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Provincial Commissioner Scheepers vows action as Tafelkop crime soars

TAFELKOP

The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Jan Scheepers, has assured residents of Tafelkop Village that police are intensifying efforts to fight crime, after community members raised a litany of concerns during a high-level Community Imbizo.

The Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) and Crime Prevention Imbizo was held on Thursday 3 September 2026, at the Apostolic Faith Mission Church in Tafelkop Village, Motetema policing area.

The Imbizo was convened in response to high levels of serious crime reported within the Motetema policing area, particularly murder, sexual offences and rape, housebreaking, and stock theft.

The engagement brought together government departments, traditional leadership, community structures, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations and other strategic stakeholders, in a purpose to strengthen a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach towards combating GBVF and crime and creating safer communities.

Sekhukhune District Commissioner Major General Lehabe-Metsi outlined the purpose of the Imbizo.

She emphasised the need for collaborative measures to address GBVF and crime and highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships between law enforcement, government departments, traditional leadership and communities through initiatives such as the Integrated Community Violence Prevention Framework.

Community members were given an opportunity to raise their concerns and propose solutions.

They actively raised a range of issues including stock theft, burglary, drug abuse among young people, gender-based violence, illegal liquor outlets, illegal immigration and slow response times by law enforcement agencies.

They also expressed concerns about road safety, crime hotspots, the high murder rate, business compliance and the sale and distribution of illicit drugs. Residents said there is a need for increased police visibility and regular patrols within the community.

Community members further called on the municipality to strengthen and effectively enforce municipal by-laws. They said by-laws must address issues such as illegal trading, unlawful land occupation, the operation of unregulated businesses and other activities that contribute to crime and disorder within communities.

Residents emphasised the importance of closer cooperation between the municipality, SAPS, traditional leadership, community structures and residents in ensuring safer and more orderly communities.

In his response, Lieutenant General Scheepers acknowledged the concerns raised by residents and assured the community that SAPS remains committed to addressing crime and improving safety within the area. He emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships between the police and communities, noting that effective crime prevention requires active collaboration and information sharing.

The Provincial Commissioner outlined measures being implemented to combat criminal activities. These measures include intensified crime prevention operations, increased police visibility, targeted patrols in identified hotspots and coordinated efforts with other law enforcement agencies and stakeholders. He encouraged community members to continue reporting criminal activities and to support Community Policing Forums and other community safety structures.

Scheepers called on communities to play an active role in the fight against crime and Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. He urged them not to harbour undocumented foreign nationals or enable individuals involved in criminal activities. He appealed to GBVF victims and their families to make use of available support mechanisms and encouraged communities not to withdraw criminal cases, as this may allow perpetrators to continue committing offences.

He also called on communities to take a firm stand against corruption, to report suspected corrupt activities through appropriate channels and to make use of available whistleblower protection mechanisms where necessary.

Scheepers warned communities against taking the law into their own hands, particularly through unlawful actions aimed at forcing undocumented foreign nationals out of farms or communities.

He stressed that all concerns must be reported through proper legal and law enforcement channels, emphasising that unlawful actions can undermine community safety and the rule of law. He concluded by highlighting the importance of unity, active community participation and a shared commitment to building safer communities across Limpopo.

The Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM), Cllr David Tladi, welcomed the Imbizo.

He said the engagement was important because it brought together the community of Tafelkop, traditional leaders, government stakeholders and law enforcement agencies to discuss matters affecting community safety.

Kgoshigadi Matsepe of the Matsepe Tribal Authority welcomed the collaborative approach adopted by SAPS and its stakeholders.

She emphasised that every role player has a responsibility to contribute towards the fight against crime and pledged the support of traditional leadership to law enforcement agencies. She called for continued cooperation between traditional authorities, SAPS and government departments.



Community members were given an opportunity to raise concerns during a high-level Community Imbizo held at the Apostolic Faith Mission Church in Tafelkop Village.



Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Jan Scheepers, assured Tafelkkop residents that police are intensifying efforts to fight crime in the area.

