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Gomolemo found alive!

By MASEGO SENOSI

GOMOLEMO Haraba has been found - alive!

Daily Sun reported last Friday that the 14-year-old had gone missing on 3 November on her way back from school.

Her mysterious disappearance caused havoc in Rustenburg East, North West, where three houses allegedly belonging to Nigerians were set alight by angry community members.

Residents claimed that foreigners were using girls for prostitution and drug peddling.

But when Gomolemo was found, she was in the company of a 20-year-old South African.

A man has been arrested and was expected to appear in Rustenburg Magistrates Court soon.

Gomolemo's mother, Maria Haraba, told the People's Paper: "Gomolemo was taken for a medical examination after she was found."

Police confirmed that they are investigating three cases of arson in connection with the burned houses, but no one has been arrested.

The cluster commander of Rustenburg, Major-General Arthur Adams, has urged members of the community to refrain from taking the law into their own hands.

1571 people held in festive season crackdown

ELFAS TORERAI

NORTH West police arrested 1571 people for various offences in a five-day crackdown on crime in various parts of the province.

Dubbed Operation Back to Basics: Safer Festive Season 2017-18, the campaign started on Friday last week and ran until Tuesday.

The arrests were done as a sequel to the national operation launched in Limpopo last month.

Provincial police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said all the operations were intelligence-driven and meant to drive out crime and ensure a peaceful festive season.

"The operations resulted in the arrest of 342 suspects for contact crimes, 65 for property-related crimes while others were held for other offences at all policing clusters.

Of this number, 496 were arrested in Rustenburg, 369 in Brits, 165 in Mahikeng, 384 in Klerksdorp, while a total of 207 were nabbed in Zeerust, Vryburg and Pudi-moe clusters," he said. Mokgwabone said the police and

are on during the day draw the attention of thieves.

"Do not leave your garage, front or back doors open or partially open. Always check the identity of strangers who visit for business purposes for deliveries or repairs. If you know that you will be away for a long period, do not leave your house unattended, rather get another person to take care of it or report your absence to the police so that they can make turns at your place during patrols," he said.

For those travelling using vehicles, Mokgwabone said there was need to be safe too.

"Do not drink and drive, avoid speeding by leaving on time from your departure point, to avoid hijackings, know your destination and the directions and be alert if you get lost.

"Never leave keys in the ignition when alighting from the car to open a gate. Motorists are also warned to exercise caution, be alert and avoid at all costs to give lifts to hitch-hikers as some of these people victimise the same motorists who offer them lifts by robbing them and vice-versa," he said.

Those visiting other places this festive season are reminded to plan their routes beforehand.

"In the case of pedestrians, do not drink and walk on or along the road. If possible, avoid walking alone. Your best defence is having other people nearby.

If you walk alone, plan your route carefully and stay in well-lit areas as much as possible. It is advisable not to carry large sums of money around, rather use conventional ways of saving money and doing transactions," he said.

People are also urged to avoid carrying huge sums of money and that they should be vigilant when transacting at ATMs to avoid losing their cards or pin numbers.

"At ATMs, always cover your pin number by shielding the hand that is typing. Never accept help or ask anyone to help you at the ATM, avoid isolated ATMs, using an ATM late at night and at no point should one ever entrust his or her card to a stranger," he said.

Mokgwabone said those arrested would appear in various courts across the province soon.

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SAFE SEASON: Police are increasing efforts this holiday.

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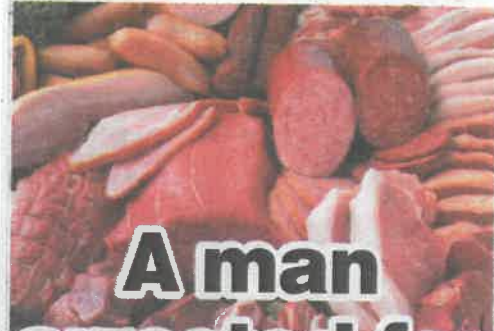
Bradford Park CPF launched

The new Bradford Taxi rank CPF structure.



MAHIKENG MAIL-MAHIKENG: The Crime Prevention Forum (CPF) of Mahikeng launched a newly structured CPF patrollers organization within the Bradford Park Taxi Rank on Monday aimed at increasing crime prevention efforts towards the December festive season.

