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Groblersdal and Marble Hall seasonal farm work thrown into chaos

GROBLERSDAL/MARBLE HALL - Seasonal farm work in parts of Groblersdal and Marble Hall have descended into disarray, following a government crackdown on the employment of undocumented immigrants, with local labour contractors and community leaders warning that rushed hiring, unpaid wages, and a lack of benefits are crippling the picking season.

Despite government warnings of fines for employers who hire undocumented workers, several farmers are still accused of using them and concealing workers during inspections.

The result, stakeholders say, has been delays, blame-shifting, and growing tension between farmers, contractors, and South African pickers.

Local labour suppliers say the removal of undocumented workers has exposed deep structural problems in how seasonal staff are sourced.

"Since the beginning of the picking season, we are unable to sustain staff because we are only given a day or two to supply staff," said Mr Aubrey Magane, Managing Director of Thabang Thabang Pickers Projects (Pty) Ltd, after allegedly losing a contract to a foreign national.

"It's not easy to arrange 20 people including transport in hours but we manage and the problems arise with payment. We look disorganized because we are not given enough time to prepare our staff and we are replaced with foreigners in most farms," Magane added.

Pickers themselves have borne the brunt, with many reporting late or missing wages, prompting some to quit mid-season.

"Most of the pickers complained about late payments or no payment at all which led to some of them quitting," said Sprinter Tlaka one of March and March leaders in Elias Motsoaledi.

He argue that the recent removal of illegal immigrants created both an opportunity and a problem at the same time.

With farmers now forced to partner with local contractors to provide staff for the picking season, community leaders say the system favors intermediaries over workers.

"It looks like an opportunity to contractors, a loss to employees and that's where we wish farmers will reconsider hiring from Traditional Council Offices to avoid middle man. Contractors earn from their staff, no benefits and that must be rectified," Tlaka added.



Several farmers are still accused of using them and concealing workers during inspections at farms in Groblersdal and Marble Hall.

Jeffrey Hlabirwa Walker, Chairperson of Bana Ba Sekhukhune Community Solutions NPO, said they have received complaints about farmers who are intentionally causing delays and blame South African Pickers, which seems to be the blame game farmers want to shift after the season.

"One element that everyone is ignoring is the fact that pickers or farm labour sourced through a third party doesn't guarantee any benefits such as UIF, IOD, or bonuses to the employees. Illegal immigrants did not receive any benefits which is why most farmers preferred them. We spoke to several farmers who deny employing foreign nationals and they blame contractors who supply temporary staff to them," Walker added.

Now, community organizations in the area are calling for direct hiring channels through traditional councils to cut out third-party contractors, and for stricter enforcement to ensure that all farm workers, local or foreign, receive statutory benefits.

The Department of Agriculture and Department of Employment and Labour have not yet commented on the specific allegations from Groblersdal and Marble Hall.

Government has previously stated that fines will be imposed on any employer found to be hiring undocumented workers.

While the picking season continues, farmers, contractors and workers are now left to navigate a labor market in transition, one that community leaders say cannot be fixed without addressing both compliance and fair pay.

> "It's not easy to arrange 20 people including transport in hours but we manage and the problems arise with payment. We look disorganized because we are not given enough time to prepare our staff and we are replaced with foreigners in most farms."
>
> **— Mr Aubrey Magane, Managing Director, Thabang Thabang Pickers Projects**

SDM MMC receives outpouring support following husband's death



Family members paying their last respect during the funeral service of the late Motsake Clarkson Mafefe.

MAMONE - The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), Cllr Minah Bahula, joined the Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, and hundreds of mourners, converged at the funeral service of Motsake Clarkson Mafefe, who is husband of the MMC Cllr Orginia Mafefe. The funeral service was held on Friday at Magolaneng in Mamone Village.

Mafefe, 72, passed away last week while receiving medical care in hospital following a short illness.

The funeral service also brought together family members, friends, colleagues, community leaders and members of the broader community to honour and celebrate the life of Mr Mafefe, and to offer comfort and solidarity to the Mafefe family during this difficult period of loss.

