

Protesters shut-down Motetema and Tafelkop over water shortages

Residents of Motetema and Tafelkop brought the villages to a standstill, protesting against water shortages. The unrest started at Motetema on Friday 7 February where residents blocked the busy R579 Road with burning tyres, stones and tree branches. The demonstration started around 3am where residents mobilized in numbers, went on a rampage and barricaded major roads in the township. The community demanded Sekhukhune District Municipality to come and address the issue of water shortages in the township. The protest escalated to Tafelkop Village on Monday 10 February where residents barricaded roads and interrupting local schools. During the protest, residents gathered in numbers and started looting local businesses including the village's biggest retailers, Tafelkop Wholesale & Retail and Shoprite USave. The protest affected hundreds of people who are using the R579 Road to work in Groblersdal as motorists were turned away. Some of the vehicles were pelted with stones when motorists were trying to force way from a group of demonstrators. A community member, who did not want to be named said looters were seen in large numbers getting away with groceries from the big retailers and foreign owned shops. "Some were even pushing wheelbarrows loaded with different items including maize meal, soft drinks, bread and liquor. It is a sad day when people choose to capitalize on the misfortune of others to advance anarchy or criminality," he said. A Community leader, Danny Nkadameng said the protest started when residents heard that the Minister of Water Affairs Lindiwe Sisulu, was expected to deliver a report on water crisis in Moutse alone. "Residents were angry that the minister was going to address Moutse while the issue of water scarcity affects all residents



The R579 Road was barricaded with stones and burning tyres as Motetema and Tafelkop residents complain against shortage of water.

in the district. They decided to stage a protest so that they can also be heard. We are one of the most badly hit areas," he said. Nkadameng said they have engaged Sekhukhune District Municipality directing their concerns over shortage of water in Motetema and Tafelkop but were given a cold shoulder. "In September last year, we wrote a letter to the Department of Water Affairs pleading with them to intervene and nothing happened since then," he said. Booyesen Mahlangu, who is also one of the community leaders, said residents are already living Day Zero and nothing is done by the government. "Our taps are forever dry; we don't have water at all. This is the worst drought we have experienced in Motetema," he said. Mahlangu added that the township's entire reticulation infrastructure is very old and needs maintenance. "There is a spillage of overflowing sewers everywhere. The reticulation infrastructure is very old and can not cope anymore. The district municipality knows about the problem and they do nothing," he said. The protest was suspended after Sekhukhune District Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Stanley Ramaila addressed residents at Motetema on Monday 11

February. It was agreed that a committee that will oversee water budget will be established by the community, working hand in hand with the municipality. "The committee will monitor progress on water related projects to ensure that contractors have the capacity to do the job," said Nkadameng. Executive Mayor Ramaila has made a commitment to the residents of Motetema that the municipality is attending to their water related issues. Ramaila said Municipal Manager, Mr Mpho Mofokeng, signed a service level agreement with the Lepelle Northern Water (LNW), which effectively contracts the Limpopo Provincial Government owned water service provider to manage the municipality's infrastructure and water projects. Among other things, the LNW provide bulk water services, manage water treatment plants, implement a capital expenditure programme that aims to expand pipelines, reservoirs and pumping stations infrastructure across the district. Ramaila said the LNW's scope of work entails overhauling the aged water reticulation system in Motetema, by installing smart-meters in households, including those that were illegally connected to the system. "The water reticulation system in Motetema was installed many years back, and because of the growing population and households in the township, its capacity is now unable to cope with the demand," he said. He added that regarding residents' unhappiness about historical water bills they say are exorbitantly high, the council has resolved to scrap 30 percent of debt that has existed for more than 120 days. "This council resolution covers all residents and businesses across the Sekhukhune District Municipality," Ramaila said. Executive Mayor Ramaila called for restraint as the municipality addresses concerns about water shortage.

