

2/10/17 Semphete Pg 12
Desd TM Pos.

Preventing crime through environmental design

Idah Masae

The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management's Crime Prevention unit conducted a "fight against crime" through a de-bushing programme at Boitekong in the Rustenburg Local Municipality.

This environmental design programme is a deliberate response to the long-standing outcry by community members about a bushy area that has become a haven for criminal activities.

The project was implemented through a de-bushing exercise coordinated in the form of Letsema campaign, where members of the community were encouraged to volunteer their services in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

The partnership programme was undertaken to prevent and reduce potential opportunity for criminal activities to manifest, as well as to increase the ease of detection and identification of criminals and their actions.

CPTED is implemented through various activities across the four districts of

The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management invited stakeholders such as South African Police Service, the local Community Policing Forum (CPF), Boitekong tavern owners, business people in the area, community members and the Rustenburg Local Municipality to help to de-bush the identified area.

The bushy area of the township is used by residents as a shortcut to the shopping mall and other residential areas on the other side of the township. Perpetrators take advantage of this and hide in the bushes and start terrorizing residents by raping women and girls, beating up and bullying people as well as robbing them of their groceries and goods.

Deputy Chairperson of the local CPF in Boitekong expressed excitement at the campaign to reduce these incidents.

"I am grateful that the department and the police have come to help us. Criminal elements should be scared on seeing us work this hard to remove this bush. They should start running away as they no longer have a place to hide in our community," he said.

Community Safety and Transport Management MEC, Dr Mpho Mokheabane



Community members hard at work during the de-bushing campaign in Boitekong recently



MEC Mpho Mokheabane addressing the community after the de-bushing in Letsema in Boitekong.

Onkabetse Thuto to battle for national champs

Staff reporter

After locking horns on debate, the team of five learners from Onkabetse Thuto Secondary school from Sedagole emerged as the champions of the 2017 Road Safety Schools Debate, following their total display of enthusiasm and passion when they eliminate three other schools on the first category. The five-member team of

Onkabetse Thuto Secondary from the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, clinched position one after defeating three other schools which represented their respective district at this Provincial level. Ticking their presence in the competition, the Tiger Kloof High secured themselves position two, while the Tinagalo Secondary and Loane Secondary schools consoled themselves to have reached and represented their Districts at the Provincial level. On the special category of learners living with disability, the Tlamelang special school

national competition when they defeated the Christiana School for the Blind.

Addressing the six teams that participated at the provincial competition, Community Safety and Transport Management's Chief Director Molefi Morule congratulated two champion teams and wished them the best for the up-coming national competition.

"You have elevated the level of this competition and we are looking forward for more than this performance at the national debate to ensure that the national championship remains in our province," said Morule.

The Chief Director said the debate is critical as they have a role to play in advocating and networking with their peers on the Global Plan of Road Safety which focuses on road safety management. "It is through programmes like these where as a province we work towards

safer roads and further reduce death toll on our roads.

"All of you here, you are ambassadors of road safety and you must continue to educate community members and your fellow learners about road safety and by working together we can make change in our communities and schools," said Mr Morule.

He said, learners continue to

play a vital role in the road safety education awareness and their points will be considered in the department road safety improvement decision.

The Road Safety Campaign debate competition is aimed at encouraging learners to be aware of road safety issues, teach learners to take responsibility of road safety

issues that affect their communities and to develop and enhance the learners' presentation, communication and listening skills.

The two teams will represent the province during the national road safety debate competition that will be held in the Province in the first week of the 2017 October Transport Month. otdape@gmail.com

21/07/17 TMA Pg 1 MWSAPS POS

Four men nabbed for business robbery in De Wildt

ELFAS TORERAI

LUCK ran out for four men who had allegedly robbed a butchery in De Wildt near Mmakau village as they were arrested and locked up.

The four were arrested after a swift response by police in Mmakau supported by the air wing, Brits tactical response team and the Mothutlung and Lethabile visible policing units.

The men will face charges of business robbery and illegal possession of

firearms and ammunition. North West police spokesperson, Sgt Kelebogile Moleko said: "The suspects were arrested following an incident in which they robbed an undisclosed amount of cash from a butchery at De Wildt, Mmakau about 12pm.

According to information received, the suspects also took five cellphones belonging to the butchery owner and his employees. They were leaving the scene when a Mmakau police patrol vehicle arrived. The suspects, driv-

ing in a blue BMW fled towards the direction of Lethabile, resulting in a car chase," she said. "Police managed to call for support and after failing to get the police off their back, the accused abandoned their vehicle near Lethabile shopping complex and ran on foot. "Through the support of the air wing four suspects were spotted and caught in Zone 5, Lethabile. The police managed to confiscate two firearms used in the robbery. The suspects, aged

between 29 and 50 are expected to appear in the Brits Magistrate's Court soon," she said.

Moleko said preliminary investigations showed that all suspects are from Slovo in Winterveldt, Gauteng province.

Acting provincial police commissioner, Maj-Gen Ryno Naidoo commended the police for their swift response and cooperation in arresting the men.

elfast@thenewage.co.za

21/07/17 TMA Pg 1 MWSAPS POS Would-be robber shot by own

ELFAS TORERAI

A BOTCHED business robbery turned nasty after would-be robbers fatally shot one of their own.

Five men broke into a business on Wednesday night and when the business owner escaped, one of the intruders was shot dead.

The other four were arrested and are to appear in the Wolmaransstad Magistrate's Court today.

North West police spokesperson Sgt Kelebogile Moleko said that the men were aged between 25 and 38.

"The suspects entered a business premises in Wolmaransstad where a 28-year-old man was sleeping. The victim ran to his neighbour for help when

he heard gunshots," she said.

"The incident was reported to the police who responded immediately. Upon arrival, police found that one of the suspects was dead."

Moleko said a thorough investigation with the assistance of the cluster trio task team led to the arrest of the dead accused's brother and three accomplices.

"One of the suspects was found in possession of two firearms and ammunition. Investigations linked the suspects to a house robbery committed in Makwassie in May," Moleko said.

She said it was not clear why the man was killed and it forms part of the ongoing investigation.

elfast@thenewage.co.za

Butchery robbers held PRETORIA NEWS SAYS (NW) 21/07/17 Pg 1 POS

FOUR men were arrested after a butchery was robbed of an undisclosed amount of money in De Wildt, North West police said yesterday.

Police said the men, aged between 29 and 50, were arrested on Wednesday in Lethabile for business robbery and illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. The suspects also took five cellphones of the butchery owner and his employees.

The suspects were leaving when Mmakau police arrived. A car chase ensued. The suspects abandoned their vehicle at a mall and fled but were cornered. All suspects are from Slovo in Winterveldt. - ANA