During this difficult time, MMC Mafefe and the Mafefe family have expressed their sincere gratitude to everyone who has stood alongside them through their bereavement.

They have, particularly, appreciated the messages of condolence, prayers, visits, practical support and presence of family members, colleagues, friends, community members and various stakeholders.

Executive Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula conveyed the municipality's heartfelt condolences to MMC Mafefe and the entire Mafefe family.

"During moments of profound loss, the presence and support of those around us remind us that we do not have to walk through grief alone," said Mayor Bahula.

"On behalf of Sekhukhune District Municipality, we extend our deepest condolences to MMC Mafefe and the entire Mafefe family. May they find strength, comfort and peace in the memories they shared with Mr Mafefe, and may his soul rest in peace," she added.

Premier Ramathuba was also among dignitaries who paid their respects, joining community leaders in supporting the family.

The Sekhukhune District Municipality has thanked all who attended the service and those who continue to support the Mafefe family during this time.



The Executive Mayor of SDM, Cllr Minah Bahula, during the funeral service of Motsake Clarkson Mafefe, who is husband of the MMC Cllr Orginia Mafefe.

Operation Shanela nets 428 suspects across Limpopo



The high-density Operation Shanela was conducted through high visibility patrols and stop searches throughout Limpopo.

LIMPOPO - The Police in Limpopo have arrested a total of 428 suspects for various offenses across province during the ongoing "Operation Shanela", which took place from Monday 3 August 2026 to Sunday 9 August 2026.According to Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the province-wide operations were jointly executed with the South African National Defence Force, Traffic Police, and officials from the Departments of Home Affairs, Social Development, Correctional Services, Trade and Industry, as well as Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Youth Desk. During the week-long operation, police effected several apprehensions. These included 5 suspects for illegal possession of firearms, 15 for possession of dangerous weapons, 3 for dealing in drugs, and 4 for possession of illegal cigarettes.

"A total of 110 suspects were arrested for illegal dealing in liquor, while 2 suspects were arrested for contravention of the Second Hand Goods Act," informed Ledwaba. He added that in terms of violent crime, 2 suspects were arrested for robbery of business premises, 6 for murder, 3 for attempted murder, and 10 for rape.

"The police also arrested 88 suspects for assault grievous bodily harm and 92 for possession of drugs. Other arrests included 3 for burglary of business premises, 6 for burglary at residential premises, 1 for theft from or off a motor vehicle, and 30 for malicious damage to property," Ledwaba said. He said a further 25 suspects were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and 101 were arrested as illegal immigrants.Several items were also confiscated during the operations. According to the Ledwaba, the police seized 261,514.4 litres of alcoholic beverages, 91 rounds of ammunition, and R1,912 in cash.

They also confiscated 2 cellphones, 30 dangerous weapons, 16.087 kilograms of dagga, 21.03 grams of crystal meth, 40 grams of heroin, and 60.38 grams of nyaope. In addition, 27,614 packets of tobacco products, 1 vehicle part, and 8 motor vehicles were taken into police custody."The high-density operations were conducted through high visibility patrols, stop and searches, tracing of wanted suspects, roadblocks, vehicle checkpoints, and compliance inspections," said Ledwaba.

He said some of the arrested suspects have already started to appear before their local magistrate courts.

Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Jan Scheepers, expressed satisfaction with the successes achieved across the province. He assured the public that the men and women in blue will continue to safeguard communities, as criminal activities will not be tolerated and criminals will face the full might of the law.



Some of the wanted suspects being taken to custody during the operations.

Six major infrastructure projects completed in Elias Motsoaledi



The EMLM has completed six major projects across different communities, strengthening road networks, improving safety and access, and putting local residents to work.

GROBLERSDAL - The Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM) has wrapped up six major infrastructure projects across different communities in the municipality, with all sites now at 100% completion.

Under the leadership of Mayor Cllr David Tladi and EMLM Council, the projects focused on strengthening road networks, improving safety and access, and putting local residents to work.

