



LEDIBENG BACKYARD WALLS

Residents are requested to be observant, not leave valuables in plain sight and to report any activity that seems out of place to the 24/7 security supervisor.



The construction of the backyard walls around the Eskom houses on the Estate is slowly but surely taking shape. The wall around the only house located in Mmadikiri Close is nearing completion. The foundation works on most of the houses in Nwanedi Street have nearly been completed and the bricks are being moved to the various locations where the building will soon start. Residents are requested to be observant, not leave valuables in plain sight and to report any activity that seems out of place to the 24/7 security supervisor.

Additional arrangements have been made to have

more regular security patrols in the area where the construction is taking place. The staff of the contractor who is building the walls are all dressed in blue two piece coveralls and all of them are wearing hard hats. Please do not call on the security when individuals fitting this description start to dig trenches around your house. Unfortunately they cannot dig the foundations without coming into your yard and onto your grass.



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WHAT THE HECK IS THIS? (PART 3)

Is this a dangerous scorpion or not? In Ledibeng Eco -Estate people are living on the edge because you will not find a harmless scorpion over here. All scorpions to be found on the Estate or in your house should be considered dangerous. However, some are more dangerous than others. How do you tell the difference? When you see a scorpion, look at its tail and its pinchers. Those who don't know where the tail or the pinchers are located shouldn't be messing with it at all! If the tail is

Scorpion



much thicker in comparison to the appearance of the pinchers you are looking at a very dangerous and potentially deadly scorpion. If the pinchers are very big and the tail is fairly thin, then you are also looking at a dangerous but not deadly scorpion. These small creatures need to be treated with the utmost respect. They pack a punch like you will not believe. The best thing to do is to take the broom and sweep them out the front door.

Solifugae

A hairy fast yellowish brownish creepy crawly! When the rain is about to come and all the signs are there, this is the time when the roman or rooi roman or "haarskeerder / baardskeerder" or Solifugae will make its appearance. It can easily be around 8 centimetres long.

This creature is also called a "windscorpion" or a "camel spider". These names are very confusing because in reality it is not a scorpion nor is it a spider. The only similarity it has with spiders is that fact that it has eight legs.

These creatures are carnivorous and feed mainly at night on insects such as termites and sometimes even frogs.

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This creature has powerful jaws and when it gets hold of the mature phase of a mountain lion (it looks like a dragon fly) you can actually hear it munch on its prey. It is not dangerous and will not do anything to you unless you try to catch it by hand.

Although it can deliver a powerful bite it is not poisonous. The Afrikaans name of "haarskeerder/ baardskeerder" comes from the habit where some solifugae species will cut the hair from humans or animals and then use it to line their nests. Relax, calm down and let your heart rate slow down, then take a deep breath. Go and get the broom and sweep it out the front door. Speed to perform this action will be of the essence!!

Shield Cobra

This particular snake is called a Shield Cobra (*Aspidelaps scutatus*). It's usually in the region of up to 45 cm in length but it has the attitude of a lion. When confronted, it will rise up off the ground like cobras often do and will hiss repeatedly. It can easily be recognised by the distinct black and white markings behind the head and the appearance of a flat nose. This snake is mildly poisonous and should not be messed with. Call on the wildlife management team to come and solve the problem.



Centipede



This creature is called a centipede or "honderdpoet"(Scolopendra spp.). They are predatory animals and will feed on other insects, even spiders. The ones found on the Estate are usually brown with black or blue stripes and the legs are usually a yellow colour. They are often encountered when boxes that were stored in the garage are being moved.

It is recommended that this creature be removed from your house with a broom.

Just below the eye is a poison claw. This claw will be used when the animal feels threatened or are handled. The poison is of such a nature that it will create the same effect as a wasp sting. It is recommended that this creature be removed from your house with a broom. You will be more than capable of removing it yourself.

Millipede

This creature is called a millipede or "duisendpoet" (Spirostreptus spp.) Millipedes are considered to be herbivorous and feed on decomposing plant materials. When threatened the millipede will roll into a ball and when harassment continues they will excrete ammonia, uric acid and iodine. Some millipedes are capable of excreting cyanide gas. The iodine is the reason why human skin turns brown when handling some of these millipedes. This creature does not pose a problem to adults but will be a problem to small infants who tend to put whatever they can find in their mouths. When you encounter a millipede, simply take a broom and sweep it outside.



