

# Department closes all hiking spots, clamps down on illegal transport operators and encourages use of official taxis

The department of Community Safety and Transport Management condemns the use of illegal transport operations in Mahikeng and encourages communities to utilise authorised public transport. The Departmental MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane send a strong warning to those operating without operating licenses and said the Department will conduct a special clampdown operation in order to close all hiking spots and illegal transport operators in Mahikeng. We are not going to allow our people to be transported with vehicles that do not have operating permits. These illegal operators put the lives of our people in danger and we will not allow this," he said.

He said the department has declared war on illegal and unauthorised taxi operators in Mahikeng. "This concerted program is deliberately geared towards reclaiming of our streets and roads campaign, in line with a clear government position of Repositioning, Rebranding and Renewal of Bokone Bophirima Province in general and Mahikeng in particular," explained Motlhabane. The department has recently noticed that the phenomenon of Dithlogwana, hiking and illegal taxi operations seems to have become a norm and somewhat persistent. This follows mushrooming of unofficial ranks which are being operated through stubbornness, violence and aggressiveness. This has become a Road Safety and



high speed chases, passengers being harassed and taxi violence erupting. Our law enforcement officials together with South African Police Service officers and Taxi conflict unit are on the ground, working around the clock to clamp down all these illegal operations

Caltex garage in town, Cookes Lake gates and Bophelong turn near Danville en route Lichtenburg," he warned. The other unofficial ranks are operated near Mahikeng Primary and Secondary School and Stadium as well as outside the Sasol garage in Riviera Park en

Vryburg.

My office is worried about sporadic taxi conflicts in general and we are monitoring and intervening in all reported cases. We cannot afford another simmering tension affecting the public transport, especially the Taxi industry which we could face, if not careful. We will not fold our arms and do nothing." Ours, as a government is not only to maintain peace and stability in order to ensure that law and order is not compromised but to issue operating licenses and permits to deserving operators who made applications. We will not shy away from being tough on those illegal public transport, hiking lords and pirates using seven (7) to nine (9) seater Avanza's, Bakkies', Verso's and unauthorised normal taxi's. We will impound these vehicles and slap them with heavy traffic fines. We are also contemplating the amendment of the law to ensure that all repeat offenders will have their vehicles impounded. Such vehicles should only be returned after a legal process would have concluded in favour of the operator, otherwise the car should be ceded to the state".

We cannot afford this state of lawlessness and deliberate paralysis. This must stop and people must make applications to the department through proper channels if they want to operate public transportation. No one will be allowed to wake up and operate, wily nily, as if the government is helpless." Concluded Motlhabane.

# Robbery suspects in court

as well as an undisclosed amount of money," she said.

Mahikeng detectives arrested one of the men on Wednesday and further investigations paid off when the other seven were apprehended the following day.

"The Mahikeng cluster trio task team and flying squad members managed to arrest the other seven suspects early on Thursday morning.

"The police recovered eight cellular phones, two Speedpoint machines, a pellet rifle and four toy pistols. A taxi that was used in the robbery was also seized," Myburgh said.

Provincial police management congratulated the police for the good work done and urged for the prosecution to work hard and convict the accused.

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ELFASTORERAI

EIGHT men arrested for a business robbery in Mahikeng will only be able to apply for bail on September 12.

The accused were remanded in custody after their brief appearance in the Mmabatho Magistrate's Court on Friday.

The men are aged between 19 and 40. North West police spokesperson Lt-Col Adele Myburgh said the accused were arrested in different villages in Mahikeng.

"The men robbed a fast food restaurant early on Monday morning, August 28 when they entered the restaurant and threatened the owner and employees with firearms.

"They fled the scene with robbed cellular phones, two Speedpoint machines

# Kidnapped boy safe

A MAN, 22, has been arrested for allegedly kidnapping and attempting to murder a 10-year-old boy in Itsoseng near Lichtenburg in North West.

Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone said the man was arrested after he called the boy's family and demanded a ransom.

"The suspect disclosed to police where the child was. The boy was found still alive inside a disused drain just outside Verwaal village near Itsoseng on Friday."

