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LA University honors Prof. Conrad Ngaka Tsiane

Aprominent traditional healer in South Africa, Professor Conrad Tsiane, has been conferred with three degrees by the University of Los Angeles in America.

Tsiane was honoured in a highly esteemed graduation ceremony held at his home village of Ga-Kloporo outside Marble Hall, Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality in Sekhukhune. The event was attended by Education Minister Angie Motshekga, American delegates, traditional leaders, traditional healers, professors, doctors, various government departments' representatives and community members. The university honoured Professor Tsiane with Masters' Degree in Entrepreneurship, Doctoral Degree in in Cultural Communications and a Prof Degree in African Medicine and Philosophy. The degrees were initiated by the Umhab'uhlangene Herbal School from Lady Smith in Kwa-Zulu Natal, that later approached the University of LA to issue the honorary qualifications. Tsiane told the paper that the initiative of being honoured started four years ago by a team of academics supported by Kgoshi Belou Rammupudu II from Tafelkop, Kgoshi Mampuru Mampuru III from Mamone in Jane Furse and a group of advocates. "A number of local universities were approached but couldn't issue the qualifications as they have no faculties supporting the degrees to be awarded," said Tsiane. He added that later he was approach by Umhlab'uhlangene Herbal School which made recommendations to University of Los Angeles and the degrees were issued. "I'm happy to be recognized abroad but disappointed that our hard work and efforts are not taken into consideration locally," he said. Tsiane said he will soon be receiving another degree from one of South Africa's universities early next year. "The plan is still in the pipeline and more information about the faculty and qualification will be announced once the agreement is sealed," he said. Professor Tsiane thanked fellow traditional healers, traditional leaders, government representatives, religious leaders and the community for their support they showed throughout his journey to his achievements. The African National Congress (ANC) in Sekhukhune Region congratulated Professor Tsiane on his achievements. "The gesture has demonstrated a deep appreciation by the university for our African traditional values and indigenous knowledge. The celebration of this achievement on the soil of Sekhukhune and in a village called Ga-Kloporo in Ephram Mogale Municipality, will go into

history as a legitimate educational content and remembrance to be taught in the future and celebrated by the generations to come," said ANC Sekhukhune Regional Spokesperson, Tshepo Matenche.

He added that the party pride itself of the achievement and milestone made by one of its own 'Phuti ya bokone', an activist of their movement and struggles experienced by our people as the former ANC REC member in Sekhukhune and the former councilor and speaker in Ephraem Mogale Local Municipality. "Professor Tsiane is the veteran of our movement. His achievements are movement's achievements and people of Sekhukhune's achievements," said Matenche.









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Hefty sentences handed against dangerous criminals

The Limpopo Provincial Commissioner of the Police, General NnekeLedwaba, has warmly welcomed long jail sentences handed down at the Polokwane and Thohoyandou High Courts for the crimes committed in Motetema and Levubu Police areas. The cases are ranging from rape, murder, business robbery and house breaking were handed down on Thursday 3 December. According to Colonel Moatshe Ngoepe, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the Polokwane High Court have sentenced a Tafelkop man, Tshepo Maganedisa (27), to an affective thirty years in prison for house breaking with intent of rape and rape. "This sentence follows an incident were an elderly seventy year old woman was raped by unknown man while she was sleeping in the early hours of 26 January 2018 at about 03:30, at Makaepeya Section in Tafelkop Village," Ngoepe said. He added that the accused intruded into the house, threatened the victim with a knife and raped her before he jumped through the window and fled the scene. "In another incident that took place in the early hours of 6 February 2019 around 03:00, the same accused entered another house through the window. The victim realized that there was someone in the house wearing a balaclava. She tried to scream but he threatened her with a knife and raped her before fleeing the scene," explained Ngoepe. Ngoepe said in another incidents, Maganedisa, now joined by Macdonald Lunga Sibanyoni (26), attacked two elderly persons aged 61 and 67. "On Friday 7 June 2019 around 02:00, the pair intruded in the victim's house at Majakaneng in Tafelkop, attacked the old woman and demanded money. The 61-year-old male who is the victim's brother, tried to rescue his sister but he was stabbed several times to death with a knife. In the process, the old woman managed to escape and called for help and the two accused fled the scene. The deceased was identified as Thifos Titus Thamage. The Polokwane High Court sentenced Sibanyoni to 30 years imprisonment for housebreaking with intent to rob and murder. Ngoepe said Maganedisa was further sentenced to another 38 years imprisonment for housebreaking with intent to rob, assault with Intent to commit Grievous bodily Harm (GBH) and murder. "The accused was also declared unfit to possess a firearm," he said.

