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Five police officers arrested for fraud and theft

Five police officials attached to Groblersdal Police Station were arrested by the Hawks on Monday 8 February on charges of alleged fraud and theft.

Captain Matimba Maluleke, Limpopo Provincial Hawks Spokesperson, said the suspects, aged between 29 and 40, were nabbed at the Groblersdal Police Station premises in relation to fraud and theft of fuel. "In February 2020, the complainant, who owns one of the filling stations in Groblersdal area allegedly discovered that the cashiers, petrol attendants and police officials have colluded in using fleet cards (petrol cards) for their own benefits including refueling their private vehicles," said Maluleke. He added that it is further alleged that, the suspects would wait for motorists who would pay cash and swipe the fleet card in return for money and share it amongst themselves. "The case was opened at the local police station and it was later transferred to the Hawks' Serious Corruption Investigation for further probe. The State has suffered a loss of over R100 000-00 due to these illegal activities," detailed Maluleke. He said the suspects, who include two sergeants and three constables are expected to make their first appearance in the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court soon. "Meanwhile, the operation to trace other outstanding suspects is still ongoing," he said.

The Provincial Head of the Hawks in Limpopo, Major General Thobeka-Jozi has welcomed the arrests and commended the investigation team



The five police officers after they were arrested by the Hawks at Groblersdal Police Station for fraud and theft using fleet petrol cards.

for its sterling work. "We will stop at nothing to fight all forms of corruption in the province. We will continue to investigate without fear or favour. More investigations on similar offences around the province are underway and the arrests are imminent," said General Jozi.

Police appeal to locate the whereabouts of a mentally ill man

The police in Dennilton have launched a search operation following the disappearance of Mpho Malefo (36), from Moteti C Village. According to the police, the victim was allegedly last seen on Saturday 30 January 2021 when he went to sleep. "It was discovered in the morning that he was nowhere to be found and he was reported missing," said Constable MaphureManamela, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. Manamela said the victim is reportedly mentally ill and was last seen wearing a pair of blue jeans, red T-shirt, black long sleeved trainer jacket and has a scar on the forehead. "Anyone with information that can assist in locating this missing person is requested to contact Detective Sergeant NomsaSkhosana on 082 303 9907 or 013 983 0601. They can also make use of the Crime Stop Line on 08600 1011 or report to the nearest police station. The police search operation and investigations are still underway," Manamela said.



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Limpopo outlines Covid-19 vaccine roll-out plan



The Premier of Limpopo Province Stanley Mathabatha says the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine will be done in three phases.

Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha announced that the persal system will be used to decide which frontline workers will get the vaccine in Limpopo. This means the province will be using the personal system information provided by the National Department of Health to roll-out the vaccine. The province is expecting to receive 44 526 doses of the one million of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine delivered from India recently. According to Mathabatha, the province has already identified 39 sites where the vaccination process will take place, with their infrastructure system and controls in place to roll-out the process. "The province has also hired extra security guards to ensure the safety of the more than two hundred healthcare workers who will be administering the doses," Mathabatha said. He said the vaccination roll-out will be done in phases among healthcare workers in both public and private sectors. "The vaccination will be rolled-out in three phases. The first phase will be healthcare workers who are working directly with Covid-19. The second phase will cater the vulnerable group such as those over 60 years and those living in congested places. The second phase will include essential workers and people living with comorbidities. The last group will be vaccinated in the third phase," he said. The premier said healthcare workers eligible for the vaccine should register online in order to secure their place. Mathabatha cautioned that there are some people who still believe the virus is a myth and associate the vaccine with satanic practices. "The vaccine is currently one of the most trusted solutions as we march towards social and economic recovery.

