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Cop assault case - now January

OBAKENG MAJE

THE case of a traffic officer who was allegedly assaulted by a motorist and a passenger - an incident that was caught on camera on the N12 between Klerksdorp and Potchefstroom - will be heard in January.

The driver of the car, 32, and his sister, 26, were arrested on December 12 after they allegedly attacked and assaulted a traffic officer, Johannes Manthi.

The pair appeared in the Potchefstroom Magistrate's Court on Thursday last week for a formal bail application.

The driver was granted R5 000 bail while his sister was released on R2 000 bail.

The driver was reportedly seen on a video manhandling Manthi during the incident.

He also threatened to "cut off" his manhood.

The incident was sparked by a ticket the officer issued to the driver for overtaking on a barrier line.

"I was on duty with two of my female colleagues 12km outside Potchefstroom when the incident happened.

"I stopped the motorist who was driving a Yaris vehicle after he overtook another vehicle on the barrier line.

"I gave him a fine for breaking the law.

"All hell broke loose when I requested his physical address.

"He gave me a postal address instead, but I politely explained to him that I needed a physical address.

"He failed to cooperate and hurled insults at me.

"He demanded his driver's licence back but I refused. He (the driver) manhandled and assaulted me in the process," Manthi said.

The 47-year-old traffic officer is

living with a disability after being involved in a car accident in 2013.

Community safety and transport management MEC Mpho Motlhabane said necessary steps would be taken against motorists who found themselves on the wrong side of the law.

Motlhabane said this during the Arrive Alive campaign in Klerksdorp.

"We will not allow law enforcement officials to be intimidated by motorists.

"We also encourage all those who will be travelling to various destinations to abide by the rules of the road at all times.

"The department does not condone any form of behaviour where our police will feel threatened when they have to carry out their duties.

"It is important that all sections of society respect police officials as they are the custodians of the law," he said.

The case was postponed to January 22. - Newsnote

18/12/17 TMA Pg 8 NWSAPS

Hefty sentences for offenders

ELFAS TORÉRAI

POLICE management in the province is satisfied that convicted sexual offenders are getting sentences they deserve for the heinous crimes they commit.

This came after eight life sentences and a combined 432 years of imprisonment were imposed on those convicted between October and December 12.

North West police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane applauded the family violence, child protection and sexual offences units (FCS) from all clusters in the province for working hard to secure the eight life and 432 years' imprisonments.

Provincial police spokesperson Lt-Col Pelonomi Makau said the sentences were handed down to 46 accused after thorough investigative work by different FCS units in the province.

"The accused were sentenced on 44 various rape and robbery cases. The accused's ages range between 16 and 57, while the victims were aged between four and 55 when the incidents occurred," she said.

The sentences were for crime incidents reported between September 2006 and February 2017 at various places in the province, including Ganyesa, Orkney, Khuma, Jouberton, Mahikeng, Letlhabile, Mogwase, Hartbeesfontein, Lichtenburg, Ottosdal and many others.

"In one of the cases, 30-year-old Monyane Nono was sentenced to life imprisonment last month for raping a 29-year-old woman on April 3, 2015.

"It was reported at the time of the



DEDICATION: North West police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane.

incident that the accused was sitting with friends in Orkney when he asked the woman to accompany him to buy more beers.

"He then drove to a dumping site where he raped her," Makau said.

In an unrelated incident in Letlhabile, Mashaba Alexander Jason, 26, was sentenced to life imprisonment on October 12 for raping a 51-year-old woman.

"It was disclosed in court that the victim was asleep on November 26, 2011, when the accused woke her up and threatened her with a knife.

"The accused then raped the victim before robbing her of her

cellphone and cash.

"It was reported that the accused then locked the victim inside the house and left with the key."

Motswenyane said all FCS members and other role players, including the prosecution, should be applauded for their dedication, as well as members of the community for their cooperation that resulted in the convictions.

She said the sentences would send a strong message that nothing would prevent the police from ensuring that criminals were brought to book and prosecuted.

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Missing women's car found burnt

Early indications are that the vehicle was set alight on the day Joey van Niekerk and Gesina Sophia Anisha van Niekerk were reported missing

ELFAS TORERAI

THE fate of two missing women from Mooinooi near Brits remains a mystery but the car they were travelling in was found burnt in the Magaliesberg area.

Joey van Niekerk, 32, and Gesina Sophia Anisha van Niekerk, 30, went missing on December 10.

At the time of their disappearance, the two were travelling from Mooinooi to Pretoria in a white Nissan X-Trail.

Alarm bells were sounded when they did not reach their destination, leading to police launching a search.

Brits cluster police spokesperson WO Mpeile Talane said police were working around the clock to find the women.

Three men linked to the disappearance of the women were arrested on Thursday after they were found in possession of items belonging to the pair.

A number of charges were levelled against them including two counts of murder, kidnapping, robbery, unlawful possession of a firearm and defeating the ends of justice.

"I can confirm that we have managed to recover the vehicle used by the missing women in the Magaliesberg area," Talane said. "It was completely burnt out just a few metres from the road."

He said early indications were that the vehicle could have been set alight on the same day the women were reported missing.



BURNT OUT: The car similar to the one in the picture was found burnt.

"We are now busy searching for the bodies of the women and hope a breakthrough will come soon," Talane said.

The police said the arrest of the suspects, aged 18, 23 and 53, was the result of an intensive investigation.

"Police managed to track down the

suspects through various transactions done using the missing persons' bank cards," he said.

"The suspects are expected to appear in the Brits Magistrate's Court on Friday to face two counts of murder, kidnapping, robbery, unlawful possession

of a firearm and defeating the ends of justice.

"They will appear again on Friday for a formal bail application. Meanwhile, investigations are ongoing," Talane said.

Brits cluster commander Maj-Gen Modisagarekwe Mosimanegape praised

the investigation team for their tireless efforts that resulted in the arrests.

He said the arrests would send a clear message that the police would not hesitate to use resources at their disposal to apprehend the criminals.

The case is similar to an incident

that happened in October in Mahikeng in which a female teacher, Thulisile Ngwenya, was abducted and killed.

Two men were arrested in the Mahikeng case and they face murder, kidnapping, rape and robbery charges.

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