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Anarchy as Philadelphia Hospital back-up power fails

For the past two months, lack of back-up power supply has caused a serious disruption of services in Philadelphia Hospital during load shedding periods.

This is as a result of generator failure since June 2022. Staff members in the institution are urged to use candles and power saver lights during load shedding. According to a staff nurse who did not want to be named, the situation hits hard on critical wards including the ICU, labour, operating theatre, casualty and neo natal wards. "We cannot perform our duties when the power is out. The generator is 30 years old and has a serious mechanical problem," she said. She said despite numerous concerns raised by staff members to the hospital CEO, Dr Matome Lebea; they were told power crisis will be addressed soon, however, the problem is still persisting. "The hospital morgue is in shambles, families are instructed to take bodies of their deceased members to private mortuaries. The situation is affecting the morale of staff members," she said. The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo, says it has written a letter to Health MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to urgently address the problem.

Risham Maharaj MPL, DA Limpopo Spokesperson for Health, said during the party's oversight inspection, it was revealed that the hospital has not had a functioning generator. "There have been numerous complaints from hospital staff that it is completely dark in the hospital during load shedding and it badly affects the operating theatre, ICU, casualty and neonatal unit. Staff indicated that they end up using their own lights," he said. Maharaj indicated that the staff also claims that some of the mortuary fridges have been damaged by load shedding and it has also affected the storage of certain medicines in the pharmacy. "Complaints from community members also seemingly indicate that there is lower capacity to treat patients during load shedding with no generator," he said.story continues on page 2.

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Anarchy as Philadelphia Hospital back-up power fails

Story continues from page 1.....

According to Maharaj, the hospital management indicated that the generator had a mechanical breakdown due to the increased load shedding and they were in the process of assessing whether to repair or to purchase a new generator.

"They also indicated that ICU cases were being diverted to other hospitals like Mankweng, Matlala and Groblersdal in the interim as a contingency. It is clear that the increased pressure on the energy grid and the rolling blackouts risks the health of citizens that depend on Limpopo's public healthcare facilities. It is unacceptable for a hospital to go 6 days without a generator for back-up power and even with contingencies in place there is a risk of losing lives while transporting these critically ill patients to other hospitals," he said. Maharaj emphasized that Philadelphia Hospital is already currently facing 82 cases of medico legal claims in excess of R650 million, which is the highest in the Sekhukhune District. "Ramathuba must urgently assist the hospital management in addressing the generator issue as well as staff and community concerns. The DA is committed to ensuring that residents of Limpopo continue to receive healthcare services, even during rolling blackouts brought on by an uncaring ANC government," he said. Health Department Spokesperson, Neil Shikwambana, did not respond to messages sent by the Dispatch for a comment and Shikwambana did not answer phone calls when the paper attempted to get a comment.



Risham Maharaj MPL, DA Limpopo Spokesperson for Health during the party's oversight inspection at Philadelphia Hospital in Dennilton.

Mayor pledges support to families of fatal accident victims

The Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Cllr Minah Bahula, has on Monday 26 September, paid homage to convey condolences to the Debeila and Mokalapa families at Tswaing, Ga-Masemola Village, following a horrific car accident that claimed lives of two young people. Five people were involved in an accident that happened on Saturday 24 September, at night.

Two people died and two others suffered serious injuries, whilst one survived with minor injuries. It is alleged that when the accident happened, five people were driving from a nearby petrol station when they drove into another vehicle whilst trying to avoid a head on collision with the incoming heavy truck. The deceased were both pursuing their studies at different tertiary institutions. During the visit, the mayor conveyed condolences and subsequently, pledged that the municipality will support to the bereaved families and committed to assist with funeral logistics.

The two families are planning to organize a joint funeral at a central venue in the village with the help from the municipality.



The Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Cllr Minah Bahula, conveyed condolences to the bereaved families and promised to help with funeral arrangements.

