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Sekhukhune United promoted to PSL First division



Sekhukhune United FC were crowned GladAfrica Champions and gained automatic promotion to the football top flight following a lengthy court battle over the awarding of three points.

Sekhukhune United FC has been promoted to the first division of the Premier Soccer League (PSL). This comes after Deputy Judge President of the Gauteng High Court, Judge Roland Sutherland has on Friday 18 June dismissed Royal AM FC's application for leave to appeal the awarding of three points to Sekhukhune United by an arbitration two weeks ago. Royal AM, who finished second on the 2020/21 National First Division (NFD) standings, will compete in the PSL promotion/relegation play-offs. Therefore, Sekhukhune were officially crowned NFD champions and the Limpopo side secured automatic promotion to the PSL for the first time in the club's history. On Saturday 19 June, the PSL released the statement, announcing that Royal AM will now join Chippa United FC and Richards Bay FC in the relegation/promotion play-offs. "Judge Roland Sutherland, 12 June 2021, handed down an order dealing with the disputes that arose at the end of the NFD. The Premier Soccer League intervened in the proceedings and asked, by way of a counterclaim, for a declaratory order that the NSL Handbook is not silent, and that it deals fully with the way in which the NSL Disciplinary Committee and/or the SAFA Arbitration Tribunal must deal with misconduct matters in professional football in South Africa," reads the statement. According to the statement, Judge Sutherland granted the declaratory order the League sought. Judge Sutherland also confirmed the two SAFA Arbitration Tribunal awards handed down by Advocates Epstein and Cassim SC which impacted the final log standings. "These awards were challenged by Polokwane City and TS Sporting. Neither challenge was upheld. The consequence is that Sekhukhune United Football Club have secured automatic promotion to the PSL for next season, while Chippa United, Royal AM, and Richards Bay Football Clubs will contest the promotion/relegation play-offs which will commence on the 15th of June 2021," says the statement. Chippa will take part in the play-offs after finishing 15th on the 2020/21 PSL standings and they will be keen to retain their status in the top-flight by winning the play-offs. Richards Bay secured their place in the play-offs after finishing third on the NFD standings and they are hoping to clinch promotion to the PSL for the first time. However, the utterances of the Royal AM co-owner, Shauwn Mkhize, the controversial wealthy Durban businesswoman, suggest that she may look to

continue the fight to overturn the award of three log points to Sekhukhune. To date, all the court actions have gone against Royal AM and have been dismissed with costs and by this time, the club's spending on legal fees must be running into hundreds of thousands of Rands.

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Appalling conditions at Matlala Hospital

For the past six months, piles of dirty linen and clothing, have been seen dumped outside Matlala Hospital in Tsimanyane outside Marble Hall. This is because the service provider, who was contracted by Limpopo Department of Health to attend to the hospital’s laundry, claim his trucks are broken, despite being fully paid for no work done. The hospital situation poses a serious shortage of clothing, resulting in patients being told to inform their relatives to bring along



The piles of an unattended laundry at Matlala Hospital in Tsimanyane raised a concern to political parties and community based structures.