Coronavirus has so far destroyed economies and livelihoods. This invisible virus has caused more deaths in our communities, resulted in joblessness and negatively impacted all in our livelihoods," explained Mathabatha. He made a clarion call to the public to welcome and appreciate the vaccination process as the solution to end the pandemic. "The sooner we dispel the myth by the prophets of doom who are opposed to the use of the vaccine, the better," he said. MEC for Health Department in Limpopo, Dr Phopi Ramathuba said the 44 526 vaccine doses were allocated to health workers according to an analysis by the National Department of Health, using their Personnel System (Persal). She said these are the workers within the Department of Health system. "However, there will be shortfall of slightly over six thousand and some staff will not receive the vaccine immediately. Which is the reason we have developed our own category that will be utilized on vaccination process meanwhile we have written and made a request of an extra 6 000 doses," she said.

Theft and vandalism flags Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality

The Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality urges community members to refrain from acts of theft and vandalism of municipal infrastructure and properties. This is after the municipality sustained damages in its infrastructure in Siyabuswa and surrounding areas, depriving communities of much needed services. Earlier this year, hundreds of residents in the municipality were left without water after cable thieves vandalized a water pump station at Kameelrivier, causing a dysfunctional system of water supply to various villages. "Theft and vandalism of municipal properties and infrastructure hinders service delivery and exerts financial strain in

the municipal coffers," said Thisha Mhlanga, Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality Administrator. Mhlanga has urged communities and those committing this heinous acts to be mindful of the municipality's state of affairs when it comes to water provision. "The municipality has been affected by drought thus, having an adverse impact on provision of water to communities, we therefore ought to guide against any acts that seeks to undermine our efforts to ensure that every Dr JS Local Municipality resident has access to water," he said. "The costs of repairs and replacements of stolen or vandalized property weighs heavily on the finances

of the municipality, it is just not sustainable," Mhlanga emphasized. Mhlanga added that inevitably ripple effect of these acts is that other essential services and projects will be put on hold. Whilst pleading with communities, Mhlanga called upon SAPS to act swiftly against perpetrators on already opened cases of theft and vandalism of the municipal property. The administrator reiterated that the municipality management is committed to turn around the institution and ensuring reliable service delivery to residents.



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EFF Sekhukhune Labour Desk intervenes in Labour Department's poor services

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Sekhukhune Labour Desk has offered to assist people queuing up outside the Department of Labour Offices in Groblersdal. This is after alleged poor services claims offered at the offices, resulting in some people who seek assistance, sleeping near the Labour Department building in order to be the first to be assisted in the morning. Some of the people claim they are urged to visit the offices for more than five days before they can get help. "I have been coming here since Monday and today is Thursday. I don't think I will get help soon as it is overcrowded. Some people arrive in the early hours while others sleep here. I heard if you will not sleep over here, you can spend even a month traveling without getting any assistance," said Simon Mononyane who was visiting the Labour Office for his Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF). He said the place is not safe, exposing them to criminals and coronavirus. "No social distancing and other Covid-19 Regulations are followed. Everyone is tired of standing for long hours, especially those who sleep there because they spend about two days without eating anything," he said. EFF Sekhukhune Labour Desk Head, Ali Maloba, said the poor service issue in the Groblersdal Labour Department, led to the interference of the EFF Labour Desk that was established to intervene in all labour related issues to protect the lives and dignity of workers. Maloba said they had a progressive meeting with the department officials including the station manager on Monday 8 February. "Part of resolutions were that the department officials will now work harder to eliminate long queues and avoid night vigils being held at the offices by people who need help. Enquiries will be treated separate to avoid unnecessary queues and Sekhukhune Labour Desk will assist with inquiries," he said. Furthermore, Maloba said they have reached a resolution with the department that employers will now be submitting U19 forms and files on behalf of their employees. "Our aim as Sekhukhune Labour Desk is not to fight nor harass employer

Provincial Multi-disciplinary Simultaneous Joint Operations nab more than 2000 suspects

