

16/08/17 Mmegi Dikgeng Pg 3 DCSA TM 105

Department closes all hiking spots in Matikeng



illegal transport operations in Matikeng and encourages communities to utilise authorised public transport. The Departmental MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane send a strong warning to those operating without operating licenses and said the Department will conduct a special clampdown operation in order to close all hiking spots and illegal transport operators in Matikeng. "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. He said the department has declared war on illegal and unauthorised taxi operators in Matikeng. "This concerted program is deliberately geared towards '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 Matikeng in particular," explained Motlhabane.

The department has recently noticed that

clamps down on illegal transport operators and encourages use of official taxi's The department of Community Safety and Transport Management condemns the use of

route Lichtenburg," he warned.

The other unofficial ranks are operated near Mahikeng Primary and Secondary School and Stadium as well as outside the Sasol garage in Riviera Park en route Zeerust, N18 road and near Stadt Village robots, opposite the Airport road junction along and en route Vryburg. "My office is worried about sporadic taxi conflicts in general and we are monitoring and intervening in all reported cases. We cannot afford another simmering tension affecting the public transport, especially the Taxi industry which we could face, if not careful. We will not fold our arms and do nothing." Ours, as a government is not only to maintain peace and stability in order to ensure that law and order is not compromised but to issue operating licenses and permits to deserving operators who made applications." We will not shy away from being tough on those illegal public transport, hiking lords and pirates using seven (7) to nine (9) seater Avanza's, Bakkies', Verso's and unauthorised normal taxi's.

We will impound these vehicles and slap them with heavy traffic fines. We are also contemplating the amendment of the law to ensure that all repeat offenders will have their vehicles impounded. Such vehicles should only be returned after a legal process would have concluded in favour of the operator, otherwise the car should be ceded to the state." We cannot afford this state of lawlessness and deliberate paralysis. This must stop and people must make applications to the department through proper channels if they want to operate public transportation.

No one will be allowed to wake up and operate, wily nuly, as if the government is helpless." Concluded Motlhabane. This clampdown campaigns started mid-July 2017 and will continue until those ranks are closed permanently.

MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane the phenomenon of Dithogwana, hiking and illegal taxi operations seems to have become a norm and somewhat persistent. This follows mushrooming of unofficial ranks which are being operated through stubbornness, violence and aggressiveness.

"This has become a Road Safety and Passenger Transport hazard and a nest for manifestation of public transport conflicts that are often characterised by high speed chases, passengers being harassed and taxi violence erupting.

Our law enforcement officials together with South African Police Service officers and Taxi conflict unit are on the ground, working around the clock to clamp down all these illegal operations as well as close down all the unofficial ranks established all over Matikeng, such as the one operating near the Callex garage in town, Cookes Lake garage and Roshelone farm near Damulla an

16/08/17 Sowetan Pg3 MWSARS Neg
Man's disappearance sparks riots

Farmer accused of shooting and concealing body

By Bongani Nkosi

"I want my child. Even if I only find his corpse, it's fine." These were the words of a weeping Martha Ndlovu, a mother in Majakaneng, a rural community in North West.

Her 24-year-old son Tebogo was allegedly shot and killed by a white farmer two weeks ago and his body has not been found. The farmer was said to have opened fire on Tebogo and two others when he allegedly caught them stealing oranges. The pair that escaped apparently told police and Tebogo's family that they saw him collapsing after being shot.

Residents of Majakaneng have embarked on a violent protest since Sunday evening, demanding answers about Tebogo's disappearance.

A crowd protested outside the farm and in parts of Majakaneng yesterday.

Sowetan saw two burnt vehicles and a long-distance delivery truck being vandalised and stripped in the area.

Police fired rubber bullets and teargas

as some protesters threw stones at them.

Tebogo's mother joined the throng outside the farm: "My son can't just die and I don't know where he's buried. They must give me his corpse."

She accused police of keeping her in the dark about their investigation and for not explaining why the farmer had not been arrested.

"This is hurtful considering the number of weeks my son has been gone."

She resorted to asking the community to help her find Tebogo. "I realised I won't find my son if I rely on police."

Resident Mike Mbanjwa said: "We want this white man to hand over the body to the family so they'll find closure. The community is angry right now."

The police's Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone said a missing person's case had been opened and they were also in-

vestigating two cases of attempted murder based on the accounts of Tebogo's alleged accomplices that they were shot at.

Asked why police had not opened a murder case, Mokgwabone said: "The two said to us he was still alive when they left him. If we find the body, the missing person's case may change to that of murder."



Tebogo's mother
Martha Ndlovu

16/08/17 Pretoria News Pg2 MWSARS Neg
Protesters burn two trucks and a van

TWO trucks and a van were burnt during a protest in Majakaneng near Brits yesterday following allegations that a farmer shot a 24-year-old man for stealing oranges at his farm. "Police are requesting members of the community in and around Majakaneng as well as Mooiooi to assist with any information that may shed light on a missing person enquiry and attempted

murder case registered at Mooiooi police station," said Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone. "The 24-year-old man has not been seen since that day."

