

28/05/18 Semphete pg2 Best Im Pas

# Clampdown continues on illegal hiking spots and taxi operations

**Palesa Ntshotsho**

**A**n operation to clampdown on hiking spots and illegal taxi operations was recently held in and around Vryburg, as a continuation of the clampdown that started in Mahikeng last year.

Hiking spots and illegal taxi ranks were accused of working with law enforcement officers who did not give legal operators space to operate.

The objective of the sporadic, random and continuous operations was to put an end to hiking spots while at the same time encouraging commuters to use official taxi ranks and utilizing legal operators with operating permits. Illegal operators did not only rob the state of maximum revenue collection, but were also a road menace and account for a spike in taxi violence and conflicts.

Within an hour of the clampdown blitz, one car was impounded and three vehicle owners were fined for operating scholar transport without permits. One driver was nabbed for operating a kombi with worn-out tyres. One permit was discontinued and the driver was fined for driving without a license.

Community Safety and Transport Management MEC, Mpho Motlhabane, was pleased with the outcome of the operation.

"Hiking spots are a concern in the province and the public needs to work together with taxi operators to save lives. Communities must desist from using illegal taxi operators and avoid hiking spots at all cost. From here we are going to other places in the province such as: Wolmaransstad, Klerksdorp and Rustenburg with the same vigor to clamp down on hiking spots," he said.

While in the area, the MEC met with the executive leadership of all taxi associations operating in and around Huhudi. The meeting held at the SAPS Lapa Building in Vryburg, discussed the memorandum that the taxi associations had handed to the MEC earlier this year.

The memorandum contained complaints and concerns regarding illegal public transport operations, hiking spots, issues of non-members of associations getting permits, Transport Appeals Tribunal overturning rejected applications for permits and licenses, new routes established, scholar transport operators operating as taxis, cross-border taxi operations and an envisaged merger of taxi



Community Safety and Transport Management MEC Mpho Motlhabane and a traffic officer inspecting taxi permits

associations. In his response, the MEC said he resolved to continue with a moratorium on issuing of permits and operating licenses. The meeting however, agreed to process those applications not affected by the moratorium.

Taxi associations agreed to stop making threats of violence and would instead engage in a dialogue, whilst the MEC committed to elevate the matter of the Transport Appeals Tribunal rulings and

arbitration awards. Motlhabane reiterated that inspectorate functions needed to be reinforced and manned, and that taxi operations be monitored closely.

"Maybe you are right, we also need to convene a District and Provincial Taxi Summit to deal with matters of this industry holistically. I am committing my department to undertake that exercise programmatically," concluded the MEC.

# The citizen - page 05/05/18 - NWSAPO - P20 Situation tense after violence erupts in Koster

A councillor's house was torched and 14 people arrested during protests in Koster outside Rustenburg yesterday, North West police said.

Police spokesperson Sergeant Ofentse Mokgadi said the 14 people were charged with public violence. They are expected to appear in the Koster Magistrate's Court on Monday.

"The situation is tense. The road between Rustenburg and Koster has been closed, as well as the Koster-Swarttruggens road," he said.

On Wednesday, Kgetlengrivier mayor Kim Medupe's house, her guesthouse and another building belonging to her was set alight by protesters, who made off with appliances. At least six cars were

also torched.

Residents of Beagle shut down the small farming town west of Rustenburg, demanding access to basic municipal services.

The ANC in North West has condemned the protests in Koster. "We expect communities to instead engage with the leadership of Kgetlengrivier local municipality," said acting provincial secre-

tary Sussana Dantjie.

"We call on the community of Koster to ensure that calm returns to the area and to allow law enforcement agencies to conduct their investigations. We also urge the police to arrest all perpetrators of these violent and destructive deeds who choose public violence as a way of communication."  
- ANA

## Protesters burn house

A COUNCILLOR'S house was torched and 14 people arrested during protests in Koster outside Rustenburg yesterday, North West police said.

Police spokesperson Sergeant Ofentse Mokgadi said the 14 people were charged with public violence. They are expected to appear in the Koster Magistrate's Court on Monday.

On Wednesday, Kgetlengrivier mayor Kim Medupe's house, her guesthouse and another building belonging to her were set alight by protesters, who also made off with appliances. At least six cars were also torched. - African News Agency (ANA)

25/05/18  
NWSARS  
Protest News Pg 2 P20

# Shops looted as Koster burns

## Council condemns property arson, calls on aggrieved parties to express grievances through peaceful engagements

ELFAS TORERAI

RESIDENTS of Reagile township in Koster looted shops owned by foreign nationals in an overnight rampage as the small farming town near Rustenburg continues to burn.

This followed the attack on Kgetlen-grievier local municipality mayor Kim Medupe's house, guest house and four vehicles that were all set alight on Wednesday morning.