Over 2000 suspects were arrested during the Limpopo Provincial Operations conducted in all five districts, aiming to tighten the grip on any form of criminality across the province. The suspects were arrested through the Multi-disciplinary Simultaneous Joint Operations. According to Colonel Moatshe Ngoepe, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, 2284 suspects, aged between 19 and 54, were arrested for different crimes including possession and dealing in drugs, possession of suspected stolen properties, possession of suspected stolen motor vehicles, possession of firearm and ammunition without license, assault, murder, sexual offenses, violation of Immigration Act, Road Traffic Act, contravention of Disaster Management Act and other offences. Ngoepe indicated that among the arrested suspects, 1120 were in contravention of Alert Level 3 restrictions as stipulated in the Disaster Management Act on which 100 were arrested in Sekhukhune, 364 in Capricorn, 139 in Mopani, 291 in Vhembe and 226 in the Waterberg Districts. "The contraventions include failing to wear masks in the public spaces, liquor trade and non-compliance of curfew period," said Ngoepe. Ngoepe added that in other operations conducted by various police units such as Crime Intelligence, SAPS Limpopo Highway Patrol Team, Detectives, Narcotics, Crime Prevention, Provincial and Municipal Traffic Police have recovered 13 firearms, 27 cellphones, various drugs including nyaope, dagga, crystal meth, rock, illicit cigarettes, liquor, bullet proof vests, blue lights, diamond mesh wires and three suspected stolen vehicles. Ngoepe said the suspects arrested during these operations are already started to appear before different magistrate's courts across the province. "Members of the community with information about any criminal activities in and around their areas are urged to contact the Crime Stop Number on 08600 10111. They can also contact their nearest police station or make use of MySAPSAPP or the contact the Station Commander or the District Commissioner in their respective areas," Ngoepe said. The Limpopo Police Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Nneke Ledwaba has applauded the operational members on the ground for their relentless efforts for acquiring these milestone achievements in the fight against crime throughout the province. "Our biggest successes in response to our concerted efforts to reduce crime in the province, have emanated from our strengthened partnership with the community and other stakeholders such as private security companies," said Ledwaba.



EFF Sekhukhune Labour Desk Head, Ali Maloba, addressing the people outside Department of Labour offices in Groblersdal.

or the department, but to improve the delivery and quality services to our various communities," he said. Maloba advised people with labour related quarrels and outstanding cases to forward their details to their Labour Desk Administrator on 082 081 7535. "Labour inspectors will be required to visit companies regularly to monitor compliance and the department promised to comply with Covid-19 Regulations," he said.



Some of the people who seek assistance at the Labour Department in Groblersdal are urged to sleep outside the department's premises as a result of long queues.

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Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality would like to advise all students who are intending to apply for the previous external bursary advert that the closing date has been extended from

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SDM ready to roll-out Covid-19 vaccine



SDM Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila says the district municipality welcomes the Covid-19 vaccine.

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) Cllr Kemotseng Stanley Ramaila said the district municipality is ready for the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine. This is after President Cyril Ramaphosa received the 1 million Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines from India on Monday 1 February.

Ramaila made the remarks during a post District Command Council (DCC) media briefing held at the municipality offices in Groblersdal on Tuesday 2 February, to make an overall assessment of Covid-19 situation in the district. The executive mayor said the arrival of the vaccines marks the beginning of an extensive drive by government to vaccinate 40 Million citizens, which translates into 67 percent of the population, by the end of the year. "As you may be aware, this is a first shipment. Another consignment of 500 000 vaccines is expected to arrive sometime this month," he said. Ramaila emphasized that the DCC welcomes the arrival of the vaccines from India and expresses confidence on all the concerted efforts the government is making to combat Covid-19. He slammed those who create conspiracy theories surrounding the vaccine and said they do not have proof to counter the scientific evidence presented by experts. "We have noted all sorts of unfounded claims and myths about the vaccines. For some time now, the naysayers have demonized the vaccine, planting fear and doubts among our people. If this were not a matter of life and death, these claim would dismissed as laughable. This is because the so-called 'Facebook scientists' who do not have even a slightest idea about how a vaccine is developed are making these claims," Ramaila said. Ramaila explained that who are talking negatively about the vaccine are the self-appointed medical experts, who speak the loudest,

