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Year 12

284th Edition

Friday 26 February 2021

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## Limpopo Education Department MEC announces 2020 matric results

MEC for Education in Limpopo, Polly Boshielo, said the province has declined in the 2020 matric pass rate as it has been negatively impacted by loss of teaching time due to Covid-19 pandemic. Boshielo made the statement during the 2020 matric results announcement in Polokwane on Tuesday 23 February. "In 2020, the province registered 79 813 NSC candidates. Seventy eight thousand six hundred and ninety five candidates wrote all the seven subjects. As for the variance of 1 118, some were absent from the examination for different reasons. We want to emphasize that this has been a different year, a very disruptive year and you can imagine the kind of immediate adjustments and adaptations that needed to be made," she said. Boshielo said in this regard, the highest recorded performance of 73.2% achieved by the class of 2019 has declined by 5% and accordingly the class of 2020 has achieved a provincial pass 4 rate of 68.2%."This performance takes the province to the 7th place in the national ranking, two places above where we were in 2019," she said. However, Boshielo emphasized that while they are concerned about the decline in the provincial pass rate, we must point out that out of the 78 695 candidates who sat for the 2020 NSC examination, 22 907 achieved bachelor passes compared to the 19 022 bachelor passes achieved by the class of 2019, which is an increase of 29.1%. "The diploma passes increased from 18 558 in 2019 to 18 588 in 2020. The remaining passes are 12 134 higher certificates and 5 National Senior Certificate qualification. Overall, 53 634 of the 78 695 candidates passed the 2020 NSC examinations. In these passes, candidates in the province achieved a total of 16 044 distinctions in various subjects, of which 10 334 were contributed by female candidates. The remaining 5 710 distinctions went to the male candidates," explained Boshielo. The MEC recognized the top three performing districts which in the first place is Waterberg with 77.5%, Vhembe East in the second place with 77.1% and Vhembe West in the third place with 72.7%. "This category recognizes the three best performing districts in terms of the overall percentage pass. The district

must be performing at 65% and above, and achieve 30% and above of a combination of bachelor and diploma passes. We have three districts that underperformed, namely, Capricorn North, Sekhukhune South and Sekhukhune East, performing below 65%," detailed Boshielo. The MEC announced Mopani West as the most improved district in the past three consecutive years. "The district we are awarding achieved 64.4% in 2018, 68.0% in 2019 and 68.4% in 2020. This category recognizes the district that has continuously improved its performance in three consecutive years from 2018 to 2020," she said. The province's top three best performing candidates are; Diana Van Niekerk from Hoerskool Pietersburg in the Capricorn South District, with 1 706 marks obtained. The second place went to Kopano Lephala from Dendron Secondary in the Capricorn North District with 1 699 marks obtained. The third position was scooped by Meriam Fulufhelo Mudau, a former pupil at Mbilwi High School in the Vhembe East District obtaining 1 690 marks. Divan Venter and Joseph Ron Liju, both from Hoerskool Ben Viljoen, have joined the top achievers in the province. Divan is among the top achieving pupils of Engineering and Technology Focused Schools. This category is designed to recognize and reward schools that build engineering and technology competences that will contribute towards economic development in the economic priority areas such as mining, identified by the province. To be awarded the prize, the school must have 50 or more candidates who wrote, and a minimum of 20 candidates who obtained bachelor passes. Joseph is position four in the best performing public schools category in the province. To qualify for this category, the candidates must have achieved the highest total of the 6 best subjects excluding Life Orientation, and a minimum of 60% in each of the subjects considered, making it an aggregate of 1080 marks. Liju achieved 1 677, that placed him in the fourth position. Boshielo congratulated the province's top performing candidates and assured that they will receive the necessary support from the government.



Diana Van Niekerk, Kopano Lephala and Meriam Fulufhelo Mudau are the overall top performers of the class of 2020 matric in Limpopo Province.



MEC for Department of Education in Limpopo, Polly Boshielo during the 2020 matric results announcement in Polokwane on Tuesday 23 February.

