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Kgoshikgolo Thulare III laid to rest

The paramount King of Bapedi nation, Kgoshikgolo Thulare Victor Thulare III, was laid to rest on Sunday 17 January at Mohlaletsi Village in Sekhukhune. Kgoshikgolo Thulare III departed on Wednesday 6 January 2021 at the Netcare Moot Hospital in Pretoria North at the age of 40. According to the statement released by the Bapedi Royal House, the king succumbed to Covid-19 complications while he was about to be moved to a military hospital in Pretoria. President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a special official funeral category 1 for Kgoshikgolo Thulare III, which was in condition of compliance with regulation 11B, Sub-regulation 8 of Covid-19 Lockdown Regulations of 25 March 2020. President Ramaphosa also delivered an eulogy at the late king's funeral and said traditional leaders who came before the late Thulare III fought immensely against colonialism. "He carried the blood of resistance in his veins. As government we convey our deepest sympathy and condolences to the royal family and the people of this province for this great loss," said the president. Kgoshikgolo Thulare III was just recognized as paramount king of Bapedi by President Ramaphosa in March last year, following a lengthy court battle with his uncle, Kgagudi Kenneth Sekhukhune, over the legitimacy of the Bapedi kingship throne. Two months after his recognition, Kgoshikgolo Thulare III was bestowed with a certificate of recognition by the Co-operative Government and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Deputy Minister Obed Bapela. "His Majesty (King Thulare III)'s untimely departure has placed a cruel damper on His Vision of confirming His predecessor King's control of Lekwe-Bepe (historically known as

Transvaal) the traditional and historical jurisdiction of Bapedi Kingdom. Unity of Bapedi Senior Traditional Leaders and Headmen in the Kingdom was paramount on His Majesty's agenda and vision or reviving the pride of over 5 million of Bapedi population who are residents in all four provinces of Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and Gauteng," reads the Bapedi Royal House statement. According to the statement, Kgoshikgolo Thulare III supported the economic vision to transform Sekhukhune region of Bapedi Kingdom to become a global centre of hydrogen economy given the region's mineral deposits. "Kgoshikgolo Thulare III supported the economic vision to transform Sekhukhune region of Bapedi Kingdom to become a global centre of hydrogen economy given the region's mineral deposits," stated Bapedi Royal House. The Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), sent their heartfelt condolences to the family and Bapedi nation. "On behalf of the COGTA family, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Bapedi as a whole and the royal family on the passing of His Majesty Kgoshikgolo Thulare Thulare III. His Majesty played his part to sow the seeds of unity and to lay a foundation from which the Bapedi Kingship can grow stronger and stronger. His untimely passing is a great loss to Bapedi, the institution of traditional leadership and the people of Limpopo," said COGTA Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. Christians of South Africa (COSA) political party conveyed condolences to the family of the late traditional leader. "COSA remains the only political party in South Africa that marched to the government demanding the recognition of King Thulare III.

Our support to his kingship was unconditional. We supported his Kingship when it was not fashionable, his untimely departure destroys our inner spirits. His passing has left COSA and the entire South African population shattered and in sheer disbelief," said COSA President Apostle Derick Mosoana. The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila, was deeply saddened by the passing of Kgoshikgolo Thulare III. "It is with a heavy heart that I express my personal condolences and the greatest sympathies of the Bapedi people to the family of King Thulare III and also to the people of Limpopo," said

Ramaila. He said KgoshiKgolo Thulare III, 'Bauba a Hlabirwa', played his part nobly and with understanding of the responsibility and leadership which the people of Sekhukhune required. "In his words, he always pleaded with 'bana ba Thulare' including various Bapedi royal houses on unity and working together to develop the district of Sekhukhune. He further displayed a positive and energetic view with clear vision on how to protect the wealth of the district, in particular the mining sector. He emerged as a critical force to his people with the intention of taking bold steps in advancing the economy of Sekhukhune," said Ramaila.

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Raising concerns through the correct channels does not work!

Residents in various villages of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality embarked on a fierce protest that started Monday 18 January, complaining about shortage of water. Demonstrators, from Mamapko, Moganyaka and Manapyan, blocked all access roads with burning tyres, demanding to be addressed by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Lindiwe Sisulu. The community accuses Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) for failing to provide potable water to residents. According to residents, the district municipality is failing to make means in form of water trucks to provide residents with water supply on an interim basis. On Monday 25 January, Leeuwfontein residents joined the protest and the mob went on a rampage to stage a shutdown, leading the area into a "no go zone". During the unrest, passing-by trucks were looted and used to block the busy D1400 Road. A community leader, Patrick

Burning and looting needed to get attention!

