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Est. 2008

305th Edition

Friday 11 February 2022

083 679 3632

Saaiplaas road only maintained for funerals

According to resident of Saaiplaas Village in Elias Motsoaledi Ward 16, the state of internal and provincial roads in the area is in a “poor to very poor” condition. The community claims the backlog in the maintenance and repairs of the roads is shocking and hasn’t been done for many years. A community leader, Abram Mahlangu, told the Sekhukhune Dispatch that both the provincial and internal roads were last maintained when the area was still falling under the Mpumalanga Provincial administration. “The R579 Provincial Road between Mathula Stand and Stoffberg, is in a very bad state. Many people have died because of the bad state of this road after the Limpopo administration took over this area,” he said. Mahlangu said the internal streets in the villages have turned into dongas and streams as Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality failed to re-gravel them for many years. “The only time the municipality comes to fix the road is when there is a funeral. Not all the roads are fixed during the funeral but only those that will be used by the mourners to go to the grave site. It is like we have to wait for someone to die before some of the roads are fixed in the village,” he said. Mahlangu indicated that during the Premier’s Imbizo, held in the village in 2017, government authorities promised to prioritize the R579 Road for maintenance and rehabilitation in the following financial year. “But that did not happen and the condition of the road is becoming worse, especially when it rains. Potholes are everywhere and now turning into streams with vehicles plunging into them everyday,” he said. Mahlangu said even when people lost their lives on these roads and complaints were raised, the provincial government and Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality are doing nothing to address the problem. “We feel neglected, the Limpopo administration is taking us for granted. There is no service delivery at all since we have been incorporated to the province. We used to have major projects including a bakery and poultry farm that employed many community members and are now not functioning since Limpopo took over. Our local clinic used to operate 24 hours, however, night duties were suspended after the incorporation in 2006. It is becoming worse and the best solution is to take us back to Mpumalanga,” he said. Simon Makua, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Spokesperson, said the municipality acknowledged that the roads are in a bad condition due to persistent rainfall. “However, the municipality has a rotational re-gravelling programme from Monday to Wednesday, visiting all villages. On Thursdays and Fridays we re-gravel roads for emergency purposes including for the funerals, weddings and roads that leading to schools and other public service offices,” he said. Makua advised members of the public who want to know about the re-graveling rotational programme to consult their ward councillors. The Limpopo Department of Roads and Transport was not available for a comment at the time of going to press.

Mathebe elected first female Executive Mayor of SDM

The council of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) has on Wednesday 9 February elected Cllr Julia Mathebe as the new Executive Mayor of the district. Mathebe, who was Council Speaker, was elected uncontested Executive Mayor during a Special Council Meeting held at the SDM chamber in Groblersdal. Her election follows acceptance of her predecessor, Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila’s resignation by the council. Mathebe’s deployment was a call by the ANC National Working Committee that decided to replace two mayors including the Mayor of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Cllr Rebecca Lentsoane, who was replaced by Cllr Given Moimana in the position. Mathebe is becoming the first female to hold the position of Executive Mayor in the history of the Sekhukhune District Municipality. Cllr Mathebe was Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, a position she relinquished after the November 2021 Local Government Election. The new executive mayor is bringing to the top position, a wealth of experience, having been in local government since 2000, in various positions. When committing to do everything as humanely as possible to expedite the provision of services to the residents of Sekhukhune, Executive Mayor Mathebe announced the launch of “Operation TlemaTekkie-Re NweMeetse”. “This is a call to action to all of us, from the Executive Mayor to Member of Mayoral Committee, from ward councillor to municipal officials at every level,” she said. Mathebe added that under Operation TlemaTekkie-Re NweMeetse, the Executive Mayor herself will

