



Communication Service Kommunikasiediens

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(MEDIA STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE STATION COMMISSIONER, DIRECTOR KOTIE POTGIETER)

Crime Brief - 11th May 2009

Business Robberies: Business owners as well as management of Shopping Centres are once again requested to check their security on a regular basis as well as test their panic buttons.

- On Friday morning at approximately 09:15 a security guard was approached by an unknown armed suspect who pointed a firearm at him in a shopping centre and demanded that he hand over a cash box that he had just collected. The suspect fired one shot towards the guard, who then placed the box on the floor. The suspect took the box and fled the scene with customers running in between. Nobody was injured during the incident.

Hi-jacking: Saturday evening at 18:05 a complainant was dropping off her child at a residence in Bromhof. As she reversed she noticed three unknown males at her vehicle's front door. One suspect pulled out a firearm and pointed it at the complainant and instructed her to get out of the vehicle. The suspects took various personal property from the complainant and then drove off with her vehicle. The complainant was then later contacted by the Metro Police who informed her that her vehicle was involved in an accident. The vehicle was recovered but the suspects had fled the scene.

House Robbery: Residents are once again asked to please close **ALL** their windows and lock all the doors during the evenings and ensure that the keys are out of sight.

- In Weltevreden Park, approximately 02:30 on Saturday morning, a complainant was sleeping in his room when he was awoken by a knock at the door. He then saw a firearm being pointed at him, through his open window. The suspect holding the firearm then demanded the complainant open the door. Two suspects entered and the complainant was tied up. The suspects fled the scene on foot with the complainant's laptop, clothing and other personal items.
- Sunday evening at about 20:30 a complainant, his wife and children were watching TV in the TV Room, that is situated outside the house. One of the children went to the kitchen and was met by two unknown males. The suspects tied up the children and went back to where the complainant was and took him and his wife to the house. The suspects took jewellery, money, cell phones, laptops, clothing etc. and fled the scene.

Street Robberies: There are currently reports of street Robberies in the Allensnek, Weltevreden Park area. Learners walking home from school are requested to be vigilant and not to stop when approached by strangers in vehicles. Reports have been received of a red (Corsa?), white (BMW?) and white Nissan Sentra approaching learners with the intention of stealing their property.

Safety at home – Prevent Housebreaking and Theft:

- Know your emergency numbers.
- Keep your cell phones in the bedroom, with the emergency numbers programmed in.
- Never leave keys in a gate or lock.
- The locks on outside doors should be changed when you move into a new home or after keys have been lost or stolen.

- Make provision for good outside lighting. Remember outside lights that are on during the day draw attention to thieves.
- Mail left in the gate or the letterbox is also a sign that nobody is home. Get a friend or neighbour to keep a regular eye on your property if you are away and to remove mail and newspapers.
- Never leave workmen unattended in your home.
- Don't leave your garage, front or back door open or partially open – it serves as an invitation to burglars.

Successes by the HONEYDEW DETECTIVE TRACING UNIT:

This team, consisting of four members, was established to assist with tracing of suspects. This team had good successes during April making a total of 42 arrests. Herewith two cases they worked on last week:

- During May 2009 a case of theft under false pretences was opened to the value of R1.4 million. A very rare Diamond drill was also stolen. This team worked non-stop to trace the machine as there was information that the machine was earmarked to leave the country. On Friday morning the team received information that led them to a factory in Kempton Park. After hours of observation the team entered the factory recovering the machine, but unfortunately the suspects were not there. They are currently still tracing the suspects involved.
- Wednesday evening the team made a breakthrough after investigating a fraud case. A complainant opened a case of fraud at the Honeydew SAPS after a fraudulent cheque to value of R17 000 was paid into his account. The team's investigation led them to Heidelberg where a 27 year old suspect was arrested. They confiscated ammunition as well as copies of different fraudulent cheques issued allegedly by this suspect. This suspect was then also linked to a Business Robbery in March this year as well as more cases for cheque fraud.

The following arrests where made in the HONEYDEW PRECINT, since the 1st of May 2009:

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| Rape: | 2 |
| Attempted Rape: | 2 |
| Statutory Rape: | 1 |
| Possession of Stolen Property: | 5 |
| House Breaking and Theft: | 2 |
| Attempted House Breaking: | 1 |
| Theft General: | 11 |
| Shoplifting: | 24 |
| Possession of Dagga: | 9 |
| Assault GBH: | 17 |
| Fraud: | 10 |
| Theft of Cell Phones: | 3 |
| Murder: | 4 |
| Reckless & Negligent Driving | 2 |
| Armed Robbery | 2 |
| Pointing of Firearm | 1 |

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