Makofane, said they took it to the streets after venting their concerns through correct channels with no positive response from relevant authorities. "We have been in consultation with Sekhukhune District Municipality through letters and memorandums since 2018 demanding water supply and had been given a cold shoulder. We take it to the streets to show our frustrations," said Makofane. We have been promised basic service delivery for years without any implementation. Millions of rands are allocated every new financial year for water but nothing is happening in our area," he said. Makofane said some of residents are urged to buy water from those who have boreholes in their yards. "The majority here is living below the poverty line and cannot afford to buy water as they survive with social grants. It has been many years of struggle for water without any permanent solution," he said. According to Makofane, the nearby Flag Boshielo Dam, which is less than 10km away from their villages, benefits people from other parts of Limpopo Province. "Our basic human rights

are being violated, we are not taken seriously," he said. Makofane anticipated that the protest will continue until Minister Sisulu intervenes. Isaac Mahlakwane, Sekhukhune District Municipal Spokesperson, said the illegal connections in the area is hindering water supply by the Flag Boshielo Dam Regional Water Scheme (RWS) to residents. "Currently, Flag Boshielo RWS is seeing a high number of unauthorized water connections in its main supply to these villages. These challenges affect Lepelle Northern Water plant's capacity to cover water supply to the respective reservoir," he said. He said Sekhukhune District Municipality only distributes water to villages from reservoirs that are supplied by Lepelle Northern Water. "There is a dam dedicated to Manapyan community but sound to have been built some-time back targeting the population present then and the reticulation is ending far from new

residents. The other problem is that a large number of households have developed and there is no extension on the reticulation pipelines," added Mahlakwane. He indicated that the community was using natural fountains and dongas as source of portable water, hence, residents opted to interfere with the mainline to Leeuwfontein passing the three villages from Letebejane village. "Awareness on the bylaws was conducted through our Institutional Social Development officers (ISDs), urging communities to stop illegal connections on the main pipeline," he said. Mahlakwane emphasized that the district municipality agreed with Lepelle Northern Water to upgrade treatment works from 8ML to 16ML per day capacity. "This is to address ongoing demand of water supply and the upgrade will improve water supply to villages within Flag Boshielo scheme. We are currently making temporary means to deliver water through our water tankers to these communities," he said. Mahlakwane said the illegal connections impact negatively on water supply.

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Limpopo Premier warns of Covid-19 resurgence

The Premier of Limpopo Province Chupus Stanley Mathabatha warns residents about the resurgence of the Novel Coronavirus in the province. Mathabatha sent the stern warning following the massive increase in the number of Covid-19 new cases recorded in the province. The province has recorded more than 350 000 Covid-19 cases so far with more than 260 000 recoveries. Limpopo Province saw more than 970 Covid-19 related deaths. According to Mathabatha, among the major contributing

factors of the second wave in the province was the behavior displayed by the majority of young people. "Videos have so far emerged on social media platforms where young people are attending super spreader events and completely ignoring health protocols," he said. Mathabatha indicated that in the main, the super spreader events in the province comprises of soccer tournaments, street bashes, funerals after tears gatherings, weddings, church services, drinking sprees, to name but a few. He said the current trend makes it eminent for Covid-19 variant

which makes it even harder for containment and this will lead to overwhelming of public health facilities in the province. "Parents are requested to take responsibility for the action of the youth. Movements should be limited as much as possible. Events should be attended by close family, few friends and a limited number of relatives. People are urged to wear masks, exercise social distancing, practice health hygiene at all times. The MEC for Health in Limpopo Dr Phophi

Ramathuba has also called communities to be extra vigilant. "With the increasing number of funerals, our people still treat funerals as normal. Our people continue to visit bereaved families and also attend funerals in large numbers. Now we are seeing funerals becoming super spreaders. We therefore want to request our people to desist from these practices," she said.

