

Our team of investigators are chasing (potential) leads," said Mkutshulwa.

Despite the high number of rhinos poached in two weeks, Mkutshulwa said the Kruger National Park was set to benefit from experienced human resources and technology that would improve the monitoring of rhino poachers at night.

"We have managed to bring in retired major general Johan Jooste, 60, to assist with the fight against poaching. He will be the chief commanding officer at Kruger National Park.

"We received a donation of a surveillance aircraft and an unmanned aerial vehicle. This technology will give us an edge with regards to night patrols."

In his political report at the ANC's Mangaung elective conference last month President Jacob Zuma said he wanted to see the SA National Defence Forces (SANDF) redeployed to South Africa's border with Botswana in the North West and the border shared with Mozambique and Zimbabwe at the Kruger National Park.

SANDF spokesperson Sipiwe Dlamini said yesterday that the core objective of the defence forces was "to secure the borders", but that their presence also had the effect of reducing the loss of rhinos to poachers.

"The SANDF's main role is border security, but we are supporting the SA Police Service at Kruger National Park. Our work around the area has a positive impact which has the effect of countering rhino poaching," Dlamini said.

Last year 668 rhinos were killed for their horns by poachers in the country's national parks.

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TODAY'S POLL

Do you think tablet devices should be standardised for schools?

- A. Yes, it's the modern way to educate the youth.
- B. No, it spoils children, they should use books.
- C. Yes, as soon as possible.

Vote online
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or sms:
Poll <space> 'A' 'B' or 'C' to 43043

YESTERDAY'S RESULT

Are you happy with Bafana Bafana's performance?

- A. Yes, it is good. 18.91%
- B. No, it is poor. 54.05%
- C. It is satisfactory. 27.02%

apparently from rubber bullets, was admitted to the Worcester Hospital then transferred to the Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town, where he died yesterday.

A department of health communication officer, Joanne Otto,

Old Bridge Tavern, was linked to the strikes.

Yesterday police spokesperson for the region Capt Mzi-kayise Moloi said many groups were taking part in the farm worker protests and confirmed

A number of unions have come on board to support the striking workers demanding a flat daily salary rate of R150 but farmers have steadfastly refused to pay this saying it will drive them to bankruptcy.

The Deciduous Fruit Development Chamber, which represents the country's black farmers and which has 85% of its membership in the Cape, said it was concerned that with

were entirely dependent on the upcoming yield of crops and if they lost this crop many of them faced ruin and would be forced to cut jobs. He called for a "return to sanity".

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New level for African film

ZWELAKHE SHANGASE

TELEVISION bad boy, Fabian Adeoye Lojede, has revealed that he is currently working on a pan-African drama series, Eko Vibes.

The series looks at the booming hip-hop music genre in various parts of the continent.

The South Africa-based Nigerian actor has made a household name for himself through portrayal of the nasty Bola Abayomi on local hit drama series, Jacobs Cross.

Lojede, 40, believes there is a growing need for more filmmakers and TV executives to invest in pan-African productions. Starting out as a copywriter in an advertising agency, Lojede said he played his most challenging role in local feature film Man on Ground in 2012.

"With Jacobs Cross being in its last season, I thought that I should not lose the passion of working on African productions."

He said his new drama series

will be shot in both English and French to cater for a bigger audience.

"The story centres on two young men - both committed and passionate about music - but don't necessarily see eye to eye when it comes to business.

"I play the role of a ruthless and opportunistic record label executive who will do anything and everything to make sure that he gets money from his artists.

"While the other plays the role of a passionate producer who wants nothing but to make good music and promote Africa.

"It is based on a global African recording label which aims at combining various artists from other continents to make Africa a force to be reckoned with abroad."

He believes pan-African productions have a role to play.

"They also have their challenges though; working on such a production requires one to take calculated risks in terms of location scouting but most

importantly the actors.

"You need to find an actor who will have a cross border appeal, and be able to take those productions in to the hearts of many.

"West Africa is really pushing this genre as you find that more actors are appearing in various TV shows or films and thereby exposing their own cultures to other countries.

"The biggest challenge for southern Africa and not necessarily South Africa is that people here are still more concerned with Hollywood productions rather than local.

"It's difficult to convince someone to watch African offerings as compared to Hollywood blockbusters and I think that's the reason the transition has been slow."

He added Eko Vibes has wrapped filming in English and is now busy working on the French version.

