

732 ARRESTED IN NW ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Potchefstroom – A total of 732 suspects were arrested by the police in the North West province between Tuesday 24 December 2019 and 30 December 2019 as part of an initiative to eradicate criminal activities and ensure that communities are safer. The suspects were arrested for contact crimes such as murder, rape, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, common robbery, sexual assault, common assault and attempted rape. Said police spokesperson brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone: “Other suspects were nabbed

for crimes like driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.” In addition, 257 people were fined for liquor related offences such as drinking in public, being drunk in public and for illegally dealing in liquor. A total of 424 fines were also issued, including 88 for traffic related offences. “Police seized a variety of goods, which include seven stolen vehicles, three firearms, 91 ammunition, nine knives, liquor, various drugs as well as electrical appliances,” Mokgwabone concluded.

ROBBER DIES AFTER GUNFIGHT WITH POLICE

Zinniaville/Rustenburg – A man who was one of five people accused of armed robbery died from his gunshot wounds following a shootout with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Rustenburg Crime Combating Unit (RCCU). On Tuesday 7 January, SAPS and RCCU personnel acted on information regarding a house robbery in progress in the Zinniaville area of Rustenburg. When law enforcement agents arrived at the scene, a shootout ensued with the five suspects. “A suspect was wounded and later certified

dead at the scene by paramedics while another suspect sustained serious injuries during the crossfire,” Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) spokesperson David Magae, said. The injured suspect was arrested. However, three other members of the group fled the scene in a VW Polo Vivo. A 9mm pistol, as well as rounds of ammunition, were recovered from the crime scene. Police are carrying out further investigations.



CHECKERS CASHIER ASSAULTED BY DISGRUNTLED CLIENT

Rustenburg – A cashier working at Checkers Hyper in Rustenburg was assaulted by a client on Saturday 4 January. The supermarket chain said that they will support the cashier and her affected co-workers as well as work with the police to ensure that the law takes its course on the matter. Details pertaining to the incident is the subject of police investigations and further information could therefore not be provided at the time of going to print. According to police spokesperson captain

Elsabé Augoustides, the client assaulted the cashier in the face, resulting in serious injuries that required stitches. The man was accordingly charged with assault.



Arm of the law catches up with criminals

Rustenburg – As part of the safe and clean city campaign, Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM), in partnership with the South African Police Services (SAPS), have implemented various crime-fighting operations with notable successes. The RLM's crime prevention team and police officers from various stations within the precinct of the municipality were at the forefront of this initiative to bring to book those responsible for criminal activities reported during the recent festive season. **Contact crime:** Three firearms were recovered in the Yizo Yizo informal settlement near Tlhabane. The weapons are suspected to have been used in crimes that have been previously reported in the area. **Housebreakings and stolen property:** A 32-year old was arrested after information received led to the discovery of stolen goods, including a plasma television set and 40 litres of petrol. In a separate incident, two people were also nabbed for suspected stolen

goods. The goods were later recovered in Tlhabane. In another operation, suspected stolen goods were recovered, including a plasma television set, five cell phones, a grinder, a plastic bag full of dagga and a chain saw. The suspect was found in his house where the goods were recovered, and he was arrested. Two people suspected of burglary were also apprehended in Rustenburg North during a stop and search operation in the area by police officers and the crime prevention team. The two were caught with equipment used to break into residential properties. **Drug trade:** During a sting operation in Tlhabane Yizo Yizo, a woman was arrested after she was found with a bag full of dagga. Another bag of dagga was discovered at a separate location during the same operation. A suspect was arrested a day later as investigations into the case took the law enforcement officers to his residence.



FAKE NEWS REGARDING FREE UNIFORMS AND STATIONERY

SA – In a press release dated Friday 10 January, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) warned beneficiaries about the circulation of fake news regarding the agency. In a message that was shared on various social media platforms, parents who receive child support grants were encouraged to visit their local SASSA offices to collect school uniforms and stationery. The agency shot down these statements by saying that it is a marketing scam meant to mislead the poor beneficiaries of the agency. “We have not said that and request beneficiaries to ignore the WhatsApp and Twitter messages relating to this,”

said SASSA acting regional executive manager, Fanie Sethokga, in a warning to beneficiaries and community members.



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