clean clothing and linen during visiting hours. Sekhukhune Residents Forum (SRF), a civic organization, has raised serious concern on the unattended laundry, saying it is inhumane and a serious violation of human rights. According to SRF, the hospital conditions are deemed to be the laziest excuse to justify the looting of state resources by the management and the contractor, Somandla Company, from Phokwane outside Jane Furse.”It is irritating that there are still people amongst us who accept this nonsense and applaud it unashamedly with both hands,” reads the statement released by SRF. The forum has since called on residents of Ga-Matlala to demand accountability from the hospital management and vow to escalate the problem to the district directorate and the Department of Health HOD. SRF says it will stage a picketing to remove health HODs, directors, CEOs and board members at Matlala, St Rita’s, Jane Furse, Meclenburg and Dilokong Hospitals, citing that they are incompetent to do their work. The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Sekhukhune Labour Desk, raised their concerns on the discarded laundry. EFF Sekhukhune Labour Desk Head, Ali Maloba, said they were disappointed to find the laundry being uncollected for apparent reasons. “Initially the laundry was collected on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Whereas, during our visit, the laundry was piled up outside the hospital building for months,” he said. Maloba said they arranged a meeting with hospital management on Friday 18 June, to discuss the problem with the management, whereby, the contract of the service provider was immediately terminated. According to Maloba, not only the laundry was a problem in the hospital, but patients are also fed expired food and the toilets are also in a bad state, contributing to the appalling conditions in the hospital. “The management acknowledged that they do have such a case of expired food and it was caused by a circular received from the province regarding bulk purchase. However, the situation has been addressed. All expired items were removed from hospital shelves and they have apologised for the inconvenience they might have caused,” he said. Maloba said the management promised to fix the leakingtoilets within seven working days. Attempts to reach Limpopo Department of Education Spokesperson Neil Shikwambana for a comment, bore no fruits as he did not answer his cellphone. Shikwambana also failed to respond to messages sent by the Dispatch requesting a comment.

Mayor takes lead in Ward 13 cleaning campaign

The community of Groblersdal Town in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Ward 13, came out in numbers of Thursday 17 June to take part in a cleaning campaign organized by the municipality. According to the local municipality, the cleaning campaign was organized in an effort to increase environmental awareness within Elias Motsoaledi, targeting residential and business area in Groblersdal Town.Led by Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Julia Mathebe, a group of residents including Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Community Services Cllr Samaria Mashilo, MMC for Local Economic Development and Planning Cllr Winter Ratlou, Ward 13 Councillor Willy Oosthuizen and other senior managers in the municipality partook in the initiative. Fully armed with gloves,refuse bags, litter pickers and brooms, they worked the whole day to sweep the streets, remove rubble,collecting refuse,clear illegal dumping sites, cleared blocked KPIs and drains.”The campaign is about building responsible communities,environmental sustainability,change the mind sets, attitudes and habits of all those who contribute in littering and illegal dumping,” said Mayor Mathebe. She encouraged residents to assume responsibility and clean the area where they reside and urge the public to avoid throwing garbage on the road side and unoccupied open places.

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DA calls the SA Human Rights Commission to act against Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality

The Democratic Alliance (DA), has called for the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to intervene in the water crisis plight facing residents of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality. The party has on 22 June written a letter pleading with the commission to investigate lack of access to potable water to the Leeuwfontein community as well as other communities in wards 9, 10, 11 and 12 in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality. Lindy Wilson, DA Political Head in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, said during the oversight visit conducted recently, the party was shocked to find residents drawing dirty water for drinking and other household purposes. “The DA was both appalled and heartbroken at witnessing people trying to access water from holes in a ditch. The water was murky, possibly contaminated and surrounded by animal faeces and other rubbish,” she said. Wilson lambasted the ANC for failing to provide potable water to the majority of residents in the municipality they govern. “Residents in the area say they have not seen a water truck making deliveries of water for months and when the truck does come, it only services a select few and often requests payment of R3 per drum from the poorest of the poor,” Wilson said. She indicated that less than 2 meters from the ditch, is the brand new multimillion Rand stadium, under construction



The DA calls for SAHRC to intervene in the water crisis issues facing Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, after residents were found drawing dirty water for drinking purposes.

for the third time, after previous contractors disappeared without completing the erection of the facilities.”Residents are angry by the municipality’s lack of priorities. They need water, not a stadium. Residents here have had every last ounce of dignity taken from them,” she said. Wilson said digging holes to get water, while keeping the cows and goats at bay, once again highlights that the ANC cares nothing for the very people who voted for them.”We will further petition the Department of Water and Sanitation, as well as CoGTA, for taking no action to help people in this area. There are many questions the municipality and national departments must answer to,” assured Wilson. She said the DA cannot stand idly by and watch people grovelling in ditches for water.”Twenty seven years into democracy and ANC-rule, people are now recognising the false promises made to them and are more and more willing to vote for change. The time is now to vote DA,” she said.

