

**Address by Sipiwe Nzimande – Deputy Chairman of BACSA**

**Event: Opening of the Randburg Alcohol Testing Centre**

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**Time: 11h30**

### **Introduction**

Honourable Mayor of Johannesburg, MEC's, Chairman of SAIA, CEO of SAIA, valued officers and leaders of JMPD and SAPS, distinguished guests, fellow South Africans;

The maintenance of safety and security for all who reside in or visit a country is a primary duty of our democratic government and the law enforcement agencies. Government cannot pass on the responsibility to uphold people's rights to safety and security to others.

In democracies, lawlessness is a consequence of Government Policy. Where legitimate laws are strictly upheld and those who transgress know the consequences, those societies have lower crime rates. Sadly, the opposite is true. Where citizens have no respect for the law, or know that their chances of being caught and punished are low, those societies have high rates of crime.

### **The Body**

BAC SA has over a number of years built a strong relationship with both the City and the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department. This relationship started when the Best Practice Model for Motor Vehicle Registration and Licensing Offices was implemented throughout the Gauteng Province.

From the outset it became clear to us that road safety and crime needed to be addressed in a comprehensive fashion. Criminals use our roads to commit crimes. Vehicles are the common denominator in most crimes.

Drunken driving or driving a vehicle whilst the alcohol level exceeds the legal limit is a serious crime. It is regrettable that many in our communities do not see it that way. Innocent families suffer severe losses due to the death or serious injuries caused by road accidents where drunken road users were involved.

It was for this reason that BAC SA was actively involved in the establishment of the first Alcohol Testing Centre in Village Road Johannesburg. It was clear from the outset that the Johannesburg centre would not be able to cope with the workload. This was due to the large size of the area covered by JMPD and in some instances the 2 hour period allowed for testing was pushed to the limit.

It made perfect sense that when the South African Insurance Association informed us that they wanted to donate R500 000 towards a road safety initiative, we contacted the JMPD whose immediately response led to the establishment of a Alcohol Testing Centre in Randburg.

### **Donation and Acknowledgement**

On behalf of Business Against Crime South Africa and Massmart, it is my pleasure to hand over 1 000 torches to the Acting Metro Chief, Mr David Tembe. Earlier this year Builders Warehouse and Massmart donated  $\geq 8\ 000$  of these torches to law enforcement Agencies. 7 000 of these were delivered to the South African Police who distributed them throughout the country. It was decided that 1 000 torches will be donated to the JMPD to be utilised by officials who conduct policing duties after dark. The torches do not require batteries. They are rechargeable and thus no additional cost would be incurred by the JMPD. We thank Builders Warehouse and Massmart for this thoughtful donation.

### **Conclusion**

We applaud the actions of SAIA and the Insurance Industry in taking the lead in forming partnerships with law enforcement agencies. Your actions significantly enhance the fight against crime and general lawlessness. We look forward to many more

of such fruitful initiatives with the City of Johannesburg, the JMPD and SAIA, in the future.

**Thank you very much!**