

Sombre send-off for fallen cops

OBAKENG MAJE

IT WAS a sombre moment when two of the three police officers who died in a car accident in the Eastern Cape were laid to rest at Batlhaping High School in Taung on Saturday.

Sgt Sylvester Tokotshane, 33, and Const Kgathatso Tawo, 34, who are both from Taung and Const Modisagaarekwe Kodisang, 35, from Madibogo village died in a fatal accident last week in Engcobo in the Eastern Cape, while the fourth survived and was hospitalised.

Tokotshane and Tawo were buried in Taung, while Kodisang was laid to rest in his hometown of Madibogo.

Community safety and transport management MEC Mpho Motlhabane, police deputy commissioner Maj - Gen Patrick Asaneng and Greater Taung local municipality mayor Nnyoko Motlhabane were among the high ranking officials who attended the funeral.

In his address to mourners, Motlha-

bane said: "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 Engcobo in the Eastern Cape. We also wish a speedy recovery to the fourth member who was seriously injured.

"They died in a battle like true soldiers and we would like to tell the families to rely on God for their strength. These young men served South Africa with devotion, dedication and sheer commitment. They respected the badge and we would like to urge those who remain behind to work hard in the name of these fallen heroes."

Deputy commissioner Maj-General Patrick Asaneng shared the same sentiments.

Asaneng said the deceased were tracking a suspect wanted on two cases of murder, rape and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm (GBH) that were reported between 2008 and 2011.

"The members' vehicle collided with a stray animal along the R61 Road near Xholosini village in Engcobo," Asaneng said. "This is an unfortunate and tragic incident in which we lost three of our committed members in the line of duty.

"We will re-assemble other members from the provincial tracking team to go to Engcobo and search for that suspect," he said.

Tokotshane's neighbour, William Kgalagadi, said Tokotshane was like his own son. Kgalagadi further said he would always cherish the moment he shared with him.

Tumelo Manganeng who was a friend to both the deceased said Tawo and Tokotshane loved their job.

He said the two deceased officers were disciplined, dedicated and determined to serve the nation.

Residents from villages around Taung came in numbers to witness the burial ceremony that was conducted by the police. - Newsnote



FINAL FAREWELL: The SAPS stand before Sgt Sylvester Tokotshane's coffin in Taung.

They died like true soldiers

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Police officers surround Sergeant Sylvester Tokotshane's coffin. Photo by Reginald Kanyane

By REGINALD KANYANE

THERE were many tears when two cops killed in a car accident last week were laid to rest.

There was a joint funeral for Sergeant Sylvester Tokotshane (33) and Constable Kgathatso Tawo (34) at Batlhaping High School in Taung, North West on Saturday.

They died in an accident in Engcobo, Eastern Cape along with their colleague Constable Modisagaarekwe Kodisang (35), who was laid to rest at his home village of Madibogo near Mahikeng.

Among the mourners were community safety MEC Mpho Motlhabane, deputy provincial police commissioner Major-General Patrick Asaneng and Taung mayor Nyoko Motlhabane.

The mayor extended his condolences to the families of the three members of the pro-

vincial tracking team killed in the crash and wished a speedy recovery to a fourth cop who was seriously injured in the accident.

"They died in a battle like true soldiers and we would like to tell the families to rely on God for their strength," said Motlhabane.

"These men served South Africa with devotion, dedication and sheer commitment. They respected the badge and we would like to urge those who remain behind to work hard in the name of these fallen heroes."

Asaneng said the cops were tracing a suspect linked to cases of murder, rape and assault reported in North West between 2008 and 2011.

"The members' vehicle collided with a stray animal on the R61 road near Xholosini Village, Engcobo.

"We will assemble other members of the provincial tracking team to go to Engcobo and search for that suspect," he said.

Tokotshane's neighbour William Kgala-gadi said he was like a son to him and he would always cherish the time they spent together.

