





# Taxi driver fatally shot in **Ga-Moretsele**

The police in Jane Furse are looking for two male suspects, following a brutal murder of a taxi driver and the death of a female passenger in a hijacking incident on Saturday 3 September at Ga-Moretsele Dichoeung at about 23:00. The victims were among a group of young people who were traveling back home to Monsterlus in three minibus taxis from a vacation in the Burgersfort area. It is alleged that when the group approached Jane Furse, passengers suggested that they take a rest for a few minutes at a pub in Ga-Moretsele along the R37 Road. After arriving at the said pub, the two deceased along with two other pastwo armed men forced their entry into the taxi and a scuffle ensued with the driver. One of the suspects produced a firearm and shoot the driver and he died at the scene.

The suspects drove off with the passengers still inside and one of the female victims, tried to escape by alighting the speeding vehicle and she fell and died afterwards. Another male passenger was stabbed with a knife and was rushed to the nearby hospital for medical attention. The hijacked minibus taxi was found by taxi owners a few kilometres from Ga-Moretsele Village. Lieutenant Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, confirmed that cases of murder

are under investigation at the Jane Furse Police Station. "We can confirm that Jane Furse Police are investigating the brutal killing incident that occurred at Dichoung Ga-Moretsele, on Saturday 03 September 2022, at about 23:00," he said. Ledwaba added that reports indicate

that four victims were in a Toyota Quantum at T.T Life Style at Ga-Moretsele, when two unknown men, suddenly entered into the vehicle shot dead the driver. "The driver of the Toyota Quantum, who is deceased was identified as Sifiso Mahlangu (19), the victim who jumped out of the vehicle was identified as Xolile Mahlangu. The male

**Groblersdal Taxi** Association (GTA) driver, Sisifo Mahlangu, was fatally shot when unknown gunmen hijacked him at Ga-Moretsele outside Jane Furse.

victim who was stabbed during the incident is recovering in hospital and the 31-year-old victim who was also there when the incident occurred was not harmed," he said. Ledwaba appealed to anyone with information that can lead to the arrest of the suspects to contact the Crime Stop Line on 08600 1011, make use of MySAPSApp or contact the nearest police station. "No arrests were made and an investigation is currently underway," he said.





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## Minister Cele promises urgent intervention on increased vigilantism acts

Cele, said the Police Ministry has put in urgent interventions in Limpopo in areas experiencing increased vigilantism acts.

Cele said during the Crime Prevention Imbizo attended by residents from various villages in Sekhukhune, held on Friday 2 September at Mamone Sports Grounds outside Jane Furse. The Imbizo was organized in line with the South African Police Service's Rural Safety



Police Minister General Bheki Cele, strongly condemned vigilantism acts and said the police will harshly punish perpetrators.

The Minister of the Police, General Bheki Strategy, which is implemented as part of on-going efforts to address challenges of violent crimes perpetrated against rural communities and incidents of stock theft. The Ministerial Outreach Programme also seeks to provide residents with a platform to discuss and engage the SAPS, on other identified crimes plaguing the community and at the same time promote and improve relations between police and the community at large. Hundreds of residents, who attended the Imbizo expressed their grievances about high rate of crime and poor policing visibility in their respective places. Residents of the rural communities tabled their crime concerns, relating to, amongst other things, allegations of police corruption and slow response by the local police to their safety needs. The Sekhukhune Policing district has seen increasing incidents of mob attacks, where four people have lost their lives in this way in the recent weeks. In other mob killings incidents in the province, on Wednesday 17 August 2022, two suspected robbers in the Siloam Policing area, were brutally murdered. The two men were stoned to death in an apparent mob attack and their bodies burnt, allegedly by community members at Tshavhalovhedzi Village. According to police reports, three suspects allegedly robbed a 23-year-old woman of her cellphone and other belongings at the local plaza. They then attempted to kidnap her in full view of the bystanders but left her and drove off after she screamed for help. Community members gave chase and caught up with the robbers, thereafter they crashed their getaway vehicle. Two of the suspects were killed and the third suspect was rescued by the police and arrested. The suspects motor vehicle was also torched during the incident. In the same policing area, another mob attack has claimed the lives of two suspected cellphone thieves who

