

MIXED FUEL PICTURE FOR FEBRUARY

Petrol is going up, and diesel down in February. This is according to the unaudited month-end fuel price data released by the Central Energy Fund. International oil prices have reached a slightly higher plateau after climbing in the first half of January. Over the same period, the Rand has firmed gradually against the US dollar. It began the month at nearly R14.50 to the dollar and is current hovering around R14.00, offsetting the oil price rise to some degree.

The current picture shows petrol increasing by around eight cents a litre, while diesel is set to drop by three cents and illuminating paraffin by nine cents. The difference in the price changes relates mainly to the differences in the international product prices for diesel and petrol.

What is worth noting is that the average Rand strength against the US dollar has been increasing for nearly a month, and we are hopeful this may point to a period of greater stability for the currency.

If international oil prices continue their current stable trend, South African fuel users may see fewer of the wild swings in fuel prices which characterised 2018.

Automobile Association

(AA) press release 29 January 2019



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SERIAL RAPIST BEHIND BARS

Brits – Ephraim Mokobane (32) was sentenced by the Pretoria High Court on 23 January on charges ranging from rape, sexual assault, kidnapping, possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition. Mokobane, who was arrested on 15 August 2016, committed these horrendous acts between 2013 and 2014 in Skierlik, Centreville, Block F and in Lethabile township near Brits. His victims were between the ages of 17 and 40. His *modus operandi* was to lure his unsuspecting victims into the bushes and use a firearm or knife to threaten and rape them. Mokobane's DNA was linked to the cases. Mokobane was sentenced to three life imprisonment sentences for three counts of rape and another 30 years for three other counts of rape, 18 years for nine counts of kidnapping, 15 years for robbery with a firearm, 30 years for two counts of aggravated robbery, five for pointing a firearm, five for unlawful possession of a firearm and two years for two counts of compelling a minor to witness a sexual act as well as one year for violation of the sexual offences amended act no 5 of 2015. The provincial commissioner of the North West lieutenant general Baile Motswenyane welcomed and congratulated the investigating team of Brits Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) for a job well done.

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