

THE NEW AGE Pg 1 SAPS (NW) POS

Taking fight to stock thieves

ELFAS TORERAI

AFTER experiencing a sharp rise in the incidents of stock theft in the western parts of the province, North West police will hold a campaign in Taung this week.

Provincial police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane said farming was under strain due to the high number of stock stolen from farms.

Motswenyane said while farming was a large contributor to the financial growth and stability of the province, stock theft was negatively affecting the crime statistics of the

province and is contributing to the loss of thousands of rands in livestock.

Pudumoe in Taung was one of the areas that required urgent intervention on stock theft – one of the largest contributors to serious crime in that area, she said.

“In order to do this, we will start the intervention process with a community awareness campaign.”

Motswenyane said the campaign would seek to ensure community members feel safe at all times.

The campaign takes place at Mmabana Cultural Centre at 10am on Friday.

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Stock theft hotspot POS - Province

NORTH West police have identified Pudumoe in Taung as a hotspot for stock theft.

“North West provincial police commissioner Lieutenant-General Baile Motswenyane has identified Pudumoe in Taung, North West province, as one of the areas that requires urgent intervention on stock theft, which is one of the largest contributing factors to serious crime in that area.

“This intervention will start with a community awareness campaign,” Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone said.

Motswenyane is expected to lead a community campaign at the Mmabana Cultural Centre in Taung on Friday. – ANA

Mkonggi praised on call for more stock theft units

TISETISO MANOKO

FARMERS in the province have applauded Deputy Minister of Police Bongani Mkonggi for his call that stock theft units are needed in "each and every police station".

The African Farmers Association of South Africa representative in the province, Sehularo Sehularo, said they were 100% behind the idea of spreading stock theft units to all police stations across the province.

Sehularo said stock theft was a serious concern and some farmers have lost their lives because of suffering heart attacks after their animals were stolen.

"As the deputy minister has said, the stock theft unit cannot be centralised because the minute it is like that it means other people are not able to access that service, especially in remote areas."

"That is why we are saying at least each and every police station must have one police official dedicated

to stock theft," he said.

Sehularo said they were really encouraged by the effort by the deputy minister to engage the police management in the province to address the issue of spreading stock theft units.

"We salute the deputy minister, in fact we are appealing to him to come and address us on the issues we have raised with the police but have not received any joy from them," he said.

Sehularo said they wanted professionals to deal with stock theft in the province, with the intention of reducing the crime and bringing about stability in the farming sector.

"This stock theft issue is now a syndicate one, these people are more clever. Before, some people were stealing meat just to eat with their families, but now it's a serious business, so we need professionals trained to deal specifically with stock theft," he said.

The deputy minister, in his visit to the province, raised concerns on having a stock unit centre only in Kimberley,

which disadvantaged rural residents.

"We are going to engage with the acting provincial police commissioner on the issue of stock unit and the possibility of stretching it to other parts of the province," he said.

Mkonggi said the government needed to come with plans of how to deal with shortage of police personnel, vehicles and police stations.

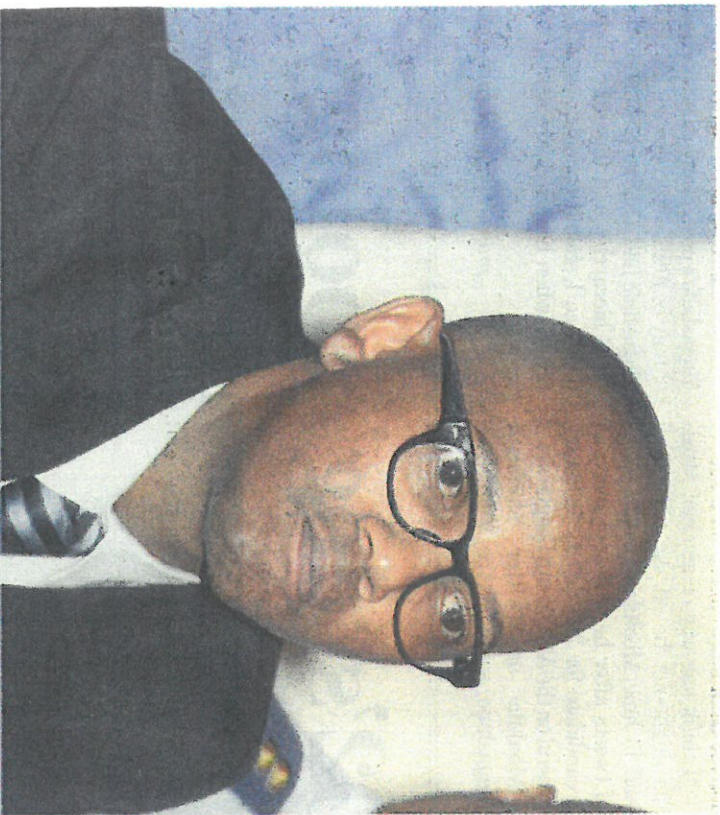
"We are appealing to our police officials not to contribute to crime by buying stolen goods," he said.

He said the state needed to provide more money to pay police officers, so that they should not use public transport where they become easy target to criminals.

Mkonggi visited the areas of Griekwastad, Douglas, Schmidtsdrift and Campbell.

Preceding the community engagements on his visit, the deputy minister visited several police stations and met with staff members and senior officers.

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APPLAUDED: Deputy Minister of Police Bongani Mkonggi. PICTURE: GAILD IMAGES