Road safety petition attracts more than 2000 signatures

More than two thousand people from Marble Hall and surrounding places have backed the DA petition, set to increase road safety measures in the area. The petition was recently submitted by Democratic Alliance (DA) in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality to CEO of the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), Skhumbuzo Macozoma, to request increased road traffic safety measures at the Slagboom crossing outside Marble Hall. The Slagboom crossing is 5km outside of Marble Hall between the Roedtan Road and R573 towards the N11 crossing. DA Caucus Leader in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Cllr Flip Jacobs, said the petition was signed by concerned community members after 6 gruesome accidents took place at the Slagboom crossing over the last year.”The petition was signed by 2 616 who are concerned that lives are tragically lost and serious injuries were sustained in the area,” he said. Jacobs said copies of the petition were also submitted to the National Council of Provinces(NCOP) and to the Petitions and Public Participation (PPP) office at the Limpopo Legislature.Jacobs indicated that the petition requests specifically that SANRAL ensures adequate and timeous signage for oncoming traffic from all directions before the crossing, building of speedbumps on the road before the crossing, the installation of Cat-Eyes in the road as visibility at night is very poor and new painted barrier lines on the road surface which prohibits the overtaking of vehicles. He added that they also requested the removal of illegal hawkers as they obstruct visibility when nearing the crossing and regular cutting of the grass along the side of the road nearing the crossing. “The reason behind the petition was to prevent accidents and to save lives.The DA is hopeful that SANRAL will respond favourably to the community’s request,” Jacobs said. He said they will continue to fight for the safety of people on the roads and ensure improved road infrastructure to saves lives.

CS Barlow students strike, halts classes

The management at Sekhukhune TVET College in CS Barlow Campus, Motetema, has on Tuesday 15 June suspended all classes with immediate effect, following a strike by students over the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) allocation. The strike began on Monday 14 June by demonstrating students who were complaining about the deduction of a food allowance allocation from NSFAS. They accused the college management of deducting the food allowance from their NSFAS monthly allocation without their knowledge.During the strike, angry students blocked the college main entrance, disrupting operations and demanding the return of the full allowances from the management. A student, who did not want to be named, told the Dispatch publication that they had become aware earlier this month about the deduction of food allowance from semester and trimester students. “We are protesting to the management to return the full allowances to students. We are not prepared to stop until our demands are met,” he said. He added that no explanation was given to the students when the money was deducted from their allowances. “Our parents are not working and the majority here depends on the allowance for survival. We have noted that other colleges receive the full funding. The management does not bother to explain to us why we are the only ones affected,” he said. He said attempts to meet with Campus Manager, Jack Modiba and other management bore no fruits as they were always unavailable. “We tried to convene a number of meetings with management but they left before we could meet. No explanation was given to us since we have started complaining. They are not taking us seriously and we will continue with the strike until our demands are met,” he said. Sekhukhune TVET College Marketing Officer, Abicky Kgolane, said the students’ allowances are paid directly by NSFAS into students accounts. “The college is not handling any allocation of funding to students. It is not true that their allowances are deducted by the college,” he said. However, Kgolane said the college management is engaging



with NSFAS to find answers on the deduction of the allowances. “The classes are currently suspended until the students NSFAS issue is resolved. I’m not sure when will students return to the college but I can assure you that as soon as everything is resolved, the classes will be back to normal,” he said. Students who reside in the college hostel were also evacuated from the premises.