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The majority of Sekhukhune water services employees don't have Matric

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Sekhukhune has filed a formal complaint with the Public Service Commission (PSC) to investigate incompetent and unqualified employees in the municipality. This follows a recent discovery that 66% of officials employed in the Department of Infrastructure and Water Services, do not have grade 12 or matric certificates.

This was revealed by the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Stanley Ramaila, during an ordinary council sitting held at the Makhuduthamaga Municipal Chamber in Jane Furse. During the meeting, Ramaila indicated that only 192 out of 560 employees in this department, representing 34%, have a grade 12 certificate. DA Caucus Leader in Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Solomon Maila, said the political party is worried about the occupation of unqualified officials in the most important department of the municipality. "This means that a whopping 66% of the employees in this important department, which is the heartbeat of the service delivery machinery of the municipality, do not have matric," he said. Maila added that to compound the matter, the municipality has only one engineer who is not even registered on the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA).

"This makes it impossible for the municipality to provide the desperately needed infrastructure and water services to the people of Sekhukhune. The DA believes that many of these officials are simply drawn from ANC branches of the district without requesting their qualifications and experience before they are appointed to these positions. It is clear that due processes were not followed during their appointments and therefore their positions and appointments must be investigated to ensure that there is transparency and accountability," he said. Maila emphasized that the DA takes this matter very seriously as the party. "We believe that this is a pure classic example of cadre deployment and rewarding individuals that have been loyal to senior politicians during the elections. We urge the PSC to commence with their investigations and ensure that due processes are followed in order to accelerate service delivery to the people of Sekhukhune," he said.

Patient died at Philadelphia waiting room

The Plafudi family in Moteti is going to open a case of negligence against the Limpopo Department of Health after one of their family members died at the hospital's waiting room. The deceased, Raymond Plafudi, died after he was allegedly left unattended for more than two hours after arriving in the hospital by an ambulance from a local clinic. Raymond's sister, Present Plafudi, believes the waiting time contributed to his death. According to Present, the 30-year-old victim was taken to Machiding Clinic on Tuesday 4 February for a medical check-up. "His condition worsened and the nurses at the clinic called an ambulance and he was rushed to Philadelphia Hospital for immediate medical attention. He was left by the paramedics in the waiting room without anyone attending to him at the time. My brother was very sick and weak at the time and moaning in pain without moving. Nurses were walking passing-by him at the time without even bothering to help him. I confronted the nurses and was told there was currently a shortage of wheelchairs and beds in the hospital," she said. Present said after two hours of waiting, her brother stopped responding and collapsed on the floor. "That's when the nurses started to attend to him. He was not breathing at the time and looked unconscious. They tried to give him oxygen support and took him to the room next to the casualty ward. A few minutes later a doctor came to tell me that my brother is no more," she said. Present indicated her brother would be alive today if the hospital staff attended to him in time. "He was brought to the hospital by the ambulance and should be attended to immediately after arriving. He



Raymond Plafudi died at the Philadelphia Hospital waiting room after nurses failed to help him.

was having a hard time breathing and asking for water frequently. He was visibly uncomfortable, could not eat and stand on his own. His health was bad and needed immediate attention," she said. She said the family will sue the Department of Health for negligence after they have lost her brother. "Service is very poor in that hospital. People are dying there because of negligence by staff members. Something must be done about that situation before more people could lose their lives," she added. Present said the family is going to file a complaint with the Human rights Commission. "We want to bury my brother in peace before we can lodge the complaint," she said. Limpopo Department of Health Spokesperson Neil Shikwambana said the matter has been brought to their attention and they are investigating. "We will comment further after the investigation is concluded," he said.

