

A big case

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A cellphone technician from River Park who works at a cellphone shop on 1st Avenue, Alexandra lodged an armed robbery case with the Alex police against three unknown suspects he alleged stole his cellphone, a bag containing money and 14 customers' cellphones.

Alex Police Station's spokesperson, Lieutenant Allie Kodisang said the incident happened at 8am on 21 July.

The victim who had just left his home said after walking past an open space towards a taxi stop he came across a white VW Golf 1 parked along the road with the three suspects inside.

A while later, the same vehicle sped and stopped next to him.

Two of the suspects got out and with guns pointed at him, demanded the Hi-Sense cellphone he was using at the time and the laptop bag he was carrying which contained the 14 cellphones and R2 100 in cash.

They then drove off with the items valued at R25 000.

The case continues.



ALEX Police Station's spokesperson, Lieutenant Allie Kodisang.

Check your gate at home

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A home security expert has offered some tips to Alex residents.

Charl Mijhardt, communications co-ordinator of Centurion Systems, a company which works with gate automation said, "One's entrance gate is an absolutely integral part of the home security mix and is often one's first line of defence when it comes to safeguarding one's property and, by extension, one's family and possessions."

Mijhardt stressed that even before the point of entering the home, there are opportunities for improving personal security.

"We have found that a disconcerting number of hijackings and robberies actually occur in driveways just as the victims are arriving home.

"This is typically the case because, unless the resident can get into the property very quickly, he or she

essentially becomes a sitting duck for opportunistic criminals," he explained.

For precisely this reason, Mijhardt believes that it is best to fit a fast gate motor that can open and close the gate as quickly as possible.

He added, "Better still, have one fitted that incorporates an infrared automatic closing feature.

"This will ensure that the gate closes automatically the moment that the resident has cleared the infrared beams."

He explained that it was very important to keep the driveway well lit and clear of shrubbery and vegetation that could be used by criminals as a hiding place.

According to Mijhardt, there have been cases of criminals following their victims home and then pinning the entrance gate with a vehicle so that the gate motor picks up a collision and does not close.

"Investing in a fast gate motor with automatic closing, preferably working

in tandem with the infrared safety beams, will do a great deal to reduce the risk of this happening."

Mijhardt stressed that adequate anti-lift brackets should be provided to prevent the gate from being lifted by criminals who want to break into a property.

"[It is important to] strengthen the mounting of the rack adjacent to the pinion so that the rack can't be bent up and away from the pinion and lose locking engagement [this involves the part of the gate at the bottom that rolls along a track in order to open and close]."

"And secondly, the front catch bracket must be sturdy enough to prevent the intruder from pushing the gate over."

Lastly, Mijhardt said an electric gate lock could also be fitted to lend additional security to the gate.

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News in brief

Attacker stabbed

Alex police are investigating a reported case of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm against a female suspect who, at the time of this report, had not been arrested.

Spokesperson for Alexandra Police Station, Lieutenant Allie Kodisang said the incident occurred at about 3am on 16 July at a tavern on 2nd Avenue.

The victim, who was drinking at a tavern with a friend, went into a toilet cubicle and was allegedly attacked by a known suspect who grabbed her hair and hit her in the face.

The victim didn't retaliate but left the tavern. On her way home, she met her boyfriend and told him about the incident.

The suspect then arrived at the victim's residence and allegedly tried to stab her with a broken bottle, but fortunately missed.

The victim managed to grab the bottle from the suspect and claimed to have stabbed the suspect in the eye in self-defence. The case continues and investigations are underway.

Woman is hijacked at primary school

Alex police are investigating the hijacking of a Mercedes-Benz by two suspects as the woman driver was parking at Bovet Primary School.

The incident occurred at about 11am on 19 July, and the vehicle is valued at R380 000.

Spokesperson for Alexandra Police Station, Lieutenant Allie Kodisang said the victim was from Parktown West and the incident occurred as she was exiting the parked vehicle.

One of the suspects snatched the vehicle keys from the ignition through the open driver's door.

