

Family horror in Ikageng

FATHER IS BELIEVED TO HAVE KILLED WIFE, KIDS AND THEN TOOK HIS LIFE

ELFAS TORERA

FOUR family members died in an incident in which a father killed his wife and children and then took his life.

The family violence incident has left the community of Ikageng's Extension II in Potchefstroom in shock. It also comes at the time when the country is involved in a campaign to stop violence against women and children. The 16 Days of no violence against women and children started at the end of last week.

Police said that a 46-year-old man could have killed his wife and two sons before hanging himself on Monday evening.

A neighbour to the deceased family said that the incident has traumatised residents in the area.

Elisa Sejeso said that before the tragic incident, the deceased husband and wife used to quarrel and fight a lot. "The couple used to fight a lot especially when the husband was drunk. On days he was sober, they would lead a normal life," she said.

Sejeso said that the husband accused his 30-year-old wife of having an extra-marital affair.

The neighbour said that the man was not employed and spent most of his time at home.

"The wife was employed at Chubb Chicks. The husband started staying here in 2007 but the wife came about four years ago," Sejeso said.

On Monday night, Sejeso and other neighbours were alerted to the gruesome deaths by the deceased couple's step-daughter.

The girl said that she normally heard her mother scream and cry when she fought with the father but on this occasion, the mother only screamed twice. The same cries were heard from her two half-brothers.

At the time of the incident, a tenant who stays in the same yard was said to be at work.

The 13-year-old girl was taken to a place of safety yesterday.

North West police's Lt Col Amanda Funani confirmed the incident.

"Police are investigating three counts of murder and an incest docket. The motive for the killing is unknown at this stage," she said.

Funani said that the step-daughter discovered her father's body hanging from one of the roof rafters and she went to call the neighbours who alerted the police.

"They later discovered three more bodies inside the house, those of the 30-year-old wife and the two sons aged two and nine," she said.

Provincial police commissioner, Lt-Gen Balle Motswenyane, condemned the incident saying that it was an affront on the 16 Days of Activism for no violence against women and child.

North West social development spokesperson Petrus Silko said: "We will offer support to the deceased's family and where need arises the scope of help can be extended."

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Balle Motswenyane

29/11/17 TNA 98 NIOSAS POS
More than 300 people nabbed in crackdown

ELFAS TORERA

MORE than 300 people were arrested in a police crackdown in communities across the North West at the weekend. The safer festive season operation netted 335 people for a range of crimes.

The blitz was part of Operation Back to Basics with a focus on maintaining law and order during the festive season.

Provincial police spokesperson Lt-Col Amanda Funani said all those arrested had started appearing in various courts across the province.

"The arrests that were effected before commencement of the 16 Days of Activism for no violence against women and children, in line with one of the pillars of the safer festive season operation, included 130 suspects held for assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm

and common assault," Funani said. "The other arrests include 16 for rape, 30 for malicious damage to property, seven for contravention of protection orders, and 25 for theft. Out of the 335 arrests, 51 were for crimes against women and children," she said.

Funani said the operation covered all seven policing clusters in the province. North West police commissioner Lt-Gen Balle Motswenyane commended detectives for the arrests.

She said they would definitely send a clear message to perpetrators, particularly those who committed crimes against women and children, that they had no place to hide and that the long arm of the law would ensure that they were brought to book, especially during this festive season.

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Operation Back to Basics has yielded scores of arrests.