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ILLEGAL DAGGA CULTIVATED THREAT TO FORFEIT FARM TO THE STATE



Boshof – Two suspects aged 24 and 26 appeared before the Christiana Magistrates' Court on Friday 26 June on charges of cultivating and illegal possession of dagga with the intent to distribute.

In a multi-disciplinary controlled operation, members of the Hawks' serious organised crime unit in North West conducted several purchases with the suspect. During the second purchase, one of the suspects was arrested. A second suspect was also arrested later.

Upon visiting the farm in Boshof, Free State, the Hawks discovered that dagga was planted in a field with controlled growing processes. The national head of the Directorate for Priority Crimes Investigation doctor Godfrey Lebeya commended the team for having worked on this organised criminal group until they reached the source of the dagga.

"Instead of doing legitimate farming, the farm was used to illegally produce this dependence producing substance. Attention shall also be paid to the farm that was used to cultivate the substance determine as to whether it cannot be forfeited to the state," Lebeya said.

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SJAMBOK VS KNIVES AND PANGAS IN FARM ATTACK

Brits – A couple was left traumatised on Thursday 25 June after five suspects attempted to enter their home on their smallholding Roodekopjes, near Brits, in the early hours of the morning.

According to AfriForum Brits safety chairperson Thys van Heerden, the suspects broke their glass door by throwing rocks at it. One of the rocks hit the female victim against her head – fortunately, she sustained only minor injuries.

The suspects attempted to break through the safety gate but the husband, armed only with a sjambok, managed to keep the knife and panga wielding attackers at bay while his wife phoned for help. The attackers fled the scene before help arrived.

Police spokesperson brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone confirmed that Brits police are investigating a case of attempted police robbery.



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ESRUNÉ'S STOLEN BIKE REPLACED

Rustenburg – Twelve-year-old Esrune du Preez's day was made when she received a brand new, glittery purple bicycle, replacing her bike that was stolen four days earlier.

On Tuesday 23 June, 12-year-old Esrune du Preez's bicycle, which she only had for three weeks, was stolen. The family was inside their house when Esrune noticed someone riding off with it.

She chased after him, determined to stop him. She caught up with him, but when confronted, he pushed her so hard that she fell. She hurt her lower back and was unable to attend school for three days.

After her story was shared on social media, a caring community member – Francois de Wit – was inspired by her bravery and felt sorry for her. He started a campaign to raise funds for a new bicycle for Esrune.

Our community has proven yet again that they care enough to stand together and support each other. "It is important as a community that we support each other to make the world a better place. A small gesture can go a long way in changing the world and after what this little girl experienced, I wanted her to know that there is still hope," Francois said in an interview with Platinum Weekly.

By Saturday 27 June, he managed to raise enough money to buy her a brand new bicycle.

"It was horrible seeing someone ride off with my brand new bicycle. I was heartbroken. I am so grateful for the awesome support of our Rustenburg community. I love my new bicycle. A very special thank you, Francois, for making this possible. It is nice to know that I live in a community that cares," said Esrune.



Esrune du Preez with her brand-new bicycle.

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