

Money behind kidnappings

Top cop says abductions propelled by the need for the monetary gain

ELFAS TORERA

KIDNAPPING incidents in the North West province seem to be fuelled by people looking to score a quick buck through ransom money.

Police commissioner, Lt-Gen Baile Motsweyane said in cases of kidnapping people were propelled by the desire for monetary gain.

She said that kidnapping had not been a major problem in the province though cases recorded in 2017 painted a worrying picture.

Statistics released by Police Minister Fikile Mkhahla over a month ago show that North West did not have recorded cases of kidnapping or abductions.

Asked whether there was an under-reporting of such cases, Motsweyane said that the provincial statistics for the 2016-17 did not have a single case reported.

"What we have seen are three cases and curious enough, they have been reported in the Mahikeng area this year.

There is the one of Thuliswe Ngwenya that everyone is aware of, we had one involving an Indian family in August and another one involving a minor," she said.

Motsweyane added that such cases are likely to be reflected in crime statistics for the coming year.

"In the three cases alluded to, it looks like kidnappers were after money. In the case of the Indian family and the minor, we managed to rescue the victims and arrest the perpetrators. However, it was a different case in the Ngwenya case, who was unfortunately killed," she said.

Motsweyane revealed that in the case of the Indian family, the kidnappers demanded R3m.

"Police managed to arrest them and free the victim. The same was done in the case

of a minor where the kidnapper was known to the family and was demanding a few thousand rand. It paints a picture that it (kidnapping) is done for monetary gain," she said.

Two men were also arrested for the kidnapping and murder of Thuliswe Ngwenya. They face two additional charges of rape and aggravated robbery.

Motsweyane said that the fact that one of the accused comes from KwaZulu Natal and the other from Eastern Cape was an issue the police took interest in.

Headboy Njokweni, 51, and Sifiso Ndawande, also 51, will appear in the Mmabatho Magistrates' Court on January 19 next year after they forfeited bail early this month.

The pair were arrested in Johannesburg on October 30 after a thorough and intensive investigation by the police team that managed to recover the deceased's cellphone.

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

The report of a missing person was made on October 21 when 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 the Sunday she was reported missing.

After days of searching, Ngwenya's decomposed body was found by a shepherd on Wednesday, October 25 near Bokame village, Mahikeng.

Police spokesperson in Mahikeng, Captain Yvonne Maphorza said that investigations into the case are ongoing.

It was revealed in court that about three other people are expected to be arrested as well.

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The 2016/17 crime stats released

MAHIKENGMAIL-MAHIKENG: The annual Provincial Crime Statistics for 2016/2017 were reviewed last Thursday by the MEC of Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Mpho Motlhabane together with North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motsweyane, reports Teboho Letsela.

The statistics compiled from April 5, 2016 to March 31, 2017 dealt with 21 serious crimes. The criminal activities were categorized into four including contact crime, contact related crime, property related crime and other serious crimes.

The statistics indicated that contact crime had increased by 0.7 percent; contact related crime decreased by 0.2 percent; property-related crime increased by 6.5 percent and other serious crimes decreased with 6.0 percent in the 2016/17 financial year. The figures showed how 17 community reported crimes increased

introducing mobile stations and Crime Prevention Patrols (CPP) to assist police to be on time at crime scenes and reports done by the communities. He also reprimanded communities who take the law into their hands, arguing that they set a trend of living lawlessly and called of the Government Programme of action.

"We believe that the police will use the outcome three plan properly to ensure that we reduce crime, particularly the 17 community reported crimes, as set out in the annual operational plan".

The MEC further emphasised measures to combat crimes in the North West by buying more vehicles for stations,

Rapist jailed

ELFAS TORERA

THE Ileseng Regional Court has sentenced Kagiso Gladwin Thamaga to 25 years in prison after he was convicted of rape.

Thamaga was also found guilty on a robbery charge. North West police spokesperson, Lt-Col Amanda Funani said that Thamaga and two accomplices who are at large, raped three women at a church three years ago.

"They raped the victims and ran away. Following an extensive investigation, Thamaga was arrested in October 2015 after he was linked to the case through a DNA test," Funani said.

She said the police were closing in on the two accomplices.

North West police commissioner, Lt-Gen Baile Motsweyane welcomed the sentence and thanked the investigation team for working hard to secure a conviction.

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Department of Community Safety and Transport Management MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane, North West Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Baile Motsweyane and Department HOD Botlhale Mofokeng, reports Teboho Letsela.

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Dodgy doctor detained

ELFAS TORERAI

A 62-YEAR-OLD doctor was arrested at Wildebeest Farm, near Rustenburg yesterday for allegedly selling medical certificates.

