

# Crime victims: use Namola app

**STAFF REPORTER**

ACCORDING to Statistics South Africa's Victims of Crime Survey, 1.2 million South African households experienced 1.5 million crime incidents in 2016/17.

Most of these victims of crime probably contacted the national police emergency line – 10111 – for help in their time of need. Some got the assistance they needed, some unfortunately didn't.

To bridge the communication gap and get help fast, Dialdirect Insurance has partnered with Namola to make South Africa's fastest-growing safety app available nationally. The SABC through its TV channel, SABC3, has come on board as Namola's official media partner.

Namola is a free crime-response app that allows users to share their GPS co-ordinates, name and nature of the emergency with a 24/7 response call centre.

For genuine alerts, police, other emergency response and citizen responders are then dispatched and monitored. Future plans includes highlighting crime hotspots and sharing proactive safety tips and information from community members.

Yusuf Abramjee, anti-crime activist and Namola chief ambassador, said: "Namola was initially launched as an 'Uber for police' in the City of Tshwane and later Gauteng. It was introduced to give victims of crime access to a new innovative way of contacting the police and now has over 80 000 registered users."

Namola improves efficiencies and alleviates pressures placed on 10111 centres by pre-screening alerts.

It also pinpoints the user's exact location, making it easy for emergency services to find them.

Warwick Scott-Rodger, executive head of Dialdirect Insurance, said: "Namola is a smart complement to 10111. Your call will always be answered and the information will be passed on to the nearest police station. Namola doesn't guarantee the police will be on time, but it improves your chances to get help greatly. As a broadcaster that prides itself with putting its citizens first, the call to fight crime and assist our communities with efficient crime reporting channels is one of our top priorities.

"We all have a huge role to play in fighting crime and, through SABC3, we hope the SABC will contribute a great deal to spreading maximum awareness about the solution the Namola app brings to South Africans and how they can benefit from it," says SABC acting group chief executive Nomsa Philiso.

During his maiden State of the Province address, Premier David Makhura alluded to the use of technology in the fight against crime.

In response to that call, MEC for Community Safety, Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane, said she was excited about the national rollout of Namola.

"We piloted the technology in some of the Gauteng Traffic Police high-performance vehicles and the technology has proved to be effective in improving turnaround time when responding to crime incidents and emergency alerts."

It is free. To turn your phone into a panic button, look for Namola in the Apple App Store or Google Play, or visit [www.Namola.com](http://www.Namola.com)

# 'Police Uber' app launched



From left: Pabi Molo, Yusuf Abramjee, Nomsa Philiso, Warwick Scott-Rodger and Stephen Podile.

Daily Sun Photo by Christopher Moagi

By CHRISTOPHER MOAGI

PLEASE HOLD... will soon be a thing of the past when calling emergency services and cops.

The Namola app is finally here and almost 80 000 people are registered users.

The app was launched at the SABC M1 Music Studios in Auckland Park, Joburg yesterday.

Crime activist and Namola chief ambassador Yusuf Abramjee said it will boost the police and EMS response time.

He said: "It's very simple. You download the app and in case of an emergency, all you have to do is press the emergency button.

"Within seconds the message goes to the national control centre of Namola.

"The controller will then get your alert and see exactly where you are."

Having your location on will help the app pick up your GPS co-ordinates.

Abramjee said it won't be easy for people to make hoax calls because people are registered as users.

According to Abramjee, Namola was initially launched as a pilot "Uber" style project for police in the City of Tshwane, before moving to Gauteng.

"The app was introduced to give victims of crime access to a new way of contacting the police," said Abramjee.

He said Namola aims to improve efficiency and alleviate pressures placed on the 10111 centres by pre-screening alerts.

Peter Matthaei from Namola said: "This is one of the biggest breakthroughs South Africa has had in the fight against crime for years. The way we call for emergency response has finally entered the 21st century."

Stephen Podile, director for Gauteng Community Safety, said they support the app and encourage South Africans to download it.

