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Sekhukhune Dispatch

YOUR NEWS YOUR COMMUNITY

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Friday 29 October 2021

083 679 3632

Vote for a Better South Africa on 1 November

The Bill of Rights in South Africa's pioneering Constitution grants all citizens aged 18 and older the right to vote, but the question often asked is whether voting will really make a difference. Of course it does! Voting gives you an opportunity to be part of decision-making that affects your life and the future of our country. If you don't vote, others will make the decisions for you. History shows that democracies in danger of losing their freedom register frighteningly low voter turnouts. In thriving democracies, people vote in large numbers and the people's voice remains supreme. So here are our top reasons why you should vote:

1. Because you can!

You may take your right to vote and all other rights in our constitution for granted, but 28 years ago most of the people in our country were not allowed to vote. Today you can vote simply by presenting yourself at a voting station with your ID during a registration event that puts you on the voters' roll for life, and lets you vote in every future general and by-election in your area.

2. Elections have consequences

You have the power to decide on the quality of life you want for yourself and your community, and even future generations. Voting is your chance to stand up for the issues you care about. This is your life: take

the time to help decide what's best. Voting - rather than just venting on social media or protesting - is the best way to make your voice heard and make a positive input on the issues that concern you.

3. Not voting is giving up your voice

Elections are decided by the people who go out and vote. If you don't vote, someone else will make the decision for you. If you don't vote you get stuck with other people's choices - and you can't even complain about it because you let it happen! By participating in the electoral process as a voter, you get a say in how things are done for the next five years. Your power is in your vote.

4. It's your money

You pay taxes, but do you know how that money is being spent? Most people don't. Voting is your chance to choose how your taxes are spent - such as funding for social services, healthcare and schooling. Do you think you don't pay taxes because you don't pay income tax? Not true! On almost everything you buy, you pay 15% VAT, which is paid by the suppliers to SARS. VAT is the 2nd biggest contributor to SARS' tax revenue. It's your money that's used to run this country.

5. Democracy needs you!

Democracy only works if people participate. That sounds obvious, but unless people actively participate in the process, democracy doesn't work. It takes constant renewal among citizens to make democracy flourish.

6. Voting is an opportunity for change

If you're thinking that right now you've got better things to do with your time and you'll vote next time, think again! Five years is a long time to be stuck with something that you don't want or doesn't work.

7. Our generation knows best


Technology and connectivity means that our generation is probably the best informed and equipped to vote in South Africa's history. Social media and the internet is giving us access to information which previ-

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Sekhukhune residents poor while municipal millions disappear

With only a few days to go before the Local Government Election, residents of Sekhukhune District Municipality are not satisfied with service delivery on municipality level. According to residents, the escalating acts of corruption that resulted in the loss of millions of rands, implicating the district municipality, has cost a backlog in the delivery of quality services to the people. Sekhukhune Residence Forum (SRF) Chairperson, Makeleketse Phasha, told the Dispatch that corruption on tenders and non-professionalism have democratically failed residents of the district. "Sekhukhune is the hardest hit with fruitless projects worth millions of rands, either with incomplete projects or poorly maintained infrastructure in a state of disrepair. This includes a number of recreational facilities, roads, incomplete RDP houses, streets lights, dams, provision of water projects, heritage sites and others," he said. Phasha indicated that none of the municipality's services meet the expectation of the residents, with millions of rands disappeared from Sekhukhune municipalities benefiting coffers including the infamous R4 Million, which was allegedly paid wrongly in the bank accounts of senior municipal officials and also the R12 Million then later R19 Million also disappeared, which was apparently intercepted and no one to date has been held accountable. According to Phasha, Sekhukhune's public infrastructures is among those that are most poorly maintained in the country. "Hospital, schools, roads and other public infrastructures are falling apart. Lawlessness is becoming the order of the day. The rise in illegal mining, selling of drugs and illegal trade of certain goods and services in the Sekhukhune has become rampant. The officials have unfortunately become indifferent. This has sadly become our new normal," he said. Phasha indicated that this happens in the authority of black professionals who are employed by government and mostly within black appointed companies that continue to amass millions of rands in salaries and contracts whilst doing little to change the lives of the people for the better. "Sekhukhune continues to be a symbol of poverty despite millions of rands committed to its development," he said.