The damage to the mayor's property is estimated at more than R5m.

The municipality condemned the violent nature of the protests and called on residents to use legal means to ventilate their concerns.

Municipal manager Joseph Mogale said: "The municipality strongly condemns the burning of property and calls on the aggrieved parties to express their grievances through peaceful engagement and negotiations.

"Law enforcement agencies have been engaged to restore peace and stability in the municipality," he said.



**COURT APPEAL:** The Lesetleng community will appeal the eviction order granted to Plianesberg Platinum Mine in the Constitutional Court.

Mogale said the municipality was open and available to engage community in resolving their dissatisfaction in order for service delivery to get back to normal.

Mayor Medupe said she was not in a good space to relate the ordeal she went through as she had to be escorted

out of her house to the police station and later out of the town.

Her office manager, Onkokame Moremi, said the attack on the mayor's properties pointed to a play directed against her: "If people are raising service delivery issues, why do they go destroy someone's properties? They completely

burned her house, guest house and four vehicles. He said there was never a warning prior to the violent protests.

"No one ever approached the municipality with grievances. We woke up to barricaded roads and burning tyres. What is happening is lawlessness and anarchy," he said.

Moremi said even when Medupe was escorted to the local police station for safety, they followed, threatening to burn down the police station.

"This fuels suspicion that there could be something sinister going on that targets the mayor as a person," he said.

"Our doors are open for engagement because thus far we have not yet as to what are the issues that the community wish the municipality to address except the rumours of what might be the reason for the protest.

"We have also noted that among the instigators of the protest there are officials of the municipality and some councillors both current and former, this clearly shows that there is a political play at play," Moremi said.

North West police spokesperson, Sgt Oenise Mokgadi said the situation was still tense yesterday morning.

Mokgadi confirmed that some spaza shops were looted but police were yet to verify the number.

*elfast@afrotone.co.za*

# inspection

Seloane Seleka

**A** team of liquor inspectors of the Department of Economy and Enterprise Development - accompanied by police officers

- went on unannounced liquor compliance inspections over the past weekend in Ramotshere Molloa Local Municipality.

The operation started on Friday night until Sunday and was led by Colonel Sapelo, Station Commander of the Molewa Police Station and Director of Liquor Regulations, Khumoetsile Tašana.

Inspectors found that some of the liquor outlets have been operating with licenses of their deceased partners/spouses for a period of more than a year without making a transfer application to the Liquor Board.

"This is a matter we must address boldly and decisively with the Liquor Board to ensure that these outlets apply for transfer of licenses to the current owner," said Tašana

In several instances, some license transfers after the death of the owner are delayed by the prolonged process of the estate, especially when there is dispute concerning the deceased's estate. About 45 liquor outlets ranging from tav-



Officials of the Department of Economy and Enterprise Development accompanied by police officers on unannounced liquor compliance inspections

erns, bottle stores and liquor restaurants were visited, in places such as Zeerust, Motswedi, Gopane, Mashaneng, Borakalalo and surrounding areas.

Twenty outlets were found to be in contravention of the Liquor Act, including selling liquor beyond trading hours, managing an outlet without proper documentation, failure to keep liquor documents on the premises and failure to appoint a manager in terms of Section 159 (g) and Section 39 of the Liquor Act.

The three-day operation was a joint intervention in the spirit of the Saanwerk-Saamtek philosophy, aimed at enforcing compliance in terms of the Liquor Act (Act No 27 of 1989), curb illegal alcohol trading and ensure a zero tolerance on non-compliance, with strict enforcement measures on licensed outlets and to target hot spots.

According to Tašana, the team closed two illegal liquor outlets for selling liquor beyond trading hours and operating an outlet without proper documentation.

Most of contraventions found include failing to keep liquor records or display licenses on the premises, allowing patrons to take liquor away from the on-consumption premises (taverns), outlet not operating a bona fide restaurant (venue disguised as a restaurant) and owners not appointing managers to run the establishment when they are away.

Tašana said the sale of liquor beyond stipulated trading hours, selling liquor to minors, as well as nuisance by liquor traders, were still a great concern for the Liquor Board. This includes some of outlets being operated by foreign nationals without proper documents.

The department made strides to reduce backlogs and turn-around times with liquor license applications by designing a Liquor Licensing Management System.

"We have completed the development of the new liquor system and we are now in the process of implementing it. The industry must be regulated to trade responsibly," Tašana added.

Zeerust Police Station commander, Col. Dipuo Mabaakanye, said clamping down on illegal liquor traders and ensuring licensed liquor outlets adhered to prescripts of the Act, were police's top priorities.

25/05/18 Afrovoice Pg 8 Hawks POS.  
**Agriculture offices raided**

ELFAS TORERAI

HAWKS officials swooped on the North West agriculture department yesterday.

The raid is said to be part of an ongoing investigation.

