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YOUNG MAN DIES IN MOTORBIKE ACCIDENT

Rustenburg – A 21-year old man tragically lost his life on Tuesday 21 January on the R104 near Rustenburg. According to police spokesperson captain Elsabé Augoustides, the man's motorbike collided with a Toyota Fortuner around 18:00. He sadly passed away. The driver of the Fortuner sustained minor injuries and was taken to Ferncrest Hospital for observation. The circumstances around the accident are still under investigation and a case of culpable homicide is being investigated.

FOUR SUSPECTS IN FARM ATTACK ARRESTED

Potchefstroom – Four suspects were arrested a few days after they attacked a family on their farm in Deelpan near Biesiesvlei on Saturday 25 January. They were arrested during separate operations by police units from the North West and Gauteng provinces. In the *Platinum Weekly* issue of 31 January, it was reported that Derek Mathews and his family were attacked and robbed by five armed men who stormed into the house and ordered them to lie on the floor. Police spokesperson colonel Adèle Myburgh said the victims were tied up before the attackers proceeded to ransack the house. "Jewellery, cellular phones, laptops, liquor and cash were taken by the suspects before they fled the scene. After the incident was reported, detectives worked around the clock and one suspect was arrested in Alexander on 30 January," she said. "Two more suspects were arrested in Witbank. A Toyota Hilux bakkie, suspected to have been used to commit the crimes, as well as a cellular phone and a laptop belonging to the victims, were recovered by police," she added. A fourth suspect was arrested near Lichtenburg on Saturday 1 February. Wine, allegedly stolen at the farm, was recovered from him during the arrest. All four suspects appeared in the Lichtenburg Magistrates' Court on 3 February, for charges of house robbery. More arrests are imminent. The North West provincial commissioner, lieutenant general Sello Kwenza congratulated the detectives for their determination, cooperation and hard work that resulted in these arrests.



ARMED ROBBERY AT MIDTOWN MALL

Rustenburg – Seven armed men fled with five mobile phones on Wednesday 5 February after robbing employees and clients of Exact clothing store. The robbery occurred shortly after 9:30 inside the store, which is situated in Rustenburg's Midtown Mall. Police spokesperson captain Elsabé Augoustides told *Platinum Weekly* that seven males, speaking Zulu and English, entered the store while holding three bags. "They made enquiries about where the mobile phones are kept and demanded the clients and employees to hand over their phones, threatening to shoot them if they do not cooperate," Augoustides said. "One of the employees, who saw what was happening, fled to a nearby clothing store and requested them to phone the police," she added. The robbers fled the scene with the five phones once they realised that the police had been contacted. Nobody was injured during the incident and a case of common robbery is being investigated. **Police requests that anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of the suspects contact 014 590 4115 or 08600 10111.**

MAN HANDED LIFE SENTENCE FOR RAPING NIECE

Rustenburg – A ruthless criminal, who was previously sentenced to life imprisonment, but released on parole, is once again behind bars, after raping his 10-year old niece. The 45-year old man, who had been jailed for life after committing murder and fraud, was granted parole in August 2015. He was arrested a year later over allegations of raping a minor. Police spokesperson captain Elsabé Augoustides said the suspect started sexually grooming the girl in 2016. "He took photos exposing the upper part of her body. Later, he took photos of her posing naked and made video recordings of her doing sexual acts," she said. The sexual exploitation continued for almost six months, until the victim notified her elder sister. "The police were alerted, and the man was subsequently arrested," she added. After numerous court appearances, he was found guilty on one count of rape, two counts of attempting to commit a sexual offence and three counts of sexual assault. The Rustenburg Regional Court sentenced him to a life term for rape and an additional five years for the other crimes on Wednesday 22 January. The sentences will run concurrently.

PLAN TO CURB ROAD FATALITIES

Rustenburg – North West member of the executive council (MEC) for community safety and transport management Sello Lehari has called for the implementation of new policies to curb road fatalities. On Tuesday 4 February, Lehari released statistics of the accidents and fatalities experienced on the provincial roads during the festive season. A total of 104 people lost their lives in the North West province from Sunday 1 December 2019 to 15 January. Lehari pointed out that the department had spent time, resources and money on campaigns such as Arrive Alive. He said additional campaigns, which would run throughout the year, would go a long way in reducing the number of road fatalities. "Bojanala had the highest number of fatalities with 39, followed by Ngaka Modiri Molema with 27, Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati with 23 and Dr. Kenneth Kaunda with 13," he said. "A significant number of pedestrians were part of these statistics. A total of 52 lost their lives, which is 13 more than the 2018 and 2019 statistics," he added. When compared to the 2018 and 2019 fatalities, the North West achieved a reduction of 16% this time around. "Although the province should have done more, we are happy that we recorded 18 fewer deaths," Lehari concluded.



There is concern over the high number of fatalities.