

Coligny: Where a handful of stoien

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Simmering racism in the North West town has boiled over after the alleged murder of a black teen

Govan Whittles

Mathomola Moshoeu was born on a sunflower farm in Coligny 16 years ago. Two weeks ago, he died on a sunflower farm after stealing one for its seeds. Sunflower seeds mean big money for farmers but are also nourishment for Coligny's poorest residents.

Mathomola's death ignited a race protest in the small North West town and has further divided its black and white communities.

This week, three farmhouses were torched after Phillip Schutte and Pieter Doorewaard, accused of murdering Mathomola, were each released on R5000 bail.

Coligny residents had earlier taken to the streets after the teenager's death last week. Shops were burned and looted.

Mathomola is alleged to have been killed by the two men, who caught him and a friend stealing sunflowers on a farm belonging to Doorewaard's uncle, Pieter Karsten. The farm is just across a dust road from the cluster of shacks where the teenager lived.

Prosecutors pursuing a charge of murder against the pair accused them of throwing Mathomola off a moving bakkie and beating and intimidating the only witness who came forward to implicate them in the death.

But Doorewaard and Schutte insist the 16-year-old died after jumping from the bakkie when they slowed down to turn a corner while taking him to the police station. In court, police confirmed that, over the past six months, the pair had brought in a number of children for the same offence.

Mathomola had left the Scotland section of the Thababogang township at the beginning of the school holidays and was presumed to have been staying with his friends on one of the neighbouring farms, as he usually did, said family friend and community activist Stanley Mnyakama this week.

"He usually visits his friends on the farm during holidays. He was born there and his parents actually

The Scotland section of Coligny's Thababogang township sprang up just over a year ago, after Parliament passed legislation giving rights to farmworkers who have lived on farms for more than 20 years. The new laws are said to have triggered mass evictions by Coligny farmers. The settlement has two water tanks and five mobile toilets, serving a population that has grown to more than 5,000, local residents estimated.

"There's almost nothing here [in Scotland section] for us, man. Only dust and shacks and two taps. Things are bad and these farmers kicked us off the land and made things worse," resident Eric Matlathedi said.

With the sunflower field less than 100m from the shacks and with no fencing in place, walking over to the field to get food has become common practice among the residents.

But the field has also recently become a safe haven for criminals. Just a day before Mathomola Moshoeu died, a 10-year-old girl was raped in the field, the *Mail & Guardian* has learnt.

The girl was returning from school and took a shortcut through the field to get to the Scotland section, her relatives told the *M&G* in the two-room shack in the informal settlement where more than five of them live.

The rapist has not yet been



Grim harvest: Mathomola Moshoeu died after stealing sunflower seeds on Pieter Karsten's farm (above). Phillip Schutte and Pieter Doorewaard (above right) are accused of his murder, and their release on bail has angered the teenager's father, Sakkie Dingake (right).

Photos: Paul Botes

thought he was still there, when actually he had died," he said. Days after the teenager's death his identity was still not known. Mnyakama, as a community leader, was tasked with visiting each of the farms surrounding the Scotland section to find out who his parents were.

As the days passed, the teen's death increasingly angered people in the area who have "grown tired of the racist farmers", he explained. During the holidays, children in the area are known to play on the farms and, without any recreational facilities, they often land in trouble with farm owners over the theft of sunflowers and maize.

During term time, with better education being available in the neighbouring town of Lichtenburg, most learners walk 20km to and from school every day when the buses aren't running.

Cutting through the farms to save time and eating the sunflower seeds and maize along the way had therefore become common practice, according to Thababogang resident Aaron Matshidiso.

"It's a long walk to the schools, so you just pass through the farms and eat some mealies and these seeds because we don't have food. But you can be sure that, if the farmer sees you taking a shortcut, his dogs will chase you down and, if he catches

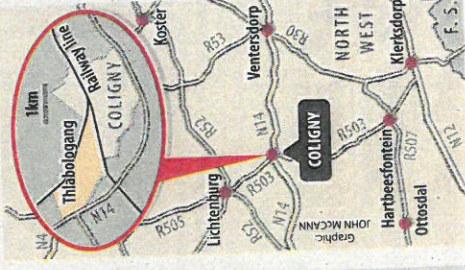
Evicted from farms, workers live in squalor

arrested, despite a case being opened and the young girl catching a glimpse of her attacker.

