



TIPS ON HOW TO CARRY CASH SAFELY



Rustenburg – We all know somebody that has been a victim of their cash being stolen and we know how traumatising such an incident can be on an individual. Here are some valuable tips on how to avoid your cash being stolen:

- Carry small amounts of cash if it is possible.
- Rather do your monthly payments electronically.
- Consider the benefits of using cell phone banking and internet banking.
- Never make your bank visits public.
- Avoid walking in public with your wallet in your hand or somewhere it could be visible.
- Refrain from driving with your wallet in plain sight.
- Do not openly display the money you are withdrawing from an ATM.

DESTRUCTIVE PROTESTORS FACE ARREST

THERE IS A - ONE STEP FORWARD AND 10 STEPS BACKWARD MENTALITY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Mogwase – Factories belonging to Golden Era, a forklift as well as a bus of Bojanala Bus were set ablaze on Friday 6 March during a protest by employees affiliated to the South African Typographical Union (SATU).

The protestors accused Golden Era – a printing and packaging company – of paying them low wages. However, the protest took an ugly turn when some of the employees decided to burn the factories. Those responsible for igniting the fires now face criminal prosecution.

Firefighters had to be called to the scene to extinguish the fire, which caused extensive damage. SATU representative Khwezi Makhathini told *Platinum Weekly* that employees were left with no choice but to exercise their right to protest after having exhausted all avenues of communication and negotiation with the employer.

"The employees' demands were for a 12,5% wage increase across the board. This was declined by the company. The company revised the offer to 7,5 % for those earning R900 and above per week and 8% for those earning less than R900 per week. "The workers rejected the offer and unanimously

agreed to strike," Makhathini said.

However, Makhathini distanced SATU from the torching of the factories and infrastructure.

He said: "The union strongly condemns the burning and vandalism of property and the threatening or harming of fellow workers.

"Our members have been advised that if they are found to be in breach of picketing rules then the law will have to take its course. A union is not a law enforcement agency and we are not investigating the arson.

"We are, however, investigating the alleged involvement of our members and the sequence of events that led to the damage of the property."

Police are investigating a case of arson.

"No arrests were made and police are currently monitoring the situation," police spokesperson captain Afje Botma said.

Moses Kotane council's local economic development member of the mayoral committee councillor Nketu Nkotswe condemned the arson.

"The burning may force the company to retrench. The municipality is currently trying to involve and bring all parties to the conflict resolution committee so that negotiations can be used as a tool to address the impasse," Nkotswe said.



The inside of the buildings that was reduced to ashes.



The protestors set fire to a bus.

TWO SUCCESSFUL SAFER SEASON CLUSTER OPERATIONS

Rustenburg – Police led two successful Safer Season cluster operations in Mogwase and Lethabong.

During the multi-disciplinary operation at Mogwase on Thursday 20 February, 80 people were arrested for various offences including noncompliance of the liquor act, drug-related offences and noncompliance of the second-hand goods act.

Police seized 359g of cannabis and 405 litres of alcohol. A total of 13 traffic fines were also issued.

Brigadier Joel Pheto expressed his heartfelt thanks to all officers and members for their commitment and dedication shown, keeping in mind the Cluster's 2020 vision.

The Lethabong Operation Safer Season cluster operation on Thursday 5 March resulted in 165 vehicles being stopped, 376 people being searched, and four vehicles being impounded. It also led to the arrest of six people for noncompliance of the liquor act, six arrests for drug-related offences and the issuing of 20 fines to the value of R27 300.



Police officers preparing for the Lethabong Safer Season cluster operation.



Police stopped and searched various vehicles during the Safer Season cluster operation.

MUNICIPALITY OUT TO RECOVER R5 BILLION DEBT

Rustenburg – The Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) is taking concrete steps to ensure it recovers the R5 billion owed by debtors.

During February, the municipality's Revenue Protection Team (RPT) has been clamping down on defaulting consumers through door to door visits.

This comes after the local government body discovered that many residents and businesses owners who were disconnected from the electricity and water supply systems clandestinely continued to access these services at the expense of paying customers.

After identifying the defaulters, personnel from the RPT removed municipal infrastructure used for electricity and water supply at their premises.

The suspended services will only be fully restored once all their outstanding water and electricity bills have been paid.

Apart from the disconnections, fines in the region of R10,000 were issued for illegal electricity and water connections, which is in contravention of the city's by-laws.

RLM spokesperson David Magae pointed out that the municipality has also reconnected a significant number of residents after they had settled their accounts.

"Businesses that owe the municipality over R2,2 million, which is a fraction of the over R5 billion debt, have been taken off our water and electricity supply systems following attempts to recoup the money," Magae said.

"Money that is owed to the municipality is critical for its daily operations, which include servicing creditors such as the various water boards and Eskom among others to whom the municipality is a bulk customer purchaser," he added.

"The municipality's budget is only funded by about 5%, whereas the rest emanates from monies collected through, services, taxes and rates. In the absence of enough collection, the municipality may be in a position where dispensing services can be a huge challenge, causing unprecedented disruptions to residents," Magae explained.

The work of the RPT is part of a wider initiative by the municipality to ensure that a culture of payment for services rendered is entrenched among residents of the city.



The municipality has been clamping down on those illegally accessing services like water and electricity.

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