

Traffic cop recruit training

20 young men and women in the North West are off on a one-year traffic training programme in Mpumalanga

ELFAS TORERAI

TWENTY young men and women drawn from villages in the North West are off on a one-year traffic cop training programme in Mpumalanga.

A sending-off ceremony was held for the recruits at the community safety and transport management offices in Mahikeng earlier this week.

Department MEC Mpho Motlhabane encouraged the 20 recruits to work hard to complete their training course on road traffic management.

Each year the department chooses a group of young people as part of contributing to skills development and job creation in the province.

Speaking at the farewell, Motlhabane said the group should consider itself fortunate to have received the nod from thousands of applications.

"There were thousands of applicants and you must consider yourself fortunate for being selected, this is a lifetime opportunity that you must never let go," Motlhabane said.

The group will commence their road traffic management learnership programme at the traffic training college in Mpumalanga later this month.

All below 35, they were recruited from several districts of the province with the objective of addressing the shortage of traffic officers in the North West.

The group will engage in a theoretical and practical training at different traffic management levels during the programme.



RECRUITS: Community Safety authorities have offered a group of young people a life-changing chance to fulfil their dreams to become traffic officers.

Their recruitment follows the department's commitment to intensify traffic law enforcement operations and increase the visibility of officers to reduce road accidents and fatalities throughout the province. The beneficiaries said they planned to work hard to satisfy the trust put

in them by the provincial government. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and since most of us were unskilled and job-hunting, we need to put our focus on the job at hand and make the best of this chance," said one of the recruits.

There were also serving traffic police

North West is in the process of building its own traffic officer training college but for now relies on facilities in

Mpumalanga and Gauteng to train its staff members.

At the end of last year, the department welcomed a group that had just finished its training and who were enlisted to function on the province's roads during the festive season.

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20 unemployed youth to commence 12 months training for traffic



Unemployed youth on their way to Traffic Training College.

Mahikeng Mail-Mahikeng- Community Safety and Transport Management MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane encouraged the 20 unemployed youth to work hard in completing their 12 months training course on Road Traffic Management.

Speaking during their farewell at the Departmental Head Offices, Motlhabane said Motlhabane. These unemployed youth will commence their Road Traffic Management Learnership Programme at Traffic Training College in Mputmalanga.

All below 35, they were recruited from all districts of the province with an objective of addressing the shortage of

traffic officers in the Province.

The learners will engage in a theoretical and practical training in different traffic management levels during the duration of the programme. The recruitment of these learners follows the department's commitment to intensify traffic law enforcement operations and increasing the visibility of officers to reduce road accidents and fatalities on all major roads in the Province.

Watch out on traffic learnership scams

MAHIKENG MAIL-MAHIKENG: A male suspect was arrested on Monday after an unsuspecting security guard approached the head offices of Traffic Department after being swindled repeatedly by a suspect promising to send him to the traffic college if he pays him R3000.

The suspect will be formally charged and appear in Mmabatho Magistrate's court.

Mahikeng detective services are busy investigating and linking other similar previous cases. Departmental official whose names were used and the owners of the Jaws car he claimed to operate came forward to make affidavits. Other suspects could be arrested soon.

The Department is appealing to anyone

who was swindled through the same scam to come forward in order to build a strong case against this cartel. The Department MEC, Dr Motlhabane sent a strong warning to all the ringleaders and committed to reigning on this kind of scams which bare rife and escalating around this time. Unemployed youth, learners and students must be on the alert and verify information before falling victims of such scams.



**WATCH
OUT!**

11/01/18 Pg 1 DCS&TM POS THE NEW AGE

Cop scammer charged

ELFASTORERAI

A FORMER police reservist from Mahikeng was slapped with fraud charges after he fleeced money from a security guard whom he promised to enrol for traffic officer training.

Oscar Mmutlwane appeared in the Mmabatho Magistrate's Court yesterday and was remanded in custody. He is expected back in court for bail application on January 18.

