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Maila and Shayi appointed MECs as Ramathuba reshuffles cabinet

LIMPOPO

Limpopo premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba has axed three MECs in a provincial cabinet reshuffle on Wednesday September 2.

Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality's mayor Eddie Maila, Mopani District Municipality's mayor Pule Shayi and Constance Kupa-Mabuza headlines the changes.

Maila is the new health MEC, replacing Dieketseng Mashego while Shayi takes over from Basikopo Makamu who moves to Transport. Kupa Mabuza will lead sports arts and culture department.

Violet Mathye, Dieketseng Mashego, and Jerry Maseko have all been removed. MECs Basikopo Makamu and Nakedi Kekana have been moved to Agriculture and Transport.

The reshuffle is Ramathuba's first reconstitution of the Provincial Executive Council since the inception of the 7th administration in July 2024.

This strategic realignment comes following a rigorous assessment of the performance of the Executive Council, conducted in response to the feedback and lived experiences of the residents of Limpopo and to ensure the administration meets the highest requirements for operational efficiency and service provision. Announcing the changes, Ramathuba emphasised that while the decision was not taken lightly, it is a necessary step to accelerate the province's developmental agenda.

"Each member of the previous Executive Council has worked tirelessly to advance the ideals and goals of this administration. I extend my sincere gratitude to those who have served with dedication in making Limpopo a better place for all. However, as a government, we must constantly evaluate our progress. There is always room for improvement and to better serve our people, we must ensure our team is agile, focused and ready to meet the evolving demands of our province," Ramathuba stated.

The premier acknowledged that Limpopo faces significant structural challenges, including high levels of unemployment, persistent poverty and hurdles in accessing basic services.

She challenged the newly reconstituted Executive Council to view these not as obstacles, but as urgent mandates.

"To the new Executive Council, I reiterate: the people of Limpopo are watching and they are waiting for results. We are here to serve and our success will be measured by our ability to turn around the lives of the ordinary residents in our villages, townships and towns. This administration must be characterized by work, dedication and an unwavering commitment to inclusive growth," the Premier added.

The new members of the Executive Council were officially sworn into office on the morning of 02 September 2026.

The Reconstituted Limpopo Executive Council is as follows:
1. Member of the Executive Council for Agriculture and Rural Development: Mr Basikopo Makamu
2. Member of the Executive Council for Education: Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya
3. Member of the Executive Council for Social Development: Ms Florence Radzilani
4. Member of the Executive Council for Transport and Community Safety: Ms Nakedi Kekana
5. Member of the Executive Council for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism: Dr Tshitereke Matibe
6. Member of the Executive Council for Finance: Mr Kgabo Mahoai
7. Member of the Executive Council for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure: Mr Ernest Rachoene
8. Member of the Executive Council for Sport, Arts and Culture: Ms Constance Kupa-Mabuza
9. Member of the Executive Council for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs: Mr Pule Shayi
10. Member of the Executive Council for Health: Mr Eddie Maila

The Premier has expressed confidence that this refreshed team will provide the necessary leadership to stabilise service provision and drive sustainable economic growth across the province.



Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality's mayor Eddie Maila, Mopani District Municipality's mayor Pule Shayi

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Premier Ramathuba closes DDM programme in FTLM with pledge on water and electricity

GA-RADINGWANA

Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has on Friday 28 August 2026, delivered closing remarks at Ga-Radingwana Sports Complex in Ga-Radingwana Village, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM), marking the end of a week-long District Development Model (DDM) Service Delivery Week Imbizo for Sekhukhune District.

The Imbizo, held under the banner: "Government on Wheels", brought together Members of the Executive Council, Limpopo Director-General Nape Nchabeleng, Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District (SDM) Cllr Minah Bahula, Mayor of FTLM, Cllr Eddie Maila, local mayors, the Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoi-san Leaders Hosi Pheni Ngove, Deputy Chairperson Kgoshi Boleu Rammupudu, and leaders from community organizations.

The week programme, which ran from Monday 24 to Friday 28 August, was aimed at improving service delivery coordination, strengthening intergovernmental planning and budgeting, and assessing the state of the municipality regarding finance, governance and infrastructure.

Addressing the Imbizo, Premier Ramathuba responded directly to grievances raised by residents about persistent electricity and water supply interruptions.

She acknowledged that these are not just municipal issues, but essential basic services that affect dignity, health and economic activity, and committed her administration to engage Eskom, Lepelle Northern Water and Sekhukhune District Municipality to find lasting solutions.

