

‘Hit on my life was wake-up call for me’

Man gave police brass info about two murders, but then he was targeted, so he fled Joburg

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A JOBURG man claims he handed over crucial information to the police top brass that could have led to the arrest of the killers of Mark Andrews and Ian Jordaan.

The man, who wanted to remain anonymous, said he went to the police a day after Andrews was killed and gave them all the information about the murder as well as intimate details about the criminal underworld in Joburg.

A source in the SAPS, who wanted to remain anonymous, seemed to confirm the claim, saying certain senior police officials, whose names are known to The Star, wanted the matter swept under the carpet because they could be implicated.

“They are involved in the criminal underworld and they feared that if the matter is investigated, they could rot in jail,” the source said.

Hawks spokesman Hangwani Mulaudzi said they were in the process of organising a meeting with the man. He said the man had approached Hawks boss Berning Ntlemenza with the allegations and that a senior official had been assigned to investigate the matter.

Mulaudzi said they would also investigate the allegation that certain members of the Hawks were involved with the criminal underworld. In an exclusive interview, the man who worked as Andrews’s bodyguard said he told the police everything he knew about the killings of Jordaan and Andrews.

“They were killed by the same people,” he said, adding that he was with Andrews when he was kidnapped, but managed to get away.

But Andrews was not so lucky. His lifeless body was discovered next to the R59 highway in Alberton in September 2011. Andrews was a former business partner of Lolly Jackson and ex-manager of the Cresta branch of the Teazers strip club.

Andrews’s death was among a series of mysterious murders that rocked the Joburg underworld between 2009 and 2013. He had been shot execution-style with a bullet wound to his head, with his hands tied behind his back.

His body was found within a few days of the killing of Jackson’s family lawyer, Jordaan,

whose body was found burnt almost beyond recognition after he disappeared.

Jordaan had apparently made a transfer of R1.8 million from his firm’s trust account into a Bidvest account that belonged to Andrews.

The man gave a chilling account about what happened the night Andrews was killed.

He said they were kidnapped by two men at the Balfour Mall around 5pm. He added that he and Andrews had parked the vehicle they were travelling in and climbed into the one belonging to the two men.

“They were dressed very smartly. These are professional killers, they don’t talk too much,” he said. The man said the pair were constantly on the phone, speaking to a person they

referred to as “boss”.

“It was a super-strange set-up once we were in the car.”

He said the pair drove onto the R59 towards Vereeniging, and the car suddenly stopped near a stretch of veld.

“They pointed firearms at us and ordered us to get out of the car. I realised it was war and this could be my last day. I tried to get out of the situation and ran away.” The man said that as he ran and dived for cover, the pair sprayed him with bullets.

That was the last time he saw Andrews alive.

“It was dark and I was not sure if these people would pursue me. I tried to walk far away from the road because the lights of the cars would make it easy for them to see me,” he added.

After walking for several kilo-

metres, a truck driver stopped and offered him a lift. “I was not sure if Mark was going to get out of the situation. But I was hoping he would... Mark was the strong one and flippant... brave.”

The man said he believed Andrews was killed because he owed someone a huge amount of money. “He met strange characters, but he would handle his affairs all by himself. Most of the time I would drive and stay far away from him at his meetings.”

He said he heard in the news the next morning that Andrews’s body had been discovered on the R59 highway. Shortly after he had given the police information about who could be linked to the hit, there were several attempts on his life.

“I decided to leave Joburg because my life was in danger.”

Hold on to all those e-toll bills for now

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HANG on to those outstanding e-toll bills for a little while.

Sanral’s offer of a 60 percent discount on outstanding e-toll bills started this week, and runs until May 2.

Meanwhile, the National Consumer Commission (NCC) expects to deal within two months with the complaint by the Freedom Front Plus (FF+) that e-toll equipment is illegal.

“As with any new matter, the NCC will assess the complaint for jurisdiction in terms of the Consumer Protection Act, and analyse the contents thereof before making a determination on the most appropriate course of enforcement action to pursue, if necessary,” said NCC spokesman Trevor Hattingh.

“The turnaround time to process any registered complaint by the NCC is 60 working days. During this time, the NCC will regularly interact with the complainant to provide updates on the matter.”

Yesterday, Sanral spokesman Vusi Mona dismissed the allegations that the e-tolls and bills were illegal as “false”, but said Sanral would co-operate with the NCC investigation.