Mmutlwane is said to have impersonated a traffic officer, promising his victims they would be on the list to attend the traffic college. Community safety and transport management spokesperson Thabo Sematle said that luck ran out for Mmutlwane when the security guard reported the matter to the department, leading to the arrest.

"Mahikeng detective services are

busy investigating and linking other similar previous cases," Sematle said.

"A departmental official whose name the accused used and the owners of the car he claimed to operate have come forward to file affidavits.

"Other suspects could be arrested soon. We are appealing to anyone who was swindled of money through the same scam to come forward in order to build a strong case against this cartel."

Department MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane said that all culprits committing fraud will be apprehended so that they face the full wrath of the law.

He warned job seekers to be alert so that they do not fall prey to scams.

"Unemployed youth, pupils and students must be on the alert and verify information before falling victims to such scams," Motlhabane said.

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Mpho Motlhabane

Pg 6 11/01/18 DCS & TM (POS) The Mail

Success of 2017 festive season road safety operations

MAHIKENG MAIL-MAHIKENG: The Department of Community Safety Transport and Management's MEC, Dr Motlhabane, urged all road users; motorists, pedestrians, commuters and passengers to be vigilant and comply with the Road Traffic Act. The programme was rolled out during 2017 festive season from the first of December to January 15 until the North West Schools reopens.

A total of 59 114 vehicles were stopped, weighed and checked between December 01 and December 27. Out of these a total of 6 868 traffic violation tickets were issued for driving without valid driving licence and or permits. 4 955 penalties for moving goods without permits and relevant documents as well as overloading and overtaking on barrier lines. 1 889 vehicle had defective tyres, steering wheel, brake, slights, number plates and vehicle markings. 158 vehicles were discontinued

since some were unlicensed or didn't display licence disc or the disc and number plates didn't correspond. 878 warrants of arrests were issued. "We are, nevertheless, ready and alert as teams of special intervention units have been dispatched to various nodal roads and hotspots, especially in towns and city entrances and exit roads. This is the operationalisation of the newly introduced 24/7 shift system whose intention is to heighten visibility of Traffic Law Enforcement in order to realise vision 2020, of reducing road

fatalities by half. So roadblocks and intense security check point centres will be activated and conducted across all major roads in order, not to only realise the wish for accident free roads but also to promote road safety in the North West Province, and to ascertain free and less interrupted flow of traffic on our roads". Motorists were urged to cooperate with the law enforcement officers, allow to be diverted whenever deemed necessary and treat traffic officers with respect and humility. MEC, Dr. Mpho Motlhabane lastly commended the selfless dedication and commitment demonstrated by the law enforcement officers during the busiest and most hectic time of the year. The MEC further extended his heartfelt appreciation to all law abiding

motorists, pedestrians and commuters who adhered to the call to use roads safely and abide by all rules of the road. He sent out a stern warning to traffic offenders, those refusing to pay their traffic fines and those traffic officers reported to be taking bribes. "We will not hesitate to use the full might of the law to all those who ignores the road rules or those taking bribes. Remember that your safety is dependent upon your cooperation and being on the right side of the law," concluded Motlhabane.

Sowetan-11/01/19-p.98-NLEADS-NEG

Mom wants police to pay for injuring son

Rubber bullet lodged in cheek

By **Botumelo Tshabile**
North West Correspondent

The mother of a seven-year-old boy who has a rubber bullet lodged in his cheek wants the police officer who fired the shot to pay a heavy price.

North West mother Bonang Mmetsi, 32, was also shot, on her left hand, when the police allegedly opened fire on protesting residents of Otshobop near Zeerust on Monday.

Mmetsi's son Onthatile was left with a gaping hole in his cheek and a swollen face. Mmetsi, who was not one



Little Onthatile Mmetsi was admitted to hospital after police allegedly opened fire in his mother's yard.
/ SUPPLIED

of the protesters, said that at about 10am on Monday three police officers entered her yard while trying to disperse protesting residents.

"I told them to stop firing rubber bullets from my yard as there were children in the yard. They started swearing at me and threatened to shoot me as well," she said.

"I told them that I will pour boiling water on them."

The policemen left her yard, but about five minutes later they came back.

