

Young people urged to celebrate Youth Month in a dignified manner

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Rebaone Moeng

Pos Pg 12 DCSETM
being on the wrong side of the law.

"The youth of today have the tendency of celebrating by involving themselves in activities that often end with some of them being arrested and some, unfortunately, losing their lives. Most of them get arrested for public violence, road safety violations and for driving under the influence of alcohol. This is certainly not how young people are expected to celebrate Youth Month.

"It is a fact of history that the Class of '76 sacrificed their lives for all of us and we need to be grateful for that. We

REC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Dr Mpho Mothabane, has called on young people in Bokone Bopirima to commemorate Youth Month in a dignified manner and honour the class of 1976 for the sacrifices they made.

He appealed to young people to stop celebrating Youth Month by engaging in reckless activities, which often result in

need to honour their legacy in a proper and dignified manner because today we are benefiting from their selfless sacrifices. Those heroes and heroines deserve to be remembered for their bravery and steadfastness," said Mothabane.

He said young people should join hands with government to build a better future for the country. "There are challenges of crime and unemployment, which the youth of today must come forward and work with government to eradicate. They have the opportunity to build their future

and the next generation's future by taking advantage of available government programmes.

"By so doing, they will be building their own legacy so that they can be recognized and honoured for their efforts in future rather than destroying their future with drugs and alcohol in the name of celebrating Youth Month," said Mothabane.

The MEC said the department would continue conducting road safety operations and deploying traffic officials on all roads throughout Youth Month and beyond.

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Cops recover 18 firearms in special operation

ELFAS TORERAI

THE police in the province have managed to recover 18 firearms during a special operation to fight serious crimes in the province.

The firearms were recovered in different areas during a three-week crackdown that started on May 28 and ran until Wednesday.

Provincial police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said the operation was part of reducing incidents of murder, hijacking and robbery along with other serious crimes.

"It also sought to put an end to illegal proliferation of firearms. The firearms and other goods were recovered during various day-to-day operations and operations conducted by task teams established to address crimes in Mahikeng, Brits, Klerksdorp and Rustenburg," Mokgwabone said.

"In Mahikeng, the police in Lomanyaneng arrested two minors last week Monday for illegal possession of a firearm. The pair was placed under the custody of their parents while being assessed by social workers.

"The minors allegedly stole a firearm during house breaking committed in March last year in the same area."

Mokgwabone said in an unrelated case in Lomanyaneng, a 21-year-old man



CRACKDOWN: A three-week special operation sought to put an end to the proliferation of illegal firearms.

was apprehended for illegal possession of a firearm.

"The suspect allegedly stole a firearm from his father's safe earlier this month in Dobsonville in Gauteng where he will make a court appearance."

The police also managed to recover

five of the more than 10 firearms stolen during a business robbery at a security company premises in Montshiwa township.

"The first two firearms were found hidden in a yard in Phola village last month while three were found in pos-

session of two males in Botswana last week. One of the suspects is a former employee of the security company," Mokgwabone said.

In Wolmaransstad, the police arrested six suspects, including a police officer and confiscated three firearms on Tuesday. This transpired at one of the farms in the area.

"The suspects, facing charges of conspiracy to commit an offence and illegal possession of firearms, were arrested through a collaborative effort between the farmers and the police.

"Preliminary investigation has revealed that a serial number of one of the firearms was filed off, while the other two belonged to the suspects including a police official working in Gauteng," Mokgwabone said.

Another huge recovery happened in Rustenburg, where the police managed to recover eight firearms and arrested 14 suspects for various offences.

"The arrested suspects include two males, who were arrested for car hijacking last week Sunday. During the arrest, the police found a firearm belonging to the suspects inside the hijacked vehicle. The suspects appeared in the Bafokeng Magistrate's Court on Tuesday and were remanded in custody until today.

"The other seven firearms were

recovered from suspects on different cases reported within the Rustenburg cluster."

In the same platinum city, Mokgwabone said an intelligence driven operation by the Rustenburg Flying Squad resulted in the arrest of two people and recovery of goods worth thousands of rand in Zinziaville.

"It is alleged the police found at the suspects' places goods that were suspected to have been stolen consisting mainly of building materials and ceramic tiles with the value of about R200 000. The suspects are expected to appear in the Bafokeng Magistrate's Court on charges of possession of suspected stolen property.

"Preliminary investigation has shown that the goods were stolen in Benoni, Gauteng earlier this month."

Provincial police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane commended the police for their diligence that led to the arrest of the suspects and recovery of the firearms.

She said the recoveries would definitely contribute towards the reduction of other serious crimes in the province. She requested members of the community to work together with the police and come forward with information relating to crime.

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