

15/08/17 TNA Pg 1 MUSA PS. Neg

Citrus 'thief'

COPS FOUND NO INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE TO WARRANT ACCUSED FARMER'S ARREST

ELFAS TORERAI AND NTHUSANG LEFAFA

THE police have questioned the citrus farmer accused by Majakaneng residents of killing a man but said they had no incriminating evidence to warrant an arrest.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said investigations were ongoing.

"At the moment, the police have questioned the farmer concerned and there has not been incriminating evidence to warrant an arrest. We have also gone to the said farm and extensively searched from the air, the ground and we had the K9 unit as well but have not found anything," Mokgwabone said.

Majakaneng erupted yesterday with the N4 and R104 linking Rustenburg and Pretoria closed as residents went on the rampage, demanding that the body of a man, allegedly shot by a farmer in the area, be released.

The police managed to reopen the N4 on Monday morning but the R104, that passes through the village, remained closed.

Allegations were that the citrus farmer shot at three men who were allegedly stealing oranges on his farm a few days ago. Two of the men escaped but the third, who is alleged to have been shot, has not been seen or heard from since.

Residents are demanding that the farmer account for the missing man or at least give them his body.

Angry community members ran amok, barricaded roads with burning tyres and pelted stones at passing vehicles.

At some point, they forced their way to the farm house in search of the farm owner and demanded that the farmer

be arrested or they would burn down his property.

Community member Collen Mahudu said the farmer had fled and they did not know his whereabouts.

"The situation is very tense here in Majakaneng. The community members are angry and they have blocked roads, the N4 to Rustenburg has been blocked. They went to the farmer's house and he was not at his house," Mahudu said.

"We wanted to retrieve the victim's body. The police must know where the man's body is, the farmer must tell us of its location."



Sabata Mokgwabone

Another resident, who did not want to be named, said they were fed up with the police who were not taking action and they may take the law into their own hands as they want to know what happened to the missing man.

"The police have been taking their time to find the body of the third person who was shot as the three men were fleeing the farm. This white man was not supposed to shoot

a black person and take the law into his own hands. He was supposed to apprehend the suspect and wait for police to make the arrest."

Mokgwabone said a missing persons case was opened at Mooinooi police station.

He said a case of attempted murder was also opened and was under investigation.

The two men who escaped from the shooting are also said not to be off the hook as yet as they were allegedly committing a crime.

Fears are that residents will carry out their threats of attacking properties owned by white people in the area and looting foreign-owned shops.

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mystery

15/08/17 Sowetan Pg 5. MWSAPS Neg.

Protest linked to farm shooting

Farmer allegedly killed a man for stealing oranges

By **Kgangelolo Masweneng**

North West police suspect a protest by the Majakaneng community on the N4 yesterday was over the death of a 24-year-old man whose two friends claim was shot by a farmer in Brits.

Police spokesman Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone, said the man's death and the protest might be related.

"It could be, but residents of Majakaneng can explain. What we know is that they went to that farm yesterday in the afternoon," said Mokgwabone.

He said there were incidents of residents throwing stones at the passing vehicles when the protesters were returning [from the farm].

Mokgwabone added that the situation was calm yesterday.

"The road - N4 which was closed - is now open for traffic. The police are monitoring the situation."

Although details were sketchy yesterday, Mokgwabone said the police were investigating a case of attempted murder and had opened a missing person's docket, based on the affidavits of the two men.

"We got a report on Friday last week from two gentlemen who went to the police station to report that their companion, aged 24, was shot by a farmer. They said that they were stealing oranges at the farm. They heard a gunshot and ran away.

"While running away, the third man told them he was bleeding from the leg. They said they picked him up and tried to run away, but when they realised the farmer was approaching them, they put him down and ran away."

Mokgwabone said the incident took place on August 2.

15/08/17 TMA Pg 1 NWSAPS POS

Firearms recovered on police intelligence

ELFAS TORERAI

THE fight to rid society of illegal firearms has seen progress after four people were arrested in Majakaneng village, near Brits.

The four were nabbed after an intelligence-driven operation conducted by police.

North West police spokesperson, Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said that law enforcement agents were focused on curbing crimes and the illegal proliferation of firearms in communities.

"The suspects' arrests came after intelligence was received that they were in possession of firearms.

"During an operation by the cluster trio task team, three of the four suspects were arrested at various houses, Sgandaff Section, Majakaneng, after being found illegally in possession of firearms and ammunition.

"The fourth suspect was arrested at Soshanguve Section for possession of suspected stolen goods, a laptop and a printer," he said.

Those arrested are aged between 21 and 48.

He said they would appear in the Brits Magistrates' Court to answer to

charges of illegal possession of firearms, illegal possession of ammunition and possession of suspected stolen goods.

North West police commissioner

Lt-Gen Baile

Motswenyane

The suspects' arrests came after intelligence was received that they were in possession of firearms

thanked the officers who made the arrests saying they had done a good job in taking away guns that could have been used to commit a crime.

Motswenyane said her troops would continue to work hard to reduce the levels of trio and other serious crimes in the province.

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15/08/17 TMA Pg 1 NWSAPS POS

Two in court for dagga possession

ELFAS TORERAI

TWO people will appear in the Potchefstroom Magistrate's Court today. They were arrested for possession of dagga worth more than R400 000.

The pair were nabbed in Potchefstroom on Sunday.

They were allegedly seen trans-

porting bags of dagga from Johannesburg to Cape Town. Provincial police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said the accused were aged between 30 and 40.

"According to information at our disposal, Potchefstroom flying squad police members were alerted about a suspicious vehicle that was seen driving along the N12, towards Potchef-

stroom. The vehicle was spotted and stopped for a search.

Police found seven bags of dagga with an estimated street value of R417 000 was found and R10 000 cash," he said.

Mokgwabone said the two people were arrested and charged with possession of dagga.

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