



## CHESTER'S 35 YEARS OF POLICE SERVICE

**Rustenburg** – A police officer based in Tlhabane, celebrated his 60th birthday on Sunday 22 September, and decided to bring the curtain down on his 35-year old career as a law enforcement officer. Warrant officer Chester Tabane has been praised by his colleagues for the dedication, loyalty and selflessness he has demonstrated during the more than three decades he has been involved in the fight against crime. "Happy 60th birthday to our beloved colleague," reads a hearty message to Chester. "We salute you for your commitment and dedication in the 35 years of loyal service. As you will be retiring, all we can say, is a big thank you. You will always be a part of the SAPS family."



Warrant officer Chester Tabane

## YOU DID NOT WIN R900,000 – IT'S A SCAM!

**Rustenburg** – Cell phone users are being bombarded with text messages saying that they won big – even when they did not enter competitions.

*Congratulations, you just won R900,000 in (random competition). Your reference number is (random number). Phone (random cell number) to claim your prize.*

Once the victim contacts this number scammers will either try to obtain your personal information like your identity number, banking details and pin codes or ask you to pay money to receive your so-called winnings.

Other scammers send text messages that include a link to a website. Once you click on the link, they can download malware on your phone and get access to all your personal information or could take you to a spoof website where you will be asked to enter personal or

confidential information.

"We would like to urge the community to simply delete all unsolicited text messages especially when it says you have won an amazing prize, inheritance or any other nonsense. You will never be asked to pay

money to receive a prize and never give out your personal details over the phone," warned police spokesperson captain Elsabe Augoustides.

**Here are a few tips to avoid falling victim to these scams:**

- Delete these messages immediately.
- Do not click on links or icons in unsolicited messages.
- Do not reply to these messages.
- Check that you are on the authentic site before entering any personal information.
- Contact your bank immediately if you think that your device might have been compromised.



## MUNICIPALITY FAILS TO ACCOUNT FOR R80MILLION?

**Rustenburg** – The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) revealed that Bojanala Platinum District Municipality (BPDM) is failing to account for R80million of the total amount that was paid to it by mistake by the North West Provincial Government. The labour federation has cited this as the reason why the majority of the local government employees are yet to receive their September salaries.

Recently, irate BPDM employees took to the streets of Rustenburg to protest the local governing body's failure to pay them their salaries on time. Angry employees burnt tyres in the central business district, attempted to set a municipal building on fire and dumped garbage inside the BPDM council chambers during the protest.

Platinum Weekly established that as of Tuesday 15

October, most of the municipal workers have not yet received their September salaries.

COSATU provincial secretary for the North West, Kopano Konopi, said BPDM municipal manager Pogiso Shikwane and chief financial officer Olga Ndlovu are under investigation for failing to account for money that was erroneously paid to the municipality.

He said: "The equitable share is not being paid to the municipality by treasury because the municipality has used about R80million of the R134million that was wrongfully transferred by mistake. The equitable share will not be paid until the R80 million has been accounted for."

It is reported that the R134 million was meant for the Rustenburg Local Municipality.



Firefighters extinguished the tyres set alight during the protest.



Protestors burnt tyres along Beyers Naudé drive.

## HEAVY SENTENCE FOR CONVICTED MURDERER

**Rustenburg** – A man will serve the next 25 years behind bars after the Rustenburg Magistrates' Court found him guilty of robbery and murder for an incident which occurred in 2017.

On Monday 14 October, James Papapa Maeso was handed the heavy sentence after he was convicted of robbing and killing 35-year old Goitseman Francina Mororo in the Rustenburg central business district.

Rustenburg police spokesperson sergeant Ofentse Mokgadi said: "James, who was a trolley porter at that time, brutally stabbed Goitseman as she was walking from work to the taxi

rank." After the police were informed of the robbery and murder, James was eventually apprehended following investigations by warrant officer George Brander, colonel Sam Tlholoe and detective constable Keorapetse Ramokgadi.



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