"All projects are 100 percent complete reflecting a strong commitment of infrastructure development, job creation and improved service delivery," said Tladi.

The completed works span five wards and include both access roads and a key river crossing.

The completed projects include the 4.5km Kgobokwane-Kgaphamdi Access Road in Ward 3, the construction of the Kgobokwane Low Level Bridge, the 3.5km Malaeneng a Ntwane Access Road in Ward 8, the 3.2km Maraganeng Access Road in Ward 15, the 5.2km Mokumung Access Road to Maratheng Taxi Rank in Ward 28, and the 1.2km Moteti Internal Road.

Mayor Tladi said some of the projects were funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, while others were funded through the Municipal Disaster Recovery Grant. He added that the projects were prioritized to strengthen road infrastructure, improve accessibility and safety, and enhance connectivity between communities.

"All projects are 100 percent complete reflecting a strong commitment of infrastructure development, job creation and improved service delivery," said Tladi.

He said the new roads and bridge will make it easier for residents to travel. Local residents were also employed during construction, which helped create opportunities in the affected wards.



Wanted suspects and illegal immigrants nabbed during "Operation Retshepeng"



The police conducted search compliance at local traders during the operation.

APEL/MECLENBURG - A large-scale multidisciplinary operation in Sekhukhune District, held on Saturday 8 August 2026, led to the arrest of 121 illegal immigrants and 26 wanted suspects, while police also disrupted suspected illegal mining activities and seized equipment worth thousands of rands.

The operation, dubbed "Operation Shanela II–Retshepheng", was led by the Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Jan Scheepers, and conducted in the Apel and Mecklenburg policing areas.

According to Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the operation targeted illegal immigration, illegal mining, wanted suspects and other criminal activities through roadblocks, stop-and-searches and targeted policing actions.

"During the operation, the police detectives traced and arrested 26 wanted suspects. The charges against them include 8 counts of assault GBH, 4 counts of theft, 3 counts of common assault, 3 counts of malicious injury to property, 1 count each of common robbery, possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of illicit cigarettes, business burglary, robbery with a weapon, stock theft, rape and sexual assault," informed Ledwaba.

He said during immigration enforcement activities, 121 illegal immigrants were apprehended, with the police also arrested an additional three Lesotho nationals.

"Four Ethiopian nationals were identified and are awaiting the relevant asylum processes. The police also disrupted suspected illegal mining activities and seized 22 items linked to the operations. The items included wheelbarrows, buckets, jackhammers, generators, spades, a chisel, and a knife," said Ledwaba.

He indicated that a joint roadblock was conducted at Sefateng Mine along the R37 near Tjibeng, involving the SAPS, Provincial and Local Traffic Police and other law enforcement agencies.

"A total of 63 vehicles and 133 persons were searched during the roadblock. Traffic authorities issued 10 summonses valued at R21 500 for offences relating to driving licences, an unlicensed vehicle and defective stop lamps," Ledwaba said.

He said the arrested suspects are expected to appear before the respective courts where applicable.

Lieutenant General Scheepers, Limpopo Provincial Police Commissioner, commended the multidisciplinary teams for the successes achieved and said the province remains committed to sustained high-density operations.

"Hit hard on criminals and squeeze every space. Our communities must be safe," said Scheepers.



Undocumented foreign nationals were apprehended for contravention of Immigration Act.

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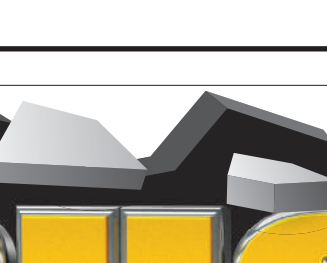

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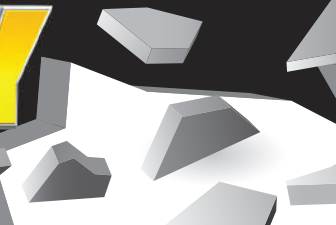

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Limpopo Treasury takes MSME support to Tafelkop



Small business owners from Tafelkop and surrounding villages attending during the Capacity Building Workshop convened by Limpopo Treasury.