DA questions R850 Million irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure in Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality has written to the Acting Municipal Manager (MM), David Mashoeu to request an urgent investigation into officials responsible for R618 Million in irregular expenditure. According to the party these shocking figures were revealed in the Supply Chain Management Report for the 2nd Quarter of the 2019/2020 financial year. The party indicated that in addition, R218 Million was also incurred in fruitless and wasteful expenditure, while over R4 Million was declared as unauthorized expenditure. DA Councillor in Fetakgomo-Greater Tubatse Local Municipal-

ity, Lethabile Kgwedi, said some of the main contributors towards this reckless expenditure include the several tenders that were awarded to family and friends of senior officials within the municipality. "Contracts were awarded to bidders that did not score the highest points in the evaluation process. Some tenders were awarded to service providers whose directors were in service of other state institution which contravenes section 112 of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) and Supply Chain Management regulations," he said. Kgwedi added that bid specifications for some of the tenders were drafted in a biased

manner and did not allow all potential suppliers to offer services. "Their performance was not monitored on a monthly basis and some contracts were awarded to providers whose tax matters had not been declared by SARS. Section 32 of MFMA clearly indicates that any kind of unauthorized, irregular or fruitless and wasteful expenditure which is irrecoverable, is no excuse for criminal or disciplinary proceedings against a person responsible for such expenditure," Explained Kgwedi. He said the DA want the office of the MM to probe these expenditures as required by Section 62 of the MFMA, nor were steps

taken to determine if any person is liable for the expenditure as required by Section 32 of the MFMA. "It is apparent that there is a need for effective consequence management in this municipality in order to put an end to any wasteful expenditure, corruption, maladministration and tender irregularities. It is abundantly clear that this municipality does not want to hold officials accountable but instead allows these politically connected bureaucrats to turn this municipality into a corruption hub," he said. Kgwedi stated that the DA urges the accounting officer to take actions against the implicated officials that failed to follow due process. "The MM should investigate all such matters and recover all irregular expenditure in this municipality. The DA is also considering laying criminal charges against all officials that are implicated in this matter," he said.

Suspect arrested for killing elderly woman in Dennilton

The Dennilton Police arrested a 32-year-old man in connection with the murder of a 64-year-old woman. The incident took place at Kirkvostonfontein B in Dennilton on Friday 7 February. According to Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the police were notified by the deceased's husband about the incident. "On arrival, the police found an African female lying in a pool of blood in the bedroom floor. It is alleged that the suspect, gained entry through the door that was not properly closed, went to the bedroom and stabbed the woman to death. The deceased is identified as Sara Johanna Mdau," he said. Mojapelo said the husband woke up early and left his wife sleeping to pick up school children in a scholar transport and made the discovery when he came back. "After the incident, police operation was conducted by the CPU and the suspect was arrested. He was found in possession of an alleged murder weapon at Moteti Shopping Complex, when he was apparently trying to flee to Johannesburg. He was identified as the grandson of the deceased husband," he said. Mojapelo said the suspect was detained and police investigation is continuing.

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Executive Mayor Ramaila makes recommendations in the fight against corruption

To fight corrupt activities that marred Sekhukhune District Municipality lately, the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Stanley Ramaila has made recommendations to fight corruption mainly, irregular payments to wrong accounts. The executive mayor has made the commitment to uphold openness and transparency as enjoined by the Batho Pele Principles in pursuance of clean governance. His recommendation, that was adopted as resolution by a special council sitting in December 2019, to request the Limpopo Provincial Government to institute a forensic audit in the municipality, is part of his tenacious resolution to fight maladministration and the apparent corruption that has crept into the municipality. While awaiting decision by the provincial government, Executive Mayor Ramaila, working in close collaboration with Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs), have instructed acting municipal manager to compile a detailed report of all payments that were made since the beginning of the past financial year for further scrutiny. Executive Mayor Ramaila has vowed to make public, through council rules and procedures, such cases of maladministration. “A case in point is the latest double-payment of R2.2 Million, totaling R4.4 Million, into the bank account of a service provider by our officials. While the service provider in question has returned the other R2.2 Million and retained his due quantum, acting municipal Mr Mpho Mofokeng was instructed to take disciplinary action against our implicated officials nonetheless,” said Ramaila. He indicated that regarding the officials who deposited R12 million into a fraudulent bank account, a decision will be announced in the next few days, after they submit their representations explaining why they shouldn’t be suspended. A criminal investigation by the police is underway in the matter. “Also, while we’ve recovered over R4.5 Million of the R5.4 Million our officials paid into a wrong bank account about two years back, disciplinary cases and criminal investigations against them continue. As we continue to demand answers, no form of maladministration will be swept under the carpet. We will reveal any evidence of bribery and maladministration as and when we discover it because the people of Sekhukhune District Municipality deserve to know how their money is being administered,” added Ramaila. The executive mayor stated that at the same time, they are working on reinforcing internal controls and measures. “After procedurally following labour laws, those found guilty of wrongdoing will face tough sanctions, including expulsion.” he said.



