

## **JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT : THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONER AND THE PRIMEDIA GROUP**

### **More than 250 individuals arrested as a result of Crime Line tip-offs**

Since the launch of the Primedia/SAPS project Crime Line, 253 individuals have been arrested and R16.5 million worth of goods have been seized by members of the South African Police Service.

The project, which is now entering its 22<sup>nd</sup> week, has recently led to various types of drugs being removed from our communities as well as a number of counterfeit DVD operations being closed down.

Over the past month, five cases of counterfeit DVD's and Play Station games were reported to the SAPS in Gauteng anonymously via Crime Line. In one instance in Sophiatown, a man was found in possession of over 7 000 counterfeit DVD's with an estimated value of R1.5 million. He was arrested and charged for contravening the copyright act.

In other cases, two persons were arrested for selling fake DVD's on the corner of Klein and Bree Streets, central Johannesburg and one person in Germiston was caught with 2 000 fake DVD's. After receiving information via Crime Line, counterfeit movies and music CD's were also seized at premises in Glen Avenue, Mondeor and at the Allandale off-ramp.

Between 1 and 31 October 2007, two suspicious motor vehicles were reported to Crime Line resulting in a stolen BMW being retrieved in Brooklyn, Pretoria and one being recovered in Brakpan on Gauteng's East Rand.

Five people were arrested for dealing in drugs in Westridge, Mitchells Plein after police reacted to an anonymous SMS to 32211. The suspects, four women and a man, were found on premises with 17 packets of tik, five rocks and Mandrax.

There were also four arrests for drug dealing in Gauteng during October 2007 in Brixton, Sandton, Katlehong and Boksburg. Quantities of dagga and cocaine were seized during the arrests.

Police members reacted to various other tip-offs, resulting in a variety of drugs, which had been abandoned when the suspects fled from police, being seized. Although the suspected drug dealers were not arrested in these cases, we are confident that police actions will serve as a deterrent to future drug deals in those areas.

Police also arrested a thief red-handed while attempting to steal computers from premises in Ennerdale, Gauteng. We thank civic-minded community members for reporting crime and criminals, but would like to remind them that crimes that are about to happen – or are happening – should preferably be reported to the 10111 emergency number or to a police station. Fortunately in this case, the SMS message was received and relayed quickly, allowing the police to catch the perpetrator in the act.

The value of all goods seized by police since during October amounts to approximately R1.7 million.

Director Sally de Beer of the National Police Commissioner's Office said: "This partnership between the SAPS, Primedia and the public is working well and we are glad that more and more people are blowing the whistle on criminals.

"We urge the community to continue to break their silence. National Commissioner, Jackie Selebi, has again appealed to the public to pass on information to Crime Line. 'We must continue to grow the culture of tipping-off the SAPS via Crime Line.' Please be specific and give as much details of the offenders as possible," de Beer said.

Primedia's Crime Line manager, Yusuf Abramjee added: "The anti-crime campaign is contributing to a safer South

Africa. We also need to get to the 'big fish'. If anyone has information about syndicates, please SMS 32211 or go to [www.crimeline.co.za](http://www.crimeline.co.za)

"Don't protect cash heist kingpins, bank robbers, armed robbers, burglars, hijackers, ATM bombers, drug lords and drug peddlers, rapists, murderers, white collar criminals and other criminals. Crime Line is anonymous – use it! We promise no comebacks," said Abramjee.

Meanwhile, Abramjee and two senior SAPS representatives, Assistant Commissioner Vinesh Moonoo and Snr Supt Attie Lambrecht from Detective Services, will represent South Africa at the annual Crime Stoppers International World Conference in Bermuda next week.

"We will share the South African experience of Crime Line with delegates from throughout the world. Many countries, including the UK, India, Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia have already shown interest in SMS tip-offs.

"South Africa was one of the first countries to launch it and its success has impressed the world. While we will be sharing our successes, we will also be learning from other countries about ways of fighting crime involving public participation during the five day conference," said Abramjee.

Abramjee added that various local companies and NGO's have shown interest in Crime Line since its launch in June. "We have entered into some partnerships and will be extending it. We are also bringing other media partners on board soon who will be supporting Crime Line."

**Issued by Director Sally de Beer : 082 779 8658.**