Podile said Gauteng MEC for Community Safety, Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane, was also sold on the idea.

"She has given an instruction to say we support the app," said Podile.

He said about 75 of the department's Vrr Phaas (VW Golf GTIs) have already been fitted with the Namola system to fast track their response time.

The app can be downloaded on the Apple Store and Google Play Store.



Pabi Molo, Peter Matthaei, Yusuf Abramjee, Nomsa Philiso, Stephen Podile and Warwick Scott-Rodger during the launch of Namola yesterday.

The CITIZEN, Pg 7, SABS

# Girl missing, 5 houses torched

Two more houses have been torched in Rustenburg, following the disappearance of a teenage girl, North West police said yesterday.

Rustenburg police spokesperson Captain Elsabe Augoustides said the houses were set alight on Wednesday night, bringing to five the number of houses torched since Tuesday night.

"We are appealing for calm, there are criminal cases being investigated that could lead to prosecution, arson is a serious charge," Augoustides said. "A man was arrested on Wednesday night for possession of a petrol bomb."

Irate residents of East End, in Rustenburg, took the law into their own hands on Tuesday night, burning down houses they alleged Nigerian nationals operate brothels from. Three houses were torched on Tuesday.

This was after Gomolemo Karabo Haraba, 14, went missing on her way home from school on November 3. She is a Grade 8 pupil at Rustenburg Technical High School.

"The police request anyone with information that may lead to successful tracing of Gomolemo to contact the investigating officer, Detective Sergeant Ernest Modise on 060-967-3932 or 073-189-9343," Augoustides said.

She said firefighters were threatened on Wednesday night when they were called to extinguish the fires.

"The community threatened to burn the fire engine if they extinguish the fire. They returned without fighting the fire."

Stephen Haraba, Gomolemo's uncle and family spokesperson, said on Tuesday that a man, when confronted by the community, made a few cellphone calls and told the community he was going to Rustenburg Noord to pick up Gomolemo.

"We waited for three hours, when he returned he had another girl, not Gomolemo," he said.



**WHERE?. Rustenburg teenager Gomolemo Karabo Haraba has been reported missing.**

"It is difficult to trace a person, an animal is kept outside and people can see it, a person is too difficult because you keep them inside a house. We are appealing for the safe return of our child."

He said Gomolemo was a quiet child who would never leave without telling where she was going. "The family is worried, we do not know whether she is safe, what is she eating ... It is difficult for the family."

The community suspected she was kidnapped. "These guys know where she is," said community member Floyd Makaota.

Makaota said the community would not rest until Gomolemo was found.

Another community member, Simphiwe Nkosi, said if it meant they had to go house to house searching for her, that would be done.

-ANA

# Missing girl sparks fury ekasi!

By MASEGO SENOSI

FEAR and violence gripped a town after a teenage girl went missing.

Anger boiled over after her disappearance and some foreigners were attacked.

Since Tuesday, five houses in Rustenburg East End, North West have been torched.

Gomolemo Haraba (14), a grade eight pupil at Rustenburg Technical High School, was last seen making her way home on Friday afternoon.

Gomolemo's uncle, Steven Haraba (54), said everything was fine

when Gomolemo went to school.

"But what went wrong on her way back is still a mystery. We called relatives to check if she had visited them but she was nowhere to be found."

"That is when we went to the police. We were told she was taken by Nigerians so we went to the house where she was said to be. We still didn't find her. Gomolemo is a very well-behaved child. It is unlikely she would leave for days without her parents' knowledge."

The family trusts cops will find her alive and is pleading with anyone who can assist with information to come forward.

Police spokeswoman Captain Elsabe Augoustides said residents accused the owners of the torched houses of being responsible for Gomolemo's disappearance.

She said: "The police are investigating cases of arson. We are pleading with community members to calm down. Burning houses is a criminal offence. If anyone has information regarding Gomolemo's disappearance, they can contact Sergeant Earnest Modisa on 060 967 3932 or 073 189 9343."



