

POLICE CRACKDOWN SWEEPS BOITEKONG CLEAN

Boitekong/ Rustenburg – A crime-fighting team made up of police officers and Community Policing Forum (CPF) members made an unannounced visit to Boitekong on Friday 17 January.

They made significant inroads in bringing to book those found on the wrong side of the law during this intensive operation.

All 120 team members were hard at work on the streets, where they carried out searches for drugs, dangerous weapons and looked out for other illegal dealings.

Rustenburg cluster commander major general Arthur Adams as well as Boitekong police station commander colonel Benjamin Ganas displayed exemplary leadership.

Several suspects, who were on the wanted list for crimes such as business robbery and malicious damage to property, were flushed out and arrested .

Unroadworthy vehicles were also impounded while drivers were issued with fines to the value of R16 400 for contravening various traffic laws.

Fines were also handed to business owners during a liquor compliance inspection of shebeens operating in the area. Liquor worth R90 000 was confiscated while many shebeens were shut down for failing to operate within the confines of the law.

The crime-fighting team also visited the premises of several businesses involved in the sale of second-hand goods to make sure they were complying with the law.

Police spokesperson captain Elsabé Augoustides said: "We have noted with pride the positive change in the relationship between the police and the Boitekong community. This change is bringing about good results in the fight against crime."

All the suspects arrested for various offences will be appearing in the Rustenburg Magistrates' Court.



Liquor was confiscated.

MIDTOWN MALL SHOPPING CENTRE AND LOCAL SECURITY COMPANY KEEPING THE CBD SAFE

Rustenburg – Arrowhead Properties, a JSE listed Real Estate Investment Trust and proud owners of Midtown Mall Shopping Centre, have joined forces with a local security company to make the Rustenburg central business district (CBD) safe again.

Arrowhead owns the Midtown Mall Shopping Centre which is the heart of the CBD. To restrict crime and to ensure the safety of both customers and tenants' shops, they have partnered up with RPS Security.

Arrowhead is glad to announce that the Rustenburg Crime Prevention Unit has

documented a 35% decrease in criminal activity in and around Midtown Mall Shopping Centre since RPS Security took over the site. Arrowhead is very much of the opinion that more investment needs to be made within the CBD to combat the ever-increasing urban sprawl taking place on the peripheral areas of Rustenburg and encourages both private and public sector operators to do the same.

Watch this space for a newer, safer and more modern feel of the Rustenburg CBD.
Excellerate JHI press release



| Weather Report North West RUSTENBURG | | | | |
|---|----|---------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Friday | 31 | January 2020 | 32°C - 18°C | Rainfall probability (%) |
| Saturday | 01 | February 2020 | 34°C - 19°C | 0 |
| Sunday | 02 | February 2020 | 34°C - 18°C | Sunrise 06:40 |
| Monday | 03 | February 2020 | 33°C - 18°C | Sunset 17:49 |
| Tuesday | 04 | February 2020 | 31°C - 18°C | |

| FINANCIAL INDICATORS | |
|----------------------|----------|
| ZAR / USD | 14.38 |
| Rand / Pound | 18.74 |
| Rand / Euro | 16.01 |
| Rand / Aus Dollar | 9.92 |
| Dollar / Pound | 1.30 |
| Pound / Euro | 1.17 |
| GOLD | 1,552.47 |
| Platinum | 995.70 |
| Palladium | 2,153.75 |

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MISSING BOY'S BODY RECOVERED BY DIVERS

Brits – Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a boy whose body was retrieved by police divers in Assen, near Brits.

The body of Enock Mpiazi (13) was found on Friday 17 January near Crocodile river after a two-day search for the boy's whereabouts.

Mpiazi allegedly drowned in the river on 15 January while taking part in a school team-building exercise involving other learners.

"Learners were divided into groups to build rafts. They then placed them in the river to drift downstream," police spokesperson colonel Adéle Myburgh said.



"The water current was very strong and at one stage, the learners went underwater as they were drifting. During rollcall by the teachers, they realised that Mpiazi was missing," she added.

On Thursday 16 January, after Mpiazi had been reported missing, a police team consisting of divers and K9 unit members was dispatched to the scene and searched until it dark.

They managed to locate his body the following day.

"A case is being investigated by police to determine the cause and circumstances surrounding his death," Myburgh concluded.

POLLEN ALERT: HIGHLY ALLERGENIC RAGWEED INVADES SA



Ragweed, a highly allergenic weed native to North America, was detected in South African pollen spore traps for the very first time.

South Africa – This week scientists made a landmark discovery when ragweed, a highly allergenic weed native to North America, was detected in South African pollen spore traps for the very first time.

The discovery was made by doctor Dilys Berman, an aero biologist at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and professor Jonny Peter, who heads the UCT Lung Institute's Allergy Unit.

Doctor Frank Neumann, a palynologist based at Wits University, has done research focusing on the impact that climate change has on vegetation. He also confirmed that the pollen grains indeed belong to the invasive Ambrosia species.

Professor Peter said while the threat of allergic plants such as ragweed has always been a concern, few expected it would show up soon.

"Ragweed is incredibly invasive, and its potent pollen has been problematic in the US for many decades. In recent years, allergy sufferers in Europe and South America have also come under threat as ragweed started to invade these areas," he said.

"For now, KwaZulu-Natal residents are most at risk as ragweed pollen has recently been detected at the Durban monitoring site over the last few days. The counts are relatively low at this stage, but we are monitoring them daily to detect any sudden spikes. A small population of ragweed has also been found on the banks of the Vaal River near Heidelberg – about 50km away from Johannesburg, while the Eastern and Western Cape still remain ragweed-free," he added.

"Based on historical data, ragweed thrives in hot, dry environments and produces more pollen when CO2 levels are high," he explained.

UCT aero biologist, Dilys Berman warned that ragweed poses a serious implication for human health.

"It has been one of the most loathed weeds in the US, causing misery for 23 million

Americans and it is estimated that ragweed allergy rates in Europe will increase from 33 to 77 million in the next two decades. While we have not reported sensitisation in SA yet, it is a cause for concern," he said.

"Increasing amounts of fine-powder ragweed in SA could exacerbate hay fever symptoms and asthma for the estimated 17 million South Africans who suffer from allergies," he added.

People who do not normally suffer from pollen allergies may still develop a sensitivity to it in the future as the weed proliferates.

Common hay fever symptoms include red, itchy and watery eyes, a runny, itchy or congested nose, post-nasal drip etc, which could irritate and restrict the airways making it difficult to breathe.

Professor Peter pointed out that because of the world's changing climate, ragweed is projected to decline in some areas as it may over time no longer be climatically suitable to grow there.

"Either way you look at it, ragweed is on the move. Once it sprouts, it can multiply and grow up to 2 meters in height in a matter of weeks," he said.

"Weed control boards should add it to their invasive weeds list as soon as possible if they have not done so already and removal thereof should be a priority before it becomes impossible to control," he explained.

Some studies also suggest that ragweed poses a threat to crop health as it drains the soil and suppresses plan growth. It always be monitored carefully.

Pollen monitoring in South Africa is funded by Clicks, Twinsaver, Thermo Fischer, A. Vogel Echinaforce, Zeiss and Durand.

To expand pollen monitoring efforts, financial contributions can be made by logging on to www.pollencount.co.za. Pollen counts for South Africa can also be viewed on the same site.

Press release issued by Meropa Communications on behalf of the UCT Lung Institute, 20 January 2020.