The N4 highway between Rustenburg and Pretoria and the Old Pretoria Road were blocked and protesters pelted passing vehicles with stones. - ANA

Please tell me where my son is!

**SAPS NW DAUJISA 194 NEA
By KGALELO TLHAMELE**

RESIDENTS of Majakameeng in North West have been on the rampage since the weekend.

Their anger has been triggered by the disappearance of Tebogo Ndlovu (24).

Tebogo went missing on 2 August after he and two friends were allegedly busted by a farm owner for stealing from his farm in the area.

Angry residents blocked the busy N4 highway leading to Rustenburg, stoning cars and even setting two alight.

Tebogo's cousin Benny Lerumo (26) said he was with him and Thabiso Shole (24) when

the incident happened. Benny said they had gone to the farm to steal oranges but changed their minds when they saw metal and decided they would make quick cash if they sold it instead.

"The farmer caught us and started shooting at us. He wounded Tebogo in the thigh."

He said they were carrying Tebogo as they ran away but the farmer continued to shoot.

"We were too tired so we left Tebogo at the farm and continued running. We thought we'd come back with the police to get him."

Benny said when they arrived home, they told Tebogo's mum what had happened and she phoned the cops, but they never arrived.

When Tebogo didn't show up the next day, they again called the police but still nothing happened.

On Friday they went to the Majakameeng cop shop and a van was finally dispatched to go to the farm with them.

Benny said they found blood on the ground at the farm.

"The farmer denied having seen me or Tebogo on that day," Benny said.

The family claims cops have sent them from pillar to post.

Tebogo's mother Martha Ndlovu (68) said: "I don't support them stealing, but my son didn't deserve to be killed."



Martha Ndlovu (68) wants answers about her missing son Tebogo (24).

Photo by Samson Hlatwana

Police spokesman Brigadier Sabata Mkgwabone said Tebogo was still missing.

"A missing person inquiry and attempted murder cases are being investigated."

He urged anyone with information to contact the investigating team on 082 416 0767.

Woman empowerment 'urgent'

Deputy Minister of Transport Sindisiwe Chikunga launched the South African Network for Women in Transport

OBAKENG MAJE

DEPUTY Minister of Transport Sindisiwe Chikunga launched the South African Network for Women in Transport (Sanwit) provincial structure at Mmabana Taung in Taung on Monday.

Chikunga said women empowerment had always been urgent but never as much as it is now.

She said it was made more important by consistent and persistent calls for radical economic transformation.

"Sanwit was established in 2008 with the main objectives of encouraging women to enter and succeed in the transport industry through facilitating enterprise development, networking and supporting women for success and growth, negotiating on behalf of members for wealth generation and lobbying and advocating for policy environment that will support and enable the sustainability of women enterprise," Chikunga said.

"We came here to launch the provincial chapter. This was agreed upon during Sanwit's summit in 2015. We acknowledge that women are faced with many challenges within the sector. However, we also reckon that there are successful stories too. The transport sector is male dominated hence the policies say we need to bring women on board," Chikunga said.

She said there were many opportunities for women to be explored. Chikunga argued that women should take advantage of the opportunities and the government would continue to transform the sector.

"We want to bring women on board



WOMEN ENTERPRISE: Deputy Minister for Transport Sindisiwe Chikunga has called for empowerment of women.

into the transport sector; that has to happen. We will also support female-owned companies than those owned by men. The transport department will work together with provincial government to ensure that they support its provincial structure.

"We have agreed with community safety and transport MEC Mpho Motlhabane that there must be a person responsible for liaising with the pro-

vincial leadership to ensure efficient communication between the two.

"The department has a national structure for Sanwit and we also working together to increase good performance between our department and their structure.

"We have our action plan that was adopted during our summit in 2015. That should be implemented by the leadership that is here too," Chikunga said.

particular, because the industry has been dominated by males forever. We believe that now is the time for them to give women space. We have set aside a budget for youth and women businesses," she said.

Motlhabane shared the sentiments. He said the structure that had been launched would benefit women in the sense that they were more organised and had been exposed to opportunities that were available in the government and private sector.

"Our department will expose them to opportunities that exist in the transport industry. Remember that 50% of our population in South Africa is women. So, when women benefit economically, it means we will achieve our goal of radical economic transformation.

"It is an opportune moment for women to make their mark through our necessary support.

"When you empower women, you empower the better part of the society," Motlhabane said.

Dr Ruth Mompoti district mayor, Boitumelo Mahlangu said: "We have not done well in communicating with our communities so that they understand the opportunities that are available for them within the government.

"The initiative is part of service delivery that will improve the lives of the masses especially women.

"This is a rare moment that has been created by the ANC-led government to empower women.

"They are also able to enter transport industry and we encourage them to come and take advantage of available opportunities," she said. - Newsnote