Tumelo Manganeng, who was friends with Tawo and Tokotshane, said they had loved their jobs.

eNatis to be 'bomb-proofed'

NTOMBI NKOSI

THE national Transport Department said it was ensuring that the country's licensing system was "bomb-proofed" mainly because it was a national security matter.

To date, the department has more than 12 million legally licensed drivers on the eNatis system.

"The number has grown compared to 6 million licensed drivers 10 years ago. There are also more than 12.2 million registered vehicles on the eNatis system.

"The infrastructure used by these vehicles on a daily basis consists of 740 000km of the country's roads," department spokesperson Collen Msibi said.

Yesterday, the department said it was winning the battle against fraudsters involved in illegal obtaining of licences



SECURE: Legally licensed driver.

at testing centres.

A recent sting operation by the department and Hawks led to the arrest of nine people for obtaining illegal learners and drivers licences in Carnarvon, Northern Cape last week. The suspects appeared in court on Thursday.

"The investigation revealed that the suspects were not physically present at

the DETC in Carnarvon where the testing was supposed to have happened. Yet they had passed their tests with flying colours and received the illegal licences.

"This operation comes hot on the heels of another sting in Port Elizabeth and in De Aar (Northern Cape) where nine people were also arrested late last year for similar offences relating to fraudulently issued roadworthy certificates," Msibi said.

He said that this anti-corruption operation began in 2005. Consequently, the department had cancelled 37 635 illegal licences and 8 241 illegally converted foreign licences.

"The operation has led to 844 criminal cases being investigated and 188 people arrested including government officials. These cases were pursued with the full support of the Special Investigating Unit and the Hawks," Msibi said.

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WE WILL NEVER KNEEL TO THUGS!

Cele is back in business

12/03/18 Daily Sun Pg 6 National SAPS

POS

By KGALALELO TLHOAELE

OUR new police minister is shooting from the hip in true Bheki Cele style.

On Friday, the former national police commissioner was welcomed back to the SAPS by current commissioner General Khehla Sitole at a parade in Tshwane.

Cele didn't mince words as he told criminals: "If you want war, you will get war!"

He said there's no room for criminals in Mzansi.

"We are not going to share any space with criminals.

"This space belongs to the safe community of South Africa. This space belongs to the women and children of South Africa," he said.

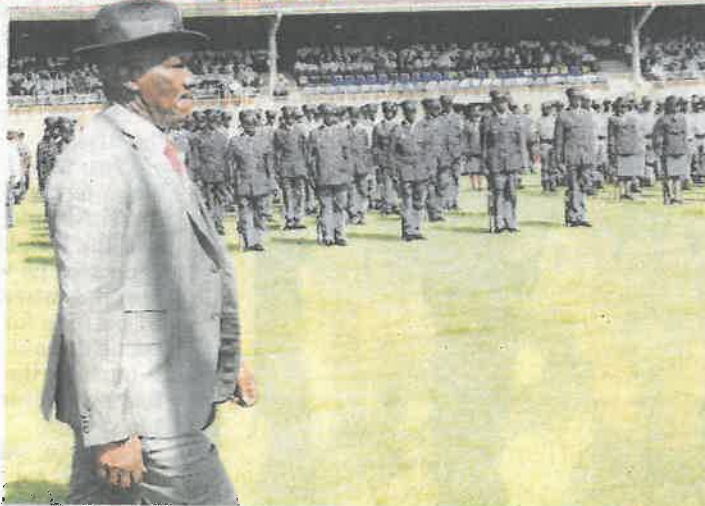
He said the police will always come out victorious in its war on criminals.

"If you decide to go to war with us, I can assure you there will only be one side that will survive and that side is us.

"We shall refuse to fall and kneel in front of criminals," he said.

"If you want peace, you will get peace," he offered.

Cele urged cops to sharpen their skills to prepare them-



Police Minister Bheki Cele inspected the parade during the SAPS ceremony to welcome him.

