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DEBONAIRS PIZZA

SDM Executive Mayor arrested

The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) have arrested former Elias Motsoaledi Municipal Manager, Minah Maredi and former mayor of in the local municipality who is now the current Executive Mayor of the Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Julia Mathebe in relations with the VBS Mutual Bank scandal. The two were arrested on Wednesday 23 November in Groblersdal and appeared in the Pretoria Specialised Commercial Crimes Court the same day. Hawks National Spokesperson, Colonel Katlego Mogale, said the arrest was as a result of an ongoing investigation into the VBS Mutual Bank investments that were conducted by municipalities in contravention of the Municipal Finance Management Act. "The municipal manager is said to have been instrumental in investing R190 Million municipal funds into the VBS Mutual Bank, wherein, the mayor received over R300 000 in gratification which included cash, accommodation and flight tickets," explained Mogale. She added that the dealings were channelled through a company belonging to the mayor's children. "The two suspects appeared in the Pretoria Specialised Commercial Crimes Court in the afternoon on charges of corruption, money laundering and contravention of the Municipal Finance Management Act as well as the Banks Act," she said. Mogale said the duo was released after they were granted R30 000 bail

each and the case was postponed to 2 March 2023. Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA) leader, Seun Mogotji, said the party has welcomed the arrests. "We believe the former Municipal Manager was paid out for her silence when she received a golden handshake, running into over R2 million as part of her settlement. We hope she will spill the beans and tell the whole truth to the Hawks," he said. Mogotji said they feel vindicated that despite their vehement denials of any wrong doings, the law enforcement agencies never lost focus. "This arrests may be the turning point in rooting out corruption in our municipalities. We applaud this arrest and hope that justice will finally be served," he said. Sekhukhune District Municipality Communications Manager, Khomotso Ndlovu, said the district municipality will not comment as the matter is sub-judice.

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Julia Mathebe, was released on R30 000 bail after she was arrested by the Hawks in connection with the VBS Mutual Bank saga.



Motsepe Foundation reaches out to Sekhukhune schools and churches

As part of the annual national roadshow, aiming to develop and uplift poor communities, the Motsepe Foundation paid a visit to Dipakabakeng Apostolic Faith Mission Church in Talfelkop outside Groblersdal. The foundation's community development and upliftment meetings is a partnerships and donation of funds for the development and upgrading projects for schools and churches in communities across all nine provinces in South Africa. During the day, the foundation has donated R4.5 Million to various schools and faith based organizations in the Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM). The foundations said, before the commencement of a roadshow, officials from the Department of Basic Education and the National Religious and Faith Based Organisations helped to identify local community-based organisations and schools that require assistance of funding. A delegation from the Motsepe Foundation then visits these organisations and schools to assess their needs and report back to the foundation. Acting Executive Mayor of SDM, who is MMC for Budget and Treasury, Cllr Maleke Mokganyetji commended the chairperson and founder of Motsepe Foundation, Dr Patrice Motsepe and the foundation CEO Dr Precious Motsepe for their sterling work. "I am honoured to see that Dr Patrice Motsepe has donated R4 520 000 in total to the churches and schools of Sekhukhune, as the government, we need such assistance and we are happy that Dr Patrice Motsepe took such initiative," said Mokganyetji. Mokganyetji further emphasized that she hopes the beneficiaries put the donations into good use as that will appreciate the Motsepe Foundation. Delivering a keynote address, Dr Patrice Motsepe thanked all stakeholders for being part of the programme and reiterated the need to work hand in hand with civil society to reduce poverty, unemployment and inequality, particularly in rural areas. The roadshow is the culmination of initial work, where the foundation announces which projects it will be involved with during the course of that year.

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Moepya gets IEC top role

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Julia Lata Mathebe, has recently, paid homage to Bantwane Tribal Authority in Dennilton to congratulate the newly appointed Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in South Africa, Mosotho Moepya. Moepya, who hails from Mpheleng Village in Dennilton, was recently appointed the National Chairperson of the IEC by President Cyril Ramaphosa. This is after six months the IEC runs without a national chairperson, following the end of Glen Mashinini's seven-year term in April 2022. Having extensive knowledge and experience of the powers and functions of the IEC, Moepya was been associated with election management since 1998, when he joined the commission and successfully held various positions, including Director for Electoral Logistics, Senior Manager, Electoral Logistics, Planning and Infrastructure, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer and Chief Electoral Officer. Prior to his appointment as a member of the commission, Moepya completed several continental consulting assignments in the management of elections, democratic governance, peace building and electoral conflict resolution. These assignments included work completed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa

