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DISPATCH SEKHUKHUNE**

Year 11

272nd Edition

Friday 14 August 2020

Tel: 013 262 4416

## NDLOVU YOUTH CHOIR wins 2 SAMA's

Johannesburg August 11<sup>th</sup>, The South African Music Awards have been the talk of the town this past week, the televised awards kept the music industry in high spirits with exciting performances, never before seen music videos and surprise announcements.

Ndlovu Youth Choir sparked on night one with a magical performance which included their fan favourite song "Africa". The Group went on to win "Best adult contemporary album" for their album "Africa", which captured Ndlovu Youth Choir's joyous, uplifting and energetic live performances on record. The choir's first album was a stunning representation of the group from Limpopo that stole the hearts of millions during the 2019 season of America's Got Talent (AGT) – and it has all the makings of an enduring favourite for music fans across the globe. The Choir also bagged another win for "International Achievement Award" which celebrates the footprint and impact the choir has had internationally and its achievements on a global scale. Which so many accolades in such a short space of time, the Ndlovu Youth Choir show no signs of slowing down. The Ndlovu Youth Choir walked away with two awards in the South African Music Awards (SAMA). The group won the Best International Achiever Award for their outstanding performance in America's Got Talent and Best Contemporary Adult Contemporary Album for their latest album titled Africa. The achievement was announced during the virtual airing of the show between the 3 and 7 August, as a result of negative impacts brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. The group made history to become the first performers coming from Africa to reach the finals of America's Got Talent, the biggest stage competition in the world. The choir's Logistics Manager, Sandile Majola, told the Dispatch that they have worked very hard since their sterling performance in America's Got Talent. "This is a dream come true to us, we never expected to win multiple awards in our first year as nominees. We can't believe this is happening, this is a surprise and we are happy that we have won," he said. The Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Cllr Julia Mathebe, congratulated the choir: "We thought we have seen it all when you shocked the entire world performing in the America Got Talent show. You reminded us of the importance of African unity and the beauty of Africa, with songs like 'Africa' this Africa was united again and this reaffirmed that music is a powerful instrument to unite nations, irrespective of colour or creed you gave us hope as the people of south Africa and particularly the residents of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. When we heard the news that you were nominated in the South African Music Awards we were happy that once more your work is recognized and with the ability to change lives through music, you will bring this one home.



Indeed it was just a matter of time when we heard best news ever that our golden choir which was nominated in the category of Best Adult Contemporary Album has actually put it in the bag and on the way

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bringing the SAMA home. We want to take this opportunity to thank the Ndlovu Care Group for the support and courage they have always shown in the rural talent, to Mr and Mrs Tempelman we are more than thankful that you have chosen to stay in Moutse and dedicate your life to the development of our people. CONGRATULATIONS Ndlovu Youth Choir!"

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# Department of Basic Education revise 2020 school calendar



Basic Education Minister, Angie Motshekga will issue the directions of the education sector in the revised school calendar.

The Department of Basic Education has released the 2020 revised school calendar on Saturday 1 August. The review of the school calendar came after a cabinet decision that schools should break for four weeks. In his address to the nation two week ago, President Cyril Ramaphosa said that schools would close for 4 weeks and reopen on 24 August 2020. The department considered the impact of the decision on the current calendar. The policy process to amend the school calendar commenced taking into account the urgency of the matter as necessitate by the prevalent Covid-19 environment. According to a statement released by the Basic Education Department, consultation process has been concluded with all stakeholders and the council of Education Ministers approved the revised school calendar. It is the second time this year that the school calendar has been revised to accommodate the changes that have been brought by the impact of the novel coronavirus. In terms of the new version of the calendar schools will resume on 24

August 2020. This is despite the Grade 12 pupils who opened on Monday 3 August and the Grade 7 who returned to school on Tuesday 11 August, all other grades are expected to reopen on 24 August 2020. There are 163 actual school days for teachers and 156 for learners. The department stated that the school year will be completed on 15 December 2020 for Grade R to Grade 11 and that it is not carried over to the first quarter of 2021. The department indicated that a break in school will be needed to separate the third and fourth terms. As a result there will be a one week break in October from 26 to 30. The teaching, learning and assessment for 2020 academic year must be concluded by 15 December 2020 for Grade R to Grade 11. The Basic Education Department hinted that the 2020 Grade 12 examinations will be completed by 15 December and the marking be concluded on 22 January with results released on 23 February 2021. "The new school year will commence on 25 January 2021 for teachers and learners a few days later. The calendar will be gazette and published to the public soon. The Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga will issue directions for the basic education sector in the next coming weeks. The directions will provide guidance on various matters affecting the basic education sector," reads the Department of Basic Education statement.