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## Women stand in solidarity against GBV

Dozens of women, flooded the Moutse Magistrate's Court on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 February to support a victim of Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). This is after a woman from Dennilton was badly assaulted by her 64-year-old husband who later threatened to kill her with a knife. The women, holding placards, sang and chanted outside the court, calling for the suspect not to be granted bail. Speaking to the Dispatch Newspaper, the 59-year-old victim said she is still traumatized by the incident. "The whole thing started on Thursday afternoon when my husband locked our grandchildren out of the yard. When I plead with him to open the gate as it was starting to be dark, he started beating me up until I was unconscious," said the victim. She said she was rescued by her grandchildren who were screaming for help. "I managed to escape when he went to fetch a knife to finish me off. That's when some community members who came to help me called the police," she said. She said the brutality that was inflicted on her by the husband, left a trauma that will take time to go away. "My whole body is painful as I am speaking to you now. I am deeply hurt and so are my grandchildren as they have experienced the brutality too. I am lucky to be alive today," she said. The victim advised other women to stay out of abusive relationships before they lose their lives. "He has been my husband for the past 34 years and threatening to kill me in all those years. I have now decided to move out," she said. A community member, who wished to remain anonymous, said they are up in arms as women to ensure that justice is served. "We will not wait until it is too late, we stand in solidarity to support the victim and make sure the perpetrator is locked up and justice is served. We know most of the victims rely on general public for assistance because they feel trapped and don't see a way out," she said. She said they most importantly want to break the cycle of violence surrounding women and children. According to the GBV and femicide command centre, over 100 000 cases of violence of women and children were reported recently. Most of the calls were made by women and children confined at their homes seeking immediate help, indicating a rampant on a spike in violence on the vulnerable group. The 64-year-old suspect remained in custody and the case was postponed to Monday 1 March for formal bail application.



Scores of women stood up to support a victim of GBVF who was assaulted by her husband in Dennilton.

## Awaiting trial escapee rearrested

The Police in Zaaiplaas outside Groblersdal have re-arrested the 33-year-old, Vusi John Mabona, who escaped from the police holding cells last year, on 5 September 2020. According to the police report, the suspect was arrested on Monday 15 February 2021, after the police received a tip-off from a member of the community that he was admitted at one of the hospitals in the Mpumalanga Province, after he was badly assaulted by the community while allegedly attempting to rape an elderly woman. "Police reacted swiftly and found the suspect admitted in hospital and arrested him. By the time of his arrest, the suspect allegedly changed his name at the hospital to disguise his identity. The suspect was arrested for murder and rape after he escaped when the police were doing routine service in the cells," said Colonel MoatsheNgoepe, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. Ngoepe said the suspect escaped with other inmates who were arrested for rape and robbery with aggravating circumstances. "The police pursued them and subsequently managed to re-arrest the other two suspects, but Mabona managed to evade arrest and was on the run until his apprehension on Monday 15 February," he said. Ngoepe said the suspect appeared before the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court on Friday 19 February, facing charges of murder, rape and escaping from lawful custody. "He remained in custody and will appear again soon after further police investigations. Police investigations in all the cases are continuing," said Ngoepe.

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## Three schools scored 0% matric pass rate in Sekhukhune

Sekhukhune District Municipality, is among the most underperforming districts in the 2020 Grade 12 results. The announcement was made by MEC for Education Department in Limpopo Polly Boshelo, during the 2020 matric results announcement on Tuesday 23 February. Boshelo indicated that the three districts, Sekhukhune South, Sekhukhune East and Capricorn North performed below 65% in their 2020 Grade 12 results. The MEC indicated that three schools have scored 0% pass rate in Sekhukhune District Municipality. The schools are; Kanama Secondary School in Mabulane Circuit. Nine pupils sat to write the 2020 matric final examination at Kanama and none of them progressed. The second school is Makidi Secondary School also in Mabulane Circuit where five learners wrote the 2020 Grade 12 final examination and none have passed. The final school to achieve a 0% matric pass rate in Sekhukhune is Ngoatoanape Secondary School in Lepelle Circuit. Six pupils wrote the 2020 matric exam and none have passed. "In 2019 only one district underperformed, this time we have three districts that underperformed. Waterberg is the new top performing district in the province," said Boshelo. However, despite having gone through a difficult year, Sekhukhune District has top achieving