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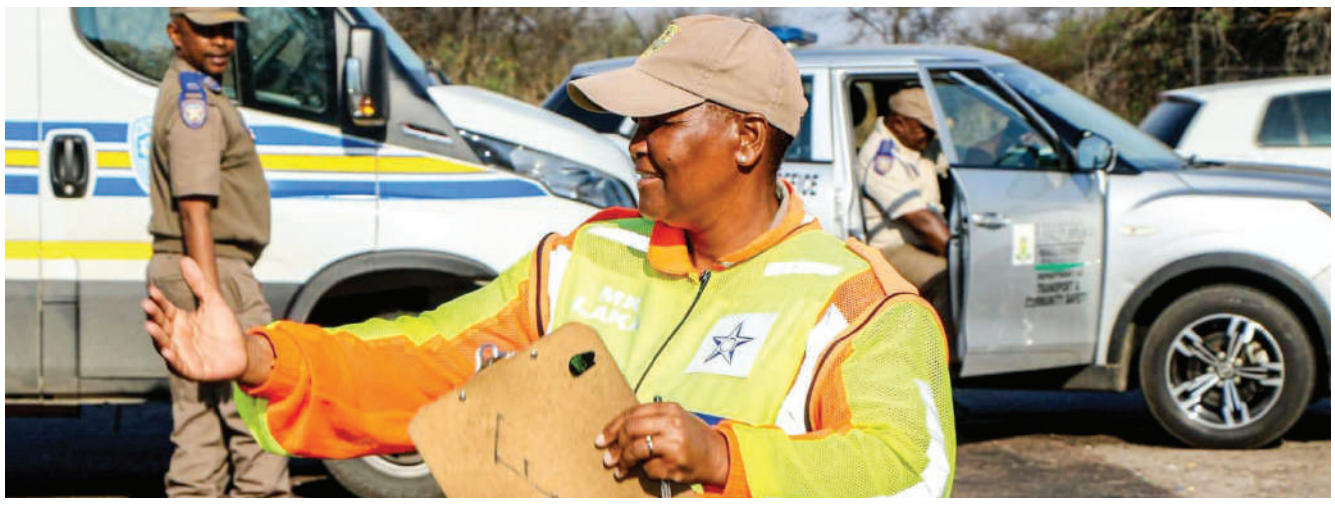

The Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety confirmed that a total of 190 drunken drivers were arrested in Limpopo in August 2026 during intensified roadblocks conducted across the province.

Sixteen arrested in Sekhukhune for drunk driving

SEKHUKHUNE

Sekhukhune District has recorded the lowest number of drunk driving arrests in Limpopo during August 2026, with only 16 motorists nabbed during Operation Phuza Weekend, compared to 57 arrests in Vhembe District which recorded the highest in the province.

According to the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety, a total of 190 drivers were arrested across the province for driving under the influence of alcohol last month.

While Sekhukhune recorded the lowest figure, the department says the district is not off the hook, with the highest alcohol reading in the district reaching 0.45mg/1000ml - almost double the legal limit of 0.24mg/1000ml.

Vhembe District recorded the highest number of arrests with 57 drivers, and the highest alcohol reading there was 0.98mg per 1000ml.

Waterberg District followed with 42 drivers arrested, and the highest reading was 0.62mg per 1000ml.

Mopani District recorded 38 arrests, with the highest reading at 0.86mg per 1000ml.

Capricorn District had 37 drivers arrested, but it recorded the highest alcohol concentration in the province at 1.06mg per 1000ml, which is more than four times the legal limit of 0.24mg per 1000ml.

The department said it is gravely concerned that Vhembe recorded the highest number of arrests, which indicates a worrying disregard for the law and for human life. It is also concerned about the extremely high alcohol level recorded in Capricorn, which poses a deadly danger to all road users.

MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Nakedi Kekana, condemned the behaviour of drunk drivers and warned that there will be no leniency.

"Drunk driving is not a mistake, it is a choice to commit murder. We cannot allow our roads to become killing fields because of irresponsible motorists. Operation Phuza Weekend will be intensified, and we will show no mercy to those who drink and drive," she said.

MEC Kekana added that Operation Phuza Weekend will be intensified and that no mercy will be shown to those who drink and drive.

She confirmed that unannounced roadblocks and patrols will continue throughout the province, especially over weekends.

"Motorists are urged to act responsibly and not drink and drive," said Kekana.





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Man arrested for brutal murder of ex-girlfriend

MASHAMOTHANE

The police in Tubatse have arrested a 28-year-old man for the brutal murder of his 25-year-old ex-girlfriend at Mashamothane B1 in the early hours of Saturday 5 September 2026.

According to Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the incident happened at rental rooms next to a crèche at Mashamothane B1, where the on duty police members conducting sector patrols at approximately 04:22, received information from the Community Service Centre (CSC) that a woman had allegedly been stabbed by her ex-boyfriend.

"On arrival at the scene, the police found Emergency Medical Services personnel from Dilokong. Inside one of the rooms, they were shown the lifeless body of a 25-year-old woman lying with multiple stab wounds sustained on various parts of her body," informed Ledwaba.

He said the deceased's sister, who was present at the scene, informed police that she had been inside the room with the deceased when she heard a dog barking outside.

"Shortly thereafter, she allegedly heard the voice of the deceased's ex-boyfriend. Moments later, the room door was allegedly forced open and the suspect entered the premises. Fearing for her safety, the sister reportedly ran outside screaming for help," said Ledwaba.

Ledwaba added that further information revealed that the deceased had previously obtained a protection order against the suspect, prohibiting him from entering her place of residence or communicating with her.

"The local criminal record centre and the Forensic Pathology Services were summoned to the scene for further investigation and processing," he said.

Ledwaba said following an intensive investigation, information was operationalized by the Tubatse Tracing Team and standby members, leading to the arrest of the suspect, at Lebowakgomo.

"During the arrest, the alleged murder weapon was recovered and seized as evidence. The suspect is facing charges of murder, possession of a dangerous weapon and contravention of the Domestic Violence Act (DVA). He is expected to appear before the Praktiseer Magistrate's Court soon. Police investigations are continuing," concluded Ledwaba.