The structure will oversee crime prevention in Ngaka Modire Molema taxi rank, close all hitch hiking spots and stop drug trafficking at the rank. The Chairperson of the structure, Nthutang Kgarane said, "We appeal to the community to work with us during the festive season especially avoiding to hitch-hike as it is dangerous and illegal. Commuters who are short of money are welcomed to come to us so that we assist them with transport that is safe and registered with relevant associations in the rank. We also warn those who are doing illegal boarding of commuters to stop from their acts because they put many lives in danger".



A man arrested for smuggling meat

MAHIKENG MAIL-MAHIKENG: Ramatlabama Border Police arrested a Botswana foreign national male aged 20 years found in possession of suspected stolen beef meat and game meat estimated at an amount of R52 079.28.

The suspect was unable to give satisfactory accountability on the possession of meat and was arrested after the special operation unit conducted an investigation. The suspect appeared in Mmabatho Magistrate's court on Monday.

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Viabile transport sector critical

MEC says lack of transport networks, rampant crime crippling economy and scaring away investors to province



"We must leverage the critical role of transport in advancing economic growth and reducing historic inequalities, by providing maximum opportunities and ensuring that we provide an effective and efficient transportation that will result in heightening multiplier effects. This way, there will be better accessibility to markets, workplaces will be brought closer and additional investments will be realised," Motlhabane said.

Representatives from the Seta, Cadet programmes, consultants, academics and departmental officials also supported the MEC's call.

Stakeholders such as taxi associations, organised labour; bus companies, transport operators, women in transport networks also had an opportunity to raise issues inhibiting accelerated economic growth and sustenance. More than 250 pupils from villages, townships and small dorpiets in all four districts of the province were present to listen to presentations from university, TVET colleges, Seta and the aviation authority on possible career opportunities.

Bursary and other funding opportunities for pupils seeking to join the transport and safety sector were also laid out.

Those in attendance inspected stores, animal carts, commuter and scholar buses, bicycles and light aircraft. elfast@thenewage.co.za

ELFAS TORERAI

LAW enforcement agencies in the North West have been called to work together in expanding transport networks and ensuring a crime, greed and corruption free environment that lures investors.

Community safety and transport management MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane said this when he addressed the Transport and Safety Lekgotla at the Mahikeng Aviation Academy.

He called on communities, businesses, transport operators, SMMEs and parliamentary oversight committees to complement law enforcement agencies in pushing for this agenda.

Motlhabane said a lack of transport networks and rampant crime were crippling the economy and scaring away potential investors not only from the province but the country at large.

"Crime has the potential to derail and stagnate prosperity of the South Africa's economic. The harm caused by crime has a significant impact on society which results into drawbacks for the economy.

"The amount of money lost due to crime presents a great economic loss to our economy, which otherwise could have been used in other needed projects," he said.

Motlhabane said it was of paramount importance for his department to work in an integrated and collaborative man-

CRIME FREE: Community safety MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane at the Transport and Safety Lekgotla. PICTURE: JONATHAN

ner with all stakeholders to ensure building a solid foundation for business growth.

"The solid foundation is the drastic reduction of crime, dealing decisively with corruption, fraud and greed which are destroying our economy and scar-

ing away investors. We must all work on the implementation of the National Development Plan, Vision 2030 which advocates for zero tolerance to crime, fraud, greed and corruption.

"We need to create a conducive, attractive, safe and secured environ-

ment for investment to thrive and contribute positively to the economy and social cohesion," he said.

The Lekgotla was convened to highlight the importance of transport in creating job opportunities and economic growth.



MEC Motlhabane and MAMCO CEO, Tshepiso Letselela addressing a media briefing on the sidelines of the transport Lekgotla at the Mahikeng Airport.

MAHIKENG MAIL – MAHIKENG: North West MEC for community safety and transport management, Dr Mpho Motlhabane has expressed delight and hope that last week's Transport Investment and Safety Lekgotla would improve relations between government and stakeholders towards shaping the transport industry as well as creating economic spinoffs.

Speaking at the opening dinner of the three-day Lekgotla in Dihatswana Village outside Mahikeng on Wednesday evening, Dr Motlhabane said through the Transport Lekgotla, the Department would highlight the role and success of all those involved in creating safe modes of transport as well as their contributions towards socio economic development innovations.

"Transportation is a non separable part of any society. It exhibits a very close relation to the style of life, the range and location of activities, goods and services which will be available for consumption. Transportation has made possible changes in the way of living and the way in which societies are organized and therefore have a great influence in the development of civilization," the MEC said.