Toddler killer sentenced to life in prison

The Polokwane High Court has sentenced a 19-year-old Kamogelo Collins Mashabela to life imprisonment and additional 20 years imprisonment for murder, attempted murder and arson. The accused committed the crimes on 5 March 2019 at Ga-Mashabela Village outside Jane Furse. According to Colonel Moatshe Ngoepe, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the sentencing emanate from the incident when the accused had a heated argument with the deceased’s mother which ended up with a fight. “The woman managed to escape with minor injuries. Subsequently, the accused torched the house with a flammable liquid while the two year old baby was inside. The Police were summoned to the scene and reacted swiftly. On their arrival, they found the house already on fire. The toddler was rescued but later succumbed to the injuries,” Ngoepe said. He added that the case was assigned to Detective Warrant Officer Hlakole Frank Makola who immediately started with the investigations and manhunt for the suspect until he was arrested and subsequently sentenced. “The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo Lieutenant General Nneke Ledwaba has complimented the investigating officer of this case on the job well,” concluded Ngoepe.

Five dies in a fatal accident at Glen Cowie

The police in Nebo have opened a case of culpable homicide after five people died in a fatal accident. According to the police report, the crash occurred in the early hours of Sunday 9 February around 04:50. “It is alleged that a Toyota bakkie carrying eight occupants travelling from Groblersdal area to Jane Furse collided with a stationary truck at Glen Cowie Village just opposite St. Rita’s hospital. Five people from the bakkie died instantly, two other people were seriously injured. The driver suffered minor injuries. The only passenger from the truck escaped the accident unharmed,” said Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. Mojapelo said preliminary police investigations revealed that when the incident occurred, the driver of the truck had gone to look for help after a mechanical breakdown. “The deceased are four males and one female and identified as Katlego Mosotho (22) from Middelburg in the Mpumalanga Province, Lebo Molongwane (22) from Ga-Matlala outside Polokwane, Bongani Moyo (34) from Makgofo outside Polokwane, Elija Sejeng (27) (male) from Tembisa in the Gauteng Province and Silvia Mokiri (27) from Ga-Phaahla in the Sekhukhune area,” he said. Mojapelo said the police have opened a case of culpable homicide and the circumstances leading to the accident are unknown at this stage but police investigations are still continuing.

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Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality placed under Administration

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has finally place Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality under Administration.

The announcement was made by Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane recently that her government had invoked section 139 that allows her to assume all responsibilities at the municipality. The municipality was marred with disputes between the municipal manager Thami Kubheka and Executive Mayor Thulare Madileng for more than eight months. The dispute saw a number of protests by community members resulting in the shutting-down of the municipality offices in Siyabuswa. A tension erupted when Madileng suspended Kubheka over alleged corruption claims.

The majority of residents, who believed that Kubheka was innocent and Madileng was the one practicing corrupt activities, embarked in a protest, calling for Mayor Madileng to vacate the municipality with immediate effect. They accused Madileng for maladministration and tender irregularities where Kubheka exposed all the alleged illegal activities just before he was suspended by the mayor. Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane's Spokesperson, Sibongile Mkani-Mpolweni said the premier placed the municipality under administration after challenges facing leadership. "The challenges led to community unrests, making it impossible for the municipality to perform its constitu-



Angry Siyabuswa residents closed down the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality offices after the suspension of Municipal Manager, Thami Kubheka.



