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Hawks POS

## Fraudster jailed for three years for R100 000

ELFAS TORERAI

A MAN found guilty on six counts of fraud has been sentenced to three years direct imprisonment by the Atamelang Magistrate's Court.

Andrew Lekgari, 47, was convicted after it became clear that he had defrauded the North West social development department of more than R100 000.

His case was dealt with by the Hawks.

Hawks provincial spokesperson Capt Tlangelani Rikhotso said Lekgari committed the crimes between October and December 2014.

"The accused was employed as a project manager for the Multi Skill Development Corporation in Madibogo.

"The non-government organisation was allocated funds for a project by the department to service the community. As the project manager, the accused was expected to see to the successful completion of the project.

"However, between October and December 2014, he would submit fraudulent invoices to the department for fictitious services rendered," Rikhotso said.

After the said submissions, Lekgari would pocket the money paid out by the department.

"The matter was investigated and the suspect was subsequently arrested for fraud. The money involved was about R109 033."

North West Hawks head Maj-Gen Linda Mbana warned that people must not think that they can steal from the state and get away with it.

"Fraud is a very serious offence and the Hawks are working tirelessly to curb it in the province," Mbana said.

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## Cop killed while chatting

ELFAS TORERAI

AN OFF-DUTY police officer was shot and killed in a hijacking incident in Letlhabile, near Brits at the weekend.

A swift response by the police led to the arrest of a 35-year-old man and the recovery of the hijacked vehicle in Soshanguve, Pretoria.

The deceased cop has been identified only as 35-year-old Const Hlongwane.

North West provincial commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane commended Brits police's trio task team for the arrest of the man in Soshanguve.

Provincial police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said: "The arrest came after a manhunt was launched following an incident in which three suspects allegedly shot and killed Const Hlongwane, 35 and robbed his

friend of his BMW about 9pm in Letlhabile near Brits on June 2," he said.

Mokgwabone said that the off-duty constable and his friend were attacked while having a chat by the roadside.

"Indications are that the police officer was walking along Letlhabile main road when his friend, driving in a BMW, stopped for a chat.

"They were still chatting when two unknown males confronted them with firearms.

"Although the constable managed to pull out his service firearm, the suspects shot him in the left arm and head.

"Upon firing back and before he died on the scene, Hlongwane reportedly shot one of the suspects in the left arm and lower body," Mokgwabone said.

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# Cops to clampdown on drug abuse, rampant crime

ELFAS TOREAI

NORTH West police commissioner Lt-Gen Baile Motswenyane has identified Promosa township in Potchefstroom as a crime hot spot.

Motswenyane said Promosa was one area that needed urgent attention to stop rampant crime.

A campaign has been arranged for Friday at the Promosa sports grounds where community members are expected to be part of the proceedings to find solutions to the crime scourge.

"Chapter 11 of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, which deals with social protection, indicates that there are statistical indicators that paint a disturbing picture of rising violence and other social determinants that require urgent attention," North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata

Mokgwabone said.

"This brings social concerns, which among others, is high levels of domestic violence, alcohol or substance abuse, youth unemployment

## Poor social services and ineffective policing reinforce the sense of powerlessness in communities

and HIV/Aids.

"Poor social services and ineffective policing reinforce the sense of powerlessness in communities."

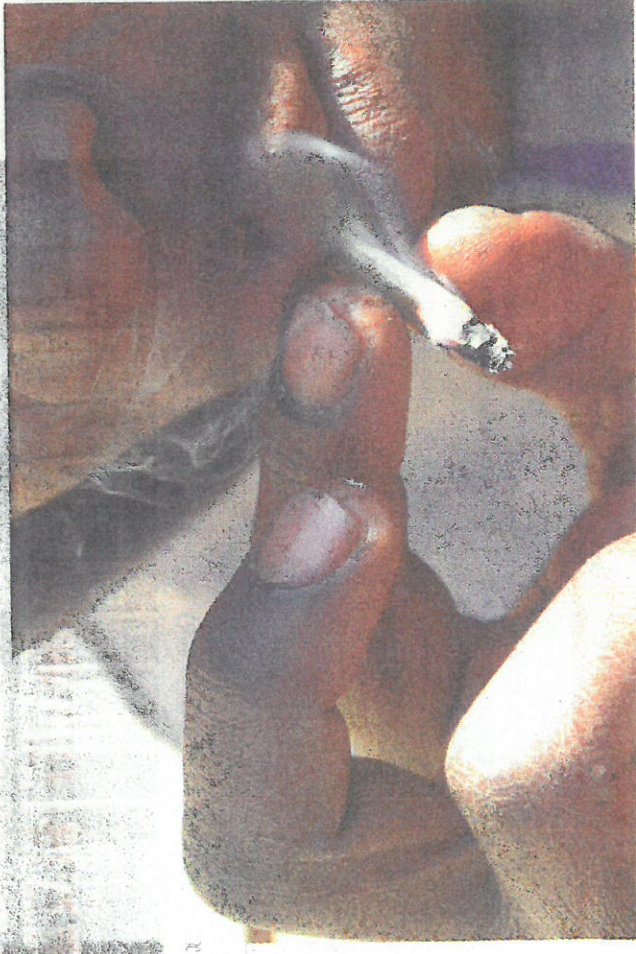
Mokgwabone said the provincial commissioner identified Promosa as one of the areas that required urgent intervention regarding sub-

stance abuse, which is one of the largest contributing factors to serious crime in Potchefstroom.

"This project seeks to address these factors in accordance with Chapter 12 of the NDP, which deals with building safer communities and indicates that in order to implement crime prevention successfully and achieve community safety the following factors which are the root causes, poverty, inequality, unemployment, substance abuse, lack of social cohesion, inadequate child care and others, need to be borne in mind in the journey to realising the vision 2030," Mokgwabone said.

He said the awareness campaign would be held as part of the national intervention project to address substance abuse and ensure that community members were and felt safe.

Proceedings will start at 10am. [elfast@theneuage.co.za](mailto:elfast@theneuage.co.za)



**DRUGS:** North West police have identified Promosa as a crime hot spot that needs urgent attention. PICTURE: THAPelo MOREBUDI