

Task teams visit Ditsobotla residents

03/05/17 DCS & TM TNA pg 10 pos

Three task teams met with community leaders to provide feedback on issues raised during service delivery protests in the municipality

ELFAS TORERAI AND NTHUSANG LEFAFA

A TASK team appointed to quell violent service delivery protests in the Ditsobotla local municipality met with residents in Itsoseng, Blydeville and Coligny on Monday to provide preliminary feedback on issues raised by community leaders.

The team first met with community leaders who voiced concerns that caused flare ups in the three communities in the past two weeks.

The task team members were split into three teams. The first team led by health MEC Dr Magome Masike met residents of Itsoseng from 10.30am at Itsoseng stadium.

Finance, economic and enterprise development MEC Wendy Nelson led the second team who met residents of Blydeville in Lichtenburg while the third team, led by MEC Mpho Motlhabane, went to Coligny in the afternoon.

Spokesperson Brian Setswambung said at all three community meetings, the deployed MECs confirmed meeting with community leaders representing concerned residents.

"They tabled issues which the leaders have raised as having contributed to the service delivery protests that took place last week. The issues included housing, water and the construction of a new school among other things," he said.

The MECs reported that a technical task team has been set up made up of senior officials from Ditsobotla, Ngaka Modiri Molema district municipality and government departments.

Setswambung said the technical task team started its work yesterday and the government task team will convene community meetings to report progress to residents on May 12.

Gaolaolwe said the purpose of their

visit to Blydeville was because they were a government of the people which always seeks to listen to them.

"We are here to tell Blydeville residents that together we can achieve more. What brings us here today is to report back to you because of our previous meeting with your representatives. As leaders in the government, we are elected to assist you and let you know that we are always willing to listen," she said.

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Gaolaolwe encouraged residents not to engage in violent activities that destroy their infrastructure because it was very costly to repair.

Nelson told the Blydeville community that the task team set up by the premier would ensure they received houses, scholar transport, running water and access to decent healthcare.

"We are going to ensure a high school will be built for Blydeville residents. Those who live in Phase Four will receive adequate housing and we will also ensure the satellite police station is working and the clinic is fully staffed," she said.

Nelson said a technical task team would be on the ground from tomorrow to ensure the needs of Blydeville residents were addressed and all problems resolved.

Community leader Phillip Lottering said housing, electricity, healthcare, water supply and a high school for Blydeville are some of the things they

demanded from the government.

"Life in Blydeville is very difficult, we are struggling and we must fight to be heard. We need a 24-hour clinic, we have been promised housing for more than two decades and there are only two Grade 8 classes for such a big community. Some children cross a river to get to school and some travel for more than 40km just to attend school," he said.

Papi Seoke said some of the RDP houses had not been completed and this has been an issue for four years. He said the plumbing was very poor and when they flushed, some of the waste came back into the house.

He said that they also needed a refuse removal system and a proper sewerage plant. He said the Blydeville community was not a violent one and they were willing to engage with the government.

Last week, community members of Coligny, Blydeville and Itsoseng went on the rampage. They clashed with police, looted shops and destroyed public and private property.

Several arrests were made and some of the perpetrators remain in custody.

Premier Supra Mahumapelo appointed a seven-member task team comprising MECs and the mayors of Ditsobotla and Ngaka Modiri Molema district.

The team is tasked with restoring order and addressing service delivery issues and assisting community members.

Task team leader MEC Sello Lehari expressed optimism that everything would be resolved peacefully.

"I heartily thank the residents of Ditsobotla for their cooperation today and urge them to work with the government in ensuring that a solution is found to the challenges that confront the municipality," Lehari said.

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QUELLING TENSIONS: A technical task team has been set up by provincial authorities following service delivery protests in the Ditsobotla municipality last week. PICTURE: TWITTER



Residents of Coligny singing outside the Coligny Magistrate's Court to give support to the family of Matlhomola 'Faki' Mosweu, who was killed, allegedly by two men. / TIRO RAMATLHATSE

Coligny accused can't stand smell of jail

Two suspects plead not guilty to 17-year-old boy's murder

By **Boitumelo Tshohle**

The Coligny Magistrate's Court has heard two versions of how a 17-year-old boy, who was killed allegedly by two men, died.

The two accused, Pieter Doorewaard and Phillip Schutte, told the court that they were going to plead not guilty.

Their version of the story was read out in the form of an affidavit by their legal representatives. They said the boy,

Matlhomola "Faki" Mosweu, was stealing sunflowers, they then apprehended him and put him in the back of their bakkie.

