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Bullets fly at ANC anti-corruption gathering

ELFAS TORERAI

ANC members scurried for cover after some individuals opened fire at a gathering that was meant to set out a programme of action to "fight corruption" in the province.

The incident happened at Ratsihidi Hall in Montshiwa Stadt village on Saturday afternoon.

A 31-year-old man from Lornanyaneng village, near Mahikeng was hit in the leg, fracturing the bone just above the knee level.

Police said furniture was smashed up inside the hall.

X-ray pictures seen by The New Age show that the bullet hit the front side of the leg, broke the bone before it was lodged a few centimetres from the skin on the back of the leg.

Eye-witnesses said that two men stormed the venue where ANC members were gathered and started shooting randomly.

"People started running in all directions but unfortunately, the man from Lomanyaneng was hit and had to be



DAMAGE DONE: A car was stoned at an anti-corruption meeting. PHOTO: ORBIS/ELFAS TORERAI

taken to hospital," one of those present said. The gathering was organised by Save North West Campaign, a newly formed lobby group within the ANC "to rollout a mass action against corruption".

A line-up on the flyer advertising the rally shows that some of those billed to address the meeting were: Themba Gwabeni, SACP provincial chairperson, Smuts Maishe and Solly Phetoe.

It appears that people from another ANC faction also attended the meeting resulting in a mixed multitude at the venue. In the fracas that followed the shooting, people were scattered all over

with several reported injured. Others used the opportunity to take it out on those accused of fanning divisions in the party as fists flew. Chairs at the venue were severely vandalised but what disturbed many was the damage to one vehicle that was parked at the venue.

All its windows were shattered, the lights were broken before those attacking it took the spare wheel and spanners in full view of a disinterested public and police officers. No one has been arrested for the shooting and the vandalism.

North West police spokesperson, Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said: "We can confirm that police in Mahikeng are investigating a case of attempted murder, two of malicious damage to property and business burglary following an incident in which people forced entry into a hall where there was a meeting."

The ANC in Ngaka Modiri Molema region called for peace and restraint. Regional chairperson, Justice Mako-lomakwa said that the ANC remained unwavering in its support for Mahu-mapelo's administration.

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Six held for illegal guns

ELFAS TORERAI

SIX people will appear in the Klerksdorp Magistrate's Court today after they were arrested for the illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

Lt-Gen Amanda Funani said they were arrested in Ellaton, Klerksdorp on Friday.

"In an ongoing effort to address the illegal proliferation of firearms, the suspects aged between 27 and 40 were arrested after police on patrol stopped

and searched their car," Funani said.

"The information we have at this stage is that the police spotted a suspicious vehicle and stopped it for a search. During the search, they discovered three firearms, three magazines and 30 live rounds of ammunition."

Preliminary investigation revealed that four of the six suspects were undocumented people from Lesotho, she said. Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane applauded Klerksdorp police station members.

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Blood flows at corruption meeting

Daily Sun Pg. 5 SAPS
By REGINALD KANYANE neq

A FIGHT broke out at an anti-corruption meeting in Mahikeng, North West on Saturday.

A group called Save North West claim Premier Supra Mahumapelo is involved in corruption.

But when they wanted to meet at Barolong Boo Ratshidi Community Hall, another group, apparently in ANC T-shirts, with knobkerries disrupted it.

Former district task team member Thabo Oa Mogogodi and unhappy ANC members organised the meeting with the Barolong Boo Ratshidi royal family.

Mogogodi said their group aimed to clean up corruption and maladministration in North West.

"We will be launching a



This car was damaged at the hall where the meeting was held on Saturday.
Photo by Otsile Tlape

programme to expose corruption and deviation from clean governance by reporting corrupt activities and backing cases with concrete evidence."

Mahumapelo said it was not the first time people had made accusations against him, the ANC and his government. "We urge all those ANC members to raise grievances through the

right channels," he said.

Cops said that gunshots were fired and an injured man (31) taken to hospital.

Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone said cases of attempted murder, malicious damage to property and burglary were opened.

"Investigations are ongoing after people forced entry into a meeting at a hall. A vehicle was damaged."

Police urged to up visibility to prevent rapes

DAVID SITHOLE

SOME people living in Tlhabane are calling for the police to be more visible in the area after an elderly woman died from the wounds and trauma she sustained when she was attacked and raped last month.

The 93-year-old woman, who died last week Sunday, will be buried in Tlhabane on Saturday and community members are calling for the swift arrest of the man they believe is responsible for the crime.

The elderly woman was attacked when she opened the door of her house during the early hours of the morning so that she could assist a stranger who said he was looking for a room to rent.

Once inside the house, the man repeatedly assaulted the old woman before raping her. He then fled the scene on foot.

The Police are of conducting DNA tests as part of a wider investigation to establish the identity of the culprit.

Elderly people who spoke to The New Age said rape was one of the many incidents of violence committed against old people living in Tlhabane.

"We are no longer safe and we are now living in fear," Linda Kraai the chairperson of the Bambanani Service Club for the aged said.

"It is clear that some people living in this community no longer have respect for the elderly people because how can you rape a grandmother who is 93 years old? "We are saying enough is enough and people who do this must be arrested and taken to court," she said.

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