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Company:

Article taken from "The Herald"

Armed robbers on the prowl

Crime Reporter

POLICE are warning the public to be wary of a gang of criminals targeting business premises and homes in search of money.

The criminals are reportedly moving around the city.

Chief police spokesperson Senior Assistant Commissioner Charity Charamba yesterday urged the public to avoid keeping large amounts of money at home or business premises.

"The Zimbabwe Republic Police would like to advise the public of a spate of armed robberies that have recently been targeting business premises and residential areas where robbers pounce on citizens for their cash, property and other valuables," she said.

She said on Saturday last week at around 1am, in Harare, 15 criminals pounced on a 27-year-old man who was waiting for his friends along Samora Machel Avenue.

Snr Asst Comm Charamba said they struck him on the forehead with an unknown object and stole a satchel

**Snr Asst Comm Charamba**

that contained clothes and other items, all valued at \$60.

On Tuesday, four armed robbers who were wearing woollen masks raided a service station in Hatfield at around 2am and got away with \$4 351 after they blew a safe.

The robbers first attacked a fuel atten-

dant and a security guard.

"In yet another related incident which occurred on the same date at around 0300hours, six unknown male adults who were driving a white Toyota Hiace pounced on three security guards and a fuel attendant at a service station along Kirkman Road," said Snr Asst Comm Charamba.

She said the robbers forced open a kiosk door and stole various groceries and a cash box.

The value of things stolen is yet to be ascertained.

Snr Asst Comm Charamba urged the public to report to their nearest police station suspicious individuals.

Anyone with information on suspected criminal activities may also contact the police national complaints desk.

"Advanced security systems such as CCTVs and alarms must be installed at premises to assist in investigations of such crimes. Banking arrangements should also be put in place for those businesses which receive large amounts of cash daily," she said.

BREAK IN REPORT OCTOBER 2016

On 08/10/16 at 20:31hrs in Highlands, intruders jumped over the durawall and entered the yard, went to the house, cut locks on the bedroom door screen and forced open the door. They stole a handbag with money and went away. **The alarm did not trigger because it was not armed.** Property has a durawall, electric gate and burglar bars.

On 08/10/16 at 05:50hrs in Highlands, intruders cut electric fence and jumped over the durawall and entered the yard, went to the house, entered through an open window, stole some money and went away. **The alarm did not trigger because it was not armed.** Property has electric fence, durawall, burglar bars and electric gate.

On 18/10/16 at 00:00hrs in Avonlea, intruders jumped over the durawall and entered the yard, broke a window to gain entry into the shop and stole two crates of beer and went away. **The alarm did not trigger because the area had no alarm sensors.** Property has a durawall and burglar bars.

On 18/10/16 at 0840hrs in Town, intruders gained entry through the small upstairs window after they broke burglar bars. They stole various items and went away. **The alarm did not trigger because it was not armed.** Property has burglar bars.

On 19/10/16 at 06:56hrs in Chisipite, intruders jumped over the durawall and entered the yard. They forced open the Garage door and stole 4 fire extinguishers, **the alarm triggered and they ran away.** Property has durawall, electric gate and burglar bars.

On 20/10/16 at 02:38hrs in Highlands, intruders cut 5 strands of electric fence, jumped over the durawall and gained entry into the yard. They forced open the kitchen door, cut burglar bars and entered the house. They stole a handbag and various items and went away, **the alarm did not trigger because it was not armed.** Property has a durawall, electric gate, electric fence and burglar bars.

BULAWAYO

On the 05/10/16, at an unknown time and in the CBD intruders broke into a gift shop through the skylight of the building and **evaded the sensors which were covered by goods.** They proceeded to the laptop and cell phones section where they stole laptops and cell phones. **The alarm did not activate because the intruders evaded the sensors which were partially covered by goods.** The shop is secured by screened doors and razor wire on the roof.

On the 13/10/16 an automotive shop was broken into in Belmont area **through the roof** where the intruders took advantage of a trailer and container to evade the sensors. They went on to dig a hole into the built in safe where they used explosives to blow two smaller safes and stole an undisclosed amount of cash and valuable minerals. **There was no activation and it is believed the sensors in the show room were blocked which also gave the intruders the chance to remove the radio and vandalize the alarm.** Note also that the alarm control equipment was **not** in a secure area.

On 16/10/16 at around 03:36hrs an intruder entered a yard through an unlocked gate in Selborne park and proceeded to the cottage rented by students where he broke a window pane and fished out a laptop. Although the students screamed the intruder managed to flee from the scene. **The cottage is not protected by any alarm.** There is an electric fence and a lockable gate but however the students sometimes forget to lock the gate.

On 21/10/16 at around 03:23hrs an intruder broke into a shop in Old Lobengula through the roof and was picked by CCTV. **The alarm triggered and the intruder ran away before** the arrival of the reaction team and before he could steal anything. The shop has burglar barred doors (pad locked) and screened windows with adequate sensor and CCTV coverage inside.

MUTARE

On the 06/10/16 in the city centre a panic signal was received from one client. Response was dispatched and on arrival they found two people fighting. The response team arrested them and handed them over to Mutare Central Police.

On the 11/10/16 in the avenues area a phone call was received from a prospective client requesting for response team. Response team was dispatched and on arrival they were told that a window pane was broken and a burglar bar tampered with by intruders. The prospective client advised that nothing was stolen. **There is no alarm system at the premises.**

On the 12/10/16 in the city centre we received a panic signal from one of our clients. Response team was dispatched and on arrival they found a man who was threatening the Manager of the shop. **The response team arrested the accused and handed him over to Mutare Central Police.**

On the 18/10/16 in Yeovil area at 00:42 hours an alarm signal was received. Response team was dispatched and on arrival they discovered some cases of empty bottles left outside. **It is suspected the intruders ran away on hearing the alarm sounding.**

On the 21/10/16 in the Florida area an alarm activated at 23:30 hours and response was dispatched. On arrival, they discovered two gates open and recovered 2 x 20 litres containers and 1 x 40 litre container. 1 x 20ltr container was already filled with diesel. **It is suspected that the intruders ran away on seeing the response vehicle approaching.**

On the 28/10/16 in the Morningside area an alarm activation was received at 20:16 hours. Response team was dispatched and on arrival they noted that one of the windows to the main house was damaged. **It is suspected that the intruders ran away on hearing the alarm sounding.** The client confirmed that nothing was stolen.

MIDLANDS PROVINCE

Gweru

On the 25/10/16, an unknown number of intruders broke into the house located in the town low density suburb of Kopje and stole valuables worth. This happened whilst the family was in the sitting room watching television. **The house has an indoor alarm system, with no outside beams.**

On the 27/10/2016, intruders broke into a store room in the low-density suburb of Kopje in Gweru, stole a set of spanners before proceeding to stab the domestic worker who managed to fight back and overpowered them. **The store room was not secured by an intruder detection alarm.**

SAFEGUARD BREAK-IN REPORT OCTOBER 2016