

Tragedy at Little Margate

Rustenburg – A group of friends were on an outing at Little Margate on the evening of Friday, 5 January, when tragedy struck. A 37-year old woman reportedly slipped and fell over the cliff. ER24 paramedics and local fire services were called to the scene. Due to poor visibility, ER24 paramedics employed an infrared thermal imaging camera to search between the thick vegetation. Rescuers using rope equipment abseiled down the cliff and were successful in locating the woman. Sadly, she showed no signs of life and was declared dead at the scene. With dangerous conditions and poor visibility, rescuers were forced to postpone the retrieval of the body until the following morning. The body had to be hoisted back up the mountain as rescuers could not access the slope from the bottom. "The exact circumstances surrounding the incident were not yet known and an inquest is underway," says Werner Vermaak, ER24 spokesperson. We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of the victim.



LITTLE MARGATE... Cliff of tragedy and tears.

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Mooiwoo women brutality tortured and killed, 7 arrested

Mooiwoo – Two Mooiwoo women, Joey (32) and Anisha van Niekerk (30), who had been reported missing on Sunday, 10 December, never arrived at their destination. The couple were supposed to go to Pretoria to make funeral arrangements after Joey's father passed on. A band of seven, six men and one female, were arrested after Joey and Anisha were brutally tortured and killed in a shipping container. The police are yet to reveal in which way the seven are involved. The burned out shell of their vehicle was found on Saturday, 16 December in the Magaliesburg area. The police reacted by launching an investigation and in a short space of time seven suspects were arrested. "Belongings of the two women were found in the possession of the suspects, including their bank cards," says warrant officer Mpeile Talane, police spokesperson. The motives for the double murder are thought to stem from a dispute over a property transaction of a small farm in Mooiwoo, close to Rustenburg.

Investigations first lead the Brits police to Majakaneng, where three suspects were arrested, says cluster commander of Brits, major general Modisagarekwe Mosimanegape. According to brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone, police spokesperson, the seven arrested suspects are: Koos Strydom (53), Vincent Strydom (29), Maruschka Opperman (18), Aaron Sithole (23), Alex Mudua (36), Moses Rakubu (33) and a male who claims to be a minor. They all appeared before the Brits Magistrates' Court on Friday, 5 January, facing charges of murder, kidnapping, robbery, unlawful possession of a firearm and defeating the course of justice. The case was postponed to Wednesday, 10 January, and again to Monday, 15 January. Family and friends of Joey and Anisha are desperate. They issued a reward of R5000 to anyone who can offer information that will lead to the successful apprehension of 21-year old Mercia Witney van Rooi of Mooiwoo. Mercia, fiancé of Koos Strydom, is wanted by the

Mooiwoo police in connection with the kidnapping and murder of the Van Niekerk couple. If you have information, please contact 082-337 3052, 082-855 0397, 064-648 1577 or 079-974 4024. "Burned human remains were found in bushes along the R104 near Buffelsfontein and have been sent for DNA testing to determine the identity of the remains. We suspect the remains are those of the two missing women," says brigadier Mokgwabone. Investigations continue. We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Joey and Anisha.



Anisha (left) and Joey van Niekerk, sorely missed by their family and friends.



WANTED: R5000 REWARD... Family and friends of Joey and Anisha are desperate. They issued a reward of R5000 to anyone who can offer information that will lead to the successful apprehension of 21-year old Mercia Witney van Rooi of Mooiwoo. Mercia, fiancé of Koos Strydom, is wanted by the Mooiwoo police in connection with the kidnapping and murder of the Van Niekerk couple. If you have information, please contact 082-337 3052, 082-855 0397, 064-648 1577 or 079-974 4024. **** Rumours are doing the rounds that Mercia gave herself over to the police. On Thursday, 11 January, it is confirmed that she has indeed not given herself over to the police, and is still wanted for questioning.**

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