

Taung testing station reopened

ELFAS TORERAI

THE Taung Vehicle Testing Station that was closed 23 years ago has been reopened.

Since the dawn of democracy, motorists in the area have had to travel to the Northern Cape to have their vehicles tested for roadworthiness.

This resulted in many people defaulting.

"It's a problem to travel 70km to Vryburg or cross into the Northern Cape's border town Hartswater for vehicle testing services and we have gone through this pain for the past 23 years," motorist Nono Mogoje said.

Like many other motorists, Mogoje said it had been a painful wait for the local station to be reopened and there was relief all around.

Chief of Batlhaping Ba-Ga Phuduhutswana Kgosi Tshepo Mankuroanne said the development was long overdue.

"The opening of this station brings us a great sigh of relief because we have been frustrated for the past years, having to cope with the long distances to access these services. We are grateful and we are committing to taking good care of the facility," Mankuroanne said.

The Taung Vehicle Testing Station was recently

renovated, refurbished and upgraded.

Community safety and transport management MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane reopened the station saying that the move was part of empowering villages and other previously marginalised areas.

Motlhabane said his department noted serious concerns that included the non-functioning of the station which he said had not only frustrated motor vehicle owners but also law enforcement officers.

"Today, we are not only shortening your journeys to Vryburg and Hartswater but we are cancelling these unnecessary trips. Let us use this testing station effectively in order to ensure that our vehicles are compliant and fit for the road. Remember that whenever a vehicle is tested outside the province, it becomes a loss of revenue to Bokone Bophirima, which is what we are safeguarding.

The province needs the skills, infrastructure and personnel to operate this vehicle station," Motlhabane said.

The MEC made an appeal to officials employed at the station to be vigilant against individuals who would attempt to bribe them.

elfast@thenewage.co.za

Motlhabane opens Taung Vehicle Testing Station

MAHIKENG MAIL – MAHIKENG: For the past 23 years the people of Greater Taung Municipality have been struggling to get their vehicles tested for roadworthiness. The Taung Vehicle Testing Station which was closed in 1994, was recently renovated, refurbished and upgraded and opened by Community Safety and Transport Management MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane.

In the last 23 years motorists in Taung had to travel over 70km to Vryburg to access vehicle testing services or had to travel about 40km to Hartswater, which is in the neighbouring Northern Cape Province.

Speaking during the official opening of this long awaited Taung Vehicle Testing Station, MEC Motlhabane said the department had noted with serious concerns that the non-functioning of the station had not only frustrated motor vehicle owners, but also law enforcement officers who could not have suspected un-roadworthy vehicles tested locally.

"Today we are not only shortening your journeys to Vryburg and Hartswater but we are cancelling these unnecessary trips. Let us use this testing station effectively in order to ensure that our vehicles are compliant and fit for the road," Dr Motlhabane said.

Motlhabane further appealed to officials employed at the station to be vigilant against individuals who would attempt to bribe them.

In his response to the opening of the station, the Chief of Batlhaping Ba-Ga Phuduhutswana, Kgosi Tshepo Mankuroane expressed his gratitude and

appreciation. "The opening of this station brings us a great sigh of relief because we have been frustrated for the past years having to cope with the long distances to access these services. We are grateful and we are committing to taking a good care of the facility," he said.



Community Safety and Transport Management MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane and Kgosi Tshepo Mankuroane cutting the ribbon during the official opening of the Taung Vehicle Testing Station.



REFURBISHED: MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane and Kgosi Tshepo Mankuroanne open the testing station.

02/11/17 TNA Pg 8. bes # TM POS

MAHIKENG MAIL - 02/11/17 - Pg 10 - Department - Pashie

Mahikeng Street patrollers are now mobile



CPF members together with the police station officials and street patrollers.

MAHIKENG MAIL-MAHIKENG: The Crime Prevention Forum (CPF) together with Mahikeng Police station on Tuesday handed out 12 bicycles and helmets to police officials at Mahikeng Police station to upgrade mobilization of street patrollers around the area, reports Tebobo Letselela.

Brigadier Kieyrians expressed his excitement about the new bicycles donated to the street patrollers. He said, "these bicycles were not used and with the help of the CPF community we fixed the bicycles to the tune of R10 000 to improve the patrols in Mahikeng. I also thank the intervention made by the CPF by outsourcing the business to the man who helped us fix these bicycles. It will bring a positive contribution to the police station where the street patrollers have made a great impact on reducing theft out of motor vehicles and other crimes by 40 percent compared to last year". Frans Modise, street patroller member in Mahikeng said, "I am very proud of the help we got from the station. It will make our patrolling more effective. We will also be mobile from all places that we could not reach before. It will also assist with calling backup during crime scenes and events during our patrol". "We noticed that the patrollers made a huge difference in preventing crime in Mahikeng as the Brigadier indicated. I got together with business owners to assist us with improving the conditions of our patrollers. What the bicycles needed was to be fixed and we ultimately achieved that with those who willingly helped us. I would also like to thank the community for working together with us and the police station to combat crime in the area", said Executive chairperson of CPF, Luis Setrao.