Kgoshikgolo Mampuru Billy Mampuru III passed away

Just a few days after the burial of Bapedi King, Thulare Victor Thulare III, another Bapedi Paramount King, Kgoshikgolo Mampuru Billy Mampuru III passed away. Kgoshikgolo Mampuru III (55), who was the leader of the Mamone Traditional Council in Jane Furse, passed away in the early hours of Wednesday 21 January. According to the Mampuru Royal Family, the cause of the Chief's death is yet to be determined. The royal family indicated that Kgoshikgolo Mampuru died in the early hours after he was admitted at Dilokong Hospital in Burgersfort. "He complained that he was not feeling well and we rushed him to his doctor in Burgersfort for check-up where he was referred to Dilokong Hospital. He was about to be transferred to a hospital in Polokwane during his passing," said Bapedi Ba Mamone Tribal Authority Spokesperson Prince Nkoana Sekwati. Kgoshikgolo Mampuru III was crowned king in 2009, after his mother resigned as regent. He was the grandson of Kgoshikgolo Mampuru II who was hanged alongside Amandelbele King Ingonyama Nyabela at Pretoria Central Prison in 1883. The remains of Kgoshikgolo Mampuru II were never recovered since he was executed by the colonial government. According to the Mampuru family, the late Kgoshikgolo Billy Mampuru III was on the mission to find the remains of his grandfather. In remembrance of the slain Kgoshikgolo Mampuru II, an annual commemoration is held at Mamone Village to honour those who refused to recognize and submit to colonial rule.

Limpopo pupils to receive food hampers

The Limpopo Department of Education has made arrangements for learners who are beneficiaries of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), to receive food hampers which will cater for them while schools remain closed. This follows the announcement by the Department of Basic Education to delay the reopening of schools by two weeks from 27 January to 15 February 2021. "This intervention is also informed by the directives and content of structural interdict by the Gauteng North High Court against the Department of Basic Education to feed qualifying learners, whether attending school or not," said Tidimalo Chuene, Limpopo Department of Education Spokesperson. Chuene said the NSNP will resume on 27 January 2021, with schools directed to get service providers to prepare hampers to the value of R273-00 per learner. "Learners relying on learner transport to reach schools and also benefiting from the nutrition programme will be transported to school to receive their hampers. District learner transport coordinators have been directed to assist schools in the coordination of this process," explained Chuene.

Mentally ill man goes missing

The police in Hlogotlou outside Groblersdal requests public assistance to locate the whereabouts of the missing Frakane Stephen Mokoena (61). According to the police report, the victim went missing since Monday 4 January 2021 and was never seen again. Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, Warrant Officer Marobo Seabela, said

the victim was reported to be mentally ill, medium sized with bold head. "He was last seen by his nephew at home before he went to sleep at about 22:00 at his home at Vlakfontein Village outside Monsterlus," said Seabela. He said at the time of his disappearance, the victim was wearing a black trouser, grey shirt with long sleeve and black safety boots. "Anyone with information that can assist to reunite the victim with his family may contact investigating officer, Warrant Officer Mahlakwane on 0733807827 or crime stop number 0860010111 or the nearest police station," he said.



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The Polokwane High Court has sentenced three accused from Elandsdraal outside Marble Hall, to a consolidated jail term of twenty-two years imprisonment for assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm (Assault GBH) and murder of Nkgodiseng Maila (29). According to the police, the sentencing follows the mob justice incident that occurred on 11 August 2019 at about 07:00, where a group of community members from Mehlaeng Village in Elandsdraal, kidnapped and assaulted

Trio sentenced for Assault GBH and murder

the victim accusing him of being involved in criminal activities. "The victim was rescued by the police but later succumbed to his injuries while admitted in hospital. He was accused of stealing three cellphones from members of the community in the area," said Colonel Moatshe Ngope, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. Ngope said the matter was assigned to Detective Warrant Officer Ouma Lebelo of Elandsdraal Detectives Unit who meticulously

investigated it until the accused involved were arrested and positively linked to the case. The sentence was handed down as follows, Atlanta Tlomatsane (39), was sentenced to an effective sixteen years imprisonment without the option of fine, for murder. Edward Selomane (39), was sentenced to an effective 5 years imprisonment without the option of fine, for Assault GBH and Precious Mmapulane (34), was sentenced to one year imprisonment or R5000 fine, for

Assault GBH. The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo Lieutenant General Nneke Ledwaba has welcomed the sentences handed down to the accused. The Provincial Commissioner has also commended the investigating officer in this matter for working tirelessly until all perpetrators are brought to book. "We hope that these sentences will serve as a deterrent to all the people who are still perpetrating this type of incidents," said General Ledwaba.

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Vusi Mabhena has won the Best Author in Short Stories Award in the South African Poetry Awards.