Man arrested for strangling ex-girlfriend to death

The South African Police Service in Dennilton outside Groblersdal have apprehended a 25-yearold suspect, Thabiso Moloi, for allegedly killing his 24-year-old ex-girlfriend at Magakadimeng Village. According to the police report, it is alleged that the deceased was walking home with her current boyfriend in the early hours at about 00:40, when they met her ex-boyfriend. "Unexpectedly, the suspect produced a hard object attempting to hit the boyfriend who ran away. Subsequently, the deceased's uncle received a phone call notifying him about the lifeless body of his niece, few meters from her home," said Colonel Moatshe Ngoepe, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. Ngoepe said the incident was reported to the police who started with preliminary investigations which revealed that the deceased might have been strangled and that led to the immediate arrest of her ex-boyfriend. "The motive of the incident is unknown at this stage but domestic violence cannot be ruled out," he said. Ngoepe said the suspect appeared before the Moutse Magistrate's Court on Wednesday 25 November and remains in custody. His case was postponed to 2 December 2020 for formal bail application and further police investigation. The suspect appeared before the Moutse Magistrate's Court on Wednesday 2 December and remains in custody. He will appear again soon for formal bail application and pending police investigation. The Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Nneke Ledwaba, has applauded the Dennilton SAPS members for their speedy reaction to this matter and the arrest of the suspect within a short space of time.





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DA demands urgent political intervention in Masakaneng string protests

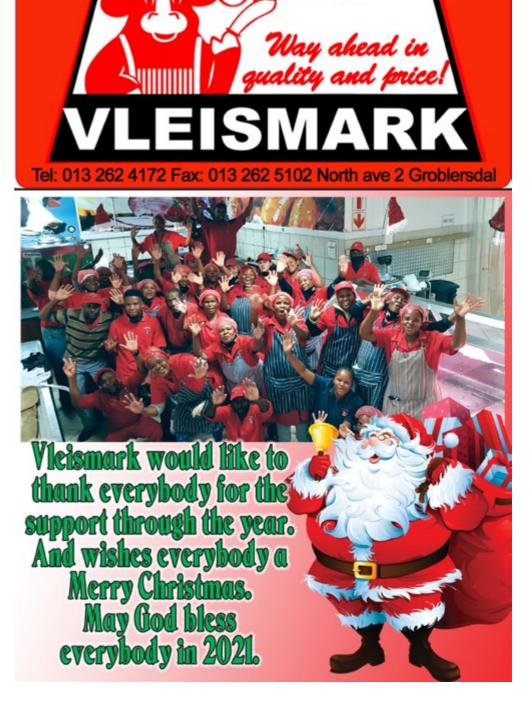
The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo is calling on Premier Stan Mathabatha and the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), Bioskopa Makamu, to urgently intervene in the Masakaneng service delivery protest. Residents of Masakaneng have been protesting since 2018 against inadequate services rendered by the Elias Motsoaledi Local municipality. Masakaneng residents have recently barricaded the N11 linking Groblersdal to Marble Hall, demanding electricity in the settlement's Portion 69. According to the DA, the vineyards of a grape farmer next to the N11 caught fire that burned down plants on the farm. The police were deployed from the province to contain the protest. "About a month ago, the same community protested for basic services, but it is clear that the Elias Motsoaledi municipality has done nothing in the interim to alleviate their plight," said DA Provincial Spokesperson of COGHSTA, Jacques Smalle. According to Smalle, the Auditor-General found that the Elias Motsoaledi municipality regressed from an unqualified audit opinion with findings to a qualified audit opinion for the 2018/19 financial year. "It is clear that the ANC governed municipality is inept to provide basic services to the citizens of Masakaneng and we call on the Premier and MEC Makamu to intervene to address the grievances of the residents," smalle indicated. However, Smalle said although the DA condemns the destruction of property in the strongest possible terms, they have sympathy with a community who is desperate for adequate water, sanitation and electricity. "The DA urges all citizens to show their frustrations with the ANC run municipality at the ballot box in the 2021 Local Government elections and to vote for the only party that has around track record in service delivery," he said.