Seventeen-year-old rapist released on free bail

The police in Vaalbank outside Siyabuswa have arrested a 17-year-old male in connection with rape of his 54-year-old aunt.

The police said the incident occurred on Thursday 22 September at Molapologe Village. Colonel Donald Mdhuli, Mpumalanga Provincial Police Spokesperson, who described the incident as a loss of morale and a cause of concern to the society, said the scholar had repeatedly raped his aunt in countless occasions before the incident was reported to the police. "The incident was reported to the police by the aunt who lost her patience, as she could no longer handle the abuse anymore," he said. According to Mdhuli, the aunt alleges that the suspect started his evil deeds between April 2022 and early September 2022. "It is further

alleged that the victim warned him multiple times to stop his abuse, but the plea reportedly fell into deaf ears. She therefore reported the matter to the authorities and the case was assigned to the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit (FCS)," explained Mdhuli. He said the case was immediately investigated and thereafter, the suspect who will not be named because he is still a minor, was arrested. "He appeared in the Mbibana Magistrate's Court on Friday, 23 September 2022. The case was postponed to Monday, 26 September 2022 and he was released on free bail," he said.

Mdhuli said the case was postponed until Tuesday 4 October 2022, pending further police investigation. The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Mpumalanga, Lieutenant General Semakaleng Daphney Manamela, has raised a concern regarding cases, which happen behind closed doors and mostly go unreported. "Women should break the silence on Gender Based Violence (GBV) issues that have been engulfed our communities. This calls for all of us to commit ourselves in fighting this pandemic," she said.



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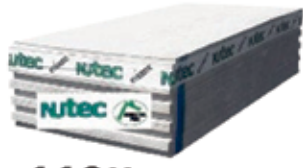
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20kg



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2.8mm x 20mm



114⁹⁹ EACH
FENCING POST
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Light Duty



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K STANDARD
2.4m



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2.8mm x 20mm



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Complete with
cover plate



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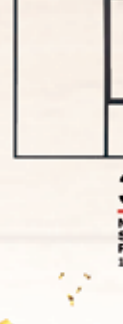
1499⁹⁹ EACH
PTT1515 ALUMINIUM WINDOW FRAME
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Bronze



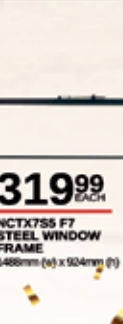
1899⁹⁹ EACH
PTT1815 ALUMINIUM WINDOW FRAME
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Bronze



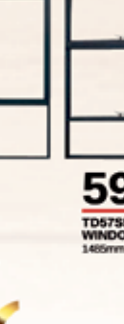
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NCT755 F7 STEEL WINDOW FRAME
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TD5755 STEEL WINDOW FRAME
1465mm (w) x 1534mm (h)



599⁹⁹ EACH
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EMLM conducts Mayoral Imbizo

The Mayor of Elias Motsaoleli Local Municipality, Cllr David Tladi, said the first pillar of service delivery in the municipality is infrastructure development. Tladi was speaking during the Mayoral Outreach Imbizo, held at Real Stars Sports Grounds in Thabakhubedu Village in Dennilton, on Thursday 15 September. The programme was aiming to communicate service delivery achievements and challenges to various structures and stakeholders within the local municipality. Tladi led the programme and outlined the strategic pillars that the municipality will concentrate on during his five-year term. Addressing hundreds of community members, Tladi said the Mayoral Outreach is an on-going outreach programme, seeking to advance services and bring government closer to the people, whereby, the municipality interacts with communities regarding upcoming service delivery projects in their areas and progress on existing ones. "The outreach also meant to close the gap between government and people by bringing other sector departments to present their plans set to uplift the communities," he said. During the programme, the public was given the platform to raise their concerns that included poor roads and water scarcity among others. Tladi said the local municipality has plans in place for the construction of roads in various villages in the next financial year including the upgrading of a 5.5km and construction of a bridge in Tafelkop Stadium access road, the upgrading of a 6km road from Uitspanning to Bloempoot in Dennilton, the upgrading of Nyakhoroane internal street, access road and storm water control. The mayor committed that the municipality will proceed with the Groblersdal construction and refurbishment of existing landfill site. He said the municipality is committed to electrify Masakaneng Settlement, Makaepea Village, Nyakelang in Tafelkop, Phomola, Phooko, Belfasts, Maphepha and Mmotewaneng. In conclusion, Tladi said the municipality took in account issues and concerns raised by communities, including escalation of crime within the area, the provision of houses, water supply challenge, facilities for social services and poor road maintenance.