Fake Eskom man!

By EVERSON LURANGA
POLICE have warned South Africans about thugs who come to their homes posing as service providers.
 On Tuesday, they arrested a man pretending to be an Eskom contractor who took money from residents.
 He was caught in Kaalfontein, east of Johannesburg by people who accused him of defrauding them. They questioned him and he could not explain his actions.
 He was saved by patrolling cops from an angry crowd that wanted to beat him! Captain Bernard Matimulane said this kind of crime was common in kasis.
 "Residents have to be alert and not allow strangers into their property," he said.
 The 31-year-old suspect allegedly produced an Eskom employee card and claimed to be checking electricity meters.
 "Apparently, at some point the suspect worked as a contract worker at Eskom. When the contract ended he did not return the card and overalls," said Matimulane.
 He was identified by a woman who said she gave him money after he told her she had breached her electricity supply.

Intense investigation led to two arrests

MAHIKENG MAIL-MAHIKENG: Following the recent kidnapping and brutal murder of the late Thulisile Ngwenya that left both the family and local community speechless, police here made a major breakthrough when they arrested two men in connection with the murder, reports Tsholho Letsela.

According to local police, a dedicated Detectives Task team together with Crime Intelligence made the all-important breakthrough on Monday, October 30 when their protracted investigations led them to Johannesburg where they traced and nabbed the two suspects aged 50 and 51 respectively. The suspects were due to appear in the Mmabatho Magistrate's Court at the time of going to press yesterday (Wednesday) facing charges of kidnapping and murder. The news of the arrest brought a feeling of great relief to local communities who praised the detectives for their swift reaction in the arrest of the culprits. The North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane applauded the team for working tirelessly to track and apprehend the suspects. She said "the arrest will serve as deterrence to potential criminals that crime does not pay and the suspects committed a horrific act that must be condemned in the strongest possible terms". Ngwenya was buried on Sunday in Mahikeng following reports that her body had already reached a decomposed state when found in the veldt last Wednesday.

Teacher 'killers' face additional charges



IN THE DOCK: Headboy Njokweni and Sfiso Ndamande who allegedly killed Thulisile Ngwenya were remanded in custody after a brief appearance in the Mmabatho Magistrate's Court. PHOTO COURTESY

ELFAS TORERAI

TWO men arrested for the kidnapping and murder of Thulisile Ngwenya face two additional charges of rape and aggravated robbery.

Headboy Njokweni, 51 and Sfiso Ndamande, also 51, made their first

appearance in the Mmabatho Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The pair were arrested in Johannesburg on Monday after thorough investigations by the police.

The court was delayed after the two were said to have gone for an identity parade and only made it to court

after 5pm.

Magistrate Dtiro Goliath did not ask the two to plead and rolled the case over to today for legal representation.

Njokweni is the first accused and said he looked forward to having his own legal representative, while Ndamande said he wanted to have

legal aid assistance.

Indications are that the two were found in possession of the deceased's cellphone and her credit card.

NPA regional spokesperson Frank Lesenyego said the state sought to oppose bail when the two made an application.

"We have a strong case and we are sure this is premeditated murder, a schedule six offence and we will oppose bail," he said.

Police spokesperson Capt Yvonne Macqofoza said investigations were still ongoing and hoped to have a strong case for trial.

"The pair's arrest in Johannesburg on Monday came after a thorough and intensive investigation by the team that managed to recover the deceased's cellphone," Macqofoza said.

Ngwenya, 56, who was a teacher at Letokoto Primary School outside Mahikeng, was reported missing on October 22.

The report of a missing person was made on Saturday after Ngwenya did not return home after she had gone to one of the local banks earlier that day.

Her car was found parked next to the Mahikeng long-distance taxi rank on Sunday.

After days of searching, Ngwenya's decomposed body was found by a shepherd last Wednesday near Bokone village in Mahikeng.

"The suspects were expected to appear in the Mmabatho Magistrate's Court yesterday facing charges of kidnapping and murder," Macqofoza said.

North West police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane applauded the team for working around the clock to track down and apprehend the two.

efact@theinewage.co.za

02/11/17 TMA Pg 1
Former official jailed

Hawks ^{POS}
ELFAS TORERAI

A FORMER official at the Department Justice and Constitutional Development was sentenced to five years in jail after she was convicted on 47 counts of theft worth R370 000.

Florence Mokati, 34, worked as a chief financial officer for the department at the Ottosdal Magistrate's Court.

Provincial Hawks spokesperson Tlangelani Rikhotso said: "The accused was arrested on July 26, 2016 after investigations revealed she was issuing cheques to herself and cashing them for her own use. On August 11, the accused was found guilty on all 47 counts of theft but was released on R1 000 bail. She has now been sentenced to five years direct imprisonment."

Provincial Hawks head Maj-Gen-Linda Mbana applauded the officers who investigated the case and attained the conviction.

Mbana said this should serve as a deterrent for others to refrain from fraudulent activities.

elfast@thenewage.co.za