

Beware employment scams

Desperate for jobs, several people in Mahikeng have been defrauded under the promise of jobs and training

ELFAS TORERAI

JOB seekers in the North West have been warned of false employment opportunities and other scams that increase at this time of the year.

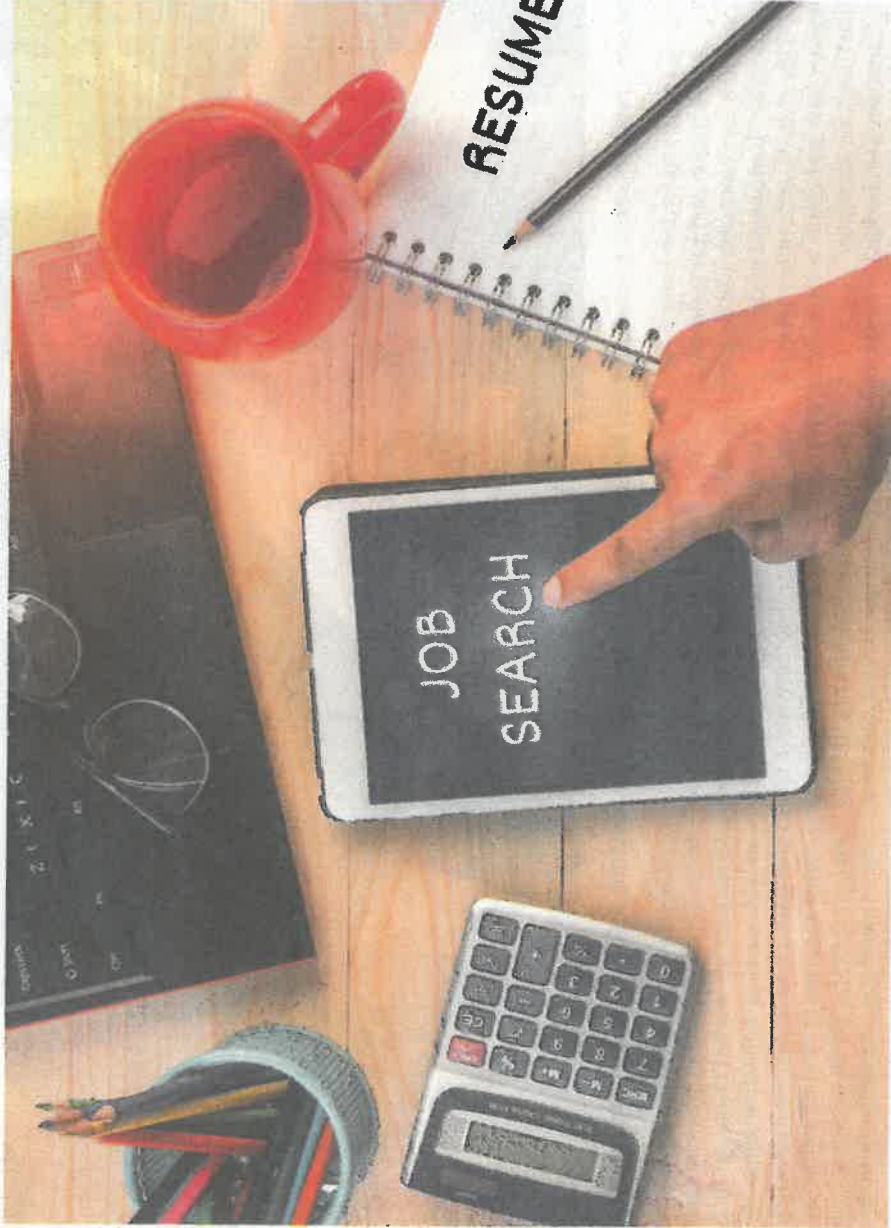
The warning came from community safety and transport management MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane after realising that a number of desperate young people fall for promises that are too good to be true and end up losing money.

A case in point is the recent scam to hit Motlhabane's department, where a man was arrested for allegedly scamming people with the ruse of promising to recruit them to be traffic cops.

The MEC said people masquerading as department officials have been demanding an amount of R3 000 or more from young people around Mahikeng under the pretext of recruitment and affording them access to the road traffic management training advertised by the department in 2017.

"We understand that there is too much pressure emanating from the high unemployment rate, especially among our young people but that must not drive the youth to fall victim to these fraudsters and their scams.

"We condemn in the strongest terms possible this act of criminality. We, however, have trust in our judicial system that the perpetrator will be convicted successfully and get slapped with a sanction that he deserves in order to not only pay for his actions but to also



SOUNDS TOO GOOD: Job hunters should beware of scams that prey on the desperate. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

serve as a deterrent to others," Motlhabane said.

He also advised the public to carefully verify information relating to recruitment and learnerships directly with departmental officials or through the

official advertisement from the department, which will be published on the departmental letterhead with the correct logo including address and contact details.

"Applicants are requested to fill in the

Z83 application form. Note also that we always avoid to specify the number of positions available for the learnership since this depends on the availability of budget and spaces in colleges," the MEC said.

Motlhabane commended the police for their quick response and arrest of a man who allegedly defrauded a number of people in Mahikeng with a promise of taking them to the traffic college.

