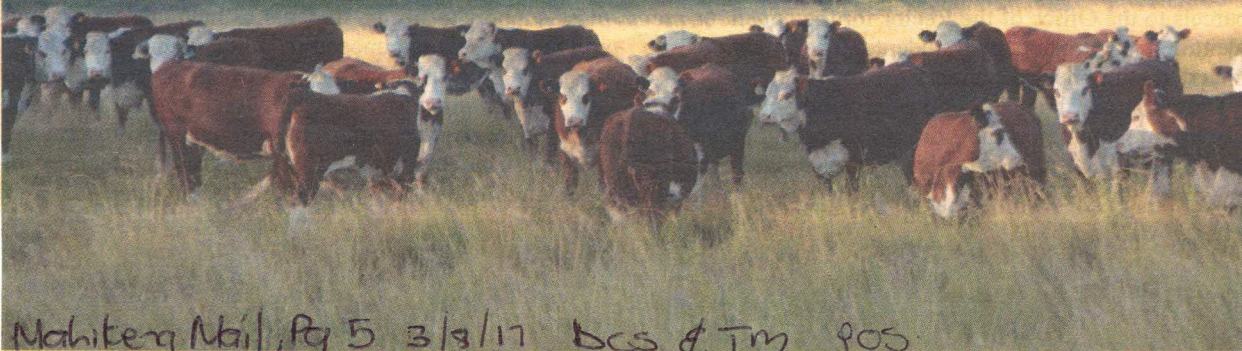


# Farmers addressed about stock theft



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**Mahikeng Mail-Taung- South African Police Service last Friday held an awareness campaign on stock theft at Mmabana Cultural Centre, Taung.**

The awareness was initiated by SAPS as part of addressing stock theft that is escalating in some parts of the province including Taung.

The campaign was among others attended by the MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Mpho Motlhabane, Mayor of Greater Taung Local Municipality, Councillor Motlhabane, Kgosi Lehatshe Mankuroane of Batlhaping ba-Ga-Phuduhucwana and the North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane.

In his address, MEC Motlhabane encouraged cooperation among all stakeholders in accordance with the government's fourth of the five concretes (Saamwerk-Saamtrek philosophy). "Police must not fail to support those who are doing their best to take care of their livestock. We need to work in an integrated approach to win this battle," said the MEC.

He encouraged farmers to leave old methods of marking their livestock and apply brand marking and tattooing in line with the provision of the Animal Identification Act. He indicated that it is clear that the old method can be

easily changed and manipulated by thieves.

Although he praised the station and cluster commanders of Taung and Pudimoe for their hard work, he did not spare corrupt police officials. He condemned some police officials including stock theft unit members who steal even more than thieves. "There are police officers who disappoint. Some of investigating officers will keep you in suspense and pretend to be doing something in your case while actually nothing is happening," the MEC said.

He encouraged members of the community to be fair and not to exaggerate when they report their cases or complaints. He reminded the farmers that it is important to separate roles of police officials from those of other government departments including that the police do not grant bail.

MEC Motlhabane said further that although there are still budgetary constraints, it is their plan to improve services to the community and where possible, establishing satellite police stations in some areas in Taung.

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Positive **Life**

## **imprisonment handed down to gang rapists welcomed**

**MahikengMail-Klerksdorp-** On July 28 the North West police provincial management welcomed a combined 16 life and 110 years imprisonment sentence handed down by the North Gauteng High Court sitting in Klerksdorp to five burglary and gang rape accused.

The accused, aged between 20 and 30 who cannot be named to protect identity of a minor victim, gang raped a mother and her three daughters on Saturday, 22 August 2015 in Jouberton. It was reported at the time of the incident that they kicked the door and gained entrance into the house where they found a 50-year-old mother asleep with her children. The mother managed to see that the accused were armed with knives. The accused then ordered her to undress and one of them raped her. She was taken to the bedroom where the accused gang raped her together with her three daughters including a six-year-old minor.