Now, with Mathomola's death and heightened tensions in the community, the girl's family fear letting their children out of the shack to play along the road next to the sunflower field.

"These sonneblomme [sunflowers] are a problem because the criminals are using the field now. It's so near to the shacks and it's really not safe for our kids. They can't even play nearby."

"I eat the sonneblom as well, but it's really a problem for us now," Refilwe Moroke, a resident of the Scotland section, told the *M&G* this week. — *Govan Whittles*



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you, you're getting klapped," says Matshidiso.

"They get mad because when you plough, they scatter some seeds and the ones that are left, his cows or chickens eat it. So he would rather let the animals eat it than us."

Matshidiso (26) says he worked as a farm labourer for five weeks. When his index finger had to be amputated after an accident while ploughing the fields, he was exposed to the anger of his "white master".

"The top part of my finger was cut off by the machine. The farmer just shrugged and told me I'd better take myself to the hospital and not come back to work. I did open a case and

the dogs, or catch us and beat us very badly. I was beaten very badly ' these same farms," Mosweu said. North West Premier Sup Mahumapelo has repeated the violence that Doorewaard and Schutte actions were racially motivated, a claim how they would have responded if the person caught stealing sunflowers was white.

"Kids make mistakes, man. You couldn't they have just taken them to the parents and told them what he did. That's how you are supposed to treat the youth. If it was a white boy who did that, would they respond in the same way?"

Members of rival political parties the ANC and the Economic Freedom Fighters were briefly united by anger towards the white community, which local activists said preparing to intimidate the population and defend the two accused of murder.

"When they were appearing in court for the first time, these were carrying guns. They can show us they aren't scared of fact, they've united us as black people through their Afrikaans rap protest leader Thabo Mashilla.

The racism in the small town became intolerable over the six months, said residents in Scotland section. The rage tri by Mathomola's death was acknowledged when the Coligny state's court ruled on the appeal applications on Monday. Magistrate Makgala Foso to begin his judgment of Mathomola's family being

seeds can cost you your life



of shacks in the Scotland sector are to blame for the recent racial tensions.

"I think that [farmers being racist] is an unfair allegation against us. We have huge respect in this town, as farmers," Pieter said.

"For the past six months, there have been huge losses on that farm because of the neighbouring squatter camp. The fence was even stolen. We've reported it to police on numerous occasions and people still walk through the farm to get to the township. Nothing has been done and so we've stepped up security there."

On Monday, farmers emerged from their homes brandishing firearms when Schutte and Doorewaard appeared in court for their bail application, and again after three homes were torched by angry protesters after the magistrate handed down his ruling.

Less than 30 minutes after the pair was granted bail, fires were lit at busy intersections and the home of Henk and Karen Keyser was burned to the ground in a targeted arson attack.

The town was on a knife-edge and police became the last line of defence between angry youngsters and the maize and sunflower crops on Karsten's farm.

Clad in full riot gear, firing rubber bullets and stun grenades, public order police officers stationed themselves along the perimeter of the sunflower field where Mathomola had died, trying to keep a growing crowd of protesters off the farm.

The police fired rubber bullets and advanced towards a railway line, the only barrier between the township houses and shacks and the farm. As some of the protesters retreated, others grabbed corrugated iron sheets and defended themselves against the bullets while hurling rocks at the police and moving towards the sunflower field.

In a confrontation that lasted from 2pm until sundown, the police managed to prevent a possible attack on Karsten's home and his crops. Asked to explain their anger, many of the protesting residents cited the "low" bail amount of R5 000, saying that Doorewaard and Schutte had been let off lightly because they are white.

Protest symbol: Mourners at Mathomola Moshoeu's funeral hold aloft sunflower stalks in symbolic remembrance of how the teen died. He was 16, but his humble background is reinforced by the fact that the most recent photo the family has of him is as a boy (left). Photos: Paul Botes

to drink alcohol and beaten, and then visited the next day and threatened with death if he spoke up.