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Insects Management

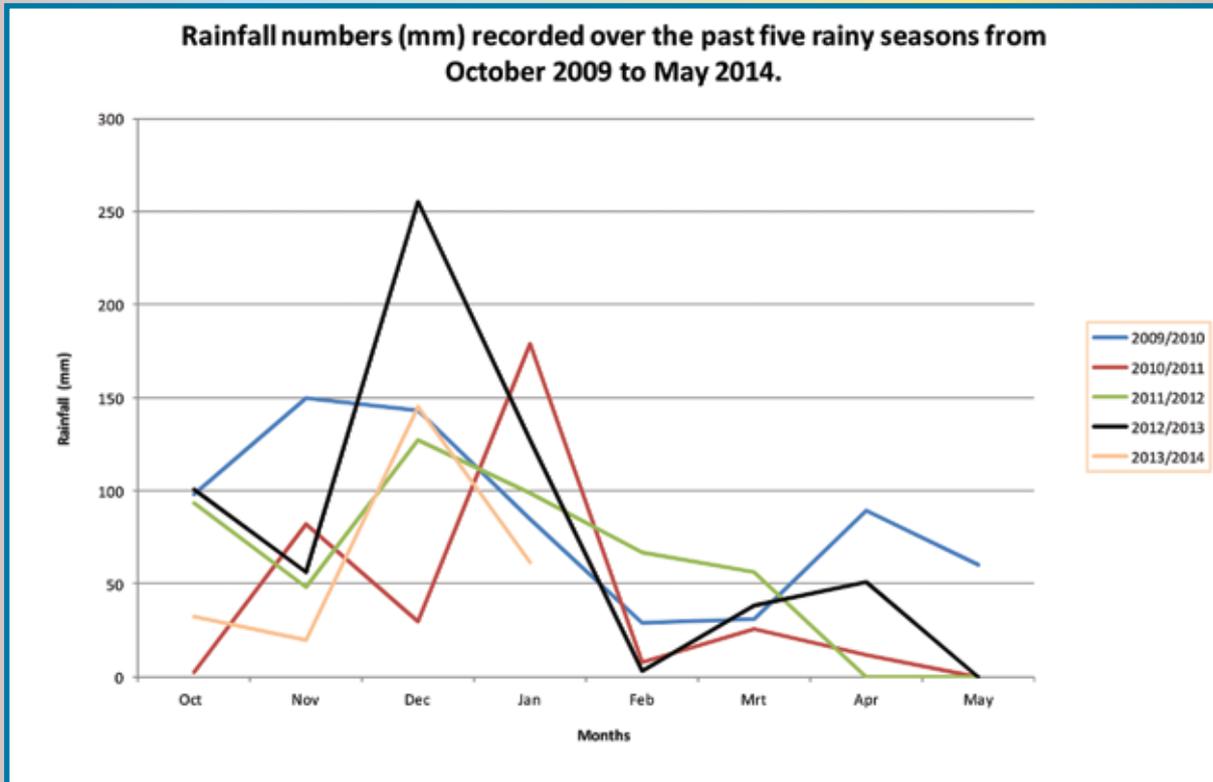


It is a beautiful Saturday morning and you finally decide to do some gardening. Whilst pruning your fishtail palm trees a number of wasps come out of nowhere and attack you. The enthusiasm with which these little insects are willing to protect their nest is a lesson we can all take home! The attack is so overwhelming that you drop the garden equipment you were busy with and sprint in the opposite direction. The place or places where you were stung burns like a hot coal. You have been stung by a wasp better known as a paper wasp. These wasps are very defensive when it comes to their nest that consist of a paper like structure with bee hive segments. When an intruder ventures too close to the nest they will fly towards the threat

and start to sting who ever, whatever and where ever. Someone who is allergic to bee stings can develop a serious allergic reaction that needs to be treated by a physician. The best solution is to go and get a can of Doom and sort out the problem. Unfortunately not every creature that we come into contact with on the Estate can be saved.

RAINFALL NUMBERS FOR THE LAST FIVE SEASONS

The total rainfall recorded in this current cycle (Oct. 2013 to Jan. 2014) has been the lowest rainfall ever recorded in comparison to the previous four rainy seasons from October to January.



THE SANGOMA SAYS...

.....the problem with political jokes is....they get elected.

.....when I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it.

.....it's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been there.

.....married men live longer than single men do, but married men are a lot more willing to die.....

.....old aunts used to come up to me at weddings, poking me in the ribs and cackling, telling me, "You're next." They stopped after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

From your Wildlife Management Team



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We would like to hear your story!

Should you have an event or story you would like to share, please send us your photos and a few words to wildlife@lantic.net