

## **Jhb hit by spate of robberies**

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Johannesburg - A 29-year-old man has become the latest victim of robbers who accuse their prey of theft, then attack them, said East Rand police on Monday.

The man was the eighth person robbed this way in and around Boksburg since October, said superintendent Andy Pieke.

He and his cousin were walking in Parkrand at 17:45 on Sunday when a green car without number plates - possible an Opel Kadett - pulled up next to them.

"The two men inside said that a friend of theirs had been robbed by someone wearing similar clothes to those of the 29-year-old," said Pieke.

They told the man to get into their car so they could take him to the police. They pushed his cousin aside when he also tried to get in.

They drove off, but stopped nearby where they held the man at gunpoint and took his cellphone, wallet and leather jacket, and forced him to give them the PIN number for one of his bankcards.

Police were investigating whether the robbery was linked to seven others with similar modus operandi, said Pieke.

### **Forced into car at gunpoint**

The vehicles used in those incidents included a black Renault Megane and a maroon Renault Megane, a blue BMW and a gold BMW.

Pieke said a 29-year-old was robbed of R1 200 in Leeupoort Street on Friday after being accused of robbing the wife of his assailant.

A 52-year-old man was forced to withdraw R1 300 from his bank account by two robbers who approached him in Commissioner Street on November 10, accused him of being a foreigner then drove him to Germiston, where they left him.

One of the robbers had a light complexion, was between 28 and 30-years-old, and had a clean-shaven head and a scar on his face.

In Dunswart on October 29, a robber stopped two men in All Black Road and accused them of robbing his brother.

He forced them into the car at gunpoint, drove a short distance then robbed them of their cellphones and cash.

### **Fired shot into the air**

Five days earlier, two men accused a 30-year-old walking along North Rand Road of robbing their friend. They aimed firearms at him, fired a shot into the air, and then robbed him of his firearm, wallet and cellphone.

Two men with a firearm also threatened a 33-year-old man walking along Bartlett Road on October 22, fleeing with his cellphone; and a 36-year-old man walking along Paul Smit Road with friends on October 4.

However, in this instance, the robbers asked for directions before forcing the men into the car, driving off with them and robbing them of cash and a cellphone.

Pieke said that on October 2 a 20-year-old man was approached by two men in a car while walking along Comet Road at 09:30.

They accused him of stealing a cellphone and forced him into the car on the pretext of clearing his name, but later ordered him out of the vehicle, searched him and took his cellphone and shoes.

He described one of his assailants as being between 20 and 23-years-old, slender and an English-speaker.