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Major breakthrough as ten ATM bombers arrested

The police in Limpopo has made a major breakthrough after arresting ten suspects, aged between 24 and 47, who are linked to ATM bombings incidents occurred across the province recently. The suspects were arrested after Provincial Police Commissioner in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe activated a task team to trace suspects who are responsible for ATM bombings that have taken place in Sekhukhune, Capricorn and Mopani Districts. The suspects, Kenneth Ntsoane (34), Mpho Racheke (30), Hendrick Mabe (47), Thabang Kgakagadi (25), Sekgotho Phillip Tali (30), Dankie Lekgowa (25), Lebereko Lehasa (30), Thuso Motseki (28), Thabang Mogutle (33), Malatudi Ramotshela (25) and Tebogo Kgahloe (35), were arrested during "Operation Take down" that commenced in Gauteng Province. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said during this operation, items including vehicles, firearms and explosives were seized. "Following a string of business robberies committed specifically in the Capricorn, Sekhukhune and Mopani Districts where a group of heavily armed suspects attacked filling stations and explosives were detonated to access cash from drop-in-safes and ATMs, the Provincial Commissioner of Limpopo Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe activated a Task team comprised of highly skilled investigators to hunt down the perpetrators, hence the major breakthrough," he said.

Ledwaba said the multi-disciplinary police team composed of Limpopo Provincial Tracking Team, Murder and Robbery Unit, Organised Crime Unit, Flying Squad joined by Gauteng LCRC with assistance from the private security and investigation company. "The suspects were positively linked with 10 cases, the latest being an ATM bombing that took place at Ga-Mashashane outside Polokwane on Tuesday 16 May 2023 that resulted in a shoot out with the security guards. The suspects were cornered at Soweto, Randfontein, Mabopane, Orange Farm and they were found in possession of dye-stained bank notes, some explosives, 3 firearms and

18 live ammunition. Police also confiscated two motor vehicles," explained Ledwaba. He said the investigation team is working tirelessly to effect more arrests and there is a possibility that the suspects might be linked to more cases. Ledwaba said the suspects appeared before the Mcklenburg Magistrate's Court on Monday 22 May 2023 and their case was postponed to 20 July 2023 for further police investigations. "Nine suspects have been identified as Lesotho Nationals and they were found to be in the country illegally. The suspects are facing charges of armed robbery, ATM bombing, possession of dye-stained money, possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition, possession of explosives and contravention of the immigration Act," he said. Commissioner Hadebe said she is highly impressed with the diligent work of the team of members, which resulted in the major breakthrough.



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Shortage of EMS vehicles flags Limpopo Province

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo say they are concerned by the large number of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) vehicles that are non-functional or out for repairs on maintenance.

The party said the vehicles include ambulances, Planned Patient Transport (PPT) vehicles, rescue, response and support vehicles. According to Risham Maharaj, DA Spokesperson for Health in Limpopo, the province has 142 ambulances, 61 PPT vehicles, 22 support, eight rescue and 3 response vehicles that are either non-functional or at merchants and are unavailable for use by residents. "Districts in the province have more ambulances that are non-functional than those that are functional," he said. Earlier this year, DA in Limpopo raised a serious concern about shortage of ambulances at the Saaiplaas Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Monsterlus, which they say has plagued the area for more than a year. The party has since written a letter to Limpopo MEC for Health Department, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, requesting that she take immediate action to remedy the shortage of ambulances in Saaiplaas and other nearby areas in the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. The Saaiplaas EMS Station is meant to service a large area that includes Saaiplaas, Mathula Stand, Sehlakwane, Donkey Stop, Holnek, Sovolo, Keerom and Masoing. The party claim Ramathuba could not intervene to resolve the problem. Maharaj added that a response to a DA parliamentary question in November 2022 revealed that the Limpopo Department of Health only has 262 Ambulances for a population of about 6 million people, despite a required ratio of 1 ambulance per 10 000 people. "This means the province is short of 348 ambulances. The department has, however, indicated that they will be purchasing 500 ambulances but has not provided a timeline for the procurement of these new ambulances," he said. Maharaj indicated that the DA already wrote to the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) in December 2022, requesting an investigation into the access to EMS in the province due to a severe shortage of ambulances. "The Limpopo Department of Health needs to ensure that the EMS has better fleet management, time-efficient and well-run