join the blue-collar workers at the site, and brave the scorching heat, if that is what it will take for the people of Sekhukhune to get water. “We will hit the ground running,” she said. Executive Mayor Mathebe also outlined her key priorities in the next 100 days that includes: Doing an audit of all major water schemes and projects and decide on the intervention, seeking audience with Minister of Water & Sanitation Honourable Senzo Mchunu, to fast-track the collaborative process he has already put in place to unlock the De Hoop Dam Scheme and engaging local and small business enterprises and Magoši, to ensure water projects proceed seamlessly. She said the district municipality will attend to the spillage of sewage from either sewer lines or wastewater treatment plants in areas such as Motetema, Leeufontein and Praktiseer. “We will be paying special attention to the Sekhukhune Development Agency, ensuring that it functions optimally to attract investments to the district and create jobs. Set aside R2-million on small businesses owned by youths and women, with the aim of capacitating them to become competitive. Update the indigent register and craft a revenue collection strategy in order to maintain and operate the existing water infrastructure sustainably,” she said. Mathebe said the municipality will meet with leaders of the mining sector, considering that there are about 27 mine operations in Sekhukhune, to discuss if the existing social labour plans that are inclusive and successful in bringing labour, government, business and communities into agreement. The Executive

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Mayor told Council that everyone, including councillors and municipal officials must roll up their sleeves and get down to work. Mathebe holds NQF Level 6 qualification in Municipal Governance & Management from the University of Johannesburg, and a plethora of qualifications and certificates in local government. Separately, she is in the penultimate year as a student of Bachelor of Public Administration at MANCOSA. SDM councillors also elected Cllr Kgwediebotse Chego as Council Speaker, Cllr Choris Phokane as Council Whip and Cllr Mathale Mabatane chairperson of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee. Upon her election, the Executive Mayor announced the following councillors as Members of the Mayoral Committee. Cllr Bella Kupa MMC for Infrastructure and Water Services (IWS), Cllr Merriam Malatji as first IWS Deputy MMC and Cllr Jan Mohlala as Second Deputy in the IWS. Cllr Maleke Mokganyetsi was announced as MMC for Budget and Treasury Office (BTO), previous Executive Mayor, Cllr Stanley Ramaila was announced MMC for Community Services, Cllr Frank Ratau as MMC for Corporate Services, Cllr Baatseba Leshaba announced MMC for Planning and Economic Development and Cllr Orginia Mafefe as MMC for Women, Children, Old Age People with Disability and Cllr Kuki Sefala was announced MMC for Youth.



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DEBONAIRS PIZZA

SAHRC to probe Masinakane appalling conditions

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Mpumalanga says it will again, approach the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to take action against Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, over her failure to address the challenges faced by intellectually and physically challenged learners at Masinakane Special School. The special school in Allemansdrift B outside Siyabuswa, has a serious shortage of classrooms and accommodation at the school premises to house hundreds of learners coming from different parts of Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces. According to the party, since the schools reopening, learners have been sleeping in classrooms. The boarding school they were housed in was dilapidated and declared not safe in 2017. "Last year after an oversight visit to the school, the DA alerted the provincial Department of Education about the challenges faced by the learners and staff of Masinakane Special School, but the department did nothing to help. The DA also asked the premier to visit the school to see the challenges for herself, but she refused. This prompted the DA to lodge a complaint with SAHRC against the Department of Education," said DA Leader in Mpumalanga Jane Sithole. She added that the party has discovered that learners at the school are subjected to atrocious conditions. They sleep in classrooms with no ablution facilities to be used at night. "The school does not have a hostel. Since the Covid-19 outbreak, only 31 of the 154 learners are attending school, the other 124 are confined at home without supervision simply because the department has not provided any facilities for them," informed Sithole. She added that in a recent response to the DA's questions in the provincial legislature, Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said the problems at Masinakane Special School are contained. "The Premier stated that the makeshift boarding facilities at Masinakane Special School are not serious and that the department has contained the situation. The Premier went on to say that the department should in the following financial year start with the planning and design of the boarding facilities, but the implementation will only start later," she said. Sithole indicated that the DA requested that Mtshweni-Tsipane visit Masinakane Special School on two different occasions and the premier declined twice, stating that the DA should write to the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education and request the committee to do an oversight. "During Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane's response, it was appalling to witness her indifferent attitude to this serious issue and it appeared that she is not prepared to face or acknowledge the inhumane living conditions of these learners with mild to severe intellectual disabilities," she said. Sithole emphasized that teachers and learners of the special school have been struggling with poor boarding facilities since 2008, when learners were housed in a dilapidated boarding house. "They were then moved into their mobile classrooms due to the boarding school being declared unsafe for living," she said. According to Sithole, the DA believes that the Mpumalanga Government had ample time to build boarding school for these learners, yet they have continued to sweep this problem under the carpet. At the time of going to print, the Mpumalanga Department of Education was not available for a comment.

