

07/06/17 TNA Pg 10 bes @ Tm. POS

MEC aims for safe, secure area

CHARLOTE HLANGWANE

COMMUNITY safety and transport management MEC Mpho Motlabane said sexual offences in the province were a concern.

Motlabane said the department would build a safe and secure Bokone Bophirima.

Motlabane said families, particularly children, should live in an environment unimpeded by the scourge of crime.

"It is driven by the deepest of our convictions that no citizen can ever fully enjoy and realise their freedom, unless such freedom is underpinned by the constitutionally

guaranteed right to safety and a safe environment," Motlabane said.

Even though crime statistics have shown a slight decrease in contact crimes and sexual offences in the province during the past financial year, the MEC said crime was still a serious concern.

"There is a serious concern due to the increase of contact crimes and sexual offences in the previous year.

"Therefore, a multidisciplinary

approach is still needed to address these crimes. In this case, we will continue engaging our communities and key stakeholders in bringing crime levels down," he said.

The campaign against sexual offence crimes has always been a priority for the province.

In 2008, then MEC Howard Yawa conducted a few workshops which he

said were a part of the department's consultation process to market the strategy to all role players including the private sector, civic organisations and specific interest groups.

Yawa said at least 5295 cases

of sexual crimes were reported in the province, with the South African Police Service highlighting that 41.58% of the sexual crimes occurred on Saturdays and 44.82% between 8pm and midnight.

He said the marketing exercise was intended to raise awareness with a view to eradicate misconceptions around sexual offences, gender-based violence and their causes.

provinces@thenewage.co.za

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01/06/11 INA P93 SADS POS

Walking for women, children

Thato Molosankwe is walking from Mahikeng to Klerksdorp to take a stand against women and children abuse

OBAKENG MAJE

MORE organisations and individuals are coming forward to fight against the abuse of women and children.

Thato Molosankwe, 39, from Lomanyane village near Mahikeng embarked on a walk from Mahikeng to Klerksdorp to take a stand and fight the pandemic.

"I was molested by a close family friend while I was still young. So I saw it fit to raise awareness against women and children abuse through this campaign.

"A three-day walk commenced after we came together as NPOs like Thato Molosankwe Charity Organisation, Women Beyond 2030 and Pelegi Movement.

"I understand the hardships and tribulations that our people sometimes find themselves in. We have identified those children who are underprivileged and donated food, groceries, blankets and clothes. We also linked them with relevant departments like social development," Molosankwe said.

He said his Walk against Women and Children Abuse campaign was orchestrated after the killing of Nombulelo Nombewu, 15, from the Jouberton Location in Klerksdorp.

Molosankwe urged other stakeholders to come on board to fight the atrocity. He said socio-economic issues are behind the broken families across South Africa.

"We need to come up with remedial action to address those challenges. We also have an annual campaign in August from Johannesburg to Mahikeng. We also want to applaud other stakeholders like SAPS and Nicsa for taking part. We visited Nombewu's family in Klerksdorp and we will be donating food parcels to them," he said.

Molosankwe said he had to quit his job in Johannesburg to take care of his father after his mother died in April.

Founder of Pelegi Movement Kentse Badirwang said: "Youth empowerment is imperative and children and young people need to be encouraged to take charge of their lives. I was also raped multiple times and, as a survivor, it is important to share my experiences.

"We were part of this awareness campaign to educate people, especially men, about the scourge of women and children abuse. We want them to say



PANDEMIC WALKER: Thato Molosankwe from Lomanyane village near Mahikeng, walked from Mahikeng to Klerksdorp to fight the abuse of women and children. PICTURE: MPHO BILWANE

#NotInMyName and #EnoughIsEnough. The campaign will spread to other districts across the province.

"We want women to speak out about the abuse they are subjected to before it is too late. We also agreed to raise funds to assist the family of Nombulelo Nombewu who was torched in Klerksdorp a month ago.

"We also call on government to strengthen its policies and bring back the death penalty. Those who abuse and kill women and children must be subjected to death penalty and harsher sentences."

Women Beyond 2030 founder Refilwe Boikanyo said they also empowered women spiritually.

Boikanyo said her organisation addressed the situations of women and young girls' through empowerment engagements.

