

FRAUDSTER'S LUCK RUNS OUT

Rustenburg – A man residing in Rustenburg was arrested on Wednesday 22 May and charged with fraud and possession of stolen goods after his scheme of 'buying' toys, watches, cellular phones, television sets and other electrical appliances from a popular online retailer – before reselling them for a profit – was foiled.

The man, who was arrested at his family home in Protea Park, is expected to appear in court on Friday 24 May.



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The suspect's modus operandi was to order merchandise from the online retailer and then go on to produce false proof of payment documents once the goods had been safely delivered to his house.

In an interview with *Platinum Weekly*, police spokesperson sergeant Ofentse Mokgadi said the online retailer became suspicious of the man's activities after realising that one of their 'regular customers' was actually stealing from them.

"They also became aware that the man would sometimes receive the goods at different locations other than his home. They opened a case of fraud after confirming that the money was in fact not being paid," Ofentse added. "Employees from the retailer were assigned to follow one of their delivery vehicles and as soon as the goods were received by the man, they contacted the police, leading to the arrest."

The police managed to recover stolen goods to be worth an estimated value of R120,000.

Detective constables Bontle Mmudi, Ben Mogale and Omphemetse Maema from Rustenburg Police are in the process of investigating the case and tracking down people who bought stolen goods with the intention of recovering them.

The missing merchandise are believed to be worth about R200,000.



The suspect was arrested and taken to the holding cells.



From left: detective constable Ben Mogale, detective constable Bontle Mmudi and detective constable Omphemetse Maema, next to the recovered merchandise.

CIT HEIST FOILED – AGAIN

Rustenburg – A group of armed criminals failed to rob two cash in transit (CIT) vehicles on Monday 20 May after brave guards managed to fight them off during the shoot-out.

The incident occurred at around 18:00 after the criminals intercepted the two vehicles along the R565 road towards Boshhoek.

"The guards bravely fought back and during the ensuing gun battle, one suspect was shot. The suspect, who appeared to have been seriously wounded and bleeding profusely, was taken from the scene by his accomplices. No money

was taken," police spokesperson brigadier Vishnu Naidoo confirmed.

"Anyone who has information on the whereabouts of a gunshot victim in the Phokeng policing area is requested to please come forward with such information," Vishnu added.

At least three CIT incidents within Rustenburg and immediate surrounding areas have been reported in the month of May, a development that has seen security companies considering innovative ways to fight back.

KROONDAL FARMER ATTACKED



Niels Muhl.

Rustenburg/ Kroondal – On the morning of 16 May at about 07:00, a farmer and one of his workers were driving around the property outside Kroondal when they noticed three men next to the road.

According to police spokesperson sergeant Ofentse Mokgadi, the farmer wanted to find out why the three men were on his farm.

The men quickly approached the vehicle and pointed their firearms at him and the worker.

The worker was tied up and the attackers proceeded to severely assault the farmer. The suspects fled the scene in the farmer's vehicle with cash, a cell phone and keys. The vehicle was later recovered not far from the scene.

A case of carjacking is being investigated.

8-YEAR OLD KILLED BY BULLY

Koster – An incident in which an 8-year old boy died, six days after he was physically attacked by an older learner in Koster, has highlighted the challenges that schools often face regarding bullying.

According to the police, a 17-year old learner at Kgalagatsane Primary in Koster attacked a group of younger boys during break time on Friday 10 May.

"While the other learners managed to run away, the 8-year old was caught by the learner, beaten and pushed down the stairs. The perpetrator then allegedly followed and further assaulted the victim," police spokesperson captain Sam Tselanyane said.

Although the boy did not report the incident, his mother approached the

school authorities the following week after her injured son had spent the weekend limping and in pain. The boy had sustained a broken leg because of the attack but this only came to light after he was taken to hospital for a medical examination.

The boy sadly passed away on Thursday 16 May.

The 17-year old boy was arrested, charged with murder and released into the custody of his parents for a preliminary inquiry to be conducted.

In line with provisions outlined in the Child Justice Act, a report by social workers will determine if the boy will be detained in a youth centre.

We extend our sincerest condolences to the mother, family and friends of the victim.



HEAVY JAIL TERM FOR MANDRAX DEALERS

Rustenburg/ Madikwe – Four men from Madikwe will learn the hard way that crime does not pay after they were sentenced to a combined 63 years behind bars for the illegally manufacturing and dealing in Mandrax. Sibusiso Jeffrey Nkosi, Soams Slender Sibanda, Mpumelelo Vezy Mlambo and Fibion Sibanda, aged between 35 and 42 years, were each sentenced to at least 15 years in prison by the Madikwe Regional Court

on Monday 13 May 2019. The four were arrested on Tuesday 9 May 2017 by the Phokeng K9 Unit after community members has expressed concern over suspicious, illicit drug-related activities at a house located in Maubane Village close to Madikwe.

"Two gas stoves, drug manufacturing chemicals and Mandrax with a street value of R338,000.00 were discovered at the house during a search by the police," police spokesperson captain Sam Tselanyane said.

He added that the four men were immediately arrested and charged for manufacturing and dealing in drugs as well as contravening Section 3 of the Immigration Act, 1992 (Act 140 of 1992).

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The Phokeng K9 unit discovered the drug laboratory.