They said that while driving, the boy jumped out of the moving bakkie. They said they did not stop but drove straight to the police station and reported the case, leaving the boy lying on the ground.

The state called Brigadier Matome Kgorane of the Potchefstroom organised crime unit who said one of his witnesses told him that he saw the two accused throwing the boy out of the moving vehicle.

He said the witness told him that the two accused took his cellphone and visited his place the following day when they

threatened him not to tell the police or any other person of what had happened.

"They also forced him to drink alcohol and told him to run in front of their bakkie."

Coligny town was at a standstill last week after angry residents took to the streets, looting

shops and burning property after two men were not arrested after allegedly killing the boy.

Kgorane, who opposed bail for the two, said there was a possibility of adding more charges against the accused. He said a charge of kidnapping and defeating the ends of justice might be added.

They were initially charged with murder and attempted murder.

The accused, through their legal representatives, said they needed to be released on bail because they were having a problem in sharing one public toilet at the holding cells and that they could not bear the smell of dagga and cigarette smoke in the police cells.

“They forced [witness] to run in front of their bakkie

NPA OPPOSES BAIL FOR MURDER ACCUSED LEST THE S

COLIGNY BAIL

ELFAS TORERAI

BAIL proceedings involving two men arrested for the murder of a 16-year-old Coligny teenager continue this morning.

The case was postponed yesterday just before the state witness, who is also a member of the investigations team, could be cross-examined.

Phillip Schutte and Pieter Doorewaard, aged 27 and 34, face a murder charge after they allegedly fatally assaulted Matlhomola Mosweu.

Mosweu is reported to have picked sunflowers on a farm where the two were employed. The boy's death was mired in controversy after it was alleged that he had fallen off a moving vehicle.

It took the community to protest, loot shops and burn houses to bring the circumstances surrounding Matlhomola's death to light. The two accused later handed themselves over to the police.

A post-mortem report is expected to state the exact cause of death. The atmosphere outside court was tense yesterday with residents chanting and displaying placards written "No bail".

When the two accused first appeared in court last week, the case was moved to May 9 after the magistrate recused himself, citing security concerns.

However, lawyers for the accused launched an urgent high court application on Monday to have the May 9 date brought forward to yesterday, have the two released on bail and also for the court sitting to be relocated to Lichtenburg from Coligny.

The National Prosecuting Authority

(NPA) in North West acceded to the proceedings to be brought forward but opposed the granting of bail and relocation of the court.

"The two have been charged with murder and we oppose bail mainly because of the situation on the ground that has the potential to turn volatile should the two be released," NPA regional spokesperson Frank Lesenyego said.

He said the reason there was looting, destruction of property and burning of houses was because residents were angry at the slow pace in the arrest of the two.

The defence's witness said the anger shown by the community was misplaced as there were service delivery grievances and the case of the two was just "hijacked".

Bail proceedings continue this morning with the state witness set to take the stand.

Meanwhile, FF Plus leader in North West Michal Groenewald said the case against the two should not be politicised.

He said the community should not be allowed to have such a great influence in the run-up to a court case that a magistrate even feared for his life.

"It is unhealthy if a situation arises where the community almost form a kangaroo court outside of the court and people are convicted as murderers and labelled as such even before the case begins.

"The legal principle that any person accused of a crime is innocent until found guilty by a court of law also applies in this case," Groenewald said.

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03/05/17 Pg 1 SAPS TNA P06.

MAYHEM

Cash vehicle robbed

03/05/17 Pg 1 SAPS Neg
THYS MOKGWAETSE

TNA

DARING robbers accosted a G4S security vehicle and made off with an undisclosed amount of money in North West yesterday morning.

The robbery incident took place near the Shoprite Store in Orkney, near Klerksdorp at 9am.

Police confirmed the incident.

According to the North West police spokesperson, Lt Col Pelonomi Makau, an unknown number of suspects tried to shoot the vehicle, but they missed it.

"A security officer who was in possession of a cash case was hit on the forehead with the back of the firearm and that's when the suspects managed to take the cash. The suspects then fled the scene," she said.

Makau said that the men drove away in two cars, a BMW and an Audi.

"No one has been arrested and police will follow leads and continue with the investigation. An armed robbery case has been opened," she said.

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03/05/17 The Citizen Pg 3 MOKGWAETSE neg Grieving father's 'hurt'

"Seeking bail from the court, days before my son is buried, indicates there was intention to kill him."