yet they have never set a foot in a medical school. "What is sad though is that some in our communities believe the nonsense and the tales of mythology, which these naysayers are peddling," he said. Providing developments made by the district municipality to curb the spread of the pandemic, Ramaila said they have been observing a decline in daily infection rates as of 11 January 2021. "The first case in Sekhukhune District was recorded on 17 May 2020. And as per the data of 31 January 2021, which is two days back, the district had a total of 6 779 cumulative cases," detailed Ramaila. He indicated that in terms of recoveries, the district have recorded 6 281 which translates to 92.6 percent. "The number of active cases stands at 375, while 123 people have lost their lives to Covid-19 complications to date. We send our sincere condolences to their families," he said. In terms of Covid-19 statistics breakdown in active cases, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality was leading with 170 cases, followed by Makhuduthamaga with 101, Elias Motsoaledi with 78 and Ephraim Mogale with 26 cases. However, the executive mayor said from these numbers, Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Makhuduthamaga need a special focus. "Our primary message to the people of Sekhukhune is that they must continue to observe all health protocols and adhere to non-pharmaceutical precautions, such as social distancing and wearing of a mask," he said. Ramaila called on learners to observe all health protocols and wished them and their teachers, good health as they resume with their academic calendar. He said they will be working with law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance among citizens. "We have also deployed ten water tanker trucks to fight draught in Moutse while on the other hand we keep communities safe from contracting Covid-19," he said. Ramaila said he will be taking the Covid-19 vaccine.

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Chaos erupted as parents complain about unplaced Grade 7 learners

Tension erupted between parents and teachers at OR Tambo Secondary School in Dennilton as the high school refused the admission of Grade 7 pupils for the current academic year. Parents claim they were turned away by the teachers when trying to register their children for Grade 7 in the 2021 academic year. On Monday 8 February, a group of concerned parents, went on a rampage, urging the school to admit their children. A parent, who did not want to be named, told the Dispatch that she was surprised when told there was no space for her child in the school. "The teachers told me to go and register my child in one of the primary schools around. Whereas I had two children who did their Grade 7 in the same school without any problems," she said. She added that there was no proper consultation as the nearest Njinga Sindane Primary School also refused to admit their children for Grade 7. "I was told the school only accommodates children from Grade 1 to Grade 6 and no Grade 7 is allowed at Njinga, I am frustrated," she said. One of School Governing Body (SGB) members who wished to remain anonymous, said the confusion of Grade 7 registration was started by the provincial Department of Education. "The problem started about five years ago when the department send Grade 7 pupils from Njinga Sindane Primary to Or Tambo Secondary without additional resources including teachers and norms and standard funds. The pupils are struggling as they lack educators that can teach lower grades and the norms and standard money is not covering them as well," he said. He added that about two years ago, the school's SGB went to enquire with the department and they were told OR Tambo was not suitable to cater for Grade 7 pupils. "This is so confusing because the same department is the one that sent the pupils from Njinga Sindane Primary to attend school here. We lack resources, amongst others classrooms and teachers. This is actually a comprehensive school with limited norms and a standard budget. We are worried that the situation deprives learners their right to education," he said. He added that late last year, the Education Department sent a circular instructing the school to cater pupils from Grade 8 to 12 for the 2021 academic year, however, the same department could not instruct Njinga Sindane Primary, which is feeder to OR Tambo to start admitting Grade 7 learners. "Sometimes you can't blame parents because they are confused and only want a better future for their children, nothing else," he said. Limpopo Department of Education Spokesperson, Tidimalo Chuene, said they are aware of the situation. "Our Sekhukhune South District office is aware of the admission challenges at Njinga Sindane Primary School and OR Tambo Secondary School in Moutse East, and has therefore directed the responsible circuit manager to allow admission of all grade 7 learners at Njinga Primary and all grade 8 learners at OR Tambo Secondary," she said. Chuene added that the schools must immediately thereafter submit the admission numbers with classroom

accommodation, so that they can as a department fast track arrangements for the variance including provisioning of adhoc teaching posts

and other resources if needs be. "We therefore advise affected parents to come to the schools, where arrangements are being made to have their admission challenges addressed," Chuene said.

