

Students demand better breakfast

By **KGALALELO TLHOAELE**

LEARNING and teaching came to a halt at three high schools in Letlhabile near Brits in North West on Monday. Members of Cosas disrupted the first day of the fourth term.

They marched to the North West Department of Basic Education's offices, demanding a better breakfast for pupils.

Freddy Sepeng, the spokesman for the department of education and sports development, said the students broke down the gate, leaving a security officer injured.

Sepeng said they had a list of demands for the department.

"They said pupils from the three schools should be provided with free school uniforms and a decent breakfast. They also want security personnel to be present at all schools. They said they want pupils to be given tablets," he said.

North West MEC for Education Sello Lehari condemned the unruly behaviour.

"I am deeply hurt by the actions of young people who should lead by example, and reiterate the importance of education to our children," he said.

Lehari said the department was working



The guard room was vandalised at the Department of Basic Education in Letlhabile. Photo by Samson Ratswana

tirelessly to address grievances put forward, and wished the injured security officer a speedy recovery.

North West police spokeswoman Lieutenant-Colonel Pelonomi Makau said four Cosas leaders had been arrested and would appear in court soon.

She said cases of contravention of the Gathering Act, assault and malicious damage to property were opened at Letlhabile Police Station.

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No bail for Ganyesa duo

ELFAS TORERAI

TWO Ganyesa men arrested for possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition, possession of suspected stolen goods and housebreaking were denied bail when they appeared in the local magistrate's court yesterday.

Joseph Thembisa and Onkemetse Thembisa, both 28, briefly appeared in the Ganyesa Magistrate's Court and were remanded in custody until Tuesday for legal aid assistance and further investigation.

The two were arrested on Monday and Tuesday.

North West police spokesperson, Lt-Col Pelonomi Makau said the two were apprehended in Ganyesa through collaborative efforts by members of the K9 unit, visible policing, crime intelligence

and public order police.

"The arrest was after a follow-up was made on information about stolen firearms and other items after a farm house in the Ganyesa vicinity was broken into last week. It was during the break-in that firearms, a laptop, a tablet device, cellphones and jewellery were stolen.

"During the investigations, the police recovered a firearm and ammunition from a house in Phaposane village on Monday. Further investigation led the police to another house where other suspected stolen goods such as electrical appliances, a laptop and two firearms were recovered," she said.

North West police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane said her officers work hard to remove all illegal guns used to commit crime.

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Traffic was diverting



Spencer Tshukudu was shot dead.

Mum Dorah Tshukudu said she warned her son not to go to the service delivery protest. Photo by Dulile Sowaga

HELPING HAND LEADS TO TRAGEDY

By DULILE SOWAGA
A FRIEND of Spencer Tshukudu (15), who was shot dead on Tuesday during a service delivery protest near Phola in Lichtenburg, North West, claims the youngster was only trying to redirect traffic when he was killed.

This comes as the suspect, a 46-year-old man, handed himself over to cops at about 10pm on Tuesday.

The friend said Spencer was trying to warn road users to avoid the protest in Blydeville when he met his tragic end.

He also claimed the man wanted to pass and threatened to shoot.

According to the friend, the man stopped

his bakkie and ordered his workers to get out before he pulled out a gun and shot Spencer, killing him instantly.

"One bullet hit Spencer above his right eye and another hit him below the ribs," he said.

The friend claims the man then called his workers back to the bakkie, made a U-turn and drove off, leaving Spencer lying motionless at the intersection near Phola.

He said another witness, Joseph Esemang (42), stopped a passing traffic cop and pointed out the suspect as he drove off.

Joseph said Spencer was helping to divert traffic and had even told the man who shot him that it wasn't safe in Blydeville.

Spencer's mum, Dorah Tshukudu (45), was overcome with grief as she told *Daily Sun* about the death of her only child.

"As he walked away I called him and told him to come back, but he smiled and went to the main road.

"Later his friend came running to tell me Spencer had been shot," she said.

Police spokesman Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone confirmed that a man handed himself over to cops.

The suspect will appear in the Lichtenburg Magistrates Court today on a charge of murder.

