

## NW Provincial Gov tackles

### gangsterism through RHR in Bloemhof

**MAHKENG MAIL - BLOEMHOF:** Gangsterism was on the edge of taking over the lives of young people in Bloemhof, putting the communities of Botumelong location in fear and unsettled.

However, the situation is continuously settling following the intervention led by the Office of the Premier and all Provincial sector departments, NGO's and parastatals.

Following a number of killings and all other criminal activities in the area, the situation got out of hand when the communities started to isolate certain young people who are believed to be members of these gang groups.

This resulted in an establishment of an informal settlement occupied by the so-called gangsters, putting more pressure to other young people to find themselves a space in the groups as a way of securing themselves protection and this escalated the level of gangsterism in the area.

As part of the intervention, a prayer session was held last year with the involvement of all sector departments, community members of Botumelong, gangsterism groups, NGO's and Faith Based Organisations where the also lit 67 candles.

In strengthening the intervention in the area, different government departments organized a number of activities such as soccer tournaments in promotion of reconciliation among gangsters, visiting schools and sharing information on substance abuse, bullying and crime. However, killings and attacks of gangsters continued and this led to the intervention team to host an engagement through the dialogue with involvement of the community members and gangsters to allow an interaction which led to social cohesion.

In his address to more than 500 community members comprising of gangsters during the dialogue, the Community Safety and Transport Management MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane, condemned the killings and recreational opportunities that are being availed for them to stay away from being involved in criminal activities.

"Most of our young people find themselves in gangsterism for fearing their lives and trying to secure protection for themselves in the area."

but not realizing that their lives are more in danger as gang members than not been involved in this hoodligan groups.

They destroy their lives with whole lot of elements because, that is where mostly start smoking dagga, drinking alcohol and taking drugs, killing and raping, leading to death or jail sentence," said Motlhabane.

Gang violence has turned into a critical social and economic issue, extracting a high toll on the general public, as well as the business community, resulting with a negative impact on both business and potential investors.

In this instance, small businesses in the area resulted losing revenue due to theft and graffiti clean-up. "If a gang decides to claim a territory as its own in our townships, they put fear into current and potential customers and prevent them from patronizing the business. And this does not only have a negative impact on business but also on our potential investors, affecting the economic growth of our Province," says MEC.

One of the known gangsters in the area said they are not happy with their acts as they are only motivated by not finding a job and can't stand seeing themselves going to bed on empty stomach. "There is no hope for us, now we only find pleasure in nothing except gangsterism," he said.

His partner in crime but opposite gang group also said gangsterism will continue to plague the Bloemhof area because of socio economic conditions. "We are desperate, angry and disillusioned by our government system which made us believe that we are the forgotten location," he said with an irritated voice.

An intervention plan has been developed and all involved government Departments are expected to report on quarterly basis on their service delivery oriented activities, which are aimed to create jobs and allow young people to participate on different recreational and economic spinoffs in the area.

13/04/18 INR Pg 1 Desc: TM Neg.

## Fiery crash claims five more lives



**HEADLINE:** FIVE people, including a JB Marks councillor, Moeder Mokae, and her driver, Kingsley Motlhabi, died in a road accident along the R53 Potchefstroom-Ventersdorp road late on Wednesday afternoon, when a Mercedes-Benz SUV collided with a Mazda bakkie transporting chickens.

**ELIAS TORERA**

FIVE more people have died bringing to 13 the number of those who died on North West roads over the past five days.

Eight people, five of whom were burnt beyond recognition, died on the Derby-Ventersdorp road on Tuesday night. In the Wednesday incident, four people were burnt beyond recognition after two vehicles caught fire on impact along the R53 between Potchefstroom and Ventersdorp.

Member of the mayoral committee for sport, arts and culture, Moeder Mokae, 48 and her driver, Kingsley Motlhabi, died in the accident.

A report from the community safety and transport management department said Mokae's Mercedes-Benz SUV and a Mazda bakkie that was carrying chickens collided head on.

"There were two people in the Mercedes SUV and they died on the spot together with two others in the bakkie. A six-year-old child who was in the bakkie died upon admission to hospital," department spokesperson Thabo Senade said.

JB Marks mayoral spokesperson Victor Boqo confirmed that a council-

The bakkie was travelling from the direction of Ventersdorp to Derby.

"The causes of the accidents are not yet known, but police have opened and are investigating a culpable homicide case," Senade said. He said reports from law enforcement authorities at the scene said both vehicles caught fire on collision.