Temper was running high at OR Tambo Secondary School in Dennilton. Tension erupted between parents and teachers at as the high school refused the admission of Grade 7 pupils.





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MEC revamp Sekhukhune infrastructure

MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Namane Dickson Masemola, handed-over sites to contractors as part of the current phase of the provincial infrastructure rollout. As part of the programme, MEC Masemola handed-over the construction of six multi-purpose state of the art schools to the tune of an estimated total amount of about R187 Million, a major rehabilitation of six roads at an estimated total cost of about R189 Million spanning an estimated 131km across the province, which will begin soon. Masemola has since officiated over the launch of the rollout together with one of the major client departments, MEC for Education Polly Boshelo in Giyani on 26 January 2021. The site hand overs and sod-turning ceremonies culminated at Nalediya Meso Primary School in Dikgalaopeng outside Motetema, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, on 5 February 2021. Throughout this important endeavor, the MEC was joined by various stakeholders that include the municipal leadership, traditional authorities, and community leaders, who received the projects with jubilation. Other schools that will benefit from the project in Sekhukhune is Leduma-Mahume Primary School, a new school that is to be built in Maseremule Park at the site of the Old Moreku Secondary in Nebo, Makhuduthamaga Municipality. The sod-turning ceremony was attended by the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila. In addition, MEC Masemola successfully handed-over three sites in a



MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure Namane Dickson Masemola (Left), and the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Stanley Ramaila (Right), during a hand-over at the Old Moreku Secondary in Nebo, Makhuduthamaga Municipality.

sod-turning in Burgersfort, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality. The project was unleashed at Mahlagame Primary School that will undergo the following improvements; construction of four new classrooms, a new nutrition centre, medium administration block, - three new Grade R classrooms, sixteen new enviroloo toilet seats, eight new waterborne toilets, one computer centre and library combo. Other upgrades will also include; a guard house, renovations of twelve classrooms, a storeroom, upgrading of electrical works, eradication of existing pit toilets, new external works that comprise of walkways, paved and covered assembly area, new steel palisade fence, new covered and uncovered parking bays. The project will cost an estimated R32 Million. According to the Department, Road D2537 in Penge and the D5140 Road in Praktiseer will undergo major rehabilitation to the tune of R30 Million each. Masemola made a clarion call to all stakeholders, especially community members and prospective sub-contractors (Local SMMEs) to cooperate with government to ensure that the delivery of services is achieved within set time lines. "Infrastructure provision and maintenance remains our apex priority," said Masemola.

Basic Education Deputy Minister monitors Sekhukhune schools

As part of the schools reopening monitoring campaign, Deputy Minister of Department of Basic Education Reginah Mhaule, accompanied by MEC for Education in Limpopo Polly Boshelo, paid homage to various Sekhukhune schools recently.

The Basic Education Department entourage visited Marakabela Primary, Lehlabile Secondary, Bogwasha Primary and Batau Secondary

schools in Sekhukhune District to monitor the return of educators. Mhaule met with the School Governing Body (SGB) and School Management Teams (SMT) to emphasize the importance of continuous adherence to Covid-19 health and safety protocols.

The deputy minister urged the SGB and teachers to continue to manage the spread of the virus and contain the pandemic as they prepare ahead

of schools reopening date on Monday 15 February. Mhaule was satisfied with compliance at the visited Sekhukhune schools and said she is satisfied that the Education Department in the province is working hard to curb the spread of the virus.

Earlier in January the deputy minister announced the postponement of schools reopening date, as a result of the second wave of

Covid-19. "Given the pressure experienced by the health system in the past few weeks, occasioned by increased Covid-19 infections which has led to the second wave, the council of education ministers in conjunction with the national coronavirus command council and cabinet has taken the decision to delay the reopening of both the public and private schools by two weeks," Mhaule said.