**Gomolemo Haraba is nowhere to be found. Photo by Rabula Manca**

# Former Prasa head and minister disagree openly

Siseko Njobeni

FORMER Passenger Rail Agency of SA (Prasa) chief executive Lucky Montana has disputed Public Enterprises Deputy Minister Ben Martins's version of events about a meeting with Tony Gupta at Martins's official residence in Pretoria.

Yesterday Martins sought to free himself from damning allegations about his association with the Gupta family.

But in his efforts to untangle himself, Martins may have opened himself to scrutiny, because Montana contradicted him yesterday.

Answering questions about his closeness to the Gupta family at a press conference yesterday, Martins gave details of his encounters with the Guptas.

In 2013, he had attended an Indian food fair held at the Guptas' Saxonwold compound. He said he had attended the food fair in his personal capacity.

The event, he said, had been open to the public.

Martins said he had also met one of the Gupta brothers, presumably Atul Gupta, because he said he was the "middle brother", soon after his appointment as Transport Minister.

He said the meeting had taken place before one of the breakfast functions the New Age newspaper organised.

## Influence changes

In the third instance, Tony Gupta and former Prasa chief executive Lucky Montana had come to his government house in Pretoria, because he had learnt that the Gupta family wanted to influence leadership changes at Prasa.

But Montana quickly disputed this.

In a statement yesterday, he said he did not know nor had met any of the Guptas until he was invited by Martins to his Tshwane residence.

"It is rather unfortunate that I am represented as having brought with me Rajesh Gupta, whom I have never met before. He came with Duduzane Zuma to the meeting, clearly at the invitation of my leader, comrade and friend, Ben Martins.

"I did not even know that these two

were coming to join us," said Montana. Martins had not mentioned Duduzane Zuma's presence at the meeting.

Martins had called the press conference to respond to allegations by suspended Eskom head of legal and compliance Suzanne Daniels, who alleged that Martins had been part of a meeting that was also attended by Ajay Gupta, Duduzane Zuma and Gupta associate Salim Essa.

According to Daniels, Ajay Gupta sought to manipulate the court dates of the case relating to former Eskom chief executive Brian Molefe's controversial pension payout.

## 'Perplexed'

Molefe's case is set to commence on November 29 in the North Gauteng High Court. Martins said Daniels's allegations "perplexed" him.

He denied that he had attended the meeting with Daniels, Gupta, Essa and Zuma.

"The truth is that I met Ms Daniels several times in her capacity as Eskom company secretary, together with the then chairperson of Eskom, Dr Ben Ngubane, Department of Public Enterprises director-general Richard Seleke and Minister Lynne Brown in Cape Town and Tshwane to discuss the Brian Molefe matter," said Martins.

He said he could not recall where he was on July 29, the day of the Melrose Arch meeting, according to Daniels.

He said he would check his diary.

He admitted to admonishing her for governance lapses that had taken place under her watch as company secretary and legal adviser at Eskom. "My collegial constructive criticism was never meant as a personal attack," he said.

Meanwhile, Daniels said yesterday that she stood by her statement.

"By virtue of being a lawyer, I am an officer of the court and to top it up, I also took an oath in Parliament ahead of proffering my evidence.

"I therefore would not have lied to Parliament and risk various applicable consequences.

"I stand by my testimony," she said.

Daily Sun Pg 5 HAWKS (SAPS)

# Hawks' claws out for Pauw

By TEBOGO MOKWENA

POLICE spokesman Lungile Dlamini said the State Security Agency has opened an investigation into Jacques Pauw's latest book.

During his book launch on Wednesday in Hyde Park, Joburg, Pauw said that he had received a second "cease and desist" letter regarding his book, *The President's Keepers*.

He said he had been given two days to withdraw the book or face legal action.

Pauw said at the book launch that he uncovered corrupt dealings within the State Security Agency but they could not be held accountable.

He said an initial investigation into the agency revealed more than R1 billion had been spent in two years on a project that didn't yield any outcomes.

Since the book was released on 29 October, Pauw has been targeted by SARS and the security agency.