(EISA) and the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries. He has covered various election-related assignments in diverse jurisdictions, including Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, the Comoros, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Tanzania, Zanzibar and Zimbabwe. Before Moepya involvement with elections, he held positions in the fast-moving consumer goods, third party logistics, and information technology industries where he worked for Unilever South Africa (Pty) Limited, Transnet Freight Rail, Barloworld Limited and the Bidvest Group. He holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree, as well as other commercial degrees. The executive mayor said Moepya is a good example of how successful obedient people can become. "We are saying this at the background of learners writing their matric examinations to take them seriously, so that they too can turn their lives around. We wish Moepya all the best and we recommit our support," said Mathebe. Moepya expressed his gratitude to the executive mayor, the Batwane Tribal Authority and the community at large, for having trust in him. "I promise to do my best in execution of my responsibilities," said Moepya.



SDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Julia Mathebe (Left) with the new National Chairperson of the IEC, Mosotho Moepya, during a celebration at Bantwane Tribal Authority in Ntwane Village, Moutse.

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Police urge residents to be extra vigilant during festive season

The police in Limpopo are appealing to the public to be extra vigilant and desist from withdrawing large amount of money during festive season. The warning emanates from some of incidents already happened in the province where unsuspecting victims were robbed large amount of money by criminals. "As the preparations for the festive season celebrations have begun in earnest, criminals are also ready to pounce on unsuspecting people and rob them of their hard earned cash. Community members, especially business owners including Stockvels and Social Club beneficiaries, are cautioned to desist from withdrawing and sharing large amounts of cash during the upcoming festive season," said Lieutenant Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. The Limpopo Police have already launched Operation Festive Season earlier this month to ensure safety of residents in the province. The high density operations began in October.

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Three arrested during police joint operations

The Police in Sekhukhune have arrested three suspects in connection with possession of suspected stolen motor vehicle and possession of illegal firearms and ammunition.

The suspects were arrested during the Police Joint Intelligence Operations, conducted in Jane Furse, Burgersfort and Nebo areas. According to Colonel Malaesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the three suspects, one female and two males were arrested at Mogoroane Village outside Jane Furse, where the police subsequently recovered a stolen Toyota Avanza, two illegal firearms and two magazine with seven live ammunitions.

“The suspects were apprehended during a joint team of members attached to Burgersfort Crime Intelligence, Jane Furse and Nebo Visible Policing, when the teams intelligently conducted an operation that led to their arrest,” he said. Ledwaba said police preliminary investigations revealed that the three arrested suspects were found to be linked with a series of crimes including carjacking, armed robberies and business robberies in the area. “The fourth suspect managed to evade arrest during the operation and a manhunt is currently underway to locate him,” he said. Ledwaba said the suspects are expected to appear before the Jane Furse Magistrate’s Court soon, facing charges of theft of motor vehicle, possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunitions. He said a police investigation is ongoing.



Kgoshigadi Seopela was elected Contralesa Chairperson

Kgoshigadi Nkweng Seopela of the Kone Seopela Traditional Authority in Schoonoord outside Jane Furse, was elected the new Chairperson of Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa in Limpopo Province. This is after the previous Contralesa leadership in the province was disbanded in September this year, following accusations of being politically influenced and causing divisions among members in the province. Kgoshigadi Seopela, who will be the first woman to lead the structure, was elected during the organization’s provincial general council held in Polokwane on Saturday 19 November. Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Cllr Minah Bahula, conveyed congratulatory messages to Kgoshigadi Seopela. “We are very proud and embrace these developments as the municipality and equally that she will, together with her elected leadership collective, execute their tasks and responsibilities bestowed upon them with utmost distinction,” she said. Bahula added that Seopela’s election marks a historic moment for both the organization itself, the province, Sekhukhune District Municipality and Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality in particular. “We recommit our working relations with the organization and we will continue to seek guidance and counsel from the leadership on matters of rural development towards the advancement and administration of sustainable programmes that will impact the living conditions of the people,” concluded Bahula.

