





Four died instantly on the R25, Phooko

Four males, aged between 35 and 45, died in a horrific head-on-collision that involved a VW Polo sedan and a Mercedes Benz sedan on the R25 Road in Phooko Village between Dennilton and Verena.





Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Moeti Mmusi, said the fatal accident occurred in the afternoon on Sunday 29 May. "All the deceased died at the scene and they include the Polo sedan driver and three passengers. The driver of the Mercedes Benz, who was alone in the car, sustained serious injuries. The victims were all males and they aged between 35 and 45 years of age," he said. Mmusi said the cause of the crash remains unknown at this stage and the investigation is underway. Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA) Leader, Seun Mogotji, said the poor state of the road is a possible cause of the accident, saying Limpopo roads are among the worst in the country.

"The accident could have been avoided if Limpopo Government acted swiftly to fix those hazardous potholes," he said. He lam-

Top left: The VW Polo that was involved in the horrific head-on-collision

Left: The state of the R25 Road between Dennilton and Verena is very poor, causing serious accidents that cost lives of motorists and passengers.

basted the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure for failing to maintain roads in the province. "How many more people must die before something actually gets done to fix that road? We are tired of hearing messages of condolences, they won't bring back the dead, how about fixing the road and spare us the pretentious sympathy? asked Mogotji.





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SDM Budget to improve economy and district infrastructure

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) Cllr Julia Mathebe, has recently delivered her 2022/2023 Budget Speech at Ga-Klopper Village in Moutse West, Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, with a focus to grow the district's economy and improve infrastructure. Mathebe said her budget Speech was based on the six 'Mayoral Priorities', guiding its implementation. "The mayoral priorities includes the provision of water and sanitation services in a sustainable manner, local economic development, growth and job creation through agrarian reform, mining, tourism, and repositioning of Sekhukhune Development Agency (SDA). It includes good governance and sound financial management, sustainable



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ROUTINE ROAD MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL ROUTE N11 FROM MOOKGOPONG MUNICIPAL BORDER THROUGH MARBLE HALL TO ELIAS MOTSOALEDI MUNICIPAL BORDER, R573 FROM DR JS MOROKA MUNICIPAL TO MARBLE HALL, R579 FROM ELIAS MOTSOALEDI MUNICIPAL BORDER THROUGH NEBO TO LEPELLE-NKUMPI MUNICIPAL BORDER

VACANCY: WELLNESS CHAMPION

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

To manage the Wellness program on site. The primary role will be to educate peers about HIV, communicable and non-communicable diseases. Coordinate awareness, counselling and testing sessions on site and complete monthly reports.

INHERENT JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Minimum Requirements

- (i) Grade 12; 3 years relevant experience in the Wellness field
- (ii) Driver's license Code 8
- (iii) Must have own transport
- (iv) Preference will be given to applicants within ELIAS MOTSOALEDI DISTRICT

Competencies

- (i) Intermediate level of computer literacy
- (ii) Excellent communication skills
- (iii) Excellent report writing using qualitative and quantitative performance indicators
- (iv) Ability to develop a culture of continuous improvement in the Wellness program
- (v) Good time management, organizing & planning skills, as well as the ability to work unsupervised
- (vi) Must display the ability to work in a team, and have good interpersonal skills
- (vii) Show leadership qualities

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES:

Management of Wellness Program on Site

- Implement and manage a Wellness Program on site,
- · Co-ordinate the logistics for the Awareness, Counselling and Testing (ACT) sessions on site.
- · Create an enabling environment in the workplace for workers with health issues.
- Provide referrals to local clinics (Department of Health) to access effective treatment and patient monitoring.
- Conduct regular toolbox talks with workers.
- Attend quarterly forum facilitation meetings on site and annual combined meetings.
- Create and maintain a database of all workers and immediate families, local NGO's and clinics.
- Reporting on site meetings, toolbox talks, weekly planning sheets and monthly reports to service provider.

Communication Management

- To ensure satisfactory client liaison between Service Provider, the site workers and other stakeholders
- Communicate with the program manager on all aspects of the program.