TAFELKOP - The Limpopo Provincial Treasury has taken its drive to professionalize township and rural enterprises to Sekhukhune District, hosting a Capacity Building Workshop for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises at the Tafelkop Nonyane Community Hall in the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM) recently.

According to the Treasury Department, the workshop was aimed at equipping local businesses with the practical knowledge and documentation they need to become compliant, competitive and ready to do business with government.During the programme, participants received presentations from key stakeholders including the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA), the South African Revenue Service (SARS), and officials from the host municipality. The sessions covered funding opportunities, tax compliance, business registration and the various support programmes available to help enterprises grow and create jobs. Speakers stressed that maintaining compliance is essential for businesses to remain active on government systems and eligible for future opportunities.

The intervention forms part of Treasury's broader push to open public procurement to businesses outside of urban centres.

It is aligned to the Limpopo Development Plan Procurement Strategy 2030, which sets ambitious targets for government spending.

The strategy seeks to direct 75% of procurement to Limpopo-based MSMEs, 65% to Black-owned businesses, 40% to women-owned businesses, 30% to youth-owned businesses, 30% to rural businesses, 7% to businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and 5% to businesses owned by military veterans."Together, we are building an inclusive economy, creating opportunities and ensuring that no one is left behind," the Limpopo Treasury said in a statement following the workshop.

The workshop comes at a time when provincial government is consolidating support for small business. SEDFA was created by merging the Small Enterprise Development Agency and the Small Enterprise Finance Agency into a single entity, a move officials say removes bureaucratic fragmentation and creates a smoother pathway for entrepreneurs to access both financial and non-financial support under one roof. Provincial leaders have also noted that the impetus is on leveraging technical and financial skills from all relevant stakeholders to grow local economies.

Limpopo has already approved a township and rural economic strategy specifically to empower SMMEs and cooperatives operating in rural areas, and Elias Motsoaledi has previously been identified as a priority municipality for red tape reduction efforts aimed at easing the regulatory burden on small business.

In Sekhukhune, infrastructure support is also expanding. Provincial plans include the erection of market stalls to support small-scale farmers and traders, with similar projects already rolled out in Mopani and earmarked for Elias Motsoaledi.

Officials at the Tafelkop workshop urged business owners to register on the Central Supplier Database, keep their tax affairs in order with SARS, and take up training offered through SEDFA and municipal LED programmes.

MEC Mashego launches Women's Month Clinical Outreach



MEC for Health in Limpopo, Dieketseng Mashego, addressing Women's Month Clinical Outreach Programme at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane.

POLOKWANE - Limpopo MEC for Health, Dieketseng Mashego, officially launched the Women's Month Clinical Outreach Programme at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane on Thursday 6 August 2026, kicking off a province-wide drive to take essential health services directly to women in their communities.

Held under the theme: "We give Because We Care," the initiative will see dedicated clinical teams deployed across Limpopo throughout August. The teams will provide screenings, treatment, and specialist medical support, with a focus on preventive care and early detection.

Mashego said the outreach is designed to close gaps in access and ease pressure on facilities.

"This programme is a demonstration of our unwavering commitment to the women of Limpopo. This outreach will reduce waiting times and backlog in our province," Mashego said.

"We care because we love, and because every woman deserves access to quality healthcare delivered with dignity, compassion and respect. Together, we are building healthier families, stronger communities and a healthier province," Mashego added.

According to the Department of Health, the campaign marks the start of a sustained effort to ensure no woman is left behind in accessing quality care, particularly in rural and underserved areas where travel and long queues often delay treatment.

The department is urging women across the province to make use of the outreach services as clinicians begin work this week.

The department said the programme aligns with Women's Month objectives to prioritize women's health and strengthen community-based care.