The assurance comes as Sekhukhune remains one of Limpopo's most water-stressed districts, a challenge government says is the single greatest impediment to economic potential.

As part of the initiative, MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Basikopo Makamu, representing the Premier at the DDM Oversight Session at Moses Mabotha Community Hall in Ga-Nkoane, presented a frank audit of progress since the Presidential Imbizo at Ga-Motodi, Burgersfort, three years ago.

Makamu reported that Sekhukhune District Municipality, which faced an existential threat of insolvency three years ago, has now stabilized with recovery plans being monitored regularly. He said administration has been professionalized, with all Municipal Manager, Chief Financial Officer and Technical Service Manager posts across the district now filled.

On the long-delayed relocation of district offices from Lebowakgomo, he said land has been transferred to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, township establishment has been approved, and geotechnical and hydrological studies are complete. Planning is underway with construction set to start by January 2028.

To address water insecurity, Makamu announced progress on the Ga-Maphopha reservoir, refinement of the Nkadimeng Regional Water Supply scope, and commissioning of the Malekana to Jane Furse pipeline. He said the province will assist the municipality to launch a dedicated "Water War Room" modelled on successful interventions in Polokwane, Vhembe and Mopani.

Special attention was given to Fetakgomo-Tubatse, which is ranked among the top 17 fastest-growing towns in South Africa and contributes 48.76% of Sekhukhune District's GDP with an average annual growth of 2.30% between 2008 and 2018, the highest in the district.

Government has recently confirmed that the designation of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone (FTSEZ) has paved the way for growth beyond mining.

The proposed multi-sectoral SEZ will focus on mining inputs manufacturing, renewable energy, mineral processing, logistics, agro-processing and manufacturing.

The province has already established the Fetakgomo Tubatse Industrial Park as an implementing agency and 11 companies with an estimated R10-billion investment are ready for Phase 1.

A Sekhukhune Beneficiation and Mining Academy, first promised at the Presidential Imbizo, is also advancing, with a task team finalizing the concept and business model.

The DDM, launched in 2019, acts as the primary operational framework to bridge the gap between planning and service delivery across all 44 districts and eight metros. It does not replace municipal authority but aligns all spheres around a district "One Plan" to avoid duplication and fragmented infrastructure planning.

In Fetakgomo-Tubatse, this translated into practical services during the week-long programme. The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, led by MEC Nakedi Grace Kekana, carried out agricultural input handovers at Ga-Riba Mosate, livestock vaccination drives against Foot-and-Mouth Disease at Ga-Kwete, Ga-Manyaka and Morapaneng Ga Kgosi Legadimane, where more than 1 500 cattle were vaccinated, plus rabies vaccinations for community dogs.

The Service Delivery Week concluded with a commitment from the 7th Administration that Sekhukhune will be developed as an economic hub where mineral wealth benefits local residents first.



Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, addressing the provincial DDM Service Delivery Week Imbizo at Ga-Radingwana Sports Complex in Ga-Radingwana Village.



Residents from different parts of Sekhukhune District converged in numbers during the Limpopo Provincial DDM Service Delivery Imbizo, held at Ga-Radingwana Sports Complex in Ga-Radingwana Village.



MEC for CoGHSTA, Basikopo Makamu, reported that SDM, which faced an existential threat of insolvency three years ago, has now stabilized with recovery plans being monitored regularly.

Limpopo Treasury brings Supplier Support to Fetakgomo-Tubatse communities



The Limpopo Treasury, led by MEC Kgabo Mahoai, conducted a three-day Suppliers Information Help Desk at various villages in FTLM.

FETAKGOMO-TUBATSE

The Limpopo Provincial Treasury has successfully taken government services to the doorstep of local businesses in the Sekhukhune District, through a three-day Suppliers Information Help Desk, held in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM).

The Help Desk, hosted by the Sekhukhune District Supply Chain Management (SCM) Client Support Centre from Monday 24 to Wednesday 26 August 2026, was set up in Moroke, Apel and River Cross respectively.

The initiative was rolled out as part of the District Development Model (DDM) Integrated Service Delivery Programme, a government approach aimed at bringing services closer to communities and improving access to government support and information.According to the Provincial Treasury, more than 60 walk-in suppliers were assisted during the three-day programme with various Supply Chain Management and Central Supplier Database (CSD) related matters.

The department said the turnout showed strong participation by women and young entrepreneurs. Of those assisted, 20 were young people, while women made up about 60 percent of the total suppliers who accessed the service.