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Award winning author publishes another book

Award winning Dennilton born actor, author and motivational speaker, Vusi Mabena, has released his fourth book titled, "My Warrior Lord is My Successor and Shephard Volume 4". The 12 chapter novel was released on Monday 8 February and will be hitting the shelves soon. According to Mabena, the new publication is a motivational book which was released to encourage and give hope to readers, especially during the trying times of the Novel Coronavirus. "The book has 12 chapters and a heartfelt message of condolences to everyone who have lost their loved ones during this tough period of Covid-19," he said. He added that the book is also appreciating the support he received from people of his village and other parts of the country to reach a milestone of being one of the well-known public figures to the nation. "I was born in the villages and never let my background determine my destiny and success. In life, you can come from nowhere and go somewhere," encouraged Mabena. Affectionately known as "Vusi the Poet", the 28-year-old has recently won the "Best Author in Short Stories" category in the South African Poetry Awards. He said he is eyeing to launch all his four books and celebrate his award as soon as Covid-19 levels are relaxed. "I'm currently busy with my publisher organizing for my books to be available in all bookstores across the country. A part of my dream is to see them being used in schools and available in public libraries," he said. Mabena is nominated in the Gauteng Department of Sports, Arts and Culture Awards for "Young Upcoming Author" category with his book titled, "Tears of Pain". The awards will be held at various venues in Soweto Theatre, Johannesburg and State Theatre in Pretoria around September this year, as part of the national celebration of Heritage Month events. As part of his other projects, the young author released his first book titled, "Tears of Life Volume 1", a collection of poems published in October 2019. His second publication was "Tears of The Crawling Hustler and Dreamer", a short story collection with ten chapters, released in February 2020. A few months later in July 2020, Mabena went on to release his third project titled, "Tears of Pain", a 68 chapter poetic motivational book emphasizing how the power of God take control in dealing with obstacles one face in life.

Limpopo celebrates Sport Veterans

The President of Limpopo Sports Confederation (LSC), Ally Pole has proclaimed the decoration of sport veterans of Limpopo Province as part of the celebration of the month of love, February. President Pole unveiled the plans to launch the Limpopo Sports Veterans webinar, a virtual seminar, through which the sport veterans of Limpopo across the sporting landscape of the province will share their astuteness and fascinating journey.

According to Pole, the webinar will be organized under the theme: 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of Sport in Limpopo', which imply that the LSC acknowledge the reservoir of wisdom and mileage of experience that the veterans have to share with the current crop of leaders, and aspiring athletes who wish to emulate these veterans. "Among these veterans we have Mme Maletjema Ramodike, a retired sport veteran who earned her stripes as a champion of talent identification and grassroots sport development in her service to the sport sector locally, nationally and internationally. As a remarkable figure in the sports development corridors Maletjema was already part of South African Women in Sport in 1998 when she formed part of the negotiators for the women in sport for the whole Southern African Development Community (SADC region)," said Pole. He added that Maletjema continued to head a delegation of sport academies to participate in the benchmarking mission on the Cuban sports academy model in 2002." Again in 2002, she was part of the South African Sports Commission's international exchange programme in Paris, France. During the SA Games she played a coordinating role and she is dearly remembered for the instrumental role she played during the All Africa Games as the Administrator. Maletjema had an impressive footprint during the CHAN 2013 hosted in Limpopo as the Provincial Coordinator that headed the organizing of the biggest sports gig," explained President Pole. He indicated that another veteran who will be honoured is Keleketse Marapyane, a retired sportsman who led softball in Limpopo and globally in turbulent times. Among sports veterans to be celebrated is Elizabeth Hester Vogel, a sportswoman of Limpopo and the International Vice President for Athletics for people with Down-Syndrome.

Vogel has played a major role in giving-sports loving people a wealth of knowledge about disability in sport. Another sports veteran who earned his stripes is Tatani James Manghabia Mathonsi. Tatani Mathonsi is rooted in football and become a champion of sport development, the founding father of many provincial sport structures and a pioneer of multi-code sport promotion. Besides producing many professional athletes including boxers such as the first SA Female Boxer Bukile Nonina, he continues to unleash raw talent from rural communities of Limpopo through the Hlanganisa Sports Promotion.