## COVID-19 STATISTICS IN SA

| TESTS CONDUCTED | POSITIVE CASES IDENTIFIED | TOTAL RECOVERIES | TOTAL DEATHS | NEW CASES |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 3 278 977       | 566 109                   | 426 125          | 10 751       | 2 511     |

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## SDM Covid-19 recovery rate impressive

The number of recoveries of Covid-19 in Sekhukhune District Municipality is impressive. This was heard during the District Command Council (DCC) virtual meeting held on Tuesday 11 August where the latest statistics were released. According to the municipality, as of 11 August, the total number of Covid-19 cases were 2031, 20 deaths and 1629 recoveries, which is a 73% recovery rate. Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality is still leading with numbers of both positive and death cases. The DCC has also heard that the pandemic was reported in 52 schools, where 78 educators, 13 learners and 3 support staff have tested positive for the virus. At least one educator was confirmed dead as a result of Covid-19 in Sekhukhune. "As the DCC, we reiterate our clarion call that this latest figures calls upon all of us into action. As spring approaches, we should not relax and say it is the end of Covid-19. We need to keep on fighting by adhering to all the regulations governing the coronavirus. We are however disturbed by the fact that there are still some pockets in our society who believe that they can bury their deceased as they wish. We are making a clarion call saying that this cannot be allowed," said DCC Chairperson, Executive Mayor Cllr Stanley Ramaila.



## ANC Sekhukhune Region rally behind Premier Mathabatha

The ANC in Sekhukhune Region has rejected the calls for the removal or resignation of Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha. The party claims it has noted with contempt the illogical attack on Mathabatha who is also chairperson of the ANC in the province. Mathabatha was criticized after he recently handed over 40 temporary relocation housing units to the families of Talana Hostel in Tzaneen. The project is said to be estimated to R20 Million which, according to the public, should have provided the families with proper shelters. Leadership of the South African National Civic Organization (SANCO) came ablaze demanding that Mathabatha should vacate the office, citing maladministration and corruption. SANCO was claiming that the shelters were substandard and the project was aiming to benefit some people within the government including Mathabatha. ANC Spokesperson in Sekhukhune, Tshepo Matenche said the region

is against the call and will continue supporting Mathabatha as premier and chairperson of the ruling party in the province. We classify this call as bitter and baseless, they lack political substance. As the ANC in the region, we wish to put it clear that Mathabatha has worked wonders in the rebuilding of the ANC in the province and restoring confidence of the people since he was introduced to fix the calamities in the province. We are proud to be associated with Mathabatha, he is a disciplined, dedicated and a product of the ANC in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality," he said. Matenche added that since Mathabatha appointed as premier, he has been working tirelessly to transform the province and changed the lives of ordinary people to the better. "We call upon the ANC Limpopo PEC and the NEC to ignore such calls, these calls are nothing but an attempt to defocus the premier from the core mandate of delivering basic services to our

people and rooting out corruption," he said. Matenche indicated that the ANC in Sekhukhune Region calls all its members and the public at large to ignore these misleading calls. "Mathabatha is going nowhere and subsequent to that he will lead the province as the chairperson and premier until the end of his term of office," he said.