The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Jan Scheepers, commended the Tubatse tracking team members for swiftly responding to the call, pursued the suspect and urgently brought him before the court to account for the heinous act of violence he is accused of having committed.



The police in Tubatse have arrested a 28-year-old man for the brutal murder of his 25-year-old ex-girlfriend at Masham-othane B1.

Ga-Mpuru Villagers demand urgent fix for crumbling D4170 Road

GA-MPURU

For residents along D4170 Road, the daily journey from the R37 Road to Ga-Mpuru Village in the Mandagshoek area has become a gamble with safety.

Following recent heavy rainfall, the crumbling tar road, which is the only direct link for thousands in Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM) Ward 12, has deteriorated into deep ruts, erosion gullies and unstable sections, leaving community members feeling isolated and ignored.

FTLM Ward 12 community leader, Lehlogonolo Magabane, said the condition of the road is no longer just an inconvenience, but a daily threat to livelihoods.

Magabane outlined growing fears on the ground: "The deterioration following rainfall increases the risk of vehicle damage and road accidents, difficulties for taxis and other public transport vehicles, and restricted access for residents," he said.

Residents report that taxi operators are now reluctant to use the route, forcing workers to walk long distances and pay more for alternative transport. Parents say learners are arriving late to school, while access for ambulances and other emergency services has become dangerously unreliable.

"Delays affecting workers, learners and emergency services are now a daily reality. Further erosion is happening every time it rains, and it increases the isolation of communities dependent on this route," Magabane said.

The community says the problem has been reported before, but without meaningful feedback or a permanent fix. They are now calling for more than just a temporary intervention.

Their concerns centre on five key issues, safety, access, cost, neglect and the threat of total cut-off if another heavy storm hits.

"If there is no urgent intervention, we will be completely cut off. This road is our economy, it is how we get to clinics, to schools, to work," said Magabane.

He stressed that residents are not asking for special treatment, only for the basic maintenance owed to a proclaimed public route.

"We respectfully but firmly call on the relevant authorities to act before the damage becomes more extensive. Failure to intervene promptly could result in significantly greater infrastructure damage and increased costs to government, but for us, the cost is already our safety," he said.

At the time of publication, a response from the Limpopo Provincial Department of Public Works was still awaited.



Residents of Ga-Mpuru Village in Fetakgomo Tubatse are pleading with the Limpopo Department of Public Works to urgently fix the crumbling D4170 Road.



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Operation Shanela nets 2 142 suspects across Limpopo

LIMPOPO

The police across Limpopo have arrested 2 142 suspects, including 5 for murder and 11 for attempted murder, during week-long Operation Shanela conducted across the province from Monday 31 August 2026 until Sunday 6 September 2026.

Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, said the suspects were arrested during the multidisciplinary high-density operations, which delivered a significant blow to serious and violent crime.

Ledwaba confirmed that during the operation, five suspects were arrested for murder, 11 for attempted murder, 1 for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 28 for rape, 3 for sexual assault, 175 for assault GBH, 99 for common assault, 12 for common robbery, 8 for robbery with weapons other than a firearm, 20 for sexual offences, 1 for business burglary, and 23 for residential burglary.

"Nine firearms and 116 rounds of ammunition were seized during the operations, along with the recovery of 5 stolen and robbed vehicles," he said.

He said further arrests include 62 suspects nabbed for malicious damage to property, 39 for shoplifting, 5 for fraud, 49 for theft other, 213 for drug-related crime, 100 for driving under the influence, 7 for illegal possession of firearm and ammunition, 21 for transgression of the Domestic Violence Act, 12 for possession of suspected stolen property, 188 undocumented immigrants, 453 for public drinking, and 141 for illegal dealing in liquor. Other arrests were made for various other offences.

On confiscated items, Ledwaba said police also confiscated 39 dangerous weapons, 38 knives and 2 850 counterfeit cigarette sticks.

He said police also seized 165 080.253 grams of dagga, 0 grams of cocaine powder, 0 grams of crack cocaine or rocks, 21.701 grams of crystal meth (Tik), 0.23 grams of heroin or Thai white, 0 grams of khat, 0 grams of CAT, 2.5 grams of mandrax powder, 0 grams of methcathinone, 9.491 grams of nyaope and 1 273,810 ml of liquor. A total of 1,840 fines were also issued.

Ledwaba said the successes were achieved through sustained intelligence-driven policing and various operations.

"The police conducted 893 awareness campaigns, 3 518 compliance inspections at liquor premises, 790 compliance inspections at Second Hand Goods Dealers, 1 402 crime prevention operations, 44 drug operations, 228 liquor control operations, 147 roadblocks, 8 154 stop-and-search operations and 3 970 Vehicle Control Points," Ledwaba informed.

He said the police attended 331 domestic violence incidents, served 212 protection orders, closed 148 shebeens, conducted 125 observation services, tested 8 287 vehicles, conducted 12 157 blue-light patrols, searched 35 773 persons, searched 17 271 vehicles and searched 1 758 spaza and tuck shops.