The release date for the drama series is slated to be later this year.

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GOT THE VIBES: Nigeria-born actor Fabian Lojede is working on a pan-African drama series.

Suspects arrested after shoot-out

IRVINE MAKUYANA

A CORNERED suspect in Kempton Park yesterday turned the gun on himself, blasting his brains out, while three of his colleagues were arrested by the SA Police Service in a chase that started in Kempton Park and ended in the neighbouring suburb of Sebenza yesterday.

Police spokesperson, Katlego Mogale, said: "The suspect was certified dead on the spot."

Two police officers also sustained bullet wound injuries - one in the hand and the other in the leg.

Mogale said yesterday: "The police initiated a search for a white taxi about 11am. Two officers on patrol identified an identical minibus heading towards them.

U-turn to chase after it, the suspects opened fire."

Mogale said the police chased the taxi all the way to Sebenza where the suspects abandoned their vehicle and tried to escape on foot.

"SAPS officers found three unlicensed firearms when they searched the vehicle. One of the firearms was linked to an armed robbery in Brakpan last year in September," Mogale said.

Kempton Park police said there were nine suspects, of which one was dead, three had been arrested and the remaining five were on the run.

The incident occurred barely an hour after National Police Commissioner Riah Phiyega described the killing of an officer on Monday in Joubert Park, Johannesburg, as a "tragedy".

Strikes may delay schools

TNA REPORTER

AS PUPILS in the coastal province's return to schools for the 2013 academic year today there is concern that the ongoing farm strike in the Western Cape may delay the start for some pupils.

"We are chasing these children away when they come and join the strikes and protests but they refuse to go. They tell us that their parents are fighting for their future. They say their parents have got no money to put food on their tables and have no money to buy uniforms and that is why they are standing by their parents," said Karel Swardt from one of the unions in the coalition directing the strikes.

The Eastern Cape, Kwa-Zulu-Natal, Western Cape and Northern Cape schools re-open today while inland provinces opened last Wednesday.



SCHOOL DAZE: Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe was due to address pupils at a school in Lusikisiki. PICTURE: HERBERT MATIMBA

Motlanthe accompanied by the Basic Education Minister, Angie Motshega, were due to visit Endulini Junior Secondary School in Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape "as part of an intervention to respond to challenges

faced by pupils." The Eastern Cape education department recorded the, lowest matric pass rate during the 2012 results, obtaining 61.6%. It improved by 3.5% from 58.1% in 2011.

retrenchments at Denel Aviation/AMC were unavoidable. This after the SA Air Force (SAAF) announced this week it will not be taking over the contracts of 523 aircraft specialists at Denel. It said its contract for aircraft maintenance with the company, expiring on March 31, would not be renewed. "It appears retrenchments at Denel as a result of this decision are unavoidable." - Luyolo Mkentane

Gauteng citizens owe the most by far

GAUTENG has the highest consumer debt per capita of all provinces, the SA Institute of Race Relations said yesterday. The country's economic capital accounted for almost half of SA consumer debt. The average Gauteng-er owed R4260 in mortgage agreements, secured credit, unsecured credit and credit transactions. Average per capita debt in South Africa was R2050. - Sapa

Two caught walking with R10 000 copper

TWO men were arrested in Port Elizabeth yesterday when they were found with three bags of copper wire, Eastern Cape police said. Maj Ernest Sigobe said the men were caught by police while they were walking in a veld between Algoa Park and New Brighton. The wire had an estimated street value of R10 000. The two will appear in court soon. Copper has become a lucrative business over the last decade. - Sapa

Jovial Zuma motivates Bafana

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"We are satisfied that the team is ready. We have seen the international friendlies that Bafana played and if one knows soccer, the team is balanced in all areas, because they have to do that first to be able to be certain that they are able to score goals not from luck or muti."

"We are satisfied that the team is well prepared for the tournament. I am more confident this time than any other that we will show people what we South Africans are made of."

With the players singing "Mshini wam' mshini wam" and Igesund beaming, it was clear that the players took the president's message to heart three days before facing the Blue Warriors.

One assurance that the players gave to the president was that he would be able to touch the trophy at the end of the three-week tournament.

"Everybody is confident and so is the captain Bongani Khumalo. I was telling him that I was once a captain but I was a shorter captain than him. The message is simply we are behind Bafana and that is what we wanted to convey."

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