BPSA seeks Public Protector's intervention in shack school

The Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA), said it has approached the Public Protector (PP), to investigate poor learning and teaching conditions of Aquaville Combined School at the Masakaneng Settlement outside Groblersdal. The party said it has written a letter to the PP to probe the inhuman experiences caused by lack of infrastructure at the school, subjecting learners and teachers in appalling conditions. The entire Aquaville Combined School building is made of blocks of shacks where learners are urged to cramp into the structure without any proper windows and ventilation systems. The school currently, has about 500 learners with 12 teachers and caters for Grade R to Grade 9 pupils. BPSA Leader, Seun Mogotji, said they have learned during their schools reopening visit programme that the school structure is not suitable for learning and teaching purposes. "No human being must be subjected to such cruelty, cramping children in such a structure with no ventilation system is the same as attempted murder," he said. Mogotji indicated that despite a number of concerns directed to the Limpopo Provincial Department of Education, the authorities decided to side-line the plea made by parents who are concerned about poor conditions their children are subjected to on a daily basis. "The parents are only asking for a proper school structure to be built for their children. Soon it will be winter and the poor children will be freezing in those shacks. How can we expect them to take lessons in such conditions?" asked Mogotji. According to Mogotji, a site was previously earmarked to erect a proper school building in the area, however, the project was never materialized and there is no clarity coming from the department when asked about the whereabouts of the new school building. "We cannot continue to have a learning environment that appears as an insult to the education system of our children, urgent intervention is needed in this regard," concluded Mogotji. Limpopo Department of Education Spokesperson, Tidimalo Chuene, said the school used to occupy privately owned land and making it difficult for government to build the school on the place. "We requested land from the municipality which was fortunately granted," she said. Chuene said the department has provided mobile classrooms as a temporary measure while they are still working out details around the construction of the new school. "The department has already delivered two mobile classrooms to the school site. The other seven mobile classes will be delivered soon. The school has been added on the district priority list for infrastructure projects," she said.



The BPSA says it has approached the Public Protector to investigate poor conditions of a shack school in Masakaneng.



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Tension erupted as learners moved to new school

The moving of learners from Tlou-Kwena Primary School to Kgothala Secondary School in Elandsdoorn, Dennilton, has caused tension between parents and the Moutse East Circuit. According to parents, the circuit decided to move Grades 8, 9 and 10 from Tlou-Kwena to Kgothala starting from January 2022 without following logistical arrangements. Parents claim the move has badly affected learners and the decision was taken by the circuit manager without them and the School Governing Body (SGB) being consulted first. A community leader, Ali Maloba, said the sad part is that Kgothala Secondary School can not accommodate all the learners from Tlou-Kwena and is now overcrowded. "This is the most significant issue because Kgothala is now experiencing a serious shortage of classrooms, having to cater for hundreds of learners who were moved from Tlou-Kwena, which was left with fifteen empty classrooms," he said. Maloba added that the move does not only affect learners, but also the teachers who were attending to the pupils at Tlou-Kwena, are now urged to report at Kgothala without