**ANC in Sekhukhune Region says it will continue to support Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha as Premier and Chairperson of the ruling party in the province.**

## Nurses refuse flowers but want PPE instead

Staff members at St Ritas Hospital have refused the flowers presented to them by the MEC for Department of Health in Limpopo Dr Phophi Ramathuba. The nurses refused the gifts, citing shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) within the institution which resulting in other staff members contracting Covid-19. According to the nurses, Ramathuba should have brought them PPEs instead of flowers. However, some of staff accepted the gifts from the MEC. Ramathuba was visiting the hospital on Thursday 6 July, to monitor preparedness and also to commission Phoenix high flow oxygen machines that will be used to treat people with Covid-19. According to the staff members, the hospital lack PPE, posing risk to nurses to contract the pandemic in their workplace. "There is a serious shortage of PPE here. We are urged to use gloves and masks more than once which is not according to the safety protocols of Covid-19 safety standards. We are performing our duties in fear of contracting the virus as we have to face coronavirus patients everyday. We are at high risk," said one staff member who did not want to be named. She said they are worried that some staff members in the hospital have already contracted the virus as a result of shortage of PPE. "We are not safe at all, a number of nurses are currently in quarantine and no further actions are taken by the department to ensure our safety. We have been complaining to the management, no one is willing to listen," she said. The nurse said they will resort to a strike if the department continues to fail providing proper PPE to the staff members. "That is the only language they understand, we don't have any other option. We know a strike will affect some of the services but we have to do something about the situation immediately," she said. Thilivhali Muavha, spokesperson to the Limpopo Department of Health MEC, was not available for a comment as he did not respond to messages sent to him by the Dispatch.



**St Ritas in Glen Cowie, nurses refused to accept the flowers and demanded PPE instead.**

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## DA Limpopo launches Provincial Court Watching Briefs Unit

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo has launched a Provincial Court Watching Briefs Unit as a means to specifically assist victims and families of farm attacks and to put perpetrators behind bars. The unit was launched by DA Limpopo Provincial Leader Jacques Smalle on Monday 3 August. "The situation in our rural areas is now at crisis point, with a sharp rise in terrible attacks and murders that occurred in June and July," said Smalle. He added that they are worried that there were nine farm attacks in Limpopo recorded in July 2020 only, one of which was a murder of a foreman on a farm outside Marble Hall. "The National Director of Public Prosecutions Advocate Shamila Bathoni says, 'the criminal justice system is buckling in the face of rising crime and dismally low prosecution rates.' Indeed, last year prosecution rates for serious offences were as low as 2%," explained Smalle. He said the Watching Briefs Unit initiative was introduced by the Department of Community Safety in the DA led Western Cape to act in accordance with the Constitutional provisions, contained in Section 206 (3) of the constitution, which provides that every province is entitled to monitor police conduct and report inefficiencies. "The work of the Western Cape unit successfully prevents cases being dropped from the roll and helps achieve convictions," he said. Smalle said the DA Rural Safety Watching Briefs Unit will



DA Limpopo Leader, Jacques Smalle launched a Provincial Court Watching Briefs Unit to seek justice for farm attacks victims in the province.

act as an unofficial go-between between the police, the prosecution services and the victims of farm attacks. "We will stand by the side of the victims of these horrific crimes and assist them through the often daunting police and court processes," he said. Smalle said the watching brief will monitor effectiveness and efficiency of the police service, promote good relationship between the police and the community, assess the effectiveness of visible policing and liaise with the shadow cabinet member responsible for policing or prosecution with respect to crime, policing and prosecution. With this initiative, the DA seeks to ensure that criminals end up behind bars as soon as possible and the violence comes to an end," concluded Smalle.

## SDM Executive Mayor to execute disciplinary action against municipal manager

The Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) has delegated duties to Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila to institute disciplinary actions against the suspended Acting Municipal Manager Mpho Mofokeng. This is after Mofokeng was implicated in tender irregularities scandal in flawed appointments of eight companies in the Covid-19 emergency intervention projects worth R26 Million. Ramaila was delegated during a special council meeting held on Tuesday 4 August, following the awarding of an interim court order by the high court, which set aside appointment letter irregularly awarded to eight companies for the Covid-19 emergency intervention projects. "While the municipality has successfully nullified the said appointment letters through a court order, it has an obligation to investigate allegations of financial misconduct and if warranted institute disciplinary proceedings against implicated officials as per section 171 (4) of the Municipal Finance Management Act," said Moloko Moloto, SDM Spokesperson. Moloto said the council has now endorsed the appointment of Ms Molatelo Mabitsela, Director of Planning and Economic Development as acting municipal manager. "As Acting Municipal Manager, Ms Mabitsela will henceforth initiate a disciplinary process against managers appointed in