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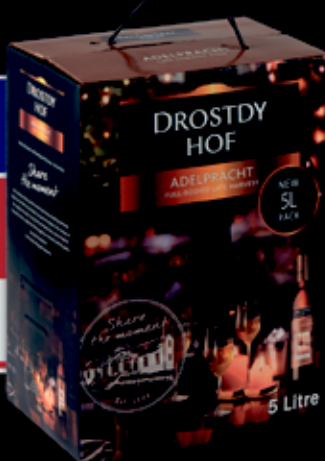


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DA concerned over dismissed Limpopo EMS personnel

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo said it has written to Health Department MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to address concerns over the dismissal of 21 Emergency Care Officers (EMS). The Emergency Care Officers were attached to various hospitals in the province and were dismissed after being deregistered from the Health Professional Council of South Africa (HPCSA), for failing to meet the required standards in order to remain active members of the council. The terminated employees had

challenged the HPCSA in court through their labour unions which they unfortunately lost. A further 46 officers have been requested to provide proof of their membership. "It is not clear how the department was unaware of the unsuitable status with the regulatory body. Such a large oversight by the department with regards to the registration of EMS personnel is unacceptable. It further raises questions about the registration status of other health professionals and personnel," said Risham Maharaj,

DA Spokesperson for Health in Limpopo. According to Maharaj, the department already has R15 Billion in contingent liability due to litigation and can't afford to continue poorly managing its personnel and provide healthcare, with healthcare professionals that are not complying with the appropriate regulatory bodies. "The dismissal of these employees will further worsen the understaffing in the department and affect the quality of healthcare people in Limpopo receive. According to the depart-

ment's annual report each programme has a high vacancy rate of posts on the approved establishment," he said. Maharaj indicated that the DA has noted that the province has a vacancy rate of 43.7% in emergency medical service, 52.1% in health administration posts, 73.7% vacancy rate in health sciences training, 54.6% vacancy rate in provincial hospital services, 53.3% in district health services and 55.5% in central hospital service. "The DA believes that a situation like this, should have been prevented as Ramathuba and her department must have processes in place to ensure all personnel are registered and in good standing with the various regulatory bodies. We will further ask questions to determine what new measures are being taken to avoid a similar incident in the future," he said. Department of Health Spokesperson, Derrick Kganyago, said the employees were terminated because they no longer meet the employment standards. "In terms of the Health Professions Act, a practitioner who does not hold a current registration and maintain this status, are not allowed to continue practicing in such a profession and also conducting clinical work as that will amount to the breach of their regulatory requirements and employment contracts," he said.

Ephraim Mogale Municipality appoints Acting MM

The Council of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality in Marble Hall has taken a resolution to appoint Mmaphiri Rosina Rampedi as Acting Municipal Manager (MM). Rampedi was appointed after the previous MM's contract ended on 9 November 2022. According to the municipality, Rampedi was appointed for the period not exceeding three months in her new position. Rampedi is currently Director of Infrastructure in the local municipality. Percy Moagi, Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality Spokesperson, lamented that Rampedi was appointed in the position because of her experience and expertise in local government. Rampedi's highest qualifications include among other a Masters in Public Administration from the Management College of South Africa (MANCOSA). According to Moagi, the new MM who will be occupying the position on a five year contract will be appointed soon. "The position was advertised and interviews of the candidates will be conducted soon," he said. Moagi said the council of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality wishes Rampedi well in her new responsibilities.



Mmaphiri Rosina Rampedi was appointed Acting Municipal Manager of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality.

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T'S & C'S APPLY

SDM residents' dismay over unspent water budget

Residents in the drought stricken villages of Sekhukhune District Municipality raise serious concerns after the district municipality, announced that it has returned R41.5 Million of unspent grant to the Treasury Department, despite a massive water shortage in the area which has been hit by drought for many decades. The money is part of conditional grant allocated to the municipality by the Treasury in the 2021/2022 financial year and should have been spent as part of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). The Treasury instructed the district municipality to repay the funds to the National Revenue Fund (NRF), after utilising the 2022 pre-audit Annual Financial Statements (AFS) to update the unspent conditional grants dataset for the 2021/2022 financial year. The Treasury instructed the district municipality to repay the money before Friday 18 November 2022. Kgobise Setlamorago, Chairperson of Batho Pele Development Forum (BPDF) in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality Ward 8, said returning the funds to the Treasury does not sit well with them. "We are facing a serious struggle of water in the villages with nothing positive coming from the district municipality. We have infrastructure that is not maintained and some of the money should have channelled towards the maintenance of the same water infrastructure in Leeuwfontein and surroundings villages to curb the struggle of water we are currently facing here," he said. Setlamorago said residents in the ward fetch drinking water from the nearest streets and wells, which poses serious health hazards. Seun Mogotji, Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA) Leader, said they were frustrated by the decision as whenever they confront the district municipality to raise water shortage issues, they are always told there is no budget, yet the same municipality has failed to spend on its allocated budget from the Treasury. According to Mogotji, in the previous financial year, 2020/2021, SDM had also returned unspent funds amounting to R185 Million to the Treasury Department. "We are worried why this municipality fails to utilise its allocated budget that is clearly in demand to provide services to residents of Sekhukhune. Personal vendettas and greed from the executive are further harming the smooth running of the institution. Change is needed if the people of Sekhukhune are to receive services, this trend of money going back to the treasury is delaying progress," said Mogotji. Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Chairperson in Sekhukhune District Municipality, Ali Maloba, it is disappointing that millions are returned to the Treasury while there is still numerous incomplete projects all over Sekhukhune. "This is a clear indication that Sekhukhune District Municipality doesn't care about residents. We have wrong officials running the municipality. The

