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Teens getting pregnant ...to access grants



"Teenagers are falling pregnant to access social grants to alleviate poverty," according to a report released by the Limpopo Health- and Social Department on Tuesday. This has been assumed as a general fact for some time now; however, a study was conducted, digging for the truth - to confirm these allegations.

The report was issued after the department conducted a three-month study into teenage pregnancies and factors forcing children to abandon their education. The report found 15.5% of participants fell pregnant to access child support grants. This behaviour forced children into inter-

generational relationships with contraceptives largely ignored. Conversely, 32% of participants had multiple sexual partners but this was not seen as a major contributor to teenage pregnancy, stated the report.

Head of Demography and Research, Itani Ntsieni, said some teenagers were denied access to contraceptives, being turned away from clinics because health workers believed it was a criminal offence to have sex as a teenager.

"The study also recommends that there is a need to reinforce child sexual rights. Some of the pupils did not know that it was an offence to have sex below the age of 16," said Ntsieni. Ntsieni said a growing trend emerging in the Mopani and Waterberg regions, was families forcing their school-going children to fall pregnant, a

problem facing educators - as teen pregnancies increased. While there is a possibility that teenagers of the North West might be following the same practice, the Platinum Weekly could not confirm whether any such research was done in the North West Province. A spokesperson of Job Shimankana Tabane Hospital (Rustenburg) said, "We cannot say whether or not this is happening because there has never been an intentional drive to find out whether teenagers may be getting pregnant just to get grants. We are therefore not in a position to comment."

Pilot dies after losing vision

Brits - A 71-year-old pilot was killed when his plane crashed in Brits on Sunday 20 November 2011, North West police said. Mr Jaroslem Klazar, a Czechoslovakian citizen who came to South Africa forty years ago circled the Brits area when he apparently developed a medical condition. A blurred vision caused him to crash his RV7, two-seater aircraft into the mountainous area behind the *Hoërskool Wagpos*.

Brigadier Thulani Ngubane said, "Flying unaccompanied, he attempted to land the aircraft four to five times, but could not do so. He later called over the radio that he was having a total black-out and could not see anything. His radio went quiet after that." Mr Klazar was well known amongst the flying fraternity and lived temporarily in one of the hangers at the Brits Airfield. Pilots of the Brits Airfield, aware of Mr Klazar's predicament immediately launched a search in the area and soon afterwards found the wreck near the top of the mountain approximately 4km south from the Rashoop airfield, Ngubane said. Members of the Hartbeespoort Emergency Rescue Unit, SAPS, and Netcare were the first on the scene and had to climb a steep uphill before they could reach the wreck. The aircraft was found in pieces. Mr Klazar died on impact.

"An Inquest docket was opened by the SAPS and the Civil Aviation Authority is investigating the cause of the plane crash," Ngubane said. Members of the SAPS' Brits Vispol, detectives and forensic specialists were also called to the scene for further investigations. A dense bush area near the scene was cleared for the SAPS chopper to land. The air wing assisted Mr Chris Williams a civil aviation inspector from Midrand to reach the scene for investigative purposes.

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