

21/05/18 Afrovoice pgs 6&7 TM P05

## Officials visit Stella High

ELFAS TORERAI

A GOVERNMENT delegation visited Stella High School and later the families of two girls who were killed at one of the school hostels at the weekend.

Community safety and transport management MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane and his counterpart at education and sport development were accompanied by officials from the presidency and the department of basic education.

At the school, the delegation offered words of comfort to distraught pupils and teachers and underscored the need to intensify the fight against women and children abuse.

The delegation proceeded to the respective homes of Grade 11 pupils Sharnelle Hough, 16 and Marna Engelbrecht, 17, in the farming town of Stella.

The two pupils were attacked on Friday night and their lifeless bodies were found hanged on Saturday morning. The two were part of a school sports team that was supposed to compete at a tournament in Koster.

Zander Bylsma, 19, said to be the former boyfriend of Hough and a resident of Stella, was arrested for the double murder. MEC Motlhabane called on those investigating in the case to leave no stone unturned.

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31/05/18 Afro Voice Pg 1 MUSAAPS 103

# Alaska gang killers get life

ELFAS TORERA

FOUR killers were each sentenced to life imprisonment after they were convicted for the murder of a rival gang member.

Thembinkosi Rens, 27, Happy Molonto, 23, Thabang Motloun, 23, and Lehlohonolo Nkhi, 26, of the Alaska gang, were found guilty for fatally stabbing and stoning an SVK member in Khuma's Extension 9 on September 3, 2016.

The fifth accused, Thabang Tshabalala, 19, a **Baile Motswenyane** juvenile at the time of the crime, was sentenced to 12 years for murder and six years for assault.

They were sentenced at the Stilfontein Magistrate's Court.

North West police spokesperson Sgt Kelebogile Moleko said: "There was a fight that ensued among members of the two gangs, when Piet Olekeng Modiri,



26, was stabbed, stoned and assaulted. Upon realising what was happening, Modiri's mother tried to protect her son, but was also stoned and sustained serious injuries. The incident was reported to the police who immediately registered the cases for investigation," Moleko said.

"During the arrest, clothes and bloodstained knives that were used during the horrific incident were seized," Moleko said.

North West police commissioner Lit-Gen Baile Motswenyane welcomed the sentences and said gangsterism was one of the challenges that need a concerted effort from all communities to ensure that it was dealt with successfully.

"We are positive that the sentences will definitely send a clear message that gangsterism and related offences will not be tolerated."

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mahekeng mail - pg 17 - 30/05/18 - NWSAPS - PDS

1 JUNE 2018

**MAHIKENG MAIL-KLERKSDORP:** The North West provincial police management welcomed two life sentences and 22 years imprisonment handed down to Goitsemanang Johannes Phukuntsi (34) by Klerksdorp Regional Court last Tuesday.

Phukuntsi's sentencing follows his arrest March 7, 2016 for three counts of rape and two of housebreaking that were committed between 2010 and 2013. It was reported that Phukuntsi raped a 14-year-old minor in November 2010 in Jouberton. In another incident, he raped a 23-year-old woman inside the toilet in March 2012. He forcefully took the victim to his father's house in Khuma where he threatened her with a knife and repeatedly raped her. In the third incident in July 2013, Phukuntsi broke into a house of a 57-year-old woman in Jouberton. He then took the woman's clothes before raping her in front of her children.

The Provincial Commissioner of North West, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane commended the Klerksdorp Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit (FCS) in ensuring that the accused receives a hefty sentence. "With this sentence, we are once more sending a clear message to criminals out there that those who commit crime will be shown no mercy," said Lieutenant General Motswenyane.

## Gogo slain: man held

A MAN, 36, has been arrested in connection with the murder of an elderly woman in Gopane near Zeerust, North West police said.

Keitumetse Nkgotho, 75, was murdered in her house on March 16. "The old woman was taken to the clinic where she was certified dead. Consequent to that, members of the community took the law into their own hands and allegedly killed 25-year-old Lloyd Nkgotho whom they accused of being responsible for the death of the old woman.

"At the time of the incident, the suspect was on parole after being sentenced to 18 years imprisonment in 2004, for house robbery."

Police said seven people were arrested over the murder of Nkgotho, who was allegedly forced to hang himself on a tree. - African News Agency (ANA)

Preoria News - 3/10/16 - NW SAPS - PPS  
198

# Cop corruption a security threat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The corruption within the South African Police Service is one of the biggest threats to national security.

"If people are involved in thieving they won't focus or concentrate on fighting crime," he said during the interview.

"So every need that is created, every emergency demand that is created, is about filling pockets and it is not about making a contribution to the fight against crime."

McBride said the investigation is at an advanced stage.

He and his team are confident that senior police officers will soon appear in court to face the music.

National spokesman for Ipid, Moses Dlamini confirmed yesterday

## THE BIG PGI STORY



that the investigation is continuing.

"Almost all the cops are being investigated for corruption as well as other crimes."

He confirmed that some of the officers were at the very top of the police structures.

He said they will release the names of the officers when the time is right.

The investigation comes as Police Minister Bheki Cele announced on Monday that 27 crime intelligence officers have criminal offences listed on their records.

Cele said 20 of them are related to contraventions of the Road Traffic

Act and seven are of a more serious nature.

The circumstances of the seven cases are still under investigation by the new head of the Crime Intelligence Unit, Lieutenant-General Peter Jacobs.

Other lower ranked police officers are reportedly regularly caught in criminal acts.

There have been instances where lower ranked cops are alleged to have taken part in robberies, armed robberies and even murder.

Two Ekurhuleni Metro police officers were caught on the wrong side of the law when they were arrested last week for corruption.

Two Tshwane Metro police officials were arrested for taking a bribe via e-wallet from a truck driver.



## Hawks nab bank robbers

**MAHIKENG MAIL-KLERKSDORP:** The Priority Violent Crimes Unit (PVC) unit arrested six suspects in Klerksdorp and Upington in connection with a bank robbery that took place in April this year.

The suspects allegedly colluded and stole more than R3 million at the local Nedbank Branch. Two suspects allegedly posed as SBV security officers to do a routine pickup. They produced fake documents and were handed money by the bank staff.

Following the robbery, an intelligence-driven Hawks operation, assisted by the Gauteng technical response team, led to the arrest of Welcome Marcus aged 50 and Charles Anthony Scheepers aged 54 two weeks ago. The operation continued on Sunday and led to further arrests of six suspects whom two of them are employed by the bank. The Hawks' Priority Crime Specialised Investigations (PCSI) unit is already conducting a financial and asset forfeiture probe on all the suspects. All eight suspects, Marcus and Scheepers included, appeared at the Klerksdorp Magistrate's court facing charges of theft, meanwhile more arrests are imminent.

North West Hawks Head Major General Linda Mbana warned that the chips are falling and it is only a matter of time before everyone who was involved gets rounded up. *mahekeng mail - 17-30/05/18 - Hawks*