

FEBRUARY 2026

### Love Means Protection.

Security is responsibility.  
Protection is care in action.



Violent Crime Trends



Armed Robbery Risk



Drug-Related Instability

**This Month's Key Observation:**  
Crime is increasingly opportunistic.  
Routine behaviour creates vulnerability.



## Love Means Protection

February is known as the month of love. Flowers, dinners, celebrations. But beyond all of that, love at its core is protection.

- When you love your family, you protect them.
- When you love your business, you secure it.
- When you love your community, you stay alert.

Security is not about fear. It is about responsibility. It is about caring enough to put systems in place before something goes wrong.

As we close February, we reflect on crime trends observed this month and what they mean for individuals, families, and businesses.

## Violent Crime and Personal Safety

February saw several troubling incidents that remind us how quickly situations can escalate.

In one reported case in Mashonaland Central, a family was attacked at night inside their home. What makes incidents like these particularly concerning is not only the violence itself, but the vulnerability. The attackers reportedly gained access under cover of darkness, highlighting how critical perimeter lighting and secure access points are. Night time continues to present higher risk, especially in residential areas with limited patrol visibility.



There have also been incidents where personal disputes escalated beyond control. Arguments between acquaintances or family members have turned into serious assault cases. These are not organised criminal acts. They are emotional escalations that spiral because there is no intervention or de-escalation.

Armed robberies targeting individuals returning home in the evening remain a concern. Criminals often wait near gates or follow vehicles from commercial areas. The pattern is consistent. The target arrives home, focuses on opening the gate, and becomes momentarily distracted. That short window is enough for opportunistic criminals to strike.

Kidnapping related incidents involving minors have raised serious alarm. In one particularly disturbing case, an 11-year-old child was reportedly being used by an adult suspect to help identify and lure other children. The adult allegedly used the child to gain the trust of potential victims, making the approach appear harmless. This highlights a troubling shift where criminals are exploiting innocence to lower suspicion. This incident serves as a critical reminder that threats do not always appear obvious. Criminals are increasingly using deception, familiarity, and psychological tactics rather than force alone.

What stands out across these cases is predictability. Criminals observe routines. They study patterns. They look for moments of distraction.

### Security Insight

Change routines where possible. Strengthen lighting. Avoid lingering outside gates. Supervise children actively in crowded areas. Teach children not to follow or trust individuals without parental approval. Situational awareness remains one of the strongest deterrents.

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## Drug Related Crime and Community Instability

Drug distribution and substance abuse continue to affect communities. Recent police operations resulted in the seizure of illegal cough syrups and dagga, with multiple arrests made.

While these headlines focus on seizures, the deeper issue is community impact. Substance abuse contributes to increased petty theft, house break ins, and unpredictable behaviour. In many residential areas, small but valuable items such as solar panels, car batteries, and outdoor equipment are being targeted to fund addiction.

Businesses operating late into the evening remain particularly exposed. Intoxicated individuals are more likely to test boundaries, become aggressive when challenged, or attempt opportunistic theft. The ripple effect is clear. Drug related crime fuels broader instability within neighbourhoods.

### Security Insight

Visible guarding presence, proper lighting, and immediate reporting of suspicious loitering significantly reduce risk. Early intervention prevents escalation.

## Mob Justice and Community Tension

There have been renewed reports of mob assaults following accusations of theft. In some communities, suspected offenders are apprehended by groups before law enforcement arrives.

While frustration over crime is understandable, mob action creates additional victims and exposes participants to legal consequences. It also increases the likelihood of serious injury or fatal outcomes.

These incidents often stem from fear, anger, and delayed response perceptions. However, escalation only compounds the problem.

### Security Insight

Encourage calm reporting through proper channels. Community safety improves when response systems are structured and disciplined.

## Armed Robberies and Firearm Use

Illegal firearms remain one of the most serious security concerns. Armed robberies targeting service stations, retail outlets, and individuals carrying cash continue to occur.

These robberies are often fast and calculated. Offenders enter, issue threats, take cash or valuables, and exit within minutes. The speed is intentional. The goal is to minimise resistance and maximise confusion.

For individuals, carrying visible cash remains a major vulnerability. Criminals observe behaviour. They monitor withdrawals. They identify targets before acting.

The presence of a firearm dramatically increases the risk level. Even minor resistance can escalate into life threatening situations.

### Security Insight

Layered security reduces vulnerability. Controlled access, trained guards, alarm systems, and reduced cash exposure all contribute to prevention. When confronted by an armed individual, preservation of life must remain the priority.



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## What We Are Observing Overall

This month, several consistent themes are emerging:

- **Crime is often opportunistic rather than highly organised**
- **Routine behaviour creates vulnerability**
- **Substance abuse is contributing to instability**
- **Residential areas remain exposed after dark**
- **Visible and disciplined security presence continues to deter incidents**
- **Criminals are increasingly using deception and psychological tactics**

Crime adapts to its environment. As pressures increase, opportunistic behaviour rises. Vigilance must rise with it.

## Practical Safety Reminders

### For Businesses

- Review guarding levels based on risk exposure
- Ensure all access points are monitored
- Improve perimeter and parking lighting
- Limit visible cash handling procedures
- Train staff on emergency response protocols

### For Individuals and Families

- Be alert when arriving or leaving home
- Avoid predictable routines where possible
- Keep gates closed during entry and exit
- Supervise children actively in public spaces
- Teach children personal safety awareness
- Ensure home lighting and alarm systems are functional

*Security is strongest when it is layered. Awareness, professional guarding, technology, and community cooperation must work together.*

## Closing Reflection

### Entering Women's Month

As we move into March and Women's Month, we reflect on the importance of safety for women and girls.

Women are central to families, businesses, and communities. They deserve environments where they feel secure in transit, at work, and at home.

Women are also playing an increasingly important role within the security sector itself. From frontline guards to leadership roles, they continue to strengthen protection standards across the industry.

**Protection is not loud.**

**It is consistent.**

**It is disciplined.**

**It is intentional.**

At Blackshark Protection Services, our commitment remains clear. To protect what matters with professionalism, vigilance, and integrity every single day.



**Blackshark is here  
to protect you.**

**Contact us today for expert  
security solutions.**



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