They drove into her yard and the officers pointed a gun at her before opening fire on her son, she alleged.

Panicking, Mmetsi said she took her son to the police station and the same police of-

ficer who had opened fire on them was there.

"I told him that he had injured my son but he gave me one look and left the police station."

She said another police officer called an ambulance and they were admitted to hospital. On Tuesday she went back to the police station to open a case.

"My son is going to live with a bad scar on his face. Other kids might make fun of him as his face is already deformed and it might hound him for the rest of his life," she said.

"I want the police officer to pay for destroying my son and the trauma he suffered."

Attorney Tliswa Modise said he would help the family to open a civil case.

North West police spokesman Brigadier Sabata Mokg-wabone confirmed that a case of attempted murder was opened.

He said it would be investigated by the Independent Police Investigative Directorate.

Bogus livestock sellers nabbed for robbery

ELFAS TORERAI

SIX people masquerading as livestock sellers were arrested for separate cases of robbery and attempted robbery in Makwassie and Wolmaransstad, North West police said.

In the first case in Makwassie, three suspects aged 29, 30 and 34 were nabbed after a 36-year-old man from Rustenburg informed the police that he had been robbed at Boskuil on January 4.

Police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said the victim was allegedly responding to an online advertisement about livestock for sale.

He met and negotiated the sale with the suspects who claimed to be farmers.

"They drove to Boskuil where three people emerged from the bushes, threatened and ultimately robbed him of a firearm, cash, cellphone and wallet before leaving him stranded," he said.

After reporting the matter to the police in Makwassie, a search was launched leading to the arrest of the suspects in Boskuil.

"The suspects will appear in the Makwassie Magistrate's Court today for a formal bail application," Mokgwabone said.



FAKE: Six bogus livestock sellers will appear in court today. PHOTO: MOKGWBONE

wabone said.

In the second case, three other people aged between 38 and 39 were arrested for attempted robbery also involving livestock.

"The suspects were arrested after a 38-year-old man informed the police about suspicious men he was buying livestock from.

"That was after he responded to an online advertisement about the sale of sheep."

The man eventually received a call from someone who said he had been asked to fetch and take him to Tsweleng location in Wolmaransstad.

The caller came with a vehicle

commonly known as a "Tambaai" and picked the man up to take him to Tsweleng," Mokgwabone said.

The victim was then left along the N12 and was later joined by one of the suspects who came on foot from the location.

"Unaware that he was being monitored, the man who walked from the location arranged another "Tambaai" to take them to Boskuil, but he and the initial driver were both arrested. The third suspect who came with a "Tambaai" was also arrested.

Due to the calls they got from other suspects who were waiting in Boskuil, the police travelled with the

suspects' vehicles. "The suspects realised what was happening and ran away to evade arrest," Mokgwabone said.

He said that a further investigation into both cases linked one of the accused to another case that was reported last week in Wolmaransstad. "Community members are warned to be careful for sellers who advertise vehicles and livestock with the intention to rob potential buyers," he said.

North West police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane thanked detectives in the Makwassie area for their work and vowed that all cases would be followed up and culprits arrested.

She said despite warnings to members of the public through various media platforms, it was sad that people still engaged in deals that put them in danger.

Police called on those who were conned by people who pretended to be selling livestock and vehicles and who ended up being robbed, to call the investigation officers Det-WO Samuel Kutumela on 082 338 2593 or Lt-Col Ismail Dawood on 082 319 4471.

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42 Year old nabbed for two counts of murder

Mahikeng Mall-Ipelegeng- The police in Ipelegeng nabbed a 42-year-old man for two counts of murder on Saturday.

The suspect's apprehension came after angry members of the community chased the suspect who ran to the Police Station. He was arrested and charged with two counts of murder. He was expected to appear before the Schweizer Reneke Magistrate's Court on Monday. The North West Provincial Commissioner, Baile Motswenyane condemned the incident. She encouraged the members of the community to refrain from taking the law into their own hands and to proactively work together with relevant departments including the police to rid communities of gang related issues made.

Subsequent to the shooting incident, the suspect allegedly took out a firearm and shot at the pair who died on the scene.

