

Police WC experience to benefit SA in future

Stephen Grootes | 2010/06/25 08:41:01 AM

Police on Thursday said they are confident their World Cup safety programme will feed into the country's safety plans after the tournament. Apart from a few incidents it seems most tourists will be going home incident free. This is despite warnings from the foreign press that tourists in South Africa would not be safe.

Last week police revealed crime figures for the first week of the World Cup were lower compared to the same period last year.

It means one of the biggest ever operations undertaken by the police has paid off, and they said there are lessons to be learnt from how it has gone so far.

Crime researcher Johan Berger said this "certainly shows that specialisation does work and it is necessary."

The police's Sally de Beer also pointed out South Africans will benefit from over R600 million worth of crime fighting equipment bought specifically for the World Cup.

TOURISTS SPENDING IN SA

Tourists have also been spending money in South Africa. It seems a lot of dollars and Euros have gone into restaurateurs' pockets.

"I think many of the restaurants that are in the tourist hubs are delighted with the performance of their turnovers. They have seen a significant increase - round about 30 percent to 40 percent on turnover," said Wendy Alberts from the Restaurant Association of South Africa.

But the rental car market is not doing so well according to Europcar boss Dawn Nathan-Jones: "Initial expectations were overly optimistic, I think we expected a gross of about 30 percent," said Alberts.

Wendy Alberts

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