

3 held for mob murder to appear

ELIAS TORERA

THREE men from Lethabale village, near Brits, will appear in court today after they were arrested for murder.

The three aged 36, 40 and 51 allegedly assaulted a 52-year-old man to death on Thursday last week.

The deceased was accused of raping a 13-year-old girl in the area.

North West police spokesperson, Lt. Col Amanda Fumani said the three were arrested following what looks like a mob justice incident.

"The suspects' arrest follows an incident in which members of the community took the law into their own hands by beating a 50-year-old man to death on Thursday," she said.

Fumani said after investigations regarding the incident, the trio was arrested on Friday and they are expected to appear in the Brits Magistrate's Court today.

Meanwhile, five other people were arrested after they were found in possession of firearms near Hennie Mine, outside Brits.

Fumani said police received a tip-off on people intending to commit a robbery in Brits and swiftly acted on a tip-off.

"Rustenburg tactical response team received a tip-off about people who were on their way to commit a business robbery. A follow-up was made and Brits police were also alerted.

According to information received, the suspects, driving in a maroon minibus with Gauteng registration numbers were seen leaving a jewellery shop in Brits. Police followed, stopped the vehicle and searched.

"Two firearms and live ammunition were found," she said.

The five men were arrested after they failed to account for the firearms and ammunition and they too will appear in the Brits Magistrate's Court today.

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30/10/17 TNB Pg 8 MWSAPS POS.

30/10/17 Daily Sun Pg 4 Neutral MWSAPS



Residents protested outside the home of the man who was stoned to death. Photo by Samson Ratswana

Village on edge after murder

By KARABO RAMMUNA

RABOKALALA Village will never be the same now that cops have taken up position in this North West village, amid fears of violence.

Police arrived after a man was stoned to death on Thursday for allegedly raping a 13-year-old mentally disturbed girl.

Three people have since been arrested for the murder. The man's relatives fled after residents protested outside their home.

A resident said the man used a swing and sweeps to lure kids to his home.

He is alleged to have shown them pornographic videos. "He was warned to stop by the villagers and we were under the impression that he had stopped.

"It was not until the mother of the victim called residents and told them her daughter had been raped that we found out that he

hadn't stopped."

He said the man was stoned after residents found him watching porn.

"Their intention was not to kill him but their anger could not be contained. They wanted to severely punish him for preying on our kids but unfortunately he died."

The resident said it was unfair that three people were arrested when the man was killed by a mob.

"We think this is meant to divide the village."

North West police spokeswoman Colonel Amanda Fumani said cases of rape and murder were opened. "Three people were arrested on murder charges and will appear in the Brits Magistrate's Court today."

She added that police are keeping an eye on the village.

FACILITY TO OFFER SERVICES SUCH AS REGISTRATION OF NEW VEHICLES, RENEWAL OF LICENCES

R2.6m for vehicle centre

ELFAS TORERA

RESIDENTS of Kgomotso and surrounding villages outside Tloeng have welcomed the construction of a R2.6m vehicle registration centre in their area.

The facility is expected offer services such as registration of new vehicles, renewal of motor vehicle licences, de-registration of stolen, recovered or totally unfit vehicles and notifications in changes in vehicle particulars.

It is expected to be up and running in the next eight months.

Community safety and transport management MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane and local leaders turned the first sod at the weekend and introduced the appointed contractor of the facility to the community.

Expectations are that the first phase of construction will take at least eight months to complete.

Over the years, residents have been travelling to Hartswater in Northern Cape to get vehicle testing and registration services.

Dikshwano Gaanahgoro from Kgothi Motlhabane's council said: "This construction project gives us hope that local motorists will no longer travel long distances but get services right at their doorstep. We want to thank the government for giving us this facility."

Project manager, Kuntleng Marwane said the vehicle registration centre brought a lot of positives to the village.

"The construction phase will obviously create employment opportunities for our local youth, helping them to gain experience and put food on their tables," he said.

Other residents also weighed in saying they will be relieved the day the centre starts operating.

In his remarks, MEC Motlhabane said: "With the construction of this registering authority we expect young men and women to benefit in terms of job creation and in completion of the project we will be responding to the call of bringing services closer to our people."

"We will ensure the effective and efficient renewal of motor vehicle licences, registration of new vehicles, de-registration of stolen and recovered vehicles or permanently unfit for use, notice-



BRINGING POSITIVES: Community safety and transport management MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane and contractor, Phineas Mchale, turning the sod on the ground where the vehicle registration centre will be built.

tions of change in respect of vehicle particulars and re-registering of stolen and recovered vehicles," Motlhabane said.

The centre is also expected to benefit communities from more than 20 villages surrounding the Kgomotso village with an estimate of more than 5 000 vehicle population.

Motlhabane said that phase two of the project would include the construction of the testing ground and a satellite office for Tsamung Station law enforcement.

"This is part of bringing services closer to the communities, as most of the motorists from these areas have been travelling more than 70km to access services, and mostly having to receive services from the neighbouring Northern Cape province," he said.

The contractor promised to work closely with the community, indicating that he will deliver quality work.

Efforts of provinces leading officers recognised

ELIAS TORRALA

TWO police officers were rewarded at the provincial police awards at Out of Africa Lodge near Hartbeespoort.

Lt-Col Keamogetshe Tube and WO Mokgathe Mokgathe were the big winners on the night.

The two excelled by securing arrests in some of the big crime incidents in North West.

Tube, who is stationed at Rustenburg K9 unit, walked away as the overall winner and received the provincial commissioner's special award while Mokgathe of the Rustenburg family violence, sexual offences and child protection unit, also bagged the overall winner and the provincial commissioner's award.