APPLICATIONS

Applications are invited from candidates, along this route (N11, R573 AND R579 - MARBLE HALL/GROBLERRSDAL)

All candidates who are interested in applying for the positions may send their applications, together with a CV by not later than (30TH JUNE 2022) to the details below:

Please submit your CV to:

E-mail: nelly.m@bcbsolutions.co.za and the subject should be "Wellness Champion post for NRA X.002-100-2019/1 MARBLE HALL/ GROBLERSDAL"

All enquiries are to be directed to Nelly Madiba Tel no. 076 347 8823.

land use management and spatial transformation, community development, social cohesion, and nation building, and public participation, stakeholder engagements and partnerships," she said. Total revenue budget of R1, 700 billion was allocated in the district municipality, with R1, 230 billion of total operating revenue. Mathebe said the municipality has budgeted an operating surplus of R233 000 in the 2022/2023 financial year, with total capital expenditure at R489 million. "Of the total capital revenue, R469 million is from capital grants, while R20million is from the Sekhukhune District Municipality's own revenue sources," she said. Mathebe said the capital expenditure will be funded from the MIG, the RAMS, and own sources. The executive mayor announced that the office of the speaker has been allocated R48, 349 million to fulfil its mandate of ensuring the legislative arm of the municipality remain functional. "To enhance the functions of the executive mayor, which are not limited to the monitoring of the administration and implementation of policy, the office has been allocated R42, 821 million," explained Mathebe. A total of R88, 662 million was allocated to the office of the municipal manager to enable proper implementation and supervision of the service delivery projects among many other duties." She said Budget & Treasury Department was allocated R206, 871 million for its crucial role of ensuring the public funds are spend in a cost-effective way, to enable the MMCs to perform their duties and other important roles in their portfolio. Mathebe said the Department of Planning and Economic Development, has been allocated R19, 209 million to create a conducive environment for an inclusive economy in the district. "MMC Keamotseng Ramaila, your Community Services Department is tasked with the responsibility of providing emergency services to our communities. But this department also has a monumental responsibility of ensuring that our district adheres to the policy imperatives of mitigating against climate change. A total of R76, 902 million has been allocated to your department," stated Mathebe. She added that the Cooperative Services Department, has been allocated R148, 550 million to capacitate human resource that is essential to provide a proper administrative function. R571, 510 million was allocated to the Infrastructure and Water Services Department, which is nearly half of the municipality's total revenue expenditure. "We are aware it is not sufficient to eradicate our historical backlog overnight. But we believe it will nevertheless make meaningful changes in our communities," Mathebe said. Mathebe said an increased budget of R7, 7 Million was allocated to SDA to enable the agency to appoint key personnel such as the CEO, finance manager and company secretary on full-time basis, who must propel it to becoming an effective entity that lives up to expectations. "Our desire is to see the SDA that is self-sustainable, to a point where it funds capital projects of the district municipality," she said. Mathebe slammed the allegations that the district municipality is about to forfeit millions of rands in the Municipal Infrastructure Grant funding back to the Treasury. "Our desire is to spend every cent on projects that will give the people of our district water. In this regard, we are in discussions with the Cogsta Department and we hope they agree to our proposal to rollover this money, amounting to R100 million to the next financial year. We are showing commitment and cause to spend this money in the next financial year," she said.

Mayor Tladi unpacks 2022/2023 Budget during SOMA

The Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Cllr David Tladi, said the total operating revenue budget for the 2022/2023 financial year amounts to R601 Million, with the operating expenditure budget amounting to R597 Million and an operating surplus of R4 Million. Tladi made the announcement during his State of the Municipal Address (SOMA), held on Tuesday 31 May at Bakgaga Ba Kopa Tribal Office in Tafelkop. "The operating expenditure budget represents 86% of the total expenditure budget. The capital budget, on the other hand, represents 14% of the total expenditure budget. The 2022/2023 budget is 12.7% more than the 2021/2022 expenditure budget. The increase can be attributed to an increase in the Division of Revenue Act (DoRA) allocation in the 2022/2023 financial year," he said. The mayor said, as