the knowledge of the Provincial Department of Education. This is according to Maloba, a verbal agreement between the circuit and the two affected schools. "Pupils are also starving there as Kgothala is also experiencing a shortage of food to feed the learners as the service providers are still delivering food at Tlou-Kwena as per the register of the Education Department. The whole logistics were not properly arranged," he said. Maloba indicated that when the affected grades arrive at Kgothala, there was a serious shortage of space and they were instructed to attend their classes rotationally for only four hours per day, in which most are spending the day loitering around and doing nothing. "At this stage, Kgothala administration is failing to run properly, there is a serious shortage because the norms standard funding is allocated according to the roll numbers of learners submitted to the department. The funding excludes pupils that were moved to the school in January this year," informed Maloba. According to Maloba, the move was influenced by Kgothala School principal, who will be expecting a salary increase due to the

large number of learners enrolling in her school. "In the long run, Tlou-Kwena will have to be closed because of the dropping number of enrolment because of greedy principals who take decisions for self-gain," he said. Maloba said an urgent meeting will be convened with the Moutse East Circuit manager for the decision to overturned and return the affected grades back to Tlou-Kwena. Limpopo Department of Education Spokesperson, Tidimalo Chuene, said the department is investigating the matter and will comment soon after the investigation is finalized.



The Tlou-Kwena Primary School classes were left empty after three grades were moved to Kgothala Secondary School.

Foundation restores dignity of young girls

To restore a dignity of a girl child, Thwadi & Molebogeng Foundation donated sanitary towels to dozens of learners at Matsepe Primary School in Tafelkop. The donation comes after the majority of the learners would miss their classes during their menstrual periods and will help them to continue with their education. The gesture was handed over on Friday 4 February by a local businessman, Thwadi Mohlala, the Chairperson of Thwadi & Molebogeng Foundation, with his 'Lend a Hand Campaign' that was unleashed in Sekhukhune since December 2021. Mohlala said he believes the donation will play an important role in changing lives of young girls who are coming from destitute family backgrounds in the village. "I grew up in rural areas where access to almost everything relevant to our development was a major obstacle. Such experience led to the establishment of Thwadi & Molebogeng Foundation, as a means or a platform to reach and assist those in need. I decided to start this initiative in Sekhukhune with the aim of ploughing back to my respective communities," he said. Mohlala added that the foundation was launched on 15 December 2021 with an objective to develop rural communities in Sekhukhune. The launch took place in Dikgalaopeng Village where Thwadi Construction erected a wall around the sports complex to ensure that young people have a platform to excel in their respective sporting codes. According to Mohlala, the 'Lend a Hand Campaign' started

in 2018 in Tshwane, with feeding schemes for the homeless and assisting with food parcels during funerals at poor households. "I have been a member of the ZCC family since I was young and the church taught me to care about the less fortunate. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to assist my community and I commit to continue doing so," he said. Mohlala, who was also a pupil at Matsepe Primary. He decided to take the programme to the school because of his past experienced challenges faced by many girl learners at the time. Mohlala said along with his partners, they are planning to take the 'Lend a Hand Campaign' to the next level and start working with various schools and community based groups that serves residents around Sekhukhune on a voluntary basis. "The intention is to make as many donations as possible to help the needy people in our communities," he said.



Matsepe Primary School girl pupils showing excitement after receiving sanitary towels donation from Thwadi & Molebogeng Foundation.

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Notice is given of a Basic Assessment process in terms of Section 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2017 (GNR 324 of 7 April 2017) Applicant: Helios Towers. Competent Authority: Limpopo Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism. Proposed Activities: Helios Towers proposes to construct a 36m high telecommunications mast at the Remainder of the Farm Rietvallei 754 KS. The mast will have a base station with a footprint of 8m X 8m. Located at: 24°53'57.79"S and 29°24'42.63"E.

