

Mandrax buttons seized

By STEPHENS MOLOBI

THREE men were found with mandrax buttons worth R4 million when they were stopped at a roadblock on Wednesday.

The men, aged between 25 and 56, were travelling from Rustenburg in North West to Joburg when they were stopped at the roadblock.

North West acting police commissioner Major-General Ganasen Naidoo said police stopped a suspicious-looking white bakkie.

Naidoo said: "It was during the search that police found three boxes full of small packets of mandrax tablets.

"I applaud the officers on duty for the great work they did.

"They practised good vigilance, which resulted in the arrest of the suspects."

Naidoo said police would continue to enhance their visibility, in line with their back to basics approach, to ensure that criminals were brought to book.

The three suspects were expected to appear in the Brits Magistrates Court today on charges of possession of drugs.



Police seized R4 million worth of mandrax buttons during a road block.

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MUSA PS. POS
Broederstroom
R4m drug bust

ELFAS TORERAI

THREE men will appear in the Brits Magistrate's Court today after they were caught with drugs worth R4m.

The men were arrested on Wednesday evening by police in Hartbeespoort. Provincial police spokesperson, Lt-Col Pelonomi Makau said the three were aged between 25 and 56.

"The suspects' arrests came after the police, who were on a routine patrol, stopped to search a suspicious white bakkie in the vicinity of Broederstroom. The police found three boxes full of small packets of Mandrax tablets.

The suspects who were travelling from Rustenburg to Johannesburg, were arrested for possession of drugs with an estimated street value of R4m," she said. Makau said they had been charged for possession of drugs. Acting provincial police commissioner Maj-Gen Ganasen Naidoo commended the police for their vigilance.

elfast@thenewage.co.za

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POS



Mandla Gwanqa claims a rival taxi association assaulted him.

TAXIMEN LIVE IN FEAR!

By DULILE SOWAGA

VICTIMS of the endless taxi violence in Stilfontein, North West, blame the cops and the transport department.

They accused the department of allowing unlicensed operators to use their route.

Greater Stilfontein Taxi Association administrator, Mandla Gwanqa, said they had been living in fear since the violence started in 2015.

The association claims to have reported nine cases, some of which have been closed without being investigated.

These include the murder of association chairman Jeffrey Bambani, whose case will go to trial next month.

Gwanqa said the association did meet officials and rival taximen.

'Cops fold arms as we get shot'

"Our chairman was killed after one of those meetings in August 2015," said Gwanqa.

He said the violence grew after the transport department offered application forms to the rival group for the disputed route two years ago.

Khuma and Stilfontein United Taxi Association chairman, Mlandeli Xuma, said there was no conflict over the route.

"Yes, we have applied and are awaiting permits to use the route," Xuma told *Daily Sun*.

He said only those who had permits used the route.

But community safety and transport management spokesman, Rabone Moeng, said no one from the Khuma association had an operating licence.

Moeng said after Greater Stilfontein operators objected to the appli-

cation in 2014, the matter was heard and the application was granted to the Khuma association.

"Following a meeting with the two rival groups, it was decided as a way forward that all administrative processes would unfold as the route was already granted," said Moeng.

"This means applications will be received, registered and gazetted, but no operating licence will be issued until the matter is resolved."

North West police spokesman Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone told the People's Paper that three of the cases opened were investigated and taken to court for a decision.

"They came back with queries that are being attended to before being taken back to court," he said.

But in one of the cases, Mokgwabone said, the court had declined to prosecute.

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NEWSWATCH

Hawks charge one of their own

The Hawks have arrested one of their own officers for allegedly defeating the ends of justice.

Yesterday spokesperson Captain Ndivhuwo Mulamu said Sergeant Leonard Mathonsi, 38, appeared before the Germiston Magistrate's Court on Wednesday. He had not signed or affirmed his statement as the complainant in a drug-related case registered in 2015. His commanders asked him to sign it, but instead he denied writing the statement and tore it up. The case was withdrawn from court due to lack of evidence. - ANA

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Pretoria News pg 2 17/07/17
Large cash grab as Hawks
robbers blast ATM Neg

A GANG of armed men made off with a large amount of money after bombing an ATM at Moruleng Mall, near Mogwase in North West, the Hawks said yesterday.

Captain Tlangelani Rikhotso said 15 armed men entered Moruleng mall in the early hours of Wednesday.

"They tried to gain entry into various shops, but the alarms went off," said Captain Rikhotso.

"They entered Cash Build, where they bombed a safe and stole an undisclosed amount of money, electrical cords and drilling accessories. They proceeded to bomb a Capitec Bank ATM where they stole R450 000 and drove off in several vehicles."

Rikhotso said that before the thieves fled there was a shoot-out with security guards.

"There were no injuries." - ANA