





Hefty sentence for murder and rape accused

The Polokwane High Court has sentenced Gerald Khomotso Makua (32), to life imprisonment for murder and rape.

The accused received the hefty sentence on Friday 29 April, after he raped two elderly women and brutally murdered one of the victims during his reign of terror, between 2016 and 2019 in Hlogotlou Policing Precinct outside Groblersdal. Lieutenant colonel Mamphaswa Seabi, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said on 28 August 2016, the accused allegedly found a 62-year-old woman who was collecting firewood in the bushes at Legolaneng Village. "The victim was attacked, raped and brutally killed by the accused who later cut her body into pieces. Afterwards, Makua took the deceased's dress, wrapped her hands, head and immediately fled the scene. The accused managed to dump the organs inside a pit toilet in Mogaung Village. The victim, Thabitha Hlakodi's body was recovered after few days and later buried without the missing body parts," he said. Seabi said the accused continued with his horrendous acts at Mogaung Village on 8 June 2019, he gained entry inside a house and raped a 59-year-old woman before fleeing the scene. "A case of rape was opened at SAPS Hlogotlou and later transferred to the Groblersdal Family Violence and Child Protection Unit

(FCS). Warrant Officer Moses Matema was assigned to investigate the case and through his indefatigable abilities and dedication, he finally managed to apprehend the rapist at his residence in Sterkfontein Village on 7 April 2020," explained Seabi. He said the accused was positively linked through DNA with both incidents and was never granted bail until his sentencing. "The accused was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, ten years for rape, five years for defeating the end of justice, 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances, five years for house breaking with intent to commit an offence and another ten years for rape," Seabi said. He said the sentences will run concurrently with the life imprisonment. The Provincial Commissioner



Gerald Khomotso Makua (32), was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and rape of elderly women he committed at Hlogotlou Village. of the Police in Limpopo Lieutenant, General Thembi Hadebe, has complimented the investigating team of detectives in ensuring that the court is imposing a lengthy incarceration against the suspect. "This is an indication to everyone that violence against vulnerable elderly citizens will not be tolerated in the province and barbarians like Gerald Khomotso Makua, will be permanently ostracized from the society at all costs," said Hadebe.







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Public Protector clears Health Department from PPE tender irregularities

The Limpopo Provincial government says it has welcomed the report issued by the Public Protector of South Africa (PP), clearing the Limpopo Department of Health from allegation of tender irregularities surrounding the procurement of Covid-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The PP started investigating the Health Department in August 2020, following allegations of maladministration, procurement irregularities and nepotism in the awarding of tenders for the supply and delivery of PPE levelled against the department. In the report, issued on Friday 29 April 2022, the PP stated: "The Public Protector could not find evidence indicating that the Department of Health did not follow paragraph 14.2.5 of the SCM policy or that the department contravened National Instruction Note No.05 of 2020/2021. Emergency Procurement in response to the national disaster paragraph 3, which also regulates deviations from inviting bids in instances of emergency." "The Public Protector had taken own initiative on 17 August 2020 to investigate the matter following the news story in the Sunday Independent of 16 August 2020. The newspaper made various allegations including that the tender was awarded irregularly, that it did not follow relevant procurement prescripts and legislations, that there was some favouritism and nepotism in its award and that politicians who are close to the ANC were favoured for the awarding of the tender," said Ndavhe Ramakuela, Limpopo Provincial Government Spokesperson. In addition, the PP indicated that it could not find any evidence indicating that the MEC responsible for Health Dr Phophi Ramathuba had any influence in the awarding of PPE tenders eventhough there is evidence that indicates that some of the service providers are related to politicians and senior government officials. Furthermore, the report clearly states that the PP could not find evidence to prove the alleged possible influence in the procurement processes of the awarding of PPE tenders, or the relationship between the directors of the companies awarded tenders and officials of the department. Ramaukela said the Limpopo Provincial Government is also pleased that the allegation that other service providers suffered prejudice as a result of nepotism or favouritism in the awarding of the PPE tenders, is unsubstantiated. "The Public Protector could not find any evidence indicating undue influence, nepotism and or favouritism during the investigation in the awarding of PPE tenders to the

said companies," he said. Ramaukela said the Premier of Limpopo Stanley Mathabatha will implement a remedial action against the implicated officials, as directed by the PP, to remedy the maladministration and improper conduct referred to in the report. "Moreover, disciplinary action has already been instituted against the officials implicated in the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) report on the same matter," he said.