maintenance plans, and that areas with severe shortages are prioritised for new vehicles," he said. Maharaj said the party believes that everyone has the right to have access to adequate health care services, including functional EMS vehicles in the province. Meanwhile Maharaj said the party is also concerned that the department returned millions of rands on unspent conditional grant funding to the Treasury Department, despite a serious services backlog in the province. "The department surrendered R71,3 Million in conditional grants, despite already having rollovers amounting to R4,447 Billion, this seems to indicate ineffective expenditure management," he said. The conditional grant funding surrendered was meant for comprehensive HIV and AIDS grant to the amount of R45,5 Million, Human Resource (HR) capacitation grant to the tune of R22,5 Million, National Tertiary Service Grant amounting to R2,176 Million and the National Health insurance Grant amount to R 261 000-00. "These conditional grants are transfers to provincial governments that can only be used for a specific predetermined purpose, and these surrendered amounts will have a tremendous impact on the delivery of health services in the province," informed Maharaj. He said the party has also written to Premier Stan Mathabatha to provide details of consequence management steps that will be taken against the officials responsible for failing to spend this conditional grant funding. "It is Mathabatha's duty to monitor spending in his departments and ensure there is accountability for the under-expenditure of grants. The DA will continue to put pressure on the Health Department to ensure that all available funding is used for residents to get the best possible health services," he said. Health Department Spokesperson in Limpopo, Neil Shikwambana, confirmed that the department has a number of ambulances that have since taken to be repaired. "The ambulances take long at the merchants and this is the bottlenecks related to the transversal tender. The issue is receiving attention at the national Department of Health," he said. Shikwambana said the department is in the process of overhauling their ambulances and have in addition, just bought 52 ambulances. "We have also made an order of 500 ambulances that will be delivered in due course," he said.



ELIAS MOTSOALEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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- Proof of ownership of property (copy of Municipal Account)

M.M KGWALE - MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Dindela shoddy constructed water infrastructure project questioned

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) says it will write to the Acting Municipal Manager, Nancy Rampedi, for a comprehensive report on the failed Dindela reservoir project.

The party said it will be demanding consequence management against those who were involved in the fruitless and wasteful expenditure during the shoddy construction of the project. According to the DA, the project has been stalled since 2015 at a cost of R10,1 Million and has never been used. The project was meant to benefit various villages including Dindela, Rondebosch, Kosini, Mathulama, Khathazweni and Holnek. Nora Letsela, DA Councillor in SDM, said three contractors were appointed in 2014 to construct the reservoir and water pipeline, however, were subsequently terminated due to shoddy construction and the use of inferior materials. "A total of R10,1 Million was paid over to the contractors and the villages meant to benefit from the project still do not have water. The workmanship on the project is so poor that the engineering consultant for the project advised the municipality to demolish the reservoir and construct another one. The pipeline also needs to be refurbished before commissioning," explained Letsela. She said the party finds it unacceptable that a municipality that is strapped for resources and has many villages that are still deprived of basic services such as an adequate supply of water, failed to prevent this fruitless and wasteful expenditure. "The council resolved to have the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) investigate the matter, but we will request a report from the municipal manager on the project and the consequence management process taken during the seven years since its inception," said Letsela.

She said the party will continue to monitor the problem until it is resolved as they understand that residents deserve good governance and access to basic services. SDM Spokesperson, Kgetjepe Maredi, did not answer his cellphone when the publication tried to reach him for a comment. Maredi also did not respond to WhatsApp messages forwarded by the Dispatch when requesting a comment.