Hawks spokesman Brigadier Hangwane Mulaudzi said an investigation has been launched following a docket sent to the Hawks based on information contained in Pauw's book.

The Hawks are investigating

the possible leakage of classified information as depicted by the National Strategic Intelligence Act," spokesman Brigadier Hangwane Mulaudzi told *News24*.

"Once we have discovered who is involved, people will be charged," he said.

He also denied claims that a warrant of arrest had been issued for Jacques Pauw.

The book launch was disrupted by a power outage while the author was speaking.

Viki Watson from Hyprop Investments said they are investigating the cause of the power outage.

City Power spokesman Sol Masolo confirmed that engineers from the power utility and Hyde Park Shopping Centre will be investigating what prevented the generator from working when the lights went out.

# Taung Vehicle Testing Station reopens for business

Rebaone Moeng

**F**or the past 23 years the people of Greater Taung Local Municipality have been struggling to get their vehicles tested for roadworthiness.

The Taung Vehicle Testing Station, closed since 1994, was recently renovated, refurbished and upgraded before MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Mokgantsang Mpho Motlhabane, officially reopened it.

During the last 23 years, motorists across Taung had to travel over 70 kilometres to Vryburg or 40 kilometres to neighbouring Hartswater in the Northern Cape province to access vehicle testing services.

Speaking at the official opening of the long awaited Taung Vehicle Testing Station, MEC Motlhabane said the department acknowledged that having no vehicle testing station had not only frustrated car 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, whenever a vehicle is tested outside the province, at Hartswater in this regard, which is in the Northern Cape, it becomes a loss of revenue to Bokone Bophirima and that is what we are trying to prevent. The province needs skills, infrastructure and personnel to operate this vehicle station, which we do have, by the way," said Motlhabane.

According to the recent systems report, there are about 430 unlicensed motor vehicles around Taung - 180 light-loading vehicles, five heavy-loading vehicles, 17 mini buses as well as 205 light passenger vehicles carrying less than 12 persons.

"These 430 unlicensed vehicles are on our roads daily and as a result, they increase the potential for accidents and road safety risks. We therefore humbly request owners of these vehicles to come to the station to test their vehicles," appealed Motlhabane, who again urged officials employed at the station to be vigilant and guard against individuals who would attempt to bribe them.

In his response after the opening of the station, Chief of Batlhapeng Ba-ga-Phuduhucwana, Kgosi Tshepo Mankuroane, expressed gratitude and appreciation for the revamped testing station.

"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 commit to taking good care of this 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.



MEC Mpho Motlhabane examining the machine to be used to test the roadworthiness of vehicles.

**BOKONE BOPHIRIMA PROVINCE**

**REBRANDING, REPOSITIONING AND RENEWAL**

**PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

SAAMWERK SAAMWERK SAAMWERK SAAMWERK SAAMWERK

TOEGEKOMME WER SAAMWERK BOPHIRIMA TOEGEKOMME

# State confident of success in Ngwenya murder case

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*SAPS*

**Nthusang Lefafa**



The late Mahikeng teacher Thutisile Ngwenya who was found murdered

**T**he National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) is confident that it will secure a conviction in the case relating to the kidnapping and murder of 56-year-old Mahikeng teacher, Thutisile Ngwenya.

Headboy Njokwet and Sifiso Ndawande – both 51 years old – appeared briefly before the Mmabatho Regional Court this week on four charges of murder, kidnapping, robbery and rape.

Their bail application hearing was postponed to 19 January 2018 by Magistrate Ditiro Goliath. They remain in custody until the date they are due to appear in court again. Police are currently waiting for their DNA results to complete investigations. Police also believe that there are three other possible suspects in the case though they are yet to be arrested.

Ngwenya was an educator at Lekoko Primary School outside Mahikeng and was reported missing on Sunday 22 October 2017. That was after she was last seen on Saturday 21 October 2017 while going to one of the banks in town. Her decomposed body was found by a shepherd on Wednesday 25 October near Bokone Village in Mahikeng.