stipulated by the Energy regulator, NERSA, an increase of 9.6% tariff was implemented starting from April 2022. "This figure accounts for a 3.49% increase in 2022/23 and therefore, the municipality tariff will increase by 4.8% and be implemented accordingly. This increase is calculated taking into account the affordability of the community that we serve," he said. Tladi said property rates tariff will increase in 2022/2023, on average by 4.8%, which is in line with the CPI. Furthermore, Tladi said the total operating expenditure budget for 2022/2023 amounts to R597 Million, reflecting the increase of R71 Million over the 2021/2022 budget year, which is equivalent to an increase of 13%. "I am of the view that this budget, as an instrument, will go a long way to create hope in these challenging times and will contribute



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Concerns over dramatic spike in child murders

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo says it is shocked and saddened by the alarming number of child killings in the province. The party raised a concern following a number of child murders, mainly occurring in the Sekhukhune area. The latest was a killing of a toddler whose mutilated body was found in a black bag on the N1 outside Polokwane on Thursday 19 May. The body was already in a state of decomposition, with some of its parts missing. The police received an alert from a passer-by regarding the abandoned bag along the N1 Road. On arrival at the scene, the police found the toddler's mutilated body in a black bag which had "Sport Ruixinga", written on the side. The child was wearing a blue tracksuit with white stripes and a pair of black baby's shoes. The Police also found a pink babies blanket, a towel and a blue and white sarong. In another incidents, recently in Sekhukhune, the body of a 3-year-old child was found dumped in the bushes outside Groblersdal. During August 2021, the bodies of 3 children, aged 15, 9 and 6 were found in a river. They were last seen boarding an unknown vehicle. In the same month, a six -year-old was found dead after she disappeared from her family home in Phokwana Village outside Jane Furse. During September 2021, the bodies of 2 sisters, aged 6 and 7, were found after a 3-week search in the Senwabarwabana area. "During this spate of child murders, Limpopo Provincial Police Commissioner, Lt Gen Thembi Hadebe, vowed to do whatever was necessary to protect the vulnerable and yet under her watch another toddler was mutilated and murdered," said Katlego Suzan Phala, DA Provincial Spokesperson on Transport and Community Safety. Phala said the latest statistics recorded by the South African Police Service for the murder rate against children increased nationally by 22.6% quarter to quarter,

attempted murder of children increased 30% nationally year on year and 39.2% nationally quarter on quarter. "That same period saw 352 child murders, 394 attempted murders and 2048 assaulted children in South Africa. It is clear that our young children live in peril and the DA is concerned that the ANC executive is either unwilling to address the crisis, embarrassed by it or indifferent to it," she said. Phala said the party will write a letter to Premier Stanley Mathabatha, as the coordinator of the provincial Gender Based Violence (GBV) action plan. "We are going to request the premier that statistics for child homicide rates, be included in reports and to have a minute of silence in the house every time a child is murdered in the province, let we not forget," she said.



DA Provincial Spokesperson on Transport and Community Safety, Katlego Suzan Phala, says the party is concerned about the spike of child murders in the province.

Mathabatha re-elected ANC Limpopo Chairperson

The Premier of Limpopo Province, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, was re-elected African National Congress (ANC) provincial chairperson during the party's 10th provincial conference, held at The Ranch Hotel in Polokwane from Friday 3 to Sunday 5 June. The provincial conference was held under the theme: "Unite, Renew and Rebuild: Defend the ANC and the Democratic Gains". Mathabatha, from the Tjantjie Kabini Branch in Motetema, Sekhukhune District Municipality, retains the position for the third term since February 2014. Mathabatha was competing the position with closest rival, Namane Dickson Masemola, currently MEC for Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. Mathabatha received 789 votes while Masemola got 389. Deputy Chairperson, Florence Radzilani, was also re-elected in the position with 791 votes against Pule Shai who got only 373. New party Secretary, Ruben Madadzhe, got 714 votes ousting then Secretary Soviet Lekganyane who got 451 votes. Basikopo Makamu was voted the party's Deputy Secretary with 797 votes against Livhuwani Ligaraba's 365 votes. Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana was voted ANC treasurer with 786 votes, while Faith Chauke got 375. In his acceptance speech, Mathabatha urged party members to rally behind the elected leaders as the election was not about individual, but for a collective as the party. He added that being a leader first you have to gain trust from the people who will vote for you in the position.