allegedly stole a cellphone near a mall on Friday, 03 September 2022. However, during the Imbizo, some residents present acknowledged the local police efforts in servicing the community despite existing constraints. However, some residents have attributed vigilantism to attested suspects not facing the full might of the law and at times, the slow response times from the police, tasked with policing the expansive rural area. Addressing the Imbizo, Minister Cele has strongly condemned and discouraged these violent and criminal mob attacks. "We accept that policing service delivery can and should be improved but at no point can taking matters into your own hands as residents, be condoned or accepted as a normal practice in any society. There simply is no justice in the so called 'mob justice' but it is criminal acts that will be harshly dealt with," he said. Cele indicated that to urgently address the policing shortcomings and improve service delivery in the policing area, a cold case team will be established and report to detectives division at national level, to look at all cases that may have been closed prematurely. Parallel to that process, Minister Cele has ordered for the civilian secretariat for the police service, an entity of the ministry, to put together a diagnostic report on the local police station. The report, which is expected to be submitted in two weeks, will serve as a guiding tool for the SAPS management in the province, led by Limpopo Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, to urgently address personnel, resource and service delivery challenges at station level.

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID), will be investigating allegations of police brutality and corruption reported in the area.



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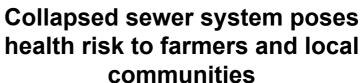
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The Democratic Alliance (DA) Constituency Head in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Lindy Wilson together with DALimpopo Provincial Spokesperson for Cooperative governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), Jacques Smalle as well as DA Councillor in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Flip Jacobs, have on Tuesday 6 September, conducted an oversight inspection at the Ephraim Mogale sewerage farm in Marble Hall. According to the party, the purpose of the oversight inspection was to assess the extent of the crisis of raw sewage spilling into rivers, water supplies, its effect on the environment and the health implications for residents. According to Cllr Jacobs, lack of electricity is diverting the sewerage to flow into the nearby Olifants Rivers and dams instead of its actual separation pit. "There is only one area working now and most of the parts are not working. It looks like the sewer was intentionally diverted straight into the Olifants River and the water is contaminated. It is a very bad situation," he said. He said the dysfunctional sewerage farm and the collapsed sewer systems in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality are also negatively impacting agricultural activities as well as other economic activities in the area and threaten the livelihoods of many residents who resides nearby the Flag Boshielo Dam. Jacobs added that the party will further investigate the impact of the collapsed sewer system, meanwhile they are waiting for water samples to be taken from the Olifants River as well as at the nearby irrigation farms. Sekhukhune District Municipality Communications Manager, Khomotso Ndlovu, said the municipality was made aware of the situation and is currently resolving it. "Our operations and maintenance team was sent to the site to resolve the issue. The long term solution is to change the old pipes from the sewer pump station." he said. Ndlovu said in the meantime, the district municipality will continue to unblock the pipes.





DA Limpopo Provincial Spokesperson for Cooperative governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), Jacques Smalle, at the collapsed sewer system in Marble Hall.

# Six suspects sought for gang raping funeral parlour employees

The police in Malipsdrift have launched an urgent probe into an incident, in which five women were allegedly gang-raped, one man shot and injured and six others brutally assaulted by a group six gun wielding suspects, who stormed into two funeral parlours next to Leporong along the R37 Road outside Jane Furse.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday 4 September. "According to the reports, two female friends were on their way to visit a boyfriend working at Wisani Burial Society, walking along the R37 Road when they were accosted by six men who grabbed them and took them to the first mortuary were they shot and injured one employee," said Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. Mojapelo said the suspects proceeded to the next mortuary and on arrival, they found three female and six male



The police have launched a massive man hunt for suspects who raped and assaulted workers at Wisani Funeral Parlour next to Leporogong Village.

employees. "All six males were severely assaulted by the suspects, allegedly using the buds of their firearms until they became unconscious. All five females were then gangraped and robbed of their cellphones and other belongings. The suspects thereafter took an undisclosed amount of money from the safe and fled the scene," he said.

