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**Mayor shocked at shooting**

OBAKENG MAJE

RUSTENBURG mayor Mpho Khunou expressed shock after a man was shot and killed during a protest in the platinum city.

The victim, Letlhogonolo Mathews was shot dead on Tuesday at the Tlhabane Mall construction site.

"We have learnt with shock and disappointment of the fatal shooting of the late Mathews. He was shot dead during the uproar caused by some of community members. They were protesting against the alleged irregular and unfair hiring of casual workers and small medium micro enterprise (SMME) development at the Tlhabane Mall which is under construction.

"The protest was reportedly executed after the project manager failed to table a fair report to the community regarding hiring and SMME development. It is alleged that the deceased was killed by a stray bullet after a security guard at the construction site pulled a trigger. We support peaceful protest, however, we condemn violence," Khunou said.

The mayor called on the law to take its course so that the person responsible for

the shooting is held accountable.

"We want to send our heartfelt condolences to Mathews family and friends. As Rustenburg local municipality leadership and management, we are working together with police in an endeavour to find an amicable solution towards the matter. This will assist us to avert further unrest in the community.

"We have already visited the family of the deceased and we will assist where possible. We strongly condemn the unfortunate use of live ammunition that led to the death of Mathews. The municipality will work together with the police to ensure that justice is done and the perpetrators are brought to book," he said.



**Mpho Khunou**

Tlhabane police station cluster spokesperson Sgt Ofentse Mokgadi said: "We have arrested 21 people and the charged them with public violence. The police also opened a case of murder after Letlhogonolo Mathews was shot dead during the protest. "However, we cannot confirm nor deny that whether Mathews was shot dead by security guard or not. Investigations are under way and will reveal how many shots were fired." - Newsnote

10/ Man killed in crossfire

A MAN was shot dead and 21 people arrested yesterday during a protest in Tlhabane near Rustenburg, North West police said.

Police spokesperson, Sergeant Ofentse Mokgadi said a 25-year-old man died after he was allegedly shot by security officers attempting to disperse a group of people.

"He was declared dead on arrival in hospital. A murder case was opened. No one was arrested and police are investigating the matter," Mokgadi said. The deceased was identified as Letlhogonolo Maimela, 25, of Phokeng by his cousin Obakeng Mathews, who was with him when he was shot.

"We were not part of the protest. We were going to Tlhabane West when we were caught in the crossfire. Letlhogonolo, was shot while we were running to Tlhabane West. Elders sent us there," Mathews said. - ANA

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**Arrested for stock theft**

ELFAS TORERAI

TWO men will appear in the Taung Magistrate's Court today after they were arrested for stock theft.

The pair were held in the Pudimoe village after they were found in possession of cattle they could not account for.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said that the two men are 25 and 29 years old.

"The suspects arrest came after the police reacted swiftly to a tip-off that they were seen loading suspected stolen cattle onto a truck in the Dryharts village on Wednesday.

"Upon arrival, the police found the

suspects in possession of five cattle.

"The suspects were ultimately apprehended after failing to account for the cattle," Mokgwabone said.

He said a further probe revealed that the cattle were stolen in Amalia where a case of stock theft had already been opened.

"The owner was summoned and he identified the cattle as his.

"The suspects are expected to appear in the Taung Magistrate's Court today for possession of suspected stolen goods."

The police recently had an anti-stock theft awareness campaign in Taung.

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North West police spokesman Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone said: "A contractor has been appointed to provide water in the interim while we look at a permanent solution of fixing water pipes."

Mokgwabone said police rented the offices from the department of public works.

Public works spokesman Thami Mchunu did not respond to questions sent to him.

Mahikeng mayor Betty Diakanyo said the matter was not reported to her office.

"They should have come to the municipality for help, we have water tankers," Diakanyo said, adding they'll work on a solution today.

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Rapist <sup>MWSAPS</sup>  
<sup>PAS</sup>  
sentenced  
to 10 years

ELFAS TORERAI

A 31-YEAR-OLD man will languish in jail for the next decade after he was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for rape.

The sentence was seen as a strong message to those who commit crimes against women and children.

The incident was  
finally reported to  
the police who  
worked hard and  
ultimately arrested  
the suspect.

The accused, Katiso Morebodi, was sentenced in the Mmabatho Regional Court.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said: "Morebodi's sentencing stems from an incident in which he offered a lift to the victim in June 2016.

"He then drove to his place in the Lomanyaneng village where, upon arrival, he forced the victim out of the motor vehicle and dragged her inside the house where he raped her.

"The incident was ultimately reported to the police who worked hard and ultimately arrested the suspect."

Provincial police commissioner, Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane welcomed the sentence.

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## Police use the bush as their toilet

### Station doesn't have water supply

By **Boitumelo Tshehile**  
North West Correspondent

Police officers in a North West village are forced to answer the call of nature in the field or bring water from home because their offices do not have water supply.

Their rented station, 20km from Mahikeng, has been without water for over two months now after water pumps burst in June.

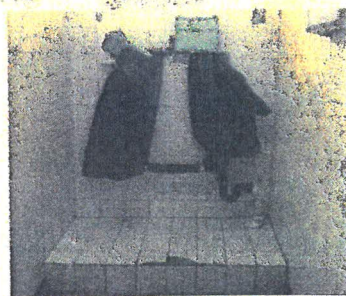
A police officer said he went to the nearby bush to answer the call of nature.

"I can't go into those toilets, they're unhygienic," he said.

Other officers said if they did not bring water from home they sometimes go to the nearby Rooigrond informal settlement to ask for water.

"It's a problem, it's inhumane ... male colleagues no longer respect us because our toilets are a disgrace, they are stinking and filthy," a female police officer said.

"We were told that a company will come and fix the prob-



**Black refuse bags cover urinals that are out of order at a police station in North West. / TIRO RAMATLHATSE**

lem, but even now nothing has happened. We can't work like this," she said.

An unbearable stench hit the Sowetan team as it arrived at the station, which has 254 officers. "The province has been experiencing a high number of protests lately, we are expected to report to work daily, but we don't have water."

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