Photo by Morapedi Mashashe

selves to fight crime in the country.

"This is an organisation of excellence.

"We will not accommodate anyone who ruins the name of the SAPS.

"If you think you are here for other things, please walk away," he said.

Sitole said Cele had already given a lot to policing in the country and his clear leadership led to numerous successes in the fight against crime.

"He will lead us into a new dawn, aware of the criminal justice system dynamics and how we can improve in all spheres."

Cele was appointed police minister by President Cyril Ramaphosa, replacing Fikile Mbalula during the recent Cabinet reshuffle.

In June 2012, Zuma fired Cele from the post of national police commissioner and replaced him with Riah Phiyega.

Brothel to be demolished

ELFAS TORERAI

A KLERKSDORP brothel notorious for harbouring criminals taking advantage of young women and girls will finally be demolished.

The North Gauteng High Court granted a forfeiture order to the Hawks, Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) and National Prosecuting Authority, paving the way for the demolition.

The brothel was raided on several occasions by the North West Hawks and on December 26, 2016, 26 young women and girls from different parts of the country were rescued from the property.

North West Hawks head, Maj-Gen Linda Mbana said the Priority Crime Specialised Investigations (PCSI) unit of the Hawks that specialises in asset and financial investigations made a submission to the AFU to have the building at Number 5 Viljoen Street in Pienaarsdorp forfeited to the state.

"The PCSI had to gather evidence to prove that the property was used solely

for criminal activities in contravention of the Prevention of the Organised Crime Act 121 of 1998.

"The property was raided twice by the Hawks, first in 2016 when 26 women and girls were rescued from the property and again last year when 34 women were rescued.



Linda Mbana

"During the raids, two Nigerians were arrested for human trafficking and toy guns. Drugs and money were seized on both occasions," Mbana said.

She welcomed the forfeiture order and said preparations for the demolition of the property were under way.

"After a lot of hard work by the Hawks, the AFU and the NPA, the forfeiture order has finally come to fruition. We hope that the demolition of this property will give the community of Pienaarsdorp hope." Mbana thanked everyone involved and encouraged members of the community to report criminal activities in their areas.

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Criminal charges for Supra!

By DULILE SOWAGA

SUPRA Mahumapelo's problems are far from over.

On Friday, the North West Health portfolio committee laid criminal charges against the premier.

This came just a day after the Hawks swooped on his office to seize documents relating to contracts with Nepo Dynamics IT.

Criminal charges were also laid against North West Health Department head Thabo Lekalakala, the Gupta linked company Buthelezi Ambulances and finance MEC Wendy Nelson.

The charges relate to the R30 million paid to Gupta linked company Mediosa before any work had been done. It was promised R180 million more.

Buthelezi Ambulances is allegedly paid millions monthly by the bankrupt health department.

North West Hawks spokesman Captain Tlangelani Rikhotso said: "I can confirm it's a fraud and corruption case. The parties concerned will not be revealed by us at this stage."

There have been calls for Mahumapelo to fire Lekalakala since he admitted to going on a trip to India paid for by the Guptas.



Supra Mahumapelo signed the Mediosa contract with the Guptas which was worth R30 million.

Photo by Dulile Sowaga

However the Mediosa contract was signed by the premier.

EFF provincial legislature member Alfred Motsi called on the ANC to remove Mahumapelo or his party would table a motion of no confidence in him. ANC members have also called for the premier to be investigated for a number of corruption allegations.

Motsi told *Daily Sun*: "Radical economic looting by Supra is a clear reason why he forced North West delegates to the ANC conference in December to vote for Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. He wanted to be protected from prosecution."

"The ANC must remove Supra or we'll assist them through a motion of no confidence."

Mahumapelo's spokesman Brian Setswambung said the premier was aware of the case. "Dr Lekalakala is on special leave and investigations are taking place," he said.

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