"All arrested suspects have started appearing before various magistrates' courts across the province," concluded Ledwaba.

Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Jan Scheepers, commended the police members and law enforcement partners for their continued commitment.

"We will continue with intelligence-driven operations to disrupt criminal activities and keep the people of Limpopo safe," said Scheepers.



Large quantities of drugs were recovered by the police during the multidisciplinary high-density operations conducted across Limpopo Province.



Trading outlets were searched for compliance during the week-long Operation Shanela conducted in Limpopo Province.



Unlicensed firearms and ammunition were confiscated by the police during the operation.

ANC Sekhukhune restores dignity, hands over new house to Thokwane family



The comfortable new house handed by ANC in Sekhukhune to the Thokwane family is fully furnished, comprising three bedrooms, a kitchen and a dining room.



ANC Sekhukhune leaders officially handing over the house to Thokwane family in Mokgapaneng Section, Phokwane Village.

PHOKWANE

Recently, the African National Congress (ANC) in the Sekhukhune Region, led by Regional Secretary Tala Mathope, officially handed over a fully furnished new house to the Thokwane family in Mokgapaneng Section, Phokwane Village, in the Makhuduthamaga Sub-Region.

The family of 12 has been living in a one-room shack, exposed to harsh weather conditions. They will now no longer have to worry about rain, wind, storms or cold weather.

The comfortable new house comprises three bedrooms, a kitchen and a dining room, giving the family space and comfort they have never had before.

Speaking during the hand over, Mathope said the ANC remains committed to restoring the dignity of the people and ensuring that no one is left behind. He said the intervention is part of the movement's commitment to serve the people and improve their living conditions.

The Thokwane family expressed heartfelt gratitude to the ANC Sekhukhune Region for the life-changing intervention.

Meanwhile in a separate development, the current ANC Provincial Treasurer and former Mayor of Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM), Eddie Maila, who is the newly appointed MEC for the Department of Health, along with Bella Kupa-Mabuza, former Regional Treasurer and newly appointed MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, paid a courtesy visit to Elias Phakane Moretsele House in Jane Furse.

The two former regional leaders came to convey their appreciation for the continued support they receive from the current regional leadership, branches, volunteers and voters following their deployment to government responsibilities.

They were proudly received by Regional Chairperson Minah Bahula and Regional Secretary Tala Mathope, who described them as tried and tested products of the mighty Sekhukhune Region.



ANC Sekhukhune Regional Secretary, Tala Mathope, cutting the ribbon to officially hand over the new house to the Thokwane family.

During their visit, Maila and Kupa-Mabuza committed to hit the ground running in their new portfolios to ensure that the people of Limpopo receive quality services.

The ANC Sekhukhune Regional leadership wished the MECs well in their new responsibilities.

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Healthcare crisis hit Tafelkop, Ga-Matsepe Clinic cuts operational hours



The Ga-Matsepe Clinic in Tafelkop that was promised to operate 24 hours has now cut working hours and cancelled weekend services due to staff shortages.

TAFELKOP

Residents of Tafelkop Village have raised serious concerns over deteriorating health services at Ga-Matsepe Clinic, which has drastically reduced its operating hours and stopped weekend services due to a critical shortage of staff.

The clinic, which serves an estimated 300 patients per day, is currently operating with only three staff members, two professional nurses and an operational manager. The severe understaffing has left health workers overwhelmed and unable to cope with the daily influx of patients.

According to residents, the facility previously operated on weekends and had standby staff to attend to emergencies at night. That service has now collapsed.

Patients, who spoke during a Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA) oversight visit, said they spend long hours in queues, with some forced to return home without receiving medical attention. There are also complaints about chronic medication shortages and a chaotic filing system.

"There is no clerk and the data capturer is now forced to do clerk duties. There is no proper filing, so patients have to open new files every time they visit the clinic," a resident complained.

It is understood that two other staff members are currently unavailable, one is on maternity leave while another is attending training courses.

The deteriorating conditions prompted an oversight visit by BPSA Ward 25 Councillor Candidate in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM), Eric Nkadimeng, after residents lodged complaints.

Nkadimeng said what they found at the facility confirmed the community's worst fears.

"What we found at Ga-Matsepe is not just a shortage, it is a collapse. You cannot have three people expected to serve 300 patients per day. It is inhumane to both the patients and the staff," Nkadimeng said.

He said the staff themselves confided that they were forced to cut working hours and cancel weekend operations because they are overburdened and not compensated for overtime.

"The nurses told us that even if they sacrifice and work beyond normal hours, they will not be paid for it. So they had no choice but to reduce hours. The health of our people is being compromised because the department is failing to employ," he said.

Nkadimeng said the situation is forcing desperate residents to seek alternatives.

"Residents are now forced to travel to Dikgalaopeng Clinic, which is about 12 to 15 kilometres away. This is an alternative only for those who can afford taxi fare. Those who cannot afford have to face these irregularities at Ga-Matsepe Clinic," he said.

