



CEO DESK



Dr Graham Wright – CEO of BACSA.

As Business Against Crime South Africa (BACSA) begins the new financial year (2010-11), South Africa gears itself for the much anticipated Fifa World Cup. Many years were involved in the planning, building of stadia and the execution of prepared plans to showcase South Africa at its best. A few days from kick-off, we are confident that those involved in the arrangements, including the law enforcement agencies, the Department of Police, and others, will be working tirelessly to bring an event that celebrates the best soccer talents and teams in the world and which ensures that citizens, tourists, soccer fans and travelers to the country *will be safe and will feel safe*, both at stadia and elsewhere within the country.

BACSA would like to take this opportunity to salute those men and women who will be placing their lives on the line and implementing security plans to precision on our behalf, so that we might simply enjoy the games and South Africa's world-class hosting of the event from 11 June – 11 July 2010.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, much has been happening in terms of the BACSA mandate to be Government's primary strategic partner in leveraging a substantial and sustainable reduction in crime to enable a safe and secure South Africa where citizens and business entities *are safe and feel safe*.

Over the past year, as in the preceding years of the existence of the organisation, BACSA has continued in its Mission of supporting the South African Government in the fight against crime.

These efforts continue to be spurred on by the persistent and unacceptably high levels of crime and violence in the country, the continued underperformance of the Criminal Justice System (CJS), and other environmental, systemic and societal issues fuelling the intractable cycle of crime.

BACSA's ability to continue to support Government has been enabled through the exceptional support (both financial and otherwise) received from the business sector as the organisation starts the 2010-11 financial year.

The Financial Year Ahead

As BACSA has just held its annual strategic review meeting with the Board, I would like to take a moment to share with you some of the priorities of the organisation going forward.





Government discussions have confirmed the need for BACSA to continue to play both a strategic and operational support role to the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster. The priority to be achieved in the short-term is the formalisation of the relationship with the Department of Police and the implementation of the spirit and letter of the agreed MOU. Our recent meeting with General Cele was particularly positive in this regard.

Notwithstanding the organisation's support to Government in the fight against crime, BACSA also plays an important co-ordination and facilitation role within the business community, as well as between business and Government. The value-adding ability of BACSA is enabled through the experience, knowledge and understanding it has gained over the years in addressing crime, since 1996, from the perspective of partnership and a deep commitment to achieving results that improve not only the business environment, but the lives of ordinary South Africans throughout the country.

The priorities of BACSA are informed by the organisation's two distinct roles. These are:

- To get business' 'own house in order' by eliminating crime-enabling processes, systems and approaches and improving crime prevention measures. This is achieved by working closely with the South African business sector and relevant business Associations and structures by designing and putting in place improved security measures, information-sharing, best practices, standards, etc., and
- To partner with Government, *when invited*, by sharing expertise, information, processes and technologies that are resident in business, and supporting Government to build the necessary capacity to address crime both more efficiently and effectively.

These roles are fulfilled primarily by mobilising business skills and resources in Government-defined areas of need. BACSA's co-ordination of business' anti-crime strategies and priorities is strategically aligned to these identified areas of need and support.

Against this background, the following two broad-based areas of engagement by the organisation are relevant:

1. The Criminal Justice System (CJS) Review and Improvement

This is a Cabinet-approved initiative, led by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ and CD), involving all members of the JCPS cluster. The initiative deals with structural, process, capability and capacity improvements to the CJS.

The CJS Review is guided by a comprehensive plan and facilitated by the Office for Criminal Justice System Reform (OCJSR), of which BACSA is part. The role of the OCJSR was initially focused on identifying interventions and designing, scoping and planning solutions, and is now undertaking programme and project management facilitation, statistical analysis and is providing support for business case development and procurement of funds.





The CJS Review and its implementation has, throughout the last three years, remained a top priority of Government from a systemic perspective. Though the time-horizon to completion is several years off, good progress has been made with five aspects of the 7-Point plan to-date.

Many of the CJS interventions are being institutionalised and implementation plans are reflected in Annual Reports, Strategic Plans and Performance Plans of the cluster Departments. Departmental budgets now also reflect CJSR priorities and the National Treasury has made an additional R 3 billion available for ongoing activities within the Review process. Not least among these is the establishment of a CJS Business Information System which will allow real-time access to information in relation to the performance of the Criminal Justice System against 28 Key Performance Indicators.

The Government has taken ownership of the CJSR programme and is taking active steps to ensure its effective and sustained execution. The fact that performance contracts at the highest levels will require monthly monitoring of and reporting against the progress of the improvement programme is a positive development which will support the sustainability and progression of the programme. Several billions in funds are being spent or are being earmarked for future spending on the CJSR. In key areas, to support implementation and better service delivery, additional personnel are being upgraded and trained. Detective services has, for example, seen some 15,000 new Constables been brought into the system to support the SAPS priority of crime detection.

The contribution by BACSA has thus far been the funding of the salaries of two permanent and two part-time employees. As such, the relatively small investment by BACSA was assisting to leverage substantive amounts of Government funding in the right direction.

Already, there are signs that system improvements are beginning to filter through at the level of the Regional Courts, for example, when one compares the backlog history of these Courts from the period 2006 to end 2009.

BACSA remains committed to this programme given its strategic importance and impact to the country once fully implemented.

2. Priority Crimes and Business Support and Alignment (Previously the VOC work group)

This is a broad-based series of initiatives designed to support Government in dealing with the priority crimes (including the Trio crimes of Business Robberies, Residential Robberies and Vehicle Hijackings), as well as improving crime prevention within the business sector and the operations, information-sharing and alignment between the business community and the Police.

The draft MOU between the Police and BACSA currently identifies a number of initiatives which require attention by both Government and business. These areas speak to the BACSA strength of being able to leverage specialist skills from the business community to assist the Police in improving their capacity and capabilities. The broad areas where BACSA will continue to make a valuable contribution to the fight against priority crimes include:





- Ensuring that business' own house is in order, through the formulation and implementation of appropriate crime prevention measures and removing those processes which encourage and enable crime;
- Facilitating the effective flow of information from the business sector to the Police and ensuring the close alignment between the anti-crime initiatives of the Police and the business sector; and
- Assisting the Police, *when requested*, in building and improving in-house capacity in defined areas of need (through the use and deployment of specialist skills, expertise, processes and systems resident in business).

The participation of BACSA across this broad spectrum (Business <-----> Government), as well as in the interface between Government and business represents a core value-adding contribution to the national fight against crime.

The success of each of these interventions, therefore, requires a sound partnership between BACSA and the business sector and between BACSA and the broader JCPS cluster, as well as other relevant Government Departments (such as Transport).

The organisation has since the beginning of the year been solidifying these relationships and gearing stakeholders towards delivery.

BACSA urges all to play their part in the fight against crime. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank our donor base and our Board of Directors who have given of their time, expertise, counsel and advice on a *pro-bono* basis. Without this ongoing support, the organisation would not continue to thrive as a going concern in the public interest.

We are pleased that through the organisation's efforts and the broader business community's willingness to co-operate on a non-competitive basis, business information-sharing between business and with the law enforcement agencies is beginning take effect. The business Associations with which BACSA works are currently reporting a drop in business robberies. This helps to emphasise the value of concerted action in partnership.

In this respect, as we approach the 2010 World Cup, BACSA remains committed to keeping its eye on the ball and giving criminals the boot so that citizens and businesses may thrive without the threat of crime and violence.

Thank you

Dr Graham Wright
CEO BACSA
Beginning June 2010