Mayor intervenes to erect speed hump on deadly road

Following a fatal hit and run incident that claimed a life of a community member on the R579 Road in Tafelkop, the Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Cllr David Tladi, intervened to see that a speed hump is urgently erected. The speed hump was erected by the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) on Friday 29 April. According to residents, more than ten community members have died on the dangerous road in separate strings of hit and run incidents. The latest fatal incident occurred on the evening of Sunday 24 April where a 30-year-old man named Sepadi Mankwe Moela, was hit by a speeding Toyota Quantum that failed to stop after the incident. According to eyewitnesses, apparently the victim was also ran over by a speeding Toyota Avanza and died on the scene. Eyewitnesses allege that the Avanza driver had also driven off after running over the victim who succumbed to serious injuries. Last week Monday, angry residents of Mgababa Section in the village, mobilized and attempted to erect their own speed hump on the deadly road. The crowd also threatened to disrupt the traffic until their concerns reached relevant people in government. Following the threats, Tladi rushed to the scene and committed to meet relevant authorities and as a result, a speed hump was erected by SANRAL last week Friday. A community member, who did not want to be named, said they were worried that the road had already claimed lives of more than ten villagers, with the government doing nothing about the situation. "We are happy now that our concerns were heard, and the speed hump was erected. This will save lives because motorists were always speeding, especially at night" he said. Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, said a case of culpable homicide is under investigation at Motetema Police Station. "The police were called to a scene of an accident where a pedestrian was hit by an unknown vehicle that failed to stop after the incident. The victim was identified as Sepadi Mankwe Moela and was certified dead at the scene," he said. Mojapelo said no arrests were made and the suspect(s) is not known at the stage but police investigations are underway. "Anyone with information is requested to contact the police toll free line on 08600 10111 or the nearest police station," he said.







'Operation Dudula' looming in Elias Motsoaledi farms

The Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA) says it is concerned that local farmers replace South African citizens with undocumented foreign nationals to work around Groblersdal farms. This is after some of the farms in the area allegedly fired the majority of South African citizens and hired undocumented Zimbabwean nationals. Following the replacement, the South African citizens became angry demanding to be immediately reinstated in their jobs. They were threatening to go and forcefully remove the foreign nationals from the farms in order to get their jobs back. On Saturday 30 April, the complaining farm workers, joined by community leaders, converged at OR Tambo Stadium in Dennilton, Moutse, to establish an interim committee with an aim of forming a local Operation "Dudula Movement" that will be dealing with issues of undocumented foreign nationals and a proper control of those who are documented. BPSA leader, Seun Mogotji, said: "Following a fruitful meeting, we have written letters to the Police, Department of Home Affairs, Human Rights Commission, Department of Labour, Sekhukhune District Municipality and Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality seeking their intervention to resolve the problem," he said. According to Mogotji, the movement will ensure the elimination of possible xenophobic attacks as the appointment of undocumented foreign nationals could fuel tension between foreigners and locals. "This issue comes at a time when the country is battling with the issue of undocumented foreign nationals. This is the reason we want to engage relevant authorities as we won't take any responsibility on how the community might act when they visit the affected farms," he said. However, Mogotji said they will not fold arms and watch local people suffering without jobs while foreign nationals work for cheap labour at local farms. "We want to do this in a proper way and use Dudula to remove those who do not have valid documentation but work in those farms," he said. Mogotji said the interim structure has given relevant authorities 30 days to deal with the issue of undocumented foreign nationals in the farms around Sekhukhune District Municipality.

Angry residents accuse ward councillor of nepotism

Aggrieved residents of Mamone Village outside Jane Furse, are threatening to suspend a road project after accusing the ward councillor of nepotism. The community, in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Ward 21, claim their ward Councillor, Morwamakoti Makanyoge, solely appointed eleven community members including a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to work in the project. The project is a 16 km upgrade from gravel to tar road, linking Jane Furse and Mamone Village, facilitated by the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL). "All the appointed workers are ANC members who are known to the councillor. The community was not engaged when the appointments were made," said a community leader Meshack Matjomane. According to Matjomane, the ward councillor did not follow proper channels when appointing the workers in the project. "The community was not informed about the project and the main contractor was not officially handed-over to residents before the project could commence. We have also learned that the councillor appointed only ANC members including the CLO. He takes his own decisions without engaging relevant stakeholders. He even sidelines the social facilitator of the project," he said. Matjomane added that the concerned community convened a meeting with the councillor on Tuesday 3 May, insisting that he has a fair deployment through a ruffle system to grant equal employment opportunities to all residents. "Instead of listening to the community plea, the councillor refused and appointed a private security company to chase away complaining residents out of the construction site. This is not fair, we are going to dispute his decisions until everyone has equal employment opportunities. We will have to stop the project if it comes to a push," he said. Matjomane said concerned residents have written letters to