schools in quintile 1, which was awarded to Lobethal Rantobeng Secondary School in Sekhukhune South District. The quintiles 1 category includes poorest schools in the communities. To participate in this category, a school must have 50 or more candidates written matric, achieved a pass rate of 65% or more and a combination of bachelor and diploma passes of 30%. The district's Bhidi James Mmashadi from St Mark Comprehensive School, Edith Mmasehlabi Tau from AM Mashego Secondary and Salaminah Seipati Mathala from Groblersdal Female Academy, are teachers who performed best in public schools in subject which contribute to the priority economy sectors in the province. The subjects include Engineering and Technology, Agricultural Sciences and Services Subjects. This category recognizes teachers who have produced the highest total of levels 6 and 7 candidates in the subjects that have a potential to contribute to the three priority economic sectors in the province. The common thread that can be harnessed through these subjects is that they generally have low enrolments due to the special equipment and infrastructure required for the practical components. To receive this award, the teacher must have passed a total of 5 or more candidates at levels 6 and 7. The subject must have achieved 65% or more. Boshelo said they will be working with the Department of Social Development to assist candidates to deal with the challenges associated with expectations which may have not been met by some of the pupils. "To our candidates who may not have reached their expectations, we encouraged them to try again," she said. She said they have reduced the number of 0% achieving schools from nine in 2019 to seven in 2020.

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## Church donate house to destitute family

The Bethsaida Word Centre Church has donated a fully furnished house to the Kgoete family at Manapyane Village near Leeuwfontein Township outside Marble Hall. The house was handed over by the church leader, Pastor Matome Charles Machete on Saturday 20 February. The family of eight, consisting of Mrs Kerrie Kgoete and her seven children, were previously living in a shack and since applied for a RDP house without any success. The plight of the family was highlighted to the Bethsaida Word Centre Church through its charity organization called, "Open Hands Open Hearts". After it was approached by the church, the organization vowed to assist the family of eight and started building a fully furnished four room RDP standard house in partnership with People Matter Foundation. Pastor Machete said the benefiting family was identified when the church was distributing food parcels to needy households as part of the church's poverty alleviation programme, which seeks to help poor families during the Covid-19 pandemic. "During this food parcels programme we also identify families that are in dire need and help them as much as we can like building a new house for them. The programme is up and running in Sekhukhune District providing food, clothes and other necessities," said Machete. The family was happy to receive the house and thanked Pastor Machete and other donors who made their dreams of getting a new house a reality.



The four room RDP standard house that was donated by Bethsaida Word Centre Church to the Kgoete family at Manapyane Village.

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## Missing person found dead

A 26-year-old man from Moteti village in Moutse, Bheki Manowa Mahlangu, who was recently reported missing, was found murdered at KwaMhlanga in Mpumalanga on Saturday 20 February 2021. The victim was reported missing by his family at the Dennilton Police Station on Tuesday 16 February 2021. Before his murder, the victim arrived at home from Bronkhorstspuit location where he took his grandfather for medical treatment. Afterwards, he left his grandfather and drove off with a white Golf vehicle with registration number JWE915MP. "He told his family that he will be back home in the afternoon but never returned and have since disappeared. Attempts to locate him at family and friends were not successful until he was found murdered at KwaMhlanga," said Colonel MoatsheNgoepe, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. Ngoepe said a case of murder was opened by the Mpumalanga Police and is under investigation.



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## Residents rally behind alleged unlawful arrested councillor