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Convicted murderer slapped with hefty sentence

A 28-year-old male accused, Percy Tlamama, was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder of a 56-year-old man at Siyabuswa. The sentence was handed down by the Mpumalanga Division of the High Court, which was sitting in Middleburg recently. The court reached its decision to sentence the accused after it was heard during the trial that in December 2017, Tlamama stormed into a 56-year-old Johannes Moekwa's house in Siyabuswa, robbed the victim of his personal firearm and fatally shot him. It was also established that he also stole an undisclosed amount of cash from the deceased's house as well as livestock which included some goats and sheep. The accused further stole a Toyota Hilux bakkie and used it as his gateway vehicle. "Police were notified about this gruesome act where they immediately instituted an investigation. They worked tirelessly to ensure that the one responsible for the murder was brought to book," said Colonel Donald Mdhuli, Mpumalanga Provincial Police Spokesperson. Mdhuli added that following the murder incident, Tlamama continued with his evil deed whereby on 28 January 2018, he hijacked a VW Polo which was driven by a 27-year-old man who was in the company of his female friend. "During the hijacking, the accused robbed the victims of their personal items including cellphones, wrist watch and bank cards. Tlamama then went to an ATM and withdrew cash from his victims' bank accounts and fled with the vehicle. This incident occurred also in Siyabuswa," said Mdhuli. He said both cases were probed and during the tour of the investigation, members of the public notified police that they saw Tlamama driving the vehicle belonging to the 56-year-old deceased. "Police followed the information and on 19 September 2019, the suspect was apprehended. He then informed investigators of his involvement in the said hijacking incident. The hijacked VW Polo was then recovered at Mamelodi in Gauteng Province and during its seizure, police also

found a firearm stolen during the murder of Moekwa," detailed Mdhuli. He said the police linked Tlamama to both incidents where he was charged accordingly and appeared before court where he was convicted to life imprisonment for murder and slapped with an additional of 33 years for other offences. "On the count of robbery with aggravating circumstances, the accused was slapped with 15 years imprisonment and was sentenced to ten years for kidnapping. He received a further five years for unlawful possession of a firearm and three years on the count of unlawful possession of ammunition," informed Mdhuli. He said the court has decided that all the sentences will run concurrently with the life sentence, meanwhile

he was found to be unfit to possess a firearm. The Acting Provincial Commissioner of the SAPS in Mpumalanga, Major General Thulani Phahla, has lauded the sterling work displayed by a team of investigators, the prosecution, as well as the Judiciary. "The public will sleep better knowing that the state has put one murderer behind bars for a very long time. We hope that this sentence will encourage our communities to continue to support the fight against crime by providing valuable information to authorities," said Phahla.



Convicted murderer, Percy Tlamama, was sentenced to life imprisonment and 33 years in addition for murder, car hijacking, robbery and possession of unlicensed firearm and ammunition.

Elias Motsoaledi warns of RDP housing scam

Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality warns the public of scammers who are posing to be municipality officials and working in the field to register RDP houses for deserving residents. Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Spokesperson, Simon Makua, said the scammers are targeting community members in the Dennilton and Moteti Villages in the municipality's wards 06, 07, 08 and 09. "They visit the communities and request their personal information claiming it is for RDP applications. The municipality hasn't sent anyone to the field to register beneficiaries for RDP houses," he said. Makua informed the public that RDP house application is conducted through community consultative process wherein ward councillors, ward committees and Community Development Workers (CDWs), visit rightful beneficiaries in their communities to inform them on stages and processes of RDP registrations, allocations and approvals. "The notices circulating on social media are a scam, therefore the municipality would like to categorically dismiss the allegations with the content it deserves and further caution residents to guard against giving their personal information to such scammers," warns Makua. He urged community members to contact their ward councillors for more information the RDP registrations and allocation. "Anyone who come across the scammers is encouraged to contact the police immediately," concluded Makua.