ACE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for undertaking the public participation & Basic Assessment process. You are hereby invited to review and comment on the draft BAR Document as an Interested & Affected Party (I&AP) within 30 days from the publication date. In order to obtain a copy of the draft BAR please contact: Henk Pretorius of ACE Environmental Solutions at the following details: Private Bag X32, Highveld Park, 0169. Tel: (012) 663 5200. Fax: (086) 565 9264. E-mail: henk@ace-env.co.za

NOTICE ISSUED IN TERMS OF REGULATION 4(2) OF THE EIA REGULATION, REGARDING THE APPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE FARM KAFFERSKRAAL 181 JS WITHIN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITH REF: LP30/5/1/1/2/13936 PR

Way Ferror Holdings (Pty) Ltd have been granted an Environmental Authorization for application of prospecting right for phosphate, iron & vanadium and related mining activities (exploration activities) issued by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) on the 24 of January 2021.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching the decision the Department looked into the following consideration:

- A public participation processes (ppp) was undertaken and the Applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the NEMA EIA 2014 Regulations for Public involvement
- The environmental impacts associated with the proposed mitigation measures as outlined in the BAR
- The closure and rehabilitation is included in the BAR.
- The environmental emergencies procedure is included in the BAR
- The environmental awareness plan is included in the BAR and
- The quantum calculation of the financial provision for rehabilitation of the prospecting activities is included in the BAR.

NOTICE OF INTENSION TO APPEAL:

An appeal can be lodged against the decision as stipulated in the National Appeals Regulations 2014 should you wish to appeal. The appeal must be lodged within 20 days from the date of receipt of the notification to the minister of Environmental Affairs. The appeal must be lodged as prescribed in the National Appeal Regulations 2014 by means of the following methods:

Appeal to the Department of Environmental Affairs:

Attention: Directorate Appeals and legal review

Email: appeals@environment.gov.za

By post: Private bag x 447, Pretoria, 0001

By hand: Environmental House, corner Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083

Copy of the lodged appeal to the Department of Mineral Resources Attention:

Regional Manager: Limpopo Region

Email: Tebogo.Mangaba@dmre.gov.za

Fax: 086 7101 045

By post: Private bag x 9467, Polokwane, 0700

By hand: DMR building, 101 Dorp Street, Polokwane, 0699

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Sekhukhune local municipality mayors get SALGA appointments



Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Minah Bahula, was elected SALGA National Executive Committee member.



The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Julia Mathebe, was elected the new deputy chairperson of SALGA in Limpopo.

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA), has elected the new Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Julia Mathebe as the deputy chairperson of the body in Limpopo Province. The association has further elected Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Minah Bahula as member of the National Executive Committee of SALGA, representing Limpopo Province and the mayor of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, Cllr Eddie Maila, was elected as the member of the Provincial Executive Committee. Mathebe, Bahula and Maila, were elected during the SALGA conference held at The Ranch Hotel in Polokwane on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 February 2022, aiming to elect new PEC/NEC members expected to advance the objectives of developmental agenda of local government that will equally translate into service delivery. The ANC in Sekhukhune Region applauded SALGA for holding a successful provincial conference and congratulated the leadership elected under stewardship of John Mpe as provincial. "The ANC in the region believes that the 2022-2026 SALGA term of office with election of the credible mayors of the district, accountable and committed members equipped with immense experience to assist SALGA in fulfilling its mandate of improving local government. The ANC wishes these refined cadres well in their new responsibilities," said ANC Sekhukhune Regional Secretary Tala Mathope.

