

SAPS NW 23/05/2017 POS NEG. SOWETAN PG 7

Drama as healer falls sick in court

Witness blew whistle on alleged plot to kill premier

By **Boitumelo Tshehele**

The whistleblower who was to testify against an ANC councillor accused of plotting to kill North West premier Supra Mahumapelo had to be rushed to a doctor after he fell sick on the stand yesterday at the Lehurutshe Magistrate's Court.

Tshanako Tshukudu, who is a traditional healer, asked magistrate Stephen du Toit to allow his witness protection officers to give him his medication as he felt an "unbearable pain" close to his heart.

The court was adjourned so he could be taken outside to take his medication but, just before he left the courtroom, he became too weak and was helped to walk out of the courtroom.

He was taken to a doctor for examination and the court proceedings had to be postponed.

Tshukudu sat a few metres from the ac-

cused, former councillor Gaasite Legalatladi, who was dressed in black with a white scarf.

At the time of her arrest in December 2014, Legalatladi was allegedly filmed by the Hawks who had received a tip-off that she would be consulting Tshukudu in Mmasebudule village near Zeerust.

According to the Hawks, she was captured on video performing rituals through which she sought the death of Mahumapelo for allegedly taking over her family land. She allegedly also wanted to kill former mayor of Mahikeng, Gosiame Seatlholo, for having been appointed ahead of her.

She paid a R800 consultation fee and promised to pay the R15 000 balance after the deaths of the two.

Ngaka Modiri Molema district mayor Justice Makolomakwa had testified that Legalatladi and Mahumapelo were close until Legalatladi showed ambition to be mayor.

She was charged with conspiracy to murder and her R3 000 bail has been extended until her next court date, June 6.

23/05/17 TNA pg 1 SAPS POS NEG.

Murder plot trial deferred

OBAKENG MAJE

THE case of a former Mahikeng local municipality councillor was postponed after one of the witnesses fell ill while on the stand in Lehurutshe near Zeerust yesterday.

The case was postponed to June 6 and 7. This was confirmed by the National Prosecuting Authority's Luvuyo Mfaku, who said proceedings had to be stopped so that the witness could be attended to.

Gaasite Legalatladi allegedly plotted to kill Bokone Bophirima Premier Supra Mahumapelo and then Mahikeng mayor Gosiame Seatlholo in 2014.

She was allegedly not happy about Mahumapelo's decision to overlook her for the position of mayor. It is reported that Mahumapelo also bought a farm that belonged to Legalatladi's family. Legalatladi allegedly approached a traditional healer for muti to kill Mahumapelo and Seatlholo.

However, the traditional healer

reportedly informed the law enforcement agents about Legalatladi's intentions and CCTV cameras were secretly installed to capture the moment.

Footage from the ritual incident was played in court and two senior government officials have so far taken to the stand as witnesses.

According to both witnesses, a traditional healer who was also the secretary of the ANC branch, attended the rally and called them aside and confirmed Legalatladi's intention to kill Mahumapelo.

They also alleged the traditional healer, Thanako Tshukudu, had told them Legalatladi wanted to kill

Mahumapelo and Seatlholo because the ANC provincial chairperson had taken their land and refused to allow her to become mayor. Tshukudu would have apparently taken Mahumapelo's footprints and mixed them with muti.

Mahumapelo said Legalatladi didn't plan the murder alone and she should not be allowed to bear the brunt alone.

- Newsnote



Supra Mahumapelo

23/05/17 TNA POS DOT Pg 1

RAF to visit Mahikeng

ELFAS TORERAI

ROAD accident victims from areas around Mahikeng have a chance to claim directly from the Road Accident Fund (RAF) when it visits the provincial capital later this week.

The RAF will be visiting the community of Mahikeng on May 27 to offer a range of services to residents.

"At the heart of this community outreach is service delivery and making a difference to claimants and everyone affected by the scourge of road crashes.

"Claimants will be assisted with the direct registering of new claims, consolidation of required compliance documents, settlement offers and reporting of cases involving unscrupulous personal injury representatives and touts," RAF public relations manager Linda Rulashe said.

She said community members were encouraged to bring along their ID

documents for inquiries and information on their claims.

"Among other important information which needs to be provided for new claims are case numbers, accident reports, hospital reports, vehicle registrations and details of other parties involved in the car crash."

There are eight centres in the province where people can get RAF services.

These are Mahikeng Customer Service Centre at Megacity Complex, Mafikeng Hospital, Tshepong Hospital (Klerksdorp), Potchefstroom Hospital, Joe Morolong Hospital (Vryburg), Zeerust Hospital, Moses Kotane Hospital, JS Tabane Hospital (Rustenburg) and Brits Hospital.

The Mahikeng outreach will be held at Barolong boo Ratshidi tribal office in Montshioa Stadt from 8am to 4pm on Saturday.

elfast@thenewage.co.za

Broken school buses affect village kids

'Bolts that hold gearbox fall off due to bad roads'

By **Boitumelo Tshahle**
North West Correspondent

The North West department of community safety and transport is spending over R270-million a year on scholar transport, yet pupils in some rural areas are struggling to get to school as a result of broken-down buses.

Pupils attending school at Kgononyane Secondary School in Southey near Ganyesa at times miss classes up to a week because of their transporter's mechanical problems.

The bus collects pupils from seven villages to Kgononyane, the only high school in the area. Since the beginning of the year, the pupils have been

struggling to get to school on time or not arriving at all.

Sowetan visited the villages and witnessed pupils walking long distances to reach the school after their transport had broken down, again.

A Grade 8 pupil who cannot be named said she walks about 15km most of the time from Vergenoog to Southey where the school is located.

"We are used to the distance, we are just lucky if the bus comes," she said.

Another pupil from Vragas village - 10km from Southey - said she could not go to school on Monday and Tuesday because the bus did not come.

"Today I had to walk. I wish that I was staying in a township, at least there the schools are nearer," she said.

In 2006 the school made headlines when only one pupil out of 640 passed his grade.

Resident Malesela Phiri said



Pupils at Kgononyane Secondary School in Southey, North West, arrive late or not at all for classes because of the poor condition of buses collecting children from surrounding villages. /TIRO RAMATLHATSE

it would be better if the government stopped the buses and rented rooms for pupils at Southey village.

A bus driver who asked not to be named said the poor state of scholar transport in the area was "normal".

"The problem is the bolts that hold the gearbox; they fall off because of these bad roads.

"You see, this gearbox is

worn out. The owner must just buy a new bus," he said.

The North West community safety and transport management spokesman Thabo Sematle blamed supply chain processes for failing to appoint new operators.

"The department has advertised a new tender through North West Investments in December 2016, with a view of ap-

pointing new operators by April 1 2017. However, due to the supply chain processes, the old operator's service was extended for a period of three months to allow for the finalisation of the tender," he said.

He said the school reported the matter of the buses' late coming and that the department sent an official to monitor the bus operation.