A visiting German professor and a friend were held up by three armed men in the driveway and robbed of a cell phone, car keys and their wallets.

Denise Martin, in whose driveway they were held up at gunpoint, urged Mufamadi: "We know you're a busy man, but please get involved in what is happening on your very own doorstep."

Martin said residents had spent a lot of money trying to make their homes secure, including putting up their own street lights.

"I don't know what the

Residents' lack of support led to failure of block watch

robberies are a sign of the times that we live in," De Villiers said.

In both cases, according to residents, Mufamadi's guard, who is stationed in a hut on Mufamadi's property, did not assist.

However, a man whose wife was robbed at gunpoint in their driveway said he had found Mufamadi extremely approachable and that when the minister was back in residence he would contact him to enlist his help.

Marthe Smit, co-ordinator of the blockwatch, said Mufamadi had spent most of his time in Cape Town since moving into the suburb and that as soon as he returned, he would be approached on the issue of crime in the area.

Mufamadi could not be reached for comment yesterday.

(38)

Mufamadi hits back at his 'racist' neighbours

STAFF REPORTERS

Racism from his neighbours and his belief that he served the entire country and not just those who lived in his street stopped Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi from joining his local neighbourhood watch.

Interviewed at his Bryanston home last night, Mufamadi disputed some of his neighbours' claims that he was not interested in their security and had failed to join the neighbourhood watch. He had already initiated a probe into the crimes in the neighbourhood.

Mufamadi was responding to reports in *The Star* this week that said 10 out of the 30 homes in his street had been targeted by criminals.

Mufamadi, whose home has not yet been hit, said the reason he had a 24-hour policeman on guard was "not because I'm a member of the royal family. It's because I'm a minister in Government". Recently, however, the white occupants of a passing car had smashed his security light.

Some neighbours have accused Mufamadi of ignoring crime "on his doorstep". Last night, however, the minister hit back, saying the fact that some of his neighbours had be-

come crime victims was not an act of negligence on his part.

"The issue of the neighbourhood watch was first raised with me by a lady who has lived in this street as far back as 1987. The first time she came here was in 1996, hardly a week after we had moved into the house. She arrived with an empty cooldrink can and said to my wife, in a very aggressive way, that we were lowering the standards of the area. She said Bryanston was not Soweto.

"When my wife later told me the story, we concluded that she was probably suffering from a sickness that is not atypical to South Africa - racism."

The woman's second visit was to complain about a black couple sitting in a car outside a nearby house. She asked the minister to question the couple and while he and his guards were doing so, she vanished.

The third time the woman visited, she asked Mufamadi to join the neighbourhood watch.

"Shortly after her visit, another neighbour came to see me. He said he understood that I had had a nasty experience with this lady. He said she had right-wing ties and expressed concern that I was being set up. He advised me not to join the neighbourhood watch."

(38) Star 27/5/99

A mission to free Joburg from crime

Root out rotten policemen first - Shilowa, the next Gauteng premier

By SEKOLA SELLO

AFRICAN National Congress premier candidate in Gauteng, Mphahlela Shilowa does not walk with the swashbuckling, swagger of a sheriff about to clear the town of criminals.

But come June 18, the 1.8 m tall sheriff says the double six shooter will hit town with a single mission - to rid Gauteng of its image of being the crime capital of the world.

Shilowa has his sights firmly trained on members of the South African Police Service who are on the take. These type of policemen, he argues, must be rooted out if the fight against crime in the province is to succeed.

If Shilowa has his way it is only a matter of time before policemen and women who lose clothes because they have been bribed or belong to criminal syndicates will be rooted out of the SAPS.

This campaign, says Shilowa, will not be a witch-hunt against policemen, most

of whom he maintains are honest and dedicated men and women. No policeman or woman will have action taken against him or her without concrete evidence and the due process of the law being followed.

The success of this campaign, argues Shilowa, will also depend on the co-operation of communities. "Communities must come forward and give evidence against these police officials if we are to succeed in getting rid of them."

Shilowa knows that the ANC is assured of winning Gauteng comfortably on June 2, and cannot be accused of making grand promises as an electioneering campaign. He is also aware that the ANChurnt is finger rather badly in 1994 with promises of jobs for all, free education, a million houses in five years and many other

things they failed to live up to.

As premier - in waiting Shilowa is already putting in place structures and plans to deal effectively with crime. Violent crime, murder and rape in the province also rate among the highest in the world.

