

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GENERAL 21/2024**

14-11-2024

Festive Season: Stay safe

The festive season is associated with joy, fun, and celebration as time is taken off work and other demanding activities to relax with family and friends. It is, however, also a time of increased theft and burglary, scams, fraud, and crowd-related incidents. Criminals and fraudsters are equally looking forward to benefitting from unsuspecting and relaxed people at this time of the year.

The PSA urges members to be vigilant to avoid becoming victims of crime. Crime in the country has reached unacceptable levels and reasonable actions and measures must be taken to protect ourselves. The following are a few practical security tips and safety measures that can be used to mitigate the risk of becoming a victim:

- Avoid carrying a lot of cash, which easily attracts unnecessary attention.
- Moderate consumption of alcohol as too much alcohol makes one vulnerable and has proven to be a leading cause of crime and accidents.
- Avoid splashing unnecessary and actual-time photos and information on social media as your whereabouts should not be public knowledge.
- Be cautious with online transactions. Shop only on secure websites and avoid sharing sensitive information, unless necessary.
- Avoid overcrowded places. Keep your belonging close to you and be mindful of your surroundings.
- Ensure that your car is serviced and repaired to avoid breakdowns in unsafe places. Also avoid driving at night, unless necessary.
- Ensure that your car is locked by checking the handle instead of just pressing the remote. Jamming devices are used, especially at malls.
- When travelling, avoid putting valuable items where visible through windows as thieves may be attracted.
- Ensure all house doors and windows are locked. Inform a trusted neighbour if travelling, and ask them to keep an eye on your property. You can even consider installing timers for lights to give the appearance that someone is home.
- Report suspicious activity immediately. Anything unusual in the neighborhood or at events must be reported to local authorities.
- Avoid buying or selling anything on *Facebook* as there is a high probability of being defrauded.
- The festive period is followed by January. Spending within your means during the festive season will allow you to start the new year on a financially positive note.

Members are encouraged to educate themselves and others through sharing these tips with family members and friends to ensure everyone is informed and prepared.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website, send an email to ask@psa.co.za, or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

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