But Foso said the witness had not yet identified the men as the pair he saw assaulting a young boy and he had not yet identified Mathomola as the teenager he saw being beaten.

Because of this, the magistrate said, there is no direct link between Doorewaard and Schutte and the boy's death.

"What if the witness does not identify the accused as the people he saw committing a crime? Or he does not identify the deceased as the person he saw being thrown off the bakkie?"

Foso asked in his judgment. Foso said the accused could afford R20 000 bail but he set the bail

amount at R5 000 each, saying the pair had demonstrated every intention of attending their trial.

His decision to release them outraged Mathomola's relatives and others.

One family member stormed out of court and slammed the door behind her, and Mathomola's father protested loudly. "My son has passed on and these two are being released to go and work? What about my son?"

Sakkie Dingake said in Setswana. But the two men deny the allegations of racism levelled against them. Local pastor Tewis Pieter, who has farmed in Coligny for 20 years, said an increase in maize and sunflower theft at Karsten's farm and the construction of hundreds



saying he hoped to give them a clear explanation of his reasons for granting bail.

The state's case hinges on the account of a witness who claims to have seen the two men throwing Mathomola off the bakkie and beating him badly, Foso said.

The witness also claims to have been taken to a nearby dam, forced

Coligny bids a sad farewell to Mathhomola

Nthusang Lefaja and Bonolo Mohlakoana

12/05/2017 - Semphete pgr Dos & TM Netruaf

It was a sad day for the community of Coligny's Scotland Informal Settlement when 16-year-old Mathhomola Moshoeu was laid to rest last weekend. He died under questionable circumstances after two white farmers claimed they caught him stealing sunflowers.

In an effort to try and send the message across, some mourners attended the sombre farewell carrying sunflower plants, with some casually chewing on the sunflower pits in the middle of funeral proceedings. People from all walks of life – from farm workers to government officials – came to pay their final respects to a teenager who was not only robbed of his youth, but the right to life.

The two farmers accused of killing Moshoeu, Peter Doorewaard and Phillip Schutte, claimed in their statement to police that the teenager jumped off their moving bakkie as they were transporting him to the local police station to report his alleged sunflower stealing crime. Doorewaard and Schutte are facing murder charges, but were each released on R5000 bail on Monday. Bokone Bophirima Premier, Supra Mahumapelo, called for calm this week as tempers flared high again because of the granting of bail to the two accused.

"We call on all the people of Coligny not to take the law into their own hands by burning people's property, but rather respect the law," Mahumapelo appealed.

He has already sent several MECs to meet with stakeholders in Coligny and he himself will address the residents on Friday (12 May 2017).

At the funeral Mahumapelo told mourners that Moshoeu's death not only affected the province, but the country as a whole.

"Moshoeu died as a result of racism which manifests itself in many ways all across the province, from schools to the workplace. The province is faced with many challenges that include white superiority and unless wealth is shared equally amongst the people who live in the country, we will not see an end to the anger that is poverty related," the Premier said.

He added that the provincial government would use its Reconciliation, Healing and Renewal (RHR) programme to deal with the stubbornness of racism. Mahumapelo said he would in the context of the Fifth Administration's Reconciliation, Healing and Renewal (RHR) programme, convene a meeting with the white community of Coligny, to discuss among other things, the occupation of arable land and a collective effort to fight against acts of racism.

"We need to unite and build a peaceful, prosperous province, which knows no discrimination. We need to work together and deal with the challenges of poverty, inequalities and unemployment."

"While we support our communities for rising up against this monster of racism,



Premier Supra Mahumapelo speaking at the funeral of Mathhomola Moshoeu in Coligny



One of the farm houses that were set alight after the court granted Doorewaard and Schutte bail on Monday



Peter Doorewaard and Phillip Schutte are accused of having a hand in the death of Mathhomola Moshoeu

I urge them to do so peacefully and jealously guard against the destruction of their property. I urge them to mobilise white people to join hands in the fight against racism and acts of criminality," said Mahumapelo.

Mahumapelo said reconciliation is a never-ending road because it involves many parties. He added that the provincial government would be meeting with White residents of Coligny to teach them how to integrate with Black Africans with the aim of a building a cohesive society.