He described the filing crisis and lack of medication as a violation of patients' rights to dignified healthcare.

"How do you treat a patient without a file? How do you manage chronic patients when you keep opening new files? You lose medical history, you lose continuity of care. People are being turned away with high blood pressure and diabetes. This clinic is now a danger to the community it is supposed to serve," Nkadimeng said.

Nkadimeng said they have escalated the matter to the BPSA leadership, which will take it up at provincial level.

"We were informed by the previous Health MEC that this clinic will be converted into a 24-hour operational facility. That promise never materialized. Instead, the clinic is reducing working hours. That is moving backwards," he said.

Nkadimeng said the party will be calling on the Limpopo Department of Health to urgently deploy more nurses, clerks and a pharmacy assistant to Ga-Matsepe before lives are lost.

"We cannot allow rural clinics to be neglected. Tafelkop is not a small village, the demand is high," he concluded.

At the time of publishing, the Limpopo Department of Health had not yet responded to questions sent about staffing interventions at Ga-Matsepe Clinic.

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AUCTION

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA
(LIMPOPO DIVISION, POLOKWANE)

CASE NO: **1927/2021**

In the matter between:

CEMBLOCKS (PTY) LTD
(REG NO: 1981/007595/07) Execution Creditor

and

PHINERE FRANK MOLELE
(ID NO: 631202 5354 08 8) First Execution Debtor

THABEA KERILENG MOLELE
(ID NO: 700401 1053 08 4) Second Execution Debtor

MOLEMOLE MUNICIPALITY Third Execution Debtor

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION – IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

A sale in execution will be held, by the Sheriff Polokwane on **30 September 2026** at **10h00** of the following property:

THE UNDIVIDED HALF SHARE OF ERF 17, DENDRON, LIMPOPO, SITUATED AT NO. 17 BOYSENS STREET, DENDRON, LIMPOPO, REGISTRATION DIVISION: LS, MOLEMOLE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MEASURING 3341 M² (THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY ONE SQUARE METERS) IN EXTENT AND HELD BY VIRTUE OF TITLE DEED NO.: T79849/2003.

STREET ADDRESS: **17 Boysens Street, Dendron, Limpopo**

PLACE OF SALE: **Sheriff Polokwane**

66 Platinum Street, Ladine, Polokwane

IMPROVEMENTS: **Property: Residential Stand**

Description: Double Storey House with brick wall, title roof and tile floor

2 x Lounges, 1 x Dining Room, 1 x Kitchen, 2 x Bedrooms, 2 x Bathrooms, 1 x Shower, 2 x Toilets, Out Building, 9 Unfinished rooms for tenants, henhouse and wendy house, 2 x Rooms with Thatch Roof

Zoned for residential purposes

CONDITIONS OF SALE: The Conditions of Sale will lie for inspection at the offices of the **Sheriff Polokwane, 66 Platinum Street, Ladine Polokwane,** where they may be inspected during normal office hours.

Terms: The purchaser shall pay to the Sheriff a deposit of 10% (ten percent) of the purchase price in cash or EFT on the day of the sale; the balance shall be paid against transfer and shall be secured by a guarantee issued by a financial institution approved by the execution creditor or its attorney, and shall be furnished to the Sheriff within 21 (twenty one) days from date of sale. No third-party guarantees will be accepted.

The property may be taken possession of after signature of the conditions of sale, payment of the deposit and upon the balance of the purchase price being secured in terms of condition_____.

Should the purchaser receive possession of the property, the purchaser shall be liable for occupational rental at the rate of R_____ per month from _____ to date of transfer.

AUCTIONEER'S CHARGES, payable on the day of the sale, to be calculated as follows:

6% (six percent) on the first R100,000.00 of the proceed of the sale, 3.5% (three point five percent) on R100,001.00 – R400,000.00 plus VAT and 1.5% (one point five percent) on the balance of the proceed of the sale subject to a maximum commission of R40,000.00 in total and a minimum of R3,000.00 plus VAT (if applicable) (inclusive in all instances of the Sheriff's bank charges and other expenses incurred in paying the proceeds into his / her bank account, which commission will be paid by the purchaser).

1. The sale is for cash or EFT only. No cheques will be accepted and VAT at 15% will be payable;
2. The sale is a sale in execution pursuant to a judgment obtained in the above Honourable Court;
3. The rules of the auction are available 24 hours prior to the auction at the office of the Sheriff Polokwane, 66 Platinum Street, Ladine, Polokwane;
4. Registration as a buyer is pre-requisite subject to be specific condition, *inter alia*;
   - 4.1 Directive of the Consumer Protection Act 68 of 2008 (Url: http://www.info.gov.za/view/downloadfileaction?id-99961).
   - 4.2 FICA registration in respect of proof of identity and address particulars.
   - 4.3 Payment of registration deposit of R15,000.00 in cash or EFT a day prior to the auction to obtain a buyer's card.
5. All goods will be sold "VOETSTOOTS".
6. The auctioneer will be AT Ralehlaka, or her Deputy.
7. Online Auction: www.onlineauctions.africa.

