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DCS&TM POS

PEOPLE AREN'T ALWAYS ABLE TO WAIT AN HOUR FOR A TAXI, SO THEY HIKE

Hikers, illegal taxis ban

ELFAS TORERA

after a clear-out that was done at the weekend.

ALL hiking spots in Mahikeng are now out of bounds for both hitchhikers and illegal taxi operators.

The community safety and transport management department sealed off the spots as part of its clampdown on rampant illegal taxi operators that have taken control of major routes leading out of the provincial capital.

Tension was also building between licensed taxi operators and those plying their business without the necessary permission. Commuters are urged to use the taxi rank whenever they are on a journey and avoid unauthorised public transport.

"The tension had become unbearable because every space was becoming an illegal rank," department MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane said.

"For instance, the whole of Mandela Drive has become notorious and basically owned by illegal taxi operators. It had become so brazen that people who used to hitch for lifts after the bridge in Danville are now doing it right in town.

"We are not going to allow our people to be transported with vehicles that do not have operating permits. These illegal operators put the lives of our people in danger and we will not allow this".

He said illegal operators do not want to pay for licences at a nominal fee by the department and that their operations cripple those of registered operators.

"We wanted to manage this situation before the December period so that by then, we will have established a culture where people use transport at taxi ranks when travelling," he said.

Traffic officers and in some cases, police, are manning the hiking spots

Once Mahikeng is done, the same exercise will be carried out in places like Klerksdorp, Vryburg and Rustenburg.

"This concerted programme is deliberately geared at the reclaiming of our streets and roads campaign, in line with a clear government position of repositioning, rebranding and renewal of Bokone Bophirima province in general and Mahikeng in particular," Motlhabane said.

"We will not shy away from being tough on those illegal public transport, hiking lords and pirates using seven to nine-seater Avanzas, bakkies, Versos and unauthorised normal taxis. We will impound these vehicles and slap them with heavy traffic fines.

"We are also contemplating the amendment of the law to ensure that repeat offenders have their vehicles impounded. Such vehicles will only be returned after a legal process is concluded in favour of the operator, otherwise the vehicle should be ceded to the state," the MEC said.

Taxi operators welcomed the development saying it restored order in the sector.

Nyelele Thulo of the Magogoe Taxi Association said: "Some of our licensed operators were having their vehicles repossessed because business opportunities were getting squeezed. We want to applaud the government for taking this bold step."

One person said: "People opt for lifts as it takes more than an hour for a taxi to leave the rank, people will continue to hike because sometimes you have a set time for wherever you are going."

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Police receive 8 new vehicles

The cars will be used to reduce incidents of hijackings and other crimes committed on the road

ELFAS TORERAI

POLICE in the province have a spring in their step after receiving eight high performance vehicles to fight serious crime.

The cars will be used on major routes passing through the province to reduce incidents of hijackings and other crimes committed on the roads.

Provincial police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said the vehicles were given to task teams and flying squads dealing with serious crimes.

“As part of proactively addressing car hijackings and other serious crimes committed along major roads in the province, the police management issued eight high performance vehicles to various trio task teams and flying squad units,” he said.

Mokgwabone said the vehicles will among others be utilised for investigation and proactive patrols along the N4, N12, N14, N18 and provincial roads.

“This was done in order to improve security and reduce incidents of crimes such as truck and car hijackings and other serious crimes,” he said.

Trio task teams have been established in major areas of the province to reduce crime and a number of successes have been recorded so far.

After recovering a number of vehicles at the beginning of July this year, police managed to impound eight others in a week-long operation



FLEET: The eight new high performance vehicles will be used for serious crimes in the province.

that ended on July 31.

Mokgwabone said: “As part of strengthening the fight against property related crimes, various vehicle crime investigation units (VCIU) in the province recovered eight motor vehicles and

a tractor worth R1150 950 between July 24 and 31.

“Of the recovered vehicles, four were found in Rustenburg, three in Klerksdorp while two, including the tractor, were recovered in Mahikeng

and Zeerust,” he said.