Plans to make police more visible in most parts of the province, but more specifically in crime infested areas, are going to be implemented soon after his inauguration.

Closer co-operation between his office and the office of provincial police commissioner and the community policing forums is envisaged. Traffic officers will be trained and deployed in crime preventing measures instead of "issuing tickets only".

On June 1 metropolitan areas will have the legal right to establish metropolitan



STAMP-OUT CRIME... Mphahlela Shilowa will stop at nothing to rid Johannesburg of crime starting with Dad Police officials.

police in their areas of jurisdiction and these policemen will have the powers to make arrests but will not investigate cases.

There will also be greater co-operation and synergy of activities with many private sector institutions like banks which have their own security organs as well as with private security bodies.

Civilians are also going to be employed at police stations to do clerical work.

In this scenario more police will be able to deal even with petty crimes like pick-pocketing. "Shilowa said, 'tourists suffer largely from muggings' and once these measures are in place, it will be safer for them to walk the streets."

The campaign will not be confined to the Johannesburg central business district which has the highest incidents of crimes, but across the province in areas which have been designated key criminal spots.

The message from Shilowa to the criminals is simple. "We will arrest them, prosecute

them, convict them and make sure that they do not escape as is the case at the moment from our prisons or holding cells."

Much as Shilowa has declared war on crime he does not depart from party orthodoxy which argues - and with a lot of merit - that South Africa cannot afford to prioritise certain problems facing the country, but must adopt a more integrated approach in tackling these issues.

The 41 year old former trade unionist says the time to theorise about crime is over. "I have got the determination to succeed," he says.

"Crime weary" citizens of Gauteng cannot wait for Shilowa to move in as premier cum sheriff on June 18 when he is sworn in. But many sceptics are likely to dismiss Shilowa as big talk and no action. After all, they have been made many promises in the past which have not been kept.

Shilowa knows that if he cannot sort out crime, Gauteng's economic growth and that of the country will remain a dream.

(98)
CP 30/5/99

Stolen car fraud rife

(38) Sowetan 7/7/99

By Noxolo Nxusani and Sipiwe Mpye

THE Johannesburg Traffic Department confiscates about 10 fraudulent car registration forms weekly from syndicates involving departmental employees and the public.

This was revealed by deputy chief traffic officer Mr Gerrie Gerneke during an interview with *Sowetan* yesterday.

Gerneke said this had resulted in the suspension of three staff members, including a top official.

The three were suspended last year and were still under investigation, but one of the officials later died in a car accident.

Ten other employees were dismissed between 1997 and 1998 after they were found guilty of corruption.

According to Gerneke, there are several ways of duplicating a car. This involved the taking of registration, chassis and engine numbers of cars that are written-off and then re-registering them.

Another way is by taking down the registration numbers of a car while being driven and obtaining the owner's identity number, name and address, the chassis and engine number from contacts inside the department.

Corrupt department employees sold blank documents (documents used for registering a car) for about R350. They sell information about a car for R20.

Administrative weaknesses also played a



Deputy chief traffic officer Mr Gerrie Gerneke

major role in this escalating problem.

Another flaw lies with the computer system used by both traffic and police officials.

The two systems are not connected and criminals are taking advantage of the loophole.

Gerneke said it could take up to three months before a stolen car is marked on the department's computer system – the National Traffic Information System – Natis.

This system, Gerneke explains, has improved efficiency within the department and one can identify a

marked car and who owns it.

Commenting on measures taken to combat corruption within the department, he said registering of workers on a national list (similar to that used by doctors and lawyers) could ensure that if anyone was dismissed because of involvement in crime, they would be barred from working in a similar department.

Another measure is that of sending details of all duplicate cars to the anti-hijacking unit with an instruction to confiscate the vehicle and arrest the owner. Arresting all suspects caught in possession of false documents is a policy Gerneke believes can act as a deterrent.

Gerneke said the department was in the process of moving the Diepkloof and Brixton vehicle units to Langlaagte testing station, west of Johannesburg, where testing, registering and clearance of motor vehicles will be done under one roof.

Vigilante group unlikely to work in suburbs

SP 12/2/99 (34) (38)
 Significant success could soon replicate the violence of the Western Cape, writes Jonny Steinberg

MAPOGO a Mathamaga, the vigilante organisation which has widespread support in Mpumalanga and Northern Province, is planning to move into Gauteng's urban centres.