On Monday, the FF+ filed a complaint with the NCC about Sanral using e-toll cameras that weren’t legally compliant as they hadn’t been calibrated or certified in terms of legally required national standards.

“It means that people can now legally stop paying bills, not only because they think it is morally incorrect but because it is legally correct not to pay your bills, and those who have already paid can start instituting legal proceedings to claim their money back,” said FF+ MP advocate Anton Alberts.

The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) had confirmed to the FF+ that the e-toll equipment had not been certified as required by the Legal Metrology Act, and that the NRCS had refused Sanral exemption from this requirement.

Details for how to check the outstanding e-toll bills by phone, SMS or online are on the Sanral website www.less60.co.za



IN DOCK: Three of the four police officers who were arrested after allegedly shooting and killing a suspect appeared in the Krugersdorp Magistrate’s Court yesterday.

PICTURE: DUMISANI DUBE

Cops in court to face charge of murdering suspect

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“WHERE are you when we are being killed by criminals? You come now?” A police officer yelled this to journalists at the Krugersdorp Magistrate’s Court yesterday when the four cops accused of the murder of a suspect applied for bail.

Courtroom 2 was packed with

police officers who came to show solidarity with their colleagues accused of shooting and killing Khulekani Mpanza in Krugersdorp more than two weeks ago.

Constable Dipuo Chipu, 39, the only female among the accused, was charged with defeating the ends of justice. Constables Titus Mabela, 30, and Jason Segole, 34, and Sergeant Puleng Sebetwa, 38, were charged

with defeating the ends of justice and murder.

They covered their faces with scarves and hoodies as they tried to hide from media cameras clicking away.

Chipu was released on bail of R5 000.

Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) spokeswoman Grace Langa was also in court. She said the reason Chipu

was charged only with defeating the ends of justice was because she played no role in the alleged execution of the suspect.

“In the video she did not feature anywhere, she was just there at the back and did not participate in the shooting.”

The case has been postponed to December 10 for a bail application. Chipu will appear before court again on December 2.

The officers were arrested by Ipid officers on Monday and served with notices of suspension pending investigations.

In CCTV footage that has gone viral, Mpanza is seen falling to the ground after being shot in the arm by the police. Police then continued to fire shots as he lay on the ground.

He was certified dead on the scene.

Victims of US attack on hospital recalled

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THE 13 Doctors Without Borders (MSF) staff and 10 patients killed in the Kunduz hospital attack in Afghanistan were remembered during a memorial service at Park Station in Joburg’s CBD yesterday.

The event was one of the many held in 63 countries to mark the one-month anniversary of the incident.

MSF Southern Africa president Dr Mohammed Dalwai explained how the attack happened.

“At around 2am on Saturday October 3, a US gunship opened fire on our hospital. During the sustained attack, there were 105 patients inside the hospital and more than 80 international and Afghan staff present,” he said.

“For more than 30 minutes after we first informed US and Afghan military officials in Kabul and Washington that it was a hospital being hit, the firing continued. Our patients burnt in their beds. MSF doctors, nurses and other staff were killed as they worked. Our colleagues had to operate on

each other.”

MSF demanded an independent investigation by the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission.

They also asked the public to help them by signing a petition that demanded the Obama administration and the US government consent to the independent investigation.

“Over 400 000 people have already signed on and we now need you to stand with us,” Dalwai told the 40 or so people who gathered for the event.

The petition can be found at change.org/evenwarhasrules

ANCYL leader quits as MEC

MOGOMOTSI MAGOME

ANC YOUTH League president Collen Maine, pictured, will forgo his MEC salary and is expected to lead the ANCYL on a full-time basis.

This after Maine’s resignation was accepted by North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo yesterday.

Youth league spokesman Mlondi Mkhize said, however, the league’s national executive committee would have to meet to decide whether the position of league president would be permanent.



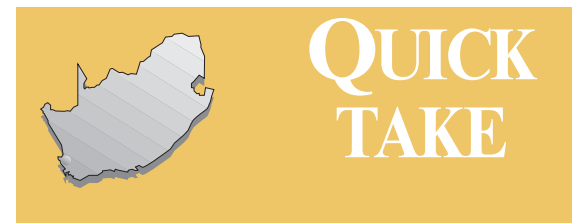
He said the league never required him to resign.

“Currently the position of president is not full-time. If it were to be full-time, that would have to be a decision of the NEC (national executive committee),” he said.

Maine’s annual salary as MEC is more than R1.5 million.

He will be replaced in an acting capacity by Wendy Nelson, currently responsible for finance, economy and enterprise development.