"Our people", he added cannot only be subjected to taxis as a business venture; therefore, we must broaden their economic emancipation in the bus industry, in the rail sector as well as in the aviation economy.

"We are on a journey and mission to contribute towards improving service delivery and fast-tracking the radical transformation agenda; which must mean implementation of far-reaching measures to overhaul the structure of the economy in order to produce effective social and economic development, eradicate poverty and eliminate the stark inequalities.

"Through this Transport Lekgotla, the Department together with its stakeholders will be putting together a programme based on sound and solid partnership and reciprocated working relationships to shape the transport sector to catalyse the economic growth and development in the North West Province following VTSD approach. In similar vein, Chapter 11 of the National Development Programme talks to the protection of social lives where we live in a country where everybody feels free, yet bounded.

He said the vision of the current Administration was to foster a better working relationship with private sector and other role players in changing the lives of the people through the implementation of the five concretes which include, Agriculture, Culture and Tourism (ACT); Village, Township and Small Dorpies (VTSD); Reconciliation, Healing and Renewal (RHR); Setsokotsane, and Saamtrek-Saamwerk.

"As we work towards implementing the above concretes, it is important to acknowledge the role played by the transport sector as a catalyst to socio-economic growth and development. That is, transport is the heartbeat of the economy and should be embraced and planned to ensure that economic growth and development mechanism are well achieved without a hassle", said MEC Motlhabane.

The mid-term budget review



MAHIKENG MAIL-MAHIKENG: The Finance Economy Enterprise Development (FEED) MEC Wendy Nelson gave a report last Thursday at the Provincial Legislature on the mid-term budget. She emphasised the importance of the Budget Cycle that provides an opportunity to reflect on both financial and non-financial performance by the government.

Within all the 13 Departments some received an increase and others a reduction in the medium term. The Office of the Premier was increased by R131.665 million to implement programmes and projects that aims to address unemployment and poverty alleviation in the Province. Department of Health with R110 million for the Health Facility Revitalization Grant for completion of crucial projects that were constrained by budget pressures.

Department of Education and Sports Development received a rollover of R35.466 million for Learner Teacher Support Material, and R2.673 million for conditional grants. The overall net reduction of the Education department amounts to R7.268 million from the budget of R15.282 billion to R15.274 billion. The Department of Social Development reduced to R7.214 million on COE, machinery and equipment and bursaries and furthermore an amount of R1.5 million has been reduced from uncommitted capital projects towards key provincial priorities.

The MEC further said "We are now proud to declare that this year on 29 and 30 November, we will host the VTSD Economic Forum. Its focus is to attract local, national and international investors by exposing them to investment and trade opportunities available in the province with special emphasis on ACT, VTSD and related industries".

Mabe pleads for international licence for Mahikeng

MAHIKENG MAIL - MAHIKENG: While they have welcomed the assistance of both the national and provincial governments who through their departments of transport have worked tirelessly in efforts to help Mahikeng Airport reclaim her international status, managers of the airport have expressed concern at what they have called a "snail pace" approach by authorities in finalising the issues.

Chairperson of Roucom Systems, Ralph Mabe whose company has been appointed to oversee the general development of the airport, told guests at the opening in the three-day transport investment and safety Lekgotla last week that they were pleased with the interest and efforts shown by national transport minister, Joe Mashwanganyi in finalising the processes of getting Mahikeng Airport's international licence back from Pilanesberg. The licence originally belonging to Mahikeng, was "lent" to Pilanesberg during the 2010 Soccer World Cup. "We are happy with the continued support by the minister who recently expressed surprise that Mahikeng had not been granted the international licence considering the state of the art infrastructure and developments at the airport.

He said Mahikeng should long have been operating as an international airport and assured us of his continued support in finalising the issue", said Mabe. Mabe decried the lack of activities at Pilanesberg which he said had become a "ghost" facility. "There is nothing happening there. Everything has gone quiet. There are no lights or maintenance and no other services. "We are concerned that investors will soon lose hope about our capabilities. We must not let them get disappointed. So we are calling on all authorities to do their best and let us have the licence as a matter of urgency", Mabe said.

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Transport important for economic development, says Motlhabane

MAHIKENG MAIL - MAHIKENG: "Transport was an important catalyst for social and economic development and plays a crucial role in the economy and job creation", community safety and transport management MEC, Mpho Motlhabane said.