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Provincial police operations make positive impact

Police operational units conducted throughout Limpopo Province continue to make significant impact in the fight against crime, following the arrest of 879 suspects. The suspects, aged between 27 and 54, were nabbed for various offences ranging from murder, business robberies, rape, burglaries, possession of suspected stolen motor vehicles, possession and dealing in drugs, robbery with weapon other than firearm, possession of unlicensed, impersonating a police officer and possession of suspected stolen property amongst others. The joint weekly operations were conducted from 12 June until on Sunday 20 June 2021, comprised of Crime Intelligence, Public Order Police Unit, Crime Prevention and other law enforcements agencies. "During some of the operations, members of the Limpopo Highway Patrol Team were busy conducting patrol duties along the R37 road between Jane Furse and Polokwane when they arrested a 31-year-old suspect for possession and dealing in drugs," said Brigadier Motalfela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. Mojapelo said the arrest come after the police noticed a suspicious blue Hyundai i20 motor vehicle parked outside the road. "They then approached the vehicle and requested the driver to search it. While busy searching, they noticed that the

boot door's cover was not properly fitted and when they opened it, they discovered a blue plastic bag containing 500 sachets of Nyaope to the estimated value of R130 000. 00. The suspect was immediately arrested," explained Mojapelo. Mojapelo said the operations yielded positive results in all parts of the province managing to put over 800 suspects behind bars. "During these arrests, the police confiscated 122 641 counterfeit cigarettes sticks, 15 dangerous weapons, 2342gr dagga, several dagga plants, Nyaope, 5 Firearms, 438127ml liquor, 21 Knives, 7 stolen or robbed vehicles recovered and 1431 fines were issued," he said. Mojapelo informed that the suspects nabbed during these operations have already started appearing before different magistrate's courts across the province. The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant

General Thembi Hadebe, has applauded the police in ensuring that crime is prevented by all means in this province.



Unlicensed firearms, ammunition and other weapons were confiscated by the police during the operations.

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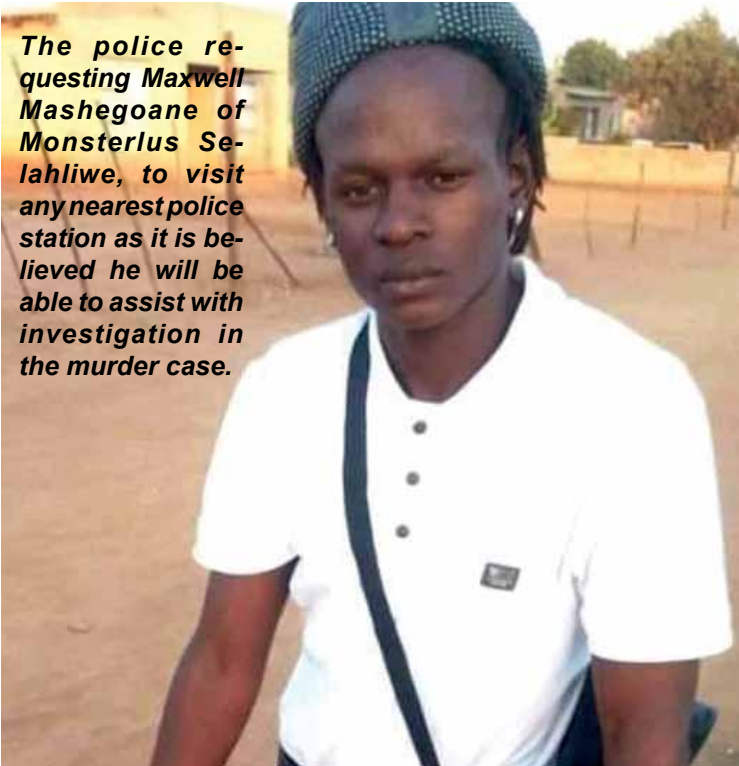
Moutse Unemployment Forum established in Moutse

