



## Communication Service

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(MEDIA STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE STATION COMMANDER, BRIGADIER KOTIE POTGIETER)

### Crime Brief - 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Residential Robberies are currently again showing a increase in the Honeydew Precinct and residents are again urged to please be vigilant and aware at ALL times, day or night. The current “hot spot” suburbs are: Ruimsig, North Riding and Randpark Ridge with the “hot spot” times being between 06:00 and 12:00 and again from 21:00 until 02:00. Residents are also asked to please NOT leave any doors, security gates or windows standing open as these are being used as an “easy” access into the property.

Herewith some of the reported incidents for the past week:

**House Robbery:** The complainant was sitting in the lounge in her home in Ruimsig at approximately 21:30 watching TV when three unknown men entered the residence through the sliding door. The suspects tied the complainant up and took her to one of the bedrooms. The suspects ransacked the house taking various electrical appliances. The suspects were armed with firearms and fled the scene on foot.

At about 21:00 the complainant was sleeping (Randpark Ridge) when two unknown males entered his bedroom and held him up with a firearm. The suspects then put the complainant and his children in the bathroom and ransacked the house taking cell phones, clothing, laptop etc.

On Sunday morning at approximately 01:30 the complainant was in his Town House complex, in Sonneglans. As he went to close the sliding door, he was approached by two unknown males with a firearm. They ordered him to lie down and tied his hands. They took cash, laptops, cell phones etc, and fled the scene on foot.

**Business Robbery:** A staff member of a fast food out let, in North Riding, was on duty at 21:15 and was approached by an unknown male armed with a firearm. The suspect jumped over the counter and instructed the complainant to open the till. He handed a white plastic bag to the complainant to place the money in, after which he fled the scene on foot.

**Street Robberies:** Pedestrians are warned to be very vigilant at all times when walking in the streets as more and more street robberies are being reported. Streets where these robberies have been reported during the past week are as follow: JG Strydom Street in Weltevreden Park, Northumberland Road in North Riding, Kruger rand Road in Wilgeheuwel and Marco Street in Boskruin. Where possible hide your cell phone and wallet so that they are not visible and don't walk around talking on a cell phone as it will distract you from what is going on around you.

**Car Jacking:** Friday morning at about 11:30 the complainant was driving his vehicle and at the corner of Ostrich and Hawken road in Bromhof he was approached by three men driving a blue ford Focus, who had firearms. The suspects instructed the complainant to get out of his vehicle and to hand over the keys. The suspects first could not start the vehicle and the complainant had to assist them after which they drove off with his vehicle and theirs.

Important actions in avoiding Hi-Jackings and Robberies:

- Always keep your vehicle doors locked and your windows closed when travelling on a public road.
- Never stop too close to the vehicle in front of you. Leave at least 2 meters clearance, to enable you to take evasive action if necessary.
- Always be alert and pay attention to suspicious looking people, particularly at and around traffic lights and stop streets.
- If a stranger wants to speak to you, don't open your window more than a centimeter or two. In particular, be on the look-out for other people around your vehicle.
- Never leave any articles such as handbags, briefcases, groceries or any item of possible value in clear display on the seats of your vehicle.
- Avoid any dealings with hawkers trading at traffic lights and stop streets.
- Avoid stopping at deserted places, particularly after sunset.

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