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Desperate Dikgalaopeng residents devastated over lack of drinkable water

The Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA) said they are concerned about water shortages that has been experienced in Dikgalaopeng Village, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Ward 25. This is despite an intervention from the office of Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu, seeking to provide drinkable water to Dikgalaopeng Villagers. According to residents, the battle to fight to get drinkable water from Sekhukhune District Municipality has been started since 2018. During the time, a number of community unrests were staged in the village as a result of poor service delivery complaints, ranging from shortage of RDP houses, poor roads, incomplete projects and water shortages in main. A number of community meetings were also convened with both Sekhukhune District Municipality and Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality to find resolutions to the poor services issues flagged the village. During one of the community meetings, Dikgalaopeng residents threatened to boycott the 29 May 2019 election until their water demands are met. Calm was restored in the village following engagement between residents and the municipalities, who promised to soon address service delivery challenges faced by the community. However, according to the community, water scarcity issues were not attended to and situation haven't change ever since they have started engaging with the municipalities since 2018. Seun Mogotji, (BPSA) leader, said the party is worried that the district municipality is set to return millions of rands back to the Treasury Department while residents in draught stricken villages are in need of basic services that include water provision. "After the intervention by the minister's office and media coverage by SABC News, water was available for a week or so in Dikgalaopeng and then later stopped," he said. Mogotji said it is concerning that Sekhukhune District Municipality has so far spent only 22% of its allocated budget. "As we are approaching the end of the municipality's financial year, the unspent money will be going back to the Treasury while our people are without basic services like water. Those in power don't seem to realise that access to water is a basic human right not a privilege," Mogotji said. Mogotji said the party will be seeking the intervention of the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Maleke Mokganyetji, to address water scarcity of Dikgalaopeng Village that subjecting residents to share contaminated water with domestic and wild animals. At the time of going to print, Sekhukhune District Municipality Spokesperson, Kgetjepe Maredi, was not available for a comment, as he could not answer his cellphone nor responding to the publication's WhatsApp messages.

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DA's persistence produces positive results in Masinakane Special School

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Mpumalanga said they are pleased after the Mpumalanga Provincial Government finally acted and partially solved some of the challenges faced by learners and teachers of Masinakane Special School in Allemansdrift B Village outside Siyabuswa. The school's appalling conditions were resolved after DA seek intervention from the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). According to the party, learners were unable to return to their classes as a result of shortage of accommodation in the school premises to house them. Jane Sithole, DA Leader in Mpumalanga, said teachers and learners of Masinakane Special School, a school that caters for learners with disabilities, have been struggling with decent boarding facilities since 2008, when these learners were housed in a dilapidated boarding house. They were then moved into their mobile classrooms due to the boarding school being declared unsafe for living. "The DA has been trying for years to bring to the attention of the provincial government, including Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane and Education MEC Bonakele Majuba, the plight faced by the learners and teachers at this special needs school. However, we were ignored until 2021 when we approached the SAHRC to intervene. The DA went as far as inviting the SAHRC to visit the school with us last year to see for themselves the condition these learners were living under," Sithole said. She added that the party has raised issues with the SAHRC such as learners at the school were subjected to atrocious conditions, in that they sleep in classrooms with no ablution facilities to be used at night and the unavailability of a school hostel. "We have also noted that since the Covid-19 outbreak, only 31 of the 154 learners have been attending school and the other 124 were confined at home without supervision simply because the Department of Education had not yet provided any facilities for them," she said. Sithole said they party is pleased that their 2022 visit to the special school with the SAHRC has paid off. "In our follow up visit to the school this month, we found that hostel facilities were built for the male learners with proper fencing for security. We were also informed that the provincial government is in the plenary process of constructing administration and psychologist rooms," explained Sithole. She said the DA welcomes the progress and positive development from the provincial government, however, they are still concerned about the female learners who are still using classrooms as their boarding rooms without ablution facilities. She said the female students still use the outside mobile toilets even at night. "The DA will not stop engaging the provincial government until fully-fledged boarding and ablution facilities are built for all the 127 learners that are currently enrolled at the school. Another challenge raised by management and the School Governing Body (SGB), which the DA fully supports, was the issue of the 21 hostel staff. The school is currently spending R63 000-00 a month to compensate the 21 hostel staff employees with R3000 each per month, which will not be sustainable in the long run. The provincial department of education must consider putting these hostel staff on their payroll to ease financial responsibilities of the struggling school," she said. Sithole added that only the 15 educators at the school are under the payroll of the department, not other staff members. "Learners with special needs need 24 hour supervision, therefore, it doesn't make sense for the department to build a hostel, but not pay hostel caretakers who look after these children. The DA has submitted oral questions to the MEC of Education, Bonakele Majuba, in regard to this," she said. Sithole committed that the party will never abandon the learners and teachers of the special school and will walk with them hand in hand until all their challenges are taken seriously and addressed. "We will continue engaging the provincial department of education constructively to address problems and challenges faced by schools that accommodate learners with special needs in Mpumalanga, not just Masinakane Special School alone," concluded Sithole.

