

# Alleged trade in council property

By Waldie Volschenk

**R**USTENBURG - A cloud of mystery surrounds the sudden and unexplained disappearance of a police docket after a case of alleged trade in municipal property was reported to the Rustenburg Police on Tuesday, 13 December.

According to Mr Johan de Klerk, Secretary of the Rustenburg Ratepayers Association (RRPA) he was notified by a member of the RRPA last week (Tuesday the 13th) who claimed that he had once again witnessed a worker of the Rustenburg Municipality in a municipal vehicle allegedly dealing in municipal property with a well-known scrap metal dealer in town.

Their investigation led the two men, De Klerk and an officer of the Traffic Department (Rustenburg Public Safety), to the premises of the said scrap metal dealer where two large and costly municipal water valves belonging to the Rustenburg Municipality were identified. After a short argument between De Klerk, the Traffic Officer and employees of the scrap metal dealer, workers of the latter later confirmed that they have indeed bought the water valves from a municipal worker for a ridiculous amount of R209-00. The value of the two water valves was later established at very close to R30 000, De Klerk told Rustenburg Herald on Monday.

With the assistance of Mr SS Kotsedi, Director of the Rustenburg Municipality's Directorate Public Safety and a

designated officer – Mr Makinita, the municipal vehicle and the driver allegedly involved in the illegal transaction, were tracked, located and identified.

De Klerk, the member of the RRPA and officer Makinita immediately proceeded to the Rustenburg Police Station on Tuesday the 13th to report the incident and to officially lay charges against the alleged culprit. After the case was opened and as a result of the time (18:45) the men soon left without all the necessary documentation and case number, but returned the following day (Wednesday the 14th) to have these confirmed.

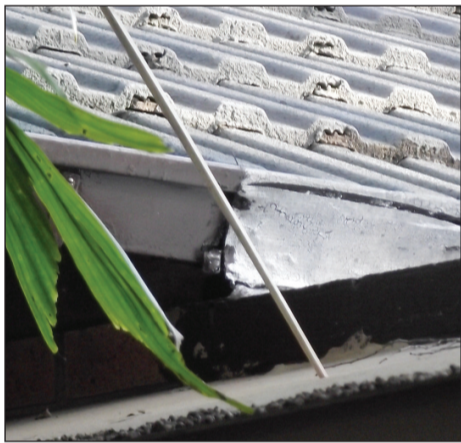
On their arrival, De Klerk was stunned beyond belief to learn that there was no evidence of the case whatsoever and that the docket had disappeared without a trace.

An outraged De Klerk immediately summoned the intervention of the Station Commissioner – Brig Dube – who could contribute little to locate the missing docket or even to verify the existence of such a case reported barely one day earlier.

**Rustenburg Herald's journalistic ethics are questioned by the Station Commander of the Rustenburg Police Station – Brigadier IS Dube – after the publication of an article on the alleged trade in municipal property which eventually led to the arrest of two municipal employees only two days before Christmas. The article covered an incident of alleged theft of, and trade in municipal property allegedly involving two municipal employees and subsequently, the experiences of Mr Johan de Klerk, Secretary of the Rustenburg Ratepayers Association during various attempts to have the incident reported and registered at the Rustenburg Police Station. For the sake of clarity, we decided to repeat the complete article followed by the respective response of the Rustenburg Police, Mr Johan de Klerk and ourselves on our letters page of this edition.**

Several attempts by De Klerk to have the docket located or to speak to the men who have taken down the report in person, were unsuccessful. "We as the Rustenburg Ratepayers Association are outraged by this negligence and unprofessional conduct and will leave no stone unturned in having the issue reported and investigated by the Independent Complaints Directorate (We have since laid an official complaint with the Independent Complaints Directorate against the Rustenburg Police Station). We will furthermore not hesitate to explore all possible avenues and to even approach the offices of the North West Premier and the National Ministry of Police to have this absolute reckless conduct investigated" Rustenburg Herald was told on Tuesday. At the time of our going to print for this week's final edition of the year, not a trace of the missing docket could be found, De Klerk confirmed.

## Vuurwerke gevaarlik



**DIE PUNT VAN DIE PYL waar dit deur die asbesplaat gegaan het. (Foto's: Ronnie Parkin).**



Die potensiële gevaar van vuurwerke is opnuut beklemtoon toe 'n stok wat deel vorm van 'n vuurpyl wat gedurende die Nuwejaarsvieringe op 1 Januarie afgevuur is, met soveel spoed afgekom het aarde toe dat dit 'n asbesplaat van ongeveer 5mm dik by die huis van mnr Ronnie Parkin van Joubertstraat in Ooseinde deurboor het. Die vuurpyl is vermoedelik deur inwoners van 'n naburige straat afgevuur.

## N4 ongeluk eis egpaar

**RUSTENBURG** - 'n Man en vrou, beide in hul dertigs, het omgekome en hul twee minderjarige kinders is vroeg Sondagoggend ernstig beseer in 'n motorongeluk op die N4-hoofweg naby Swartruggens.

Die ongeluk het om ongeveer 05:00 tussen Swartruggens en Moedwil plaasgevind terwyl die gesin van vier van Mafikeng na Centurion onderweg was. Die vrou het die gesin se Toyota Avanza ten tye van die voorval bestuur en na bewering beheer oor die voertuig verloor, wat veroorsaak het dat dit die pad verlaat en teen bome gebots het voordat dit in die nabygeleë veld omslaan het.

Volgens Lesiba Moses Kgwele, woordvoerder vir die provinsiale departement van menslike nedersettings, openbare veiligheid en skakeling, het die bestuurder vermoedelik iets op die pad probeer vermy, aangesien glymerke op die teeroppervlak toon dat sy hard gerem het voordat sy beheer oor die voertuig verloor het.

Die vrou en haar man is op die toneel dood, terwyl hul dogter en seun van onderskeidelik 13 en vyf jaar oud, met ernstige beserings in die Ferncrest-hospitaal in Rustenburg opgeneem is.

Die polisie ondersoek tans 'n saak van strafbare manslag, roekelose en onnatuurlike bestuur.

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