Maine was not available for comment.



Manhunt for cop’s killers

THE 52-YEAR-OLD warrant officer from Siloam police station in Limpopo who was killed while pursuing suspected armed robbers has been identified as Thomas Mabada. Provincial commissioner Lieutenant-General Fannie Masemola expressed his condolences to the slain officer’s family yesterday. Masemola said the police would not rest until the culprits were brought to book. Mabada was shot dead on Monday evening while pursuing suspected armed robbers on the road between Siloam and Thohoyandou. The killers are still at large. “We will use all the resources available to us to track down these suspects to bring them to book. If any member of the public has any information that can assist us, we are appealing to them to come forward,” Masemola said. – ANA

Minister’s mother dies at 95

THE MOTHER of recently appointed Public Service and Administration Minister Ngoako Ramatlhodi has died, his special adviser Mahodi Sam Muofhe confirmed yesterday. “She ran a worthwhile race,” Muofhe said. “May her soul rest in peace.” The minister’s mother, Mmatlou Elizabeth Ramatlhodi, 95, died in the early hours of yesterday. The minister was out of the country on official government work at the time. Ramatlhodi was mineral resources minister up until September, when he was appointed to his new portfolio, which had been vacant after the death in a car accident in March of Collins Chabane. Funeral arrangements for Mmatlou would be announced in due course, Muofhe said. – ANA

Pupils back in class after protests

PUPILS from 17 schools in villages near Ganyesa have returned to classes after learning and teaching were brought to a standstill by community protests, the North West Education Department said yesterday. Department spokesman Elias Malindi said that after engaging with local communities, it was decided that classes would resume on Monday. Schooling in the area was interrupted following service delivery protests last month. Malindi said Grade 12 pupils were moved to “safe camps”, where their exams started off successfully. Later, about 115 matrics from the area were accommodated at Kgonyane Secondary School in Southey village following the protests, which threatened to interrupt the final exams. North West Education MEC Wendy Matsemela said she was happy that pupils from Ganyesa have returned to school. “We are ready to roll out our recovery plans for the learners,” she said. – ANA

Robbers raid liquor store safe

BRAZEN robbers stole a large amount of cash after forcing open the safe of a liquor store. Customers had to be turned away at the door of Diamond’s liquor store in Grabouw when it was shut following the robbery. Western Cape police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel André Traut confirmed the burglary. Businesses in the neighbourhood claimed that the safe was blown open with explosives, but the police couldn’t confirm this. “The circumstances are being investigated and no one has been arrested,” Traut said. – Staff Reporter

Gunmen target cigarette van

WESTERN Cape police are on the hunt for a gang of armed robbers who targeted a delivery van. Constable Noloyiso Rwxana said a man was busy delivering cigarettes to a shop in Main Road, Grabouw, when he was approached by two armed men at about 11am yesterday. While the cigarettes were being offloaded, two men robbed the complainant of an undisclosed amount of cigarettes and a laptop. “The suspects forced him into the vehicle and drove to another area, where they transferred the cigarettes to another vehicle in which they escaped.” The complainant was unharmed and the delivery vehicle was recovered,” Rwxana said. – Staff Reporter

Parents up in arms over circumcision deal

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PARENTS, children and residents gathered outside Noordgesig Primary School in Joburg yesterday to demand the removal of the principal over an alleged dodgy circumcision contract set up through the school.

On October 16, Octavia Petersen expected to fetch her son, Leo Mondre, 10, from school at 4pm. She had signed a consent form for her son to be circumcised along with about 40 of his peers that day at a private practice facility supported by Right to Care, an NGO that specialises in HIV testing and circumcisions.

When the boys didn’t show up at the school on time, worried parents began phoning the principal, Cindy Tsotsotso, Petersen said. She said the principal was unable to provide them with satisfactory answers. The boys finally returned after midnight.

Petersen said the boys stated that the operations had been performed in an RDP house.

Khumbulani Moyo, a Right to Care representative, said that because the site was a private-practice facility, it might have looked like a residence to the boys.

Gauteng Education MEC Panyaza Lesufi received the parents’ memorandum and promised to meet them tomorrow.

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Calling all Matrics

As the matrics have started writing their final exams, The Star would like to celebrate this special time by publishing articles of their success. If you know of matric pupils you believe will do particularly well this year, or who have overcome any type of hardship to get their matric certificate, let us know. We're looking for names of children and their schools, the reasons why you believe they will do well, contact details and photos.

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