executive mayor was supposed to have seen this coming and apply correct measures," he

said. At the time of going to print, Sekhukhune District Municipality was not available for a comment.



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T'S & C'S APPLY



SDM Executive Mayor delivers more houses to the poor

The Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Julia Mathebe, has recently handed-over houses to the destitute Ramphisa family in Ntwane, Mamosadi family in Elandsdoorn, both in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and to an impoverished Bokgobelo family in Phahla Manoge within the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality. According to the municipality, the programme is in line with Mayor Mathebe's social cohesion strategy of caring for the needy, by prioritizing child headed families, the destitute families and the underprivileged families who she is aiming to take care off in times of need. The beneficiaries plight of the beneficiaries was recognized during government programmes when senior officials and councillors visited the villages. Other beneficiaries were identified by ward councillors who highlighted their plight to the executive mayor who then approached local businesses to help building the fully furnished RDP standard houses. The benefiting Ramphisa family at Ntwane was identified by then MEC for Social Development Nkakareng Rakgwale and the executive mayor during their special visit to different families at Ntwane and Elandsdoorn. The family consists of 15 unemployed family members. The head of the family, Mrs Ramphisa, has 8 children with seven grand-children and have been living in a dilapidating house for many years. Some of Mrs Ramphisa's children and grand-children are not receiving a social grant. The Mamosadi family in Elandsdoorn consists of 12 members and have been living in a shack with no Proper shelter. The head of the family survives as a seasonal worker at local farms to support all her eleven children. The Bokgobelo Family, residing in Phahla Manoge Village, comprising of two family members, an elderly woman and her mentally ill son, who had to endure the elements in a dilapidated mud structure before the executive mayor's intervention. The family was identified by local councillor Kgoshi Phahlamohlaka who addressed the plight of two occupants who did not have a discerned shelter to live in. Only the elderly woman receive old age social grant while her son does not receive any form of grant. Handing-over the houses, Mathebe said appealed for unity among the people to restore the dignity of the poor families. The mayor applauded local businesses that contributed towards the building of the houses through their donations. "Today here, we are showing our mother that we are her children and we are overjoyed that she has a place that she can call home," said Mathebe.



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No major challenges during matric examination

The Limpopo Department of Education MEC, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, said she is impressed with how the matric examinations are unfolding in the province.

The MEC was reflecting on the progress made after the starting of the examination in all high schools across the province. Lerule-Ramakhanya said she is happy that the matric class of the 2022 academic year are adhering to their pledges made ahead of the start of the final exams. Limpopo has over 140 000 learners writing exams this year, the number is inclusive of part-time learners. However, Lerule-Ramakhanya said the province has encountered a few challenges ranging from unregistered learners demanding to write and access to schools due to flash floods, that disrupted classes in Seriting Village outside Groblersdal, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. "The Department has noted reports of few learners who were not able to write because they have either not registered and the matter is receiving attention. There was also a case of learners who were stranded in Sekhukhune due to flash floods but efforts were made with the assistance of the South African Police Services to ensure that learners were at their examination centres on time," she said. Lerule-Ramakhanya further said her department has also noted the malicious and unfounded reports of matric learners writing examinations under the trees, saying political parties must not abuse their oversight responsibility by disturbing learners when exams are in session. "The department is working on the infrastructure challenges in some areas and plans to address the backlog are in place," she said. The MEC has called on interested parties and the community to stay away from the exam centres and afford learners space to write exams without interruptions. "The first ten days of writing in the province went well and I am happy that the learners are living up to the pledges made a few weeks ago, let us continue to rally behind them and afford them the necessary support. I am still making a plea to pub owners to close early and reduce noise but I am equally calling on people who are peddling lies about learners writing under trees to desist from spreading malicious reports that are aimed at derailing us from improving on our matric result," said Lerule-Ramakhanya. She said the department will continue to monitor the progress of the examinations and the plea is still out to learners and educators to report irregularities.