"We want them to take action in order to improve their access to resources and

transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values and attitudes. Women and young girls empowerment aims to improve their quality of life and we can achieve it through participation in empowerment programs.

"However, we are also engaging with other stakeholders to develop a boy child. We cannot continue to capacitate a girl child while ignoring a boy child. Boys need to co-habitate with girls and not treat them as objects.

"We believe that children's rights implementation should go beyond learning about formal rights and procedures to give birth to a concrete experience of rights," she said.

Meanwhile, the man suspected of murdering 15-year-old Nombewu decided not to continue with his bail application.

Tshepo Manyiki, 32, appeared in a packed Klerksdorp Magistrate's Court on May 29.

It was his second court attendance and he earlier said he would apply for bail. This was something the community vehemently opposed and protested against at his first court appearance.

His legal representative, Kgotso Baloyi, told the court his client wished to abandon his bail application.

Manyiki was charged with murdering the Nombulelo Nombewu whose charred remains were found in an open field at extension 7 in Jouberton on Mother's Day.

The case was postponed to July 31.

The victim's aunt, Vuyelwa Nombewu, said: "We are not happy at all about the outcome of the court because our daughter is dead while Tshepo is still eating and living in a safe place. And we still ask ourselves why he is getting so much protection.

"This is something that traumatised our family and her sisters, the twins Khanyiswa and Khanyisile,

who are only 12 years old."

The community protested outside court again.

Hospersa's national youth coordinator Mzukisi Jam said: "Our justice system is failing us because it shouldn't be easy for these perpetrators to gain access to bail.

"I know bail is a matter of human rights, but what about the right to live the victims had been denied."

Jam also blamed political leaders and the South African Council of Churches mostly for not giving much support in these cases.

"There is a need for an organised structure composed of different civil society organisations which will deal with these kinds of issues on a daily basis," Jam said.

The EFF's Dr Kenneth Kaunda regional treasurer, Happy Kali, said they called on law enforcement agencies to speed up these cases. - Newsnote



ONGOING CASE: The 32 suspects were arrested last week. PICTURE: SHUTTERSTOCK

07/06/17 TMA Pg 1 MUSAAPS. Neg
32 Boikhutso suspects out on bail of R500

THE 32 people accused of arson, attempted murder and kidnapping have been granted R500 bail each by the Lichtenburg Magistrate's Court.

The accused from Boikhutso location near Lichtenburg in the North West, were arrested last week on Thursday, after allegedly holding the mayor of Ditsobotla local municipality, Daniel Buthelezi, hostage for eight hours on Wednesday.

They are also accused of setting the municipal offices alight.

Magistrate Mothusi Khumalo said it was in the interests of justice for the accused to be released on bail as the state did not have a strong case.

These were words that brought relief to the accused after spending the weekend behind bars as they had pleaded innocent to the charges of attempted murder, arson and kidnapping.

The temporary municipal workers' defence team had to fight to secure their release.

Their defence lawyer, Gabaiphiwe Mookaa, said their job was to prove that the state did not have strong case and they managed to do just that which is why their clients were released on bail.

Attempts by the state to refuse bail to accused number 19 and 28 failed despite their previous cases.

State prosecutor Moses Segone said the state respects courts of law and would be back after further investigation and by then they hope that this would help to put the suspects back in jail.

It remains to be seen what more the state can do to strengthen its case going forward. - SABC

07/06/17 TMA Pg 1 MUSAAPS. Pos.
Cop, family killer accused appear in court

TNA REPORTER

TWO men arrested in connection with the murder of a policeman and three members of his family made a brief appearance in the Brits Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The accused allegedly murdered Const Solomon Sebati and his

family in execution style.

Karabo Mokgosi, 29 and 38-year-old Tebogo Chidi allegedly shot and killed Sebati, his wife and two children at Mmakau outside Brits last year.

One of the murdered children was three years old while the other was an adult and pregnant at the time.

A fifth family member, a 15-year-old

girl, sustained several gunshot wounds and survived the attack after pretending to be dead.

A family member, speaking for the deceased, Donald Brown, said that the two men should not apply or be released on bail as they feared for their lives.