Residents of Siyabuswa in Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality during a protest calling on the resignation of Executive Mayor Cllr Thulare Madileng.

tional mandates and deliver basic services to the community," she said. Mpolweni said Mtshweni-Tshipane's intervention is the result of the failure by the municipality to submit records and documents of their work to upper structures, including to the auditor-general, provincial treasurer, parent municipality, especially with regards to issues of tenders. "It hasn't also met its obligation to comply with circular 62 of the Municipal Financial Management Act that requires municipalities to develop annual procurement plans," she said. She added that Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) records also indicate that the

municipality has recorded under-expenditure in its grant allocation. "The municipality has ceased to function effectively, owing to divisions within the municipality. The factors and the need to ensure consistent delivery of services necessitate the intervention by the provincial government in accordance with section 139(1)(b) of the constitution," she said. The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Mpumalanga welcomed the resolution stating that an urgent intervention in the dysfunctional municipality is needed. "Infighting in the ANC has led to the disintegration of the municipality and proves the failing ANC's inability to provide

good governance," said DA Councillor in the municipality Thapedi Mokoala. He indicated that continued poor service delivery protests, maladministration and corruption in the past nine months, only show that the ruling party does not care about the people of Dr JS Moroka. "We call on the MEC of Cogta, Mr M Msibi to conduct a full investigation into the maladministration and corruption by Executive Mayor Cllr Thulare Madileng. Come 2021 Local Government Elections the people of Dr JS Moroka will have the opportunity to choose the DA, the only party that puts service delivery first," he said.

Mpumalanga Party revived to fight poor services in Moutse

The political organization, Mpumalanga Party, which was formed with the aim of taking Moutse and other surrounding villages from Limpopo Province back to Mpumalanga Province, has been gaining momentum these days. People claim they are re-joining the party as a result of escalating poor service delivery under Limpopo Province administration. The party is re-shaping to contest in the 2021 Local Government Elections, with the aim of taking Moutse back to Mpumalanga Province. Mpumalanga Party was formed early in 2011, promising to fight for the interest of the people of Moutse and take them back to Mpumalanga Province after they were incorporated to Limpopo in 2006. The party was formed by members of the Moutse Demarcation Forum, which was fighting to incorporate Moutse back to Mpumalanga Province. With Mpumalanga Party on the forefront, a number of protests were organized in the area where the majority of residents demanded to be returned to Mpumalanga Province, citing poor service delivery in Limpopo. Residents were also protesting that the move to incorporate the area to Limpopo was wrong as the Mpumalanga Province never facilitated a public participation hearing. In September 2009, then Minister of Cooperative Governance Sicelo Shiceka set up view testing votes where residents raised their voice on which prov-

ince they want to fall under. Until today the results were never released and according to residents, the referendum was sabotaged as it was clearly indicating that Moutse should go back to Mpumalanga Province. With a looming support, the party participated in the 2011 Local Government Elections in both Elias Motsoaledi and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality and managed to have a number of seats in both municipalities. The party collapsed after fractions within its leaderships and its support dropped drastically since then. Mpumalanga Party Convenor, Trudy Tau said they decided to revive the party and make it effective after the majority of residents pleaded with the previous leadership. "The principal focus is now to fight for the interests of the people, which are to take them back to Mpumalanga because it is clear that Limpopo has failed them," she said. Trudy indicated that poor service delivery escalated

since Moutse was incorporated in Limpopo. "There is a serious shortage of water in our villages. Whilst still in Mpumalanga, 85% of villages were receiving water 24 hours per day. Limpopo failed to maintain our water infrastructure leading to Moutse experiencing Day Zero for the first time," she said. Trudy said the state of Philadelphia Hospital has been a disaster since Limpopo Province took over the health institution. "Job placement in the hospital is centralized and only done by the provincial head office where people coming from outside Sekhukhune are employed and soon take transfers to go back to their respective places. The vacancies are not filled resulting in a serious shortage of staff members. The hospital was operating with over 1600 employees before the demarcation. Only 590 employees are left in the hospital which is more than 40% shortage of staff members. This contributes to serious poor services to patients," she explained. She said the party will contest the entire Sekhukhune District Municipality in the 2021 Local Government Elections. "Poor service delivery is the problem of the entire district. People want a better government that will serve their interests and deliver quality services," she said.