While Mapogo's leaders claim the organisation already has thousands of members in Johannesburg and Pretoria, observers say the jury is out on whether Mapogo's methods will succeed in an urban environment. "We have been in Pretoria for six months and already we have between 3 000 and 6 000 members," Mapogo's Pretoria chairman Sello Malla said last week. "I am inundated with people phoning to join or asking us to solve crimes."

Whether the membership figures Malla cites are accurate is a moot point. He claims Mapogo's Pretoria membership is concentrated in predominantly white suburbs of Sunnyside, Centurion, Waterkloof and Pretoria West.

However, local policemen in Pretoria's suburbs insist they have not yet felt Mapogo's presence. "I have lived in Sunnyside for ten years and am intricately involved in its security networks," an inspector at Sunnyside police station said last week. "I have not seen a Mapogo sticker on a single car. Nor have I ever met a Mapogo member." Mapogo leaders do not seem clearly about what the organisation actually does in Pretoria. "Our most important activity in Pre-

toria is 24-hour patrols in the neighbourhoods where we are strong," said Mapogo president John Magolego said. "Patrols are staffed by unemployed members of Mapogo."

But Malla insisted that there were no Mapogo patrols in Pretoria. "When a member is robbed or his property stolen, he calls us and we investigate. We track down, the stolen hand over the culprit to the police," he said. "That is the extent of our activity."

Where does Mapogo's "investigative" capacity come from, and can it be replicated in urban centres? "Mapogo's power resides in its networks," said a senior detective in police intelligence, who asked not to be named. "If your car is stolen in one of the Mapogo strongholds in the Northern Province, it will know where to look for it. It thrives on the fact that it operates in small communities and has a wide grassroots membership. In a small rural town, someone with a grassroots knowledge will know more or less where a stolen car goes to. They can report it in time and Mapogo will find it."

This was why Mapogo was an attractive option for Pretoria suburbanites, the detective said. "If Mapogo lives up to its claims it will pose serious competition for private security firms. Why go to an armed response outfit if Mapogo is actually go-

ing to track down your car and return it to you?" Is Mapogo sufficiently networked in Gauteng's urban areas to play this role?

"There is little doubt that it does not have that capacity at the moment," the detective said. "The question is whether it will. There is no question that a strong network in Gauteng's urban townships would place a vigilante organisation in a powerful position. "The question is whether an organisation like Mapogo will ever be networked enough. Take northern Johannesburg, for instance. There is an equal chance that a car hijacked in the vicinity of the M1 would go to Alexandra, the East Rand, or Soweto."

"This is very different from a small town. There are multiple possibilities. Will Mapogo ever be well-connected enough to search for one car in all three places? I doubt it. That would be an extraordinary feat."

The best Mapogo could hope to do, the detective said, was to displace crime from one area of the metropolis to another. "If for instance, Mapogo develops a very strong network in Alexandra, it will become very different for the vehicle black market to operate there," the detective said. "But syndicates are sophisticated and connected enough to simply move their business elsewhere." If the organisation's networks ever

did reach across Gauteng, the detective said, "an ugly, violent conflict situation would result."

"In the first phase, there would be numerous instances of instant justice. Syndicate operatives from across Gauteng would get beaten and punished on a weekly basis. "If this happened enough to really threaten the underworld's business, syndicates would begin to strike back, targeting Mapogo members and particularly its leaders. Gauteng's townships would witness protracted, fit-for-fat warfare, much like the conflict between the drug gangs and People Against Gangsterism and Drug Abuse in the Western Cape."

The detective expressed the hope that "Mapogo's foray into the urban areas fails and soon peters out".

18 31	partly cloudy
18 27	cloudy
18 22	partly cloudy
18 27	partly cloudy
19 30	partly cloudy
09 18	partly cloudy
23 33	partly cloudy
20 27	rain
16 22	rain

Richard's Bay
14/24

Durban
10/24

Idon
26

9
11

'Gents' with criminal way of life

ART 23/7/99

(38)

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - The criminals who commit most of Gauteng's hijackings, housebreakings and muggings are brazen men living the high life, unafraid of death and viewing prison as a place to learn about crime and gain peer status.

"Brash", "violent" and "charismatic" are the words researcher Lauren Segal chose to describe "amagents" - the title she uses for criminals dealing in hijackings and housebreakings.