Angry community members of Mamone Village at the construction site office to complain about nepotism by their ward councillor.

Makhuduthamaga Municipality Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula and to the office of MEC for Roads and Community Safety Namane Dickson Masemola, seeking their intervention. RAL Spokesperson Maropeng Manyathela, said the agency is investigating the allegations. Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Spokesperson, Lemson Moropjane, said he will investigate the matter and revert back to the paper for a comment. Moropjane's comment did not reach the publication at the time of going to print.



Dennilton SAPS launch CPF Structures

The Dennilton Police, partnering with Dennilton Community Policing Forum (CPF) and other Stakeholders, embarked on an initiative drive to launch the CPF structures around the Dennilton Policing area. The structure was launched with the aim to decrease all criminal activities taking place in the community, through a partnership with the entire communities where the Dennilton Police serves. Dennilton SAPS Communications Officer, Sergeant Inanda Selala, said during the launch, residents were encouraged to work with the police by reporting any criminal activities taking place in their respective places. "When the community acts as police with the aim of fighting crime, the Dennilton area can be declared a crime free zone in the near future. There is no community without the police and there will be no policing without the community," she said. Selala added that the CPF drive initiative has been launched in 23 villages already. The police members visited villages including Kgobokwane, Oorlog, Slovo Park and Lusaka just to mention a few. "However, we encourage all remaining villages to make a difference by volunteering to work with the police for the sake of building safety in their communities," she said. Selala said the initiative was a success and was appreciated by the majority of community members who were eager to work hand in hand with the police to fight crime in their respective places.



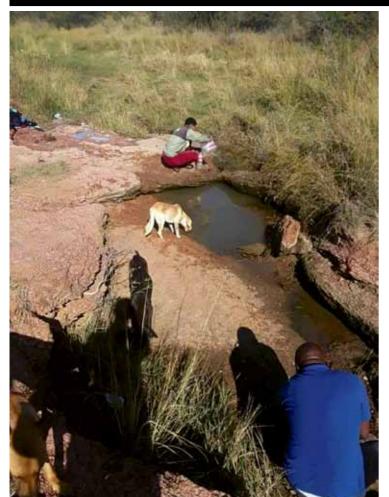
Residents and Police up in arms to trace rape suspects

Residents of Ga-Marishane Village outside Jane Furse are helping the police to find four suspects who allegedly raped a 59-year-old woman at the village in the early hours of Tuesday 3 May. According to residents, after they raped the woman at her residence, the suspects ransacked the house and fled with the victim's R3000-00, expensive clothes belonging to her son and food. According to the victim who could not be named, the criminals forced entry through a window and started threatening to kill her. They later tied the woman's arms with a rope and started raping her. The woman said the criminals could be nyaope addicts as they were stinky and seemed to have gone days without bathing. "They were wearing very dirty clothes and their smell was unbearable. They are locals because they speak the language that is spoken here at Ga-Marishane," she said. Community members in the village said they will leave no stone unturned and help the police to find the perpetrators as the whole community is not safe when they are on the loose. The police said a cases of housebreaking, rape and robbery were opened at the Jane Furse Police Station and is under investigation.





R134 Million spent on abandoned Moutse water projects



Residents of Moutse are still drinking dirty water with animals, despite R143 Million spent in water projects in the area two years ago.