Sekhukhune Executive Mayor appreciates suspension of Moutse protest

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila, sincerely appreciates the decision by residents of Moutse to suspend the lockdown that had restricted movement in the area over the past few days. This decision was made after a discussion between Executive Mayor Ramaila and leaders of the Moutse Residents Committee as well as other stakeholders. The mutual agreement is that talks involving all relevant stakeholders be given a chance to continue. Executive Mayor Ramaila said Sekhukhune District Municipality is in constant engagements with the Department of Water and Sanitation, which has committed to giving residents progress report on the Moutse Bulk Water Project. According to Ramaila, the government is implementing the Moutse Bulk Water Project, which upon completion, would alleviate water shortage in the area. A date for the meeting to give progress report on the project will be announced soon. Once again, Executive Mayor Ramaila acknowledges issues raised by the communities of Moutse are genuine, adding that the government is working towards addressing them. "But as leaders of the municipality, Moutse Residents Committee and other stakeholders, we were concerned about the lawlessness that was creeping into the protest. Criminal elements were hijacking it and we wouldn't accept that," Ramaila said. He said the municipality will continuously keep community representatives updated about developments as they all seek a lasting solution to the water shortage in the area. "We want to thank leaders of Moutse Residents Committee and other stakeholders for showing leadership and restrain," said Ramaila.



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Makhuduthamaga Mayor's Back-to-school Campaign

To continue with her Back-to-school campaign, the Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Cllr Minah Bahula, kick-started her campaign at Landzandvo Secondary School at Nkosi Village, outside Jane Furse recently. The mayor was congratulating the school for obtaining a 100% pass rate in the 2019 matric results. Landzandvo Secondary School performed extremely well by achieving 8 bachelors, 4 diplomas and 3 certificates out of 15 learners who wrote and all passed retaining the school's 100% once again in 2019. Bahula was not only congratulating the school for being one of the best in the circuit, but also celebrated with the entire Sekhukhune East District which managed to scoop several awards at the provincial grade 12 results official announcement earlier this month. Some of top achievers in Sekhukhune East District include Manaka Mmakwena from Jane Furse Comprehensive who achieved 300/300 in physical sciences, Brian Matlebjane and Naledi Makua both from St Mark's College obtained 300/300 in physical sciences. Landzandvo Secondary School Principal, Mr MS Nkadameng, had an opportunity to talk to Mayor Bahula and her team of councillors, with a graphic presentation that indicates the school achieved 100% matric pass rate for the first time in 2005. "We started to have good performance challenges from 2008 when we saw number of learners dropping-out because the community of Nkosi is small, but that did not defocus us. We again retained 100% with

all learners passing mathematics in 2008," he said. The mayor donated sanitary towels to the school to help the needy girl learners who might be disturbed to enjoy academic studies. Addressing more than 130 learners at the school's assembly point, the mayor made a commitment to support the school. "I am committing to buy school uniforms for all learners and other necessities," she said. The mayor preceded the campaign to Makatane Secondary School which obtained a 90% pass rate. The school had 54 learners in the class of matric, 49 passed with 20 bachelors, 20 diplomas and 12 certificates. The campaign was also taken to schools that dropped their performance including St Marks College that achieved 82% matric pass rate in 2018 and 71% in 2019. Jane Furse Comprehensive received 91% in 2018 and dropped to 86% in 2019. The mayor has deployed executive members to motivate learners in the schools.