Armed robbers hit Moteti Top Spot

A heavily armed gang, invaded Pick n Pay Liquor Store in Moteti Top Spot Shopping Centre on Wednesday 1 June and stole an undisclosed amount of money before they fled the scene. According to an eyewitness, who did not want to be named, an unknown number of men, apparently traveling in two vehicles, intercepted the liquor shop in the afternoon. "I was about to enter one of the shops in the shopping complex when I suddenly heard people scream and run into different directions. A few moments later, a group of armed men came out of the liquor shop towards two vehicles that were parked a few metres away and drove off," he said. The eyewitness said several shots were fired just before the robbers fled the scene. "Everyone started running for cover after several shots were fired. The shots were coming from a vehicle that was being used by the robbers to escape. We went to check to find out that an undisclosed amount of money was robbed from the liquor store. Fortunately no one was injured during the incident," he said. He said this is not the first incident where armed criminals rob the shops at the Moteti Top Spot. "This place is a hotspot for criminals. We are experiencing armed robberies about every six months. ATMs are bombed and the filling station has been robbed several times in a short space of time. Something needs to be done to upgrade the security of this shopping centre," he said. The police said no one was arrested and a case of armed robbery is under investigation.





Elias Motsoaledi Municipality acquires new fleet

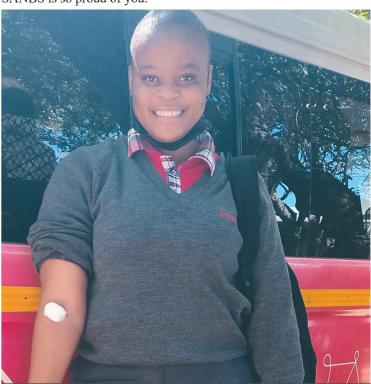
In a quest to ensure that the municipality delivers services to its constituency without fail, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality has acquired a new fleet of vehicles to jack up services within the local municipality. The new fleet consist of two refuse trucks, two tipper trucks, two TLB back hoe loaders, one excavator, one bell motor grader, one skip loader and one flat deck TLB trailer. The vehicles will mainly be used for maintenance and construction work, as well as for grass cutting, fixing of potholes and grading of gravel roads in the villages. Unveiling the new fleet on Tuesday 31 May, Elias Motsoaledi Mayor, Cllr David Tladi, said the new vehicles are a major investment for the municipality and they are delighted to have them. "It is not merely about increasing our fleet, but it is improving service delivery for all residents across the Municipality," he said. Tladi said the new fleet will help in deliver a quicker and more efficient service to residents of Elias Motsaoledi Local Municipality. "With the latest addition of the fleet, we do indeed have some of the best equipment and vehicles to can provide quality services to the people of this municipality," said Tladi.