"Seven people were certified died on the scene where five of them are reported to have burned beyond recognition and two were taken to the nearest hospital whereby one passenger died on arrival but one still in a stable condition," he said.

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13/04/19 TMA Pg 14 DCSE TM Neg

## Communities resorting to protests over poor services

ELFASTORERA

FED up with poor services in their communities, residents around North West have resorted to protests.

One of the recent ones hit the provincial capital when Danville and Lomanyaneng people teamed up to close off the R503 road on Tuesday.

Residents complained of rip-offs from the Mahikeng local municipality service charges when they "do not see anything justifying" such payments.

They complained that there has not been road construction or maintenance in their areas for more than 20 years, sewerage pipes are bursting putting their lives in danger, that their clinic is dysfunctional among other grievances.

Organised under the Danville committee, residents said police were not responding to any crime complaints from their area.

A resident said: "Police give excuses that they do not have vehicles and the other thing is they are not willing to raid houses that we know to be drug dens yet our children suffer every day."

For the same reasons, residents of Mmatshope village also joined in the

protest, calling for urgent intervention by the authorities.

In the Molelema village, patients and workers were disrupted as protesters closed the local clinic.

A similar incident occurred in the Madibogo village in a protest at which residents are demanding answers for the construction of the road and bridge.

A few weeks ago, the community of Gopane barricaded the N4 complaining that police take longer than necessary to respond to crime.

Residents of Ganyesa looted shops owned by foreign nationals, torched a vehicle and burnt a court complaining that police failed to effectively deal with crime.

Motorists were left stranded when the residents of Coligny recently closed the road in a protest for service delivery.

Community safety and transport management MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane condemned the barricading of roads and stoning of vehicles during protests.

He said protests should be orderly and those who want to use them for criminal intentions should be exposed.

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13/04/19 T-PA 19-1 NWSAFS Neg

# Destruction delays cases

## RESIDENTS REMINDED OF RIGHT TO PROTEST BUT IT MUST BE IN A PEACEFUL MANNER

ELFAS TOREPAI

THE destruction of property during protests has strongly been condemned by the public and authorities after a section of a court building was destroyed in Ganyessa.

The justice and constitutional development department is yet to quantify the extent of the damage to the Ganyessa Magistrate's Court, but has indicated that millions would be needed to repair the burnt building.

The court has been relocated to another building for its daily duties.

A portion of the court was burnt after angry community members stormed the facility and forced proceedings to stop on April 3. Residents said they wanted to get two people who were supposed to appear in court on that day for two counts of murder and four other serious charges.

However, Justice and Correctional Services Minister, advocate Michael Masutha strongly condemned the incident. "No grievance, no matter how legitimate, justifies the destruction of public or private property during a protest action. We need to appreciate that public property belongs to the people of South Africa.

"Burning a court, school, clinic or any other public asset negatively impacts upon government's capacity to deliver services and wastes the limited resources available to support the state."

"This, in turn, lengthens the period it would ordinarily take to resolve a plethora of our national challenges," he said.

The minister further chastised the protesters saying: "The burning of the court has not advanced the cause of

the protestors. Rather, it has meant the court is obstructed and delayed from considering and settling important cases such as those of maintenance, assault, disputes and others."

All court services have been moved to Vryburg but the administration of traffic-related offences and non-criminal court services will continue to operate at the Ganyessa traffic department.

Acting provincial police commissioner, Maj-Gen Ryno Naidoo, condemned the burning of the court and urged community members to refrain from taking the law into their own hands and allow the police to continue with their investigations. "As police, we will not allow lawlessness including disrupting court proceedings as that is tantamount to attacking the authority of the state," he said.

Naidoo's sentiments were echoed by attorney and director of the Faculty of Law, Community Law Centre at North West University, Simon Rasakhelela.

"The conduct displayed (by residents) shows a lack of confidence and trust in our institutions, which is coupled with a lack of understanding on how our courts operate."

"This kind of behaviour is not sanctioned by the law as it amounts to a criminal offence and identified perpetrators can be prosecuted for arson and damage to property," he said.

Rasakhelela said although communities have a right to protest that should be done in a peaceful manner without damage to property.

"Our communities need public education and awareness on the importance of institutions such as our courts. They give them access to justice and protect their rights if violated."