Suspect arrested for killing elderly woman in Dennilton

The Dennilton Police arrested a 32-year-old man in connection with the murder of a 64-year-old woman. The incident took place at Kirkvosfontein B in Dennilton on Friday 7 February. According to Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the police were notified by the deceased's husband about the incident. "On arrival, the police found an African female lying in a pool of blood in the bedroom floor. It is alleged that the suspect, gained entry through the door that was not properly closed, went to the bedroom and stabbed the woman to death. The deceased is identified as Sara Johanna Mdau," he said. Mojapelo said the husband woke up early and left his wife sleeping to pick up school children in a scholar transport and made the discovery when he came back. "After the incident, police operation was conducted by the CPU and the suspect was arrested. He was found in possession of an alleged murder weapon at Moteti Shopping Complex, when he was apparently trying to flee to Johannesburg. He was identified as the grandson of the deceased husband," he said. Mojapelo said the suspect was detained and police investigation is continuing.

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Road construction delay to be blamed for Mokwete-Molepane Road fatalities

Residents of Mokwete and Molepane Villages in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality have expressed concerns about the construction of the overdue road project. Residents are worried about fatalities occurring on Road D4280, known as the Mokwete-Molepane Road. According to residents the project has been delayed for almost two years while the road claimed a number of lives due to its poor condition. The construction of the road was supposed to take place in the 2018/2019 financial year. R6 Million was set aside by the municipality for the construction of the 10km road project that links Mokwete and Molepane Villages, an upgrade from gravel to tar. The project has not materialized until date. Now community leaders in the affected villages are threatening to stage a protest to demand the implementation of the road with immediate effect. According to residents, the poor state of the road has turned it to be fatal as a result of a number of accidents claimed lives of community members. A community leader, Lloyd Mankge, told the Dispatch that the government is taking them for granted. “We have written a number of letters directed to our local municipality about the poor condition of the road. Promises were made and the road was included in the municipality IDP budget but has never materialized. We have waited enough and are worried about the nature of the access road in the area,” he said. Lloyd said the road has a negative impact on the day to day lives of residents as it has resulted in an unavailability of transport to residents who are travelling to the shops in Jane Furse. “The road is damaged and full of dongas, posing danger to motorists and passengers. We have been long waiting for the implementation of the project which has never started until now. It is almost two years now and nothing is happening,” he said. He added that they are worried about a number of accidents occurred on the road where motorists are killed and some hospitalized. “We have lost so many lives on this road due to its appalling state. We believe that something should be done decisively to stop these unfortunate incidents and promote safe travelling. How many more must die before the government can take any action?” he asked. He added that preliminary showers have exposed the poor condition of the road where motorists finding it difficult to drive in the rainy condition. “The bad state of this road has brought hardships to residents of Molepane and other nearby villages because it is inaccessible especially during this time of the year. The current pathetic state of the road affects the movement of vehicles and transportation of goods. Driving on this road remains a nightmare to the entire community. We want the project to start with immediate effect. We want a permanent solution to the matter,” he said. Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Spokesperson Lemson Moropjane said the progress on the construction of the road is in an advanced stage. “The project will be implemented as a multi-year project and the design for the road has been completed. The community is going to be consulted about the progress,” he said.



The fatal D4280 Road that links Mokwete and Molepane Villages in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality.



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International female boxer passes skills to Dennilton young women

The German based international female boxer, Nikki Adler, has joined the Ndlovu Care Group in Elandsdoorn, Dennilton to equip young women with boxing skills. The German professional boxer of Croatian descent held the WBC female super-middleweight title from 2013 to 2017. According to the Ndlovu Child Care and Community Development Programmes