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Crime crossing provincial borders

The Motetema Police have arrested a suspect who was allegedly involved in a kidnapping incident of two victims, aged between 20 and 26 at Manapsane Village outside Marble Hall. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said according to police preliminary report, the suspects were driving in a white Mini Copper motor vehicle and kidnapped two victims from their homes



The police with the suspects after confiscating dagga to the value of R62 000-00 in their vehicle on the R37 Road

Ten arrested when police intensified operations in Dennilton

The Police at Sekhukhune District have arrested ten suspects for offences ranging from possession of illicit cigarettes to illegal immigrants during a joint operation on Thursday 18 May 2023.

The suspects, aged between 20 and 39, were arrested during a police operation that was conducted by K9 members from Burgersfort, Masemola, Dennilton and Flying Squad Unit, focusing on the identified hot-spot at Dennilton Policing area. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said six of the suspects were arrested for illegal immigration, two for possession and dealing in illicit cigarettes, one for illegal gambling and one for dealing in drugs. "During the arrests the police seized 721 packets of Remington Gold illicit cigarettes, R5000-00 cash, 15 Packets of Shasha illicit cigarettes, 83 sachets of Nyaope and 20 sachets Rock," explained Ledwaba. He said the suspect will appear before the Moutse Magistrate's Court soon. The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, appreciated the efforts displayed by the police when performing their daily duties during the operation.



The illicit cigarettes and drugs that were confiscated by the police during the operation conducted in Dennilton area.

at Manapsane, accusing them for stealing their properties including television sets in Motetema policing area. "The incident was reported to the police and the suspect was traced and arrested at Vaalbank Village in Mpumalanga during Operation Thata Zonke conducted on Thursday 11 May 2023," he said. Ledwaba informed that the police managed to rescue the two Motetema victims and also other two more male victims that were allegedly kidnapped at Vaalbank in Mpumalanga. "The four victims had serious injuries and were taken to hospital for medical treatment. One suspect was apprehended while the driver of the Mini Cooper evaded arrest," explained Ledwaba. He said the suspect is expected to appear before the Motetema Magistrate's Court soon and the police are still searching for the remaining suspect (s). "Anyone with information that can assist the police to arrest the suspects involved should contact Colonel Ngele on 082 573 3645, Captain Mothokwa on 082 414 6464, crime stop number on 08600

10111, the nearest Police Station or make use of MySAPSApp," he said. Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo welcomed the arrest and called upon community members to provide more positive information that can lead to arrests of remaining suspects. Meanwhile Ledwaba said the Police in Sekhukhune have nabbed three suspects, aged between 30 and 46, including a police sergeant for alleged possession and transportation of dagga on Thursday 18 May 2023 at about 11:00. "The police were conducting a stop and search operation at a roadblock along the R37 public road next to L50 Farm when they stopped a white Volkswagen Polo motor vehicle with Mpumalanga registration numbers. Police found three occupants and requested to search the motor vehicle after they felt an unpleasant odour inside it. Permission was granted and police found three big parcels wrapped with a brown masking tape at the back seat of the motor vehicle," he said. Ledwaba said one of

the suspects confirmed to the police that the wrapped plastics contained dagga and they were immediately placed under arrest on the spot for possession and transportation of drugs. "Preliminary investigations indicated that one of the suspects who was the driver of the motor vehicle is a 46 year-old police Sergeant who is stationed at Barberton SAPS in Mpumalanga Province. His two accomplices, aged 30 and 35, are foreign nationals from Swaziland who were in possession of valid passports. During the arrest, police confiscated dagga with an estimated street value of R62 000-00," he said. Ledwaba said the suspects are expected to appear before the court soon facing charges of possession and transportation of dagga and police investigations are continuing.

Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, welcomed the arrest of the suspects. "The police are expected to uphold the law and if they are the ones breaking it, there must be consequences," she said.

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Convicted murderer gets hefty sentence

The South African High Court Division in Polokwane has on Monday 15 May 2023, sentenced convicted murderer, Sifiso Nkabinde (36), to 18 years imprisonment for the murder of his alleged ex-girlfriend in Hlogotou outside Monsterlus in 2022. Nkabinde was further sentenced to three years imprisonment for house breaking, five years for theft and another 3 years imprisonment for contravention of the protection order. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the deceased, Dudu Sindi Masango (28), who was an educator at Segololo Secondary School, was found brutally murdered at her home in Dindela Village on 11 June 2022. "The police were summoned to the scene at about 15:30 after her body was discovered with multiple stab wounds. A case of murder was opened and preliminary investigation revealed that the intruder broke into the deceased's house, stabbed her several



Sergeant Madimetja Junior Manganye (Pictured), from Hlogotlou SAPS worked tirelessly to ensure that the suspect is convicted and sentenced.

times with a knife and thereafter fled the scene using her motor vehicle," explained Ledwaba. He added that the victim's vehicle was found abandoned in the bushes next to Syferfontein Village. "The investigating officer, Sergeant Madimetja Junior Manganye from SAPS Hlogotlou Detectives, utilised his excellent detective skills to track down the suspect. His sharp skills paid off when the ex-boyfriend was arrested on the same day and positively linked with the murder incident," he said. Ledwaba said during the trial, the court heard that the deceased had previously obtained a protection order against the accused. "The accused was kept in custody throughout the trial until he was ultimately sentenced. The court ordered that the sentences run concurrently, meaning the accused will serve an effective 18 years imprisonment," he said.

Moomane woman fatally shot during domestic violence incident

The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, has sent a stern warning against acts of domestic violence, following a murder incident that took place on Sunday 14 May 2023, at about 14h00, wherein a 48-year-old man allegedly killed his wife 39-year-old wife at Moomane Village outside Marble Hall. According to the police report, the couple had an argument while they were at their house with two family members. "Seemingly, the husband then shot and killed his wife with a firearm in front of the two family members before dosing a flammable liquid inside a double cab Ford Ranger and set it alight," said Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. Ledwaba said the police were alerted about the incident and on arrival, they discovered a lifeless body of a woman lying next to the burned vehicle. "It was established that after the incident, the suspect then fled the scene and went to a local mountain where he turned the gun on himself. The motive behind the incident will be established by the police investigations but domestic violence related issues cannot be ruled out," he said. Ledwaba said the deceased female was identified as Refilwe Matshatshi Tjiane (39) and male deceased was identified as Monana Isaac Tladi, aged 48. He said the police have opened murder and inquest cases and investigations are still ongoing. General Hadebe said they are saddened by the incidents that are now prevalent in the province. "Women are continuously being killed by their partners, we will continuously call up on community to seek professional assistance when experiencing challenges in their relationships, without killing anyone," she said.



Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe

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Robbery victim shot dead in Leeuwfontein