Conman wanted: swindle money from SDM service providers

The Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) is warning the public not to fall victims of a scammer who targets residents and promising tenders in the district municipality. According to SDM, it has come to their attention that a conman, who pretends to be the municipality's acting Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Colbert Mufamadi, is trying to swindle money from members of the public, falsely promising to award them tenders. According to SDM Acting Mayoral Spokesperson, Isaac Mahlakwane, the municipality wants to put on record that it awards tenders purely in compliance with supply chain management policy and other applicable legislation, and will not demand money from potential bidders in exchange. "The acting CFO Mr Colbert Mufamadi denounces this apparently fraudulent activity. A case of fraud has been opened with the South African Police Service for investigation," added Mahlakwane. He said the police are also investigating a case of intimidation, after Mufamadi received an intimidating text message. "The municipality cautions potential bidders and members of the public at large not to become victims of this fraud," he said.











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RAL and mining companies partner to upgrade iconic bridge

The Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) SOC Limited and the Steelpoort Bridge Upgrade Community (SBUC), a group of eight mining companies operating within the Sekhukhune District of Limpopo Province, have signed a groundbreaking Memorandum of Agreement (MoU) for the rehabilitation of the existing bridge and construction of the new Steelpoort Bridge on road D2219.

The signing the MoU, which espouses RAL's motto of 'Together for better roads', was reached on Tuesday 1 December at the Fusion Boutique Hotel in Polokwane. R80 Million was set aside by the mines towards the implementation of the project. The rehabilitation project will see the preservation of the near 100 year-old existing single lane bridge, colloquially known as the 'Steel Bridge' or 'Malekane Bridge', that has been both a landmark and a bane of Road D2219. The bridge is located on road D2219, before the intersection with road R555 that goes towards the mining town of Steelpoort, in the village of Ga-Malekane. The sealing of the strategic partnership agreement follows an announcement, made in October 2020, by the MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI)

Namane Dickson Masemola, relating to pledges and plans for road infrastructure on road D2219, which after completion will offer improved access for communities when crossing the Steelpoort River. Related key matters that were discussed during the signing of the MoU included, the RAL strategic partnership approach, budget constraint and funding from other sources, mining industry social and labourplans, licensing, obligations and DMRE. Also included in the discussion were project description, general information and background, scope of the project and timelines and job creation with employment of local labourers and Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). According to RAL Chhief Executive Officer Gabriel Maluleke, backlog of untarred roads in the province is in the excess of R139 Billion. He said the backlog covers about 13 000km across the province. Maluleke indicated that working with private companies, will see the reduction of backlog in road infrastructure in the province. Rick Reato, who was representing the mining companies, said he is confident that the project will eradicate hunger through job creation to local people. Reato added that the project will improve traffic mobility after its completion.





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SDM congratulate the recently promoted ABC Motsepe League outfit

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila together with MMC responsible for Youth Development Cllr Peter Sello Mnisi have met with the newly promoted ABC Motsepe League outfit Dennilton Callies. The purpose of the meeting, which was convened on Monday 7 December, was mainly to give congratulatory message for their promotion to the ABC Motsepe League, the third tier of South African Football. "Sekhukhune is celebrating and blessed to have a third team playing in the ABC Motsepe League after Ditlou and City Motors football clubs," said Executive Mayor Ramaila. Ramaila said they are also delighted that the district have Sekhukhune United FC that is playing in the GladAfrica Championship League. Dennilton Callies FC Team Manager, Selby Ditshego, said they feel honoured for the recognition given to them by the executive mayor.