Women from different parts of Limpopo Province attending during the Women's Month Clinical Outreach Programme

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

RE: NOTICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGULATIONS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT NOTICE GNR 327 OF APRIL 2017, REGULATIONS AS AMENDED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, OF (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998), THE INTENTION TO LODGE AN EIA APPLICATION FOR THE BORROW MINING ACTIVIVITY TO EXTRACT GRAVEL AT JERUSELEMA VILLAGE WITHIN ELIAS MOTSOALEDI LOCAL MUICIPALITY OF SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVICE.

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 41(2) published in Government Notice No R 326 under chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998) of the intent to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) application to Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) and General Authorisation/ Water User License with the Department of Water and Sanitation, Protected Trees Cutting License with Department of Agriculture Forest and Fisheries.

Description of the activity:

Elias Motswaledi Local Municipality would like to extract gravel from a 5ha in Jeruselema Village, Limpopo Province. The extracted gravel will be used for upcoming municipal projects within Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality of Sekhukhune District, Limpopo Province. The mining site will also feature access roads, security shelter, ablution facilities, borrow pit fencing and warning signs.

Location of the activity:

The proposed borrow mining activity is situated on the farm Gembokspruit 132 JS, located within the Sekhukhune District, Limpopo Province. The application area spans 5 hectares, approximately 28 km to the nearest Groblersdal Town.

Proposed Road Project and Mining Permit Applicant:
Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality

Triggered Activities :

Listing Notice 1 Activity 21: Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002), including associated – (a) associated infrastructure, structures and earthworks, directly related to the extraction of a mineral resource;

Listing Notice 1 Activity 27 (i): The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for (i) the undertaking of a linear activity.

The National Environmental Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), Environmental Authorization Application in terms of:
Section 24P, as listed under GNR 327, as listed under GNR 327, LN1, Activity 21, for the rehabilitation of disturbed or degraded land, including rehabilitation of mined land, and in compliance with the 2015 Financial Provision Regulations (GN R1147)

RAVELE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING has been appointed by Marungane Projects Pty Ltd on behalf of Elias Motswaledi Local Municipality as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the EIA processes for the proposed borrow mining activity to extract gravel for upcoming municipal projects within Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality of Sekhukhune District , in terms of the EIA Regulations (2017), as amended. You are hereby invited to register as Interested and Interested Parties (I&APs), please submit your name, contact details and any comments to the contact person below.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

The public participation process will be undertaken to inform interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) regarding the proposed development and registration in the project database. A draft BAR will be available for review and comment from the period of 30 days from the date of this public notice. The report is available at the following public places.

i. On request on the following contacts: **Mr. FB Mudzunga (067 190 8361), Email:** raveleconsulting07@gmail.com

For more information, registration as an I&AP or submission of written comments contact by email or phone: **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER**

RAVELE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING
Contact Person: Faresa Blessing Mudzunga (Registered with EAPASA)
Contact Details: 0671908361 ,
Email: raveleconsulting07@gmail.com
In order to be registered as interested and/or affected party; please submit your name, contact information and interest in the matter to the contact person by not later than 30 days from the day of this public notice published

Unlawful occupation cripples Tswelopele Irrigation Scheme



The DA in Limpopo said it will seek Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba and MEC Nakedi Kekana to urgently intervene and assist emerging farmers set to benefit from Tswelopelo Irrigation Scheme.

BURGERFORT - The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo, is calling on Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba and MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Nakedi Kekana, to urgently intervene after emerging farmers at the Tswelopelo Irrigation Scheme near at Praktiseer outside Burgersfort, which the party say beneficiaries have been locked out of land they lawfully lease for nearly a decade.DA Limpopo Spokesperson for Agriculture and Rural Development, Marie Helm, said the scheme is in Praktiseer, outside Burgersfort, which the party say emerging farmers have been unable to use portions of state-owned agricultural land they lawfully lease due to unlawful occupation dating back to 2016. This is despite a Limpopo High Court order issued in May 2018, directing the occupiers to vacate the property, stop construction and remove structures, the farmers say the occupation continues.

According to Helm, eight farmers hold lawful leases over the 70-hectare Cluster 1 at Tswelopelo. Five of them are reportedly severely affected by the occupation and only two remain actively farming.