The Mayor of Elias Motsaoleli Local Municipality, Cllr David Tladi, said the local municipality will be prioritizing the upgrading of roads in various villages.



Court dismisses senior traffic official sentence appeal



A senior traffic official in Limpopo, Portia Rampphelo, lost her two year sentence appeal after convicted and found guilty for corruption.

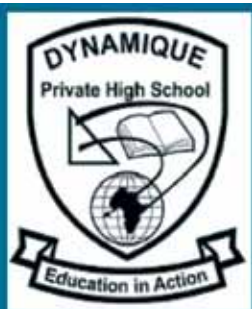
The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo said it has welcomed the two year prison sentence handed down against provincial traffic official Portia Rampphelo, who was found guilty of soliciting bribes of up to R2000 from motorists during 2017. The 37-year-old accused was convicted of corruption and found guilty in 2019, however, she appealed her sentence earlier this month and lost in court. Rampphelo was arrested together with 12 other traffic police officials by the Hawks during December 2017. Hawks Spokesperson in Limpopo, Matimba Maluleke, said the court dismissed the accused's appeal and ordered her to start serving her two year jail sentence. DA Provincial Spokesperson for Department of Transport and Community Safety, Katlgo Suzan Phala, said the party is pleased that Rampphelo's appeal was dismissed by the court and this will serve as example to other traffic officials who have intentions of taking bribes. "Over the past number of years, Limpopo has been plagued by allegations of corrupt Transport Department officials, testing station officials and traffic officers," she said. In 2019, a Special Investigating Unit (SIU) report identified 43 Limpopo traffic officials involved in serious crimes that include among others fraud and corruption. Phala said the DA believes that traffic officials who solicit bribes from motorists enable reckless behaviour on our roads which leads to fatal accidents. "We reiterate our call for a register which will assist the department to keep record of all officers found guilty of serious transgressions, which will also assist in monitoring whether officials who are found guilty have been subjected to consequence management or proper disciplinary action," Phala said. Phala insisted that the DA believes that getting rid of corrupt traffic officials will assist to keep motorists safer on our roads. "We will further be writing to the MEC for Transport & Community Safety, Polly Boshie, to request information on all outstanding cases pending against traffic officials implicated in corruption and bribery," she said.

Ephraim Mogale takes services to the people

Office of the Mayor of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Cllr Given Moimana, hosted Batho Pele Outreach at Driefontein village, outside Marble Hall on Wednesday 21 September. According to the local municipality, the initiative was in line with terms of its calendar, following the declaration of September as a national public service month, compelling every sphere of government that they should be seen providing services to the public. In attendance was the representative from the mayor's office Cllr Eunice Tshiguvho, Council Chief-whip Cllr Itumeleng Magane, ward councilors, PR councillors and representative of the local traditional leader. Various government institutions including sector departments such as Sassa, Social Development, Home Affairs, Department of Justice, Agriculture, IEC, Treasury, as well as some financial institutions and University of Mpumalanga, were invited to provide services to the community of Driefontein. The community got information that is so beneficial and were excited to be enlightened about the actual services that some of the institutions offered. Speaking on behalf of the mayor, Cllr Tshiguvho said the programme aims to take government services to the communities. "Today is not a day for long speeches but to give our people an opportunity to get services closer to them. Let us go outside and visit all the stalls for the benefit of all of us and our children," she said.