Mayor unleashes IDP programme with traditional leadership

The Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Cllr David Tladi, has on Wednesday 4 May, met with traditional leaders at Loskop Forever Resorts, as part of the local municipality's draft 2022/23 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget stakeholders' engagement programme. Tladi was accompanied by the Speaker of the Council, Cllr Dieketseng Mashego, Executive Committee (Exco) Members, councillors and officials. According to Simon Makua, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Spokesperson, the main objective of the engagement was to afford traditional leadership an opportunity to make inputs and suggestions on the upcoming IDP and municipal draft budget for the new financial year. Makua said the meeting was also aiming to outline the crucial role traditional leaders ought to play in local governance ahead of the budget approval. During the engagement, Tladi outlined numerous interventions, which will be rolled out by the local municipality to upgrade infrastructure and ensure the cleanliness of the town to create a conducive environment for business. The traditional leaders were given an opportunity to indicate which services they would like to be rendered in their villages, while they also requested an update on previous projects, as well as commenting on how they would prefer projects to be handled. The municipality committed that it will be meeting various stakeholders in the next few days, including informal businesses, religious and traditional healers, as well as farmers associations and members of civil society organisations for the same programme.

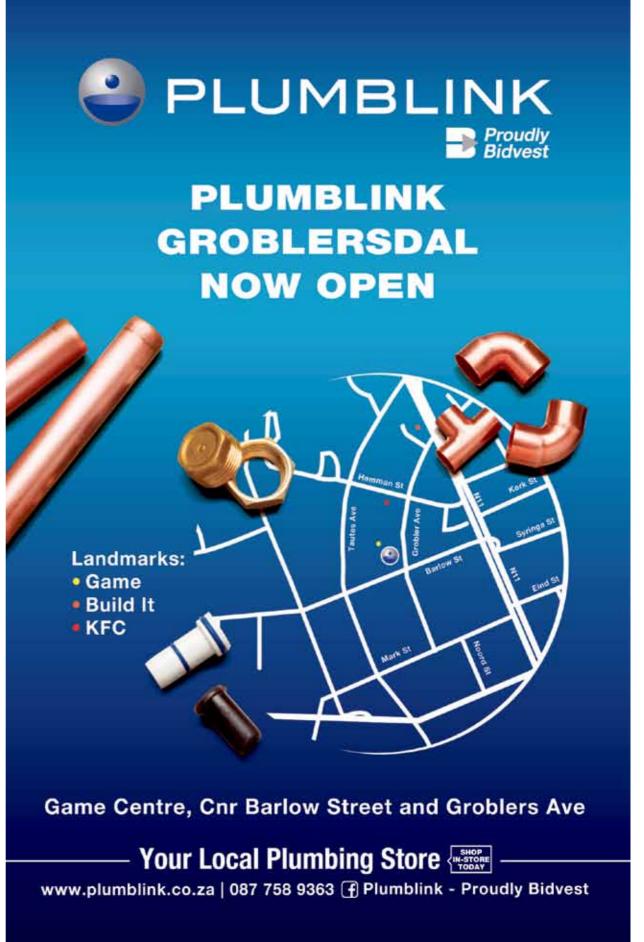


The Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Cllr David Tladi addressing the traditional leadership during the IDP Budget stakeholders'engagement programme, held at Loskop Forever Resort.

The struggle for water continues to hit residents of drought stricken Moutse Villages, despite R134 Million allocated by Minister of Water and Sanitation Lindiwe Sisulu, two years ago to fight draught in the area.

Sisulu committed the funds in February 2020, to mainly provide 20 water tanker trucks, 2000 water storage tanks with stands, drill and equip boreholes and refurbish new ones. The scope of work, including the whole involved projects, was set to be completed within a six month period. However, twenty-eight months later, not even half of the work was done and Moutse residents are subjected to drink water with animals from the nearest rivers, or opt to buy drinking water from those who own boreholes in their yards. Lepelle Northern Water, was appointed as an implementing agent in the projects. A concerned community member, Ali Maloba, said corruption and irregular expenditure in the projects had left people of Moutse without water. "When the projects were unleashed in 2020, service providers were appointed and instead of doing their work, they abandoned the projects after they were paid their money. Some of the companies were appointed without following proper procurement processes including the supply 1800 water tankers," he said. According to Maloba, three service providers were appointed for drilling, refurbishment and maintenance of boreholes, on which according to the scope of work, on which two years later, nothing has been done except only site visit by the companies. "All 1800 water storage tanks delivered in the villages during the projects were only filled with water once in early 2021. Most of them have since disappeared and no one is saying anything," he said. Maloba alleges that over R100 Million was spent on the incomplete projects, with an additional of R30 Million spent in tankering only. "We have learned that the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation and Lepelle Northern water requested additional funding for the same projects," he said.