MEC for Education in Limpopo, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya



under trees to desist from spreading malicious reports that are aimed at derailing us from improving on our matric result," said Lerule-Ramakhanya. She said the department will continue to monitor the progress of the examinations and the plea is still out to learners and educators to report irregularities.

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EFF elects new Sekhukhune Regional leaders

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) in Sekhukhune Region has elected five new regional leaders and sixteen additional members. The new EFF Sekhukhune Regional Command Team (RTC), was elected during the Regional Peoples Assembly held on Saturday 12 November, at Nthane Primary School in Ga-Madiseng Village outside Jane Furse. The new leadership was elected after party leader, Julius Malema disbanded all organization structures in Limpopo earlier this year, over dismal showing during the 2021 Local Government Election. The top five elected new RTC included Ali Maloba as Chairperson, Sakie Mahuba as Deputy Chairperson, Gift Machaba was elected Secretary, Mahlako Tladi as Deputy Secretary and Thabitha Manasoe as new Treasurer of the organization. Maloba, who was elected the new chairperson and served the organization for more than five years, said the structure will be guided by the party's seven cardinal pillars to execute their duties to ensure that proper services are delivered to the people. "We will be fighting for quality services and building a united vibrant non-factional Sekhukhune Region as our core mandate," he said. Maloba indicated that among other issues, EFF has taken a conscious decision to fight poor service delivery and corruption within the communities. "Our main focus is to start dealing with burning poor service delivery issues in all municipalities in the region which includes among others incomplete Mamphogo Sports Complex worth of R60 Million, allegations of infrastructure services director who was suspended with full pay for sitting at home, service provider who abandoned a road project between Mashemong and Mooihoek in a project worth R22 Million and the incomplete Leeuwfontein Sports Complex, with a tune of R15 million paid and constructor requesting additional funding," he said. Maloba added that the party will also pay focus on Elias Motsoaledi completed roads projects that were washed away by recent rains because of poor workmanship where contractors were paid in full. "Other focus will be on shortage of chronic medication in various clinics and hospitals in the region together with challenges in Jane Furse and Dilokong hospitals where doctors are available only during the week but continue to receive reimbursement for over time," he said. Maloba has pleaded with EFF members to be actively involved and participate to help the structure. EFF Member of Parliament (MP) and Sekhukhune Region Convener, Mgcini Tshwaku, said the Regional Peoples Assembly went as planned. "The fighters were disciplined, considering the fact that the conference took 34 hours to complete," he said. Tshwaku said he is confident that capable leadership was produced in the conference, notably, with Ali Maloba as Chairperson and Gift Machaba as Secretary. "We have full confidence in them and that they will take Sekhukhune Region to new heights," he said.



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Sekhukhune United appoints Trutter as new head coach

Sekhukhune United Football Club has appointed Brendon Trutter to steer the team as head coach for the next three years. This is after Babina Noko terminated the contract of Kationo Tembo earlier this month as team head coach, after the team produced poor results in concession. Trutter will lead Sekhukhune United until 2025 according to his contract. The club announced that Trutter joins Sekhukhune United after having impressed the board with his long-term vision for returning the Babina Noko to the level the team want to compete at, coupled to his drive and determination in achieving that. The team said Trutter will be assisted by MacDonald Makhubedu as the only assistant, in a revamped technical team with further announcements to be made in due course. Former Assistant Coach, Thabo Senong, has been appointed as head of development. Following his appointment in his new role, Trutter

said: "It is with great honour to be appointed as head coach to this ambitious club and I'm hugely excited by the challenge ahead. There's a lot of work ahead of us and I'm eager to get the ball rolling and start working with the players." Asked about his technical strategy to turn the tables around for the team, the new head coach promised to bring in stability by stopping giving points away. "Sekhukhune has not been worse in conceding goals. We will be working hard on keeping clean sheets while keep on scoring. I am looking to change the

technical structure of course to make the players understand the new structure. We have good players and the new input will be valuable to me," he said. Trutter said he will be reminding the boys about the importance of playing for the team in order to keep them motivated. "There is so many areas I would be improving in the team from the defence to attack. All the positions in the team are below average at the moment, I want to improve all the positions in the team," he said. Trutter appealed to the supporters to stay behind the team, saying their support keeps motivating and lifting the player's spirit. "I promise the fans that I will do to the best of my ability to improve the team. I would like to thank the team chairman Mr Simon Malatji, and his Board for the confidence in me and I greatly appreciate the opportunity," he said.



