

CORONAVIRUS DECLARED PHEIC

International – Outbreaks of the novel coronavirus (nCoV) has been reported all over the world since it was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019.

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a broad family of viruses but only seven are known to infect people. The viruses cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV).

The nCoV is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans.

The nCoV is a zoonotic virus, which means that it is transmitted between animals and people. It spreads primarily through contact with an infected person through respiratory droplets generated when a person, for example, coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose. On Wednesday 6 February more than 24,360 cases of the virus, with the death toll at 562 was detected in China alone.

There is a smaller number of cases in other countries around the globe and one person outside of mainland China has died of the disease.

The World Health Organization (WHO) committee declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 31 January but they believe it is still possible to interrupt the virus spreading, provided that countries put in place strong measures for early detection, isolation,

treatment and trace contacts.

In a press briefing on 29 January, minister of health doctor Zwelini Mkhize assured the public that South Africa is adequately prepared for active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of nCoV infection and to share full data with the WHO and confirmed that South Africa has no reported or suspected cases to date.

The common signs of infection include fever, coughing and respiratory symptoms like shortness of breath and difficulty breathing. In more severe cases, the infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

To date, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat the nCoV. However, those infected with 2019-nCoV should receive appropriate care to relieve and treat symptoms, and those with severe illness should receive optimised supportive care.

Some specific treatments are under investigation and will be tested through clinical trials. WHO is helping to coordinate efforts to develop medicines to treat nCoV with a range of partners.

Something to chew on: In South Africa, an estimated 57 people are murdered every day. Statistically, it currently exceeds the number of deaths caused by nCoV. Everyone is panicking about the virus but when will they start panicking about the violence in our country?

RAPISTS MUST RECEIVE HEAVY SENTENCES

Thabazimbi – Department of Social Development Limpopo member of the executive committee (MEC) Nkakareng Rakgoale called on the courts to apply the maximum sentence of life imprisonment when sentencing convicted rapists. The MEC was one of the people who sat inside the Thabazimbi Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 4 February to hear the case of a 26-year old man, who is being accused of raping an elderly woman living in an informal settlement near Thabazimbi. "The president of South Africa has been saying that all perpetrators of gender-based violence must not have a place in society. The courts must sentence these criminals to life imprisonment to send a clear message," she said. "The victim also needs everyone's support because you can clearly see that she is still affected by this ordeal and all that she went

through," the MEC added.

Initial evidence gathered by the police suggests that the 26-year old man broke into the 52-year old victim's room on Sunday 2 February and raped her.

According to the police the man fell asleep soon after raping the woman, who managed to run away to call for help.

The police reacted swiftly and arrested the suspect while he was still sleeping on the victim's bed.

Preliminary investigations by the police have revealed that the suspect was previously arrested and sentenced to six months imprisonment for housebreaking and theft.

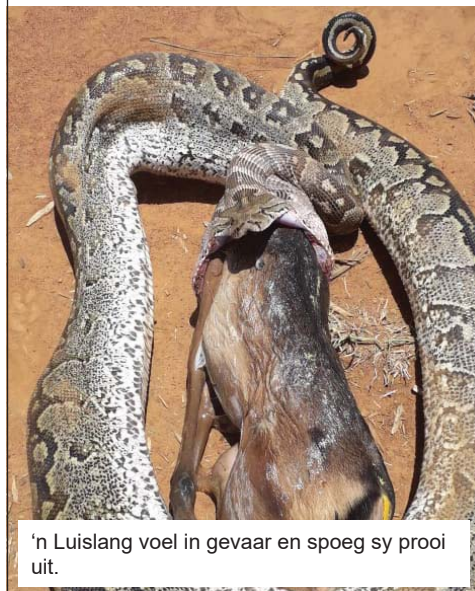
He is set to soon make another appearance at the same court.

Police are still investigating the case.



Department of Social Development Limpopo MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale (in pink) called for harsher sentences to those found guilty of rape.

SLANG SEILSOEN



'n Luislang voel in gevaar en spoeg sy prooi uit.



Peet van Breda met n spoegkobra.

Thabazimbi – Te danke aan ons wonderlike reënseisoen die jaar koes die inwoners van Thabazimbi en omliggende areas heen en weer vir slange!

Nie net word hulle in jou huis of erf gevang nie, maar 'n bekommerde gemeenskapslid het vir Peet van Breda geskakel, nadat 'n swart mamba in sy kuiergas se motor ingeseil het. Die gaste moes nog terugry Welkom toe en van Breda moes twee en 'n half ure sukkel om die slang uit die motor te kry. Die slang het met hom 'gedans', van die petrol tenk af, regdeur tot die motor se katebak. Die motor se bumper moes ook in die soektog afgehaal word.

Tussen die slangvanger ystermanne, het hulle ongeveer 160 slange tussen November 2019 en einde Januarie gevang.

Slangvanger Charles Jansen van Vuuren het aan die *Platinum Bushvelder* bevestig dat hy 20 slange in die tydperk gevang het, waarvan die spoegkobra die mees algemeenste was. Van Breda het weer ongeveer 50 gevang, waarvan spoegkobras en luislange albei vir hom algemeen was. "Moet asseblief nie 'n spoegkobra tart nie," sê Janse van Vuuren.

Janse van Vuuren waarsku ook dat die spoegkobra baie gevaarlik is en as jy vermoed dat jy een gewaar, jy hul moet skakel om te kom help. Hy adviseer ook dat jy nie jou oë uitwas met melk indien die slang jou in die oë spoeg nie, gebruik water en skakel dadelik vir mediese hulp..

"Slange is meer bedrywig tussen Desember en Mei, afhangende van die reënseisoen, meer reën veroorsaak meer slange. Slange is gewoonlik agter klein prooi aan soos muis, rotte, akkedis, geckos en voëls. Vir so lank as wat daar kos is sal daar slange wees.

Dit is nie algemeen vir slange om in pare te beweeg nie, maar hulle kan wel in pare gevang word tussen April en Mei gedurende paartyd. "Ons hele groep slangvangers vra dat die gemeenskap asseblief nie die slange enige skade aandoen nie. Hulle is nie net belangrik vir ons ekosisteem nie, maar hulle is ook broodnodig vir teengif. Ons is bewus daarvan dat die slange soms ongesiens jou huis of eiendom binnekom, maar hulle is nie aggressief van natuur nie. Slange val nie 'n mens net aan nie. Hulle reageer op beweging, uit vrees, seer of selfverdediging. Ons vra dat julle ook julle oë op die slang hou as julle ons bel en die slang identifiseer. Ons ry op ons eie onkoste om te kom help. Ons vra ook dat die gemeenskap die slang moet dophou sodat as ons by iemand se huis aankom, ons nie eers moet soek vir die slang nie" moedig Peet aan.





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