terms of Section 57 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 44 of 2003 in the matter. She will also take disciplinary actions against other implicated officials as per the South African Local Government Bargaining Council guidelines," he said. Executive Mayor Ramaila reiterates that the Sekhukhune District Municipality is tirelessly working towards building an administration that is fully accountable and responsive to expectations and needs of the ratepayers and residents.



The suspended SDM Municipal Manager Mpho Mofokeng will be facing disciplinary action

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## Schoeman Boerdery shakes off poverty in surrounding villages

Schoeman Boerdery outside Marble Hall is continuing with its community development, amid the Covid-19 outbreak. The farm is currently running two programmes, the Broad Based Livelihoods Programme and the Covid-19 relief and gardening starter pack parcels programme. The programmes are aiming to uplift the community from surrounding villages, mainly coming from poor backgrounds. Schoeman Boerdery General Manager, Hendrik Schoeman, said they have a long history of being involved with social development in the surrounding communities. "The Pioneer and founder of our Company Mr. Karel Schoeman who is my great grandfather, founded the BBK (Banto Beleggings Korporasie) in the 1940's. The aim was to equip people in the rural and township areas with various entrepreneurial skills. Eventually become self-sustaining and become the greatest influencer of their own life and circumstances. Karel was frowned upon by his peers, but stuck to the dream and vision. This passion and dream is very much a part of the Schoeman DNA and the reason for our vision to support the community. Throughout the generations, we have been and will remain a blessing to our people, community and the country," he said. Schoeman said currently, this vision takes life in various projects including the Citrus Farm in Moosrivier that currently runs the Broad Based Livelihoods program (BBL) and the Covid-19 relief and garden starter pack parcels. The BBL started since 2015. "With the help of our remarkable partners and proud associate, Umsizi and STI, we teach people to use their homes as a mini-agribusiness. We teach them how to utilize resources that are readily available for most and convert their small plot of land adjacent to their houses into a small vegetable production unit. The techniques we teach are water-use friendly and economical and require a very low investment. With that we also teach people how to do financial planning and work toward goals that once thought impossible," explained Schoeman. He added that they are working hand in hand with The Gospel of Christ, a local church around the farms, which is the only true source of redemption out of poverty integral part of all the lecturing to the community. "We've seen wonderful success stories and people have bought JoJo tanks with the proceeds and had a source of income after selling their products, even in the trying times we faced in 2020. We have reached more than 2000 households with this initiative and hope to reach 10 000 by 2025. Imagine what kind of community we'll have then," he said. Schoeman indicates that the Covid-19 relief parcel is a handout that consists of basic sustenance that is sufficient for a family of 5 for a period of a month. "However, included in the relief parcel is a veggie-garden starter pack that enables the recipient to contact a trainer at Umsizi and start a garden. We know that the hand-outs contents will be used within 4 weeks time, but if the recipient uses the seeds and equip themselves to become a gardener, then true empowerment and poverty elevation starts," he said.



Schoeman Boerdery General Manager Hendrik Schoeman (Left) handing over the Covid-19 relief and garden starter pack parcels to support community members from rural and township areas.

## Limpopo Department of Education encourages e-education

The Limpopo Department of Education offers alternative learner support interventions during the lockdown period. The department has been working with a number of strategic partners to design and deliver non-contact programmes and courses for learners across different schooling phases. Department Spokesperson, Tidimalo Chuene said in this stance, teaching and learning happens through television programmes, radio lessons, online lessons and e-resources. "These platforms are used to provide alternative learning interventions for learners who are not yet back in class and an ideal catch up platform for those already phased back in school," she said. Chuene added that the television programmes that can be accessed by learners in the province include the Department of Education's TV on Channel 122 open view HD. "These programmes cover Grade 12 Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, English, (FAL), Accounting, Economics and Geography. Other programmes offered by the same channel include Grade 10 and 11 Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, English (FAL) and Accounting. The Mindset TV on DSTv Channel 319 also offers Grades 9 to 12 Mathematics as well as Grades 10 to 12 Physical Sciences, Economics and Geography," she said. Chuene said the Limpopo Education Department prides itself on the educational programmes offered through the SABC, commercial radio stations and community radio stations. "These programmes cover all grades and are delivered in the language that is understood by local