Award winning author, Vusi Mabena, released his fourth book and also nominated in the Gauteng Department of Sports, Arts and Culture Awards for "Young Upcoming Author" category.

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Sekhukhune United part ways with Ferreira

Sekhukhune United FC has confirmed that they have parted ways with their director of football, Johnny Ferreira.

The club stated that Ferreira handed over his resignation on Thursday 4 February. Following his exit, Ferreira was appointed head coach of another Limpopo outfit, Polokwane City. This is according to Kickoff Magazine. According to the club, Ferreira was appointed head coach of Sekhukhune United in August 2020 and did a sterling job until he was promoted in January 2020 as Director of Football in the team. By the time of his promotion, the team announced McDonald Makhubedu as the new head coach, with the aim of leading the team towards its three year plan of gaining promotion to the Dstv Premiership.

United Chief Operating Officer (COO), Alex Bapela, said at the time the team needed younger blood in the coaching position to continue with their campaign in the GladAfrica Championship. "Ferreira was a good coach but we decided it was necessary to find someone younger to take over from him as head coach," said Bapela. Ferreira has a 20 year experience in coaching at South African football first division. It is not clear whether Ferreira resigned to join one of the GladAfrica Championship outfit as head coach.

Sekhukhune United Executive Chairman, Simon Malatji, thanked Ferreira for his work as head coach as well as director of football and wished him every success in the future. The club is currently topping the GladAfrica Cham-

pionship after its outstanding performance since January. Sekhukhune United is sitting in position one with 20 points after playing 12 matches, winning five, playing five draws and losing only 2 matches. However, Babina Noko were eliminated in the Nedbank Cup

Challenge by PSL outfit, Maritzburg United on Saturday 6 February in a tough match that ended 2-1 to The Team of Choice. Their next GladAfrica Championship encounter will be played against Cape Town Spurs on Saturday 13 February at Athlone Stadium.

Limpopo aims for safe resumption of sport

Limpopo Sports Confederation (LSC) President Ally Pole, has on Monday 08 February informed the 23 member sport federations across various sporting codes of the safety resumption of sports in the province. Pole announced the fruition and culmination of months of working together with the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to capacitate the Covid-19 sport compliance officers.

According to Pole, the idea came after the election of the new executive committee in conjunction with the Department of Sport Arts and Culture in a meeting on 22 December 2020 in Polokwane, to commit funding towards training of sport compliance officers for the 23 sport federations. "We realised that it would be irresponsible for us to inform the federations to go back to the field without carefully planning the safe resumption of sport activities and compliance with the health regulations. We then agreed with the Limpopo Department of Sport Arts and Culture to jointly coordinate a provincial workshop for Covid-19 Compliance Officers," explained Pole. He added that since December 2020, the Secretariat Desk of Limpopo Sports Confederation under Clarika Strydom contacted and consulted with each of the 23 member federations to identify and submit the compliance officer for their federation. "With the cooperation from the member federations, the Department Sport, Arts and Culture together with Limpopo Sports Confederation hold the three-day workshop and crafted a package of key areas of learning that comprise the workplace policies, protocols and practices to protect participants' health, measures to ensure physical distancing and ensure infection control. Other learning areas include communication with participants and the public, keeping records of attendees at all training sessions for contact tracing purposes, measures to ensure equitable access to critical services and the Do's and Don'ts of the compliance officer," explained Pole.

He indicated that one of the outcomes of the workshop include ensuring that all 46 Covid-19 Compliance Officers leave the workshop mastering the safe handling of training venues, facilities and equipment. "They will be trusted with expanding the knowledge to coaches, players and for everyone in the field of play to understand and adhere to their responsibilities for a safer return to training and sport events," Pole said. The provincial workshop for Covid-19 Compliance Officers will take place from 19 to 21 February 2021 in Polokwane at a venue to be announced. For more information on the safe sport resumption in Limpopo people are advised to contact Limpopo Sports Confederation Marketing and Communications Desk on 076 360 2091.



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