"This level of participation demonstrates the continued interest among local businesses, particularly women and youth-owned enterprises, in accessing opportunities and ensuring compliance with government supplier requirements," the Treasury said in a statement.During the programme, suppliers sought assistance with updating supplier information, uploading proof of address, reviving companies undergoing the de-registration process, and understanding how to respond to Requests for Quotations (RFQs) through the CSD online system.

The Limpopo Provincial Treasury welcomed the positive response from local suppliers and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting suppliers with relevant information and guidance to enable meaningful participation in government procurement processes.

Suppliers across the province have been encouraged to visit Limpopo Provincial Treasury District Offices for assistance and to follow the department's official social media platforms for upcoming supplier training programmes and other support initiatives.The department said the successful hosting of the Help Desk is a demonstration of government's commitment to taking services directly to communities and strengthening collaboration between government and the local business sector in support of inclusive economic development.

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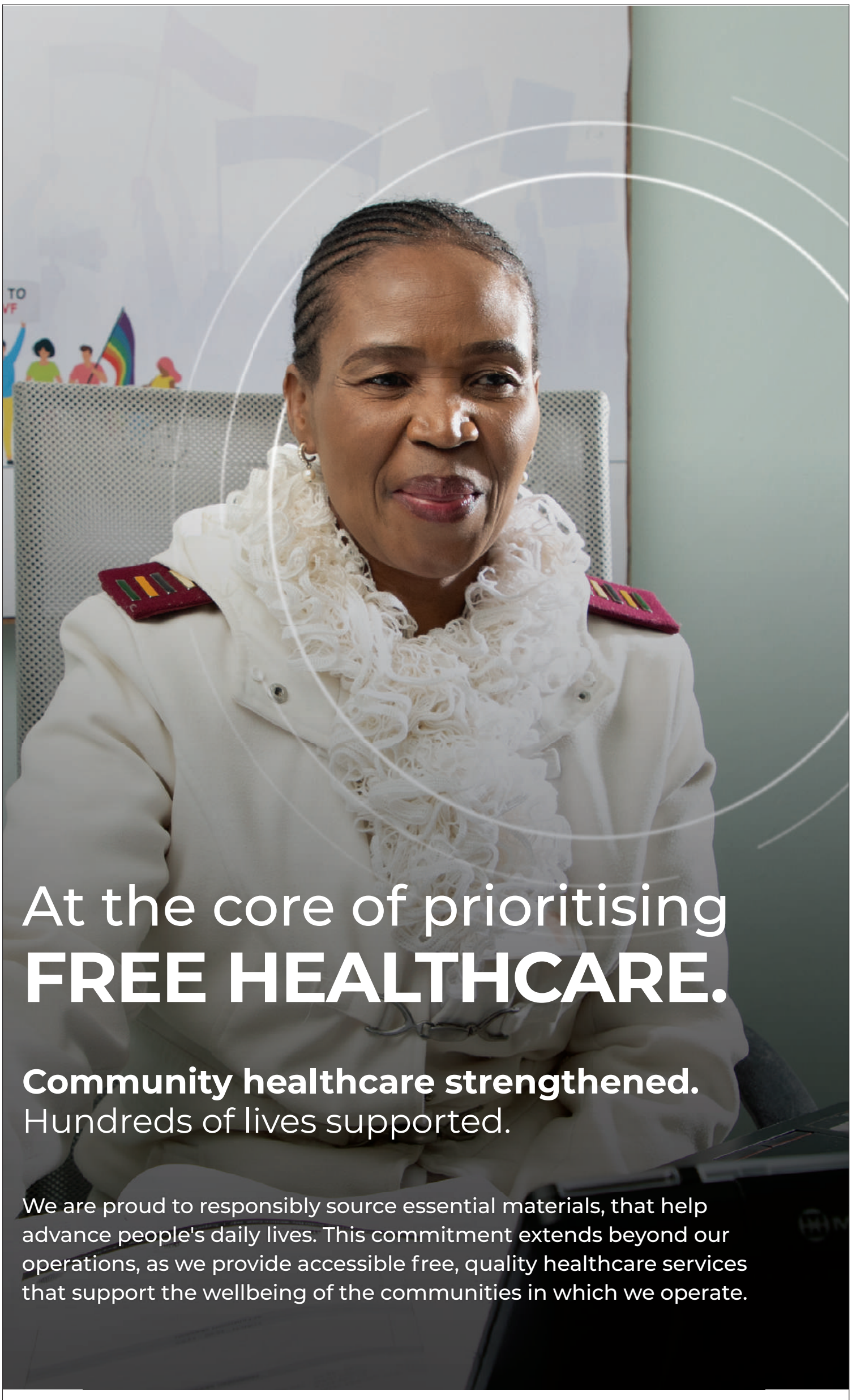