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Miss Limpopo Junior Finalist on Anti-Bullying drive

Miss Limpopo Province Junior semi-finalist, Reatlegile Makgata, embarked in an anti-bullying drive at local schools to raise awareness on the distressing impact of bullying and school violence reported around the schools in the country. Reatlegile (9), a Grade 3 learner from Julian Muller Primary School in Groblersdal, took the anti-bullying initiative to Groblersdal Academy on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 October, with the aim to curb bullying that negatively affects learners in many schools. Grade 3 learner, Reatlegile Makgata (9), from Julian Muller primary school in Groblersdal, was chosen as Miss Limpopo Province Jnr semi-finalist. Reatlegile spent the two day intervention with over 330 learners to share and spread her messages and teach her peers on bad effects of bullying at schools, how to stop it, how to recognize and prevent it. The awareness was held under Reatlegile's motto: "Be kind, don't be a bully". "Bullying is not a kind thing to do to someone, it prevents other children from enjoying their childhood, playing with others and some are even scared to go to school because of bullies. This is something we need to come together as parents, learners, teachers and even our communities should play a part to prevent it," she said. Reatlegile added that acts of bullying have the full potential to deprive the country to have future responsible leaders and role models. "I chose to visit the school because charity begins at home. I urge parents to teach their children about bullying. Teach them how bullying is and, most importantly, how acts of bullying affect the person who is bullied and what should they do if it happens to them or others," she said. Reatlegile encourages parents to constantly enquire about their school environment social issues and even the relationship they have with other learners including during school transport destinations. "We need to tackle this issue and prevent this from happening. We don't want to bury our little sisters or brothers, instead, we need them to grow and experience life with love and kindness from everyone involved in their daily to day life," she said.

Premier sends best wishes to 2021 matriculants

The Premier of Limpopo Province, Stanley Mathabatha, conveyed his best wishes to the Grade 12 class of 2021. Matriculants in Limpopo will sit to write their examinations from 27 October 2021. "To the Grade 12 class of 2021, I would like to wish you well as you write your final year exams. I have no doubt that you will make us proud. Besides the disturbances imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, I know that you are a team made of resilient conquerors. Limpopo is looking upon you to make us proud," said Premier Mathabatha. The province has set a target of 80 percent pass rate for the year 2021, which they say is an important contribution towards the developmental agenda of the province. Meanwhile the Limpopo Department of Education has appealed to matric pupils to abide by the department's examination code. The department has advised learners and public to report any suspected irregularities to in the NSC examination to the WhatsApp contact number 069 335 2818. The department advised that the information will be handled with confidentiality.



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Private businesses support Sport in Sekhukhune; Government fails to assist

Christmas came early for Hebzer Sports Academy football players when received a full soccer kit.

The donation was made by a local business as a form of giving back to poor communities in the villages. Hebzer Sports Academy accommodates dozens of youth from various villages in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, as a means of taking young people from the streets to be actively involved in different sporting codes. Hebzer Sports Academy founder, Herbert Radingwana, said he was grateful for the support he is getting from local businesses.

The businesses in Groblersdal have been supporting local sport for

more than five years contributing generous donations to uplift young people. This is part of a community building partnership we, as community leaders, have with local businesses in Groblersdal Town, one of them being JQ Spares, to ensure that these young people are making the right choices. This is important because sport will help to instil discipline to this young generation," he said.

Radingwana said he is worried that Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and Sekhukhune District Municipality are doing nothing to improve the lives of the youth in the villages. "I have been at their offices many times asking for their contribution which includes among others a sporting facility for various sporting codes such as netball, volley ball and

cricket, with my pleas falling on deaf ears," he said. Furthermore, Radingwana said the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture in the province only focuses on assisting people from other parts of the province.

"They are turning a blind eye when residents around Elias Motsoaledi seek assistance," he said. Radingwana said he has turned to private businesses for support as the government fails to assist. "Crime is rife in our communities and is committed by

young people who lack opportunities. It is worrisome because we have stadiums at Denilton, Tafelkop and Monsterlus that are not taken care of for a very long time," he said.

Mayor takes Vooma drive to sporting fields

The Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Cllr Minah Bahula has taken the Vooma Vaccination Campaign to the sporting fields of Ga-Masemola Village outside Jane Furse on Saturday 23 October. The campaign was supported by local football teams. The Vooma campaign was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa and administered by the department of health, aimed at mobilizing communities to accelerate the uptake of vaccines to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. More than 353 000 people headed the call to be vaccinated against the pandemic during the first Vooma vaccination weekend on 1 and 2 October 2021. During the vaccination programme, Mayor Bahula thanked everyone who participated, especially young people from local football teams.

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