Mojapelo added that the victims were discovered by another employee who was going to report on duty and the police were then alerted and on arrival at the scene, they found the badly injured victims lying on the ground and others on chairs. "Some of the female victims were also assaulted. The victims were transported to hospital for medical treatment," explained Mojapelo. He said five cases of, three counts of kidnapping, attempted murder and business robbery have been opened and police investigations are unfolding. The Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, has already activated a team of investigators to hunt down the suspects. "The team will spend sleepless nights, hunting down these heartless criminals and bringing them to book. I urge community members to come forward with information to assist the police in cracking these cases as speedily as possible," said Hadebe.

The police appeal to anyone with information that lead to the arrest of the suspects to contact Lieutenant Colonel Lehlagane Mamadisa on 079 894 5482, the Crime Stop Number on 08600 10111, the nearest police station or may send the report via MySAPSApp.

The police assured that callers may opt to remain anonymous and any information received will be treated with strict confidentiality.

# Corrie Pretorius granted bail



Corrie Pretorius was granted a R20 000 bail by the Polokwane High Court.

Fifty-year-old Corrie Pretorius, who was arrested in connection with the brutal attack on a teenager at Groblersdal Game Centre on the eve of 15 June, was granted bail by the Polokwane High Court on Wednesday 7 September. Pretorius approached the high court to appeal a decision that had earlier made by the Groblersdal Regional Court on Tuesday 6 September, where his bail application was not granted. His urgent bail application was brought to the Polokwane High Court by Advocate JJ Venter, wherein, Pretorius was granted a R20 000 bail. The bail conditions require Pretorius to report to Marble Hall Police Station every fortnight and he was also ordered to handover his passports to the investigating officer. Pretorius is facing charges of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and pointing of a firearm. During the incident which occurred three months ago, Pretorius was captured in a video assaulting a 16-year-old boy, Kopano Makweng, following an argument over the use of seasoning at a fast food outlet in Game Centre in Groblersdal.



# LDoH unleashes SILUAN Campaign in Sekhukhune

The Limpopo Department of Health (LDoH) has on Friday 2 September, kick-started the SILUAN Awareness Campaign in Sekhukhune District Municipality. The programme was conducted at Phaahla and Probein Clinics outside Jane Furse, respectively in line with Childhood Cancer Awareness Month conducted every September. The SI-LUAN programme seeks to raise awareness on early warning signs of childhood cancer. According to the LDoH, the Sekhukhune SILUAN is the first of a series of activities to be conducted throughout the province, to save the lives of children by ensuring that they identify, refer, diagnose and treat cancer in children as early as possible. LDoH Spokesperson, Neil Shikwambana, said the campaign also educates the public about the importance of preventing cancer among children, with significant increase in the number of new patients by lowering



Community members attending in large numbers during the SILUAN Awareness Campaign at Phaahla Clinic outside Jane Furse.

it with referral of patients at earlier stages of the disease. Shikwambana encouraged people to immediately contact their nearest hospital if any of the early warning cancer signs in a child. The signs include change or deterioration in walking, balance, speech, regression of milestones, headache for more than a week with or without vomiting and enlarged head. Shikwambana further encouraged the public to come forward if they notice that their children experience itching in joints, bones, back and easy fracture. "Other early cancer signs on children can be experienced in the eyes with white spot, new squint, new blindness and bulging eyeball. The signs are also associated with prolonged fever for two weeks, loss of weight, pallor, fatigue and easy bleeding of bruising," he said. According to the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA), 800 to 1 000 children in the country are diagnosed with cancer annually. CANSA says however, half of the children with cancer are never diagnosed, a tragic state of affairs considering how much more aggressively cancer spreads in children compared to adults.