"It is township lingo, but we have used the term to describe those specifically involved in crime. The basic profile is a black male between 13 and 30 years old who carries a gun," she said.

Ms Segal, along with researchers Joy Pelo and Pule Rampa, interviewed 28 amagents - some of whom are serving prison sentences - and 165 township youths.

Most described access to guns as "no more difficult than buying milk from a cafe". The major sources of amagent-owned firearms were said to be housebreakings, or attacks on policemen, or supplies by former MK contacts, or African immigrants.

Ms Segal said those interviewed described guns as essential "tools of the trade" - a "new rite of passage" proving manhood and serving as an indication that the owner was "serious about business".

Their attitude to violence was that of unconcern, with the death of a gang member seen almost as a celebration.

"They don't have a sense of living beyond 25, so death is not something they care about. If a brother is killed, the funeral is a massive event where they spin cars, fire guns, drink beer, and generally endorse a culture where people's duty is to fight and die together," said Ms Segal.

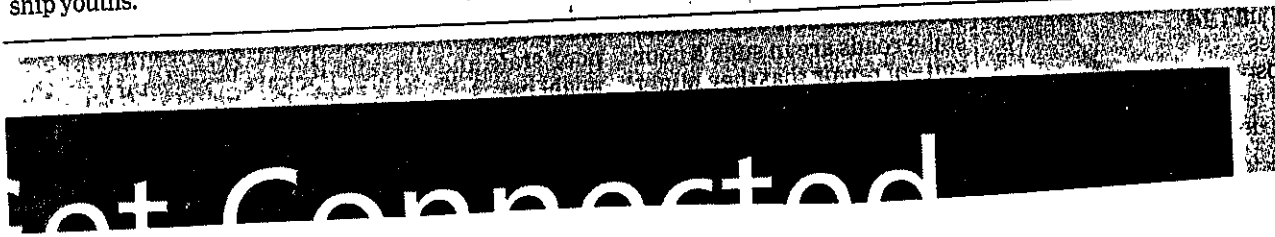
A lack of faith in the criminal justice system, compounded by a low conviction rate, corruption within the police and easily bribed detectives, led amagents to see themselves as operating above the law.

Those who served prison sentences or who survived gunshot injuries were admired as strong leaders who had paid their dues.

Ms Pelo said that while the stereotyped image of a young man sporting jewellery and designer clothes generally held true, a new breed had emerged.

"Now you get the guys who rob at ATMs. They are smart, formal dressers and carry a briefcase, so you let your guard down," said Ms Pelo.

Ms Segal said some recently initiated sports projects had shown success, with young people turning to their soccer coaches, rather than the amagents, for role models.



Major anti-crime campaign puts thousands of crooks behind bars in Gauteng

Police crushing criminals

(38) CP15/16/199

BY SIEVE DLAMINI

THOUSANDS of suspected criminals have been arrested and tons of stolen property, including vehicles, recovered during the ongoing Operation Monozite, one of the biggest anti-crime campaigns ever mounted in Gauteng.

The targeted areas are crime hot spots on the East Rand, the Vaal Triangle and the North Rand. Some 5 000 suspects have been arrested in these areas alone and large quantities of drugs and other drugs confiscated.

This week the major focus was in the security personnel set up road blocks and raided chop-shops (vehicle scrapyards).

Operation Monozite was launched last month by Safety and Security Minister Steve Tshwete, national police commissioner George Fivaz, Gauteng premier Mkhazana Shikwaza, safety and security MEC Nomsivula Mokonyane and provincial police commissioner Sharnaz Mphahleli.

This followed Tshwete's declaration to combat escalating crime in Gauteng and his pledge to wage war against crime syndicates.

Although the major aim of Operation Monozite was to deal with car hijackings, armed robberies and housebreakings, the net has been widened to include illegal immigrants and house-to-house raids for stolen goods. More than 1 000 people have been arrested for various offences in the Vaal since the start of the crackdown, including among them wanted criminals and suspects who skip-ped bail.

Police recovered a large quantity of stolen goods, illegal firearms and bikes worth more than R2 million.

Vaal police spokesperson Superintendent Piet van Deventer said that more than 8 000 vehicles and about 751 premises had been searched during the 122 different operations conducted since the launch of Operation Monozite.

