

The New Age - 06/09/17 - Pg 8 - Provincial - Aops - Positive

Rampant violence-related crimes as a result of alcohol consumption

ELFAS TORERAI

A TOTAL of 137 people were arrested for assault during a raid conducted by police in North West at the weekend.

The accused formed part of 307 people arrested in operations conducted on Thursday and Friday.

Other accused were apprehended for offences such as murder, robberies, stock theft, burglaries, robberies and many others.

The raids were done in all seven policing clusters in the province.

Police management in the province expressed outrage at the high number of assaults and attempted murder incidents that are reported on a daily basis.

In the case of assault, the cases recorded include assault with the intent to cause grievous bodily harm (GBH) and common assault.

North West police commissioner, Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane said that the occurrences were a clear indication that there was a problem of violence-related incidents wherein members of the community fought among themselves.

"These incidents unfortunately lead to attempted murder and



SUCCESSFUL RAIDS: Some 307 people were arrested during police operations on Friday and Saturday.

murder that are also influenced by irresponsible consumption of liquor," she said.

Motswenyane strongly condemned the violent incidents and warned that communities have to be restrained in their behaviour.

"We want to make it clear to those who commit these types of crimes that they will be arrested and if found guilty, will be sentenced and

serve jail terms at correctional centres," she said.

The police commissioner further urged residents to drink responsibly and strive to solve their differences amicably rather than resorting to violence that often leads to cases of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, attempted murder and murder.

"The community is also encour-

aged to work together with the police through structures like community police forums and to use the services of social workers, particularly in cases involving people who are related," she said.

Some of those arrested briefly appeared in various courts in the province but others will make their appearance today.

elfast@theneuage.co.za

Minister urges drivers to obey road rules

DIKELEDI RAMABOPA

THE Minister of Transport, Joe Maswanganyi, urged law enforcement agencies to be on high alert, visible and to patrol all known hazardous areas across the country to ensure that they arrest road users who deliberately disobey the rules of the road.

This follows an increase in accidents that claimed many lives and resulted in injuries during the Heritage Day weekend.

In Mpumalanga, police are investigating the cause of an accident in which seven people were killed in Verena towards Denilton where a vehicle ferrying 13 people including the driver, lost control and overturned.

In another incident, three people were killed in a collision between a truck and a car at the R50 near Delmas.

In the Western Cape, an elderly person has been critically injured following a collision between two vehicles and a truck on the N1 near Platiekloof in Cape Town's northern suburbs.

Meanwhile, KZN EMS officials have confirmed that there had been at least 19 fatalities on the province's roads since Friday night.

In North West, two men were killed and four others injured including a

and run, driving under the influence of alcohol, using electronic gadgets, not wearing seat belts and fatigue.

"Our law enforcement agencies will continue to ensure we get rid of bad drivers on our road who continue to cause unnecessary pain to families and hurt the economy of the country," Maswanganyi said.

Maswanganyi said the government had declared war against lawlessness on the roads.

"The Cabinet approved the National Road Safety Strategy and the National Assembly passed the Aarto Bill to ensure all agencies responsible for law enforcement can act swiftly in saving lives on our roads.

"We will be implementing a 24-hour shift for law enforcement officers in all provinces to increase police visibility and ensure greater impact on the prevention of traffic offences," Maswanganyi said.

He said the intention of the road safety strategy is to highlight the main factors which are often the root cause of carnages in our roads, while the intention of the Aarto Act is to address this situation by encouraging responsible driving habits and adherence to traffic laws amongst the motoring public.

dikeledi@thenewwo.co.za



HIGH ALERT: Minister Joe Maswanganyi wants cops to get tough. PICTURE: NEWS

three-year-old child when a light car crashed into a tree just off the N4 between Moedville and Swartruggens outside Rustenburg.

He said that these crashes were characterised by speeding, overtaking, hit

Minister Maswanganyi said although

Motorists warned against hijacking

ELFAS TORERAI

MOTORISTS travelling along the N14 road between Ventersdorp and Coligny and the R503 between Coligny and Lichtenburg have been urged to be careful after numerous cases of hijackings have been reported on the two roads.

Police yesterday said motorists should avoid stopping next to the road. North West police spokesperson Lt-Col Adèle Myburgh said in one of the incidents reported on the N14, a driver was stopped by a person who asked for help after an alleged robbery.

"The driver stopped to help and suddenly had a firearm pointed at him. He was forced to drive to Klerksdorp with

the three suspects (including the person who wanted help, being one of the suspects). He was then tied up and placed in the back seat of his vehicle.

"He was later dropped off near a mine at East-Drietfontein. The suspects took his car and personal belongings," she said.

On the same road earlier this month, another motorist was hijacked by a person who pretended to be asking for directions near a garage in Coligny.

"The victim was parked close to a garage and was approached by a person asking for directions.

While still talking to the man, the driver was threatened with a gun and told to drive towards Coligny. He was robbed of his vehicle and personal

belongings," Myburgh said. Police called on motorists to maintain their vehicles to minimise the risk of a breakdown.

"When driving, always check the rear view mirror to see if you are being followed, avoid driving with your windows open, keep the doors locked and put valuables out of sight.

"Motorists should avoid distractions while driving such as using a cellphone. When approaching a red traffic light, slow down so that you only reach it when it turns green, especially during the night," Myburgh said.

She said motorists should not stop to pick up hitchhikers. It is no longer safe. elfas@thenewage.co.za

26/09/17 TMA Pg 1

Three in court for robbery

NW SAPS POS.
ELFAS TORERAI

THREE men arrested for a spate of business robberies will appear in the Klerksdorp Magistrate's Court today.

The three are aged between 25 and 50. They were apprehended after North West organised crime detectives in cooperation with the Klerksdorp trio task team and tactical response team (TRT) held a successful operation on Wednesday and Thursday last week.

The three were arrested in Vosloorus, Thokoza in Gauteng and Klerksdorp.

"The three were nabbed for various recent business robberies committed in Potchefstroom when explosives were used to blow open safes," North West police spokesperson Lt-Col Adèle Myburgh said.

"The last incident was committed two weeks ago in Potchefstroom. Following an intensive investigation, the suspects are being linked with six other cases."

elfast@thenewage.co.za