# **SDM** reaches out to destitute communities

The Office of the Executive Mayor in Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), together with Department of Health, Department of Correctional Services and Department of Social Development, rounded off Women's Month by donating food parcels and blankets to twenty needy families at Ga-Matsepe Section in Tafelkop Village. According to the district municipality, the programme intends to provide relief to vulnerable and poor communities around Sekhukhune. In her welcoming address, a local traditional leader, Kgoshigadi Matsepe, applauded all stakeholders for their efforts in protecting those who are vulnerable in the community of Tafelkop and surrounding villages. Representing the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Deputy MMC responsible for Infrastructure and Water Services, Cllr Meriam Malatjie, said this is one way the municipality shows to the communities that government cares about their socio-economic status. "We do what we can with the little that we have wherever we are to provide some relief to those amongst us, who are most vulnerable in our communities," said Cllr Malatjie.

Some of the twenty beneficiaries from Tafelkop Village who received food parcels and blankets.





# ONLINE LINK: 2023 https://sekhukhune.coltech.co.za

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## NATED / REPORT 191 N1 - N6

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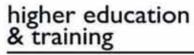
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REACHING GOALS TOGETHER

# Sekhukhune TVET College's Tshepo Rampedi crowned number 1 at the inaugural Entrepreneurship Inter-College Nationals

Celebrations were in accord over the weekend as Allan Gray launched their First Annual Entrepreneurship Inter-College National Competitions at the Allan Gray Makers Festival 2022. The event took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 at the Birchwood Hotel and Conferencing Centre. Sekhukhune TVET College's Centre for Entrepreneurship (Sekhukhune CfERI) had supported 5 students to compete in the competition's Limpopo regional rounds held to select top 3 to represent the province at the national competition. The college managed to take the top 2 spots thereby sending the two students, Tshepo Rampedi and Baby Makua to the national competitions. Kwanele Mkhwanazi the Head for Sekhukhune TVET College's Centre for Entrepreneurship highlighted that the mentorship provided to these students was just one of many support services provided by their incubator to SMMEs and Cooperatives. The purpose of the Entrepreneurship Inter-College Competition was to identify and support student entrepreneurs nationally across the TVET sector. This platform provided them an opportunity to pitch their innovation or existing business to a panel of judges, thus inviting investment into their businesses. In a Celebration Gala event attended by the Minister of Small Business Development Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams Tshepo Rampedi from Sekhukhune TVET College took the number one sport for "I have a business idea" with his diaper recycling idea, winning R20 000 price money and trophy. Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams stressed the importance of the entrepreneurship within the TVET sector and its role in employment creation. The winners of each category at regional rounds were invited to the Entrepreneurship Inter-College Finals, to pitch their innovative business idea to the judge panel for a share of R100 000; R20 000 for each category winner and R10 000 for each runner up. Tshepo Rampedi said: "I was very happy when given the opportunity to present my business idea which I was sitting on for a long time. It is my wish to see each and every student rural or urban to be exposed to such and partake in such and the education system to impart entrepreneurship as a career choice. Trying times need courage and resilience. Our strength as a people is not tested during the best time."



Tshepo Rampedi (Sekhukhune TVET College Student), Ms Stella Ndabeni –Abrahams (Minister of Small Business Development), Mr Sam Zungu (DDG Department of Higher Education and Training) and Ms Zimkhitha Peter (CEO at Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy South Africa)

# Dangerous criminals arrested in Siyabuswa area

Three suspects, aged between 33 and 40, were arrested during separate incidents in Siyabuswa for carjacking, kidnapping, murder, house robbery, business robbery, as well as possession of unlicensed firearm with ammunition, the police said.

Brigadier Selvy Mohlala, Mpumalanga Provincial Police Spokesperson, said in the first incident, a 33-year-old and 40-year-old suspects were arrested on Friday 9 September 2022, at about 23:00 after police in Siyabuswa received information about a white Isuzu bakkie, which was reported stolen in Giyani. Mohlala said the police acted swiftly and closed in on possible escape routes and spotted the suspected stolen vehicle next to Moutsiya Mall in Siyabuswa area with two occupants.