Sekhukhune municipalities submit AFS on time



SDM's executive mayor Minah Bahula has applauded local municipalities for submitting AFS on time

SEKHUKHUNE

The Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Minah Bahula congratulated all Sekhukhune District Municipalities that include four local municipalities on the timely submission of their 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements (AFS) within the prescribed timeframe on September 1.

All these municipalities, local municipalities, Makhuduthamaga Fetakgomo-Tubatse, Elias Motsoaledi, Ephraim Mogale, and Sekhukhune District Municipality have successfully submitted their 2025- 2026 Annual Financial Statements, in accordance with the applicable legislative requirements.

Bahula said she is proud that most utilise their internal institutional capacity in the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements, stressing their commitment to good governance, accountability and sound financial management.

Bahula added: "The timely submission of our Annual Financial Statements shows our commitment to accountability, transparency and responsible financial management. We remain hopeful of a positive outcome from the Auditor-General and other government bodies, as we continue to strengthen our financial management and governance systems in pursuit of improved service delivery and the betterment of our communities, whilst we continue to appreciate and commend our administration for their steadfast efforts".

Code of Conduct
This newspaper subscribes to the Code of Ethics and Conduct for South Africa Print and Online Media that prescribes news that is truthful; accurate, fair and balanced. If we don't live up to the Code, within 20 days of the date of publication of the material, please contact the Public Advocate at 011 484 3612. For more information pertaining to the Press Council you can also visit www.presscouncil.org.za.

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LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS & CULTURE

2026/27 Literary Competition

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture hereby **invites** potential writers to enter for the 2026/27 annual literary competition.

GENRE: Short Stories

Minimum requirements: A minimum of 15 and maximum of 20 typed short stories of 4 to 5 pages per short story.

Font: Arial, size 12 with single line spacing in all the paragraphs.

The competition is presented in six official languages of Limpopo. i.e. Afrikaans, English, IsiNdebele, Sepedi, Xitsonga and Tshivenda.

The THEME of the competition is GBV(Gender Based Violence), covering(but not limited to) the following focus areas: human trafficking, substance/drug abuse, LGBTQ(Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) , Child -headed families etc.

There are three categories of prizes to be won for each language:

1. **First Prize: R25 000.00**
2. **Second Prize: R20 000.00**
3. **Third Prize: R15 000.00**

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has in terms of section6(2) of the constitution of the Republic of South Africa,1996 which emphasizes that the state must elevate the status and use of the historically disadvantaged languages, the mandate to implement practical and positive measures to redress the disparities of reading materials in the previously marginalized languages. Therefore the Department has allocated an additional amount of **R5 000.00** to all the first prize winning manuscripts written in the indigenous languages of Limpopo, viz, **Sepedi, Xitsonga, Tshivenda and IsiNdebele**.

Once submitted for competition, entries may not be submitted for publication elsewhere. It is **only** after the awards ceremony that authors can have their manuscripts published.

Manuscripts are judged anonymously by independent evaluators who are not attached to the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Writers are requested to ensure that their names appear only on the entry form.

Each entry must be accompanied by the entry form. Only one author per manuscript is allowed to enter the competition. Entrants are encouraged to keep copies of their manuscripts. The work submitted should be true original, unpublished and not translated from other languages. The judges' decision is final.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture does not accept any responsibility for any manuscript that can be delayed, damaged or lost in transit. Faxed manuscripts will not be accepted. The Department will communicate only with entrants who obtained positions 1,2 and 3 for the results of the competition.

Government employees are not allowed to enter the competition.

Manuscripts should be neatly typed, properly edited and posted or submitted to:
Director:
Language Services
Department of Sport, Arts and Culture
Private Bag X9549, Polokwane, 0700
Or
Hand delivered to: Olympic Towers Building
21 Cnr, Biccard and Rabe Streets
Polokwane

Closing date for entries:

22 JANUARY 2027

The Department will communicate with the winners only.

LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS & CULTURE

2026/27 LITERARY COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

(PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK LETTERS)

SURNAME: .....

NAMES: .....