Mokgosi and Chidi will apply for bail at the end of June. - with SABC



WE'LL CALL YOU. 10111 Emergency Call Centre workers march from Princess Park to the office of the police minister to voice concerns at the response to their salary increase demands yesterday. Picture: Jacques Nelles

Vavi tells Mbalula: talk less, do more

SALARIES: 10111 CALL CENTRE WORKERS MARCH

» **Suspended police commissioner 'listens to his R80 000 music system'.**

Virginia Keppler

South African Federation of Trade Unions (Safu) general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi has taken pot shots at Police Minister Fikile Mbalula, saying there should be less talk, jive, rhetoric and shiny suites with bow ties and more action.

He said the minister must instead fix the problems of the workers.

Vavi was addressing about 100 staff members of the police's 10111 call centre, who marched to the police headquarters in Pretoria demanding better salaries.

They gave government seven days to respond to their demands, which include to be upgraded to a

level 7 salary scale (R226 211 p/a).

He also took a swing at suspended national acting commissioner Khomotso Phahlane, saying he was correctly suspended "because he tried to undermine an agreement with former national police commissioner Riah Phiyega".

"Wherever you (Phahlane) are, continue playing the music from your R80 000 music system," Vavi said to the delight of the marchers.

In 2013, the 10111 staff met Phiyega and the then Gauteng provincial police chief Lesetja Mothiba - who has now been appointed interim acting national police commissioner - to address members' concerns regarding their salary level at the police call centre.

A task team recommended on the report that the salary level at 10111 should be upgraded to salary level 7, which was also approved by the provincial management and the benchmark report was sent to Phahlane for approval.

According to Safu, a task team

was formed to benchmark 10111 staff salaries against other government call centres, including home affairs, SA Social Security Agency, SA Revenue Service, Crime Stop and presidential hotline call centres.

But after the evaluation was completed in October last year, Phahlane said post will be converted to constable post as stated in the Police Act.

South African Police Union deputy chairperson Peter Ntsime said: "The police do not want to take the members seriously and also don't want to come on board at the bargaining council."

"We are now going to give the minister seven days to address the issue and if he fails to do that, we will have to close all the call centres."

Vavi said the police want to convert the 10111 staff from the Public Service Act into the Police Act.

"They will take only those who are below the age of 45," Vavi said.

-virginiak@citizen.co.za



A man joins the 10111 Call Centre operators' march to the SAPS headquarters in Pretoria to hand over a memorandum of grievances.

PICTURE: OUPA MOKOEN

SAPS 10111 call centre agents march for decent remuneration

27/06/2017 PRETORIA NEWS Pg 1 (Neg) SAPS NAT

GOITSEMANG TLHABYE
goitsemang.tlhabye@inl.co.za

THEY are the lifeline that listens to the first call of help from millions of South Africans, but their own pleas for adequate pay for the vital service they provide continue to fall on deaf ears.

SAPS 10111 call centre agents yesterday complained of being ignored when they requested better working conditions. They were marching to the Police Ministry in Pretoria to deliver their complaints. The workers gave the SAPS 14 working days to respond to the demands contained in their memorandum.

Among the workers was Audrey Sibeko, who said she had to struggle to ensure her family of seven managed to get by on her salary of R8 000.

It was her only source of income, she said. She was the only

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The workers are demotivated because they are underpaid.

They are overworked...

Bethuel Nkuna

one with a steady income in her family and all responsibilities fell on her shoulders.

“With that small salary I have to take care of my father, siblings and my own child who needs a nanny to look after her. I have to deal with all these shortfalls while working a 12-hour-shift which starts at 3am.

“The investigators came to evaluate the work we do. They too

admitted that for the amount of work we do, we could actually be placed on a higher level,” Sibeko said.

Bethuel Nkuna, who read out a memorandum, said the working conditions at the emergency call centre were distinctly poor, compared to other government service call centres.

“The workers are demotivated because they are underpaid. They are overworked, and they experience dangerous stress levels because of these working conditions,” he said.

“We call for solidarity from police officials, to decline this divide and rule strategy from the SAPS. We will ultimately call for solidarity from the general public. Our mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters – if this challenge is not dealt with swiftly and accordingly, we will close down 10111 across the country.”