On the East Rand, police spokesperson Captain Andy Pheke said 48 suspected stolen vehicles, including top of the range BMWs, were recovered. Police also confiscated a large quantity of drugs that was being taken to the local Vasoilourus hostel.

They also recovered a number of firearms and a variety of stolen goods on the East Rand. Some 40 966 people

and 14 256 vehicles were searched during operations, Pheke said.

East Rand police arrested more than 3 000 suspects for various offences.

North Rand police spokesman Captain Hannes Lombard said more than 100 suspects have been arrested, including people involved in drug-dealing.

He said crime in the affected areas had dropped since the crackdown started.

In Soweto, millions of rands worth of stolen vehicles and car parts were recovered during raids at alleged chop-shops and illegal scrapyards.

Police and the local council believe the illegal scrapyards were encouraging car theft and hijackings so that they could be supplied with vehicle parts.

Among the suspected stolen parts recovered from eight illegal scrapyards in Diamond's Extension 5 were a large quantity of car engines, gearboxes and various body parts with a total value of more than R1 million.

The serial numbers of most of the recovered engines, including those of expensive BMWs, had been filed off.

All the stolen vehicles and car parts were towed to the Diepsloot police pound.

Soweto police spokesperson Superintendent Govadassamy Marimuthoo said no arrests had been made by mid-week, but he added that arrests were very likely.

Soweto area police commissioner Epiyamin Beeha told City Press that the aim of the operation was to eradicate illegal trades.

"This is a big operation of its kind in the area against crime," he said.

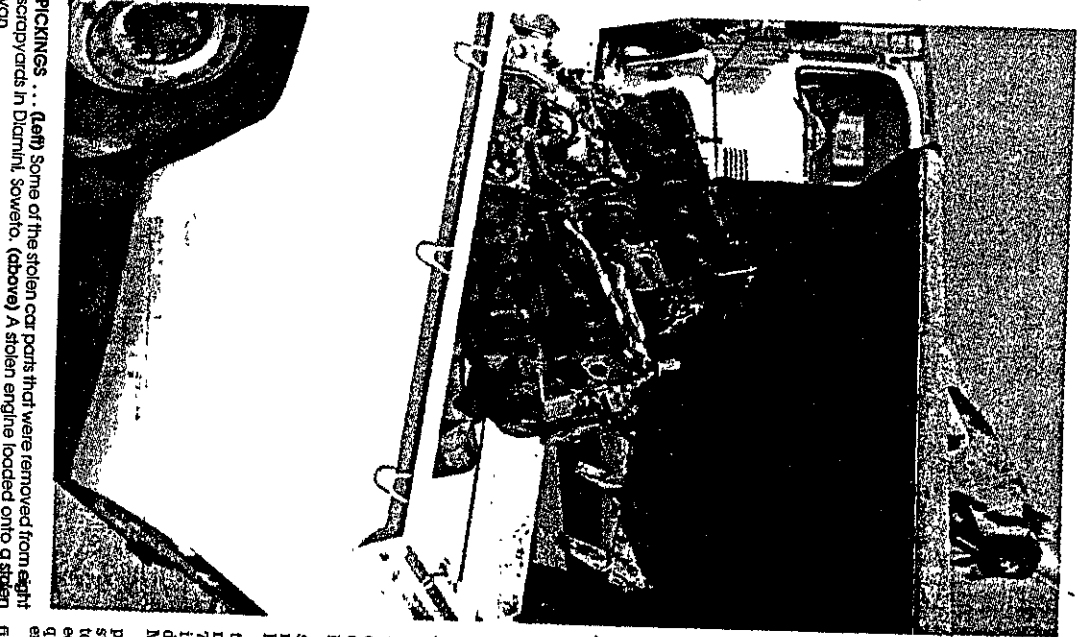
The Soweto operation involved more than 200 heavily armed police officers and members of the South African National Defence Force and more than 600 personnel from A & B Security Services.

Joseph Banda, chairperson of the community policing forum in Soweto, praised the raids and said members of the community had been waiting for the police's action for a long time.

"We have been complaining about the illegal scrapyards. We are glad that finally something is being done."

"We are prepared to help the police in combating crime."

"We will be able to rest. The hijacking rate will decrease because there will be no market available for them any more," Banda said.



PICKINGS ... (left) Some of the stolen car parts that were removed from eight scrapyards in Diamond, Soweto. (above) A stolen engine loaded onto a stolen van. Pictures: George Marshall