

# Criminals are back

Security companies report increase in break-ins

## BOBBI SANDS

AFTER hosting a practically crime-free World Cup, it seems security companies are finding themselves very busy after the final whistle.

Although it is barely two weeks since the tournament ended, Atlas Security has already seen a remarkable increase in break-ins.

"Although we are not able to provide proper statistics at the end of the month, we have noted break-ins have sky rocketed on a daily basis compared to June.

"Contact crime has also increased and both contact and break-ins are becoming more and more aggressive," said Atlas operations manager, Monty Montgomery.

He pointed out three incidents they were concerned about including that of a business owner and another person who were shot

dead after a robbery, and another of a woman who was walking her dogs in Victoria Drive when she was approached by two suspects who robbed her of her cellphone and a back-pack.

"After getting what they wanted they stabbed the woman in the arm. She managed to run to a nearby school where she received

help until her husband fetched her and took her to the hospital.

"The response officers chased after the suspects, but they had already disappeared into the graveyard."

Montgomery said they were also concerned after a couple were tied up in their home in Newton Park

while two suspects armed with 9mm pistols ransacked their home.

"The robbers managed to open the homeowners' safe and stole three revolvers but left behind

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## Residents need to be vigilant

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their hunting rifles."

Before fleeing the scene the robbers tossed the house keys into the swimming pool.

"They eventually freed themselves and managed to alert us and the police about an hour after the incident.

"People should remain vigilant and keep their doors and security gates locked and alarms activated."

Mike Byers, managing director of ADT Security Eastern Cape, said: "Since the end of the very successful World Cup, which saw thousands of visitors

coming to Port Elizabeth to watch matches, we have seen an increase in crime.

"We encourage people to be vigilant and to test their alarms regularly and to report any suspicious activity to the South African Police Services and their security provider."

Police spokesman Captain Janse van Rensburg said it was difficult to ascertain whether or not there had been an increase in robberies in such a short period of time, but added residents should always be vigilant and take every precaution to keep themselves and their property safe at all times.

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