Manager, Morogowa Magongowa, Nikki will actively participate in the development of a female youth boxing program, empowering young women in the skills of defence and resilience against gender based violence. "This will further enhance preparing youth how to respond against gender based violence, sexual abuse, child labour, human rights and how to stimulate their rightful place in our society," Morongwa said. She said Ndlovu has selected Boitumelo Maila who originates from their Orphan and Vulnerable Children Programme to

be the train the trainer for the new programme. Boitumelo is the first South African woman to sail the Pacific Ocean, qualified ambulance attendant and firefighter. Nikki started kickboxing at the age of 15 and she quickly showed her great talent and successfully fought her first fight after only a few weeks. This was followed by two third places at the German Championships and the Bavarian Championships. At the same time, she took part in the German boxing championship in 2004. Nikki holds the amateur boxing record of 30 fights, 24 wins and one draw. In the amateurs, Nikki got the World Championships 2008 5th place, European Union Championship 2008 3rd place, International German Champion 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and the Croatian Champion in 2008. In the final of the German championship in 2008, she defeated future middleweight boxing world champion, Christina Hammer. She became a professional boxer in 2010 and was crowned the European champion of the WIBF in 2011. In January 2013, she became WIBA world champion and won the WBC title in November 2013, which was her second world title..



Boitumelo Maila (Train the trainer), Dr Hugo Tempelman (Ndlovu Care Group CEO), Vivi Eickelberg (Tempelman Stiftung CEO) and Nikki Adler at the Ndlovu Care Group Centre in Elandsdoorn.

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TS Galaxy eliminated from the Nedbank Cup

The reigning Nedbank Cup Champions, TS Galaxy FC was exited in the tournament's last 32 matches on Wednesday 5 February. The local based team, from Kameelrivier in Siyabuswa suffered a 3-0 defeat from Chippa United FC. The team made history in 2018 when they became the first team from the national first division to win the tournament, when defeating Kaizer Chiefs 1-0 in the final match to be crowned champions. Three unfortunate goals in the second half for the hosts saw the former champions bow out in the first round of the competition. Galaxy were the first to create a scoring opportunity which was a golden one when a neat interchange of passes between Sizwe Mdlinzo, Tshepo Chaine and Nation Ndlovu concluded with Ndlovu sending a disappointingly tame effort that was easily gathered by the goalie. A few minutes later, Ruzaigh Gamaldien almost punished Galaxy when his shot following a quick counter went off target. A valid call for a penalty was waved for play on when Ndlovu found the skipper, Terrence Mashego who powered into the box and fouled for the referee to wave play on in the 36th minute. Coming back from the break, Galaxy almost found the lead seconds into the second stanza when a long ball into the box almost found the oncoming Mdlinzo who failed to connect. Another golden opportunity came in the 56th minute when Sanele Barns found Mdlinzo unmarked in a very good position but couldn't control the ball which was a missed opportunity. The deadlock was eventually broken in the 63rd minute when Gamaldien fired a shot from the edge of the area that caught Ludwe Mpakumpaku off guard as the hosts took the lead. Mashego almost found the equalizer minutes after doing well to cut into the box and fire into the near post but his shot was saved for a corner. Unfortunately for The Rockets, the lead was extended in the 73rd minute when Augustine Kwem capitalized on an error from Mpakumpaku who failed to gather a cross which made its way to the oncoming forward who easily slotted home. The match was officially put beyond reach for The Rockets when Kwem found his brace towards the closing stages to make it 3-0 for the hosts and send the champions out of the tournament. The focus will shift to the Glad Africa Championship for the former champions. Just after the Nedbank Cup elimination, The Rockets Head Coach Dan Malesela, has decided to stand down in his role as head coach with immediate effect. This is following a string of poor results which has seen the club lie 12th in the GladAfrica Championship League table and also exit the Nedbank Cup. Club President, Tim Sukazi, stated said: "TS Galaxy FC would like to thank Coach Dan Malesela for his immense contribution to our Club. We have had a wonderful journey together and we will always appreciate his contribution. He will always be in the history books of our club and we wish him well for the future." Musi Ajao will assume the head coach role on an interim basis and he will be assisted by Coach Essau Mtsweni. Disappointed supporters from Siyabuswa and other surrounding villages, say the team should now focus on GladAfrica Championship League and improve their position. Sibusiso Shabalala said the boys must try to save the league from the relegation zone after the departure of then Head Coach, Dan Malesela.



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