Dennilton born young author, actor and motivational speaker, Vusi Mabhena, won the "Best Author in Short Stories" category in the South African Poetry Awards. The award sees the public being called on to vote for their favourite poets and poetry in 16 categories of the competition. The awards are aiming to encourage and honour the poets across the country. Mabhena was nominated in the "Best Author in Short Stories" category earlier last year competing among 300

Dennilton young writer wins South African Poetry Award

nominees from Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Gauteng Provinces. Mabhena emerged as the biggest winner for his book, "Tears of a Crawling Hustler and Dreamer", which was released in February last year. Affectionately known as "Vusi the poet", Mabhena said his love for words started at a very young age when he was still in primary school. "My fondness in writing and reading started a long time ago when I was still young, probably in primary school. I realized then that I have passion for storytelling and fell in love with the pen since and never look back," he said. Mabhena said he is proud to be the only person who managed to put Limpopo Province, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and Dennilton on the map of the South African Poetry Awards. "I am thankful for the support I got from all the people who voted for me. I am speechless, this came as a surprise to me. I am glad I have won and find this very inspiring," he said. Mabhena, who is an author of three books, says he is happy that he managed to sell more than 500 copies of his productions across the country. "My dream is to see some of my books being available in other parts of the African Continent and probably even worldwide," he said. The young author is currently busy with his fourth book, a novel which is set to be released before Easter Holidays. "If things go as planned, soon I will be launching all my books and have a celebration for my award after releasing the novel," he said. Apart from writing,

Vusi Mabhena is a part time actor who appeared in local popular soapies including Generations The Legacy, The Queen, SkeemSam and Gomora.

He is also a motivational speaker who visits local schools of his village to motivate and encourage young people.

Sekhukhune United unveils new coach

The new GladAfrica Championship side, Sekhukhune United FC unveiled a new coach recently. The team announced McDonald Makhubedu as the new head coach, taking the reins from Johnny Ferreira, who will now be the team's Director of Football. Ferreira joined the team in the beginning of the 2020/2021 GladAfrica Championship season with the aim of leading the team towards its three year plan of gaining promotion to the Dstv Premiership. Ferreira has 20 year experience in coaching at South African football first division. United's Chief Operating Officer (COO), Alex Bapela, said the team needed younger blood in the coaching position to continue with their campaign in the GladAfrica Championship. "Ferreira was a good coach but we decided it was necessary to find someone younger to take over from him as head coach," he said. Makhubedu's won his first match in charge playing with Pretoria Callies FC on Wednesday 13 January at Mkhulong Stadium in Tembisa, where Babina Noko triumphed with a 1-0 victory. The club's Executive Chairman, Simon Malatji welcomed the appointment of Makhubedu and said it will take the team forward. "We are very

much excited to have Mr Makhubedu in the team. We believe he will assist us in achieving the goal that we have set for ourselves as Sekhukhune United FC, we wish him well in his journey," Malatji said. The team has also made technical changes as follows, Alex Bapela appointed new Chief Operating Officer (COO), Johnny Ferreira as Director of Football, Macdonald Makhubedu appointed new Head Coach, Sibusiso Zungu will be taking reigns as new Assistant Coach jointly with Stavros Tschilas, Stanford Nkoane appointed new Football Analyst and Nascent Nkwashu is the new Goalkeeper Coach. Sekhukhune United had before the commencement of the season paraded their new players in Sekhukhune villages, notably former Kaizer Chiefs and Supersport United veteran defender Morgan Gould and former goalkeeper to the now defunct Highlands Park, Tapuwa Kabini. The team is doing well in the GladAfrica Championship and currently among the top ten.

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SAFA suspends amateur football amid Covid-19 resurgence

The South African Football Association (SAFA) has extended the suspension of amateur football. According to the association, all non-professional football suspension has been extended in the wake of rising cases of Covid-19 infections. The amateur football has been suspended since March 2020, after state President Cyril Ramaphosa placed the country under the nationwide lockdown, amid the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. According to the association, the suspension includes training sessions, courses, workshops and all matches. SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League Coordinator, Frank Maredi encourages players to proceed with individual training to gain fitness. "Individual training sessions will play a meaningful role in their performance when the amateur football returns," he said.

Limpopo Sports Confederation revamped

The newly elected executive committee of Limpopo Sports Confederation has on 22 and 23 January 2021, embarked on a meeting for the term of office 2021–2024. The LSC agreed that President Ally Pole, will be responsible for presidential tasks. First Deputy President Leon Bannau, is entrusted with transformation and governance. Phuti Kgomo, second deputy president, is accountable for Limpopo academy of sport, sports commission and tertiary sport. Secretary, Clarika Strydom, is responsible for overall administration and Mrs Louise Blignaut, deputy secretary, is responsible for coordination of associate members. The first additional member Ms Tlou Langa is coordinating sport for people with disability, school sport and women in sport. The second additional member, Atang Segodi, is coordinator in all five districts. Puleng Mmotla, is entrusted with the marketing and media portfolio while Tsakani Hlungwani will be heading the legal affairs. For more information contact Mr Puleng Mmotla 076 360 2091.



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