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Monama elected new SCOPA Chairperson

Rogers "Kanyane" Monama, from Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, was appointed new Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) in Limpopo. Monama was appointed during a meeting that was held at the Limpopo Legislature recently. Following his appointment, the new chairperson committed to work towards providing quality services that people of Limpopo deserve. Monama said he will be working on the improvement of financial status performance of government institutions in the province with an objective of achieving unqualified audit opinions. He promised to pay oversight role to ensure that all institutions comply with supply chain management policies. The Mayor of Makhuduthamaga, Cllr Minah Bahula, congratulated Monama, saying that she believes that he is equally experienced and capable to his new role and mandate. "He will undoubtedly steer the ship in ensuring fundamental prescripts of public finance management are followed and respected by government departments as well as its constitutional public entities," she said. Monama is no stranger to areas of public service leadership and has previously served in other legislative oversight committees and also at senior government level. "Kanyane is a strategist. He served the people of Makhuduthamaga as a councillor and also at the district level of the Sekhukhune Municipality in the early 2000's. He brings with him, quality and visionary leadership to the committee that is mandated to play a watchdog role on public finances, also commit to its oversight and strategic vision in building government that is responsive to the basic needs of its people, driven by the idea of a better and quality life for all, congratulations Kanyane," she said.



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SPECIAL

Six nabbed for cruelty murder of suspected stock thieves

The police in Sekhukhune have arrested six suspects in connection with the brutal murder of three people, who were killed in a mob justice incident at Ga-Maila a Mapitsana. The victims were accused of being stock thieves. On 24 January, they were cornered by angry community members and were beaten to death. Following the vigilantism incident, the police immediately activated a 72 hour search operation to seek for the suspects involved in the murder incident that resulted in the apprehension of the six suspects, aged between 39 and 64. Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the suspects, Joseph Mamakwa(60), Pakishi Kgathedi(64), Wilson Kgathedi(57), Tshereletso Phokane(18), Julius Phokane(39) and Klaas Maimela(59), appeared before the Sekhukhune Magistrate's Court on Monday 31 January 2022, facing charges on four counts of kidnapping and three counts of murder. Mojapelo said the suspects will appear again soon for a formal bail application. Mojapelo added that in another incident of vigilantism that allegedly took place at Lemondokop Village under Sekgose Policing area in the Mopani District, the police arrested a 34-year-old suspect after the community in the area, killed a man who was allegedly found in the house of one of the locals. "They suspected him of theft and severely assaulted him. He was later transported to Kgapane Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries upon arrival," explained Mojapelo. The Limpopo Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, has issued a stern warning to community members who take the law into their own hands that the police will hunt them down and bring them to book. The police said an investigation is ongoing and the hunt for the remaining suspects in both incidents still continue.

Search operation launched to locate a missing man



The police in Sekhukhune appeal to the public to assist to locate the whereabouts of the missing 38-year-old Kgoba Carl Lesiba.

The police in Sekhukhune appeal to members of the community to assist in locating a missing man, Kgoba Carl Lesiba(38) from Ga-Mokadi Village. According to the police, the victim was last seen on Friday 4 February 2022. Sergeant Mienkie Ramakgoakgoa, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said according to the victim's wife, the missing man was last seen at the village after they both attended a family gathering. "She reportedly left him behind with other relatives when she returned home at Manganeng Village. He allegedly left the gathering at around 23:00, but he never reached home since then," Ramakgoakgoa said. She said the victim is originally from Wolmaranstad in the North West Province where the police also searched at the place and could not locate him. "The matter was then reported to the Sekhukhune Police on Sunday 06 February 2021 and since then, police and members of community have been searching for the victim without any success," Ramakgoakgoa said. She said anyone with information that can assist the police to locate the whereabouts of the victim is requested to contact Lieutenant Colonel Phalane on 082 414 2663, Crime Stop line on 08600 10111 or the nearest police station. Ramakgoakgoa said the search operation to locate the victim is ongoing.