MEC for Education and Sport Development, Sello Lehari, said the department is deeply saddened by the brutal murder of the learner but said they are comforted that they could help give him a dignified burial.

"As a department we will help the family with everything they need in terms of moral

and emotional support. We will follow up this case until the trial ends and ensure that justice prevails," Lehari said.

Provincial Chairperson of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU), Mxolisi Bornvana, said the union is angry that two adults are said to have killed a minor because they found him eating sunflower on a farm.

"The lives of black people seem to be of a very low value. We want white people to join us and help us fight racism. Racism is also prevalent in the education system as black learners are faced with overcrowding in their classes and do not receive enough attention as their white counterparts," said Bornvana.

Principal of Hakhobisaagie Primary School, Thebe Sekolo, described Mathhomola as a friendly learner who was able to interact

with everyone. He comforted the family and emphasized the importance of education to the community.

"Education can be used to fight crime and poverty. Let Mathhomola's death be a motivation for the community of Scotland to study and work hard with the ideal of striving for greater heights," he said.

Family representative, Stanny Mnyakama, said he is happy that their child received a dignified burial. He said the family would be patient because they know that the wheels of justice grind slowly.

"Although painful, the funeral proceedings went well," Mnyakama told Semphete. Several speakers at the funeral emphasized that not all white people are racist. Only one member of the white community of Coligny was seen at the funeral.

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State appeals Coligny bail

Nthusang Lefafa

The Bokone Bophirima Provincial Government has taken up the fight for justice on behalf of the Moshoeu family and the people of Coligny in the murder case of teenager Mathomola Moshoeu. The provincial government has decided to appeal the granting of bail for two farmers Peter Doorewaard and Phillip Schutte, who are accused of killing the young Moshoeu.

MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Mkgantshang Mpho Motlhabane, confirmed to Coligny residents that the provincial government was lodging an urgent application for leave to appeal. "We are appealing the bail application. As government we are not happy with the decision," Motlhabane told Coligny residents on Tuesday.

Premier Supra Mahumapelo would also visit and address the community on Friday (12 May 2017). Government has however condemned the destruction of property and any form of violence.

Doorewaard and Schutte were each granted R5000 bail by the Coligny Magistrates Court on Monday.



Residents of Coligny protesting outside court with a picture of the young Mathomola Moshoeu

Family spokesperson, Stanny Mnyakama said black people were treated like animals. "The life of a black man is very cheap. The poor and the rich are not treated equally. We do not want another situation like the one that transpired in Vuwani. We think that the government will have to assist because the family cannot afford to source expensive advocates. Government should come in to see what strategies can be put in place so that these men are put behind bars," Mnyakama said.

Ditsobotla Local Municipality Mayor, Daniel Buthelezi, said the municipality is also unhappy with the bail ruling. "We do not have doubt in the justice system, but we have lost an innocent soul.



Maria Nteta (Left) mother to Matseleng and Rethabile's grandmother Lenah Tshabadira



A picture of three-year-old missing Rethabile Tshabadira.

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Bloemhof girls still missing three months later

Obakeng Majje

Two Bloemhof families need your help to find their beloved children. Matseleng Nteta (7) and her friend, Rethabile Tshabadira (3), have been missing for over three months.

The two little girls from Extension 5 of Boitumelong township in Bloemhof were last seen playing in the street before their disappearance. The last information their parents had was that they went to buy sweets at the local shop, but they never returned.

Parents of Matseleng and Rethabile told Semphete that their hope of finding their children is slowly fading away because of the long time they've been missing.

Matseleng's mother, Maria Nteta (28), said the family is worried. "We are still waiting for our children to come back home. However, we lost hope in the police because nothing positive comes out of investigations. It seems they have also hit a dead end," Nteta said.

She added that life was getting increasingly harder without her little girl.

"I miss my daughter so much and I am looking for closure. I cannot cope during the night and wish I could do something

to find her," she said.

Rethabile's grandmother, Lenah Tshabadira (49), said the family felt that the police have failed them. She accused the police of not putting enough effort in finding their children.

"Rethabile was a bubbly person and I urge anyone who has got information regarding their whereabouts to contact the police. The police took 48 hours to intensify a search and I believe if they had reacted earlier, we could have found them in time," she said.