Acting Mayor of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Cllr Eunice Tshiguvho



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24 x 500ml



Extreme
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Savanna
Dry Cans

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500ml

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Hunter's
Dry NRB

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24 x 330ml



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Six arrested for dealing with counterfeit goods

Six foreign nationals were arrested by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) after they were found dealing in counterfeit goods in their shops. The suspects were arrested during a raid conducted in Dennilton, Marble Hall, Nebo and Jane Furse respectively. According to Limpopo Hawks Spokesperson, the Hawks received intelligence about shops that were selling counterfeit goods in Sekhukhune area and operationalized it. "During the operation, boxes containing counterfeit Anchor yeast and Gold Star yeast, with the estimated value of over R20 000-00 were seized," he said. Maluleke said the first three accused, Fekete Oold Anulo (21), Ayolo Waje (31) and Muhammad Ali (29) arrested in Dennilton and Marble-Hall already appeared in Moutse and Groblersdal Magistrates' Court on Thursday 23 September for dealing in counterfeit goods and contravening the Immigration Act and they were remanded in custody. Maluleke said the other three suspects arrested in Nebo and Jane Furse, Heeray Khan (33), Desta Adeno Masebo (25) and Temesgen Ergecho (31), appeared before the Nebo Magistrate's Court on Friday 23 September and were released on R3000-00 bail each. "They will be appearing again on 3 October 2022 following further investigations," he said.



Members of the Hawks raiding one of the shops in Dennilton where counterfeit goods were recovered.

Dynamique High learner wins Transport Debate



Two learners, from Dynamique High School, Koos Mohlala and Khanysile Masemole, represented Sekhukhune South in a Provincial Debate in Polokwane and were both issued with Department of Transport Blazers. Koos Mohlala was the overall winner of the Limpopo debate and won himself a beautiful trophy and R10,000-00! He will now go through to the National competition where he will compete against all other provinces. Dynamique is so proud of his achievement. Koos was guided through the competition by Mrs Idestrose Mago, English HOD at Dynamique High School.

Elias Motsoaledi Business solution Forum launched

Dozens of entrepreneurs who are based in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, converged at the Groblersdal Agricultural Hall on Friday 16 September for the official launch of the Elias Motsoaledi Business Solution Forum, a structure that seeks to unite local businesses in the local municipality. Mbusi Mahlangu, who is the forum's spokesperson, said the aim of the structure is to unite Elias Motsoaledi based business to be well organized. "The purpose is to make a formidable business structure with local forums under one roof to transform the economy to benefit local business owners," he said. Mahlangu stressed that the forum will address challenges faced by business operators under the slogan "Nothing for Us Without Us", saying the structure will represent local business owners in various government institution. "We want first priority to be given to local businesses in all government projects. We want local companies to benefit in all government projects. We have the capacity and are not happy that sometimes government institutions appoint outsiders to do the job instead of a local company that can render the same service," he said. Sekhukhune District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Julia Mathebe, said the district municipality will be working closely with the forum to accelerate service delivery to the people. "Everyone in the forum should participate and avoid the 'staan and kyk' culture and only wait to benefit. We stand against greedy people who want to do everything alone without working with the forum members as a collective," she said. Mathebe committed that the district municipality will consider working with the forum to execute projects and other services in the near future. "That will include projects like water reticulation and bulk water supply," she said. Later on the day, the forum elected its executive committee consisting of JJ Skhosana as Chairperson, Mahlangu as Deputy Chairperson, Vusi Ntuli as Secretary and Jacob Mnisi as Deputy Secretary. Michael Mohlala was elected forum Treasurer, Shakes Mokanyetji as Chief Executive Officer, Modipadi Mashifane as Chief Operating Officer, Daniel Matlou as First Spokesperson and Mbusi Mahlangu as Second Spokesperson. Mathebe used the platform to congratulate the newly elected executive committee.

