

Best from Meg

Transport group torches pupils' free ride

MOLAOLE MONTSHO

THREE buses were set alight in Ikageng near Rustenburg in an apparent war over fees, residents said.

"The buses transport pupils to Kanana and Rankelenyane for free every day. It is a service provided by the government. Now members of the Northern Scholar Transport Operative Association (Nostoa) have a problem with the buses, because they claim the buses are putting them out of business," said resident Lucky Mogale.

He said the buses were torched on Tuesday at around 1am, leading to residents blocking the road and demanding the arrest of the perpetrators.

"It is not about service delivery issues, we want those responsible for burning the buses to be arrested."

A member of the local transport



PICTURE: ANA

Three buses were torched near Rustenburg in an apparent war over fees.

a security guard saw four armed men dousing one bus with petrol before setting it alight, and called named for fear of reprisals, said

committee members through a two-way radio.

"We rushed to the scene. On

arrival, a VW Golf sped off and the bus was burning. One man ran towards the filling station and disappeared.

"The fire from the first bus spilt over to the second bus, and the third bus caught fire in the same manner," he said.

"We managed to push a fourth bus away, saving it from the fire. Members of Nostoa threatened to burn down the buses starting in Ikageng before going to Swartruggens. They are worried that they can no longer make money from transporting children to school, because the buses are transporting children for free."

North West police said a case of malicious damage to property had been opened for investigation.

The road between Lethabong and Rustenburg was barricaded with rocks. Residents later cleared the roads and traffic was allowed to flow uninterrupted. --ANA

Buses torched in war over routes

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State-sponsored transport for pupils irks Nostoa in North West

ANA

THREE buses were set alight in Ikageng near Rustenburg in an apparent war over routes.

One resident, Lucky Mogale, said the buses took pupils to Kanana and Rankelonyane for free every day.

"It is a service provided by the government, but now members of Nostoa (Northern Scholar Transport Operative Association) have a problem with the buses, because they claim the buses are putting them out of business."

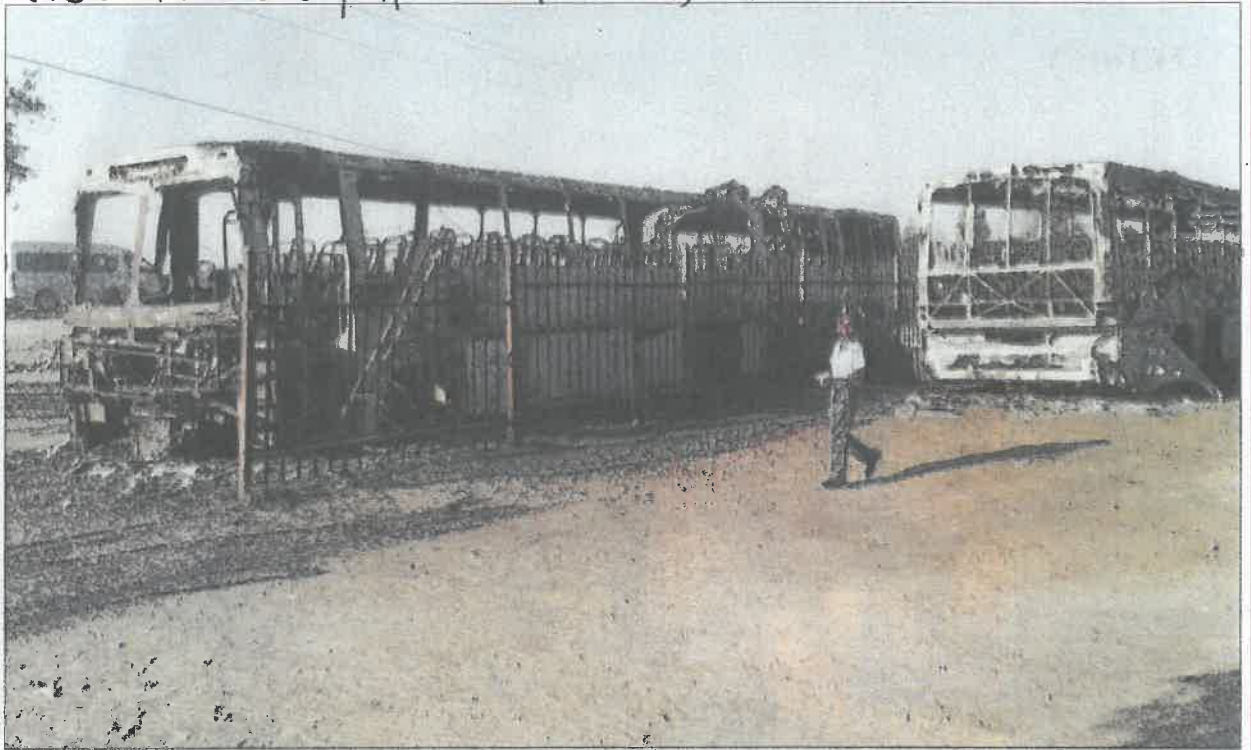
He said on Tuesday around 1am, the buses had been torched, leading to residents blocking the road and demanding the arrest of the perpetrators.

"It is not about service delivery issues, we want those responsible for burning the buses to be arrested."

A member of the local transport committee which oversees the bus service taking the children to school, but who did not want to be named for fear of reprisals, said a security guard had seen four armed men dousing a bus in petrol before setting it alight, and called committee members on his two-way radio.

"We rushed to the scene. On arrival, a VW Golf sped off and the bus was burning. One man ran towards the filling station and disappeared.

"The fire from the first bus



GUTTED: Two of the buses set alight by arsonists allegedly affiliated to the Northern Scholar Transport Operative Association in Rustenburg.

spilled over to the second bus and the third bus caught fire in the same manner," he said.

"We managed to push a fourth bus away, saving it from the raging fire. Members of Nostoa threatened to burn the buses starting in Ikageng before going to Swartruggens.

"They are worried that they can no longer make money from taking children to school,

because the buses were transporting children to school for free."

He said on Monday, members of Nostoa had threatened to torch the buses and on Tuesday the buses had been set alight.

They tried to convince them to sub-contract to the bus company, but they refused on the basis that the route belonged

to Nostoa and wanted the full service and not to be sub-contractors, he added.

On Tuesday night, community members had gone to the home of one of the Nostoa members and thrown stones at the house, he said.

"They wanted to burn him inside the house. But the police took him away."

Nostoa was reluctant to

comment, saying their chairperson was in a meeting and was the only person who could comment.

"We are not staying in Ikageng, we are staying in Tlhabane. We do not know what happened there," said a woman who did not identify herself and refused to give the chairperson's name or cell-phone number.

North West police said a case of malicious damage to property had been opened.

The road between Lethabong and Rustenburg had been barricaded with rocks and motorists were forced to negotiate their way through yesterday morning.

Residents later cleared the roads and traffic was allowed to flow.

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Uncle gets life for raping niece

MUSA PS ELFAS TORERAI POS

TWO men were handed life sentences in the Klerksdorp Regional Court on Tuesday for the 2013 rape of an 11-year-old girl in Klerksdorp.

One of the rapists, now aged 31, is the victim's uncle.

North West police spokesperson, Lt-Col Amanda Funani said the rape occurred in Extension 19, Jouberton on February 21, 2013.

The girl, who lived with her grandmother, had been visiting her mother. The mother was not at home when she arrived. The child then fell asleep and was woken up that night by her uncle and his friend, who took turns in raping her.

Provincial police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane welcomed the sentence.

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