

Crime snippets



Suspects sought for alleged role in drug syndicate

The Hawks are seeking the assistance of the public in locating Emanuel Ifeyalyi Onyekanna (27) and Chukwuemeka Kingsley Ezenwa (34), with alleged links to an ongoing drug dealing investigation.

A warrant of arrest was issued against Onyekanna and Ezenwa known by aliases '50 cent' and 'Alex' respectively in August 2016, after Hawks investigations had linked them to an alleged drug syndicate that operated in South Africa and neighbouring countries.

Anyone with information about Onyekanna and Ezenwa's whereabouts is urged to contact Investigating Officer, Warrant Officer Jacob Ras on 0824620760.

Government activities for the week 08 - 14 April

The Minister of Public Works, Mr Thulas Nxesi, will on Tuesday, 9 April, host a Career Expo at Thomas Nhlabathi High School, Secunda in Mpumalanga at 09h30. The purpose of the Expo is to expose and provide career guidance opportunities to grade 11 and 12 pupils to enable them to make informed career choices when they complete their matric and subsequently enrol for their tertiary education.

Suspect arrested for gold bearing processing

A 44 year old suspect was arrested by members of the Hawks' Serious Organised Crime Investigation Unit during the intelligence driven

operation conducted at Barbeton on Friday, 05 April.

Members of the Hawks followed up on information about a suspect who was reportedly processing gold bearing materials in his house at Barbeton. The resultant search uncovered gold and gold processing equipment and other exhibits which were seized.

The suspect is expected to appear before the Barberton Magistrate's Court Monday, 8 April, to face charges related to illegal possession and processing of gold.

Principal up for administering corporal punishment

A 25 year old man attached to the Lydenburg Islamic Centre was arrested by members of the South African Police Service on 4 April. The man, a Principal of the Centre, was arrested following incidents of corporal punishment administered to children who are learners at the Centre.

It is reported that on 1 April, a 10 year old learner from the Centre was taken to hospital by the Centre Management, where they told nurses that they suspected the boy to be suffering from an allergy as his eyes were blood red. Hospital staff became suspicious when the Centre Management did not want the boy to respond to questions posed to him. Instead they responded on his behalf.

When it was decided that the boy should be admitted, the Principal insisted that he wanted to stay with him, but was denied as that was reportedly against hospital policy. During treatment and other processes, hospital staff noticed severe injuries on his bums and when asked what happened he told the nurses that he was beaten by the Principal with a hosepipe.

The child had to undergo serious operations as a result of his injuries. The victim, who hails from Cape Town and came to the Centre to learn the Quran, explained that the Principal used to beat them when they failed his tests. At one stage he was beaten to such an extent that he started to wet his bed when asleep. Statements from other learners and staff members confirmed the harsh punishment the learners are suffering at the Centre, with five other victims having come to the fore.

The suspect will appear at the Mashishing Magistrate's Court on 8 April facing five counts of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. Police Management in the province urged Educators to stop administering corporal punishment to learners as it is against the law.

Duo arrested for housebreaking

Two men arrested for housebreaking and theft by Bethal police.

First suspect, Kopano Rashaha aged 25 years, was arrested by Detective Xolani Khuzwayo after he responded to the call from an official at HABPS Security concerning possible housebreaking. Khuzwayo responded swiftly to a call and when he arrived at the scene he found the suspect in the house at Du Plooy Street where the suspect had gained entry by forcing open a window.

On a separate incident, a 34 year old Linda Xulu was also arrested for housebreaking and theft that occurred at Simon Street.

It is alleged that the suspect forced opened the window and stole a laptop. Before he could leave the house with the stolen laptop, a tenant saw him and called for help. The neighbours then gave chase to the suspect and managed to apprehend him. They then called the police and handed

the suspect over with the recovered laptop.

Both suspects will appear at Bethal Magistrate's Court facing charges of housebreaking and theft.

Poacher killed by elephant, others under arrest

A fresh skull found in the Kruger National Park (KNP) is believed to be that of a man reportedly killed by an elephant while poaching with his companions.

The police received information that some men had gone poaching in the KNP on 1 April, when suddenly an elephant attacked and killed one of them. His accomplices claimed to have carried his body to the road so that passers-by could find the body in the morning. They then vanished from the Park.

Once outside, they reportedly informed a relative of the dead man about their ordeal and police were alerted regarding the incident. A search operation was launched by police and Rangers in the mentioned area, whereupon the human skull and pieces of clothing were found. Subsequent to that, police launched a joint intelligence driven operation in search of the dead poacher's accomplices, resulting in the arrest of three men aged between 26 and 35, within KaMhushwa and Komatipoort precincts. During the operation, two .375 hunting rifles and ammunition were seized.

The suspects appeared Friday, 5 April, at the Komatipoort Magistrate's Court facing charges of possession of firearms and ammunition without a licence, conspiracy to poach as well as trespassing.

On their appearance, the court remanded them in custody and they will reappear at the same court on 12 April, pending bail application. An inquest was opened in connection with the dead suspect.