"Police then stopped and searched the vehicle which matched the description of the stolen bakkie. A firearm with ammunition was recovered and further investigations revealed that the vehicle was hijacked; a case was opened at Letsitele SAPS near Giyani. Additional charges of kidnapping as well as murder of a 40-year-old victim were opened and are linked to the hijacking incident. Full details of the said hijacking case in Limpopo are yet to be determined," he said. Mohlala said the suspects were apparently from Giyani in Limpopo Province and were heading to Mamelodi in Gauteng Province. "The suspects could possibly be linked to stock thefts and

business robberies committed in the area," he said. He added that in a separate incident, the Siyabuswa Police were busy with their routine patrol duties on Saturday 10 September 2022, at about 08h00am, when they noticed a suspicious white Toyota pickup with bullet holes visible on the passenger door and rear window. "When police approached the vehicle, a 35-year-old driver sped off. Police pursued him until he was cornered on the road towards Watervaal and Ga-Mmakola. When the suspect was searched, a live round of ammunition was found. Further investigation led police to Toitskraal near Marble Hall where they recovered a silver VW Polo Vivo, which was reported stolen earlier this month during a house robbery incident in Troya outside Vaalbank," explained Mohlala. He said the suspect was arrested for possession of live ammunition and could possibly be linked to other cases including, stock theft, business robberies and burglaries around Siyabuswa and Vaalbank, as the Toyota pickup is suspected to have been used in the commission of such crimes prior to his arrest. "The suspects will appear before the Mdutjana Magistrate's Court soon," he said. The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Mpumalanga, Lieutenant General Semakaleng Daphney Manamela, welcomed the arrests and recovery of the vehicles, firearm and ammunition. Manamela unreservedly applauded the commitment displayed by the members of the police.



# Over 1500 arrests made during Provincial Police Operations

The police in Limpopo have arrested 1904 suspects for various offenses during the ongoing simultaneous operations conducted in the five Districts of Limpopo Province. furthered arrested two suspects, aged 25 and 52, for possession of stolen motor vehicle, a white Toyota Hilux and contravening the

The operational teams included, the Limpopo Highway Patrol (LHP), Tactical Response Team, Crime Intelligence, Provincial Organised Crime, Detectives from Provincial, District and Station level as well as members attached to police stations across the province. According to the police report, the suspects were arrested for offences that included murder, attempted murder, rape and other sexual offences, armed robberies, illegal mining, fraud, arson, malicious damage to properties, possession of illicit cigarettes, possession of illegal firearms and ammunition, theft of motor vehicles, stock theft, possession of suspected stolen properties, dealing in drugs and possession of dagga among other offences. "During the arrests, police seized firearms and ammunition, stolen motor vehicles, drugs such as crystal meth and CAT, grams of dagga, nyaope, illicit cigarettes and plants of dagga," said Lieutenant Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson.

Ledwaba said amongst the arrested suspects were two men aged 37 and 40 who were nabbed on 04 September 2022 for allegedly committing various offences of murder, robbery, house breaking and theft of motor vehicle at Bela Bela, Cyferskuil, Soshanguve and Akasia. He added that in another incident, members of LHP arrested two suspects, aged 26 and 34, for possession of precious metals (Chrome) at an illegal mining site in Atok area outside Jane Furse. "Two trucks were seized during the arrest of the suspects and they were charged with illegal mining," he said. Ledwaba said members of Limpopo Flying Squad

furthered arrested two suspects, aged 25 and 52, for possession of stolen motor vehicle, a white Toyota Hilux and contravening the Immigration Act along the N1 road towards Mokopane. "Other two suspects, aged 24 and 35, were nabbed at Modimolle by members of Limpopo Highway Patrol for possession of stolen motor vehicle, a silver Toyota Hilux and bribery. The members were patrolling when they noticed a suspicious vehicle, which was stopped, searched and tested. It was found to be reported stolen in Rustenburg during August 2022," he said.

Ledwaba said the arrested suspects have already started to appear in different magistrate courts around the province and the operations are continuing. The Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, has welcomed the arrests and applauded the police teams for continuing to do a stunning job in the fight against crime.

The drugs and money that was recovered by the police when arresting the suspects during the ongoing simultaneous police operations in Limpopo Province.