It's not yet known when Spencer will be buried.

Lichtenburg protest slated

ELIAS TORERA

CALM is returning to Lichtenburg as a delegation from police and the provincial government is set to meet the restive Blydeville residents today.

Temper flared in the small mining town on Tuesday as residents reportedly looted and torched a chicken delivery truck.

During the protests, a 46-year-old white man allegedly shot and killed a 15-year-old boy. Two other people aged 17 and 20 were also injured.

Fearing another Colligny scenario, police had to deploy a large contingent of officers to patrol the town since Tuesday.

The R508 road remained closed yesterday but could be reopened today as parties examine sticking issues that caused the protests.

Blydeville residents complained that there was nothing on the ground to show that promises made to deliver houses earlier on were carried out.

The same community was up in arms at the time of the Colligny murder case in April this year.

The government had to set up a task team comprising MECs and mayors to deal with the community's concerns.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one community member said: "We are not confident that the so-called task team has our interests at heart. Some of the resolutions they made have not been done and we can't trust them anymore."

However, community safety spokesperson Thabo Sematle said that authori-

ties suspect that a third force could be behind the violent protests.

"The government has set up mechanisms for intervention in Lichtenburg through the task team. We have also been pleading with residents to use all available avenues to voice their grievances, not this tendency to resort to an orgy of violence and looting that has now resulted in the loss of life," he said.

"We don't condone the shooting of the 15 year old and we are happy that the accused is now in police hands. Justice will take its course.

"However, there is a feeling that there could be a third force hijacking and riding on the wave of community grievances for a sinister motive," he said.

Department MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane sent his message of condolences to the deceased's family and wished the two injured a speedy recovery.

Jacqueline Theologo of the DA said: "We strongly condemn this violent act. We cannot allow service delivery issues to impact us in this way. A child's life is now lost due to issues that we are having with the government."

The alleged shooter is expected to appear in the Lichtenburg Magistrate's Court today facing murder and attempted murder charges.

The man handed himself over to the police about 10pm on Tuesday night.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said: "According to information available, the suspect arrived at the police station accompanied by his legal representative."

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School toilets from hell



SICK AND TIRED: A thousand Thabankanda Primary School pupils protested for working toilets in Protea Glen, Soweto, as they are faced with the unbearable situation of having to share eight broken toilets.

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Teenager killed in violent protest!

By DULILE SOWAGA

A NUMBER of North West towns experienced violent service delivery protests on Tuesday and yesterday.

The situation was at its most tense in Blydeville, near Lichtenburg. The protest took a fatal turn when a man shot into the crowd and killed a 15-year-old boy.

Residents were furious, saying a task team set up by the provincial government earlier this year to deal with issues such as water, housing and schooling had not reported back to the community since April. On Tuesday and yesterday, furious protesters burned a chicken truck, barricaded roads and pelted motorists with stones.

Community leader Philip Lottering said the provincial task team had lied to the community and residents wanted Premier Supra Mahumapelo to address them. The protesters vowed to continue making the area ungovernable until the



Protesting residents used slings aimed at police and journalists.

Photo by Dulile Sowaga

premier visited.

■ Meanwhile, in Tigane near Klerksdorp, community members and dismissed Shiva mineworkers protested for jobs. They burned tyres and put rocks on a number of roads, blocking traffic.

■ In Boikhutso Village, near Ventersdorp, pupils burned down a mobile school, wanting a proper school built.

Lieutenant-General Baile Motswenya advised motorists to use alternative routes as the N13 connecting Lichtenburg, Vryburg, Delareyville and Kuruman to Gauteng was closed.

Lichtenburg boy shot in protests

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Roads leading to Blydeville near Lichtenburg were closed yesterday morning following a protest that left a teenager dead.

The R503 between Lichtenburg and Coligny was closed near Lichtenburg shopping mall. There were smouldering tyres and rocks strewn across the road leading to Blydeville.

North West police said a man who allegedly fired shots at protesters on Tuesday was arrested following an incident in which a 15-year-old boy was shot and killed and two other people injured in Lichtenburg. - ANA