IDENTITY NO: .....

GENDER: .....

POSTAL ADDRESS: .....

.....

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: .....

.....

TELEPHONE: (Home) ...../ **(Work):** .....

Cell No: ...../ **E-mail:** .....

TITLE OF MANUSCRIPT: .....

.....

LANGUAGE USED FOR ENTRY: .....

SIGNATURE: .....

DATE:.....

Enquiries: Ms M.P Mogodi,
015 284 4056, 4054, 4057



MEC Mavhungu-Ramakhanya engages Sekhukhune East SGBs and Principals

LEFT:SGB members and school Principals from Sekhukhune East Education District attending in numbers during the Service Delivery Week session.

RIGHT:MEC for Education in Limpopo, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, engaging with Sekhukhune East SGB members and school Principals through the department's initiative set to strengthen school governance.



MAKGEMENG

MEC for Education in Limpopo, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, engaged with over 2 500 SGB members and school Principals in Sekhukhune East in a programme set to strengthen school governance.

The event, which was held on Thursday 27 August 2026 at Magakantshe Primary School in Makgemeng Village, was part of the department's Service Delivery Week programme in the Sekhukhune East Education District.

The session provided a critical platform to deliberate on the invaluable contribution of SGBs and principals to the education system, while frankly addressing the persistent challenges they face in school governance and leadership.

Addressing the gathering, MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya reaffirmed the department's commitment to strengthening collaboration between the department, parents, and school management. She emphasized that functional and capacitated SGBs are the cornerstone of quality education delivery.

"Our SGBs are not just structures of compliance, they are partners in our mission to deliver quality learning. When governance is strong, leadership is effective, and teaching and learning thrives," Lerule-Ramakhanya said.

Key issues deliberated included learner discipline, infrastructure maintenance, financial management, learner admissions, and the role of SGBs in supporting curriculum delivery and safeguarding the learning environment.

The MEC reiterated that ongoing support, training and empowerment of SGBs remains a priority for the Department to ensure that every school is governed with integrity, accountability and a child-centered approach.

The department said the engagement in Sekhukhune East is part of a series of district-based Service Delivery Week interactions across the province, aimed at bringing the department closer to the people it serves and finding sustainable solutions to challenges on the ground.

RE-ADVERTISEMENT
BOARD NOMINATIONS
SEKHUKHUNE
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
NON-EXECUTIVE BOARD



PREVIOUS NOMINEES/APPLICANTS MUST RE-APPLY!

Notice is hereby given by Sekhukhune District Municipality in terms of section 93E of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 and read with item 4(3) of the SDA By-law for establishing and operating Sekhukhune Development Agency (2010) that members of the public and interested persons are informed of the five (05) non-executive directors vacancies in the Sekhukhune Development Agency Board. Applicants are required to comply with section 93E (1) and 93F in respect of eligibility for nominations.

We invite suitable, experienced and committed individuals to be nominated for appointment to the Board of Sekhukhune Development Agency

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE

BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD HAVE EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING FIELDS:

***Development Economists; *Chartered Accountants or Financial Experts; *Legal Practitioners (Attorneys or Advocates); *Urban Planners or Spatial Development Specialists; *Business Leaders or Entrepreneurs; *Engineers or Infrastructure Specialists; *Public Administration or Governance Experts; *Community Development Practitioners; *Tourism Specialists; *Agriculture or Agribusiness Specialists; *ICT or Innovation Specialists; and *Project Management Professionals.**

REMUNERATION

Appointed members will be remunerated in line with the Board Remuneration Policy of the Sekhukhune District Municipality.

TERM OF OFFICE

The Board Term shall not exceed of three (03) Years.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Signed Nomination letter
- Certified I.D Copy
- Certified driver's license copy
- Curriculum Vitae
- Certified Copies of Qualifications
- Proof of residence

Only one scanned copy is required, and scanned documents should be in PDF file format.

SUBMISSION

All nominations should be addressed to the Municipal Manager: Mr. M.M Kgwale and directed to Ms. Maseilane Mahlatji at mahlatjim@sekhukhune.gov.za.

ENQUIRIES

Please contact Ms. Maseilane Mahlatji on 013 262 7578 or mahlatjim@sekhukhune.gov.za

CLOSING DATE

The Re-Advert closes on Friday 18 September 2026 at 16:30

SEKHUKHUNE District Municipality
SEKHUKHUNE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY Ignite | Inspire | Invest
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The DA in Limpopo says they will escalate the new allegations concerning GNT procurement of an electronic ticketing system to SIU, urging them to get answers on the progress of an existing corruption probe.

