

# Two nabbed for kidnapping

OBAKENG MAJE

TWO men have been arrested for kidnapping and hijacking a motorist in Kuruman on Monday.

One other man is still on the run. The three men hitch-hiked a lift from a 38-year-old motorist before turning on him on Monday morning.

The victim, Tshepiso Monyadiwa from Kuruman, said he was grateful that he is still alive.

Monyadiwa said he was driving his red Hyundai 120i late on Sunday on his way to Kathu when he picked up the three suspects.

"They were hitch-hiking and pretended to be going to Kathu. Along the way, one of them drew a firearm. They ordered me to drive off the road before they tied me up and pushed me in the boot of my car.

"They drove with me to Taung and we arrived about 4am on Monday. They robbed me of my belongings including my cellphone, before releasing me.

"They dropped me at Taung circle and ordered me to walk away. I ran to the nearest garage and was assisted by good Samaritans," he said.

The car was later found at the same garage where Monyadiwa ran to for help.

North West police spokesperson Lt-Col Adele Myburgh said: "The police arrested a 35-year-old man on Monday and he was taken to Kuruman Magistrate's Court on Wednesday. Another suspect was arrested on Wednesday morning in Taung. A 38-year-old man was found to be in possession of a firearm and appeared in the Hartswater Magistrate's Court yesterday.

"The second suspect is linked to another two cases. He is linked to an armed robbery and bank robbery that took place in Taung. He might be also linked to other criminal cases," she said.

The ANC Youth League in Dr Ruth Mompati region applauded the police for their swift action.

ANCYL regional secretary, Crespo Menyatsi said: "We want to commend the police for leaving no stone unturned. Crime is affecting the livelihoods of our people in Taung.

"We urge our people to be cautious especially now we are heading towards the festive season.

"There are so many criminal activities taking place in Taung. However, we need to work together to curb this pandemic. We urge our people to report criminals because they live in our communities.

"We cannot let them commit criminal activities and not be challenged. There are community policing forums in our areas and we need to utilise these."

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# Mobile stations to fight crime

## The station has a reception, waiting areas and holding cells that can accommodate five people at a time

ELFAS TORERAI

THE North West police have acquired two mobile police stations to help reduce crime in communities.

Mounted on trucks, the mobile stations cost R1.1m each.

One of the facilities was handed over after the release of the provincial crime statistics for the 2016-17 financial year in Mahikeng yesterday.

The station has reception and waiting areas and holding cells that can accommodate five people at a time.

It has a generator that helps to regulate the inside temperature.

Community safety and transport management MEC Dr Mokgantsang Motlhabane and North West police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane both expressed worry at the level of crime in the province but promised to work hard to reduce it.

Motlhabane said the mobile stations would help reduce crime in targeted communities.

"We are trying our best to combat crime and these mobile police stations are a new introduction to avail police in ways not done before," he said. The facilities would also be deployed



**CRIME PREVENTION:** Mobile Police Stations to be used in North West rural areas. PICTURE: MPA/BOBWAHE

to volatile areas as and when need arises.

The province recorded a 0.7% increase in contact crime that encompasses murder, sexual offences, attempted murder, assault with the intent to cause grievous bodily harm (GBH), common assault, common robbery and robbery with

aggravating circumstances. There were also increased incidents of arson and malicious damage to property owing much to the huge number of protests in the province.

The North West recorded 324 incidents of community protests and unrest. In such incidents, people burn property and non-residential premises, theft of

erty and damage other valuable items. However, there are incidents where police blamed owners of properties for burning their own building for insurance claim purposes, taking advantage of unrest.

Incidents of burglary at residential and non-residential premises, theft of

motor vehicle and motor cycle, theft out of or from motor vehicles and stock theft also took a sharp increase in the year under review.

"We are working with community policing forums and other stakeholders because crime affects the economy, people lose property, others lose their loved ones.

"Let's use these figures to reduce the number of victims of crime, particularly violent crime in our province," Motlhabane said.

He also warned that with drugs contributing to crime, there was need for residents to be vigilant.

"We hear that Flakka, the zombie drug is coming at a time we are still struggling with nyaope. For us to defeat this and many other challenges, we need to work together with police," he said.

Motswenyane said alcohol abuse had to be stopped as it was driving crime in the province.

She was happy that 735 firearms had been recovered from the hands of criminals in the year under review and that there were no bank robberies recorded.

Motswenyane further said police will continue to do their best in fighting gangsters in area where the problem is rife.

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