Hawks spokesperson Brig Hangwani Mulaudzi said: "The national serious corruption investigation unit is conducting a search and seizure operation at the department of rural, environment and agricultural development in Mahikeng."

He said the operation came after it appeared the department still had documents that could assist in the matter under investigation.

"After assessing the available evidence pending an investigation that commenced in March, it became clear there was documentation that was still in the possession of the department," Mulaudzi said.

He further said the Hawks were confident that other aspects of the investigation could be speeded up for a resolution to be reached soon. The department officials were coy on details when called regarding the raid.

The department, led by MEC Manketsi Tlhape, has been implicated in the issue of wild animal donations to certain individuals said to have been politically connected.

The issue raised a lot of dust as North West deployees to the National Council of Provinces and the National Assembly brought it up.

A number of hearings which Tlhape was supposed to attend were called. The department was ordered to reverse the game donation transactions but it was not immediately clear whether that had been done.

elfast@afrotone.co.za

**Hawks raid in N West**

THE DIRECTORATE for Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks) raided the offices of the North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development in Mahikeng yesterday.

Hawks spokesperson Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi said their National Serious Corruption Investigation unit conducted a search and seizure for documents.

An application for search and seizure was signed, and done yesterday. "The Hawks are confident that some legs in the investigations would be fast-tracked for speedy resolution," he said. - African News Agency (ANA)

Hawks  
25/05/18 Pretoria News Pg 2 POS

Daily Sun-PS-2510518-HAWKS-POS

**Hawks probe North West corruption**

By DULILE SOWAGA

THE Hawks raided the North West Department of Agricultural Development's offices yesterday.

The department - which is being investigated for corruption and fraud - is accused of buying 24 Bonsmara cows and donating them to former president Jacob Zuma.

Former premier Supra Mahumapelo allegedly instructed the department to buy the cows, which were worth about R1,5 million.

Agricultural development MEC Manketse Tlhape made headlines in March after she was accused of using public funds to pay for a cosmetic procedure priced at R100 000.

A Facebook user also claimed Tlhape instructed a company called Agri Delight, which was contracted to the department, to buy her a fast food franchise.

The company allegedly paid R1,1 million for a Roman's Pizza franchise in Mahikeng.



The elite police unit spent most of yesterday sifting through documents and laptops at the North West Department of Agricultural Development's offices.

Photo by Suluyman Thebeeagae

The MEC denied the allegations and said she paid for the nose job herself.

In October the portfolio committee on environmental affairs ordered the department to pay back the R100 million used to buy 130 buffalo, 50 white rhino, 50 sable and 32 nyala, worth about R100 million, to a company connected to the ruling party.

North West agriculture development spokeswoman Emelda Setlhako referred all que-

ries to the Hawks.

Hawks spokesman Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi said the raid was a search and seizure of documents, laptops and any information that might assist the investigation.

Mulaudzi told the People's Paper: "After assessing the available evidence it became clear that the department is still in possession of important documents.

"No arrests have been made yet," he said.

The Hawks raid offices of the Department of Rural Environment and Agricultural Development yesterday in Mahikeng.  
/TIRO  
RAMATLHATSE



Boundary/05-06-18/pg14 - Hawks - pos

# Panic as Hawks raid department

Investigators say those fingered are willing to talk

By **Boitumelo Tshabie**  
North West Correspondent

The North West Agriculture department's head Pontsho Mokaila arrived just before midday yesterday, finding the Hawks seizing documents at his workplace in Mahikeng.

The Hawks's national team arrived in the early hours of the morning with their big cases and cameras.

This comes after reports in the media that the company contracted to the department, Agri Delight, had fraudulent operations, among them the R1.5-million worth of cattle meant for emerging farmers that were sent as a gift to former president Jacob Zuma.

The company was also accused of funding a pizza franchise believed to be owned by the department's MEC

Manketse Thape to the tune of R1.1-million. Allegations were that her nose job was also funded by the same company.

The company was allegedly given a R650-million tender.

Mokaila looked unsettled but said: "I am not saying anything with regards to the Hawks visit, go and ask them."

Rumour has it that he was planning to resign and turn state witness on the Agri Delight scandal but he said that's untrue.

"I heard that there was an official resigning, that's not me, I am here to stay," he said.

An employee at the supply chain at the department said they were in panic.

"I have to process a legit payment to a service provider, but I can't. It feels like I am doing something wrong, this is scary," she said.

Hawks spokesman Hangwani Mulaudzi said they wanted to get electronic documents from certain individuals at the department.

He said they started the investigation in March but realised that some of the documents they needed were in possession of the department.

"We have our targets, we know where to go and we need to make a thorough investigation," he said.

"People are coming forth with information because they can see that they are implicated; now they want to negotiate with us," he said.

The search-and-seizure order was granted on Wednesday.