A 37-year-old man, was fatally shot after three suspects stormed his residence during a house robbery at Leeuwfontein RDP Phase 1 outside Marble Hall on Tuesday 23 May. According to Hendrick Ngwenya, Chairperson of the Marble Hall Cluster Community Policing Forum, it is alleged that two armed suspects knocked on the door of the victim's house around 8am, demanding car keys and vehicle papers. "After confronting the victim, the two criminals shot him in the leg and after he had given them his vehicle keys and papers, shot him in the head. They then fled with the victim's white Nissan Hardbody double cab, cellphone as well as papers belonging to the stolen Nissan Hardbody," explained Ngwenya. He said the police and medical personnel were immediately called to the scene and the victim, Willem Chauke, was certified dead by the paramedics. The victim's vehicle was recovered at Tafelkop Village during the day after it was traced by the tracker company. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said two suspects, aged 33 and 41, were arrested in Leeuwfontein in connection with the murder of the victim who is originally from Mozambique. "The third suspect managed to evade arrest. Also a cellphone and firearm with ammunition were recovered during the arrest," he said. Ledwaba said the arrested suspects will appear before the Marble Hall Magistrate's Court soon facing charges of house robbery, murder, possession of stolen motor vehicle, possession of unlicensed firearm and ammunition. "A manhunt for the remaining suspect is ongoing. Anyone with information that can lead to his apprehension should contact Detective Commander Captain Martin Kgomo on 082 318 9861. Crime Stop Number on 08600 10111 or the nearest police station," he said. According to Ngwenya, residents at Leeuwfontein and surrounding villages continue to live in fear as crime rate is prevalent in the area, with a spate of murders occurring recently. Ngwenya said: "The community lives in fear, especially during the night." Ngwenya said neighbor-hood watch and street committees were previously established in the area, aiming to aid residents against criminal activities. "However, the structures were not effective as a result of lack of participation from residents. There is a lot of negativity here where people fail to help each other during crime incidents. We were trying to establish the structures for the community to help each other and some stood up for others who are in need of help. Most of the crimes are committed by fellow residents who are known to the communities. We are worried that no one is coming forward with the information that can lead to their arrests," he said. Ngwenya has called on community members to come forward and participate in structures such as neighbor-hood watch and street committees. He said police patrols are also not making any difference to eradicate crime, as a result of serious lack of resources at the nearest Marble Hall and Motetema Police Stations. Sharing his fears, a Leeuwfontein resident, Cedrick Msiza, said they are not feeling safe at all as a result of bloody incidents occurring in the area in a short space of time. "We are under attack and it is now worse that these crimes start to take place during broad day light," he said. Msiza said he is one of residents who was participating in the neighbor-hood watch and street committee structure, however, he was forced to stop when criminals started to threaten some of community members who were actively taking part in the initiative. "These crimes are committed by people from the same communities who sometimes target foreign owned shops. We want the police to intensify their patrols because we cannot face heavily armed criminals alone," he said.

Sekhukhune TVET College awards top achievers

To reward hard working top achieving students and lecturers, Sekhukhune TVET College held a glittering award giving ceremony at CS Barlow Campus in Motetema on Thursday 18 May 2023.

The well attended ceremony was graced by presence of representatives from corporate businesses such as Nedbank and Old Mutual including the school principals from various schools in Motetema and the surrounding villages, who converged to ululate and congratulate the academically performing students and lecturers. Delivering a keynote address, Mr EM Maganedisa, engineering studies lecturer in the college, told students to remain focused on their studies and pay attention to the type of friends they attract. "Show me your friends and I will tell you how your future will look like," motivated Maganedisa. He further warned students that wrong choice of friends and negative social networking are a bad influence and distraction for their studies. "You need to work harder to make yourself proud," he urged. MB Mahlatji, who walked away with Best of the Best Student Award. Mahlatji, who is currently studying Public Management course, received a tablet, a book, a trophy and a certificate for her excellent results in the current academic year. The awarded items were donated by Old Mutual Groblersdal. The

Best of the Best Lecturer Award was scooped by two Life Orientation lectures, Mosima Tlaka and Glorina Phasha who produced 100% pass rate. The duo were awarded trophies for their sterling work and commitment in the subject respectively. Delivering vote of thanks during the final stage of the event, Eva Makobe, Sekhukhune TVET College CS Barlow Campus Manager, praised students for their hard work and dedication to their studies.

Makobe appreciated the support that the college is getting from private sector businesses.



Top performing lecturers over the moon after being rewarded at Sekhukhune TVET College CS Barlow Campus in Motetema.