DATED AT **JOHANNESBURG** ON THIS THE **11TH** DAY OF **AUGUST 2026**

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ATTORNEYS FOR EXECUTION CREDITOR
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Two suspects die hours after Moteti armed robbery



R5 rounds of ammunition and magazine were confiscated by the police at a fatal crash scene along the R573 Road, following an armed robbery incident committed at Moteti Complex.



The firearms that were recovered when the police process the accident scene on the R573 Road.

MOTETI

Two suspected armed robbers have died in a fatal crash on the R573 Road, just a few hours after committing a violent business robbery at a filling station in Moteti near Dennilton.

According to the police report, the incident unfolded in the early hours of Tuesday 8 September 2026, and has led to a major breakthrough for police with the recovery of high-calibre firearms.

Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the armed robbery took place at approximately 02:30 at a filling station at Moteti Complex, where about 13 unknown African males, armed with handguns and rifles, allegedly stormed the premises.

"The suspects accosted the security guards and cashier before proceeding to the cash office, where they allegedly used an explosive device to breach the drop safe. They subsequently fled the premises on foot while firing several shots," said Ledwaba.He added that members of the Provincial Organised Crime Investigation Unit took over the crime scene.

"Hours later, at approximately 05:10, the police received information that a white Nissan Navara with Mpumalanga registration had overturned along the R573 road between Slaagboom and Siyabuswa, towards Marble Hall. Upon arrival, the police found two male occupants. The driver was certified dead at the scene, while the passenger had sustained serious head injuries. He was transported by ambulance to a local hospital, where he subsequently succumbed to his injuries while receiving medical treatment," explained Ledwaba.

He said during the processing of the accident scene, police recovered firearms and ammunition including an R5 rifle, two R5 magazines, 56 R5 rounds of ammunition, two 9mm pistols, an 9mm empty magazine and one 9mm round of ammunition.

"Cases of possession of unlicensed firearm and ammunition and culpable homicide were registered at Marble Hall SAPS. The two deceased suspects were subsequently identified as males aged 34 and 35 years respectively," informed Ledwaba.He said preliminary police investigations have positively linked both deceased suspects to the filling station business robbery in Moteti, and the firearms and ammunition recovered from the crashed vehicle have been positively linked to the two deceased suspects and the robbery.

"The investigation is continuing, with the police working hard to identify and apprehend the remaining suspects who were part of the armed group," concluded Ledwaba.

Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Jan Scheepers, welcomed the recovery of the firearms and the investigative breakthrough linking the deceased suspects to the robbery.

"The recovery of these firearms and the subsequent linkage of the deceased suspects to the business robbery is a significant breakthrough. However, our work is far from over. We will continue to follow every available lead until the remaining suspects are identified and apprehended. Those who use firearms and explosives to terrorize our communities must know that they cannot evade the long arm of the law," said Scheepers.



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Polokwane based newspaper accused of being Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality's 'milking cow' in kickback scandal



FTLM Acting Communications Manager, Mahlako Komane, is accused by local media houses of sidlining local businesses in favour of Polokwane based newspaper, allegedly aiming to get kick-backs.

BURGERSFORT

Corruption allegations are engulfing Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM), with multiple local media companies accusing senior officials of running a rigged procurement system that favours a single Polokwane-based newspaper in exchange for alleged kickbacks.

The newspaper at the centre of the allegations, which is known to this publication, is less than a year old and has allegedly been given unfair and exclusive opportunities to do business with the municipality despite bidding processes that include local service providers.

Local media owners who spoke to this paper on condition of anonymity for fear of victimization, allege the arrangement is orchestrated by the FTLM Acting Communications Manager, Mahlako Komane, who they claim has close personal connections with the owner of the newspaper.

"This newspaper is less than a year old, it doesn't even have an official website and does not meet the basic requirements, yet it gets everything. We have proof that we bid for the same job, but only they are given the work. The newspaper was started with one aim, to be used as a milking cow by senior officials in the municipality," one local media owner alleged.

Local media houses allege Komane runs a rigged tender system, demands cuts and sidelines Sekhukhune based businesses.

The companies allege a classic cover-up system. According to them, they are routinely asked to submit quotations for municipal advertising that have already been secretly awarded to the favoured newspaper.

"They call us to send quotes even when the job is already done by the newspaper. They do it so that on paper it looks like they followed processes and considered other companies. In reality, they knew from the start who they wanted to give the adverts to," another owner claimed.

This, if proven, would be a direct violation of several municipal regulations, including, the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) No. 56 of 2003 - Section 112, which requires a municipality to have a fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective Supply Chain Management Policy.

Municipal Supply Chain Management Regulations - Regulation 17 and 18, which stipulate thresholds for obtaining quotations and that all quotations must be evaluated on a competitive basis, and that the municipality may not deliberately split requirements to avoid compliance.

The MFMA SCM Regulation 38 - Combating abuse of the SCM system, which prohibits awards to persons with conflicts of interest and requires declaration of interests.