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# Mantepe and Ipopeng rewarded at MTCMA National Awards

Local traditional artist, Nthwaleng "Mantepe" Tlaka, from Dikgalaopeng Village near Tafelkop, won two awards in the Mzansi Traditional and Cultural Music Awards (MTCMA), in the event held at the Victory Theatre in Johannesburg recently.

Mantepe walked away with the MTCMA Best Sepedi Artist Award, while her group, Ipopeng Cultural Group, walked away with the Second Best Traditional Dance Group Award. In the MTCMA, Mantepe, the former Principal at Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School, received nomination in the Best Sepedi Artist category with her solo Sepedi album, "Satma e Tlile", which was released after Ipopeng scooped an



Top: Ipopeng Cultural Gorup celebrating after winning the Second Best Traditional Dance Group Award in the MTCMA Awards.

Right: Mantepe showing off her accolade after winning the MTCMA Best Sepedi Artist Award.

award in the South African Traditional Music Awards (SATMA), two years ago. Ipopeng gained entry in the MTCMAs after they were nominated in the Best Traditional Dance Group category. "I am overwhelmed with this achievement and have no words to express my happiness. I appreciate everyone who supported me since we started this project. We work hard and I am glad that hard work has made us bring home five awards since 2018. These give us more reasons to celebrate as a women," she said.

However, she said, the milestones were not an easy road, but they managed to sustain and grow their projects as women. "I believe



every woman has something to offer to their respective communities as long as they work together in what they want to achieve. Let's get rid of our self-centered mindset and contribute to our communities by empowering each other. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who pushed and supported us through thick and thin," she said. Following the good news, Kgoshi Boleu Rammupudu II, a traditional leader in the area, personally paid homage to Mantepe's residence to congratulate her with

the group for putting Elias Motsoaledi and the entire Sekhukhune District Municipalities on the global map. He conveyed well wishes to Mantepe and Ipopeng, adding that he believes they will continue to represent Sekhukhune in honor throughout their traditional music and dance fraternity. Mantepe appreciated Rammupudu's support, saying he supported their group and assisted them with transportation and other means when they go to perform in various places.



NOTICE OF BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR CHROME, COPPER, PGMS AND GOLD ON THE FARM DOORNPOORT 578 KS, SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF EPHRAIM MOGALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

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Kimopax (Pty) Ltd has to undertake the application for an EA, together with the associated Public Participation Process (PPP).

### PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located on the farm Doornpoort 578 KS in the jurisdiction of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality of Sekhukhune District Municipality in the Limpopo Province of South Africa.

### OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

Interested and Affected parties are invited to register and provide written comments together with the above reference number, their email address and contact details to the contact person indicated below within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme for the above-mentioned project will be made available electronically and in hard copy for public review and comment at the Municipality and Library. Electronic copy may be requested from Lufuno Nengwani (lufuno@kimopax.com) through email.

Contact Person: Lufuno Nengwani Cell: 082 832 9378, Email address: Lufuno@kimopax.com Postal Address: PO Box 4077, Halfway House, 1685

# Lerule-Ramakhanya gunning to improve 2022 matric results

Limpopo Department of Education (LDoE) MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, has urged learners to approach the currently underway preparatory examinations like the final matric exams. The preparatory examination started earlier this month and will end on 23 September



Limpopo MEC for Education, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, monitoring the preparatory examination that started earlier this month.

end on 23 September 2022, while the final exams will start after the October school holidays. The MEC has already visited some of the secondary schools in the province to monitor the matric preparatory exams. Limpopo has registered 111 515 matric candidates, inclusive of independent school learners currently enrolled to write in the 1 316 centres around the province. Lerule-Ramakhanya said the results of the preparatory examinations will give the picture of how the province will perform in the final examination and will also give indication if additional intervention will be needed before they sit for final examination. Limpopo obtained less than 66.7 percent matric pass rate last year, the lowest pass rate of the nine provinces in the country, a decline from the 68.2 percent in the previous year. The department blamed the new normal brought by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, as a contributing factor to the poor performance that caused a decline in the 2021 matric examination in Limpopo Province. The department said in addition to any pre-existing learning deficits that may have existed prior to the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020, the 2021 cohort suffered a double blow and had to deal with harsh realities of Covid-19 for two consecutive years. However, MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya said the department is currently working on strategies to improve the results in the 2022 academic year. The MEC is currently busy with a programme where she interacts with schools principals and circuit managers to check on the state of readiness, as learners prepare to sit for their final yearly examination.