The woman managed to roll out of the vehicle through the passenger door and a second suspect climbed into the passenger seat before they drove off in the vehicle.

Assault at tavern

Alex police officers are investigating an assault case with the intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

According to the spokesperson of Alexandra Police Station, Lieutenant Allie Kodisang, the incident happened at about 3am on 16 July at a tavern situated on 2nd Avenue.

Kodisang said, "The female victim was allegedly assaulted by her cousin and his girlfriend. Someone told the victim that her cousin was outside the tavern and wanted to talk to her. When she got to him, the suspect who was with the girlfriend accused her of beating the girlfriend."

According to Kodisang, an argument ensued and the suspect allegedly stabbed the victim in the face below the tavern and wanted to talk to her. She slapped and punched her.

The victim, however, did not retaliate and went straight to Alexandra Police Station to report the assault.

Kodisang said no arrests have been made as yet, however, police are still investigating.

Robbers hit Alex business

Alex police are investigating a business robbery in which money and cellphones, including those of employees, were taken by two armed suspects.

Police spokesperson Lieutenant Allie Kodisang said the incident occurred at about 4.50pm on 21 July at Jet Mart in Alex Plaza. One of the suspects, wielding a gun, allegedly demanded and took R500 from a cashier which a customer had just paid as an account payment.

The suspect then instructed the cashier to open the till and took R3 000 in cash. The suspects then demanded and were given keys to the stock room.

They grouped all the workers together and allegedly took an undisclosed number of their cellphones before raiding the stock room where more phones were taken.

The total cost of the phones and money stolen was R40 000.

No arrests have been made yet.

Man appears in court for break-in

A man (21) was remanded in custody by the Alexandra Magistrates' Court pending further investigation for an alleged business break-in.

The accused, said to have been with an accomplice who escaped, was arrested by a private security company's patrolling guards at an MTN cellular tower in Blue Hills, Midrand at 7pm on 1 July this year.

The guards who had responded to an activated alarm approached the scene with their vehicle lights off. However, they were seen by the suspects with one managing to escape while the accused was caught trying to scale a palisade fence.

The guards searched the area and found in a metal container, an undisclosed number of solar-powered batteries worth R30 000 already packed in a bag and ready to be taken away.

The batteries are used as back up for the on-grid electricity for the tower.

A crowbar assumed to have been used to break into the container was also found.

The case continues.

9th Ave rape

Alex police officers are investigating the alleged rape of a woman by her ex-boyfriend.

Spokesperson for Alexandra Police Station, Lieutenant Allie Kodisang, said the incident happened at the suspect's home on 9th Avenue on 16 July. It is claimed that the suspect went to the victim's home at 7.30pm.

The victim went with him to his home. He asked her to sleep with him, but she refused and opted to sleep over on the couch.

At midnight, he woke her up and ordered her to join him in bed after telling her that he had a firearm.

Allegedly afraid, she joined him, but with her clothes on.

Later, the suspect allegedly removed her clothes by force and raped her, while wearing a condom after which they slept.

In the morning, they allegedly bathed and the suspect went to work, while the victim went to inform her friend about the incident before reporting it at Alexandra Police Station.

The suspect has been arrested and investigations are currently underway.

Man admits attack

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Nomore Mahlangu (37), who pleaded guilty to assaulting a victim known to him, but not guilty on a charge of armed robbery, will reappear in the Alexandra Magistrates' Court soon for a further hearing before sentencing.

The incident occurred at 9.30pm on 8 July this year at Innes Free Park. The accused attacked the victim who was walking through the park towards Benmore with a friend after having drinks at a Strathaven club.

The accused grabbed the victim by the neck from behind, forced him to the ground before sitting on top of him and threatening him with a screwdriver. He then searched and took R900 in cash from the victim's pocket.

Afterwards, he insulted and ordered the victim, who had recognised him, to get up and go away. The victim's companion was seemingly untouched.

The accused was arrested after the incident had been reported to the police. He admitted to attacking the victim but denied stealing anything.

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