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Executive Mayor meets new Traditional Leadership

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Julia Lata Mathebe, said the district municipality will intensify relations with the local traditional leadership.

Mathebe said during her meeting with the newly elected Sekhukhune House of Traditional Leaders led by its Chairperson Kgoshi Maila. The meeting was organized in Groblersdal on Wednesday 14 September by Mathebe together with her MMCs, Bella Kupa, Mariam Malatji, and Kokie Sefala. According to the district municipality, the purpose of the meeting was to affirm the continuous relationship between government and traditional authorities to accelerate service delivery. During the engagement, Kgoshi Maila requested the executive mayor to focus more on improving the provision of access roads, clean drinkable water and employment opportunities, particularly for the youth, women and people with disabilities. The executive mayor assured Kgoshi Maila and the entire traditional leaders that the 5th term administration's priority, through the "Tlema Tekkie, Re Nwe Meetsi" campaign, is to fast track all water projects in the district municipality in order to sustainably provide clean drinkable water to communities. The Operation Tlema Tekkie RE New Meetsi Campaign was launched by Mathebe during her inaugural ceremony as the new executive mayor of the district municipality. At the time, Mathebe said the campaign is a call to action to all people to participate, from the executive mayor to member of mayoral committee, ward councillors, to municipal officials at every level. "Those whose work is out at the construction site- must be out there, doing their work. Under Operation Tlema Tekkie Renwe Meetsi, the executive mayor herself, will join the

blue-collar workers at the site, and brave the scorching heat, if that is what takes for the people of Sekhukhune get water. We must hit the ground running," she said.



Executive mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Julia Mathebe and the new Chairperson of Sekhukhune House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoshi Maila, after official engagements during their meeting in Groblersdal.

Public-Police partnership encouraged during Crime Awareness Campaign

Police members of Dennilton SAPS, led by Colonel Makaleng, have on Saturday 17 September, conducted a crime awareness campaign at Matlala Lehwelere Village outside Groblersdal. The crime prevention drive was aiming to promote a relationship, wherein, communities were advised to establish neighbourhood watch and street committees to prevent house burglaries. Sergeant Maphure Manamela, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the police-community engagement was alerting residents, informing them to refrain from mob justice acts which are prevalent in the area recently. The Matlala area is experiencing a challenge of stock theft, in which the criminals are targeting cattle and goats belonging to locals. Some of the suspects who were caught in the act were beaten and burned alive by the angry residents in the area recently. "Livestock owners were advised to brand mark their animals and avoid hiring undocumented foreign nationals. They were also encouraged to report any criminal activities to the police and refrain from mob justice," Manamela said. In addition, Manamela said the community was advised to install security measures such as burglar windows and doors. Meanwhile the Sekhukhune SAPS Social Crime Prevention Coordinator, Sgt Lesetja Mphahlele, together with Community Policing Forum (CPF) members, conducted the Safer School Campaign at Ngwanangwato Secondary School in Ga-Rantho Village in Ngwaabe outside Jane Furse. The members paid homage to the school after the principal complaint about usage of dagga by the learners. On arrival the team addressed about 730 learners during assembly time and they were warned about issues such as dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse, ill-discipline, engaging in sexual activities at young age, carrying or possession of dangerous weapons, bullying, peer pressure and effect of criminal record. The team proceeded to a neighboring shop and warn the owner to refrain from selling learners anything through the school fence including cigarettes. Mr Mogashoa, the school principal, appreciated the police and CPF intervention, saying it will play a role in changing the behaviour of learners.