DA Ephraim Mogale pickets against spiralling fuel prices

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EMLM), has joined the party's national call to picket against the rising prices of fuel. The picketing, led by Ephraim Mogale Ward 7 Councillor Flip Jacobs, was staged on Tuesday 31 May and Wednesday 1 June in Marble Hall Town. Last month, DA Leader John Steenhuisen, made a clarion call to party members and other ordinary citizens to start picketing to raise concerns over the increase of petrol, diesel and paraffin. Steenhuisen said fuel price increase will drive food prices up still further and deal a devastating blow to millions of poor households already struggling to put food on the table. "If we do not stop this fuel price increase, millions more people will fall into poverty, children will be stunted, people will starve, businesses will go bankrupt, jobs will be lost and mass riots could be sparked, such as in Sri Lanka last month in response to fuel price hikes there," he said. He said the timing of this massive petrol price hike could not be worse, with South Africans battling under the weight of 46% unemployment, rolling blackouts, irrational Covid-19 regulations, flooding, drought and collapsing service delivery. "Add to that the impending impact of global inflation, supply chain disruptions, and export blocks brought on by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and it is clear we are racing headfirst into a perfect storm. It is inconceivable that the government would hit South Africans with a massive fuel price hike at a time like this. Kicking a nation on its knees," he said. Steenhuisen indicated that the fuel price is one of the last remaining regulated and centrally controlled consumer prices. "Fuel is grossly over-taxed, with 33% of the cost per litre going to government coffers. It is literally being used as a cash cow for treasury, this must end," he said. Flip Jacobs, DA Councillor in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality Ward 7, said South Africans are reeling from catastrophic hikes every month which includes day to day necessities such as food and transport. "It's very sad to see it happening and it is not like government cannot do anything about it but they choose to ignore it. They don't want to make plans to get tax money from other sources and this is the easiest way to tax everybody and resulting to everyone suffer for their incompetence," he said. Jacobs added that the current government is taking peoples' livelihood for a ride to escalate taxes to benefit top government officials. DA PR Councillor in the municipality, Norah Letsela, said they are tired of the government that is not taking care of its citizens. "When fuel increases; automatically food, transport and school fees cost more, while our economy is already on its knees. An average person in South Africa will find it difficult to make ends meet," she said.

SANBS applauds blood donation by Dynamique **High School**

Blood donation by Dynamique High school has never been a problem. The brave learners are eager to help their fellow South Africans by donating blood and knowing that they are saving lives. The SANBS blood service visits the school at least three times a year and there is an increase in the number of donors among the learners every time. For the May visit there were 44 donors which is a huge donation by one school. Thank you to all who donated and were willing to donate. SANBS is so proud of you.



Gabasa Baloyi(Head Girl) proud to have donated blood.





Top honour for Groblersdal Town

Groblersdal Town has been shortlisted to the semi-finals of the Kwela 2022 Limpopo Region Town of the Year Awards competition. The town was recognized and nominated in the competition by KyKNET TV channel, for its contribution in the Agriculture sector. Groblersdal is South Africa's second largest irrigation town and produces a wide variety of agricultural crops. The town is also a centre of attraction for tourists who come from far to visit various game farms for hunting and to view nature, with the game auctions being a big draw on the calendar. In addition, the fresh fishing water for anglers with the likes of Loskop Dam, situated only a stone throw away from the town. A number of well-known restaurants with delicious food and guest houses from the top shelves are also located in the small town. In the semi-final round of the competition, the public gets the opportunity to determine the regional winners through their text messages. The winning town will be announced on Kwela, on or after Sunday 24 July at 18:00. 2022's Town of the Year will walk away with R1 Million in marketing value from kykNET and a 45-second advertisement about the town made by Homebrew Films for broadcast in kykNET's advertising time. The KIA Makietie will also be up for grabs and will be presented and handedover at the winning town.



Ben Viljoen High school scores big during Sekhukhune South Departmental Prize Giving

Ben Viljoen High school is very proud to announce that they have received a number of awards during the Sekhukhune South Departmental Prize Giving. They were named number 1 in the category 'Top Performing School' during 2021 and also won the award for the number 1 position in the category 'School that performed best in the past three years (2019-2021) in Quintile 4-5 '. They also achieved a 2nd place in the category 'Best Achievement in Quality Accounting during 2021' as well as a 2nd place in the category 'Best Performing School' in terms of learners who were registered for the matric exam and passed with bachelor's degree exemption during 2021. Marné Kruger was named the learner who excelled in Mathematical Literacy during the first term of 2022 while Morgan Maeyane was named the best athlete from 2018-2022. Chanelle Smith received the award for the best learner during term 1 of 2022 as well as for the best achievement in Afrikaans Home Language. Marice Geyser received the award for the best achievement in CAT during term 1 of 2022 while Christian Booysen received the best achievement in EGD. Malope Malatsi received the best achievement in Hospitality while Pierre de Waal received the award for the best achievement in Technical Mathematics. Mr Jaco Truter received an award as recognition of sports administration.