He said during the recoveries, a total of 12 people aged between 20 and 40 were arrested for theft and possession of suspected stolen goods (motor vehicles).

“Out of 12 suspects, four were nabbed in Mahikeng, five in Klerksdorp, two in Rustenburg while one was apprehended in Lehurutshe,” he said.

Speaking at the handover of the vehicles to the various police units, provincial police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane said lawlessness had no place in the province.

Mokgwabone said the vehicles will among others be utilised for investigation and patrols along N4, N12, N14, N18 and provincial roads

She said it was the responsibility of the police working together with other law enforcement agencies to ensure that citizens and motorists are and feel safe in their journeys.

“Handing over of these vehicles is part of the resource plan in the fight against crime.

“For that reason, we want to applaud members of vehicle crime investigation units for their efforts that resulted in the recoveries of the stolen property and apprehension of the suspects,” she said.

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Livestock theft suspects bust

MWSAPS POS-
A COMPREHENSIVE involvement of relevant stakeholders in aspects of policing became successful when the Rustenburg flying squad arrested two suspects with the assistance of a member of the community policing forum (CPF).

The arrests stem from an incident in which the CPF member spotted a suspicious-looking Isuzu in the early hours of yesterday morning in the vicinity of Boshhoek near Phokeng.

The police were called and followed up on the information, which resulted in the arrest of the suspects, aged 28 and 35.

They were found in possession of 16 goats worth R200 000. The goats were positively identified by the grateful owner from Moruleng village.

Preliminary investigations reveal that the suspects are linked to other cases of stock theft.

They are expected to appear in the Bafokeng Magistrate's Court in Tlhabane on Monday, August 7. - SAPS

Pretoria News Pg 2 MWSAPS
Stolen cars recovered
Positive 7/7/17

VEHICLE crime investigation units in the North West have recovered eight cars and a tractor worth about R1 million and arrested a dozen people between July 24 and 31.

"Of the recovered vehicles, four were found in Rustenburg, three in Klerksdorp, while two, including a tractor, were recovered in Mahikeng and Zeerust," Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone said.

Police arrested 12 suspects aged between 20 and 40 for theft and possession of suspected stolen motor vehicles. Of the 12, four were arrested in Mahikeng, five in Klerksdorp, two in Rustenburg, and one in Lehurutshe, Mokgwabone said. - ANA

07/08/17 TNA Pg2 Hawks Neg

Hawks blame security flaws

NONDUMISO ZWANE

THE acting head of the Hawks said the burglary that took place last month at its offices could have been avoided if it had been given the type of security it had been requesting for the last couple of years.

Let-Gen Yolisa Matakata said this included ensuring that the Hawks' offices had specific security features matching the kind of work it does.

However, some of the things the Hawks would like to have are dependent on the budget of the South African Police Service and the Department of Public Works.

Despite Matakata saying that the only information that was stolen was financial performance and that trips undertaken and cellphone data of the Hawks members and information about ongoing investigations and related details was spared, police portfolio committee chairperson Francois Beukman said information containing cellphone details of Hawks members could also compromise the ongoing investigations as well as the lives of those members.

"As such, those cellphone numbers and details needed to be replaced as

soon as possible," he said.

Beukman advised the Hawks to inform the committee, should they experience any challenges from SAPS with the replacement of such cellphone information.

Matakata said the break-in was carried out by three people who appeared to have come through a railway fence behind the offices and seem to have been aware of the surveillance cameras in the Hawks' offices, because they were able to avoid them.

She said fingerprints found after the break-in had been identified. She would not confirm that the prints belonged to any of the Hawks' members working in the building.

Committee member Jerome Maake said there was a huge likelihood that public works officials had no expertise on how best to install security features necessary for a building that was dealing with sensitive information such as the Hawks.

This comes as a laptop and documents were stolen from the National Council of Provinces in Parliament.

Offices of the National Prosecuting Authority and the Office of the Chief Justice have also been broken into and computers stolen.

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