Through dedicated efforts of a task team set up by the South African Police Services (SAPS) and crime intelligence, two suspects from Johannesburg were arrested in this case.

Regional spokesperson for the NPA, Frank Lesenyego, said they have a wa-

tertight case against the suspects.

"As the state we have a strong case because the two men are linked to the use of the deceased's credit card through video footage. We are going to oppose bail because this case is classified as a Schedule 6 crime, which means that the murder was pre-meditated. However, the onus is on the accused to prove that there are pressing circumstances which allow them to be released on bail," Lesenyego said.

The Mahikeng community is angered by the manner in which the crime was committed. Some sections of the society feel that the alleged killers have no regard for the rule of law.

"The actions of these two men have left us feeling unsafe in our community and we are heartbroken. These two men deserve to rot in jail because when this inhumane crime was carried out there was no consideration for the family of the deceased," said community member Matlakala Kgaube.

Provincial Commissioner of the police in Bokone Bophirima, Lieutenant General Balle Molwenyane, applauded the investigating team for working tirelessly to track down and arrest the suspects. She said the arrest would hopefully serve as a deterrent to potential criminals that crime does not pay. Molwenyane said the suspects committed a horrific crime, which must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

# MEC Motlhabane issues amended taxi operating licences

Obakeng Maje

**M**ore than 200 taxi owners across Bokone Bophirima welcomed the newly amended taxi operating licences that government has introduced.

The issuing of licences was stopped after some taxi owners duplicated the documents, an action that eventually led to taxi violence.

MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr. Mokganetsang Mpho Motlhabane, issued amended operating licences at Mmabana Taung recently, saying they would help bring peace, harmony and stability within the taxi industry.

"The taxi industry is the heartbeat of South African economy. The multi-billion rand minibus taxi industry carries over 60% of South African commuters, so we believe the new operating licences will create tranquility within the sector and end taxi violence.

"Each taxi driver will now know where, how and when to load or offload passengers. Our traffic officers will be on a high alert to ensure that no one disobeys the rules," he said.

Motlhabane said those who plan to commit corruption by duplicating amended operating licences will face the full might of the law.

Provincial chairperson of the North West Taxi Council, Thomas Matsemela, said taxi operators appreciate the job that government has done.

"Each taxi driver will know how his or her route goes and we urge them to abide to that," he said.

Matsemela however raised concern about lack of government subsidy for the taxi business.

"Our taxi owners live in survivalist mode because the industry is still underdeveloped. The taxi industry employs more



MEC Motlhabane with taxi owners and leaders of the taxi association after issuing newly amended taxi operating licences in Taung  
Photo by Obakeng Maje

than 600 000 people and transports 15 million people per day. This tells you that more than 60% of commuters across the country use minibus taxis as their mode of transport. A subsidy will come in handy and we urge our government to reconsider that and speed up the process," he said.

Taxi owner, Tebogo Sekori from Molelema village in Taung had this to say: "I must commend the government for finally reaching completion of amendment date. The taxi industry is one of the hazardous sectors and this will minimise taxi violence".

Another taxi owner, Johannes Galeng from Tlapeng, said the taxi industry is still faced with lots of challenges.

"We are paying huge amount of money every month to pay off our vehicle instalments. But we do not make substantial amount of money by ferrying commuters because other motorists transport hitchhikers illegally without permits.

"We urge the department to curb that madness. We want to see traffic officers being highly visible across the province," he said.

MEC Motlhabane said his department is also addressing hitchhiking matter.

"We want to warn motorists who pick up hitchhikers without permit that what they are doing is unlawful. Even though any person has the right to choose what transport mode to use, we urge them to do that lawfully.

"Hitchhiking is dangerous because many people were robbed by some motorists. We urge them to go to taxi ranks to avoid unforeseen injuries or deaths. I also want to applaud our traffic officers because we have experienced a decrease in hitchhiking. We are engaged in talks with the taxi council regarding subsidy," he said.