Mr John Smith, Principal of Ben Viljoen High school

Missing man found dead

The 26-year-old man, Mpho Kekana, who was reported missing at Mamethlake SAPS outside Siyabuswa on Tuesday 17 May 2022, was found dead, the police said. Kekana went missing after attending a tombstone unveiling ceremony on Wednesday 15 May 2022 after failing to return home for two days. According to the police report, the lifeless body of the victim was recovered by a passerby on Monday 30 May. "The police received information from an anonymous person indicating that a lifeless body of a man had been seen. When the police arrived at the scene in the bushes between Ga-Maria and Senotlolo near Vaalbank, they found the body in a state of decomposition. Kekana was unfortunately certified dead by the paramedics at the scene," said Mpumalanga Provincial Spokesperson, Brigadier Selvy Mohlala. He said the police had earlier assembled a team of investigators, to probe his disappearance however, he was never found until his body was discovered on that Monday. "An inquest case is now being investigated by the police in Vaalbank, with the aim to determine the circumstances surrounding his death. Preliminary investigation thus far has revealed that some of the clothes that he was wearing during his disappearance were nowhere to be found. The investigation continues," he said. Mohlala said the police urge anyone with information that may assist in this case, to call the Crime Stop number at 08600 10111, alternatively members of the public can send information via MYSAPSAPP. "All received information will be treated as confidential and callers may opt to remain anonymous," he said.







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Masemola Thandolwethu Goodness Born: 2012-02-26 at Laersdrift Masemola Lindokuhle Thero Born: 2005-10-20 at Laersdrift Masemola Luthando Happiness Born: 2012-02-26 at Laersdrift Motobi Kabelo Born: 2012-02-28 at Roossenekal (Draaikral farm) Molamo Sanele Sphiwe Born: 2006-05-09 at Laersdrift (Roossenekal) Nkosi Lethabo Deborah Born: 2011-10-15 at Buffelskloof farm (Roossenekal)

Nkosi Amahle Merriam Born: 2018-10-09 at Buffelskloof farm (Roossenekal)

Malope Paul: born 2011-10-13 at Railway Station village (Roossenekal)

Malope Rethabile: born 2015-07-10 at Railway Station village

(Roossenekal)

Malope Madibaneng: born 2008-09-12 at Railway Station village

(Roossenekal)

Swaedi Lemao Bosman: born 2006-07-24 at Stofberg

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CMR Limpopo advert placed in The Dispatch News on 10 June 2022

Limpopo crime stats increase exponentially in 4th quarter

According to the Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo, ever since Limpopo Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Hadebe, handed the sword-of-command on 21 January 2021, crime has increased exponentially in Limpopo. The party said after the release of the Limpopo crime statistics for the 4th quarter of 2021/2022. "The 4th quarter of 2021/2022, indicates DA's predicted increase under the leadership of Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe," said Katlego Suzan Phala, DA Provincial Spokesperson on Transport and Community Safety in Limpopo. Phala said according to the latest crime statistics, there were 9914 contact crimes, which is 330 contact crimes per day, which included 219 murders, 905 reported rapes and 3241 assaults with grievous bodily harm. "These shocking numbers represent an increase of 12% in murders, 8% in reported rapes and 32.4% in grievous assaults," Phala said. She added that some other shocking crime statistics daily between January 2022 and March 2022 in the province includes 1738 robberies with aggravating circumstances, 3150 burglaries at residential premises, 1909 malicious damage to property, 634 incidents of stock theft, 240 protests, 66 of which turned to unrest. "Detection of crime as a result of police action is down by 44.5% under Hadebe's watch, from 7112 in the same quarter a year ago to 3165 for the quarter under review. We have been warning against the lack of resources, underfunding and lack of training of the provincial force for years, but it fell on deaf ears," Phala explained. She said the latest crime statistics indicate that the DA was right and the current model of policing under the national government is failing and must be addressed in order to restore safety and order to our communities.



