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Police warn job seekers of scams

ELLEKIA DIRE

POLICE in Brits have issued a warning to desperate jobs seekers after a scam was uncovered in the area.

The police have confirmed that people pretending to be working at local mines go around offering job opportunities to unsuspecting community members.

Those who have fallen for the promises were kidnapped and robbed of their belongings, the police said.

Several incidents are said to have been reported recently and the number

of victims seems to be increasing.

The police said the same modus operandi was used in the latest incident in Bethanie near Brits.

The police said a stranger approached a man with promises of assisting him in getting employment at one of the mines.

Brits cluster commander Maj-Gen Modisakwe Mosimanegape said: "In this incident, a 35-year-old man who was looking for work in the mines was offered assistance by a man who told the victim that he worked at the mine and could help him get work.

"After gaining the jobseeker's trust, a meeting was arranged and the victim accompanied the man to Bethanie, where he was told he was going for an interview for the job.

"The victim was then attacked, tied and held hostage for two weeks.

"It was through the assistance of the community that the victim was traced and reunited with his family. The suspect was arrested," Mosimanegape said.

He urged the community to be vigilant to avoid falling prey to scams.

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Father of hanged boy in U-turn

He says he'll now plead not guilty

By **Boitumelo Tshehle**
North West Correspondent

A North West man accused of killing his five-year-old son has told the high court that he intends to plead not guilty when his trial resumes.

Boitumelo Seoposengwe, 31, of Maphoitsile village in Taung appeared briefly in the High Court in Mahikeng yesterday.

He told the court there were three witnesses lined up to testify in his defence.

The state is expected to call 12 witnesses, including Seoposengwe's family members, to testify against him.

Seoposengwe was charged with murder after he allegedly hanged Sehemu with a rope from the rafters of his house on Christmas Eve of 2014. He had initially confessed to killing his son. The case was postponed, with the trial to begin on August 28.

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Search for bogus lawyer

ELFAS TORERAI

THE Hawks in North West are looking for a bogus lawyer going by the name of Lucas Luthi. The man has been missing since he left the Taung Magistrate's Court last month.

Hawks provincial spokesperson Tlangelani Rikhotso said: "From April to May 2016, Luthi would go to the Taung Magistrate's Court. He proceeded to represent an accused for a fee that was paid to him in cash."

On May 30, 2017 he represented a suspect in a murder case. He was asked to present his qualifications and a Letter of Appearance from the National Attorneys Roll. He informed the magistrate he was fetching the documents from the car. However, that was the last time he was seen in Taung.

Anyone with information should contact the investigating officer Lt-Col DA Myburgh on 082 492 4036 or WO Motlhaoleng 071 481 2696.

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Prasa friction may end in court

Nkululeko Ncana

Another court challenge is looming between the minister of transport and the board of the Passenger Rail Agency (Prasa).

The Citizen understands that Prasa's board is set to deliver its response to Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi later today.

Maswanganyi wrote to the rail agency's board two weeks ago asking it to give reasons why its members should stay in office.

In his letter, Maswanganyi blamed Prasa's board for the rail agency's dismal state of affairs.

But Prasa board chairperson Popo Molefe, pictured, accused the transport ministry of being disingenuous and of being a catalyst to the ongoing crisis at the rail agency, for failing to endorse the appointment of a permanent CEO – a process that was completed almost a year ago.

Insiders told *The Citizen* that the decision by Maswanganyi to dissolve the board was a "foregone conclusion" and that he was just following a process to ensure that it is above board.

"The minister has long made up his mind and will act to remove Molefe. It's a long made decision," said one insider close to the process.

Another insider said a court challenge was on the cards should Maswanganyi move to dissolve the board a mere five weeks before it finishes its term at the end of July.

"The issues that the minister is dealing with were already dealt with in the last court application which the ministry lost," the insider said.

Maswanganyi's predecessor, Dipuo Peters, fired Molefe and his board early in March this year.

In a scathing judgment, the High Court in Pretoria set aside Peters' decision, saying her decision to fire the board was irrational.

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