



POLICEMAN ACCUSED OF KIDNAPPING GRANTED BAIL

Brits – A 45-year old police warrant officer, Simon Ndambi and his accomplice, Dipuo Mokwena, were each granted R500 bail by the Brits Magistrates’ Court when they appeared on kidnapping, extortion, attempted murder, common robbery and assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm charges. The two, who made their initial appearance on Tuesday 17 March, are expected back in the dock on 21 April. Police spokesperson colonel Adèle Myburgh said the two are suspected of the kidnapping of a 27-year old victim on 15 March. The mother of the victim, who laid the charge, said the suspects pretended (she thought at the time) to be police officers and proceeded to kidnap the victim. Later, the suspects demanded ransom for the release of the victim and the complainant agreed to meet them at an identified spot in the Safari Park area of Brits. The suspects were not aware that police officers who have been alerted to the kidnapping and ransom demands accompanied the complainant to pick up the money. One of the accused waited in his Volkswagen Polo for the victim to deliver the money. Subsequently, Ndambi ran away and hid inside a security guard room after he had

been confronted by police. The accused fired a shot towards the police officers who returned fire. It was at that point that the accused was arrested and his vehicle, as well as a firearm, were seized. No one was injured during the shooting incident. The police then proceeded to a farm where the complainant’s son and another victim aged 26, were found handcuffed with cable ties. They were taken to a local hospital for treatment due to injuries they sustained when being assaulted by their kidnappers. Further investigation resulted in the arrest of the second accused, Mokwena at Rooikoppies near Brits. A Toyota Hilux bakkie belonging to one of the victims was also recovered. It was further established that the second victim’s sister was also contacted by the accused to extort money from her. She was instructed to deposit the money into one of the victim’s account. The provincial police commissioner for North West, lieutenant general Sello Kwenia applauded the police in Brits for their speedy reaction, which saved the lives of the kidnapped victims and led to the arrest of the accused. He said police will continue to fight crime and will not be lenient to police officers caught on the wrong side of the law.



RAINS, HEAVY VEHICLES COMPOUND POTHOLE WOES

Rustenburg – The Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) said a significant increase in the number of vehicles travelling in and around the city over the past few years has increased the costs associated with the maintenance of road infrastructure. Potholes and huge cracks on many roads leading into the central business district (CBD) have become a major concern for vehicle owners, taxi operators and other road users. *Platinum Weekly* has previously reported on how the slow pace of the municipality in rehabilitating damaged roads is now resulting in some residents and civil rights organisations using their own resources to carry out repairs. Intermittent rains have also been making it difficult for those at the forefront of repairing the roads to execute their duties unhindered - which have caused the potholes and cracks on busy roads to widen. In response to questions posed regarding the deterioration of the roads, RLM spokesperson David Magae explained how increasing economic activities within Rustenburg played a huge part. “Our roads are being used by many heavy vehicles and this has increased over the years because of the heightened economic activities related mostly to the mining sector. The heavy vehicles are damaging the roads,” he said. “When it is raining, we cannot carry out any maintenance work on the roads because of the wet surfaces,” he added. The *Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996)*, and the Road Traffic regulations made in terms of this act determine the maximum mass limits of vehicles used on public roads. Although heavy vehicles such as haulage trucks are not allowed to travel on small roads in suburbs such as Tlhabane, Rustenburg Noord, Protea Park and others, it is sometimes unavoidable especially when facilities such as shopping malls are being constructed. Magae explained that apart from its equitable share from the national government, the municipality relies heavily on its revenue collection to operate optimally and provide key services such as the maintenance of roads. According to Magae, the millions owed to the municipality in unpaid water and electricity bills are making it difficult for the city to fulfil its service delivery obligations. In a move aimed at widening the city’s revenue collection base and enhancing service delivery, RLM municipal manager Victor Makona held meetings with representatives from various mining houses in February.



FIDELITY ADT WARNS OF SCAM IN WAKE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

South Africa – Fidelity ADT has issued a warning to residents after reports about impersonators trying to access residential homes claiming to be government officials or medical practitioners doing COVID-19 home testing. Fidelity ADT national marketing and communications manager Charnel Hattingh, says there have been a couple of reports from customers about impersonators trying their luck at the moment. “It is important to never let anyone in your property if their identity or reason for the visit has not been verified. Impersonators can pretend to be electricians, telephone repairmen, garden service employees, or even security and police officers,” says Hattingh. “We have been advised there is no door to door testing so please do not let anyone in claiming to be from the government or one of the medical services,” says Hattingh. Homeowners must take certain precautions, to not let their guard down and be taken in by such scams and ‘con artists’. Any employees who work on your property should also be fully briefed and warned not to give access to any strangers. “If you do get someone

claiming to be checking, rather alert your security provider who can then respond accordingly,” she says. “If you are expecting other contractors or deliveries please ensure you brief your staff ahead of time,” she says. Domestic employees play an integral part in any home security system and it is critical that they are empowered and equipped to look after their safety, as well as the safety of anyone else on the property such as children they may be looking after. It is always a good idea to trust your gut and to err on the side of caution. “If you feel something is out of place, report it to the police or your security provider immediately. No one should be allowed to enter unless they can prove their identity and their *bona fides* for visiting the property.” **Fidelity ADT press release, 16 March 2020.**



COVID-19: RLM CANCELS ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS

Rustenburg – Following the announcement by the president of the Republic of South Africa his excellency Cyril Ramaphosa on the measures that will be implemented by government to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 commonly referred to as the coronavirus, a national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act, has been declared. Government has encouraged social distancing and therefore prohibits the gathering of 100 people or more, as part of the measures put in place to counter the spreading of the virus. As a result, all Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) activities, including all scheduled public meetings have been postponed until further notice. This in compliance with the directive which was communicated by the president following a cabinet meeting. **RLM Press Release, Monday 16 March 2020**



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