

15 MAY 2017 THE NEW AGE PAGE 1 NEGATIVE (SAPS)

Girl, 15, murdered.

THE DECEASED'S EARRINGS HELPED THE FAMILY TO IDENTIFY HER BURNT REMAINS

ELFAS TORERAI

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl was murdered and burnt beyond recognition by unknown assailants in Klerksdorp.

The girl is said to have disappeared from her home on Friday night.

Her charred remains were found yesterday morning and gory pictures of the burnt body started doing the rounds on social media in the afternoon.

Police in North West have confirmed the death of the 15-year-old girl.

Provincial police spokesperson, Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said: "We can confirm that the remains of a 15-year-old girl were found in Jouberton about 10am yesterday morning.

"Circumstances around the murder are not yet clear and we have opened a case of murder."

Mokgwabone said the girl's mother had reported the deceased missing on Saturday evening.

"Reports are that the girl went missing on Friday night. She is said to have left home about 8.30pm to go to a friend's place.

"However, that was the last time she was seen alive as her whereabouts could not be ascertained on the night she left home," he said.

A case of a missing person was opened at Jouberton police station

about 8.30pm on Saturday.

"It was on Sunday morning that the remains of the deceased were seen by members of the public, who then alerted authorities," Mokgwabone said.

He said despite the extensive nature of burns, members of the deceased's family managed to identify her.

"It appears that the deceased's earrings helped the family members to identify her," Mokgwabone said.

Investigations are said to have begun in earnest and police are optimistic that they will make a breakthrough soon.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that there could be a witness who saw what happened and might assist the police to get to the culprit(s).

It also remained unclear whether the deceased could have been raped before she was killed and subsequently set alight.

Mokgwabone said it was a bit too early for the police to link the case to any other murders.

The death of Karabo Mokoena, who was allegedly beaten and set alight by her boyfriend, went viral on social media, spawning the hashtag #MenAreTrash that has been trending.

Mokoena, 22, went missing on April 28 and her burnt remains were found in Lyndhurst, Johannesburg, last week.

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burnt

Accident victims laid to rest after weeks

Daily Sun Pg 5
15 May 2017
DCS & TM



By EDDIE DIPONE

THE remains of 12 victims of a horror taxi accident that happened more than a month ago were finally laid to rest during an emotional mass funeral on Saturday.

Hundreds of Wolmaransstad, North West residents braved the cold weather to pay their last respects to the 10 women and two men who died in the head-on collision on the road between Ottosdal and Wolmaransstad on 8 April. The mass funeral was held in Tsweleng.

Among the mourners were North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo, MEC for community safety and transport management Dr Mpho Motlhabane and Lekwa-Teemane mayor Noni Kgabi.

Mahumapelo thanked the victims' families for their patience

and co-operation during the forensic investigation.

He said the fact that all 12 victims had been burned beyond recognition had complicated the forensic work. The report on what caused the accident is yet to be released.

Trauma counselling had been given to the affected families, especially the only two survivors – a mother and her nine-year-old son. Daphney Diphoko (32) and her son Kgothatso survived but she lost her husband Daniel, a taxi driver.

She told the People's Paper she woke up in hospital and did not have any memory of the accident.

"We have lost a breadwinner. "It will be difficult for me to support my three kids because I am not working," she said.

Sad families pay their last respects to loved ones at the mass funeral on Saturday.

Photo by Eddie Dipone

Pg 2 DCSETM
15/05/2017 PRETORIA NEWS

12 crash victims buried

HUNDREDS of Wolmaransstad residents braved Saturday's wintry weather to pay their respects to 12 people – 10 women and two men – who died in a head-on collision between a minibus taxi and an SUV on the R505 between Ottosdal and Wolmaransstad on April 8.

The mass funeral was held at Tsweleng township. North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo, community safety and transport management MEC Mpho Motlhabane and Lekwa-Teemane local municipality mayor Noni Kgabi were among who those attended. The victims of the accident were all members of the Zion Christian Church. The drivers of both vehicles also died. – ANA

ZCC road carnage victims laid to rest



INCONSOLABLE: Some family members could not hold back the tears as they paid their final respects to their loved ones. **PHOTOS: LUPHUKANE**
INSET: Scores of mourners attended the mass funeral of Zion Christian Church members who were killed in an accident in Wolmaransstad were laid to rest yesterday.

OBAKENG MAJE

TWELVE people who died in the Wolmaransstad accident were laid to rest during a mass funeral in Tsweleng location on Saturday.

Relatives of the deceased shared their grief but expressed hope that they will find closure since their loved ones were given a decent send-off.

The funerals for the 12 victims had been delayed by almost a month after 10 of them had to be identified through DNA tests.

One of the deceased, Patricia Masire, was a teacher at Dlatleng Primary School. She died together with her mother, Kerleng, in the terrible accident.

"We have lost important people within our families. However, we believe that God will give us serenity and heal our souls."

"We expected a lot from Patricia because she had just graduated from North West University last year," family spokesperson

Ruben Masire said.

Misuthwane family spokesperson Gomotsegang Selehelo shared the same sentiments. Selehelo said Annah Misuthwane was her role model.

"I learnt a lot from Annah and she was my pillar of strength. We shared almost everything and she was always there. I will regard her as my support system and Annah was lovable. She kept our family together through hardships, trials and tribulations. We hope her soul finds peace and serenity," Selehelo said.

The mass funeral was held at a local stadium and Premier Supra Mahumapelo, MEC for community safety and transport management Dr Mpho Mollhobane and other dignitaries were among the mourners.

Johannesburg, Vryburg and Mahikeng Zion Christian Church (ZCC) minister Aletsha Phahlane said: "We lost important members of our church. ZCC will never be the same after the loss of so many souls. However, we believe in the living God

- Names of the deceased**
- ▶ Mantle Martha Malat
 - ▶ Tsie Frank Sekamogeng
 - ▶ Nosi Maria Seieke
 - ▶ Florence Nchupang
 - ▶ Kebitsamang Annah Mwane
 - ▶ Kerleng Baby Masire
 - ▶ Setsego Gloria Boo
 - ▶ Seitsho Maria Kgalapa
 - ▶ Mossadiotse Thabe
 - ▶ Moleko Dipphoko
 - ▶ Gotsemang Masire
 - ▶ Setoki Letty Kgasu

and that everything happens for a reason. We cannot cross-question God because he does his work different to our thinking."

The 12 ZCC members died on the R505 between Ottosdal and Wolmaransstad a month ago. They were travelling from a church meeting in Mahikeng and their minibus caught fire after a head-on collision with a SUV.

Mahumapelo said the forensic report outcome was delayed because of the extent of the burns.

"Firstly, we want to convey our condolences to all those who are affected. Indeed, it has been a difficult time and we needed to ensure that all forensic investigations were properly done.

The extent of the accident was devastating and more intense than the Mmamalanga car crash," Mahumapelo said.

"We want to thank the pathologists who assisted the families and for their cooperation. The pain has been excru-

ciating for the families and to applaud them for their loudness. The government will continue them counselling and ensure loud that they are carrying shoulders is reduced."

He further said even the government cannot erase the pain, the families will be supported. - Newsnote