

Pair apprehended with drugs worth R360 000

MAHUKENG MAIL - VRYBURG 18-03-2018 - NMSAFS - PCS

MAHUKENG MAIL - VRYBURG: The fight against drug peddling achieved victory in the province on March 19, when police in Vryburg apprehended two suspects aged 30 and 36 for dealing and possession of drugs.

The suspects' apprehension came after police followed up information of two alleged missing girls. After receiving information, the police reacted swiftly and went to the suspects' residential place.

According to information the suspects were found inside a flat at Protea Road busy packaging drugs. The drugs were ecstasy tablets, cocaine, Cocaine Rocks, Crystal Meth and CAT estimated with a street value of R360 000.00. They were all confiscated together with other



Police official with the confiscated drugs estimated at R3600 000

Hawks crack illicit platinum syndicate

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MAHIKENG MAIL-MAHIKENG: Eleven suspects aged between 23 and 56 were arrested by the Directorate For Priority Crime Investigation during an operation in Rustenburg and Johannesburg last week for illegal dealing and theft of unwrought platinum.

The intelligence driven operation that was aimed at addressing the illegal dealing of unwrought platinum in North West and Gauteng provinces was conducted by the Hawks' Serious Organised Crime Investigation unit.

The syndicate was alleged to have been operating since 2014. It is also alleged that the unwrought platinum was stolen from the mines in the North West and sold to the suppliers who were supplying to the dealers in Gauteng.

Information was received about the illegal activities by the suspects that led to the swift investigation of the matter and ultimately the arrest of the suspects.

The operation resulted in the seizure of unwrought platinum worth approximately R500 000, six vehicles and smelting equipment.

All suspects appeared in court at the Tlhabane and Johannesburg Magistrate's

courts respectively to face charges related to illegal dealing in precious metals.

The Provincial Head of the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation Major General Linda Mbana said that the theft of platinum is affecting the economy and the mining sector negatively.

She further lauded the investigative efforts of the team and thanked all the stakeholders involved in the operation.

High alert for Easter holiday

Traffic volumes are also expected to be high on the N3 to Durban, N4 to Mpumalanga and all roads leading to the borders

DIKELEDI MOLOBELA AND
KUTULLO MADISHA

WHILE traffic authorities are on high alert ahead of the increased traffic volumes and expected spike in crashes over the Easter long weekend, the country was yesterday rocked by news of a fatal bus accident in Ngcobo in the Eastern Cape in which 10 people including three children, died. The bus was travelling from Gauteng to Mthatha. The rescue teams had to use the jaws of life to free trapped people.

This as transport authorities brace themselves for the expected rush of traffic starting today and major congestion on the N1 to Polokwane as hundreds of thousands of ZOC pilgrims travel to Moria for the annual gathering.

Traffic volumes are also expected to be high on 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 SAPS on all major routes.

"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.

"We encourage pedestrians to take responsibility for their lives and stop crossing highways as they contribute to a high number of deaths on the road



TRAGIC RESULT: A bus travelling from Gauteng to the Eastern Cape was involved in an accident in which 10 people including three children died.

and 60% are found with alcohol in their systems," Zwane said. The city of Johannesburg emergency management services will also be on high alert over the Easter holidays long weekend as traffic will increase.

Meanwhile, Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba said yesterday that the department had taken steps to combat

illegal activities by implementing strict border law enforcement ahead of the long weekend.

Gigaba said the increased volume of people moving through the ports and border posts during the holiday period present a number of security risks including fraudulent or illegal stamping of travel documents by corrupt border officials, illegal migration and social instability.

"This therefore makes it imperative for ports to be well prepared at all times to execute and facilitate traveller movement and importantly also to mitigate illegal movements and transgressions," he said.

Gigaba said ports of entry had been fully capacitated.

"The upsurge in traveller and vehicular movements puts a strain on limited resources at the ports of entry. Additional human resources must be deployed as requested to ensure reasonable turnaround times and avoid congestions at ports.

"All stakeholders in the border environment are mobilising resources to address the shortage by deployment of additional staff or providing overtime," the minister said.

One of the measures that has been taken was the extension of operational hours at ports of entry from March 27 until April 6.