

More arrests in wake of unrest

ELFAS TORERA

AT LEAST 12 more people were arrested for looting businesses in the protests which brought Mahikeng and other areas in the North West to a standstill last month.

Police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said the 12 suspects faced charges of malicious damage to property and burglary. They are expected to appear in the Mmabatho Magistrate's Court today.

"The suspects were arrested in the early hours of Friday, while five were arrested following an incident in which a tuck shop was partially burnt. It was



where they took various goods between April 17 and 19," Mokgwabone said. Meanwhile, a 60-year-old man was held in Montshiwa township in Mahikeng for possession of dagga.

"The suspect was arrested after the police stopped and searched his luxury vehicle at Montshiwa location near Mahikeng.

"During the search, at least nine arms of dagga with an estimated street value of R9 000 were found inside the vehicle. He was also found in possession of R8 300 in cash," he said.

The man is expected to appear in court today.

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Protesters in court

ELFAS TORERAI

THIRTY-ONE people have been arrested and charged for public violence, arson and malicious damage to property following violent protests in Koster and Derby.

They will appear in the Koster Magistrate's Court today.

Provincial police spokesperson Sgt Ofentse Mokgadi said the accused were arrested on Thursday and Friday.

"They were arrested for cases relating to violent community protests that began in Koster on Wednesday and spread to the neighbouring Derby," Mokgadi said.

"It was during the protests that members of the community barricaded the entrance and exit roads to Koster with burning tyres and other objects."

Mokgadi said properties such as a guest house, two houses and vehicles belonging to the Kgetlengrivier mayor, Kim Medupe, were set alight and goods looted.

"Public violence and criminality continued when tuck shops in Koster were looted and when some trucks were pelted with stones while others were set alight in Derby," he said.

Six other people briefly appeared in the Koster Magistrate's Court on Friday and four were remanded in custody until June 1 for bail applications.

The other two were released pending further police investigations.

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2 girls killed at school

Police have arrested a man in connection with the murder of two teenage girls whose bodies were discovered in a school hostel. North West police said the bodies of the two girls, aged 16 and 17, were discovered at Stella High School in Stella on Saturday morning. "The matron found the body of the 17-year-old girl hanging from the rails of the staircase in the hostel. The police discovered the second body with a string around her neck at the hostel's bathroom. A 19-year-old man, who is believed to be an ex-boyfriend of one of the two girls, was arrested. The motive of the murders is unknown."

TimesLIVE

Man, 19, held after 2 teen girls found slain

POLICE have arrested a man in connection with the murder of two teenage girls at a high school in Stella near Vryburg, North West police said yesterday.

The bodies of a 17-year-old girl and a 16-year-old girl were found at the Stella High School on Saturday morning, Lieutenant-Colonel Amanda Funani said.

"According to information at the police's disposal, the bodies of the pair were discovered by the hostel matron," she said.

"The matron found the body of the 17-year-old girl hanging from the rails of the staircase in the hostel.

"The police discovered the second body with a string around her neck in the hostel's bathroom. A 19-year-old man, who is believed to be an ex-boyfriend of one of the two girls, was arrested." - African News Agency (ANA)

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Family of deceased says mob justice must end

Community strikes back to stop theft

By **Boitumelo Tshabile**

The family of a man who was kidnapped and beaten to death for stealing a cellphone, baby nappies and a chocolate wants mob justice to end before more lives are lost.

Bongane Mothupi, 28, of Bodibe village near Lichtenburg in North West, was tied with ropes and put inside the boot of a car before he was killed last week.

The group that kidnapped him accused him of stealing from them.

He was assaulted and dumped near his home before he died.

Another suspected thief in the area also died, allegedly also at the hands of the mob, before Mothupi's death.

The incidents of mob justice have raised alarm in the community.

Mothupi's uncle Peter Cisane said his nephew was a troublesome person but did not deserve to die in such a cruel manner.

Cisane, who was left as a guardian to Mothupi and his younger brother after their parents died, said the pain was too much to bear.

"It's like we are part of the statistics now. It's a case of who is next instead of how can we stop this," he said.

Cisane said residents in his village had a perception that the police were not doing their job and that's why they resorted to taking the law into their own hands.

"They [police] do arrest people, but the courts release them, mostly because of lack of evidence," he said.

He did not dispute that his nephew might have stolen the goods but said he deserved a jail term not death.

Cisane said the family of the man who instigated Mothupi's death had apologised but he was carrying a heavy burden.

"I do not have money to run this funeral," he said.

North West police spokeswoman Captain Amanda Funani said suspects were arrested and would be charged with murder and kidnapping in court today.



Bongani Mothupi, the nephew of Peter Cisane and Evelyn Cisane, died in mob justice for stealing. / TIRO RAMATLHATSE

Accused ivory smuggler back in court

ELFAS TORERAI

A MAN, 23, will make his second appearance in the Motswedi Magistrate's Court today after he was arrested for possession of ivory last week.

Life Ndhlovu was arrested while entering South Africa at the Swartkopfontein border post on May 20.

He made his first appearance on May 22 and was remanded in custody.

North West police spokesperson Lt-Col Amanda Funani said: "At the time of the arrest, Ndhlovu was entering the country from Zimbabwe when Home Affairs and customs officials became suspicious of a backpack that he carried."

Funani said the police were alerted and swiftly stopped him for questioning.

"Three elephant tusks with an estimated street value of R15 000 were found inside his backpack when the police searched it. He was apprehended after failing to account for the possession," Funani said.

North West police commissioner Lt-Gen Motswenyane applauded the officials at the port of entry for their vigilance that ensured the accused was brought to book.

She further said the arrest would serve as a warning that cross border crimes would not be tolerated.

The police said it was not for the first time that people trying to smuggle ivory had been arrested at the border post.

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