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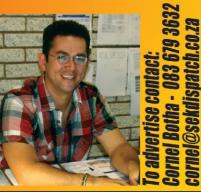


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A sporting event to fight crime and GBV



OR Tambo youth out in numbers to participate in the fun walk organized by Light of God Private School.

The Light of God Private School in OR Tambo, Dennilton, organized a 'Sports Against Crime and Gender Based Violence (GBV)' awareness at the OR Tambo Stadium on Saturday 4 June. Over 250 people, from OR Tambo and other surrounding villages, partook in various sporting activities of the day including fun walk, football, netball, boot camp, chess and aerobics. The winners in different sporting codes walked away with various prizes including medals and certificates. Sporting event organizer, Mahlatse Aphane, said the purpose of the initiative was to raise awareness against crime and tackle

issues of GBV, which the Light of God School believes are escalating in the area. "We organized the event to engage as many young people as possible from OR Tambo to participate in the different sporting codes of their choice, to fight crime and GBV and the scourge of substance. We have noted with concern that most young people, especially from the ages of 16 to 18, are prone to fall to this temptations of trying to do things that are against the law," she said. Aphane said they were encouraged that other local community based organizations including Ndlovu Care Group and the others supported



Killers FC celebrating with medals and a trophy after winning in the football sporting code.

the initiative. "We are encouraged that they agreed to take part and assisted with resources to make the awareness possible. We are also happy about the attendance and commitment shown by participants in all sporting codes when supporting the sporting awareness," she said. Aphane said the initiative will be an annual event and aiming to benefit as many young people as they can. "We urge parents to allow their children to attend the initiative. This is the other way to entertain them instead of allowing our youth to roam the streets and engage in immoral behavior," she said. Boikg-

antsho Kotelo, Kabelo Chidi, Karabo Mkhonza and Mavis Mahlangu became winners in the fun walk. Killers FC Club and Killers NC dominated the football and netball sporting codes and walked away with certificates, gold medals and big trophies.

The trio, Reitumetse Lukhele, Lobogang Ngobeni and Mavis Mahlangu became boot camp competition winners and walked away with certificates and medals.

Victor Mashego and Tinashe Onyimo dominated the chess games and walked away with trophies and certificates.

Maria publishes fifth book in two years

Maria Madihlaba, an author and youth activist from Lukau Village outside Groblersdal, has published her fifth book titled: "Bohlale Bja Mahlatse"

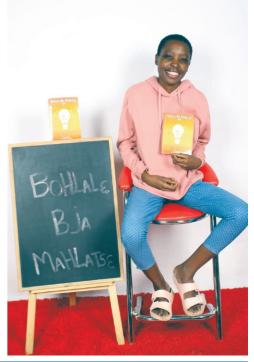
The 27-year-old writer said her new novel is a setting, unfolding at Ithuteng Primary School in the remote Marageng Village in Limpopo Province. "The book is telling the story of a main character named Mahlatse, who is living with a disability and being bullied by his friends at school for his condition. The book is telling the story of bullying, vision and success in a manner that it will capture attention of readers with its illustrative writing," she said.

Maria said readers will be stunned by the climax of the book when things take a turn by the time Mahlatse does something remarkable at school to change the mindset of his peers and be finally praised and become a role model to everyone. "My aim for writing Bohlale Bja Mahlatse's children book is to caution learners and parents about the dangers of bullying at schools," she said. Maria said her love for literature started to grow when watching her uncle reading newspapers and that's when she became motivated and fall in love with writing. "I was able to learn to read fast because I read everything that I came across. I started writing when I was in Grade 2. I used to draw paper cards with my friends and write messages on them. I never stopped

writing since then. As a child, to me writing was like a way of playing. I used writing and reading to go hand in hand," she said.