These were the words of a distraught Sakkie Dingake, the father of Matlhomola Jonas Mosweu, a 16-year-old boy who was allegedly killed after being loaded on to a bakkie by two farm owners in Coligny, North West.

Dingake expressed shock yesterday at the accused, Pieter Doorewaard and Phillip Schutte, who were seeking bail in the Coligny Magistrate's Court.

Speaking outside court yesterday, Dingake said it was shocking and heartbreaking, at the same time, to be in court where the accused were seeking bail.

He said he thought his son had gone to one of the local farms, where he normally spent his time, but started getting worried when he heard on the news that there was a child who had died.

"I'm hurt as a father, because I was really hoping that one day he would be able to take care of our family as he was praying and hoping to become a traffic officer."

"Days went by and I told the mother of my son I was worried that he was not back home. I heard in the news about a child who was killed. His mother then asked someone from the farm if they had seen him and they said they had not. We started getting really worried then," said Dingake.

Mosweu's death sparked violent protests in the area last week and at least four houses, some of which belonged to white owners, were torched.

Shops were looted, while a police nyala and several vehicles were also torched during the protest.

Mosweu's mother, Agnes, said she was at church when she received a call asking her to go to the police station.

The deceased was a pupil at a farm school in Coligny.

MOLAOLE MONTSHO

A COLIGNY teenager who died was thrown out of a moving bakkie, the Coligny Magistrate's Court heard yesterday.

Brigadier Cliffard Kgorane told the court a witness saw two farmers – Pieter Doorewaard and Philip Schutte – throwing Matlhamola Jonas Mosweu, 17, out of a moving vehicle on April 20.

"When they realised someone saw them, they made a U-turn, picked up the teenager, loaded him at the back of the bakkie and also confronted the witness asking if he had seen what happened," Kgorane said.

"The witness told them he did not see anything. They took

him (the witness), put him at the back of the bakkie and drove for a radius of about 48km... in the meantime they threatened the witness.

"They eventually drove to a dam where they pointed a firearm at the witness, made him drink alcohol and ordered him to run in front of a moving bakkie at the same time firing shots around him. He vomited and collapsed.

"The two left him there; all this time the boy (Mosweu) was lying at the back of the bakkie."

The two took the witness's cellphone and on April 21 they went to his place of residence and told him not to tell the police or anyone else about what happened.

Kgorane said Mosweu was

found in a pool of blood after the accused dumped him on the side of the road.

The two allegedly went to the Coligny police to report that a boy had fallen from a bakkie and that the police must call an ambulance and go to the scene. They refused to take the police to the scene, stating that they had other business to attend to.

Kgorane said the lives of the accused were in danger. "They are safer in custody than outside."

He told the court there was a possibility that charges of kidnapping and defeating the ends of justice could be added to their charge sheet.

The bail application was rolled over to today. – ANA

SAPS NW 310512017 POS Pg 5 Daily Sun
Jailed farmers want urgent bail

By DULILE SOWAGA

GRUESOME details of how Faki Mosweu allegedly died at the hands of farmers emerged during their bail application yesterday.

Speaking in the North West High Court, Brigadier Matome Kgorane said a witness saw the two murder suspects throwing the teenage boy out of a moving bakkie in Coligny.

Kgorane told the court: "They took the witness and asked him if he'd seen anything but he said he had not.

"The suspects picked up the injured boy, put him back in the bloodied bakkie, with the witness, and drove to a dam about 40 km away. They threatened to kill the witness."

Kgorane said the suspects made the witness drink alcohol and run in front of the bakkie while they fired shots in his direction.

They allegedly then took his cellphone, asked for his address and dropped him off.

They reportedly re-



Family members, including Saki Dingake, the father of the dead man, (second from left) attended the court hearing.
Photo by Dulile Sowaga

turned to the crime scene to dump the boy there before going to the police to say he had fallen from the bakkie.

Kgorane asked for bail to be denied, saying kidnapping and defeating the ends of justice could be added as extra charges.

In affidavits read by the suspects' legal team, the men asked for urgent bail as the conditions in their cells were bad.

They complained of sharing a single toilet and having to inhale dagga smoke from other

accused prisoners.

Pieter Karster, a witness for the accused and their employer, submitted a petition signed by community members asking for them to be granted bail and for the charges to be withdrawn.

However, magistrate Makgaola Foso asked why no black people had signed the petition.

He said protesters who had gathered outside the court clearly opposed bail.

The hearing was postponed until today for a decision to be made.