

Alleged ATM bombers to appear in court

The seven suspects who were arrested over the weekend in connection with a series of safe and ATM bombings and armed robberies are to appear in court in Limpopo today.

The arrests followed an operation by Crime Intelligence and the Hawks. Initial investigations revealed that the suspects were responsible for over 17 cases of safe and ATM bombings, a series of armed robberies as well as the murder of a security guard in September.

"One of the suspects is a well known high flyer from Makhado, while the other six are from Rustenburg, Seshego and Mara. The suspects are aged between 25 and 35 years old," said Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi.

Three firearms with their serial numbers filed off and two cars (Toyota Tazz and Mazda Laser) were recovered during the operation. Explosive gels, detonators and battery packs were also recovered.

The seven were apprehended following a car chase on the R101 road (commonly known as the Vivo road) after information was received that the gang was planning an attack in Makhado in the early hours of Saturday morning.

"Other members from the Mara and Banderlierkop stations were alerted where a roadblock was set up and their abrupt getaway was thwarted. [In] the search of the vehicles, police managed to recover three unlicensed firearms, safe and ATMS breaking implements and explosives."

The suspects are expected to appear at the Makhado Magistrate Court on charges of murder, possession of unlicensed firearms and explosives.

"The suspects are also still being profiled as it is suspected that they form part of a gang responsible for violent crimes in Limpopo and possibly other provinces."