Dozens of community members of Elias Motsoaledi Ward 6 in Dennilton, flocked to Moutse Magistrate's Court to support their Ward Councillor, Ndumiso Ndlovu. The councillor was arrested on Thursday 18 March for allegedly assaulting a community member who was accused of stealing the municipality's water storage tanks at Taereng Village. Ndlovu made his first court appearance on Friday 19 February and his case was postponed to Monday 22 February. The case was further postponed to Monday 15 March pending further police investigations. Ndlovu's arrest comes after a man, who was suspected by the community of stealing water storage tanks accused him of assault. The man was allegedly caught by residents trying to steal water storage tanks supplied by Sekhukhune District Municipality to fight draught in Moutse Villages. "The councillor was informed by community members after noticing an unknown truck loading the tanks at mid-night. I was the first person to be notified about the crime and rushed to the scene. About two men tried to offload the tanks and later abandoned the truck; one of them later returned and claimed he was the driver and the truck was hijacked a few hours earlier," said a community leader Mazwi Sangweni. He said the man was apprehended by the police after failing to provide clear answers to the community. He said the community later opened a case of theft against the man. "Nobody assaulted the man when the community was busy questioning him. The councillor was the one protecting him from being harmed by angry residents. We are surprised that he laid charges against the same person who was protecting him. It is clear that he wants to taint the councillor's image because he is a good public figure," he said. Sangweni added that they are disappointed about the way the police handles water storage tanks cases in Moutse. "Tanks went missing where cases are reported without anyone being arrested. Some of these criminals are even taking the tanks during broad daylight and no action is taken. This is government property that aims to provide water to poor community and we feel like it is not protected enough," he said. Sangweni said they will be supporting Ndlovu in his next court appearance. "We want the state to admit to liability for unlawful arrest on the councillor, he has suffered enough ordeal in the matter," he said. Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, Colonel Moatshe Ngoepe, said they have arrested the 37-year-old councillor for common assault charges. "He was arrested on Thursday 18 February, accused of alleged assaulting another man whom he was accusing of stealing water storage tanks. His case is postponed to Monday 15 March 2021 for him to arrange a lawyer," said Ngoepe.

## Limpopo Education Department ensures placement of all learners

The Limpopo Department of Education is making a clarion call to parents and guardian of children who are not yet admitted to a school to visit their nearest circuit office, to ensure that their children are placed for admission in the 2021 academic year. This is after the department has noted that some pupils were not placed after the schools reopening day on 15 February 2021. According to Chuene, in placing learners, priority was given to those staying within the feeder zone of the school. "Any unplaced learners were placed on a list that circuit offices and district offices are dealing with. These are mainly due to lack of space in their school of choice or those whose parents migrated to new areas after the application processes had closed. Such learners will be placed in the next nearest school to their place of residence," detailed Chuene. She said the department assures parents and guardians that the matter of school admissions is deemed critical and that all is being done to ensure that their children are placed in schools for the 2021 academic year as soon as possible.



### Dynamique Primary Private School Welcomes new Staff for 2021

From left to Right: Anne-Marie Van Heerden, Shenique Vermeulen, Florence Mapuru, Cindy Grant, Laura Guvi.

## Needy pupils receive school uniform

The Limpopo department of Social Development in partnership with Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, launched a School Uniform Distribution Campaign that kick started on Friday, 19 February at Phaahla Community Hall. Social Development MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale together with Makhuduthamaga Municipality Mayor, Cllr Minah Bahula, handed-over new school uniform to nine schools under Nebo Circuit. The programme will benefit over 200 schools across Sekhukhune District. The donation forms part of the Social Development Department's mission to hand-over a full school uniform to learners coming from poor families in the entire Limpopo schools. More than 1300 schools across the province were identified to benefit from the programme. The beneficiaries at Makhuduthamaga were needy learners from various schools including Malebese, Motsemogolo, Ranong, Kopjeng, Mogaletwa, Mmesi, Mmakadikwe Mantlatle and Mpole High schools. During the official hand-over, MEC Rakgoale highlighted Gender Based Violence (GBV) as a negative factor



MEC for Social Development in Limpopo, Nkakareng Rakgoale, rolling out a School Uniform Distribution Campaign at Phaahla Community Hall in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality.



Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula (Right) and MEC for Department of Social Development in Limpopo Nkakareng Rakgoale (Third from right), during the launching of a School Uniform Distribution Campaign at Phaahla Community Hall.

that continues to impact negatively and affect children in schools. She called on communities to "stand together and put a permanent stop to domestic violence or any form of violence that will distract efforts that seeks to better the education of our children". Mayor Minah Bahula reaffirmed local government's efforts and commitment to continue supporting the education sector. "We are committed to continue working closely with all our schools and the education department to help address challenges that our educators, learners and School Governing Bodies (SGB) encounter on daily basis. We therefore support and appreciate efforts from MEC Rakgoale's department that not only seeks to improve the socio-economic challenges of our children, but also calls on all of us in government and societies to work together and continue to prioritize education for the sustainable and developmental of our people and our country," she said. Local traditional leader, Kgoshi Letsiri Phaahla, has on behalf of the community commended government's good efforts and intentions of assisting vulnerable children in rural communities in a bid to improve the education project.



