
Four suspects nabbed by cops

An intelligence driven operation by police in Makapanstad, Akasia and Temba in the early hours of Friday led to the apprehension of four suspects aged between 25 and 27 for various crimes committed in Akasia, Hammanskraal, Makapanstad, Cyferskuil, Bedwang and Temba.

Those arrested included Steve Mphela Ditiragalo who was arrested at Stinkwater and Portion 9 near Temba.

The 27-year-old escaped from police custody in 2016, after being found guilty on house and armed robbery cases committed in Hammanskraal, Temba and Akasia between 2013 and 2015. Ditiragalo has already appeared before the Pretoria North Regional Court.

He will also appear before court for more crimes including house robberies he allegedly committed in Makapanstad and Cyferskuil whilst on the run. During the operation that led to the arrest of the suspects, two suspected stolen vehicles; a Nissan Sentra and Honda Ballade were seized.

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Women get into gear to improve driving skills

ELFAS TORERAI

ABOUT 200 women drawn from all districts in the North West participated in this year's provincial driving competition in Mahikeng recently.

The competition was organised by the community safety and transport management department to hone the driving skills of women and encourage safety on the roads.

There is a perception that women are bad drivers and the competition is organised to dispel such notions and give women more exposure.

The competition has been running for a number of years and authorities feel that it has played a vital role in increasing road safety.

"The competition is aimed at highlighting their driving skills.

"In society women play a major role in influencing the attitudes and behaviours of communities on our roads and positive attitudes shown by these women will assist in minimising the factors leading to road fatalities," department

spokesperson Thabo Semale said. "Women have a huge role to play in spreading the road safety 'gospel' by leading by example."

The majority of women competitors have done an advanced driving course as well. Semale said the department believes that women deserve a chance to display their driving skills to show how they have evolved over the years from being mere pedestrians or passengers, to mature motorists themselves.

Women drivers were happy to have taken part in the competition and said that it was not about winning but improving their skills.

There was a track test which assessed their abilities to manoeuvre in and out of confined spaces or roads and a road test to test the drivers' defensive driving skills.

They were also subjected to a theory test to check if drivers are familiar with the regulations of the road, road signs and a quick pre-trip inspection.

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ROAD SAFETY: About 200 women participated in the provincial driving competition. PICTURE: PHEBO/OK