

MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER FREE STATE PROVINCE

Heavily armed suspects robbed a farm, two men arrested and others still at large

Monday, 29 November 2021

Bothaville : Unknown African men armed with pistols and AK47 rifle approached the farmer and robbed cash and his Isuzu bakkie. After a police chase two suspects were arrested. Manhunt continues.

On the 29 November 2021 at about 09:30 suspects arrived at ***Yukon farm in Bothaville*** hiring a bakkie. When they alighted, the driver saw firearms and alerted the son in law of the farmer not knowing him on the road towards Bothaville CBD.

The suspects attacked the 59 year old farmer, Mr Godfrey Venter, his wife, daughter, child and the domestic worker. They were all pointed with firearms, pistols and AK47 rifle. They demanded cash and they were given cash but said its not enough, otherwise they are taking the child.

The farmer was assaulted with the butt of the handguns on his head and sustained injuries, he was also tied and kicked while demanding more money.

The suspects then fled the scene and drove off with the Isuzu D - Max with Free State number plates. Already there was an activation to Bothaville SAPS members, Neighborhood Watch and local security companies, who were on the look-out for the bakkie with suspects who are heavily armed. The bakkie was followed by Neighborhood Watch members until it was abandoned by suspects and fled on foot inside Kgotsong location.

The search was conducted by Bothaville SAPS led by the Station Commander, Colonel Disebo Tshabalala, Welkom K9 Unit and the SAPS Airwing was also involved to trace the fleeing armed robbers. The two suspects aged 27 and 40 years old who originate from Tembisa, Gauteng Province were arrested. The two speaks only Zulu.

Four cellphones belonging to the suspects were found on the back of the bakkie and seized.

The suspects were ten and armed with three pistols, one revolver and AK47 rifle. No firearm has been found at this moment but the manhunt to trace eight outstanding suspects continues.

Residents are sternly warned not to arrest these fleeing themselves but contact the SAPS, as they are heavily armed with automatic rifle - AK47 and pistols.

A case of house robbery has been registered for further investigation. Anyone with information leading to the additional eight suspects who are armed, can contact *Colonel Ben Bolsick, Provincial Organized Crime Unit who can be contacted at cellphone number 082 466 8530* *or Police Emergency number 08600 10111* .

Ends

Captain Stephen Thakeng

Lejweleputswa District Corporate Communication

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