

‘NO CHILD IS SUPPOSED TO EXPERIENCE SUCH ABUSE’

Rustenburg – A man who was found guilty of repeatedly raping his daughter on several occasions for two years was handed a life sentence by the Mogwase Regional Court on Monday 27 January. The girl’s mother passed away when she was still very young and she was left in the care of her grandparents in a village near Mogwase. The court was told that from April 2011 to September 2013, the father would visit the child, who is a minor, and would take her to his shack. While there, the man would repeatedly rape his daughter. Hurt and traumatised, the girl eventually summoned the courage to write a letter to the principal of her school, narrating the ordeal. She appealed for help, indicating that the principal was her ‘last hope’. In October 2013, the principal opened a case at the local police. Warrant officer Ephraim Radithalo and sergeant Sophie Phutiayagae from Mogwase Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences investigated the case and the man was arrested within a few days. Delivering his verdict, the magistrate said it is very disappointing

when fathers, who are supposed to protect their children, end up hurting them. Rustenburg cluster commander major general Arthur Adams, who applauded the heavy sentence, said: “No child is supposed to ever experience such abuse. Children must be safe and must be allowed to grow up in a safe environment, not an environment where they fear sexual exploitation, rape and neglect”.

Photo - Warrant officer Ephraim Radithalo (left) and sergeant Sophie Phutiayagae played a key role in the investigation.



LANXESS refutes ‘hostages’ reports

Rustenburg – On Thursday 13 January, around 200 members of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) refused to go to work at the LANXESS chrome mine in Rustenburg after having attended a scheduled NUMSA mass meeting at the mine that morning. For safety reasons, the mine management decided to stop mining operations immediately and clear the underground section and surface areas of the mine. Until further notice, no one can access the mine operations. A few reports have alleged that some workers are being kept hostage underground. We can confirm that this is not the case. The reason for the work being stopped remains unclear. LANXESS has asked the workers to address possible demands through national NUMSA leadership and discuss them with management in the appropriate forums. The mine management has made available two board members to meet with the NUMSA leadership to address any issues they may have. Thus far, NUMSA leadership have declined all invitations to meet. LANXESS press release, 14 February 2020.

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FOUR SUSPECTED ARMED ROBBERS IN THE DOCK

Rustenburg – Four men allegedly responsible for many armed robbery incidents in the North West and Limpopo provinces were arrested on Monday 10 February. The suspects were remanded in custody when they appeared before the Rustenburg Magistrates' Court on 12 February. The four, who are facing charges of business robbery, possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition and possession of suspected stolen property, has been linked to many incidents of armed robbery. It is alleged that during their reign of terror, they focused on stealing cash from tills, as well as liquor, cigarettes and mobile phones. They would fire gunshots in the air while retreating from each of the crime scenes they have been linked to. Police spokesperson colonel Adelé Myburgh said the four are linked to the robbery of a liquor store which occurred near Orkney in October 2019. "Another retail shop in Northam was robbed of mobile phones and cash. A tip-off from the community resulted in the information being channelled to the National Intervention Unit who immediately acted and arrested the suspects," Myburgh said.

"Investigations are underway and the four are likely to be linked to more business robberies," she added. Police provincial commissioner lieutenant general Sello Kwenia, congratulated the officers involved in the arrest. He also requested community members to come forward with any additional information that could further assist investigators. **Anyone with information is requested to contact captain Jefro Ramorwesi on 082 416 3457 or constable Pieta Mosete on 078 926 3810 or 014 593 3001.**



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