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## Men posing as guards rob bank

Robbers pretending to be SBV security officials have made off with an undisclosed amount of money from a bank in Klerksdorp, the Hawks in North West said yesterday.

Captain Tlangelani Rik-hotso said two men in SBV uniforms entered the bank at 10am and showed the staff false credentials. They were handed the money and left. Anyone with relevant information can contact the detective in the case on 071-481-2722. - ANA

Pretoria News - 13/04/18  
**'Guards' steal cash**  
Negative News Agency

ROBBERS made off with an undisclosed amount of cash from a bank in Klerksdorp after pretending to be SBV security officials, the Hawks in North West said.

"The Hawks are in pursuit of two men who stole the money on Wednesday at a Nedbank branch in the Klerksdorp CBD after they allegedly posed as SBV security officials on site to pick up cash."

The pair dressed in SBV security uniforms, entered at 10am and produced false credentials to staff. They were handed the money and swiftly left. Anyone with information can call Crime Stop 08600 10111 or SMS Crime Line: 32211. - African News Agency (ANA)

## Teens accused of rape, robbery

A 76-year-old woman and her 26-year-old granddaughter were robbed and raped at home in Bloemhof, North West police said yesterday.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pelonomi Makau said two teenagers broke into their home on Sunday while the two were asleep.

The two, aged 15 and 18, were arrested on Monday, and appeared in the Bloemhof Magistrate's Court yesterday. They were remanded in custody. - ANA

The Citizen - 13/04/18 - Hawks - pg 10 - p 08

## Teens rape, rob 2 women in North West

A 76-YEAR-OLD woman and her 26-year-old granddaughter were robbed and raped at their home in Bloemhof, North West police said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pelonomi Makau said two teenagers

broke into the home on Sunday while the women were asleep. "They allegedly robbed and raped the pair before making away with groceries, shoes and cellphones."

The two, aged 15 and 18,

were arrested and appeared in the Bloemhof Magistrate's Court on Wednesday, facing charges of robbery and rape.

They were remanded in custody until April 16. - African News Agency (ANA)

Pretoria News - 13/04/18 - pg 2 - p 08 - Hawks

## Klerksdorp bank thieves at large

TNA REPORTER

THE Hawks are in pursuit of two men in connection with a theft at Nedbank in Klerksdorp CBD.

Police said the men dressed in SBV security uniforms, entered the premises in the morning and produced what has now been established as false credentials to the staff.

The staff handed the money to them and they swiftly left the bank as the credentials at the time of the theft seemed legitimate.

Hawks Capt Tlangelani Rikhotso said the men used the credentials of staff members of SBV and the Hawks were still trying to establish how they gained access to their information.

Rikhotso said it was unclear how the thieves had accessed the uniforms.

He said when police viewed the footage they noticed that the men didn't have the correct and complete uniform of the SBV security company, they had bits and pieces of the uniform.

Furthermore, one of the men had a branded cap whereby the other man's cap wasn't branded.

The Hawks said the men stole an undisclosed amount of money during the incident.

The Hawks have urged anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of the suspects to contact the investigating officer Det-WO Modisadife 071 481 2722.

Rikhotso further said no shots were fired during the course of the theft. - TNA Reporter

13/04/18 TNA Pg 2 Hawks Neg

# Pay up, judge tells Telkom

## HISTORICAL DEBT: NO PAYMENT TO BE WITHHELD FOR ENATIS

→ **Contract with previous supplier has no bearing on road traffic corporation.**

A separate creature of statute whose objective was to act in the public interest rather than for its own financial gain like Tasima and it would not be lawful for RTMC, a public entity, to pay a debt owed by the department.

She said it was clear that RTMC had been negotiating with Telkom since April last year for a new agreement.

The only probable inference was that the parties had reached a binding and enforceable agreement for uninterrupted services by Telkom for which RTMC would be billed directly. It was not in dispute that RTMC was up to date with all invoices.

"The services in dispute affect the public and impact on the economy ... By holding the applicant ransom to enforce payment under a different contract falls short of the requirement of good faith when contracts are negotiated," she said. - [isled@citizen.co.za](mailto:isled@citizen.co.za)

### Isa de Lange

A high court judge has lashed Telkom for jeopardising the eNatis system and holding the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) to ransom for the payment of historical debt due to it by the transport department.

Acting Judge Liezl Haupt granted a final interdict in the High Court in Pretoria, directing Telkom to restore all of RTMC's suspended telecommunication services.