Brendon Trutter was appointed the new head coach of Sekhukhune United FC.

Notice in respect of a licence application in terms of the Petroleum Product Act, 1977 (Act No 120 of 1977)

This notice serves to inform parties that may be interested or affected that MOGANYAKA TAXI ASSOCIATION, hereinafter referred to as "the applicant", has submitted an application for a SITE license, application number F/2022/11/18/0003.

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The purpose of the application is for the applicant to be granted a license to undertake petroleum retailing activities as detailed in the application. Arrangements for viewing the application documentation can be made by contacting the Controller of Petroleum Products by:

- Telephone: (015) 230 3600, or
- Fax: or
- email: siyabulela.Magobongo@dmre.gov.za

Any objections to the issuing of a license in respect of this application, which must clearly quote the application number above, must be lodged with the Controller of Petroleum Products within a period of twenty (20) working days from the date of publication of this notice. Such objection must be lodged at the following physical or postal address:

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Department Mineral Resources & Energy
18A Landros Mare Street

Postal address:
The Controller of Petroleum Products
Department Mineral Resources & Energy
Private Bag X 9712, Polokwane, 0700

Notice in respect of a licence application in terms of the Petroleum Product Act, 1977 (Act No 120 of 1977)

This notice serves to inform parties that may be interested or affected that MOGANYAKA TAXI ASSOCIATION, hereinafter referred to as "the applicant", has submitted an application for a RETAIL license, application number F/2022/11/18/0004.

1059 Leeuwfontein
1 Leeuwfontein
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The purpose of the application is for the applicant to be granted a license to undertake petroleum retailing activities as detailed in the application. Arrangements for viewing the application documentation can be made by contacting the Controller of Petroleum Products by:

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Hans Dikotope Development to host annual festive tournament

Dikotope Development FC, will be hosting the Annual Hans Dikotope Games at Mpheleng Village in Dennilton during the festive season.

With the festive season fast approaching, Mpheleng Village in Dennilton will be a hive of various sporting activities with the Annual Hans Dikotope Festive Games to be played in December.

The sporting event will be taking place at the DSA Sports Grounds and will feature various sporting codes including football, netball, volleyball and a 10km fun run, scheduled to take place from 23 up until 30 December 2022. The games were founded by community activist, Hans Dikotope, six years ago with an aim to give young people a platform to showcase their talents through sport participation. The initiative has also exposed career guidance and education opportunities in which Dikotope Sports Development is liable for all the funding. Chairperson of the Hans Dikotope Games, Hlathi Tjiane, said 32 football teams, eight netball clubs and eight volleyball teams will be battling out in the tournament, competing for prize money and medals up for grabs. Hlathi said winners in the football sporting code will take home R20 000 and a soccer kit, runners-up will walk away with R12 000, third place team will be rewarded R7000-00 and a team to obtain the fourth position will be given R 5000-00. Top eight losers will walk away with R2000-00 each team. Netball tournament winners will be rewarded R3000-00 and the club to obtain second place will take home R2000-00. Volleyball winners to bag R3000-00 and second prize winners will be rewarded R2000-00. "With the prize money, we aim to add value to the clubs' development as we realized that teams encounter challenges during the year," Hlathi said.

He added that the tournament is targeting football teams playing organized football and participating in the promotional LFA league and SAB Sekhukhune Regional League. "The toss will take place on 3 December at 11h00 and we expect all the participating teams' representatives to be there," he said. Hlathi said the ultimate goal is to bring in scouts to spot young talented football players during the tournament. "Since its inception six years ago, the tournament has grown from strength to strength and we are happy that the desire for development has been fulfilled with many players reaching new heights after the games," he said. However, Hlathi said they had not yet secured any sponsorship since the initiative was started six years ago. "The activities are funded by Mr Hans Dikotope from his pocket, which is a challenge to us because we cannot add other prizes such as trophies and medals," he said.

Hlathi appealed to local businesses or anyone who may be able to contribute through sponsorship to come forward.

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