Security and Safety of Mauritian citizens travelling to South Africa

There is some risk to your safety and security in South Africa due to high levels of serious and violent crime, including armed attacks, especially at night.

Violent crime

There have been reports of visitors/tourists being robbed at gunpoint against people travelling from the OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg and at the doors of a few hotels. The Mauritius High Commission in Pretoria has informed that such attacks have become common and that there could be organised gangs operating from the airport.

While most travellers are likely to experience a trouble-free visit, Mauritian citizens are advised to be conscious of personal safety at all times. Particular care should be taken with luggage and personal belongings in and around OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg. Unsolicited offers of assistance with baggage and transportation arrangements, other than from official porters, should be declined.

It is recommended to avoid travel after dark and to isolated areas and to avoid displaying or wearing items that appear valuable, such as cameras and jewellery. When travelling by car, it is advisable to keep doors locked and windows up at all times, hide valuables from view and not stop to assist with vehicle breakdowns, clear debris from the road or pick up hitchhikers. **No resistance should be given if you are the victim of an armed robbery, mugging or carjacking as this could lead to an escalation in violence.**

Automatic teller machine (ATM) crimes are on the rise. Criminals may also loiter near machines to rob people making withdrawals. Mauritian citizens are advised to maintain security awareness when using an ATM, and avoid using ATMs outside business hours. It may be safer to use ATMs located within a bank or shopping mall.

Mauritian travellers are also advised to keep a photocopy of their passport and National Identity card in different bags and at the place of their residence, and keep handy the telephone numbers of the Mauritian High Commission in Pretoria for contact, in case the need arises.