A new community movement, Moutse Unemployment Forum (MUF), aimed at contesting the 2021 local government election, was successfully formed in Moutse. Forum Chairperson, Isaac Mkhaliphi, told the Dispatch that the community based organization had drawn a number of people from across the political spectrum in Moutse. “We have got a vast group of former politicians who are on board to make the organization fully fledged to challenge the 2021 local government election. The organization comprises of individuals who are driven by a common purpose of putting the best interests of the community first,” he said. Mkhaliphi outlined that the forum’s aims and objectives will mainly focus on job creation and skills development to locals. “Our main focus on grassroots level to enhance infrastructure development and urge for Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and Community Works Programme to be on a permanent basis,” he said. Mkhaliphi indicated that the movement will strive for local economic development and quality medical health services to the people. “The main objective is to turn a tide against the increase of tarriffs on water and electricity and to strengthen the fight on housing and land issues. We will also be working with the taxi industry and their daily operations in the communities,” explained Mkhaliphi. In terms of contribution to the poor, Mkhaliphi said a strategic plan is set to seek donations and distribute food parcels to the underprivileged, working hand in hand with local traditional leaders. “We are tired of the government that has done nothing for the people but caused mayhem with their mismanagement, political wrangling, nepotism, corruption, incompetence and self-serving agendas,” informed Mkhaliphi. He said they will be actively participating in combating crime and urged for the retirement of people above the age of 60 to create employment opportunities for youth. “We are currently registering with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and awaiting to receive the green light to contest in the upcoming local government election, which will be an important milestone for us,” he said. The newly formed organization has already elected and unveiled its leadership. Isaac Mkhaliphi was elected Chairperson, Ocean Makola Secretary, Sphiwe Shamu Deputy Secretary and Sipho Shabalala was elected a MUF Treasurer. Douglas Kekana was elected as Organizer and Eric Mthimunye became forum Spokesperson.



MUF elected executive committee (Back row from left to right) Ocean Makola, Sibusiso Malaza, Sphiwe Shamu, Douglas Kekana, Nkosinathi Hlatshwayo, Mduduzi Sibanyoni and Sizwe Khoza. (Front row) Isaac Mkhaliphi and Eric Mthimunye.

Suspect sought for brutal murder of girlfriend



The police re-requesting Maxwell Mashegoane of Monsterlus Selahliwe, to visit any nearest police station as it is believed he will be able to assist with investigation in the murder case.

The Police in Hlogotlou are requesting members of the public to assist in locating a suspect who allegedly stabbed a 26-year-old woman to death and critically injured her sister. The incident occurred on Friday 18 June at Monsterlus in SelahlilweVillage. According to the police report, the deceased is alleged to be the suspect’s girlfriend. Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said before the murder incident, the 22-year-old suspect, was at his girlfriend’s home in the area on Friday night and at around 22:30 when he allegedly started an argument with the victim.”He then produced a knife and stabbed her to death. In the process, the suspect also stabbed the deceased’s sister, critically wounding her. She was taken to hospital. The younger brother to the sisters reportedly managed to escape unharmed and alerted the neighbours,” Mojapelo said. Mojapelo indicated that on Sunday 20 June 2021, the community members in the area mobilised after learning about the incident and went to the suspect’s house where they set it alight.”There was no one in the residence at the time the community torched the house,” explained Mojapelo. The Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe has strongly condemned this incident of Gender Based Violence. Hadebe ordered the police to hunt down the suspect and bring him to book. The commissioner also condemned the actions of the local community for torching the suspect’s house and urged them to instead assist the police in hunting him down. Mojapelo said the police are requesting Mr Maxwell Mashegoane of Monsterlus Selahliwe, to avail himself at any nearest police station as it is believed he will be able to assist in the investigation of this gruesome cases.”Anyone with information is requested to Contact Detective Constable Manganye on 0606243383 or crime stop number 0860010111 or the nearest police station,” he said.