The ordeal occurred in the presence of her two sons who were threatened with knives. The suspects left the place after taking household goods including cosmetics, clothes and a cell phone to the value of R6000,00. The matter was reported to the police who worked hard and arrested the first three accused and charged them for house robbery and rape. It was revealed during the investigation that the suspects were members of a gang known as Dog For Money. They were also linked with a case of theft in Extension 14 after stealing a school bag and a pair of shoes belonging to a learner. All accused have been in detention since their arrest until they were sentenced.

The court sentenced them as follows: Accused 1 - 22 years for burglary and robbery; Accused 2-5 - 22 years for robbery and burglary and 4 life imprisonment each for 4 counts of Gang Rape.

The North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyanne appreciated everyone's involvement and contribution in the case that led to the conviction. She said that the conviction will send a clear message that the police will ensure that merciless criminals particularly those who commit crimes against women and children, get long jail terms.



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## Man gets 15 years for rape

ELFAS TORERAI

A MAN, 29, was slapped with a 15-years sentence imprisonment after he was convicted of rape in the Ganyesa Regional Court outside Vryburg yesterday.

The man was convicted for a September 2015 rape of a 15-year-old girl in Gamogopa section in Morokweng village.

North West police spokesperson Lt-Col Pelonomi Makau said thorough and responsive investigations by the police led to a successful conviction.

"It was reported at the time of the incident that the victim went to his neighbour (accused's) place accompanied by her younger brother to ask for

assistance with magazines as part of her school project," Makau said.

"The accused chased the victim's younger brother back home and dragged the victim into the house where he raped her.

"The victim was allowed to go home after the ordeal and eventually reported the incident to her older sister who informed their mother. The matter was reported to the police who successfully traced and arrested the accused."

Police management in the province welcomed the sentence and applauded officers and the prosecution team who worked to ensure conviction and a decent sentence.

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## Joe welcomes Prasa verdict

Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi, pictured, yesterday said he "welcomes" the High Court in Pretoria judgment ruling two contracts entered into by Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) with Fenton Gustin, its chief finance officer, were invalid.

The first contract that was found to be invalid was the one entered into when hiring Gustin as chief finance officer. The other invalid contract was a day-to-day contract given to him by Prasa after he had been fired.

During the trial, no proof of board approval was forthcoming to support the appointment on a package of R3 million a year. When Gustin was sacked 14 months later he was paid R3.3 million, more than his annual salary, for the 12-month remainder of his contract.

Last week, the High Court in Pretoria found that two contracts entered into with Gustin were a ploy to defraud Prasa and were ruled as invalid.

The court also ordered Gustin to refund Prasa monies earned through the invalid contracts estimated at R8 million.

Reacting to the judgment, Maswanganyi said: "As government, we are a constitutional state, governed by laws, regulations and policies. We have committed ourselves to deal decisively with fraud and corruption, and will do everything in our power to root out these acts of dishonesty and criminality wherever they emerge".

The minister said as a shareholder, he has the responsibility to ensure that Prasa delivers on its core mandate and that such delivery is underpinned by prudent and good governance principles.

"I will continuously monitor progress and ensure that necessary controls and systems are put in place to promote good governance, because commuters in our country who heavily rely on public transport deserve nothing but the best," Maswanganyi said.

The minister said as soon as the new Prasa board is appointed he will direct it to probe "perceived corruption". - ANA

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## Prasa ruling hailed

TRANSPORT Minister Joe Maswanganyi yesterday welcomed the Gauteng High Court, Pretoria, judgment ruling that two contracts entered into by Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) with Fenton Gastin, its chief finance officer, were invalid.

The first contract that was found to be invalid was the one entered into when hiring Gastin as chief finance officer. The other invalid contract was a day-to-day contract given to him by Prasa after he had been fired.

During the trial, no proof of board approval was forthcoming to support the appointment on a package of R3 million a year. - ANA

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