



Blackshark

A Trading Division of Renolia Investments (Pvt) Ltd

MAY 2025

CRIMEWATCH BULLETIN

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*Keeping You Safe,
One Alert at a Time!*

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“WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH, DON'T CUT CORNERS ON SECURITY”



As economic pressure tightens its grip on households and businesses alike, difficult choices have to be made. The cost of fuel rises, groceries climb, and balance sheets are scrutinised with increasing urgency. Naturally, decision-makers begin scanning for areas where they can “trim the fat.” Sadly, and dangerously, security is often first on the chopping block

It's a common pattern: guards are removed from posts, monitoring services are downgraded, patrols are paused “just for now,” and maintenance on alarm systems gets postponed. The thinking seems logical on the surface, others will say “we've never had an incident here. Maybe we don't need this much security”, but what's left unsaid is more dangerous than what's saved.

Crime Doesn't Take a Pay Cut.

In hard times, criminals don't retreat, they become more resourceful. Desperation breeds boldness, and when people are hungry, jobless, or angry, they begin to take risks they wouldn't ordinarily take. Opportunists notice patterns. They see which shops reduced guard numbers. They know which factories stopped using night patrols. They test the waters, watch your habits, and when your defences are down, they strike.

The irony? You only realise the value of your security after an incident and by then, it has already cost you more than you were trying to save.

If You Must Cut, Reallocate. Don't Abandon.

We understand that running a home or a business in this climate is no easy feat. If budget constraints force you to scale back on guards or manual surveillance, the answer isn't to leave your site exposed it's to pivot wisely.

What is the smarter move?

Technological security solutions are no longer a futuristic luxury; they are an affordable necessity. Remote cameras, motion detectors, alarm-linked rapid response, access control systems, smart safes, and AI-powered surveillance analytics are changing the game. And the best part? These systems do not sleep, do not get distracted, and do not take sick days.

This is where Blackshark comes in. We offer remote monitoring, panic-triggered rapid response, access control, integrity testing, and guard monitoring systems to ensure no blind spots, whether human or technological are left unprotected.

Because when the economy falters, crime thrives and May has made that crystal clear.

Let's dive into some of the most shocking crime incidents that rocked Zimbabwe this month, and what they teach us about the cost of letting your guard down.



1. MARONDERA MIDNIGHT RAID: 20 MEN, ONE TERRIFYING NIGHT

It started like any other quiet morning on the outskirts of Marondera, until headlights pierced the darkness. Then came the sound of footsteps, dozens of them. Before anyone could react, twenty armed men stormed the farm, their silhouettes glinting with rifles, machetes, and iron bars.

The guards stood no chance. Overpowered, they were forced to the ground as the gang moved in on the farmhouse. The family inside was dragged from their sleep, assaulted, and tied up, their every movement monitored by cold, calculating eyes. The intruders worked swiftly, tearing through drawers and safes, making off with over **US\$74,000** in cash, mobile phones, and a firearm.

By the time silence returned, only fear and wreckage remained. The ZRP is on the case, and the hunt is on. But one thing is clear, when security is breached, it's not just assets at risk. It's lives.

2. MASVINGO MAYHEM ENDS WITH 345 YEARS BEHIND BARS

For months, they spread terror across Masvingo, three men with nothing to lose and everything to steal. Their spree was bold and brutal: 14 armed robberies involving knives, guns, cash boxes, electronics, and even a stolen vehicle.

They thought they were untouchable until the law caught up. And when justice spoke, it didn't whisper. The court handed down a combined sentence of 345 years, ensuring these criminals would never set foot on the streets again.

It's a rare and resounding reminder that the law doesn't forget, and sometimes, it roars.

3. ATTEMPTED THEFT AT BUSINESS PREMISES – VICTORIA FALLS, MATABELELAND NORTH

On May 25, security personnel at a commercial site in Victoria Falls responded to an attempted intrusion involving an intoxicated individual. The suspect tried to gain unauthorized access to the premises but was intercepted and apprehended by the on-site reaction team. During questioning, the man claimed he was merely looking for food.

While no property was stolen, this incident serves as a reminder that unpredictable intrusions can occur at any time and must be treated seriously, regardless of the perceived intent.

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SUCCESS STORIES: QUICK THINKING, SWIFT ACTION



While crime continues to challenge communities across the country, our team on the ground continues to rise above the threat—delivering sharp instincts, quick action, and unwavering vigilance. Here are two standout cases from May that remind us all: **when you stay alert, you stay ahead.**

Caught with Gold – A Smuggler’s Luck Runs Out

During a routine shift, our Protection Assistant (PA) stationed at an access control point sprang into action after noticing suspicious behaviour during an exit body search. With meticulous precision, **the PA recovered 3.76g of gold amalgam wrapped in plastic and concealed inside a wallet.**

Without hesitation, the PA effected an arrest and secured the exhibit. Supervisors responded swiftly to the scene and took over, escorting both the accused and the evidence to the control room for documentation and further action.

Findings:

- The accused turned out to be a former mine worker, previously employed as a feeder. Though no longer officially engaged, he was still performing part-time tasks for various individuals, raising red flags over unauthorised access and insider risks.

This case highlights **the importance of thorough exit checks and background vetting**, especially in sensitive environments.

Sticky Fingers: Shoplifter Nabbed with Gum in Her Undergarments

In another incident, a vigilant PA observed a suspicious female customer acting nervously while moving through a retail outlet. From a distance, the PA noticed her awkwardly adjusting her clothing—signs that pointed to possible concealment.

The PA maintained discreet visual contact until the suspect approached the exit point, where she was intercepted and escorted for a search by a female internal security officer. The outcome? **Two boxes of Dandy Peach Apricot chewing gum, each containing 20 packs of 10, were found hidden in her underwear—total value: US\$5.22.**

All stolen items were recovered. The PA then effected arrest and immediately reported the matter to response control.

Findings:

- This case demonstrates **the importance of proactive observation and targeted suspicion-based monitoring.** The smallest items often slip under the radar—unless your team is trained to see the signs.

At Blackshark, we celebrate not just arrests, but the discipline, intuition, and professionalism behind them. These aren't just “good catches”—they're reminders that every shift counts, and that true protection lies in the details.

Vigilance isn't luck—it's trained behaviour. And this month, our team proved just that.

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SECURITY INSIGHTS & RECOMMENDATIONS



For Individuals:

- Install cameras, alarms, and secure locks.
- Avoid keeping large sums of cash at home.
- Stay alert during vulnerable hours.

For Businesses:

- Upgrade surveillance and access control systems.
- Vet all staff through background checks and integrity testing.
- Minimise onsite cash—use secure CIT services.

For Communities:

- Report suspicious activity immediately.
- Collaborate through neighbourhood watch programs.

BLACKSHARK PROTECTION SERVICES YOUR TRUSTED SHIELD AGAINST CRIME

We offer:

- 1.Remote CCTV Monitoring** – Your premises watched 24/7 by our trained professionals from our fully equipped control room.
- 2.Panic Systems** – Integrated response solutions that instantly connect you to help in an emergency.
- 3.Access Control & Smart Surveillance** – Manage who comes in and out, and record every move while you sleep.
- 4.Guard Monitoring Units** – For when you still need guards but want to keep them alert and accountable.
- 5.Integrity Testing & Vetting** – Know who you're trusting with your premises and your people.

Stay informed, stay safe, and remember: vigilance is the first line of defence against crime.

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Blackshark is here to protect you.
Contact us today for expert security solutions.



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