Body of unknown man found nearby Jane Furse Hospital

The police in Jane Furse appeal to the public to assist in locating the family of a man who was found deceased in the area last month. According to the police, the lifeless body of the victim, aged between 45 and 47 years, was recovered next to Jane Furse Hospital, with multiple stab wounds. The police said preliminary investigations revealed that the victim was already dead when his body was dumped nearby the hospital. The deceased is described as dark in complexion and he was naked when the gruesome discovery was made. However, the police said a pair of jeans was found next to him during the recovery of his body. The police appeal to anyone who has lost a family member matching the description of the deceased man to contact Captain Mnisi at the Jane Furse Police Station on 082 319 9526.

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Aphane pursues his writing passion

Martin Aphane, a self-published author of a book titled ‘The Good Ones’, is now living his dream. Aphane, who was born and bred at Moteti Village in Moutse, released his book in October 2021. He said his love for literature blossomed a few years ago when he was still a pupil at Dibathuto Secondary School in Moteti Village. “I was instructed to write an essay when I was doing Grade 10 as a form of punishment for my naughty behaviour. I later learned that the same essay I wrote was submitted to the department of education for the world teachers’ day competition, by the very same teacher who asked me to write it. The essay was later chosen as one of the best in the competition. It was then when I realised that I have a passion for writing and I am actually really good at it,” he said. Aphane said during his schooling days, he has always been a keen student who mostly committed himself to books and watch a lot of television. “I have always been a curious child from the onset who knew what he was determined to achieve,” he said. He said after completing his matric, he relocated to Pretoria where he studied towards a corporate governance qualification. “I worked for corporate companies for a few years and later realized that was not my destiny. I later returned to Moteti where I started pursuing my writing passion on full time basis. I started by writing short stories on my Facebook page for fun and a lot of people liked them and encouraged me to turn them into a book. That’s when I started working towards my first publication that was released last year October,” he said. Aphane said he used his business management skills to start a publication company, wherein, he managed to publish ‘The Good Ones’ novel trilogy. “The Good Ones is the first instalment of a trilogy called The Ones and is centred on a couple who gets caught up in a war between the intelligence of the community and the criminal underworld. The book caters for young adults as it features controversial themes better suited for grown-up readers such as infidelity, homosexual relations and human nature at its purest. I chose to use such themes because I want to encourage the public to learn to support and accept people of different sexual orientations,” explained Aphane. He said his next instalment of the trilogy is going to be published soon and will be titled ‘The Bad/Ugly Ones’. Aphane said people can access his book through his Facebook Page: Martin Aphane Wa Azania or to contact him directly on 072 349 1833.

Self-published author, Martin Aphane, showing off his book titled ‘The Good Ones’, a trilogy novel that was released lately.

A Sporting Complex for TUPS

The Sekhukhune invented sporting code, Thavhanacle Ultra-Physio Sport (TUPS), has now established its own sporting complex called, ‘TUPS City Sport Precinct’.

The 40 hectares sporting complex is situated at Marulaneng Village outside Jane Furse and designed to accommodate eighteen sporting codes, including the South African indigenous sporting codes and nine mainstream sporting codes. TUPS inventor, Pule Mmola, said he has the ambition to grow TUPS City Complex into a regional, educational research and knowledge generated hub for Sekhukhune District. “So far, a site has been prepared for many community development initiatives including the TUPS Sport expansion as well as a sanctuary for the Bapedi National flower, the Yellow Arum Lilly,” he said.

TUPS is one of South Africa’s newest homegrown sporting code, invented at Marulaneng Village outside Jane Furse. According to Mmola, the sporting code is inspired by the local

indigenous forms of recreation. Its founding ethos includes enabling the humanity to use the sporting code to address societal problems such as lack of diverse sporting activities and facilities in townships and rural communities, lifestyles that lead to poor health, marginalization of women in the rural sport landscape and the incremental harm of alcohol and drugs in the society.

“TUPS Sport mission is to build championship culture in communities through holistic empowerment of African youth by promoting, connecting and inspiring them to be conscious pioneers for a winning continent with TUPS as a catalyst,” he said. Mmola indicated that TUPS is fast becoming a sport of choice among disadvantaged communities owing its pragmatic ease, flexibility and affordable cost of setting up on any surface. “As the sporting code is inspired by the African heritage of livestock herding, TUPS has turned its popularity among the rural youth populace into an impactful campaign medium and mobilization platform,” he said.