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## SAFA Sekhukhune gearing-up for resumption of amateur football



**Amateur teams playing under the SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League are getting ready for the resumption of football following a green light by the national SAFA head office.**

The South African Football Association (SAFA) in Sekhukhune Region is getting ready to resume with amateur football. This is after SAFA national office, has on Tuesday 9 February given non-professional football permission to start training immediately. However, the football association advised that strictly safety and health directives as per government regulations should be followed. "While clubs can commence training with immediate effect, amateur football leagues and competitions will kick off at the beginning of March 2021," said SAFA Head of Communications, Dominic Chimhavi. He said the resumption of amateur football will resume in stages according to a SAFA NEC circular sent out earlier this month. "Clubs can commence training with immediate effect. However, the SAFA Covid-19 Health and Safety Directive must be observed at all times. Amateur Leagues to resume beginning of March 2021," Chimhavi said. He indicate that the association would like to appeal to clubs, SAFA Regions and SAFA Provincial Structures to adhere to the SAFA Covid-19 Health and Safety Directive at all times to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. "The Association would like all amateur teams to develop registers for use during training sessions and matches. All teams must buy scanners for checking temperatures at all times and no spectators should be allowed at training sessions and matches," Mhimhavi said. SAFA Sekhukhune Region Football League Coordinator, Frank Maredi, told the Dispatch that preparations are ongoing for the resumption of the league for the 2020/2021 season, in all four streams in the district. "Registrations of players are underway as we speak and the teams are expected to start playing from Saturday 6 March," he said. However, Maredi stated that registrations are going on are very slow which can affect the date of the resumption of the league. "Many teams have disappeared just after the prohibition of sport in the country amid the Covid-19 pandemic which is the reason registrations are slow. But we are communicating with teams and hopefully we will commence in the set date," he said. Maredi added that they will be complying with strict Covid-19 protocols and will not allow spectators in the fields of play. "A communicate is sent to all teams notifying them on Covid-19 compliance procedure that should be followed during matches," he said. According to Maredi, amateur teams did not receive support from government as most are not registered as Non-Profit Organization and could not qualify to get compensation.

## Dynamique Primary Private School welcomes Grade 1 learners to the 'big school'

Dynamique Primary Private School welcomes 86 New learners who enrolled for Grade 1. Teachers and staff involved at Grade 1 at Dynamique Primary Private School From left to right, Elza Viljoen HOD of foundation phase, Karen Kruger at Gr. 1P, Annelie Masilela at Gr. 1E, Mamsy Mahlangu at Gr. 1S, Jurieth Mabaso at Gr. 1D, Christa-Mari Botha Principal.



## Police seek information to locate the missing young man

The Police in Sekhukhune are investigating a case of missing person, after a 19-year-old man, Clement Malepe residing at Dihlabaneng Village, reportedly disappeared on Saturday 13 February 2021.

"According to his mother, she sent him to certify documents at the local police station and withdraw money. He did not return home and spent the night at his uncle's house at Ga-Mashegoana Village.

The victim then woke up early and informed his uncle he was going back but he never arrived at home and has since disappeared," said Colonel Moatshe Ngoepe, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. Ngoepe said during the time of his disappearance, the victim was wearing light blue jeans and a royal blue tracksuit top printed champion on the front. "He is about 1,6 meter tall and light in complexion. Police search operation was conducted with no success.

Anyone with information about his whereabouts is requested to contact Detective Warrant Officer Kgagara on 082 414 2663, Crime stop number 0860010111 or the nearest police station.

Police investigations and search operation are still continuing," said Ngoepe.



**The police appeal to the public to locate the whereabouts of Clement Malepe from Dihlabaneng Village.**

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