

Business tackles mall crime

THE Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a multi stakeholder engagement at the Durban Chamber conference centre on 6 June to address the ongoing menace of mall and shopping centre robberies in the city and surrounding precincts.

The "Durban United Against Crime Dialogue" called upon all businesses, government, community representatives and law enforcement agencies to unite in the fight against crime in the city.

Speaking at the meeting, CEO of the Chamber, Dumile Cele, said it was vital to start a dialogue which would hopefully lead to constructive solutions to fight crime in the city.

"The prevalence of crime in our commercial centres is of serious concern to the business community as it has highly negative effects on doing business. This meeting is about engaging, and beginning to implement what we need to address this issue," she said.

President of the Durban Chamber, Zeph Ndlovu, said the Chamber and business needed to converge to see how best to come up with solutions to what he called a scourge which was affecting people's lives, businesses and the fabric of the community and society. He said crime had escalated, especially in shopping malls in Durban.

"Malls are places in society where families meet, shop and enjoy niceties. There has been a decrease in cash in transit heists, and cellphone and jewellery



Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry CEO, Dumile Cele and president Zeph Ndlovu, with chair of the Safety and Justice Forum at the Chamber, Jabu Nkomo and project executive from Metro Police, Nhlanhla Mthethwa.

shops are now being targeted. We have to cleanse ourselves of this scourge and spend time thinking of how we can best combat this and push back the borders of crime together with police, business and government before it consumes us," he said.

Issues brought up through open dialogue with business included the problem that security guards flee the scene of an armed robbery. Gary Barnes from a lo-

cal security company said security's role in malls was passive aggressive, they were unarmed and would be outgunned in a robbery.

"Panic buttons should be used in malls to call in armed response who have guns. We are working on a technology to address crime trends. It's about prevention, not about the fastest gun in the West," he said.

A businessman in the risk and insurance industry said crime

worked in a vacuum which existed because of a lack of visible policing. He said the authorities needed to be transparent regarding their plan for visible policing.

The issue of police working with other provinces to share information on syndicates was also a concern.

A centre manager felt there needed to be communication on how gangs were operating in various provinces to break the

network of crime.

Nhlanhla Mthethwa from Metro Police addressed those present and explained the mandate of Metro Police.

"In terms of the way malls are created, these are private entities and for Metro to be involved in crime prevention, there needs to be a service level agreement. We can't ignore crime in centres, we need to engage with stakeholders of these entities, as robberies are becoming a serious concern," he said.

Regarding the issue of visible policing, Mthethwa said Metro was engaged in a recruitment drive for next year where 200 new officers would be employed each year to assist in visible policing in the city.

A businessman from Natal Wholesale Jewellers suggested a war room be established where businesses and police could meet monthly to share information and discuss what was and what wasn't working.

"We need to address current crime issues as they are increasing and I see a lack of urgency from the powers that be. I'm yet to see anyone convicted of robberies in my stores over the past 18 months," he said.

Ndlovu said the Chamber would be including the new city manager in this project and aimed to communicate with as many mall managers as possible.

The next meeting will be held on 28 June at the Durban Chamber of Commerce offices at the Lion Match Factory.



Police are hoping this man can help in their investigation into an Umbilo rape case.



The police believe this man can be of assistance in solving the case of rape in Mayville.

Assistance sought in rape cases

BRIGHTON Beach Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit is appealing to the community to assist them with information on two cases of rape currently under investigation.

According to Captain Nqobile Gwala, on 12 February at 7pm, a 21-year-old woman was raped by a man in Che Guevara (Moore) Road, Umbilo. The suspect fled the scene in a getaway vehicle.

In another incident on 10 November at 4.30am, two victims were allegedly raped by an unknown man armed with a knife while another victim was stabbed.

"They were forced to a nearby bush along Jan Smuts Highway where they were raped by the suspect. One of the victims was stabbed and sustained multiple stab wounds. Charges of attempted murder and two counts of rape were opened at Mayville SAPS," said Gwala.

The police believe the men pictured in the identikit may be of assistance in solving the cases. Anyone who knows their whereabouts is urged to contact the investigating officer, Detective Sergeant Samantha Fynn on 082 930 8615 or the Crime Stop number on 08600 10111.

News from Berea SAPS

Visible policing

BLOCK walks and patrols by the Berea Community Policing groups, as well as their active presence on WhatsApp groups, has contributed to the drop in crime, according to Captain PN Naidoo of Berea SAPS.

"This is very effective in that there is a reduction in crime. A word of encouragement goes out to the other residents who are not active to please join us to fight crime," he said.

Naidoo warned residents not to approach suspects or to try to do the job of the police. He urged them to report all suspicious vehicles and people to the police.

Robbers arrested

TWO men were charged for robbery in Musgrave recently. On 29 May at about 12.45pm a woman was walking along Musgrave Road when she was approached by two men who threatened her with a knife and grabbed her cellphone.

"They fled the scene and the woman managed to flag down a passing police van. She informed the police of the robbery and gave them a description of the suspects. The police gave chase and arrested the robbers and recovered the cellphone," said Capt Naidoo.

The men were charged with robbery.

For daily updated news visit www.beremail.co.za

WHETHER YOUR VISIT IS FOR A MINOR INJURY OR LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY, OUR **24 HOUR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT** AT AHMED AL-KADI PROVIDES QUICK TRIAGE THROUGH A FULL-SPECTRUM OF SERVICES

- 3 Examination Rooms • 2 Resus bays
- 1 Procedure Room • 1 POP Room • 1 Comfort Room

Ahmed Al-Kadi Private Hospital Emergency Department T: 031 492 3425



486-490 King Cetshwayo Highway, Mayville, Durban, 4058 | T: 031 492 3400 | E: info@ahmedalkadi.com

What is Chiropractic?

Quite simply, Chiropractic is a healthcare profession that focuses on the diagnosis, treatment and management of neurologic, muscle and skeletal conditions that are due to dysfunction of the joints and muscles.

Chiropractic treatment is effective for Back pain, Spinal Degeneration, Sciatica, Pinched Nerves, Headaches, Neck Pain, Whiplash, Sporting Injuries, Arthritis and Joint Pain.

To book a consultation, contact Physique Chiropractic & Wellness on 062 268 3835

23:brm-physique.ed