listeners. More emphasis is given to the gateway subjects such as the sciences, commercial, mathematics and languages," she said. She said in order to broaden access to online learning interventions, a number of organizations offer free or zero rated programmes and courses including the HeyMath Innovation Lab PTY LTD that provides free online access for Mathematics in Grade R to 12 and Physical Sciences from Grades 8 to Grade 12. The zero rated Vodacom e-Schooling for Grade R to 12. "Siyavulla" offers free e-text books for Mathematics Grades 7 to 12 and Physical Sciences, Natural Sciences, Life Sciences and IT for Grades 10 to Grade 12," she said. Chuene said the department has partnered with a number of organizations to avail electronic copies of learning and teaching material, in addition to hard copies of learning and teaching material. "These can be accessed by curriculum advisors, teachers and learners. These e-resources include audio and video lessons for Grades R to 12, e-textbooks on the departmental web portal and downloadable content for offline use," she said. MEC for Education in Limpopo Polly Boshelo encouraged learners to make use of the platforms to catch up on the 2020 academic year syllabus. "Covid-19 has challenged us to rapidly learn to live in the new normal. The pandemic has compelled us to accelerate our intervention on the use of digital means of education. This is a reality that we are embracing through our carefully tailored strategy on e-education," she said.

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# TS Galaxy players happy to return to the field

Just like his teammates, TS Galaxy FC midfielder, Keabetswe Mokwena is happy to return to the action following the four month suspension of football, amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The team has already started training at their home ground in Kameelrivier, Siyabuswa. The Mamelodi born football star, who has been working hard from home in anticipation of resumption of football, says football is his livelihood and the past four months have been difficult for most footballers. "I believe a lot of my fellow mates are also excited about the return of the sport. This thing is basically our life and the past four months without it really showed that most of us can't live without it," he said. The GladAfrica Championship side has returned to action after the National Soccer League (NSL) Board of Governors announced the return of football that set to be on the 8th of August 2020. The Rockets have been on a steady rebuilding phase following the appointment of new head coach, Mabuthi Khenyeza which was accompanied by a bolstering of the squad with new faces. With just six matches left to complete the season, Figoroza, as he is affectionately known, says it would require the team to put in a lot of effort in gaining match fitness and finished the league in a respectable position. "It is going to be difficult to regain match fitness because there is obviously a huge difference between being fit and being match fit. The more you play, the more match fitness you become as a player," said Mokwena. TS Galaxy Captain, Terrence Mashego says he misses everything about football but more especially the electrifying atmosphere that comes with playing in front of the cheerful Galaxy fans at Kameel-

rivier Stadium. Unfortunately for the skipper, he alongside his teammates will have to get the ball rolling without their 12th man due to the lockdown regulations set in place. 'Marcelo', as the skipper is affectionately known, has been hard at work with his teammates remotely as The Rockets prepare for the resumption of football. "I was doing a lot of core exercises and a little bit of dynamic exercises even though it was not that effective as it would be at the training, but it is definitely better than not doing anything," he said. Speaking on the disruption of football, the explosive left-back said not being able to be on the field for such a long time has really been dreadful for him and his teammates. "It's a relief that now we are back on the field. I mean some of us can't survive without football. We live this game and to sit and not play is a trauma for us," he said. Mashego said they will have to take it one at a time as it would be a series of matches which will require mental and physical toughness. "It will require us to be mentally strong; we need to approach one game at a time. We shouldn't pressure ourselves too much. It's a matter of pushing and making sure we collect all the points on offer," he said.



*Terrence Mashego says he misses everything about football and happy about the resumption of the sport.*



*TS Galaxy FC midfielder, Keabetswe Mokwena is eager to return to action following the four month suspension of football.*

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