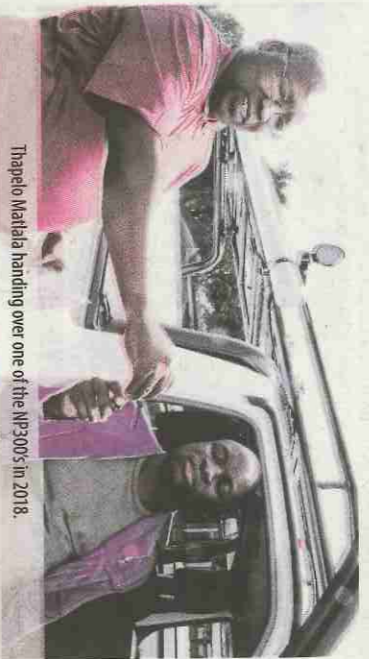


Does the chief really know what's happening?

Joe Dreyer
According to the Electrical Chief at the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Sam Lelopo, the rumours that there were not enough vehicles for the technicians to attend to numerous faults on the power grid this past week, were not true. Large parts of Tzaneen, Letstiele and Haenertsburg were left without power on Monday and Tuesday after Eskom's area-wide shut down on Sunday for maintenance.



Thapelo Matlala handing over one of the M3005's in 2018.

uses later the power was out again. It came back on 20 minutes or so after that and went off again less than 10 minutes later. This continued until just after 19:00 that evening before it appeared as though the grid had been stabilized.
Monday and Tuesday saw outages in various suburbs with technicians tending to cable faults. When no feedback was given to the residents on the progress of their fault repairs after hours without power on Tuesday, Ward Councillor Chrizelle Dreyer and PR Councillor André Moss, contacted the control room after falling on numerous attempts to reach any of the electrical department's management on any of their listed numbers. When the control room could not be reached on the landline, the councillors contacted the technicians on their listed numbers who then informed them that there were not enough vehicles for them to tend to all the faults in some of the areas. Some residents were told the same when they too contacted the technicians.
Reportedly one of the vehicles was in the Politisi area, one vehicle was in the Letstiele area, another vehicle was in Tzaneen town whilst another was tending to a fault in Lushof. The technicians also claimed that there were vehicles parked at a local car dealership service department, which had already been serviced, but not delivered due to payment not having been made. This meant that of the seven vehicles available to the technical team, only four were in operation.
Councillor Dreyer then drove to the GTM offices to speak to the acting municipal manager Alec Nkuna. Nkuna was not available, but his secretary contacted Sam Lelopo, the director of electrical engineering

services who then called Dreyer a short while later.

Lelopo denied that there were not enough vehicles for his technicians and said that it was merely a rumour that two vehicles were awaiting payment at a local workshop. He said that there were seven working vehicles available for his team to do their work. He agreed that communication between the control room and the community members was lacking and that they would have to find an easier way to improve communication between the GTM and their clients.
In the meantime, Bulletin sent an inquiry to the spokesperson of the GTM, Vutivi Makhubele. "There are two GTM vehicles at BB Motors, of which one awaits authorisation to be released by the service provider because the vehicle is still under warranty and the municipality is not liable for the payment," she said in her response. "The other vehicle awaits an order which is currently being processed by finance, this is a supply chain procedure that the municipality is required to follow before affecting payments."

Does this mean that the report Lelopo claimed he was reading whilst speaking to the councillor was factually incorrect, or perhaps outdated? Or is the chief of the electrical department out of touch with what is truly going on in his department? Residents are hot under the collar because of his reluctance to engage them on any of the issues personally, and his refusal to become involved on any of the fault reporting groups. Bulletin has on numerous occasions in the past attempted to interview Lelopo, but each time we have been denied an interview and our questions are directed to the spokesperson.

Another death at PMC

Billy Sibuyi
A 28-year-old contractor, Cornfort Minisi, died after falling 28 metres from the top of a scaffolding on the premises of the Palabora Copper mine (PMC) last week. The accident occurred on Tuesday evening, the 7th of December, reportedly whilst a safety officer, construction supervisor, and an engineer were on site. He was an employee of Mutitfab, a construction company contracted by PMC.

Minisi's untimely death comes on the heels of that of Anaph Seemela, who died in a separate incident in October after he was crushed by a diverter car. This incident raised some eyebrows at the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) who issued the mine with a section 54 notice.
A source at the mine told Bulletin that Minisi was not properly strapped in whilst on top of the scaffolding which is in contravention of the safety regulations. The DMRE is establishing the

exact cause of what is the third fatal accident in the last three years at the mine. In 2018, five miners were burnt to death after a conveyor belt caught fire underground.
This has now led to the industry to pledge to take steps to improve safety, after mining fatalities in South Africa increased over the last two years successively. According to the Minerals Council of South Africa (MCSA) as of December this year, 72 miners have died in South African mines compared to 2020 where the industry saw 60 fatalities, compared to 51 the previous year.

The spokesperson for PMC, Abby Ledwaba, confirmed the accident and said that at approximately 17:10 at the construction site, Lift II (new mine development) whereby Cornfort Minisi, a trigger, fell from a scaffolding ledger to the crusher rock box level.

He explained that Minisi was rescued by the mine's protest team and brought to surface at approximately 19:15, and that Minisi was admitted to Tzaneen

The Lion Man's case postponed to 2022

Jeff Jackson
The case of attempted murder against Hoedspruit farmer Mark Scott-Crossley was postponed in the Naphuno Magistrate court last week. The case which in the past had attracted community members supported by political parties, was this week not well attended barring a few leaders of the ANC and a handful of the red jumpsuit members.

This is a sequel to an incident several years ago where a farm worker from the adjacent farms in Hoedspruit was run over by a bakkie which was allegedly driven by Scott-Crossley. He had since been arrested after he handed himself over to police in Pretoria where he had fled to after the incident. He had since been denied bail when he appeared in court two years ago.

The case has been followed closely by political parties and the ANC Youth League. Before the Covid-19 restrictions on movement and the gathering of people, the magistrate's square was crowded with angry community members who were bussed into the court squares every time Scott-Crossley was set to appear. The result was usually protests in the streets before and after each appearance.



Mark Scott-Crossley

His appearance last week was attended by the councillors from the red brigade and the executive committee members of the ANCYL. After the postponement of the case to early next year, there was a meeting between the youth leaguers and the fighters. It was aimed at garnering more supporters for the coming appearance. Crossley made headlines several years ago after he allegedly threw workers from his farm into a lion enclosure.

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Macedamia Bybelstudiegroep het onlangs hul afsluitingsgeleentheid vir die jaar gehou. Voor is Jennalee de Filiele, Gail Loughner-Clark, Salume Malatji, Naomi Wesseloo, Minnelise Bruwer, Anne Owtiran, Tertia Schoeman en Marion Ferguson. Agter is Maureen Meyer, Amanda Vorster en Jean Patterson. Anne het sedert die neem van die foto gesterf.



Unicorn reaches out to SPCA

Learners from Unicorn Preparatory recently visited the SPCA to learn more about the association's work. They also delivered food for the animals collected at the school. In the photo is headmaster Ian Houston and Ellie Potgieter, SPCA inspector.

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