It is reported that the man claimed to be working at the department's head office and that he was responsible for the recruitment of traffic officers.

The suspect appeared at the Moloopo Magistrate's Court and was remanded in custody until January 18 for further investigation and a formal bail application.

Police in Mahikeng said they were still looking for his accomplices and more leads.

MEC Motlhabane appealed to members of the community who might have fallen victims to the scam to come forward and report their cases to the Mahikeng police station.

"If individuals know who these perpetrators are, they should report them to the police station and those scammed must also report it to the police station," he said.

Young people become desperate at the beginning of the year as they try to find their feet either in getting employed or securing learnership opportunities. elfast@thenevenge.co.za



COUNTING THE COST: Rustenburg residents affected by the recent spate of violence assess the extent of the damage to properties.

Calm restored in Rustenburg

Residents do, however, fear that violence might break out to continue the fight against drugs

ELLEKIA DIRE

PEOPLE went back to their usual chores in Rustenburg at the weekend but there are still fears that disturbances that rocked the city last week may return.

Taxi drivers and community members joined hands in fighting off the drug and prostitution scourge in the CBD, leaving eight houses torched.

They blamed drug dealers for fuelling crime that had led to violent attacks and murders.

One of the taxi drivers who was attacked by gangsters was buried on Saturday at the Ruwiva cemetery outside Rustenburg. Lebogang Modibane, 32, of Sondela REP settlement, was found injured in the bushes 12 days following his disappearance in December 15. He later died in hospital.

Rustenburg mayor Mpho Khunou last week confirmed that there were group of

gangsters calling themselves SVK that were believed to be behind the attacks.

Modibane is a victim of the attacks on taxi drivers that are believed to be behind the unrest that led to eight buildings being set on fire.

The unrest started after taxi drivers decided that they had had enough of nyoopu users stealing their vehicles' radios and wheel caps just to support their addiction. Another victim, taxi owner Lucky Mulaane, 44, was hospitalised in ICU fighting for his life.

His attackers used stones to hit him mostly in the head.

Mulaane's son Oscar, 18, said after he was released from hospital, his father could not walk.

"He is getting better and he is now able to walk a bit," Oscar said.

A heavy police presence remained on the CBD streets and Rustenburg taxi rank as calm appeared to have been

restored.

At the weekend, it was business as usual for businesses but the residents feared more violence might break out to continue with the fight against drugs and human trafficking and crime that had hit the area.

The South African National Tax Commission chairperson, Serame Sebege, said the taxi industry was not violent, but they started the operations last week as they were failed by the police.

"We are not violent people but they failed the industry in the sense that drivers have been attacked and during our investigation we found that nyoopu users were behind the attacks and were taking over the taxi rank," Sebege said.

"We informed the police where the perpetrators were and where they are getting drugs. Instead of arresting the criminals no action was taken. That is what got the industry angry and that

caused the confrontation with the police."

He said they had agreed with the municipality to clean the CBD, and the taxi rank of criminals and drug users.

"The issue is not to fight anyone but to say to whoever is behind the crimes and drug peddling it must stop," Sebege said.

Meanwhile, Rustenburg police have confirmed that two foreign nationals, a Tanzanian and a Nigerian, were arrested for possession of illegal drugs at the weekend.

"We attended to a complaint that a house in Thabane was being used as a brothel and while searching the place, we found a packet of drugs called the rock in the possession of a Tanzanian man. In the CBD the dog unit had found various illegal drugs, cat and rock in the ceiling of the home of a Nigerian man," the police said.

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Murder, robbery accused suspects to appear in court

ELFASTORERA

TWO people are expected to appear in the Leeudoringstad and Mogwase Magistrate's Courts this week facing murder and house/business robbery charges respectively.

North West police spokesperson Lt-Col Adèle Myburgh said in the first case, the accused fatally stabbed another man following a heated argument.

"Police in Leeudoringstad were called out to a murder scene on Saturday at 4pm," Myburgh said.

"Upon arrival at Bapei section they found the body of a 34-year-old victim lying in the street with multiple stab wounds. He was certified dead by the Emergency Medical and Rescue Services personnel."

Myburgh said further investigations revealed that the deceased and the suspect allegedly had an argument which led to a fatal stabbing.

"Police managed to follow leads and arrested the 28-year-old suspect who is expected to appear in court today facing a murder charge," she said.

In the Mogwase incident, Myburgh said police were called to a robbery scene on Friday at 11:30pm at Slocha section in Motlhabé village.

"It was reported to the police that the victim was inside his house when three suspects forcefully gained entry and threatened him with a knife. They allegedly forced him to unlock his tuck shop on the same premises and robbed him of cigarettes and cash before fleeing the scene.

"The victim alerted his neighbours, who responded positively and arrested one suspect and handed him over to the police, after he was assaulted," Myburgh said.

The accused sustained serious injuries and was admitted to hospital under police guard.

"The 32-year-old suspect will appear at the Mogwase Magistrate's Court as soon as he is released from hospital for house and business robbery.

"Investigation into the matter continues and more arrests are imminent," she said.

North West police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane expressed her appreciation about the cooperation between the police and community members that resulted in the arrest.

Motswenyane urged the community to continue working with the police and refrain from taking the law into their own hands.

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