

LION BONES SMUGGLING FOILED

OR Thambo – Three suspects were arrested at Oliver Reginal (OR) Tambo International Airport on Tuesday 1 October while attempting to smuggle 12 boxes filled with lion bones to Malaysia. The trio was nabbed after environment compliance and enforcement officials received information about a suspicious shipment. “According to the transportation document, the shipment had been mis-declared. When the shipment was inspected, 12 boxes of lion bones wrapped in aluminium foil and weighing 342kg were discovered,” said Albi Modise, spokesperson for the department of environment, forestry and fisheries.

“During a follow up operation including the Hawks, Ekurhuleni metro police and the Green Scorpions, another person was arrested in Kempton Park,” he added. Albi told *Platinum Weekly* that the three are being prosecuted for the infringement of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act. “The suspects were not in possession of the relevant documents and this is why they were arrested,” he said. Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Barbara Creecy, said the arrests are a significant achievement for the country in its fight against wildlife crime.



The lion bones were found hidden inside a crate.

RUSTENBURG: VEHICLE THEFT WARNING



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Rustenburg – Police have warned motorists to be vigilant, following an increase in the number of vehicle theft cases reported in areas such as Rustenburg, Brits, Tlhabane, Boitekong and Hartbeespoortdam. Criminals are targeting Toyota and Ford bakkies. On Tuesday 1 October, the owner of a white Toyota Hilux reported his vehicle stolen from his premises in Geelhoutpark. Three days later, in an unrelated incident, the owner of a white Nissan NP 200 residing in Paardekraal also woke up to discover that his vehicle had been stolen.

Police spokesperson brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone urged vehicle

owners to work closely with community policing forum (CPF) structures in their areas to reduce these criminal activities. “Exercise caution at parking areas and always report people behaving suspiciously to the police. Vehicles must not be left in areas that are poorly lit,” he said. He also cautioned the public against leaving valuables inside their vehicles, especially at shopping complexes and public places.





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DRUNK DRIVING: 47 ARRESTED

North West – A total of 47 motorists were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol on Friday 4 October, during a clampdown against criminal activities by police in the North West province. Twenty-seven of these suspects were nabbed in Brits while 10 were arrested in Klerksdorp. The other nine were apprehended in Rustenburg. Police spokesperson captain Sam Tselanyane said

in total, 325 suspects were arrested throughout the province during this latest clampdown. “During the operations, 33 suspects were also arrested for alleged drug related crimes and 151 for drinking in public, public intoxication, illegal dealing in liquor and other liquor-related offences.” The suspects have since appeared in various courts to answer for their crimes.

MEMBER OF SYNDICATE NABBED

Rustenburg – The partnership between Rustenburg Police and Bojanala Crime Unit (BCU) is proving vital in the fight against crime. On Monday 7 October, a suspect from Rustenburg North, was arrested for the possession of drugs. He was carrying 58 packets of *nyaope* and R1,580 in his pockets. Information received from the community about his suspicious activities at the main bus station in Rustenburg, enabled the police to arrest him. Initial investigations suggest that the suspect is a member of a crime syndicate operating in the Rustenburg central business district. Police spokesperson sergeant Ofentse Mokgadi said: “A second case was opened against the culprit after he was found in possession of dagga while inside the cells.” In another unrelated incident, a man accused of being involved in housebreaking and robbery was arrested on Tuesday 8 October. Acting on a tip-off, the police managed to apprehend the suspect and link him with an incident in which five speakers, a cellular phone and other items worth R8,745 were stolen. Some of the stolen items have been recovered and police are still investigating the case.



Drugs and cash were seized.



A man was found in possession of 58 packets of *nyaope*.




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