

High-quality footage to ensure safety at malls

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SURVEILLANCE at shopping malls throughout the country will be improved this year, with the move to digital, HD-ready cameras already preventing crime.

Wilem Visser, property risk manager for Liberty Group Properties, appeared at an event for Axis Security, the company responsible for the new surveillance technology, to speak on the recent improvements at Sandton City that will soon be implemented at malls

across South Africa.

Visser explained that mall robberies were "a phenomenon that has been going on for years, and it was not until last year that they grew to an extent that terrified consumers".

Over a period of 18 months, Sandton City has doubled the number of security cameras in the centre, with hundreds of old cameras also being upgraded to record high-quality footage.

These cameras have been placed at "new, strategic positions around the mall".

This level of footage can help with facial recognition and number plate identification, and allow for the ability to add new security features quickly and easily, according to Visser.

The cameras are connected to a major network-based hub with "high-speed fibre-optic cabling with no bandwidth limitations".

Visser said the new security had already significantly helped to bring down the level of crime at the mall.

The system had helped in

the capturing of alleged Rolex Gang members last year, when footage from the centre was used to track the muggers.

"Sandton City is the flagship for these security projects," said Visser, adding that the upgrade was like "moving from a film-based camera to digital".

In August last year, eight malls across the country experienced violent robberies over the course of one week, losing large amounts of money and emotionally harming shopkeepers and shoppers alike.



BEFORE: The pictures from Sandton City's previous security cameras showing the difference.



AFTER: Sandton City's new security cameras highlighting the difference in quality.