She said she chose to write in Sepedi language because of the pride she has about her roots and wants to leave a legacy by uplifting her mother tongue. Maria published her first book in 2020, a poetry anthology titled: "Poetic Minds Combined". "From there, I compiled a Sesotho sa Lebowa poetry anthology called "Sa Mafahleng A Rena" in 2021. I also co-authored a novel titled "Tau Tša Hloka Seboka" in the same year. In 2022, I got published in a poetry anthology titled "Dikgagara Tša Bareti" and a Sesotho sa Leboa children book titled "Bohlale Bja Mahlatse", she said. Maria is also a Generic Management studies graduate from Sekhukhune TVET College and a leader of SKC Talent Agency, based in Turfloop outside Polokwane. She said the agency assists in nurturing young talent by being a bridge between local and professional industry. "My role is to coach upcoming authors and do secretarial duties," she said. Maria is also the owner of BlessedInk Publishers, which was established in 2021.

Maria Madihlaba, has published her fifth book in two years with an aim to promote Sepedi language which is her mother tongue.







Ben Viljoen faces Hans Strydom during Hockey and Rugby games.

Hoërskool Ben Viljoen's rugby and hockey teams faced Hoërskool Hans Strijdom from Naboomspruit this past weekend. The hockey players tamed the Lions of the North with 7 goals for Ben Viljoen and no goals against them. But the rugby teams experienced tough matches and only the u /14A team emerged victorious.



Rugby: Hockey: u / 14A: BV 24-05 HS u / 14 BV 3-0 HS u / 14B: BV 17-19 HS u / 15 BV 2-0 HS

u / 15A: BV 12-56 HS u / 16 BV 1-0 HS u / 15B: BV 00-63 HS 1st team BV 1-0 HS

u / 16A: BV 00-45 HS Ben Viljoen wishes all the hockey teams good luck. They will partici2nd team BV 15-17 HS pate in the Limpopo Semi-Final in Tzaneen at Hoërskool Merensky 1st team: BV 22-25 HS this weekend.





Far left: Palesa Sedibane. Left: Neo

Mathunyane. Below: Rorisang Ram-

mupudu. Right: Christopher Malama

& Thabo Mangoale



Babina Noko gears-up for next PSL season

Sekhukhune United FC will be among the two teams to represent Limpopo in the upcoming season of the Dstv Premiership, following the third team in the province, Baroka FC being relegated to the first division.

Babina Noko is sitting at the eleventh position with 33 points after playing all their thirty league games, a spot below another Limpopo outfit, Marumo Gallants FC, which is in the tenth position with 34 points. This means Sekhukhune United and Marumo Gallants will be the only Limpopo teams to play in the Dstv Premiership in the 2022/2023 season. Giving a brief overview of how the team has performed last season, Sekhukhune United Football Man-

ager, Phineas Madisha, said from where they are sitting as management, the boys did well, taking into consideration that it was their first season in the Premier Soccer League (PSL). "Our preparation did not go as well as we had lots of trialists but irrespective of that, the first round in fact, we did well in terms of collecting points. The second round we think that the boys went into their shells and they could not manage the tempo of the Dstv Premiership," he said. However, Madisha said they are still very satisfied, given the fact that some of the experienced teams that were campaigning for the league were struggling from the bottom and fighting the relegation zone. "We feel that we

did very well and we want to thank everyone from the management, our media team, the admin and the technical team, most importantly the players themselves. I think they gave it their all. It is still work in progress as now we are going to the next season and this time around, we have learned from our mistakes," he said. Madisha said Babina Noko will try and prepare well so that they sustain their spot in the Dstv Premiership. He said the team Chairman, Simon Malatji, wanted the team to compete and be within the top 8 in the league. "Unfortunately we could not achieve that, but I think going to the next season, our recruitment process is going to be spot on and we are

not going to be interrupted by lot of trialists. We brought in Owen Da Gama to come and strengthen our technical department," he said. Meanwhile the team has confirmed that it has offloaded fourteen players who departed from the team last season. The departing players are Ayanda Dlamini, Tapuwa Kapini, Sello Motsepe, Chslyn Jampies, Lucky Boy Mokwena, Evans Rusike, Justin Shonga, Tshediso Patji, Tumelo Matona, Sibusiso Mbonani, Siyabulela Shayi, Seun Ledwaba, Charlton Mashumba and Rebone Ntsoane.

The team furthered said it has parted ways with Co-coach Owen Da Gama, who only joined Babina Noko in April this year.











30 000km