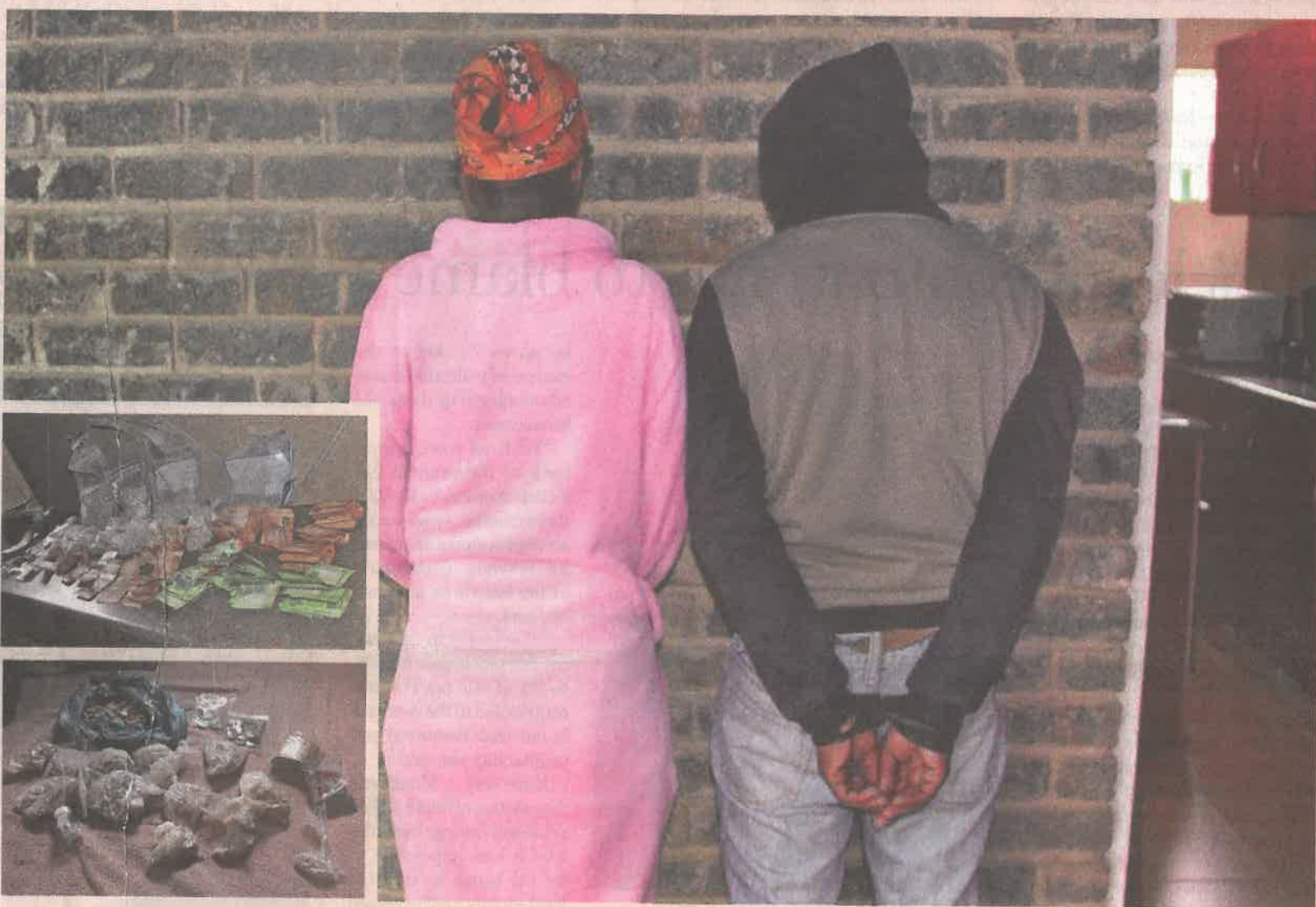


Couple found in possession of drugs



ARRESTED: Two suspects, a woman, 19, and a man, 29, were held through an intelligence-driven operation by the Hawks. **PICTURES:** THYS MOKGWAETSE. **INSET 1:** Drugs found at the suspects' flat. **INSET 2:** Drugs and cash recovered.

THYS MOKGWAETSE

A **KLERKSDORP** couple were arrested in an early morning drug raid yesterday.

The man and woman, aged 29 and 19 were bust after an intelligence-driven operation led by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI), the Hawks said.

The pair were found at their rental

flat in Freemansville in Klerksdorp at 6am.

They were found in possession of drugs such as Mandrax, cat and rock valued at R104 450.

The couple are due to appear in the Klerksdorp Magistrate's Court for possession of drugs today.

Hawks officials had to use force to open the door of the couple's house after they had knocked without

any response coming.

Allegations are that the two were throwing some of the drugs out of the window and also flushing others. Some of the drugs were found outside and at a neighbouring house. An undisclosed amount of cash that was in the couple's car was also seized.

Allegations are that the couple were selling those drugs mostly to school children.

A light blue Toyota Corolla which was said to be used in the drug dealings was impounded. The bust came shortly after Hawks officials were awarded for their work in rooting out the drug scourge in the Klerksdorp area.

During the awards ceremony Hawks head Maj-Gen Linda Mbana encouraged the awards recipients to continue working hard in fighting drugs.

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Teen killed in violent protest

ELFAS TORERAI

NORTH West police commissioner, Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane has condemned incidents of violence that left one person dead in Lichtenburg yesterday.

A 15-year-old boy was fatally shot after a motorist opened fire on protesting residents near Sukran along the Boikhutso-Lichtenburg road. Two other people were injured.

The police said the motorist who opened fire was not yet arrested but was known to the police and would be apprehended soon.

"We would like to urge members of the community to remain calm and allow the police to conduct an investigation of both incidents. We also want to make it clear that no violence will be tolerated and the police will not hesitate to act against any person who disrespects the rule of law," Motswenyane said.

Earlier, Blydeville community members torched a truck and blockaded the R503 road in the same town. Residents allegedly looted the truck before setting it alight. They barricaded the road with burning tyres and other objects, leading to traffic having to be diverted.

Provincial police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said: "Due to temporary road closures, motorists utilising the N14 from Ventersdorp are advised to use the N14 towards Vryburg. Those who are travelling to Mahikeng and Lichtenburg, while on N14 will get the R504 that will take them to both Lichtenburg and Mahikeng.

"Motorists travelling from Lichtenburg and Mahikeng are urged to use R52 Koster to reach Rustenburg and Johannesburg.

"Those who are going to Ventersdorp, Klerksdorp and Potchefstroom, while on R52, they will get onto the R53 which will take them to their destinations."

Mokgwabone said the police were maintaining a presence in the area.

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