Police Spokesperson for Bokone Bopirima, Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone, assured the families that the police are

still hard at work on the case.

"The investigations are still underway and police are working hard. It is untrue that police are dragging their feet in finding the missing girls. We urge anyone with any information to call Captain Sebolai on 0725053045," Mokgwabone said.

Regional Secretary of South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco) in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti, Mka Moeti, had this to say: "We will work closely with police to ensure that perpetrators are caught. We cannot continue to live a normal life while we have missing children. They have families and it is wrong for monsters to do as they please within our communities."

Street vendors, who suffered the most during the violent protests in Coligny, North West, hope the town remains calm.

"The protest affected us very badly. We could not open and our stalls were broken and looted," said Mahuno Obedy from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He runs a hair salon, Pastor Haircut, and also sells fruit and sweets next to it along Voortrekker Street.

"On Monday when riots broke out, I closed and went home. Later I was told my business was burnt. Hair clippers were taken." His countryman, Shanhangwa Amasi, who runs a hair salon next to him, said a car battery he used to generate electricity was stolen and mirrors were broken.

"There was about R2 000 worth of damage. I am happy that the area is stable and we can again earn a living," said Amasi.

Businessperson Andries Meinjies was relieved that the small town was slowly returning to normal.

"It's a relief business are opened and the town is back to life again," he said.

People were moving down the streets and more cars were visible on Voortrekker Street.

The small farming town was completely shut down on Monday after two men accused of killing Mathomola Jonas Mosweu, 16, were granted bail.

Residents furious about the bailruling set alight three houses. Magistrate Makgala Foso granted Pieter Doorewaard, 26, and Phillip Schutte, 34, R5 000 bail each.

Their case was postponed to June 26 for investigation.

The two are accused of killing Mosweu in what is alleged by some to be a racially motivated killing.

The accused allege Mosweu stole sunflowers from their employer's field near Scotland informal settlement.

The boy's death sparked violent protests and divided the community along racial lines.

A resident of Thabologang, in Coligny, Rebecca Mimakolobe, said all people needed each other.

"We are all human beings. The only difference is the skin colour. We breathe the same oxygen. When we die our graves are of the same size. We all have red blood. Why do we have to see ourselves as black and white, yet we claim to be equal children of God?" she asked.

She said one of her children worked at the bottle store that was torched near the magistrate's court.

"She gets on well with her employer. I never heard her complaining. She is at home now because her workplace was burnt. Whether she will get her job back we do not know. The protest might have cost her a job."

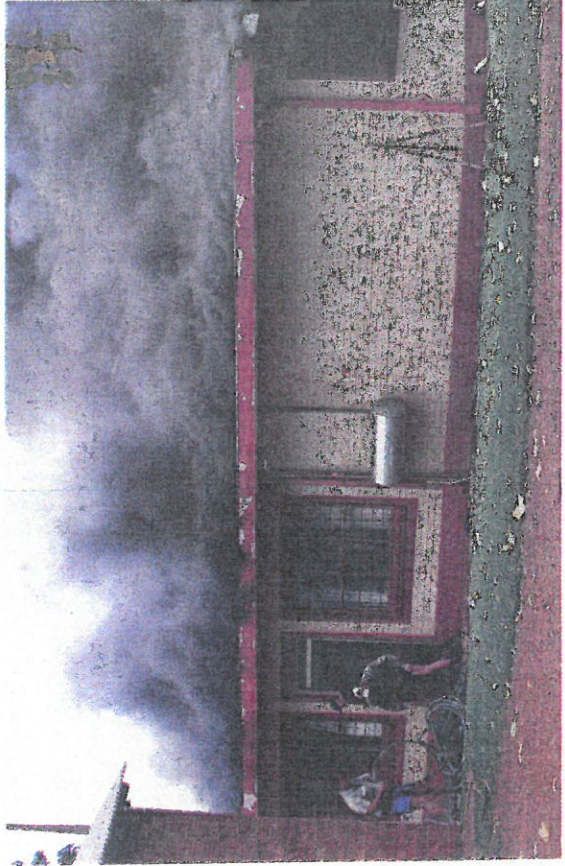
"At the moment, it looks promising that stability will return to our town."

