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**SAFETY DRIVE:** Elderly people from Pella village receiving panic buttons.

# Panic buttons handed to Pella village elderly

ELFAS TORERAI

ABOUT 100 elderly people from Pella village in the Madikwe received panic buttons known as "meimeza" from provincial police commissioner, Lt-Gen Batile Motswenyane to be used when their security is being threatened.

The panic buttons were handed over during a safety awareness campaign in the village. The campaign came after several elderly people were reported missing in the area recently.

North West police, the department of community safety and transport management, social development, community police forums and Bakwena-Ba-Madibako Tribal Authority joined hands to hold the awareness campaign.

The provincial police management said the awareness campaign educated and sensitised the elderly on their rights.

North West police spokesperson, Brig Sibata Molegabane said: "The awareness emanated from a number of reported missing elderly persons in the area of Madikwe, particularly in Pella village.

"It became clear during the investigations of these incidents that most of the victims were and are living alone or with their grandchildren."

Molegabane said although three elderly people reported missing from January last, year were found alive, one was found dead.

"It was also noted that due to lack of proper care and security, some of the elderly persons end up being vic-

tims of crimes such as rape, assault and other crimes. In some instances, the elderly people are abused physically by their relatives, especially grandchildren," he said.

Botshale Phege from the department of social development said the rights and care of older persons is stipulated in law and should be respected by everyone in society.

Others who spoke at the gathering said it was vital that every young person must embrace and serve the elderly persons with their utmost best.

Motswenyane emphasised the importance of taking care of older persons and to ensure their security.

She said this in response to the questions asked by the elderly persons after being afforded an opportunity to engage with the provincial

commissioner.

Motswenyane tasked relevant commanders to attend with immediate effect to specific complaints raised by the elderly persons.

She encouraged those who are abused by their relatives to apply for protection orders in terms of the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act No 116 of 1998).

When activated, the panic button of "meimezas" will draw attention of other persons to give assistance to the holder or the activator.

Kgosi Morare Mosome acknowledged the role players for the initiative and information shared with them during the awareness adding that it will go a long way in giving protection to elderly people in the village.

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# Province loses three police officers in Ngcobo

## Obakeng Maje

**T**hey died with their boots on, working to keep the communities of Bokone Bophirima safe.

Three police officers from the province died in a car accident in Ngcobo in the Eastern Cape in the early hours of Tuesday, as they navigated the area in search of a suspect wanted for two cases of murder, rape and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Mokgantshang Mpho Motlhabane, sent heartfelt condolences to families and friends of the three South African Police Service (SAPS) officials.

He said Sergeant Sylvester Tokotshane (33), Constable Kgathatso Tawo (34) - both from Taung - and Constable Modisagaarekwe Kodisang (35) from Madibogo village near Mahikeng died on the scene of the accident, while their one colleague survived with serious injuries and is in hospital.

"We would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the families of three Provincial Tracking Team members who died due to a motor vehicle accident in the early hours of Tuesday at Ngcobo in Eastern Cape. We also wish a speedy recovery to the fourth member who was seriously injured," MEC Motlhabane said.

"Contrary to earlier reports, the members were neither in the Eastern Cape to attend a memorial service nor as part of

a team assigned to investigate the incident that occurred in Ngcobo last week [the attack on a police station in which five policemen were killed]. They departed from Potchefstroom to Mthatha in Eastern Cape on Monday afternoon," he said.

Motlhabane further said the deceased were tracing a suspect on two cases of

pray that the families and members of the South African Police Service in the province have the strength to endure in this moment of grief," she said.

Tokotshane's childhood friend, Bakang Mankuroane said: "Crosby, as we affectionately knew Tokotshane, was a very sweet soul with a mixture of a quiet persona in real life, but a very naughty char-

*"He also treated us with love and respect and he was one of the most proactive and reliable members of the SAPS in the North West. Testimony to that lies in the fact that he lost his life while on duty after being assigned to go to Ngcobo. Condolences are extended to the Tokotshane family, SAPS, Taung community and all his friends."*

murder, rape and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm that were reported in the province between 2008 and 2011.

He said according to information available at this stage, the members' vehicle collided with a stray animal along the R61 road near Xholosini village in Ngcobo.

Provincial police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane, expressed sadness at the deaths.

"This is an unfortunate and tragic incident in which we lost three of our committed members in the line of duty. We

acter on social media. Most of us met Crosby through Facebook, yet he treated all of us as his close friends in real life.

"He also treated us with love and respect and he was one of the most proactive and reliable members of the SAPS in the North West. Testimony to that lies in the fact that he lost his life while on duty after being assigned to go to Ngcobo. Condolences are extended to the Tokotshane family, SAPS, Taung community and all his friends."



The late Sergeant Sylvester Tokotshane from Taung who worked for the SAPS Provincial Tracking Team

Pictures Supplied

# Drivers' demerit system explained

By **KGALALELO THLOELE**

THE drivers' demerit points system introduced by parliament last year was discussed by stakeholders yesterday.

The National Press Club held a media briefing on the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Amendment Act currently in force in Joburg and Tshwane.

According to the Act, drivers are penalised for breaking traffic rules.

If a driver gets more than 12 demerit points, their licence is suspended for three months for every extra point they get.

Once a driver's licence is suspended for the third time, it's cancelled and destroyed.

The number of points will be reduced by one for every three months in which no more points have been added.

Howard Dembovsky of Justice Project SA criticised the Act, saying: "The act has brought with it the concept of an alleged infringer being guilty until they prove themselves innocent."

He advised anyone who has a driver's licence to read the act carefully.

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