Suspects apprehended for possession of dagga

Mahikeng Mail-Mahikeng- The fight against drug trafficking in the province gained successes when Rustenburg K9 Unit apprehended two men aged 28 and 66 for possession of dagga at approximately 12:00 on Thursday, 28 December 2017 along N4 road in Rustenburg.

The suspects' arrest came after K9 Unit members made a follow up on a tip-off about a Mercedes Benz Vito bus that was en route from Gauteng to Botswana transporting dagga. The vehicle was spotted and stopped for a search about two kilometres before the Rustenburg turn off on the N4. During the search, the police discovered wrapped parcels underneath the vehicle containing cannabis (dagga), weighing 11.710kg all with estimated street value of R81 900,00. The drugs were seized together with the vehicle.

The duo will appear in the Rustenburg Magistrate's Court on Tuesday, 2 January 2018. In another unrelated incident, the police in Makgobistad through Safer Festive Season operation arrested three suspects aged 35, 45 and 56 for separate cases of possession of dagga.

The suspects were arrested after the police Makgobistad and members of Makgobistad Port of Entry in conjunction with members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) received a tip-off about suspected dagga dealing activity at Disaneng village. A follow up was made at Disaneng village, a 56-year-old suspect was arrested at his house for possession of 13.5kg of dagga with estimated street value of R24 000,00. The suspect is expected to appear in the Mmabatho Magistrate's Court on Monday, 2 January 2018.

It was in the same operation that two

other suspects were arrested at their premises in Makgobistad for possession of 7g and 5g of dagga respectively. A R200,00 fine was imposed to each of the suspects. The North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane applauded the members for their quick response that culminated in the arrests. She said that drug peddling will not be allowed and will be dealt with accordingly. She said further that the police in the province are out in numbers to

deal with any type of criminality through the Safer Festive Season operations.

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Stolen properties and firearms recovered, suspects apprehended

11/01/18 Mahikeng mail pg 9 PDS SABS provincial

Mahikeng Mail-Rustenburg- On 30 December 2017 an intelligence driven operation by Rustenburg K9 Unit and Boitekong Visible Policing led to the arrest of two suspects aged 41 and 31 for possession of suspected stolen properties and illegal possession of firearms.

The suspects' arrest came after the police acted on information that a 41-year-old owner of a shack in the Popo Molefe informal settlement was in possession of suspected stolen items. The police then went to the suspect's house where they conducted a search. During the search, an unlicensed 9mm Norinco pistol, 15 cell phones, flat screen television, and laptops were found.

Upon questioning the suspect, and following up on additional information, another suspect was arrested for illegal possession of a hunting rifle in Rustenburg North.

The suspects was to appear in the Rustenburg Magistrate's Court last week.

The North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane applauded the members for their swift response that led to the success. She also thanked members of the community who came up with positive information.

She said further that it is only through cooperation of the community and the police that the fight against crime will bring the desired results.



71 suspects held during operation in Rustenburg



Mahikeng Mail-Rustenburg – As part of an ongoing Operation Back to Basics: Safer Festive Season 2017/2018, the police in the province apprehended 71 suspects in a suspect raiding that was held at Rustenburg Cluster last Wednesday.

The suspects were arrested for various offences and they include 129 assaults, 10 for common robbery, five for burglary, eight for murder, four for theft, four Malicious Damage to property, four for rape while two other suspects were held for illegal possession of ammunition and violation of a Protection Order respectively.

During this operation, Rustenburg K9 Unit through intelligence received, a Tanzanian foreign national was arrested for possession of drugs and suspected stolen properties.

Three other suspects were arrested for possession of drugs at Rustenburg Taxi Rank. The suspects were expected to appear in Rustenburg Magistrate's Court this week. The National Commissioner, General Sitole and the Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane visited a roadblock that was conducted on the R510 as part of the operations. It was during the roadblocks including the one conducted along R24 road, that a total of 49 traffic fines were issued.

The North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Motswenyane applauded the members who worked tirelessly to make sure that the operation was a success.

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