North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo is expected to visit Coligny today.

ANA

Calm 'restored' in Coligny

TNA, Pg 24, 12/05/17, POSITIVE, NWSARS, Police keeping a watchful eye on the community and kids were seen going to school yesterday



ELFAS TOREPAI

THERE is hope that life is slowly coming back to Coligny after a two-week lockdown due to unrest.

Yesterday, some of the children were seen in uniform going to school with expectations that on Monday all eight schools in the town would be fully operating.

The streets were also clear with police keeping a watchful eye on the community.

Police spokesperson Brig. Sabata Mokgwabone said the situation was showing progress towards normal order and peace.

"It has been quiet since Tuesday and the directorate on reconciliation, healing and renewal in the premier's office managed to have a meeting with the community. It looks possible that things will be back to normal soon," he said.

Premier Supra Mahumapelo was expected to visit the community to put a final stamp on the establishment of the reconciliation, healing and renewal forum that is expected to include all stakeholders and work for peace and order.

The justice and constitutional development department added its voice to the call for restraint and order following the unrest that came to a head on Monday.

Residents burnt houses belonging to farmers, burnt maize fields and looted shops after two men accused of murdering 16-year-old Mathomola Moshoesho were granted bail.

Businesses and schools have largely remained closed and the situation affected other sectors like health and transport.

The development regional spokesperson, Thabo Seadira, said: "Violent protests are having a very negative impact on our communities and coun-

WATCHFUL EYE: Peace and order is slowly being restored to the small town of Coligny following violent protests in response to the death of a 16-year-old boy.

on communities to work with the police to deal with any criminal elements and not to take the law into their own hands."

Francois said as a country, we cannot allow vigilante groups and armed groups to become the first respondents in volatile situations. This was the role of the police. Community safety and transport management MEC Mpho Modibane made a plea to the community leaders and the police to work around the clock jointly in an earnest attempt to return calm, peace and stability to the Coligny community.

"This rampant violence and arson needs to stop. Normality must be restored," Modibane said.

efast@theneuage.co.za

The committee said protests in the areas had escalated to violence and contributed to the disruption of civic, school and business activities and had led to damage of municipal infrastructure and housing.

Committee chairperson Francois Beukman said: "The committee calls on community members to exercise their constitutional right to protest within the confines of the law and refrain from becoming involved in criminal activities."

"We would also like to remind communities that it is the police that have a constitutional duty to protect and secure the inhabitants of the republic and their property and to uphold and enforce the law. In this regard, the committee calls

try at large. People lose lives and some sustain permanent injuries during such protests and businesses suffer as they shut down. Community members end up paying transport fares to go elsewhere to buy things they could be buying in close proximity.

"The government is making an unequivocal plea to the community of Coligny to desist from violence and allow school children to attend school without fear."

The National Assembly's portfolio committee for police also weighed in and said it noticed with concern incidents in Coligny and other areas like Yuwani, Emmerdale, Ekhorado Park and Richards Bay.

More woes for one Coligny suspect

12/05/2016 SOWETAN Pg 5 SAPS Neg.

Farmer now facing a further charge of reckless and negligent driving

By Lindile Sifile

One of the white farmers accused of the murder of a boy in Coligny, North West, is now facing an additional charge of reckless and negligence driving.

Matlhomola Mosweu, 16, died of his injuries in hospital on April 20. The two accused claim he fell off their bakkie as they were transporting him to police for allegedly stealing sunflower seeds on a farm. The black community believes Mosweu was assaulted to death, a case the state wants to prove in court.

The two accused are out on R5 000 bail each.

The latest charge relates to a car accident, apparently involving one of the accused, which occurred last year and resulted in the injury of a farm worker.

Coligny police allegedly bungled the case when they neglected to investigate the matter after it was reported to them in November 2016. They only classified it as an accident report for the victim to claim from the Road Accident Fund (RAF).

Simon Moremi, 58, from Tlhabologo location, claimed the farmer intentionally rammed into his bicycle from behind with his bakkie on November 3 2016. Moremi said he suffered injuries to his right ankle.

the impression that a criminal case was being investigated. I waited for an SMS with a case number but it never came," said Moremi.