(From left standing) MMC for Youth Development in SDM Peter Sello Mnisi, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Ward 8 Councillor Winter Ratlou, Dennilton Callies FC Manager Selby Ditshego, Dennilton Callies Vice Captain Mi-



chael Nkadimeng and the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Keamotseng

Dennilton Callies gearing up for 2020/2021 ABC Motsepe League Season

The newly promoted ABC Motsepe League football team, Dennilton Callies FC, is preparing for the commencement of the third tier of the South African football. The club will be playing their first historic match in professional football on 19 December. Callies was promoted after winning Limpopo Provincial Promotional Play-offs held at Thabazimbi Sports Grounds last month. The team's chairman, Tumelo Madisa, said preparations are underway to start competing in one of the professional football leagues in the country. "Our boys are ready and will take every match seriously. We know we are new but we are playing with the determination of winning," he said. Madisa added that it is unfortunate that the team has been eliminated by Ditlou FC in the Nedbank Cup preliminary rounds to Groblersdal Rugby Stadium, held on Friday 4 December. The teams played 1-1 in 90 minutes and went straight to penalty shootout where Ditlou won the match by 5-4. The competition is played by ABC Motsepe sides to gain entry in the competition's last 32 that will include 16 teams from the Dstv Premiership, eight from GladAfrica Championship and eight from ABC Motsepe League. "Our goal was to get into the competition's last 32 and probably winning it. We were up for the challenge and know that nothing is impossible but unfortunately we didn't make it," he said. According to Madisa, the club hasn't made any changes and will be returning with the same squad that won the provincial promotional play-offs. "The only changes we have made is the signing of a few players. The rest of the squad is still there and we will be playing with them in the Nedbank Cup and in the league. Even our Head Coach Thabo Monareng is still there and will be leading the boys for the entire season. He have been with us for a very long time, he is part of the puzzle of the club. We are developing experience and confidence in everyone in the team including our coach," he said. Madisa said the team will be taking it one step at a time by preparing for every single match ahead to get fruitful results at the end of the season. "Our target is to get promotion to the GladAfrica Championship. That could be possible because we have a mentality of playing







Sekhukhune United triumphs in first GladAfrica Championship match

 $The new \,Glad Africa\,Championship\,out fit, Sekhukhune\,FC\,have\,started$ their 2020/2021 season campaign smoothly. The team is currently in third position with one win and a draw. The club claimed a 4-0 victory defeating Royal AM FC, in their first match on Saturday 28 November at Makhulong Stadium in Tembisa. The Sekhukhune based club is currently using Makhulong Stadium as their home ground as a result of shortages of facilities in Sekhukhune that meet the PSL standard. The GladAfrica Championship newcomers played a 2-2 draw when playing with Jomo Cosmos FC on Tuesday 1 December at Olen Park Stadium in Potchefstroom. Sekhukhune FC is currently standing at position 3 of the GladAfrica Championship League Log, just two points behind University of Pretoria FC in the second position with six points and Cape Umoya FC topping the table also with six points but with goal difference advantage. Prior to their first match in the GladAfrica Championship, the club's Chairman, Simon Malatji, said in the statement that he was very excited about the prospects of the team playing its first historic game. Malatji said the team has been working very hard under the guidance of the technical team lead by head coach Johnny Ferreira in preparation for the 2020/2021 season. "This is a massive weekend for Sekhukhune United FC players and technical team. The club has confident that come the end of the match, Babina Noko would have taken a major stride towards announcing their arrival in the GladAfrica Championship," said Malatji. The prophecy of the chairman came into reality when Sekhukhune FC claimed a 4-0 win over Royal AM in their first match ever in the PSL. The second match was a tough one for the Sekhukhune side where they had to lock horns with the most experienced Jomo Cosmos. However, the newcomers



opened the scoring to grab an early lead in the 12th minute, by Cwyinyane who put Babina Noko forward. Jomo Cosmos equalized in the 61st minute. Babina Noko scored their second goal, grabbing a 2-1 lead just a few minutes before the end of the match, in the 81st minute. The lucky Cosmos FC that was about to lose all points, equalized in the 88th minute with

a penalty. Sekhukhune United Head Coach Johnny Ferreira said he is happy with the outcomes of the two matches where they won the first one and managed to collect a point in an away game. However, Ferreira said the team should have won the Cosmos match. "Mistakes happen and I'm extremely disappointed because we had so many scoring chances. The players need to learn that in the GladAfrica Championship, teams don't give up so easily. We need to regroup and come up back with a good strategy for our next game," he said.





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