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Safety campaign launch

ELFAS TORERA

NORTH West police have launched an awareness campaign targeting elderly people after a number of people disappeared from Pella village near Madikwe.

Provincial police commissioner, Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane and community safety and transport management MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane will address community members tomorrow.

The two will also hand over safety

panic buttons to elderly people. Motswenyane said most people who go missing are elderly persons living alone.

"While some of the victims were later found alive, the concern and general observation is that with proper love and care, these incidents are avoidable.

"The campaign will emphasise educating members of the community about taking care of the elderly and their rights," Motswenyane said.

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Sigh of relief as police silence Amagintsa terror

ELFAS TORERAI

THE reign of Amagintsa gang that has been terrorising residents of Jouberton outside Klerksdorp, in the North West has ended to the jubilation of the community.

Police took the decision to smash the group and its operation recently by arresting several members and splitting up others.

Residents thanked the police after they cracked on the feared group known as Amagintsa in their area.

They complained that the group took over the streets, did as it pleased and people were powerless to stop it. During the funerals of one of its members, the group would spin cars, do drag racing, drink alcohol publicly and parade scantily dressed young women.

This time, police pounced after the group caused terror and panic following the death of a well-known criminal.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said: "As part of reasserting the authority of the state and curbing lawlessness, members of the public order police, tactical response team, air wing, criminal records, crime scene management and visible police members from Jouberton successfully conducted a surprise high density disruptive operation, that dealt a blow to Amagintsa."

They were all under the command

as public consumption of liquor," Mokgwabone said. Police pounced on the group during the funeral service to stop its usual practices and ensured that everything was done orderly.

"Among others, the funeral was also attended by scantily dressed girls.

"However, the usually terrified members of the community, who previously witnessed the so-called Amagintsa funerals were thankful about the action by the police and requested them to conduct more of these operations.

"While the citizens' right to freedom of association is respected, their total disregard for the rule of law cannot go unnoticed.

"Responsible members of the community are therefore urged to condemn such incidents and report them to the police so that necessary and legal action can be taken," Mokgwabone said.

The police were ready to reclaim the streets and restore order in communities after this raid, he said.

"We urge the law-abiding citizens of Jouberton and other parts of the province to be rest assured that the police are ready and willing to expose and deal with the Amagintsa, no matter who is involved.

"With this operation, we are sending out a clear message that the days of lawlessness and of committing crime with impunity are over," Mokgwabone said.

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JUBILATION: Police pounced on a group of unruly people who were celebrating the life and death of a notorious criminal in Klerksdorp.

of the deputy provincial commissioner of policing, Maj-Gen Patrick Asaneng.

He said the operation emanated from numerous complaints and cases that were reported following the death and

funeral of the well-known criminal, Thabo Izzy West.

"The incidents included robbing of foreign national owned small businesses by local criminal associates commonly

referred to as Amagintsa.

"They committed illegal acts such as spinning of cars, engaging in reckless and negligent driving, wild celebrations and malicious firing of firearms as well

Three cops die hunting wanted man

Three North West police officers tracing a wanted suspect died in a road accident in the Eastern Cape in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Police spokesperson Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone said the three provincial tracking team members died when their vehicle hit a stray animal on the R61 near Xholosini village in Engcobo.

"Three members died instantly while a fourth was seriously injured and transported to hospital for medical attention," Mokgwabone said.

He dismissed reports that the police officers were in the Eastern Cape to attend a memorial service, or were part of a team assigned to investigate the shootings at the Ngcobo police station last week.

Five police officers and a soldier were killed when a gang attacked the station in that incident.

"They departed from Potchefstroom to Mthatha, Eastern Cape, on Monday afternoon to trace a suspect," said the spokesperson.

"The suspect is wanted in connection with two cases of murder, one of rape and another one of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm that were reported in the province between 2008 and 2011." - ANA

3 cops killed in crash

NWSAB

THREE North West police officers tracing a wanted suspected died in a road accident in the Eastern Cape in the early hours of yesterday.

Police spokesperson Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone said three provincial tracking team members died when their vehicle hit a stray animal along the R61 road near Xholosini village, eNgcobo. "Three members died instantly while the fourth one was seriously injured and transported to hospital."

He denied that the police officers were part of a team assigned to investigate the shooting at the Ngcobo police station in which five police officers and a soldier died. - African News Agency (ANA)

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