Additionally, local media companies claim they are owed thousands of rands with invoices dating back as far as March 2026, while the Polokwane newspaper is allegedly paid immediately.

"We escalated the matter to the Municipal Manager Mogaramedi Makgata. He promised to attend to it but has given us the cold shoulder. When we followed up, he boasted that he prioritizes payments of millions of rands and focuses on big contracts, not small amounts," a frustrated owner said.

"That is not fair. We did the work. We have staff to pay. It shows they only care where they can benefit," he added.

The most damning allegation is levelled directly against the Acting Communications Manager, Komane. Several media owners claim she openly demands a cut of the advertising value before she can recommend their companies for work.

It is further alleged that the Polokwane newspaper owner is tipped off directly and advised to lower her rates to secure specific advertising jobs. The owners point to a recent municipal advertisement for the Sales of Stands as an example, where they claim the newspaper was coached to undercut everyone.Responding to the claims, Acting Communications Manager Komane told the publication that FTLM follows its approved Supply Chain Management processes and applicable procurement legislation.

"The municipality conducts business with service providers that meet the required compliance requirements, including registration on the Central Supplier Database where applicable. These requirements apply equally to all service providers seeking to do business with the municipality," she said.Komane said media buying is undertaken through an appointed panel of service providers.

"The Communications and Marketing Unit does not independently appoint media houses or issue contracts outside the municipality's procurement processes," she said.

Magagamatla schools transport crisis eased, but school building plea still unanswered

MAGAGAMATALA

Relief has come for learners in Magagamatla Village after five scholar transport buses in good condition were allocated to the area recently, replacing a fleet declared unsafe.

The allocation follows a damning inspection by the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety, which found that only two of the seven buses ferrying learners in the village were in a roadworthy condition. The other five were written off on the spot.

The move has been welcomed by parents, but anger remains over the long-standing demand for a local school in the Makhuduthamaga area.

According to a community leader, Malesela Kgalema, parents and concerned residents have welcomed the intervention, but are disappointed that the Limpopo Department of Education failed to commit to a timeframe for the construction of a school in Magagamatala.

For years, learners from Magagamatla have to travel long distances to access education.

The Department's action in Magagamatla comes amid a province-wide enforcement drive on scholar transport.

Since January 2026, the Department of Transport and Community Safety has issued warnings to parents and operators to verify Professional Driving Permits, operating licences and roadworthiness, stressing that transporting learners in bakkies and open trucks is illegal.

The crackdown follows several tragedies. On Friday morning, 21 August 2026, a scholar transport bus ferrying 70 learners from Magagamatala to De Wagendrift Combined School, broke down while speeding, veered off the road and was only stopped by trees. The bus was reportedly in a poor condition at the time. Fortunately, no learners were harmed. Last month, the Limpopo Education Department confirmed that three learners and a driver died in a collision between two scholar transport vehicles at Ga-Mashashane outside Polokwane.

The Limpopo Scholar Transport Alliance (LSTA), which represents more than 30 local associations, has warned that hundreds of learners are still being transported in ageing Toyota Siyaya, Venture and Condor minibuses and converted bakkies due to rising maintenance costs and delays in issuing operating licences.

The Alliance has called for a government-subsidised vehicle renewal programme to scrap old vehicles and replace them with safer models.

For Magagamatala, the immediate safety risk has been reduced with the five replacement buses now operational. However, residents say the root cause remains.

About four years ago, the Limpopo Department of Education issued an EMIS number for Magagamatala Village, a critical step that serves as official approval for the construction of a new school. However, not a single brick has been laid.

"The buses help today, but our children still travel far because there is no school here. We need the Department of Education to tell us when the Magagamatala school will be built, not just fix transport," said Kgalema.

The Limpopo Department of Education had not responded to queries regarding the school construction timeframe at the time of going to press.





Parents and concerned residents of Magagamatala welcomed the new buses, but wanted a clear time-frame from the Education Department for the promised school in the village.