The sporting code is officially registered and recognized by the Provincial Government of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the Western Cape and the governments of Eswatini, Malawi and Zambia. It is played by communities in different sectors such as schools, traditional royal villages, commercial farms and tertiary institutions. There are currently efforts for TUPS Sport to be formally recognized in schools system and become an official sporting code for national sports event such as the Golden Games, National Indigenous Games and employees’ sports programmes.



TUPS Sport participants posing at the TUPS City Sport Precinct in Marulaneng Village outside Jane Furse.



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Sekhukhune United part ways with nine players

The newly promoted DSTV Premiership side, Sekhukhune United FC, confirmed that they have released nine players during the 2021/2022 FIFA transfer window that closed on 31 January 2022. The club confirmed the departure of Nicholus Lukhubeni, Talent Chawapihwa, Blessing Sarupinda, Ryan De Jongh, Thabang Sibanyoni, Jabu Maluleke, Thabo Rakhale, Sibusiso Hlubi and Tumelo Matona. According to the club, Matona will be joining Jomo Cosmos on loan and the other players will be joining the teams of their choice. Sibanyoni and Lukhubeni were on loan from Sundowns and it is understood that the duo, along with the other seven released players are no longer in the plans of the club's technical team. Sekhukhune United has been active on the market so far by bringing new players during the same 2021/2022 transfer window. To bolster their squad just before the departure of the nine players, Babina Noko acquired several new players who were unveiled recently including the striker Justin Shonga from Egyptian

side Ismaily SC, mid-fielder Evans Rusike from SuperSport United FC and defender Lucky-Boy Mokoena from TS Galaxy FC. Babina Noko has conveyed well wishes to all the departed players and thanked them for their immense contribution to the club. Sekhukhune United's next encounter will be played against Platinum City Rovers on Saturday 12 February for the Ned-bank Cup Challenge last 32. They will face Royal AM FC on Tuesday 15 February, play with Baroka FC on Sunday 20 February and later face Swallows FC for DSTV Premiership matches.



Ryan De Jongh was released by Sekhukhune United FC after joining the club in July 2021.



Talent Chawapihwa is one of the nine players who parted ways with Babina Noko.

Boxing games reach new heights in Sekhukhune



Boxing games are gaining momentum in Sekhukhune villages.

The Sekhukhune Regional Boxing Tournament Games are underway. The games are part of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture programme called 'Club Development Under Community Sport' and are hosted in different venues around Sekhukhune District Municipality. Games Coordinator, Putji Phasha, said boxing is one of the seven sporting codes prioritized by the Sports, Arts and Culture Department to be promoted in Sekhukhune communities, with seven clubs catering both boys and girls aged between 16 and 18, representing all local municipalities in the district. The clubs include Ngwaabe BC, Lepelle BC, Mmatadi BC, Vleischboom BC, Motsephiri BC, Selepe BC and Matjomane BC. "Each local municipality in the district is represented in the boxing clubs in which three are coming from Fetakgomo Tubatse, two of them from Elias Motsoaledi, one from Makhuduthamaga and one from Ephraim Mogale Local Municipalities," she said.

Phasha said the clubs have established a developmental league tournament since 2009, an annual event to raise funds. "The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture procures medals and trophies to award the winners," she said. According to Phasha, the department has not yet started working with professional promoters, however, they have a partnership with both Limpopo and Sekhukhune Boxing Associations. "Only Sekhukhune Boxing Association is working with professional promoters to arrange for the big fight for our boxers in the near future," she said. Phasha said the upcoming tournament will be held on Saturday 19 February at Moses Mabotha Civic Hall in the FetakgomoTubatse Local Municipality.

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