

CONCERN OVER DROWNING CHILDREN

Potchefstroom – Police in the North West province are appealing to parents, guardians and community members to be vigilant, following numerous drowning incidents in which young children have been victims.

On Saturday 4 January, 10-year old Simphiwe Tshabalala and his friends went for a swim near Stilfontein.

A fun day out soon turned into tragedy. While the children were playing in the water near Malekutu Bridge in Khuma, Tshabalala was swept away by a strong water current.

His body was discovered the following day by police divers, who had been summoned to the scene for a search after a report had been made.

This is just one of the many drowning incidents which have been reported in various parts of the province.

Five other children, aged between three and 17 years, drowned in Pudimoe, Bojating village, Amalia and Ganyesa between 30 December 2019 and 4 January 2020.

In the incident which occurred in Ganyesa, it is alleged that the two boys aged 16 and 17 drowned on 3 January while swimming in a pond close to Ganyesa hospital.

Police spokesperson brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone urged children and members of the public never to swim alone.

"When swimming in dams, check the edge of the dam for soft mud. Keep your head above the water by kicking as if you are cycling and by paddling with your hands at the same time. Always read and obey advisory notices for your safety," he said.

"People who go fishing must always wear non-slip footwear, especially when standing on rocks," he concluded.



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Weather Report North West RUSTENBURG

Friday	17	January	2020	31°C - 19°C	Rainfall probability (%)
Saturday	18	January	2020	30°C - 18°C	0
Sunday	19	January	2020	29°C - 17°C	0
Monday	20	January	2020	24°C - 16°C	Sunrise 06:40 Sunset 17:49
Tuesday	21	January	2020	26°C - 16°C	

At time of print

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

At time of print

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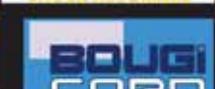
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TRIO APPEAR IN COURT FOR SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

Rustenburg – During June 2019 the grandmother of two minors', aged 10 and 8, opened a case at the Rustenburg police station against her son-in-law who allegedly raped and sexually abused her two grandchildren.

The suspect, a 43-year old male was arrested and since appeared in the Rustenburg Magistrates' Court. The case was postponed several times and is scheduled for another court appearance on 21 January 2020. The suspect was not granted bail.

During the ongoing investigation, it was determined that the grandparents have been aware of the ongoing rape and sexual molestation since 2013. Subsequently, the court issued warrants of arrest for the grandparents in December 2019.

The suspect appeared in court on 2 January 2020 and the case was postponed to 31 January 2020. In terms of the Act on Sexual Offences, Act 32 of 2007 Regulation 54(1)(a) the grandparents were expected to immediately report

these crimes of rape and sexual abuse once they became aware of it, which was not done since 2013. "Their failure to report these crimes, constitutes a criminal offence in terms of the law, as there is a legal obligation to report sexual offences against minors when a member of the public becomes aware of it," said Captain Elsabe Augoustides.

The grandparents and parents were living together since 2013 in Randfontein before moving to Rustenburg.

The biological mother of the children left the suspect during June 2019. The children brought these incidents of rape and sexual abuse to the attention of the mother's friend and he insisted it needs to be reported to the police. It was only then that the grandmother finally reported it to the police.

The grandparents received bail of R1,000 each and will re-appear in court on 31 January.

Rustenburg cluster commander major general Arthur Adams condemned the incidents which he said were committed by the people who were supposed to protect them. He reminded the public that they have a legal obligation to report acts of sexual exploitation of children immediately when they become aware of it.