

# 'Need to tighten Mahikeng security'

NT-HUSANG LEFAFA

PEOPLE coming in and going out of Mahikeng could soon be subjected to searches if the North West provincial government has its way.

This was announced by Premier Supra Mahumapelo as one of the outcomes of the recent provincial executive council (Exco) outcomes.

Mahumapelo said there was a need to tighten security in the provincial capital to make sure that residents were and felt safe.

"These searches must not only be done during the festive season but also throughout the year," he said.

"We want to send a clear message to criminals that we do not condone any behaviour that is not within the confines of the law."

Mahumapelo further said the province was in the process of moving the police headquarters to Mahikeng as well.

"I have been in talks with the Minister of Police Fikile Mbalala, because we decided that it is important for the

provincial headquarters of the SAPS to move to Mahikeng.

"A change in police commissioners and construction of a new government precinct are some of the things which have been causing delays to this process because these police officials will need to be accommodated somewhere," Mahumapelo said.

The provincial government said it was aware that there was a huge problem of substance abuse in our communities.

"We urge parents to always be aware of where their children are at all times and to talk to their children about issues such as alcohol and drug abuse."

"The department of education and sport development has been encouraged to work with law enforcement agencies when they want to do searches at our schools in the province," he said.

He further said the police who successfully uncovered drug manufacturing labs in Booms, Madikwe and a government house in Riviera Park, should be applauded.

Statistics released by the police noted that there was an increase of house

robberies in the Brits, Mahikeng and Rustenburg areas.

Stock theft also continues to be a problem in the province. Mahumapelo said the provincial government had agreed to work with police on the 8th programme of the Setsosikwane IOX10 Plan, which aims to fight crime, greed and corruption.

"We have been working with the department of finance, economy and enterprise development (Feed) to prevent the illegal sale of alcohol and we have closed some of these operations," he said.

In terms of stock theft, the department of rural, environment and agricultural development (Read) will be working with the police on awareness campaigns to advise farmers and all those who reside in rural areas on how to take care of their animals.

Some of the preventative steps would be to clearly mark their animals and also make sure that their properties are well fenced.

During the festive season operations conducted from December 1-3, police in

the province arrested 881 suspects. Of the arrested suspects, 463 were taken into custody during Operation Fiebs 2, which has been aimed at asserting the authority of the state and was executed through integrated operations by the police together with various crime fighting role players.

The accused were arrested for various offences such as rape, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, possession of drugs, drunk driving and different liquor, traffic and drug-related offences.

During the operation, six suspected illegal foreign nationals were taken in for processing by immigration officials. It was during the operation that goods such as dagga, liquor and dangerous weapons were confiscated.

The provincial police commissioner, Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane, commended police officers throughout the province for their commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the communities in the province through their various crime prevention initiatives and increased visibility. - Newsnet



PRIORITY: Crime fighting in the province tops the premier's to do list.

# 300 arrested in anti-crime operation

ELFAS TORERA

THREE hundred people were arrested in the North West for serious crimes including cases of women and children abuse.

The police said the arrests included 140 for assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm (GBH) and assault common.

Lt-Col Adele Myburgh said: "The other arrests include 15 for rape, 14 for malicious damage to property, 26 for burglary residential, 12 for contravention of protection orders, 21 for theft, 14 for common robbery and three for vehicle theft."

"Out of 301 arrests, 70 were for crimes that were committed against women and children such as rape, assault with intent to do GBH, assault common and contravention of protection order," Myburgh said.

She said the accused were arrested in all seven policing clusters in the province.

Provincial commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane lauded detectives for bringing wanted perpetrators to book. She said the arrests would contribute positively towards the reduction of crime in the province particularly crimes against women and children.

She further said the police would continue with the operations to ensure the safety of the community and that criminals are jailed.

Some of the accused have already appeared in court while others will do so this week.

elfast@thenewage.co.za

**Out of 301 arrests, 70 were for crimes that were committed against women and children such as rape, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm**

# No arrests in double murder case of teens

ELFAS TORERA

NORTH West police are yet to make a breakthrough in the double murder case of two teenage girls whose bodies were found decomposing in Klerksdorp last week.

Yesterday Lt-Col Adèle Myburgh said: "No arrests have been made but a case has been opened."

The girls aged 13 and 17, were last seen alive on December 2 at a tavern in Jacaranda informal settlement.

Their bodies were only discovered by a passerby near the N12 highway on Wednesday, who then alerted the police.

"Preliminary post-mortem results show that the 17 year old had a stab wound in the left side of her chest while the 13 year old died due to blunt force trauma that caused internal bleeding," Myburgh said.

The advanced decomposition of the bodies could not give indication whether the two were raped.

"The girls' families came forward to identify the bodies though no one reported a case of missing persons since December 2. The two were sent to fetch something from the tavern and never came back," Myburgh said.

elfast@thenewage.co.za

12/12/17 TNA Pg 2 NWSARS Neg

# KEEP DRIVERS SAFE ON ROADS

**By ORIS MNISI**  
**TRANSPORT Minister Joe Maswanganyi has urged traffic cops to ensure that motorists are safe on the roads.**

The minister was speaking during a graduation ceremony for 161 cops at Mpumalanga Traffic Training College in Mkhuhlu on Friday.

"You are graduating in the month that we launched a road safety campaign for the festive season," Maswanganyi told the traffic cops.

"It's unfortunate you didn't graduate in June, but in December.

"This month is very busy and from now on, we are on the roads together.

"You have a huge responsibility to ensure that road users drive safely."

Maswanganyi said that people are likely to drink and drive this



**From left, front: Lieutenant-General Mondli Zuma, MEC Pat Ngomane, Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi and Mpumalanga Human Settlements MEC Speedy Mashilo at the graduation ceremony.**

*Photo by Oris Mnisi*

festive season, causing senseless deaths on the roads.

"Our budget is not prioritised for road accidents, but for education.

"People must not drink and drive.

"Cellphones are also a challenge since a lot of accidents are caused by motorists who use phones while driving," said the minister.

Mpumalanga Safety MEC Pat Ngomane has urged the graduates to be trustworthy at all times, as they play an important role in keeping the roads safe.

Provincial police commissioner Lieutenant-General Mondli Zuma urged the graduates not to take bribes from motorists.

"Always lead by example," he said.