

Joint Media Statement
Office of the MEC for Transport and Community Safety and the Saps Provincial
Commissioner: Limpopo
To All Media
Sunday 06th October 2019

MORE THAN 8000 SUSPECTS NABBED DURING OPERATION 'SWARA TSOTSI'

POLOKWANE : The South African Police Service in Limpopo arrested 8275 suspects, during high density operations "Swara Tsotsi" which are still rolling across the province.

These operations, led by the MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Hon. Namane Dickson Masemola and the Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service Lieutenant General Nneke Ledwaba, were run during the months of August and September and were being supplemented by the ongoing Crime Intelligence Tactical Operations, Operation Basadi and the Provincial Operational Command Center (POCC).

The operations were executed through roadblocks, stop and searches, compliance inspections including liquor outlets and tracing of wanted suspects, comprised of various Police units such as the Organised Crime, Public Order Police, Crime Prevention, K9, Air Wing, and the Detectives.

During the operation, suspects aged between 19 and 57, were arrested for various offences that include murder, rape, assault, possession of suspected stolen properties, possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition, possession of drugs, possession of dangerous weapons, residential and business burglaries, robberies, drunken driving, contravention of the Immigration act and Contravention of Road Traffic Act.

As part of activities comprising these operations, police managed to confiscate a total number of 63 firearms, 1982 live ammunition of different calibres, 34 vehicles, 76 cellphones, 13470g of dagga, 13 dagga plants, 113 sachets of nyaope, 15468.75 ml of liquor, 574 counterfeit cigarettes, 400 counterfeit money(per currency), 58 knives, 2 pangas, 251 other confiscations.

Other recoveries include Plasma Tvs, remote controls, wrist watches, an axe, computers, clothes etc.

The origin of these recovered items is still being determined through the ongoing police investigations.

Main activities conducted during these operations, are as follows:

- * Persons searched = 61176
- * Vehicles searched= 41772

- * Searches at Residential premises =262
- * Searches at School premises= 235
- * Searches at Liquor premises=239
- * Searches at Business premises= 49
- * Second-hand goods premises=25
- * Stop and Searches conducted =713
- * Patrol duties = 454
- * A total of 995 fines were issued under the Liquor Act.
- * Bylaw fines issued = 71
- * J534 fines issued = 1110
- * J534 fines issued at second- hand goods= 12
- * Traffic fines= 643
- * Written warnings = 5

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OPERATION:

* In the Groblersdal Cluster, Police in Dennilton arrested a 45- year- old suspect, for possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition on 29 August 2019, while at his home in Lesehleng Ntwane Village. The arrest was effected during an intelligence driven joint operation that comprised of the Dennilton Task Team Unit , Crime Intelligence Unit and Detectives. The police managed to recover 22 x rifles, 563 live ammunition, 1x shot gun live ammunition, 2x pairs of balaclava, 2x mac lights, hunting clothes and a hunting rifle. Preliminary investigations revealed that the hunting rifle was stolen in Pretoria North during March. Furthermore, the firearm was linked to pointing of a firearm and malicious damage to property in Dennilton policing area. The origin of some of these recoveries is still being determined through the ongoing investigations.

* Meanwhile on 2019-08-23, members of Makhado crime intelligence followed information about a 39-year-old house robbery suspect hiding around Polokwane City. During the arrest, the suspect was found to be linked to a series of House breaking and theft committed around Musina and Makhado policing areas, between 2016 and 2018.

* Makhado Police also arrested a 48-year-old woman, for possession of unlicensed firearm and ammunition during an intelligence-led joint operation conducted on 2019-08-26. The suspect was arrested at her house in Munzhedzi Village and , police confiscated a 9mm pistol with 13 live ammunition. Further investigations will still be conducted to determine the origin of this firearm and possible linkage to other serious offences committed in this area and the surroundings.

Some of the arrested suspects have already started appearing before various magistrate courts across the Province.

The MEC for Transport and Community Transport, Hon. Namane Dickson Masemola and the Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service in Limpopo Lieutenant General Nneke Ledwaba have applauded the various teams of members of the South African Police Service for their sterling work and encouraged them to never rest until all the illegal firearms are removed from the wrong hands and crime is significantly reduced in the province.

Ends

For Media Enquiries :

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