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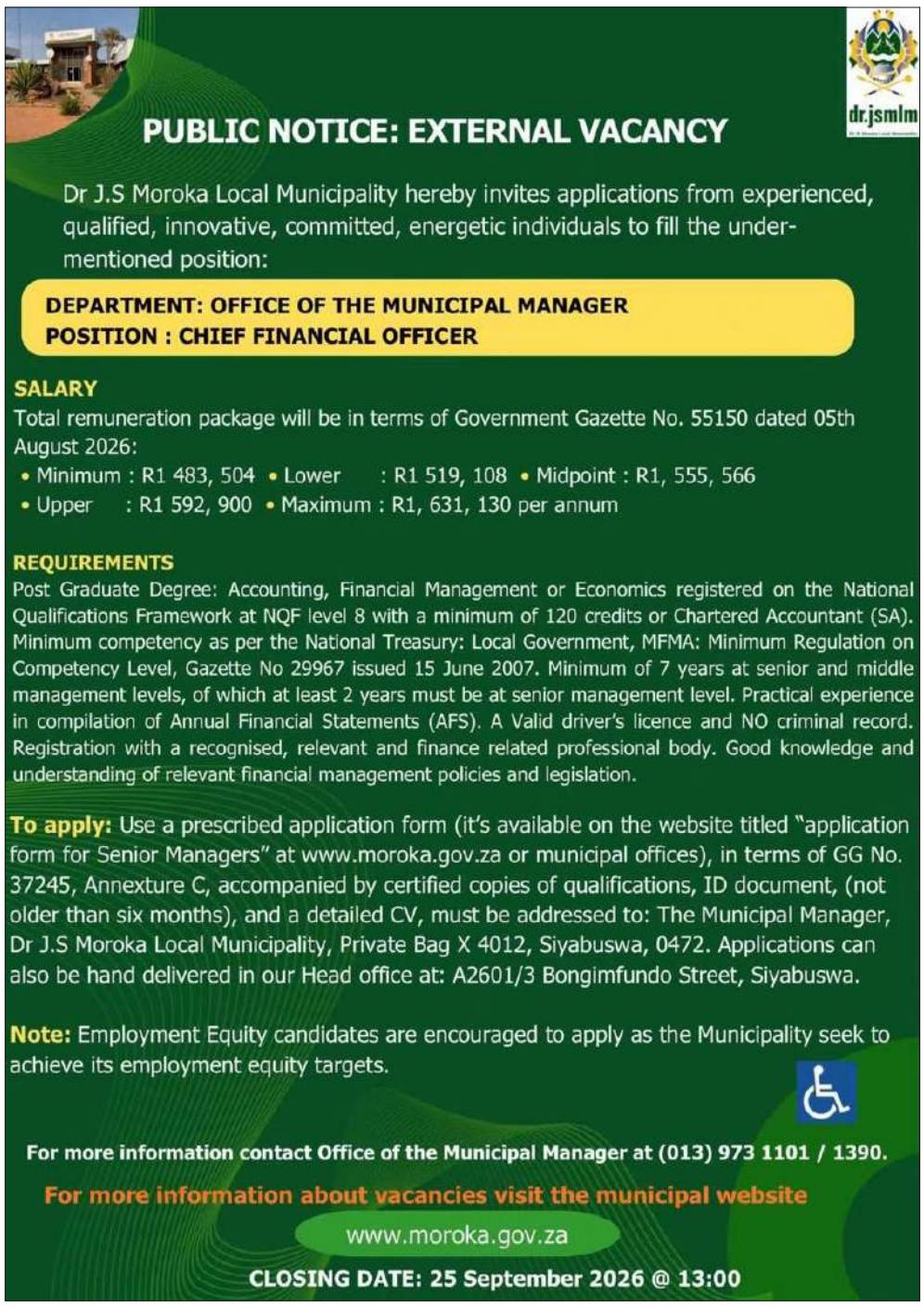
INSIDE

ANC Sekhukhune restores dignity, hands over new house to Thokwane family

MNC United and Forest FC promoted to Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional League



MNC United topped the playoff table with 4 points to be crowned overall playoff champions.



DENNILTON

MNC United FC and Forest FC have secured promotion to the Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League after finishing first and second respectively in the Elias Motsoaledi LFA League playoffs.

The decisive playoff matches were recently played at Marapong Black Eagle Sports Ground at Ntwane Village in Dennilton, bringing together the three stream champions from a hard-fought season.

FC 20 went into the playoffs as Stream A champions, Forest FC as Stream C champions and MNC United FC as winners of Stream D. In a tightly contested round-robin playoff, every point counted.

MNC United topped the playoff table with 4 points to be crowned overall playoff champions, while Forest FC followed closely with 3 points. FC 20, despite winning Stream A, finished bottom of the playoff log with 2 points and will remain in the Elias Motsoaledi LFA League next season.

The result means MNC United and Forest FC will campaign in the SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League in the new season, a step up in South African football's amateur structure.

Reacting to the conclusion of the season, Elias Motsoaledi LFA League Secretary, Johannes Kau Kotelo, said the LFA was impressed with the standard of football displayed throughout the season.

"We were impressed with how the teams played last season and we are looking ahead to the new football season," said Kotelo.

Looking forward, Kotelo confirmed that preparations for the 2026/2027 season are already underway. He said the window for team affiliations and player registrations is currently open and will close on 30 October 2026, with the new football season scheduled to kick off on 4 October 2026.

On the matter of promotion and relegation, Kotelo said the Elias Motsoaledi LFA is still awaiting the conclusion of the Elias Motsoaledi Zonal League to confirm the two teams that will replace MNC United and Forest FC in the League.

"Currently, we didn't confirm the two teams that will be promoted from the Elias Motsoaledi Zonal League because the league is still playing. The announcement of the two teams that will be replacing the ones promoted will be made soon after the Zonal League is concluded," he explained.

Kotelo added that delays in the Zonal League were due to non-compliance by some teams, and warned that the LFA will be stricter in enforcing compliance in the upcoming season. "We want complying Zonal teams in the next football season," he said.



Forest FC were one of teams promoted from the Elias Motsoaledi LFA League to the Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League after obtaining the second position in the LFA playoffs.