DA Limpopo refers fresh GNT ticketing allegations to SIU

LIMPOPO

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo has referred new allegations concerning Great North Transport's (GNT) procurement of an electronic ticketing system to the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), while demanding answers on the progress of an existing corruption probe at the entity.

DA Limpopo Spokesperson on Provincial Treasury, Jacques Smalle, said the party had received information raising concerns that successive ticketing service providers, may not be wholly independent and that directors or owners of companies involved, may be individuals from within GNT or its parent entity, the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA).

Lending weight to these concerns, Smalle said, is the allegation that technicians involved in previous GNT ticketing systems are again being used to install new machines.

The referral comes more than 18 months after President Cyril Ramaphosa authorized an SIU invstigation into GNT procurement and maladministration under Proclamation 246 of 2025. That proclamation covers multiple matters, including possible unlawful conduct, losses of public money and corruption.

According to the DA, there has been no substantive public account of the SIU investigation's progress, findings, referrals, recoveries or recommendations to date.

"GNT cannot continue to be a financial black hole into which taxpayers are expected to pour hundreds of millions more while serious questions remain about where previous funding went," Smalle said.

The party pointed to almost R1 billion in taxpayer support that has failed to stabilize GNT, which is now seeking another R198.8 million in public funding. This comes as the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) has questioned its continued trading and demanded answers by the end of this month.

The DA said it will ask the SIU to investigate the alleged links between successive ticketing service providers and individuals within GNT or LEDA, and to determine whether these matters fall within the scope of its existing investigation.

The party said it will further submit questions to the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), Tshitereke Matibe, on previous and current ticketing contracts, company ownership, technicians used, possible interests held by GNT or LEDA officials, and why the previous system is being replaced.

"The province cannot continue pouring public money into GNT while serious questions about procurement, weak controls, past expenditure and possible maladministration and corruption remain unresolved. Before another rand is committed, the public deserves to know what was bought before, why it is being replaced, who benefited from those contracts and, above all, whether any public money was lost," Smalle said.



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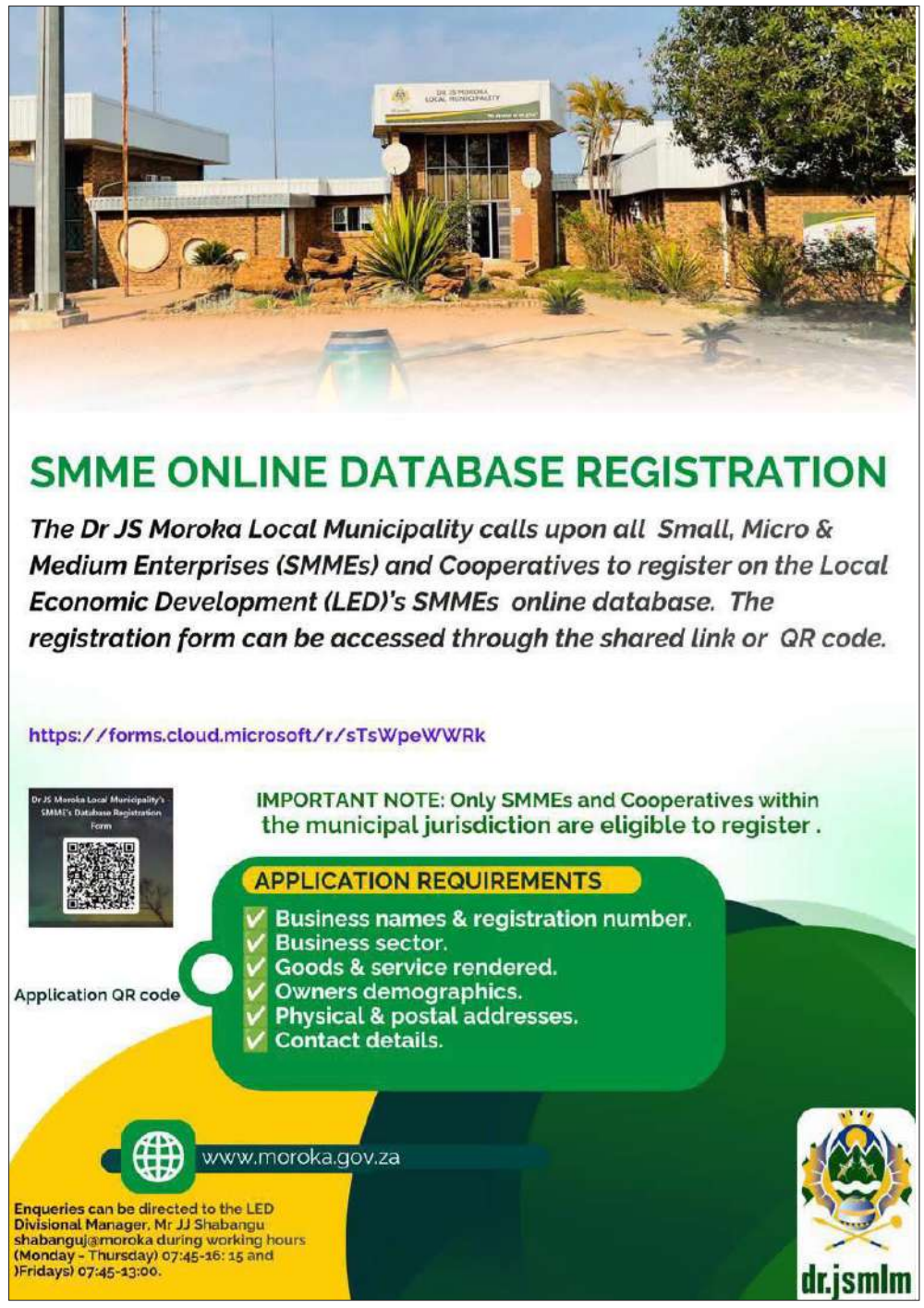

