



N4 ACCIDENT CLAIMS SIX PEOPLE

Rustenburg – Five people lost their lives on Thursday 19 December 2019 in a devastating accident that occurred along the N4 road between Rustenburg and Swartruggens. The sixth victim was seriously injured and transported by Eagle Trauma Rescue ambulance services to a landing zone. Halo Aviation airlifted the patient to a hospital in Johannesburg where he succumbed to his injuries in the hospital the following day. Community Safety and Transport Management departmental spokesperson Alpheus Konyaditse said that law enforcement authorities confirmed that two vehicles were involved in the head-on

collision. Community Safety and Transport Management member of the executive council (MEC) Sello Lehari sent his condolences to the families of the deceased. The MEC was in Rustenburg accompanying police minister general Bheki Cele who was conducting *Tlotla Molao* and safer festive season operations in the province. Lehari once again appealed to motorists to be patient and obey all road rules and to avoid unnecessary overtaking and speeding. The MEC implores all motorists driving in and through the province to be responsible and help to reduce fatalities on the roads.



Eagle Trauma Rescue and Halo Aviation transported the injured patient to hospital.



The two vehicles that were involved in a head-on collision.

NORTH WEST ROAD FATALITIES DECREASE BY 29%

North West – The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management member of the executive council (MEC), Sello Lehari expressed his joy regarding the reduction of road fatalities on the North West roads and appealed to all road users including pedestrians to continue to be responsible. Preliminary statistics show that there is a 29% reduction of fatalities in the province compared to 2018. By 31 December 2018, there were 104 fatalities and by the last day of 2019, this figure decreased significantly. Lehari attributes this to the dedication of the law enforcement officers and the department staff who worked day and night to ensure law enforcement compliance by road users.

“We want to express profound thanks to our officers and staff for ensuring that motorists comply with the law,” said Lehari. He is however displeased with the high number of accidents that included pedestrians which almost doubled from 2018. Though Ngaka Modiri Molema District leads with crashes, Bojanala, especially Rustenburg leads with fatalities. The third week of December recorded the highest number of crashes (26), which are 16 less than the same period in 2018. Two major crashes were among the accidents recorded. The first happened on 19 December when a sedan and a bakkie collided on the N4 road between Rustenburg and Swartruggens. Five passengers died instantly while the sixth succumbed to injuries in the hospital the following day. The second occurred two days later, on Saturday 21 December on the R53 road between Potchefstroom and Ventersdorp. Three people died on impact when two vehicles collided head-on. Five other passengers were taken to hospital with injuries. Although these two accidents happened during the day, there has been a significant shift in the driving patterns. Most road users travelled at night, between 18:00 and 06:00 – probably believing traffic is light during that time. To ensure that the province has the lowest possible accident stats, all road users are implored to be extra careful and patient. Lehari said law enforcement officers must be visible at all times, especially on arterial routes including N4, N12, N14, N18, R49, R30, and R503. “Deployment of law enforcement officers will be intensified on all roads in and through the province. We will also continue to have unannounced stop and search operations in all areas of the province,” Lehari concluded.



KIDNAPPING, RAPE AND MURDER ACCUSED ARRESTED

Phokeng – A 40-year old man, who was arrested on Wednesday 1 January, is being accused of kidnapping, raping and murdering a 15-year old girl. The suspect was seen leaving a local tavern in Chaneng village outside Phokeng in the company of the victim and her 18-year old friend on 24 December 2019.

According to police spokesperson brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone, the suspect lured the two victims to his residence where he raped them. While a case of rape was opened for investigation after a report was made to the police, the suspect managed to evade arrest until he met the 15-year old victim at the same tavern on 31 December 2019. After leaving the tavern, they were both seen entering the nearby bushes after midnight. A few days after the girl failed to show up at home, her parents decided to open a case of kidnapping. The suspect was eventually arrested by the police after they followed up on information supplied by members of the community. The suspect appeared in the Bafokeng Magistrates’ Court on two separate cases of rape on Friday 3 January. “Further investigation into the matter led to the discovery of the 15-year old victim’s decomposed body in the bushes at about 11:00 on 5 January at Chaneng village,” said Mokgwabone. The suspect made a second appearance at the same court on Tuesday 7 January regarding the murder and kidnapping charges. The matter was postponed to Monday 2 March. During the court appearances, it was confirmed that the suspect has two additional rape cases pending against him. The provincial commissioner of North West, lieutenant general Sello Kwenza, condemned the incident in the strongest possible terms and said the police will have no mercy in dealing with those who commit gender-based violence.

He expressed his gratitude to members of the community for coming forward with information that led to the arrest of the suspect. Furthermore, the provincial commissioner urged the public to collaborate with the police in protecting women and children as well as to ensure that perpetrators are brought to book as it happened in this incident. The North West community safety and transport management member of executive council (MEC) Sello Lehari is disheartened by another brutal murder of a young woman. “As a nation we must really do all we can to end gender-based violence in all its forms. And we can if we are determined enough. The law must take its course and the harshest punishment must be meted to the murderer of that young woman. We cannot continue to say the same things all the time and yet heinous crimes against women doesn’t subside,” said a concerned Lehari. Lehari lauded the investigating police officers for their tenacity and stellar work in not only finding the body of the missing girl but for also arresting the suspect. He also appealed to the community to help end all kinds of criminality by reporting it to the law enforcement officers.



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MASSIVE REWARD

MISSING BEAGLE
 HELP US FIND DUTCH

LAST SEEN ON 4 DECEMBER 2019
 AT WATERKLOOF PLOTS AREA,
 RUSTENBURG ON R24, 2KM FROM
 WATERFALL MALL

TRI-COLOUR, FEMALE BEAGLE, SMALL
 BUILD, MICROCHIPPED

Contact Marianne Ludicke on 076 706 5225

GET AHEAD OF THE CRIMINALS

Rustenburg – Reports about a new technique that criminals use to bypass alarm beams spread like wildfire on social media. The victim stated that she found a man crawling around in her garden placing bottles over her alarm beams, apparently this ensures that the beams don’t pick up any movement. A sceptical community member Clinton Cilliers decided to test out this theory and to his amazement it worked. After very carefully placing the bottle over the beam, he could walk around freely without being detected. “When I first saw the post, I couldn’t believe it, so I decided to try it and I was very shocked to find out that it worked. I thought we were safe with the beams, but criminals keep coming up with new ways to gain access to your house.” However, people who have alarm beams at their houses can still sleep safely as this technique only works on a certain type of beam. Phone your security company to find out if your beams have active IR anti-masking capabilities or ask them to upgrade your system to ensure that it can withstand the ‘bottles and beams’ technique. The IR anti-masking detects when the surface has been covered, blocked or painted and will easily detect if something has been placed over it.



The bottle is placed carefully over the beam.