The Sowetan team accompanied Moremi to the station yesterday to open a case.

Officers admitted that their colleague who took Moremi's statement assumed that the complainant only wanted to claim from the RAF and did not follow up with a criminal case. They then took his statement to attach it to a docket.

Former and current officers at the station told Sowetan that cases opened against farmers and influential people in the community were often not taken seriously.

Mathamela Masibi, 72, a retired warrant officer said although the station had mostly black officers, subtle intimidation towards blacks and laziness existed.

"Before 1994 there was racism, we even addressed younger colleagues as 'baas'. Things improved after 1994 but there are incidents where black officers feel intimidated and drag their feet investigating cases against whites," he said.

Masibi said in one incident just before he retired, he was forced to release a farmer who had assaulted a worker because his arrest was "unlawful".

"I had evidence against him," Masibi said.

An officer currently employed at the station, who declined to be named, admitted that cops at Coligny habitually neglected cases against farmers.

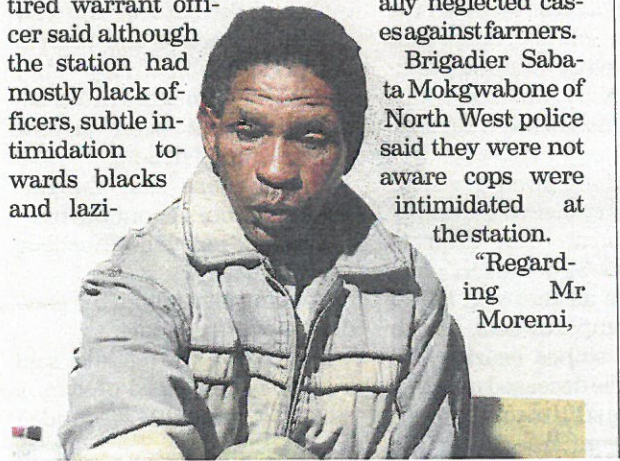
Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone of North West police said they were not aware cops were intimidated at the station.

"Regarding Mr Moremi,

he indicated when the incident was reported that he was not injured, hence only the accident report was completed."

Meanwhile, Mokgwabone said they had opened two inquest and culpable homicide cases related to incidents of two

others who were found dead at farms in Coligny and a man who was knocked down by a car. "All cases were handed over to the National Prosecuting Authority." NPA did not respond to question sent to them on Wednesday



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Wolmaransstad accident victims' names released

ELFASTORERAI

THE names of 13 people who died in the Wolmaransstad accident on Saturday night have finally been released.

Instead of the 12 deaths reported earlier on, North West police said yesterday that 13 people died in the accident.

The error is attributed to the fact that focus was more on the number of people who died in the accident while

the driver of the other vehicle was apparently not counted.

The names are Johannes Bernard Nel, the driver of the Toyota Land Cruiser, Daniel Meleko Diphoko, driver of the Toyota Quantum taxi, Mantele Martha Malatsi, Setshego Gloria Boo, Tsie Frank Sekamogeng, Kebitsamang Annah Msutwana, Kerileng Baby Masire, Goitsewang Patricia Masire, Minah Mosadiotsile Thabe, Setoki Letty Kgasu, Mimin-yana Florah Nchupang, Nosi Maria

Seleke and Seitiso Maria Kgalapa. North West police spokesperson, Sgt Kelebogile Moleko said that the names were released after police verified those who were in the two vehicles.

Most of the victims were members of the Zion Christian Church (ZCC) who were travelling from Mahikeng where they had attended a meeting earlier in the day.

Their taxi collided head on with a Toyota Land Cruiser and caught

fire, killing 12 people.

Only two women and a child survived.

The other vehicle had three occupants and only the driver died.

DNA tests have to be conducted on burnt bodies to establish their identities before they will be released to families for burial.

Those who were injured are being treated at different hospitals in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda region.

elfast@thenewage.co.za

'Fraudster's case deferred

THYS MOKGWAETSE

A FRAUD case involving 46-year-old Aletta Mathabo Moeti was postponed to July 24 for further investigation after she appeared in the Klerksdorp Magistrate's Court this week.