EMLM honours women through empowerment and wellness

GROBLERSDAL

To wrap-up Women's Month celebrations, women in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM), came together in colourful dresses and hats to commemorate the month of August during an Empowerment and Wellness Celebration, held recently at the EMLM Council Chambers in Groblersdal.

According to the municipality, the event provided a platform to empower, educate and inspire women employees, while celebrating their strength, resilience, achievements and invaluable contribution to the municipality and the communities it serves.The event was graced by the presence of Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) responsible for Corporate Services, Cllr Poppy Phetla, who was accompanied by the EMLM Speaker of Council, Cllr Junior Thethe and EMLM Municipal Manager, Reginah Mahlakwane, in honouring women who continue to ensure the effective functioning of the municipality.

Delivering the keynote address, Municipal Manager Mahlakwane called on women to embrace their strength and leadership abilities and to stand together in support of one another.

"Women must not engage in petty conflicts or gossip about one another; instead, we must support, uplift and lead by example," said Mahlakwane.

She urged women to lead through hard work, integrity, professionalism and excellence. Mahlakwane further encouraged women to be responsible and protective of the money they work hard to earn, particularly when supporting their families. She cautioned against gambling away hard-earned income and emphasized making wise financial decisions that contribute to family stability and wellbeing.

The programme featured a series of informative and empowering sessions aimed at strengthening personal wellbeing, financial knowledge and confidence as women and leaders.

During the event, Charmaine Moola from Nedbank presented on financial literacy, providing practical guidance on sound financial management and financial independence.

On the health front, Sister Rantho from Groblersdal Hospital addressed women's health, encouraging participants to prioritize their wellbeing through awareness, prevention and appropriate healthcare. LA Health & Discovery also contributed to the programme by highlighting the importance of health and wellness.

Adding a legal empowerment dimension, Advocate Lefa Rachidi, provided valuable information on the recognition of customary marriages, helping women understand their legal rights and responsibilities.

A "Word of the Day" segment added an inspirational element to the programme, encouraging women to embrace positive values, resilience and personal growth.

The Elias Motsoaledi Municipality has extended its appreciation to all women employees, speakers and partners who contributed to making the commemoration meaningful and impactful.



RIGHT:EMLM Municipal Manager, Reginah Mahlakwane, urged women to embrace their strength and leadership abilities and stand together in support of one another.



BELOW:Scores of women from different parts of Elias Motsoaledi Municipality, came together in colourful dresses and hats during the Women's Month Empowerment and Wellness Celebration, held at EMLM Council Chambers in Groblersdal.

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Sports



Sekhukhune Dispatch
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INSIDE

Premier Ramathuba closes DDM programme in FTLM with pledge on water and electricity

Team Limpopo Basketball scoops Gold at Special Olympics SA

LIMPOPO

Team Limpopo has been crowned national champions after clinching gold in basketball at the 2026 Special Olympics South Africa National Summer Championships.