"The farmers have leased the land from the national Department of Land Reform and Rural Development since 2001. A further 30-year lease covering the scheme was reportedly concluded in May 2023," informed Helm. She said the lessees continue to pay annual rental to government, including for portions of land they cannot access or use.

"The continued occupation is undermining agricultural production and the livelihoods of lawful lessees, while government continues to charge rent for land that affected farmers cannot fully access or use," Helm said.

She said the farmers further allege that people acting on the instructions of the current Mayor of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality interfered with an attempted enforcement operation and prevented the removal of unlawful occupiers.

"The affected farmers travelled to the Presidency in Pretoria in December 2024 and were assured the matter would be referred to the Limpopo Office of the Premier. No meaningful intervention followed," said Helm.She said the party is now calling on the Premier and the MEC to coordinate the relevant departments and SAPS to enforce the 2018 court order, restore access to the affected lessees, and explain why the matter remains unresolved eight years later."Government cannot claim to support emerging farmers while failing to protect their lawful access to productive agricultural land. This lawlessness must end. Court orders must be enforced, and the lawful lessees must be able to make productive use of the land allocated to them," Helm said.

She said the party will await the Premier's Office and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for a response.



DA concerned about Limpopo's worsening job crisis



Limpopo DA is concerned about the job crisis in Limpopo.

SEKHUKHUNE

The latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) confirms that Limpopo remains trapped in a serious jobs and opportunity crisis. According to Limpopo DA, turning this around must include fixing the way failing municipalities are governed and getting local government working again. Official unemployment increased from 31.7% in the first quarter of 2026 to 32.0% in the second quarter, substantially higher than the 28.2% recorded in the final quarter of 2025.

More concerning is Limpopo's expanded unemployment rate of 46.7%. Stats SA has specifically flagged Limpopo as one of the provinces where the gap between official and expanded unemployment exceeds 14 percentage points.

This means the headline unemployment rate does not tell the full story. When discouraged work-seekers and others who could work but are not actively searching are included, almost one in every two people in Limpopo's extended labour force is without work.

The DA said its plan is to build municipalities that deliver reliable services, maintain infrastructure, manage public money properly and create an environment in which businesses can invest, grow, and create jobs.

"The latest figures show why this is urgent. Limpopo created virtually no new employment during the quarter, while thousands more people joined the ranks of the unemployed. These figures must also be viewed against significant outward migration from Limpopo. "Stats SA migration data has identified the Limpopo-to-Gauteng route as one of South Africa's largest internal migration streams, with employment a major reason why people move. Too many Limpopo residents are leaving the province in search of opportunities they cannot find at home. This should not be the reality of a province blessed with enormous agricultural potential, mineral wealth, tourism assets, and a strategic position as South Africa's gateway to the north," said DA spokesperson on the office of the premier Lindy Wilson.

According to Wilson, municipalities cannot create every job, but they can either enable economic growth or stand in its way. "Businesses will struggle to invest and expand where water and electricity are unreliable, roads and other infrastructure deteriorate, municipal finances are mismanaged and bureaucracy makes it difficult to do business."

Wilson reiterated that DA's 2026 Local Government Election Manifesto offers a different approach: professional municipalities staffed by competent people, reliable basic services, maintained infrastructure, sound financial management, less unnecessary red tape and local governments that actively enable investment and economic growth.

"For Limpopo to create jobs, its municipalities must work. Limpopo should be a province where people can build their future, not a province they have to leave to find one."

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INSIDE

SDM MMC receives outpouring support following husband's death

Bengwenyama to bolster TUPS League





ABOVE:Team B TC were among participating teams during the second round of the TUPS Federation's 2026 Season league games.

LEFT:Bluemoon TC was among big winners of the day, emerging 4-1 against Draai TC and later defeating Team B 7-6.

MALEGALE - Bengwenyama Ya-Maswazi Traditional Authority, has pledged to bolster the growth of Thavhanacle Ultra-Physio Sport (TUPS) by supporting community clubs under its jurisdiction to participate in the expanding TUPS League.