"Among others, Lt-Col Tube effected 292 arrests, confiscated drugs with estimated value of R485 000, recovered five hijacked vehicles, recovered explosives, recovered three firearms and discovered a drug laboratory," provincial police spokesperson Lt-Col Amanda Fuman said.

She said Mokgathe's dedication resulted



TOP: Lt-Col Keamogetshe Tube and WO Mokgathe Mokgathe received awards.

In two suspects sentenced to 30 and 40 years respectively for rape and robbery cases committed between 2011 and 2014 in Sun City, Rustenburg and Botshabane.

"He also arrested 10 suspects for rapes and robberies. In the process of arresting the suspects, the member managed to confiscate two rifles, one pistol and many other items belonging to the victims.

"He managed to oppose bail in all the cases and all accused are still in custody. He also through his investigative skills and utilisation of investigative aids linked a serial rapist to 18 cases."

In her remarks to winners, North West police commissioner Lt-Gen Balle Motswagwe said: "With these awards, we are encouraging a culture of positive behaviour

and innovation in service delivery. We are proud and encouraged to realise that indeed we have SAPS employees who made excellence a habit."

Deputy national commissioner for human resource management, Lt-Gen Bonang Mgwenya, who also attended the event, said that police officials must strive to be ahead of criminals who terrorise communities.

"We must work tirelessly where we are posted to make not just the SAPS but South Africa a better place for all. Let us all be inspired by the nominees for each category here today as they embody selflessness and excellence in our quest to derail crime," Mgwenya said.

Community safety and transport management MEC Dr Mpho Mofokeng said that there was a need to continue to put each other on the back for a job well done.

"We often go further and recognise your efforts during meetings and sometimes even motivate you clearly for the courageous work you undertake on daily basis," Mofokeng said.

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Cops win awards for their dangerous work

By DULLE SOWAGA

need to be paid more for the hard work they do. This call was made by North West Safety and Transport MEC Mpho Mofokeng.

He was speaking at the provincial police annual Excellence Awards at Hartbeespoort Dam on Thursday night.

"Police do a risky, difficult job. The public order policing unit has been able to contain the violent service delivery protests in the province.

"Authorities must have empathy and pay these cops more for working overtime and dedicating their lives to protect society," he said. He directed his plea to Lieutenant-Gen-eral Bonang Mgwenya.

"The cops who filled the venue cheered those who won awards in 31 categories. The Schweizer-Reneke Police Station was

From left: Lieutenant-General Balle Motswagwe, Lieutenant-Colonel Keamogetshe Tube and MEC Mpho Mofokeng.



voted best in the province, while the Potchefstroom K9 unit got the best visible policing team award.

Lieutenant-Colonel Keamogetshe Tube won Best Visible Policing Employee of the Year. Based in Phokeng, near Rustenburg, she is one of the few woman commanders of a K9 unit in the country.

She was recognised for her excellent leadership style and dedication, which contributed positively to the fight against drugs, robbery and the illegal use of firearms. Tube, who has experience in diamond investigation, guides and trains cops in skills such as the handling of informers.

She was also recognised for having played a massive role in border control at airports and border posts, helping to recover stolen vehicles, drugs, firearms, explosives and precious metals.

October Transport Month message

MEC Mofokeng Mpho Mofokeng
Community Safety and Transport Management

If the transport sector fails then the whole economic network and system collapses. Goods and services will no longer be moved from one place to another. People cannot get to their places of work and production and processing of produce and products becomes stagnant.

The role of transportation is to stimulate and put mobility in all economic activities as a way of contributing effectively to economic growth of the country.

The fundamental task of a transport department is to improve access to economic opportunities. Transport helps to close social spaces. As well as improves delivery of services, this way, the geo-

graphic distances is reduced.

We need to provide affordably, reliable and safe transport system at all times.

If we are to reposition this province as the economic hub of the country, we must acknowledge too that there are established economic centres throughout Bokone Bophirima province.

By the way, Vryburg is still known as the Texas of South Africa due to its beef production and exportation.

Mogwase remains the Tourism hub due to the hospitality industry such as Sun City hotel, Pilanesberg and other resorts and tourists attractions there.

The Maize triangle starts in North West, runs through Free State and Mpumalanga where most of our grains are produced like maize and barley to say the least.

Orkney and Siltfontein are known for their gold whereas Rustenburg and Brits are imbued with Platinum.

Our villages too; Kraaihan and Lohakame have opened mines and Taung is to follow soon.

So:

If the Millennium goals is to be achieved our contribution is also necessary

Let's do something about the railway infrastructure in order to increase the transport network lying fallow without being used. The passenger train from Joburg via Mahikeng to Kimberley and Botswana must be reopened.

Our roads are full of trucks. Our airports are basically used for passengers in the main. We are unable to tap on the maritime economy embedded in

our many rivers and dams like Taung and Hartbeespoort Dams. These are currently only used for leisure and recreational purposes.

Let me, however, also express some kind of pride about us as Bokone Bophirima.

If this VTSD initiative was championed 30 years ago, SAB would not be in Johannesburg but in Taung where it ploughs its barley and transport it to Gauteng to be processed into beer in established industries.

Equally AngloGold would be somewhere in Klerksdorp where the gold mines are. AngloPlat will be in Morurleng, where Platinum is harvested in tons.

Rilebrand and Bullbrand which packages beef will be somewhere between Huhudi and Ganyesa, not in Gauteng, where beef is farmed.