Maloba said they made a clarion call to all key role players including Sekhukhune District Municipality, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and relevant structures to urgently intervene in the matter. Lepelle Northern Water Spokesperson, Yolande Nel, said the institution will comment as soon as they gather all the information surrounding the projects. Sekhukhune District Municipality Spokesperson, Moloko Moloto, could not respond to the messages sent to him requesting a comment. The district municipality is a water authority in Moutse area.





SAFA Sekhukhune welcomes new era in women's football



Milania Ladies FC from Geln Cowie Village is one of the optimistic teams competing in the newly formed SAFA Sekhukhune Women's Regional Football League.

The SAFA Sekhukhune Women's Regional Football League has commenced on Sunday 8 May, with eight teams battling for the title. The teams include Nokaneng Ladies FC from Tubatse, Thotho Ladies from Thoto Village, Sea Waters Ladies FC from Mamone Village, Mashadi Ladies FC from Mashadi Village, Vitorious Sports Academy Ladies from Ga-Masemola Village, Milania Ladies FC from Geln Cowie Village, Junior Bucks Ladies FC from Phokwane Village and Meretlwaneng Ladies FC from Diphagane Village. League Coordinator, Frank Maredi, said having a women's league in the regionals is an exciting milestone they were longing to reach all these years.

"The only challenge we had was that we were unable to get enough ladies teams in the villages to join because most of them show no interest as they view football as a man sport. But finally, we managed to recruit at least eight teams so that we can start with the women football league," he said. Maredi said the first round of the league will be completed in June and the second round will be finished around October. "Teams that will obtain the



Mashadi Ladies FC is eager to win the SAFA Sekhukhune Women's Regional Football League following their good performance in their first match.

first and second position will automatically qualify for the play-offs and winners will be promoted to the National Sasol Women's Football League," he said. However, Maredi said unlike in the men football, the women's league will have no other competitions within the league. "This is because we still lack sponsorship in the women's league. But our plan is to have more competitions within the league in the near future," he said. Maredi called on other interested women's football teams within Sekhukhune to come and join the league in the next season. "Most of the teams participating in

the league are coming from Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality except Nokaneng, which is from Tubatse. We are still expecting women's league from other parts of Sekhukhune such as Dennilton and Burgersfort to come and join," he said.

Meanwhile, Maredi said the male football league will be completed soon and teams that will be crowned streams winners will battle in the play-offs for the Sekhukhune championship crown. "Currently, we are only left with a few matches playing in Stream C2 and they will be completed in a week's time," he said.



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Sekhukhune artists hold music revival in Dikgalaopeng

Following the relaxations of Covid-19 health regulations by President Cyril Ramaphosa, Sekhukhune based artists converged at Dikgalaopeng Sports Grounds outside Groblersdal for a Sekhukhune District Artist Revival event. The event took place on Monday 2 May, invited groups and individuals from different parts of Sekhukhune who specialize in music, dance and crafts. One of the organizers, Ntwaleng Selina Tlaka, said the event was aiming to give artists a platform to explore their talent and express themselves after a long wait following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. "We invited as many artists as we can to meet with groups from other backgrounds. The interaction instilled a sense of pride from everyone when they learn about each other's culture and music," she said. Tlaka said the exciting part was that young upcoming artists were encouraged to take their music talent seriously and use it to make a living. "The revival was also set to discover new talent that emerged in various genres of music from culture, gospel, manyalo, amapiano and many more," she said. Tlaka said although they had no sponsors for the event, they are planning to make it an annual festival that will be rotating to various villages in Sekhukhune. "According to our plan, this initiative should take place every year in different places to unearth young talent for our youth to break into profession. We want people from rural villages in Sekhukhune to be the ones benefiting from this initiative," she said. The local group, Ipopeng Cultural Group, as the host, opened the event with an exciting performance of traditional dance and choral music. Other artists performed during the event included Franky, Abicky Kgolane, Martha Ramphisa, Khali Mampuru, Ramabele,



The Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (Coghsta) says it has approved more than 400 application permits, for the initiation schools that will be operating across the province. The initiation schools will be resuming from June this year after they were halted due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. The body confirmed that it will make sure that all Covid-19 health safety protocols will be practiced during the period. The Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Contralesa) President, Kgoshi Mathupa Mokoena, said only permitted traditional leaders with the authenticity of running the schools will be allowed to operate during the initiation period. He said the body will deal harshly with those who will be illegally operating initiation schools, as their practices will put lives of the initiates at risk. "We advise those who will be opening the schools to avoid overcrowding. The widespread infections of the Covid-19 pandemic is still rampant. We cannot afford our traditional operations to risk with lives of the initiates during these tough times of the pandemic," he said. During a meeting with Limpopo traditional leaders, MEC for Health in Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, said the department will be supporting the traditional male initiation to avoid unnecessary deaths. "We will be dispatching our Covid-19 response team, medical doctors, environmental health practitioners and nurses in all our districts to ensure screening, vaccination and providing healthcare support to the initiates throughout the initiation season to ensure safety of all the initiates," she said. The community said they

schools that will be operating this winter.

are happy with the government's decision to resume the initiation period after two years of waiting. "I am happy that now my boy will be undergoing a passage to manhood after waiting for a whole two years," said a community member Thabo Mankge.



Ipopeng Cultural Group were the hosting musicians during the Sekhukhune District Artist Revival event.

KB Monate, Lolo Tenten, Dj Moruti, Thapelo Matlala, Kgoshi Masemola, Victor Moshidi, DK Vocalist, Refilwe Mokgwatsana, Zamani African Theater, Nape A Phaahle and Strydkraal Group. Volunteering artists who were not in the programme for the day were also given a platform to perform. The event organizers had also gave an opportunity for the artists to market and sell their products. Crafts artists were also given a chance to display their work.





Mohlamonyane brings home silver medal from World Team Cup

Danny Mohlamonyane, from Ntwane Village in Moutse, was among the South African Wheelchair Tennis team squad that advanced to the BNP Parisbas World Team Cup final, in the competition's championships after they defeated Brazil in the semi-finals, held at Vilamoura, in Portugal, on Friday 6 May 2022. The South African team, comprises of Donald Ramphadi, Lucas Sithole and Danny Mohlamonyane, took home a silver medal after losing to top seeds, the Netherlands team, in the final match played on Saturday 7 May. Despite being beaten in the final, the South African wheelchair tennis team that participating in the competition, has made history on the fourth day of this year's championships, after becoming the first African team to reach one of the four finals at the International Tennis Federation (ITF's) flagship wheelchair tennis team event in Portugal. After a successive bronze medals in 2019 and 2021, South Africa was looking forward to an upgrade this year, to lift the World Team Cup trophy on the Saturday final match and take home the gold medals. South Africa started this year's event as seventh seeds, due to former world No. 2 Lucas Sithole currently not having a ranking. However, with the 2013 US Open champion returning to international competition for the first time since September 2019, his experience of playing at the highest level paid off, even if he is yet to regain peak performance, as he launched South Africa's 2-1 win over a Brazilian team to reach a first World Team Cup final. Sithole held off Leandro Pena 6-2 2-6 6-2 in his first career match against the Brazilian, but world No. 7 Ramphadi was in no mood to entertain any thoughts of a third set against world No. 8 Ymanitu Silva, racing through the second singles match 6-0 6-1. Ramphadi said he was very excited for the team to be going to the final for the first time in history. "I'm very happy with how my teammates Lucas and Danny played, because they really made the job easier for me, but then also for my own performance. And to be the first team from Africa to make it to the World Team Cup final and for me to be a part of that,



I'm really happy," he said. The team was also awarded 'Team of the Year' for becoming the first African team to reach the World Team Cup final. The Bolsheviks Youth Organization (BYO) said it is excited by the progress made by the team, which is formed by one of the players hailing from the dusty streets of Moutse. "We are proud of the team and most importantly, Mohlamonyane because he comes from the poor areas in Limpopo. His physical disability didn't stop his passion to play well and advance to the final," said Mzwandile Bolotini, BYO Chairperson. Bolotini has called on people of Moutse to celebrate this achievement, which is on the global scale and also urges relevant government departments to acknowledge the achievement made by the South African tennis team in the competition. "BYO would also like to thank Dr Hugo Tempelman for providing facilities that he has opened to the public to ensure that the potential of youth in Moutse is recognized, while the government,

which is supposed to cater for the people, has completely neglected the talented youth in Moutse and only remembers them during elections and conferences whereas, a need to invest in facilities that would empower them raging from sporting facilities to academic institution is needed," he said. Bolotini said BYO can no longer afford to have appreciate a government of politicians who only show up to take credit after young people make it to greater heights without any government assistance.