She said eNatis was a national

key point due to its significance to the economy and could not function without the services of Telkom, but was caught in the cross-fire of a battle between the department and Telkom.

RTMC took over running the eNatis system in April last year, after a Constitutional Court ruling that the extension of a contract between the transport department and Tasima had been unlawful.

The corporation had to go to court twice in the past after Telkom suspended their services due to the department's outstanding debt of almost R16 million, which pre-dated RTMC taking over the system.

Telkom insisted there was no agreement between them and RTMC and that the corporation had simply stepped into the shoes of Tasima, which acted as an agent on behalf of the department.

Judge Haupt said RTMC was

12/04/2018 Pretoria News Pg 2 BOT PAS

# RTMC wins court battle with Telkom

TELKOM was yesterday issued with a final interdict in terms of which it was ordered to restore all suspended telecommunication services to the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) to enable the smooth running of the Electronic National Traffic Information System (eNatis).

Telkom in the past suspended its services to the RTMC due to the debt of more than R15 million which the Department of Transport had not settled.

She added that Telkom's "pullish" approach of suspending its telecommunication services to RTMC at a stage last year, affected the lives of thousands of innocent members of the public and had the potential of seriously affecting the economic and security interests of the country.

Acting Judge LC Haupt, however, said: "The applicant (RTMC) is being held ransom for the payment of the debt due by the department, which existed prior to the applicant taking over the eNatis system from April 2017."

Telkom opposed the interim order and maintained the stance that it was in its right to withhold its services due to the department's non-payment.

The judge said Telkom had other remedies available to it to enforce payment, without acting in a manner which could result in the collapse of the entire transport system.

She said the RTMC was caught in the crossfire between the department and Telkom.

Following a long and bitter legal battle, RTMC took over the eNatis system from Tasima, after the Constitutional Court declared the extension of Tasima's tender by government to run the eNatis system unlawful.

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Telkom.

"Without it, the eNatis system cannot be utilised to render crucial services and functions."

The judge said if Telkom cut services to the RTMC, it would, among others, result in no one being able to renew driving licences, no one could make appointments for licences and vehicles stolen or used to commit crimes, could not be traced.

When Telkom suspended its services to the RTMC last year, it nearly resulted in the collapse of about 80 eNatis sites countrywide. This was only prevented by RTMC obtaining an interim interdict at the time against Telkom.

If the interim order was not confirmed yesterday, it would have left the door open to Telkom to again suspend its services.

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## Top cop vows to 'choke' drug supply

NATIONAL police commissioner, General Khehla Sitole, vowed yesterday that the police would "choke the supply of drugs" in communities and arrest all those who continue to manufacture illegal substances.

This comes after the police discovered what appears to be a drug laboratory in the early hours of yesterday at a house in Orlando West, Soweto, making a major breakthrough in the fight against the scourge of drugs even though no one was arrested.

Sitole praised the collaborative work between communities and the police, saying that it had led to this breakthrough and a number of arrests for drug-related crimes in Orlando in the past financial year. "Our members are hard at work since the discovery this morning and are still busy combing and processing the scene for more evidence," he said.

Sitole urged those with information to come forward and report to the police. - African News Agency (ANA)

13/04/18 - Frederick News - pg 2 - ~~Free~~ Neutral - National

## The Citizen - 13/04/18 - pg 10 - ~~Free~~ Neutral - National Police hunt for owners of drug lab

National police commissioner, General Khehla Sitole, vowed yesterday the police would "choke the supply of drugs" in communities and arrest all those who continue manufacturing them.

This is in the wake of the police's discovery of a drug laboratory in the early hours of yesterday morning in a house in Orlando West, Soweto. There was no one in the house and no arrests have been made.

Sitole said that collaborative

work between residents and the police had led to the breakthrough as well as a number of arrests for drug-related crimes in Orlando in the past financial year.

"Arresting peddlers and runners is important, but we cannot overemphasise the even greater need to arrest and close down the manufacturers and suppliers.

"Our members are still combing the scene for more evidence. At this stage, we have recovered tablets, powder, an unidentified

solution and equipment that will undergo forensic processing to confirm identity, description and use."

This evidence was sufficient to warrant opening a criminal case, he added, appealing to anyone with more details related to this case to give the information to the police. "The house had been abandoned when we arrived ... so we are on the lookout for suspects and need the public to assist us to apprehend them," he said. - ANA