

NARROW ESCAPE FOR 5 STUDENTS

Derby/ Rustenburg – Five students from the North West University Potchefstroom-campus had a narrow escape in a serious car accident on Tuesday 3 September.

According to police spokesperson captain Elsabé Augoustides, the students were traveling on the road between Derby and Rustenburg when the driver had to swerve out for a rock in the road and lost control of the vehicle. Fortunately, no serious injuries were reported.

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE... R420 000 FRAUD?

Rustenburg – A 60-year old man will spend the next five years behind bars after he was found guilty of defrauding the Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) on eight accounts.

On Monday 2 September, the Rustenburg Regional Court sentenced Elias Selokoane to ten years behind bars after convicting him of making payments worth R420 000 into various accounts while capturing it as ‘acting allowance.’

He will serve an effective five years behind bars after half of the sentence was suspended.

Hawks spokesperson captain Tlangelani Rikhotso said: “The accused is said to have colluded with other officials. The matter was investigated, and the two suspects began appearing in court from August 2018.”

She added that the man’s co-accused is scheduled to appear before the Rustenburg Regional court on Wednesday 11 September for trial.





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ARMED MEN ROB TWO LOCAL BUSINESSES

Rustenburg – A Rustenburg entrepreneur lost a significant amount of cash and goods after two of his businesses were robbed by armed men on Tuesday 27 August.

Two cases of business robbery are being investigated by the police after the owner reported the incidents, which occurred at Mega Supermarket and Zorba Liquor Store.

Police spokesperson captain Elsabé Augoustides said the two men first robbed the supermarket before proceeding to the liquor store. “The owner was outside the shop when two men pointed a firearm at him and pushed him inside,” she said.

The suspects ordered the employees to lie on the floor. “They fled the scene as they fired a shot in the air,” Elsabé added.



287 SUSPECTS ARRESTED

North West – A recent provincial operation, from Thursday 29 to Friday 30 August, targeted perpetrators of violence against women and children and resulted in the arrest of 287 suspects.

Of the arrests made, 47 suspects were detained for crimes against women and children including assault, rape, attempted rape and contravention of the protection order.

The other suspects were nabbed for crimes ranging from burglary, murder, house robbery, aggravating robbery, intimidation, and tampering with essential infrastructure to escape from lawful custody.

The suspects appeared before various courts across the province on Monday 2 September.

In a similar operation conducted two weeks ago, a total of 263 suspects were arrested. The acting provincial commissioner of North West, major general Ryno Naidoo, commended the police.

MASSIVE ILLEGAL CIGARETTE BUST

Madikwe – Police in Madikwe, acting on a tip-off, arrested a 43-year old suspect on Saturday 31 August in the Moubana village outside Madikwe for the possession of unlawful cigarettes.

The police responded quickly after receiving information about two vehicles, a charcoal BMW and red Volkswagen Golf, escorting a truck – allegedly hi-jacked.

According to police spokesperson

lieutenant colonel Adèle Myburgh, the police spotted the truck on a gravel road leading to Moubana and summoned back-up.

When the suspects realised the police were hot on their tracks, the escorting vehicles fled the scene and left the truck behind.

The police managed to surround the truck. Five male occupants managed to get away and fled into nearby bushes; nonetheless,

the driver of the truck was arrested. The police discovered boxes of illegal cigarettes with an estimated value of R1 166 000. The driver was charged for the possession of illicit cigarettes: *Export Control Act under the Customs and Excise Act 91 of 1964.*

North West acting provincial commissioner, major general Ryno Naidoo, congratulated the police for their swift reaction that led to the massive recovery.



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