Moeti who was arrested by the North West Hawks at her home in Unzimhle village, Orkney, is facing a slew of fraud charges committed in the guise that she was working under the instruction of Premier Supra Mahumapelo.

She is out on R20 000 bail. The Hawks had earlier confirmed that they were investigating a case of fraud whereby several small business owners were defrauded by purporting to receive tenders from the North West Premier's Office and the premier himself.

"The small business owners would fall for the tricks of this fraudster and partner with her for tenders that did not exist as they believed what she said," Brian Setswambung, spokesperson in the Office of the Premier said.

The crime had allegedly happened during the time of the North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo's preparation to meet gangsters in Kamama in December last year.

And this is where gang members, parents, victims of crime, community members, political leaders and the police were present.

Gangs like SVK, Donyo, B02, HL, HP, Hana-Puso, Cuba Force, Masokolara, Money-Lover, Mega-death, Ghetto Ruff and Crazy Dog had attended.

Speaking to some of the victims who were defrauded, they said they only wanted to help the community concerning the gangs' issues.

The first victim said: "I paid for gala dinner of R15 000 for the event of the premier, security for the event of R23 000, windows, steel and wooden doors worth R24 000 and to be installed



MANY SCAMS: The provincial head of the Hawks, Maj-Gen Linda Mbana said her team will continue investigating all crimes. NEWS@THENEWSGUY.CO.ZA

working for the suspect, all-in-all for R8 500."

"The suspect had further continued to defraud me of more money as she was also claiming to help for funeral parlour funds."

The second victim said the suspect made him spend more for the Premier's event.

"I first saw the suspect at the offices of the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBR) when I started to do business with her during December (2016). I then took care of catering with big pots, more than 200 glasses, dishes, folding tables, chairs and plates and spent R58 500."

A third victim who also partnered with these two said: "I bought expensive couches and a TV, which were both worth R37 879 for the morning live TV show and for a victim (an old woman who was alleged to have been stabbed by gangsters in her eyes and could not see any more)."

"I bought wooden doors, cutlery and also paid the salaries of people who were

working for the suspect, all-in-all for R8 500."

The victims had also said they had spent more again on fuel when they were working with and helping the suspect.

Another victim said: "We once met with the suspect and she pretended she was working at the NHBR. She claimed that she would register a business for us and demanded R5 000, which we gave her. Going forward, when we were looking for her, that's when she started threatening us and not returning our money."

Hawks provincial head, Maj-Gen Linda Mbana said her team would continue investigating any crime without fear or favour.

She urged the community to report any illegal activities.

The Hawks had earlier confirmed that there were already 12 statements obtained from complainants which corroborate the scam which cost the victims more than R1m.

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12/03/17 TMA Pg 2 Hawks Pos

Hawks network warms up old age homes

ELFAS TORERAI

A TEAM of Hawks officials showed the directorates tender side when they visited old-age's homes and handed out gifts to the elderly in Klerksdorp yesterday.

The Hawks' Women and Men for Change Network embarked on a social responsibility campaign where two old age homes were visited.

The campaign was aimed at showing support and addressing an essential need for cosmetics for residents of the Emmanuel Disabled and Old Age Care Centre and the Klerksdorp Old Age Home.

Officials donated toiletries such as petroleum jelly, soap and toothpaste. Winter essentials were also handed over.

A warm and hearty meal was prepared for the residents of the Emmanuel Disabled and Old Age Care Centre in Jouberton, where Hawks members spent the morning serving and interacting with residents.

Anette Degenaar, communications manager at Klerksdorp Old Age Home, thanked the Hawks for the visit.

She said some of the elderly residents in their centre have no contact with their families.

"Just having people coming to visit means so much to many of our resi-



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CAMPAIGN: Hawks members visited two old age homes in Klerksdorp to hand over gifts, cosmetics and winter essentials to the elderly residents.

great initiative.

North West Hawks head Maj-Gen Linda Mbana said: "The North West Hawks' women and men for change will continue to embark on projects such as

this one. The format might be different but the goal will always be to address a need and to make a difference in our community."

elfast@thenewsguy.co.za