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New Covid-19 infections spiking in Limpopo clusters

In the latest Limpopo Provincial Covid-19 cluster outbreaks, Sekhukhune District Municipality has recorded an increase in new infections of the pandemic, following an upsurge in the third wave of the virus. However, Sekhukhune is among the three districts, currently recording least number of infection in the province. According to Covid-19 statistics released by Limpopo Department of Health, Sekhukhune, Vhembe and Mopane recorded 37, 28 and 25 respectively. Limpopo Department of Health Spokesperson, Neil Shikwambana, said the

department is concerned as the number of recorded cases continues to rise in the province drastically in Waterberg and Capricorn Districts. "Waterberg District has now registered another cluster outbreaks at GG Mine in Lephalale which is following up on cluster outbreaks registered at old age homes in Bela bela and Mookgophong/ Modimole Local Municipalities. This has resulted in Waterberg registering 209 new cases recently," he said. Shikwambana added that Capricorn District, on the other hand has an ongoing cluster of cases

at Marobathota High school, bringing the total number of new cases in Capricorn at 91 in one day of which Polokwane contributed 71."The department has despatched its response teams to both districts and all those affected institutions and organisations to assist with tracking, screening, testing, quarantine and isolation which are still effective ways to contain any cluster outbreaks," he said. Shikwambana indicated that the province has been recording less Covid-19 cases compared to other parts of the country, however, they have registered over 400 new cases in the third wave of the

pandemic. MEC for Health in Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has noted a serious concern in the spiking number of new cases in the clusters. "We are calling upon people to desist from attending social gatherings where practicing social distance, wearing of masks and hand sanitizing has become impossible to practice," urged Ramathuba. She said the department will continue to remind people not to get used to the virus, but remain vigilant and do their part in curbing its spread. "Together, we can win this battle and defeat the 3rd wave," Ramathuba said.

DOH has concerns over women delivering babies at police stations and in taxi's

The Limpopo Department of Health has noted with concern the increasing reports of pregnant women who give birth before they arrive in healthcare facilities. The latest incident took place at the Roedtan Police Station outside Marble Hall, where a 23-year-old woman was assisted by the police to give birth in the station premises. "This is risky for both mothers and new born babies. Expectedly, the blame for these incidents is apportioned mostly to the fact that some clinic do not operate 24 hours," said Neil Shikwambana, Limpopo Department of Health Spokesperson. Shikwambana added that the department believes that community members have a role to play in ensuring that women reach their nearest facility before they deliver, calling upon all pregnant women to book for antenatal clinics before 20 weeks. MEC for Limpopo Health Department, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, said they are disturbed by the reports that during 2020/2021 financial year, 4548 women delivered before arrival at our facilities, either at home, in the public or private transport some at the police station. "During antenatal visits midwives usually advises pregnant women on the EDD or expected date of delivery, they also ask which facility do you plan to deliver at so that if it's not working 24 hours where they are advised to choose amongst those providing 24 hours and finally they also ask transport mode to the delivery facility because ambulances are meant for emergencies only, we cannot plan using them," explained Ramathuba. She added that it is unfortunate that the survey has proven that majority of women, who delivered at home or before arrival, failed to comply with these advises. "It takes between 6 and in worse scenarios especially primi gravida or first time mothers up to 16 hours from the onset of labour until delivery of the baby. It is a common practice amongst the experience mothers to stay at home after the onset of labor progressing themselves until contractions are severe, which is too late and the baby by then is ready to be delivered before they seek assistance. Hence our plea that all pregnant women must seek help immediately they start to feel labour pains," said the MEC. She reiterated that the department remains committed to its program of ensuring that all healthcare facilities opens 24 hours. "However, due to issues of safety at our clinics and the current Covid-19 pandemic, the programme has not been able to move as fast as it should since more resources had to be diverted towards addressing it. Even then it must be noted that unless pregnant women and their next of kin heed the advices they receive at antenatal clinics the problem which puts both their lives and that of their baby at risk will persist," concluded Ramathuba.



The Limpopo Department of Health is worried about increasing number of pregnant women giving birth before arriving at health facilities, following reports of a heavily pregnant woman giving birth at Roedtan Police Station recently.

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