

SAIA CHEQUE HANDOVER TO BUSINESS AGAINST CRIME SA: 11 MAY 2010

SPEAKERS NOTES: RONNIE NAPIER, CHAIR OF THE SAIA BOARD (ON BEHALF OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY)

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to welcome Mr Graham Wright, Chief Executive Officer of Business Against Crime South Africa, Mr Barry Scott, Chief Executive of the South African Insurance Association, Ms Lorinda Nel, Business Against Crime South Africa Project Manager, Ms Refilwe Moletsane, SAIA Deputy Executive, Business Against Crime South Africa and SAIA representatives, and the media here today.

It is only one month before the kick-off of the long awaited FIFA Soccer World Cup on South African soil. It is in this spirit that the SAIA believes that sustained reduction in crime is not only in the interest of the country in general, but is also quite crucial for an industry that is in the business of insuring assets. SAIA, on behalf of its members therefore remains committed to contributing towards improving the crime situation in our country to ensure a sustainable and successful future for all.

It makes us proud to know that our continuous efforts as an industry, pertaining to combating motor vehicle crime, have assisted in the overall general reduction in this type of crime of about 50% since 2002.

We would like to thank our industry for their unwavering support and Business Against Crime South Africa and the South African Police Services for their efforts in this regard.

It is believed that unremitting attention to the motor vehicle crime area is in the interest of all. While incidences of vehicle theft have been greatly reduced over the years, our industry shares the opinion that there is no room for complacency concerning crime.

In addition, motor insurance remains the largest class of business for the short-term insurance industry, with the highest cost of claims – at times proving problematic for many of our members. Recognising the increased focus on motor insurance, SAIA has developed a strategy specifically to deal with motor insurance, which was recently endorsed by the SAIA Board. This strategy, seeks to address the causes of claims which result in the greatest losses to the industry, namely those of road safety.



Directors: RS Napier (Chairman), MC Truter (Deputy Chairman), TJ Creamer, MR Durek+, CW Hitchcock, S Isaacs*, K Kennedy, A Khilosa*, IM Kirk++, A Klennert+, NG Kohler, BN Madhav*, V Martindale*, AL Mhlanga, RJ Moletsane, HR Moses*, GRC Munnoch✠, S Naidoo*, JJ Ngulube, C Nolte*, N Omar, WT Roos, MA Samie, SH Schoeman, B Scott, D Shaw, J Sibanda, S Somers*, L Vermaak*, PG Walters*

*Alternates, + German, ++ Irish, ✠ British

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In general, a link between high crime rates and high accident rates in South Africa exists because of a distinct lack of a law abiding culture and society, amongst many other reasons. Most people are very concerned about the fact that around 50 people are murdered in South Africa daily, however, not as many seem to be as worried about the fact that around 36 people lose their lives in road accidents daily.

Statistics show that ninety percent of all road accidents are preceded by a road traffic offence. It is against the law to drive under the influence of alcohol for example, just as it is to drive over the speed limit, or to skip a traffic light, or to drive a motor vehicle that is not roadworthy, or to drive without a license.

A highlight of our initial activities to address road safety problems was the opening of the Randburg Alcohol Testing Centre on 29 September 2009, the second of its kind in Gauteng. This centre came to life as a direct result of the SAIA's R500 000 donation to this road safety initiative as part of our annual donation to Business Against Crime South Africa last year. This was a joint project between the SAIA, BACSA and the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Service.

Despite the successes of the Alcohol Testing Centres, the road safety situation has not improved significantly, with around 70% of insurance claims being road accident related. In addition, business and household robberies, as well as hijackings, have shown unacceptable increasing trends in recent times, which also poses big problems for our industry.

This has led to a SAIA Board decision in February 2010 to approve the eighth annual donation of R1.7 million to Business Against Crime South Africa (BACSA) to be used to support their invaluable crime-combating efforts, in conjunction with the relevant authorities.

In the past, because efforts were directed at combating motor-vehicle crime, the annual BACSA donation was borne only by SAIA's motor insurance members. This donation was borne by all SAIA members for the first time, as our focus currently is to address crime holistically and to make sure that the successes that have been achieved are sustained, setting a strong foundation for a future with reduced crime levels.

We thank Business Against Crime South Africa for their hard work towards reducing the unacceptable rate of crime in South Africa and we hand this cheque over to them with the hope and expectation that this further donation from the short-term industry will be put to use in such a way that we will see positive impact in the near future.

I thank you very much.



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