

MHPR

Public Relations Consultants

59 Van Praagh Avenue, Milton Park

Tel: 251538/9 Tel: 2928036

Mobile: 0772 307913

Email: mail@mhpr.co.zw

Safeguard Security

ONLINE CUTTINGS

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Lovebirds up for kidnapping, murder

Two lovers have been arrested on charges of kidnapping and murdering a Grade One pupil at Porta Primary School in Norton.

Casper Garande (41) and Dephine Chaitwa (42) appeared before Harare magistrate, Barbara Chimboza, on Thursday and were remanded in custody to April 28.

They were advised to apply for bail at the High Court.

It is the State's case that on April 4 at around noon, Perfect Hanyani, a Grade One pupil at Porta Farm Primary School in Norton, was kidnapped by Chaitwa and Garande, while on his way from school.

It is alleged locals saw a strange woman walking with the child before he was kidnapped.

The boy's body was discovered on April 13 in a pool of water in a bush at Gwanzura Farm, Msengezi in Chegutu.

It is alleged near the body there was a black wallet containing Garande's particulars, which included his photocopied identity card, Safeguard Security firm papers, where he is employed, and a passport-size photo.

Upon arrest, Garande implicated Chaitwa, as the one who was in possession of some of the documents, which were in the recovered wallet, as the two once had an affair.

He further alleged that during that time, they had a misunderstanding, which resulted in Chaitwa confiscating the documents. Chaitwa was represented by Tawanda Takaendesa.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated incident, three people appeared at the Harare Magistrates' Court facing a murder charge after they fatally assaulted their colleague for sharing the meat they were frying.

The suspects – Sekai Sabawu (30) and Ruregerero and Janet Chibanda (23) of Chigumira Farm, Mazowe – were remanded in custody by Chimboza to April 28.

It is the State's case that on April 18, Ruregerero and Janet and the now-deceased Mike Kamburuka were chatting and drinking beer celebrating Zimbabwe's independence at the Chigumira Farm compound.

It is alleged they were frying meat in a cooking pan borrowed by the now-deceased from Patricia Sembo, who also gave them cooking oil.

The State alleges when the meat was ready to eat, the now-deceased took a piece and gave it to Sembo, to thank her for the pan and cooking oil. This angered Sabawu, Ruregerero and Janet, who then assaulted the now-deceased with fists all over the body.

Joseph Katumba, who had provided the meat, tried to restrain the trio, but failed.

It is alleged the now-deceased eventually fell to the ground and died on the spot, leading to the trio's arrest.

Sebastian Mutizirwa appeared for the State.

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Housebreaking increases in Harare

An upsurge in incidents of housebreaking in Harare has prompted **Safeguard Security**, one of the country's leading security organisations, to warn householders in the capital to be extra careful in safeguarding their belongings.

A Safeguard spokesperson urged people to lock up their houses earlier in the evenings and to ensure the front and back doors of their house were kept locked at all times, unless protected by a security screen when left open.

Even when a house was protected by burglar bars and security screens, it was still necessary to exercise caution by ensuring valuable items or keys were not left within reach of a window or door, remembering that thieves often fish items out of a house by means of a long stick.

Sometimes people left valuable items or keys so close to the window that a long stick was not even needed to access them, he said.

He cited an incident in which an Xpanda gate across an open door was closed and locked but the keys left close by, enabling a thief to reach in and take the keys, which were then used to unlock the screen and gain access to the house.

Make sure that keys and valuables are, as far as possible, out of sight and not left close to windows. It is wise to keep your outside doors locked at all times. You never know when an intruder may show up," he said.

He emphasised the importance of instructing children and domestic staff never to allow anyone they did not know onto the premises, even if the person at the gate claimed to be a relative of the family or to have been sent by the home owner to fix a problem.

"If you are expecting a repairman or a relative, make sure the domestic staff know about it. If somebody turns up that you have not told them about they should not let that person in without first contacting you to seek permission to allow them onto the premises," he said.

"Where security is concerned, it is always better to be safe than sorry," he added.

He urged people not to keep cash at home or at the office. "Cash has increasingly become the prime target of thieves and robbers. The shortage of cash has meant that those who steal it can often make money from selling it at a premium," he said.