Team Limpopo returned home on Monday 31 August 2026 from the Special Olympics South Africa Summer Championships held in Rustenburg, North West Province.

Team Limpopo delivered an outstanding performance, scooping gold medals in Marathon, Table Tennis and Basketball. The team's medal haul also included 8 bronze medals and two individual medals for participation.

The Limpopo Basketball squad displayed sheer dominance on their road to glory, overpowering Northern Cape in the semi-final before delivering a commanding performance against Free State in the final to secure the top podium position.

The victory is a demonstration to the province's investment in school sport and club development.

Limpopo assembled a highly talented and disciplined team for this year's championships, and the team represented the province with excellence, pride and sportsmanship.

The basketball gold medal triumph has come with a major reward. Following their outstanding performance, players from the gold-winning Limpopo Basketball team are now in line for nomination to form part of the South African National Team, which will compete at the World Special Olympics Championships in 2027.

The achievement also highlights the growing strength of Special Olympics sport in the province, with Limpopo athletes continuing to shine on the national stage.

Special Olympics Limpopo has congratulated the team, coaches and support staff for their dedication, hard work and for bringing gold home to the province.

MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture in Limpopo, Jerry Maseko, together with his executive management and staff, welcomed Team Limpopo with ululations, cheers and a red carpet celebration, honouring their excellent exploits at the national games..

The Member of Executive Council for Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr Funani Jerry Maseko, together with his executive management and staff, hosted the team today to honour their excellent exploits at the national games.

Speaking with pride and absolute joy, MEC Maseko said the victory is a testament to investment in inclusive sport.

"Your victory is a powerful testament to what is possible when we invest in school sport, club development and inclusive sport. This is the fruits of hard work, discipline and support from your coaches, families and teachers," said Maseko.

In a major announcement, MEC Maseko confirmed that Limpopo's excellence has been recognised nationally, with athletes selected to represent the country on the world stage.

"Our female Basketball team, including Shitlhangu Hope and Vusimusi Ramathuba, have now been selected to form part of Team South Africa to represent our country in Chile next year at the World Special Olympics Championships. You are now not just ambassadors of Limpopo, but ambassadors of South Africa," he said.

The MEC confirmed that the Limpopo Basketball team and the gold medalists in Table Tennis and Marathon will all form part of Team South Africa that will compete at the 2027 World Special Olympics in Chile.

"To the team, you are our heroes, you have shown that ability is more powerful than disability, and that Limpopo talent can shine on any stage. The department will continue to support Special Olympics, school sport and sport development programmes to ensure more athletes like you get the opportunity to excel. Team Limpopo, welcome home. We honour you, we celebrate you," MEC Maseko concluded.

> "Your victory is a powerful testament to what is possible when we invest in school sport, club development and inclusive sport. This is the fruits of hard work, discipline and support from your coaches, families and teachers,"
> **— MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture in Limpopo, Jerry Maseko**



Team Limpopo Basketball squad, with MEC Jerry Maseko, during their arrival at the province after winning gold medal at the 2026 Special Olympics South Africa National Summer Championships.



Limpopo Basketball team before taking on Free State in the final that led them to secure the top podium position and walk away with the gold medal.





Team Limpopo delivered an outstanding performance at the 2026 Special Olympics South Africa National Summer Champi-onships, scooping medals in various sporting codes.

Kaze sacked at Sekhukhune



Cedric Kaze was sacked by Sekhukhune United.

BURGERSFORT

Sekhukhune United have fired Cedric Kaze after losing four of their last five games, three of them in a row to Orlando Pirates.

The Burundian coach had won his first two matches in charge but then lost four of the next five, including to Kaze's former club Kaizer Chiefs as well as Pirates in the league and across the two legs of the MTN8 semifinal "Sekhukhune United Football Club announces that Head Coach Cedric Kaze has departed from the Club by mutual agreement, with immediate effect," said a statement.

"The Club expresses its sincere appreciation to Coach Kaze for his dedication, professionalism, and contribution during his tenure, and wishes him every success in his future endeavours.

"As part of the coaching transition, Papi Zothwane has been appointed to lead the technical team as Head Coach, assisted by Paulus Masehe while Nascent Nkhwashu will continue in his role as goalkeeper coach."The Club remains focused on ensuring stability, continuity, and a smooth transition as the team prepares for the challenges ahead," the statement added. Zothwane's first game in charge is at home to TS Galaxy on Saturday.