

# R2m set aside for safety patrollers to fight crime

**Rebaone Moeng**

**C**ommunity Safety and Transport Management MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane, says his department will intensify the fight against crime and ensure that communities of Bokone Bophirima province live in a crime free environment.

"We are intensifying efforts to fight crime and we are doing so by engaging our communities because we are working on an intergrated effort to create a crime-free environment for our communities.

"For this financial year, we will continue implementing community safety patrollers in the four districts of the province," said Motlhabane, during the presenta-

tion of his department's 2018/19 budget in the Provincial Legislature.

The MEC told the Legislature that the Department of Public Works and Roads has allocated an Incentive Grant of R2million for the appointment of 100 patrollers and the department would utilise equitable share to meet the target of 400.

"Other programmes aimed at sensitizing and educating our communities will

include crime prevention through environmental design, prevention of violence against vulnerable groups including children, youth, women, persons living with disabilities and the elderly; anti-substance abuse; anti-gangsterism; school safety and rural safety," said MEC Motlhabane, adding that the department would fund crime fighting structures through the transfer payment to the tune of R1million.

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# Three girls reported missing

## Police in the province appeal to parents to stay in touch with their daughters to minimise missing persons cases

ELFAS TORERA

NORTH West police are appealing to parents to do their best to stay in touch with their teenage girls to minimise cases of them going missing.

This came as police deal with three cases of missing teenagers from areas around Mahikeng. First to be reported missing was Khumo Moremi, 17, of Mosiane View, Majemantsho.

Moremi is a pupil at Darville Secondary School outside Mahikeng. She went missing on January 18 and has not been found. North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said Moremi was last seen wearing grey trousers and a long-sleeved shirt.

At the weekend, police in Mahikeng requested the community to assist them in tracing two teenagers, Nobuhle Sizane, 18 and Thembiswa Saul, 17, who were reported missing early this month.

"According to the information received, the first teenager, Sizane, was last seen on May 5 in Lonely Park, Mahikeng. She was wearing a maroon T-shirt and a pair of maroon jeans. She was walking home from Mahikeng Mall," Mokgwabone said.

"The second teenager, Saul, was last seen on May 8. She is from Imperial Reserve, Mahikeng and was last seen going to the Montshiwastad Clinic.



**NOT FOUND:** Khumo Moremi went missing on January 18.

"She was wearing a red top under a black T-shirt. She was also wearing a pair of blue jeans and black shoes," he said.

Mokgwabone said anyone with information that could lead to the success-



**ALERT:** Thembiswa Saul is one of three teenagers gone missing since the beginning of the month.

ful tracing of the two teenagers should contact Lt-Col Dihemo on 082 773 0630 or 018 397 5310.

The police said dealing with cases of missing teenage girls was often a complex matter that needed society to



**GONE:** Nobuhle Sizane, 18, was last seen in Lonely Park, Mahikeng, earlier this month.

understand and assist in controlling the situation.

"In some instances, we find that young girls voluntarily leave their homes and go to live with their boyfriends. Police use state resources to do all they can

to find them, only to later discover that they were not missing at all," one police officer on condition of anonymity said. "The unfortunate part of it is that parents exert a lot of pressure and even blame the police for the disappearance of the children," the officer said.

However, Mokgwabone said police would always do what was in the best interests of the girls.

"Sometimes you find girls are victims of kidnapping and if you dismiss a report on their missing as one of those who would have gone to their boyfriends, it would be wrong. Nonetheless, as police we want parents to try their best to know the whereabouts of their children at all times," he said.

In October last year Rustenburg East residents torched a number of houses of people they alleged had kidnapped a 14-year-old girl who had gone missing.

It took a tip-off from community members who had seen the girl in Boitekong for her to be found in the company of a 20-year-old man about a week after she was reported missing.

"The issue of missing girls remains a delicate subject because some get accounted for yet others remain missing and we can only try to stop or minimise this challenge by working together with families," Mokgwabone said.

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# Seven held for stolen goods

ELFAS TORERAI

SEVEN people were arrested after they were found in possession of suspected stolen goods in Majakaneng near Brits. The accused are aged between 19 and 37.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said they would appear in the Brits Magistrate's Court for possession of suspected stolen goods, public violence and for malicious damage to property.

The seven were arrested in Sgandaff and Andries section in Majakaneng vil-

lage," he said. "The first two suspects were arrested following an intelligence driven track and recovery operation which was launched immediately after goods were looted from two trucks at 5.30am on Wednesday along the R104 Road in Majakaneng."

Mokgwabone said two trucks and a BapoTrans Mercedes-Benz Sprinter were torched during the attack.

"During the arrests, goods such as mesh wire, a wheelbarrow, plumbing material, poles and plastic chairs were recovered. The third suspect aged 24 was apprehended for malicious dama-

geto property and public violence relating to setting alight a BapoTrans bus," he said. He said others were arrested in early morning raids yesterday.

"More goods such as a gas stove, trowels and truck battery were found at the suspects' places. All seven suspects made their first appearance in the Brits Magistrate's Court on Friday and will appear again this week for bail application," he said.

In another case, Gilbert Kwaeng, 31, was granted R500 bail by the Mma-batho Magistrate's Court.

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# Man held for 59 explosives

ELFAS TORERAI

A 33-YEAR-OLD man was arrested in Boitekong township near Rustenburg after he was found in possession of explosives.

The accused, who works at one of the mines, is expected to appear in the Rustenburg Magistrate's Court today facing a charge of illegal possession of explosives.

He was nabbed by the North West Hawks' Serious Organised Crime unit.

Hawks provincial spokesperson, Capt Tlangelani Rikhotso said: "The suspect was arrested following a tip-off alleging that he was intending to sell explosives to a potential buyer. He was found in possession of 59 explosives when he was cornered by Hawks



Linda Mbana

members. "The suspect's home was subsequently searched where an additional three explosives were discovered," she said.

North West Hawks head Maj-Gen Linda Mbana said she welcomed the arrest and applauded the investigating officers for the commitment they showed.

It is feared that explosives feed into the rampant cash-in-transit heists that have become a common feature in the country's major centres lately.

"We will continue with this kind of operation as we are pro-active to minimise these robberies in the province," Mbana said.

She said her team would do its best to arrest all those found on the wrong side of the law to deter criminal activities.

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