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Marumo Gallants suffer double blow during CAF and PSL campaigns

Marumo Gallants FC has suffered a double blow after being eliminated from the CAF Confederations Cup and also being automatically relegated from the South African football top flight. After performing exceptionally well in the CAF Confederation Cup tournament, Gallants were knocked-out from the continental competition by Tanzanian outfit, Young Africans FC, during the two legged semifinals played in Tanzania and South Africa this month. Bahlabane Bantwa lost 2-0 during the first leg of the CAF Confederations Cup Tournament, played at the Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium in Tanzania on Wednesday 10 May. Gallants played a 1-1 draw during the second leg of the tournament, played at Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Rustenburg on Wednesday 17 May that saw Bahlabane Bantwa bowing down to Young Africans and being eliminated from the competition with a 4-1 aggregate score. Marumo Gallants was also relegated from the Dstv Premier Soccer League (PSL) after obtaining the 16th spot with only 29 points in the South African football top flight league. Gallants suffered a 2-0 defeat from Moroka Swallows FC in a crucial "must win" last match of the 2022/2023 PSL season played at Dobsonville Stadium in Soweto on Saturday 20 May. Bahlabane Bantwa will be campaigning in the Motsepe Foundation Championship joining the National First Division (NFD) teams for the 2023/2024 football season. Gallants was founded by Sekhukhune based businessman, Ditonkana Abram Sello, after purchasing PSL status from Tshakuma Tsha Madzivhandila that saw them campaigning in

Prestigious Mayor's Cup held in Elandskraal Stadium

The Prestigious Annual Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality Mayor's Cup Tournament was held at the Elandskraal Stadium outside Marble Hall Town on Saturday 20 May 2023. According to the municipality, the annual tournament is aimed at building social cohesion and unearthing rural talent in both football and netball sporting codes in the local municipality. The sporting event was well attended by various sports loving communities across the length and breadth of Ephraim Mogale who filled the rafters of the stadium to capacity. Various teams from all the sixteen wards of the local municipalities participated in the tournament through ward base soccer, netball and ladies football teams played against each other until the final stage of the sporting event where the champions for the 2023 Ephraim Mogale Mayor's Cup were crowned. Rathoke FC from Ephraim Mogale Ward 4 were crowned champions while Moganyaka NC from the local municipality's ward 9 walked away with the netball first prize. The Ephraim Mogale Ward 6 Ladies FC were crowned champions in the women's football category. The Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Given Moimana, handed-over prizes to champions in both football and netball sporting codes. The mayor was joined by the Chief Whip of the Council Cllr Itumeleng Magane, MPAC Chairperson Cllr Thabiso Mabaso, Chair of chairs Cllr Nkoana, EXCO members, councillors, senior managers and officials. The prizes included trophies, gold medals and football and netball kits. The runner ups for both soccer and netball were also awarded kits and bronze medals. Moimana took the opportunity to thank all the teams that participated in this year's tournament and the organizers who made the tournament a success. "Next year we should make sure that we invite both Motsepe Foundation Football League and Dstv Premier Soccer League teams to come and scout some players in our shores. And that will serve as a motivation to our boys and girls who want to see themselves playing and making a mark in that professional space. I can attest that we have massive talent in our communities and in future we want see some players playing in professional leagues," he said. Moimana encouraged teams that did not win prizes to not despair and go back to the drawing board and rectify where they did not do well.

the Dstv Premier League since 2021/2022 season. Due to lack of PSL approved standard football facilities in Sekhukhune, Gallants opted to play their home games at Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane and at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Rustenburg. However, the team is getting support from Sekhukhune, the entire Limpopo and North West Provinces. Highlighting some of the noteworthy moments of the team, Gallants Chairman, Abram Sello, said despite the fact that the club had to overcome numerous challenges during the 2022/2023 season, they are looking forward to the 2023/2024 NFD season. Sello shared his gratitude and appreciation that his players have made the past season across the PSL and the CAF Confederations Cup, stating that "my boys, your resilience and hard work is humbling, your names will forever be engraved in the history books of Marumo Gallants. Thank you boys, I will continue to be proud of you and cherish the special moments you spent with the club". Meanwhile Marumo Gallants lethal striker, Ranga Chivaviro, is set to leave the Limpopo side and has been linked with various teams in the PSL including the mighty Kaizer Chiefs. The 30-year-old scored more than 16 goals in all appearances with the team in the 2022/2023 season. He played a typical role that saw Bahlabane Bantwa reaching the CAF Confederations Cup semi-finals for the first time in history.

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