

Extract from a Budget vote speech delivered by the South-African Minister for Safety and Security

Charles Nqakula, Ministry for Safety and Security, National Assembly

22 May 2007

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Hi-Tech project centre

We established at the end of last year a Hi-Tech Project Centre, to satisfy the need for a better coordinated approach to crime information and the utilisation of available skills and technology. The consequence of that approach is the easy access by investigators to all relevant information which they have used successfully to oppose bail, identify suspects, apprehend wanted persons, know the status of suspects (whether in custody or not) and link cases to one another.

The centre has been used as a platform to test new technologies such as the Layered Voice Analysis (a stress analysis of verbal communications similar to the traditional polygraph test) and a pilot project on facial recognition, where images of suspects and crime scenes are analysed with a view positively to identify wanted persons.

We have used the centre in recent times on organised aggravated robberies, including cash-in-transit heists, bank robberies, break-ins at financial institutes, Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) explosions, aggravated robberies at shopping malls, petroleum stations, casinos, pension pay-out points and the hi-jacking of trucks with freight. We are also paying special attention to house and business robberies and vehicle hijacking.

In the relatively short period that we have been using the centre a number of successes have been achieved, including the following:

- Linkages to outstanding warrants of arrest for the 'Mtubatuba 26,' arrested in KwaZulu-Natal at a toll-gate after committing two cash-in-transit heists at the end of 2006.
- linking to outstanding cases the 21 suspects who were apprehended in Inyibiba, Eastern Cape, in February this year and charged with conspiracy to commit robbery. They were found in possession of AK 47 rifles, other firearms, grenades, documentation, maps and entry codes indicating that they were planning to rob a cash-in-transit armoured vehicle. This case is currently before court. The suspects were denied bail.
- The arrest of nine suspects in Villa Nora, Limpopo, where four security guards were burnt to death in their armoured vehicle.
- **Using the Layered Voice Analysis System during the interrogation of the suspect in the recent murder case of Sheldean Human, seven, in Pretoria.**

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Complete speech can be found at

<http://www.saps.gov.za/dynamicModules/internetSite/newsBuild.asp?myURL=757>