# Nokaneng Ladies FC crowned Sekhukhune champions

Nokaneng Ladies FC, from Nokaneng Village are the winners of the SAB SAFA Sekhukhune Women Football League.

The ladies have now qualified for the Limpopo Provincial Playoffs and will be representing Sekhukhune Region against other teams that qualified in their regions in the province. Nokaneng topped the log with 27 points after playing 14 matches, followed by Mashadi Ladies FC with 26 points, Sea Waters FC came third with 25 points, Victorious Sports Academy obtained the fourth position with 23 points and Thoto Ladies came fifth after getting 22 points. Junior Bucks occupied the sixth spot with 14 points, Malania Ladies FC obtained the seventh position with nine points and Maretlwaneng Ladies FC is in the bottom of the log after getting only eight points in 14 matches. SAB SAFA Sekhukhune Football League Coordinator, Frank Maredi, said Nokaneng will be participating in the provincial playoffs to take place during the first week of December 2022. "The playoffs are scheduled to take place at Mmapodile Stadium in Steelpoort, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality," he said.

Maredi said they are confident that Nokaneng will represent Sekhukhune well in the province. "We are currently preparing them for the matches and our hopes are high that they can win the provincial championships," he said.



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League and will be representing the region in the provincial playoffs.

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# NDCF takes cricket sporting code to new heights



Role players consisting of NCDF, Sekhukhune Cricket Council, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and teachers, vow to roll-out a cricket sporting code programme in Dennilton schools.

The Sekhukhune Sports Confederation, partnered with Sekhukhune District Municipality, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, together with Sekhukhune Cricket Council and Ntwane Community Development Forum (NDCF), will be rolling-out a programme, aiming for the improvement of cricket sporting code in schools within the Moutse area.

This is after the Moutse NDCF, submitted a proposal to the Sekhukhune Districts Municipality, requesting assistance on various development projects and initiatives, which they believe would improve the lives of community members. Lucas Mokgomogane, Chairperson of Sekhukhune Cricket Council (SCC), said the NCDF engaged with the Department of Education in Moutse East Circuit office, requesting permission to introduce cricket as one of the sporting codes in the schools within the circuit. "The move was motivated by the fact that it will add to the variety of choices for the learners and could prove to be a lifeline for some of the children who are coming from poorer communities and families, to determine if they could excel in this sporting code. Sport was identified as a key driver for youth development and cricket was selected as a code for change," he said. Mokgomogane added that learners who will be participating in the sporting code will have opportunities to get scholarships and join the higher ranks of cricket teaching schools in the country. "The core strategy is to build cricket playing facilities in local schools. The envisaged number of schools at this stage is 15 which are identified to construct cricket pitches and practice nets in each school," he said. In a stakeholders' meeting attended by all role players, hosted by NCDF on the Friday 2 September at Sebakanaga Secondary School in Mpheleng Village in Dennilton, the Elias Motsoaledi Municipality committed to clear the grounds to be used for playing cricket, whereas, Sekhukhune Cricket Council undertook to support the programme and pledged to provide a playing mat and full set of playing equipment to Marapong Primary School to kick-start the programme.

There was also a clear unambiguous undertaking from the office of the executive mayor to support the initiative where possible. "In order to create a sustainable programme, teachers and local coaches in Moutse will be invited to attend mini cricket coaching course to up skill their knowledge and training of cricket. With the assistance of Dennilton Cricket Club, a local and school leagues will be established to ensure a flourishing programme, which will help to sustain the activities and build a proper player and coach's pipeline development," explained Mokgomogane.



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