

Crime on farms highlighted in rural campaign

ELFAS TORERAI

THE police in North West held a rural safety awareness campaign in Delareyville near Vryburg to highlight the need to bolster security within farming communities.

The North West has had a fair share of farm robberies and murders blamed on poor policing in such areas.

Recorded incidents show that both white and black farmers have been victims.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said the Delareyville campaign was held as part of ensuring safety and security in rural areas in accordance with the rural safety strategy.

"The activity which was aimed at raising awareness about rural safety in the Mahikeng cluster which Delareyville falls under, was attended by police management led by the provincial commissioner, Lt Baile Motswenyane," Mokgwabone said.

It was also attended by Tswaing mayor Dimakatso Malwane, who delivered a welcome address. The event was also attended by community policing forum (CPF) and farmers' unions representatives, farmers, farm workers and members of the police. Malwane challenged the police to do their best in making sure that thugs who often terrorise farmers and farm workers are not given a chance to disrupt farming activities.

As a farming town, the mayor said, Delareyville exists because of production on farms. For production to proceed, there needs to be stability, assurance and safety of everyone involved in farming.

Provincial CPF chairperson Dixon Ngamlane said a healthy relationship between the police and residents in rural and farm communities is vital to ending crime.

Ngamlane challenged the police to be accountable to the community they serve so as to retain trust.

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27/03/18 TNA Pg 3 MUSAARS POS.

Awareness campaign to ensure rural safety

CHARLOTE HLANGWANE

AS PART of ensuring safety and security at rural areas, a crime awareness campaign was held in Delareyville last week.

Police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said: "Kobus Visser of

AgriSA made a presentation to farmers about the rural safety strategy. He also said farmers were working together with the police to ensure safety and highlighted protocol relating to access to farms."

Lt-Gen Balle Motswenyane said incidents of farm attacks were reported in

Delareyville, Sannieshof and surrounding areas.

"Farming plays a vital role in food security and stock theft has been prioritised and will get necessary attention including through Operation Field II."

She urged the farming community to work with police for immediate arrests

after the commission of crimes.

Tswaing mayor Dimakatso Malwane delivered the welcome address. The event was also attended by Community Policing Forum and farmers unions' representatives, farmers, farm workers and members of the SAPS.

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PEAK TRAFFIC: Road authorities have put stringent measures in place ahead of the Easter break in a bid to ensure the safety of road users. PICTURE: ROBERT MATHISA

Stay safe this Easter

Traffic officers have been deployed on all major roads and pedestrians are urged to be responsible

DIKELEDI MOLOBELA

AS ALL roads lead to different destinations for the Easter holidays, the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) has put safety plans in place ahead of the weekend.

The roads that are expected to be congested are the N1 to Polokwane where people will be travelling to Morija, the N3 to Durban, N4 to Mpumalanga and all roads leading to the borders.

RTMC spokesperson Simon Zwane said they had deployed traffic officers together with the SAPS on all the major roads that were expected to be congested.

"We are aware that schools are closing and people will be going on holiday

and we have also taken into account that it is month end and alcohol use will be high, so all roads will be monitored," Zwane said. "We also encourage pedestrians to take responsibility for their lives and stop crossing on highways as they contribute to a large number of deaths on the road and 60% are found with alcohol in their system."

Emergency services provider Netcare 911 said it had embarked on a project to upgrade the design of its ambulances ahead of the holiday season in order to further improve the safety of its patients, other road users and its emergency services personnel.

Shalen Ramdath, director of business development and support services at Netcare 911, said: "Netcare 911 will once

again be mobilising its full complement of personnel and emergency vehicles to assist South Africans around the country in the unfortunate event that they have a medical emergency."

While pedestrians contribute the most to road deaths, the Bakwena N1 and N4 toll road in partnership with the department of community safety and transport management, ER24, Imperial logistics and Active Education embarked on a Pedestrian Road Safety Campaign.

The campaign highlighted road safety awareness relating to pedestrians which included illegal stopping and pedestrians crossing on freeways and encouraging animal owners around Bapong in North West to keep their animals fenced

to prevent them from roaming onto the freeway and end up causing accidents.

Bakwena public relations manager Charmaine van Wyk said the campaign was aimed at encouraging community members to use the pedestrian bridges to cross the N4.

"It is illegal for pedestrians to be on the highways," she said.

"We also want to raise awareness around the rules of the road in general and explain the purpose of the blue kilometre board markers and the 0800 Bakwena number."

Van Wyk said not only did the campaign highlight pedestrian safety, community members were given tips on keeping safe in general.

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