She was arrested after the Hawks received complaints that she charges R300 for medical certificates yet she does not examine the patients.

Hawks head Maj-Gen Linda Mbana said rogue doctors are mushrooming in the province at an alarming rate, but that they will be adequately dealt with.

"The suspect is alleged to issue medical certificates without prior examination of patients at a consultation fee of R300.

"She will make her first

appearance at the Tlhabane Magistrate's Court today on fraud charges and practising in contravention of the Allied Health Professionals Council of South Africa Act," Mbana said.

She said with fraud related to medical practice rife, the Hawks will work tirelessly to bring wrongdoers to book.

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23/11/17 TNA Pg 1 National/SAPS Pos

Zuma appoints top cop

NTOMBI NKOSI

SOUTH African President Jacob Zuma has appointed the divisional commissioner for protection and security services, Gen Khehla John Sitole, as the national police commissioner with immediate effect.

President Zuma congratulated Gen Sitole on his appointment and wished him well in his responsibility of leading the fight against crime in the country.

The post had been a hard one to fill after former national police commissioner Riah Phiyega was suspended on full pay in 2015.

In June the contract of acting national commissioner Lt-Gen Khomotso Phahlane lapsed, that's when Zuma appointed Lt-Gen Lesetja Mothiba to act.

Born in Standerton in Mpumalanga province, the presidency said Gen Sitole



Khehla John Sitole

brings a wealth of operational as well as management experience to the SAPS.

"His extensive experience in the police service will assist him to execute this critical task of making South Africans and everyone in the country safer and to feel safer.

"We wish Gen Sitole all of the best as he assumes his new position at the helm of a very important institution in government and the country," Zuma said.

He said Sitole had grown through the ranks of the police having joined the service as a constable until his promotion as a Lt-Gen in 2011.

Zuma has extended his gratitude and appreciation to Lt-Gen Lesetja Mothiba who has been acting as the national commissioner for almost five months.

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Transport Department budgets R2.5 billion for commuter subsidy

MAHIKENG MAIL - MAHIKENG: The community safety and transport management department has budgeted about R2.5 billion for commuter subsidy in the 2017/18 fiscal year.

This was the view of departmental head, Bothale Mofokeng when she addressed guests at the recent three-day Transport Safety and Investment Lekgotla in Mahikeng where she reported that "the department has contracted four bus companies in the province for commuter transport totalling at R550 million. Within the last five years, the department has paid about R2 billion to bus companies for commuter subsidy."

Contracts in the department are currently coming to an end where the department intends to integrate the services with other modes of transport. The department requires commitment from operators to incorporate small and women operators in their bids for at least a percentage. She further emphasized that companies should also make a commitment to use the youth and women cooperatives to

The newly launched Mobile Police Station P3 OCS & TM

NTI turnaround strategic plan

MAHIKENG MAIL - MAHIKENG: State owned company, North West Transport Investment (NTI) operating under CSTM has over 630 buses with a turnover of about R909 million. Head of the department, Bothale Mofokeng announced during the recent Transport Investment and Safety Lekgotla here that the annual expenditure on supply of components, consumable and including fuel was about R210 million.

"The department would through its shareholder representative engage NTI to support the Premier's call for VTSD economies by sourcing from some of local companies and cooperatives. Motivation will also be made to the Board and shareholders to sub-contract some of the routes to Bokone Bophirima based small operators and women groups". Mofokeng said the overview sight of the department was to at least spend 30 percent on North West based entities and at least a percentage of routes to be contracted to provincial entities.

"The department requires partnership and support from stakeholders. Proposal and initiatives are needed to activate the economic opportunities identified, investments on transport related projects in the province", the HOD said.

Letselela unveils exciting plans for Mahikeng airport development

MAHIKENG MAIL - MAHIKENG: CEO of MAMCO Mahikeng Airport Management Company, Tshhepo Letselela has announced a host of exciting developmental plans earmarked for the Mahikeng Airport here last week.

Addressing the three-day transport proposed development of the planned hub investment and safety Lekgotla at the Mahikeng based airport last week, Letselela said these plans were well on their way to implementation. He said it was for these reasons that both Roucom Systems (an investor) and MAMCO appointed to oversee the resuscitation of the airport were so eager to ensure that among others, the International licence of the airport was returned to Mahikeng after being "lent" to Pilsanesburg airport in 2010 to ensure that the local airport reclaimed its international status. On top of the exciting list are proposals to have a rail tract constructed to the airport as part of the contribute to a full value chain.