The boy was reunited with his family. He was kept at two other places, including inside another drain, since he went missing on August 25 - ANA

PRETORIA NEWS-PS-04/09/17 - NUSAPS-POS

# Mob attack pastor laid to rest

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Community had accused him of raping a teen girl

By **Boitumelo Tshenhe**

A North West pastor died after getting involved in an accident as he fled assault by a mob who accused him of raping a teenage girl.

Jan Molosiwa, 57, of El Elyon Ministries of Bodibe village, died last week and was buried without incident south of Mahikeng on Saturday.

His brother, Abbey Molosiwa, said the pastor lost control of his car in Meetmekaar village. Abbey said a friend of his brother, who was with him at the time, told the family the group, armed with metal objects, started chasing them while they were driving through the village at 1am.

"After the car overturned, the group got out of their cars, pulled Jan out and started kicking him and hitting him with iron objects."

Abbey said the police later



**Friends and family members mourn the late Pastor Jan Molosiwa at his funeral service held at Bodibe village near Itsooseng, about 50km south-east of Mahikeng. / TIRO RAMATLHATSE**

Abbey said a church member called an ambulance, but the pastor was certified dead on arrival.

"The postmortem indicates the accident as the cause of the death but we believe it was the severe assault he got from the people who attacked him."

He added that none of Molosiwa's attackers was arrested.

Police spokesman Sabata Mokgwabone said police were called after the pastor's vehicle overturned.

"Police, due to apparent furious members of the community, had to remove the pair from the scene and put them in the vehicle while waiting for the ambulance," he said.

Mokgwabone said the two were handed over to the paramedics who took them to hospital.

"A report was received later that one of them passed away. At this stage, cases of rape and culpable homicide have been opened, respectively, for investigation."

Molosiwa was a married father of five. Many speakers at his funeral described him as a mentor and loving person.

him off outside his church.

"After hearing sounds, the congregants came out and found Jan lying there, naked with blood all over."

assault Molosiwa.

Abbey said the officers rescued his injured brother again but instead of rushing him to hospital, the police dropped

arrived at the scene, rescued

the pastor and put him in the back of their van. The attackers allegedly jumped into the police vehicle and continued to

01/09/17 TNA Pg 1 NDSAPS POS

# Boy murdered by mother

## HE WAS 10 BUT SHE STABBED HIM WHILE ANOTHER BOY WAS HELD FOR RANSOM

ELFAS TORERAI

IN A grim week for children, a 10-year-old boy died after his mother stabbed him multiple times in Little Trust village in the Moretele local municipality, while another boy of the same age was kidnapped and kept inside a drain in Isoseng.

The mother of the deceased boy and the 22-year-old kidnaper accused appear in court today.

In the first incident, Christine Raphasha, 50, turned herself in after the fatal assault on the son. She was arrested and charged with murder after police found the mangled body to the boy.

West police said that Raphasha went to the Community Service Centre at Betwang police station and informed the police that she'd murdered her son.

"The police accompanied her to her house in Little Trust village, where the 10-year-old boy's body was discovered inside the bedroom. Further investigation revealed that there were numerous stab wounds in the upper body.

deceased was not at home at the time of the assault and more details would emerge as the case goes to trial.

In the Isoseng case, police arrested a 22-year-old suspect for kidnapping and attempted murder of a 10-year-old boy on Saturday.

The boy went missing on August 25. When he did not return home after school his family opened a case of a missing person. It turned out that the boy had been moved from one drain to another as the accused intended claiming a ransom from the boy's family.

Provincial spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said: "A search for the boy was launched and in the process the suspect called the boy's family members and demanded a ransom.

"Police managed during the investigation to find and interview the suspect who disclosed the whereabouts of the child. The latter was found still alive inside a disused drain just outside Verdwaaal village near Isoseng," he said.

Mokgwabone said the boy was then handed to the family after undergoing medical treatment that confirmed he was still healthy. "A preliminary investigation has revealed that the boy was kept at two other places, including inside another drain at a local sports ground.

The 22-year-old suspect is expected to appear in the Isoseng Magistrate's Court today.

Social development MEC Hoffman Galeng said his department had deployed social workers to provide trauma and bereavement counselling to family members.

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