The commitment was made during the second round of the TUPS Federation's 2026 Season league games, held on Monday 10 August 2026 at Draai Sports Ground in Malegale Village, Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM).

Honouring an invitation from the TUPS Sport Federation, Mntfwanenkhosi Makhosini Nkosi, representing Bengwenyama Ya-Maswazi Traditional Authority, attended the games and delivered a message of support for the indigenous sport and its community-based league programme.

"The day is not far when TUPS clubs under Bengwenyama Ya-Maswazi Traditional Authority will receive direct support to enable them to participate consistently in league matches," Nkosi said.

His remarks come amid challenges facing clubs such as Dlamini TUPS Club and Stocking TUPS Club, whose young players have struggled to participate in league fixtures because of limited financial resources.

Nkosi expressed concern that children from Bengwenyama communities could not compete with their peers despite having organized clubs and enthusiasm for the sport. He identified affiliation fees and transport to league venues as some of the basic obstacles preventing the clubs from participating.

Nkosi furthered announced that Bengwenyama Mining Company has secured mining rights, creating prospects for community development initiatives through its social responsibility programmes. He said sport and youth development could become important areas of intervention, raising hopes that local TUPS clubs would benefit.

This support is particularly important because the TUPS League follows a rotational model, with participating clubs hosting matches in different communities.

Nkosi congratulated the TUPS Sport Federation for consistently organizing competitive league matches and providing structured sporting opportunities for young people.

He furthered announced that the Bengwenyama Traditional Authority, TUPS Sport Federation and Bengwenyama Mining Company, would explore working together towards establishing the Bengwenyama TUPS Royal Cup.

"Having experienced TUPS competitive play first-hand, I envision the Bengwenyama TUPS Royal Cup as a catalyst for rural development and a platform to honour the great leaders of Bengwenyama," Nkosi said.

TUPS Sport Federation President, Puleng Mmotla, acknowledged MLM for providing transport support to clubs participating in rotational league matches.

He said transport remains critical because teams must travel between communities to honour their fixtures.

On the field, the second round produced competitive encounters. Team B defeated Mogaladi 16-1, Bluemoon beat Draai TC 4-1 before edging Team B 7-6, while Draai TC defeated Mogaladi 11-0. Two Masanteng fixtures were recorded as walkovers.

Bluemoon TC emerged at the top of the league table with 15 points from five victories, followed by Team B with 12 points and Draai TC with six. Masanteng had three points, while Mogaladi remained without a point.

The proposed partnership could strengthen the TUPS League by ensuring that young players are not excluded simply because their clubs cannot afford affiliation fees or transport.

For Dlamini and Stocking TUPS clubs, Nkosi's message offered renewed hope that their players could soon take their place in the league and compete with their peers on equal footing.

Sekhukhune suffers first defeat but excels in the MTN 8

Sekhukhune FC has won one out of two games since the start of the Betway Premiership. Babina Noko succumbed to a 2-0 loss against Kaizer Chiefs at the FNB Soccer City on August 12.

Speaking after the Chiefs match, Sekhukhune coach Cedric Kaze said they have to improve after their performance at the FNB. "We had a lot of heavy legs," Kaze admitted. "Well deserved win for Chiefs, they played well in the second half but we need to improve."

Sekhukhune had won their first league encounter, a 1-0 win against Durban City at the Seshego Stadium on August 1. Sekhukhune's other win was in the MTN 8. Babina Noko defeated AmaZulu 4-3 in a thrilling match which also needed extra time to separate the teams.

The encounter was played at the Chatsworth Stadium on August 9. The MTN win sees Babina Noko drawn against defending champions Orlando Pirates in the semifinals of the MTN.

The second semi-final will see Mamelodi Sundowns face Golden Arrows, who sent Kaizer Chiefs packing after a 1-0 loss at FNB Stadium. The Premier Soccer League will announce the dates and times in due course. Sekhukhune United's next encounter is in the Polokwane derby, against Polokwane City at the Peter Mokaba Stadium .



Sekhukhune United's Givemore Khupe.



Tshepo Mashiloane