

11-25-2001 – South Africa - Geritt Asselen – LEO PSD Entangled

Police diver drowns while searching for girl

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/police-diver-drowns-while-searching-for-girl-77531>

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A police diver drowned on Sunday while searching for a girl who committed suicide earlier in the day at a quarry in Koikoi in the Molopo area, North West police said on Monday.

Inspector Lesego Metsi said divers recovered the bodies of the girl and policeman on Monday afternoon.



The 16-year-old girl is believed to have drowned herself on Sunday after having an argument with her mother.

The mother had beaten the teenager because she frequently slept away from home and drank alcohol, Metsi said.

During the argument, the girl threatened to commit suicide and her mother begged her not to, saying that she had already forgiven her.

However, the girl threw herself into the 15-metre deep quarry and drowned around 12.20pm.

Police were summoned to the scene, and divers and dog unit members from Potchefstroom and Rustenburg arrived late on Sunday afternoon.

A diver and his sniffer dog began the search around 6.05pm. About five minutes later, while Sergeant Geritt Asselen, 33, was swimming towards the diver, he began to scream for help and he disappeared under the water.

The colleague swam towards Asselen, but was unable to find him.

After nightfall, the search stopped and it resumed on Monday morning. The two bodies were recovered around 1.30pm.

Metsi said it was believed that Asselen drowned after his foot became entangled in weeds.

Inquest dockets have been opened. - Sapa