In his address to dozens of guests who attended the three-day transport investment and safety Lekgotla at the Mahikeng Airport last Thursday, MEC Motlhabane said based on this role, the department must leverage the critical part of transport in advancing economic growth and reducing historic inequalities.

"Despite progress recorded so far in 23 years of democracy, we still face challenges of race, gender and slow economic growth which results in many excluded from the economy.

"It will take some-time to eradicate these inequalities and divisions, however we must continue to mobilize society in its entirety, to work together to build a caring society proud of its heritage, based on shared values and vision informed by the principles of Constitutional democracy, Ubuntu, Redress and transformation, non-racialism, non-tribalism and non-sexism", he said.

According to Dr Motlhabane, the National and Provincial Governments had identified poverty eradication, rural development, skills development, social cohesion, good governance and nation building as critical goals towards a truly non-racial, non-sexist and economically vibrant South Africa.

"However, we find ourselves in difficult positions where the country's economy is not doing so well both domestically and internationally. We continue to see an increase in products that are influenced by external forces such as the price of oil and markets.

"Government and its social partners have had to devise interventions to minimize the impact of this crisis. These interventions include continued public investments and employment creation. Failure to address this economic crisis will precipitate a series of social crises."

However, he said, the transport industry played a pivotal role in boosting South Africa's economic and social development. It provides the physical infrastructure and backbone for economic activity and is also a large-scale provider of employment.

He said it also accounted for percentages of the global economy and provides much-needed employment and dignity to millions of people around the world. That is why it cannot be right that over half of our society is excluded from this sector of our economy.

He said the importance of this Transport and Safety Lekgotla cannot be overemphasized. "It is in this gathering where we must make the right choices and decisions that must contribute to economic growth, job creations and development. It must signal our renewed collective commitment to respond to the development challenges facing our Province and the country at large.

"For as long as the majority of our people continue to bear the brunt of poverty, unemployment and inequalities, platforms such as this Lekgotla are always welcomed since they provide us, as government, business, labour and community-based organizations, a window of opportunity to bring our

heads together with a view of finding innovative ways to tackle these ills that are thorns in the flesh of our people.

I believe this is the spirit that all of us, as partners in this Lekgotla, must exhibit as we respond to the theme; "Transport the Heartbeat of Economic Transformation of the Villages, Townships and Small Dorpies in Bokone Bophirima," by placing more emphasis on job creation and contribution to the economic growth of Bokone Bophirima.



Dr Mpho Motlhabane addressing guests during the Lekgotla.

Expand Transport Networks to fight Crime - Motlhabane

MAHIKENG MAIL - MAHIKENG: Community Safety and Transport MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane has called on communities, businesses, transport operators, SMME's, oversight committees and all law enforcement agencies in the province to work together towards the expansion of transport networks and creating a crime, greed and corruption free environment.

Dr Motlhabane was addressing guests at the Mahikeng Airport where his department was hosting the transport investment and safety Lekgotla last week.

According to Motlhabane, lack of transport networks and rampant crime are crippling the economy and scaring away potential investors from the Province and the country at large.

"Crime has the potential to derail and stagnate prosperity of South Africa's economy. The harm caused by crime has a significant impact on society which results into drawbacks for the economy. The amount of money lost due to crime presents a great economic loss to our economy, which otherwise could have been used in other needed projects," said Motlhabane who reiterated the importance of working in an integrated and collaborative manner with all stakeholders with a sole intention to ensure building a solid foundation in order to lure possible investors to invest in the province as well as boost the economy of Bokone Bophirima Province.

There were robust engagements

with presentation by various speakers from the SETA, CADET programs, consultants, academics and departmental officials. Stakeholders like taxi associations, organised labour, bus companies, transport operators, women in transport networks; all had an opportunity to raise issues inhibiting accelerated economic growth and sustenance.

The Lekgotla also successfully concluded with a business career exhibition where 250 learners from villages, townships and small dorpias drawn from all four districts of Bokone Bophirima were bused in to receive representations from University, TVET colleges, SETA, Aviation Authority. These stakeholders presented a handful of opportunities and careers as well as about bursaries and funding within the sector. Stalls inspections, viewing of animal carts, commuter and scholar busses, bicycles and light aircrafts were displayed. Lokaleng villagers were excited to have benefited and taken part of the event hosted at the Mafikeng Aviation Academy located in Lokaleng Village.

Motlhabane
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