Youth empowered in Agricultural Summit

Hundreds of aspirant and established youth were empowered during the Makhuduthamaga Youth in Agriculture Summit, held at the Kgaola Mafiri Municipal Building (Gymnasium) in Jane Furse, Dichoueng intersection on Thursday 22 September. According to the local municipality, the summit was organized in order to engage in an information sharing exercise and to provide the youth with gainful opportunities and experience in the sector. Addressing the young people, acting Mayor, Cllr Namudi Matjomane, said agriculture remains the backbone of economic growth in communities and the municipality. "The sector's sustainability remains the biggest job creation and contributes immensely towards development and food security in rural communities. Therefore, programs and empowerment session such as these, will go a long way in improving the sector and sustain livelihoods," he said. Presentations from sector such as Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) and the Department of Agriculture, centered around reminding the participants on accessibility to funding opportunities, as well as understanding the hurdles confronting the sector. Later on the day, the youth appreciated the capacity building experience by the local municipality, saying lack of information, start-up capital, the land question and challenges in accessing financial support, remains some of the challenges they face in the sector.

Young people from Jane Furse and surrounding places listening attentively during the Agricultural Summit held in Kgaola Mafiri Building.



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Sporting event fundraising to support underprivileged pupils

The Mkhala Community Development, a Non-Profit Organization in Dennilton, Moutse, hosted a sporting event to raise funds to support children coming from poor backgrounds. The fundraising sporting event was held at the Masuku Sports Grounds in Dennilton on Saturday 24 September with football and netball sporting codes in action. Scores of sports loving people and local business owners came in numbers to support the event by donating towards the initiative. Mkhala Community Development Coordinator, Delisa “Sgoloza” Mdluli, said the organization uses sports to facilitate the donation to improve lives of learners who are coming from destitute families in Moutse. “We started the organization last year, focusing on improving lives of learners at our local schools with uniform and sanitary towels. Since last year, we have managed to assist over 50 pupils from different schools in our villages,” he said. Mdluli said the organization was formed with a purpose to unite the youth and revive hope to approach life in a positive way. “Our long-term goal is to assist our communities with sporting facilities and resources. We are also on the way to facilitate student academic programmes and aim to find funding opportunities for those who want to establish small businesses,” he said. According to Mdluli, the annual programme raises funds through sports development by approaching potential local businesses and individuals. “We encourage our donors to buy school uniforms and sanitary towels; later we go and distribute them around schools in Moutse. We are hoping to expand to other places in the near future,” he said. Mdluli said they identify beneficiaries with the help of the teachers and they are targeting to donate to deserving children who



Some of the school shoes donated by the people who attended the Mkhala Community Development in Masuku Sports Grounds in Dennilton.

are coming from underprivileged families. “We also partner with other local community based structures to fundraise towards the programme. Currently, we are pleased with the support we are getting from the people. This is a clear indication that we are going somewhere with the programme,” he said. However, Mdluli said they are still in need of more support from people who are willing to uplift their community, especially in the youth programmes. “We believe that it takes the whole village to raise a child, which we have, over the years, been doing before we officially formed the NPO,” he said.



Dennilton SAPS Masters FC were among teams supporting the Mkhala Community Development fundraising event in Dennilton.



Zebbras Ladies NC, together with Liverpool Ladies NC formed part of the netball teams participated in the Mkhala Community Development fundraising event, held at Masuku Sports Grounds in Dennilton.



Missing woman sought by Sekhukhune Police

The Police in Sekhukhune are requesting the public to assist in locating the whereabouts of a missing, 21-year-old woman Mahlatse Thuli Phetla, from Ga-Malekana Village outside Jane Furse. According to the police report, it is alleged that the victim was last seen on Friday 2 September 2022 around 17:00, by her younger brother going to a local spaza shop and she has since disappeared. “The police, community members and K9 unit members conducted a search at the village without success.

The type of clothes she was wearing are currently unknown,” said Sergeant Monatse Mamabolo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. Mamabolo said attempts to locate the missing woman from friends and families bore no fruits. Mamabolo said the police appeal to anyone with information to locate her whereabouts to contact the investigating officer Sergeant Leshata Lekoloane on 064 851 2151, Crime Stop Number on 08600 10111, the nearest police station or make use of MySAPSApp. “The police investigation to locate her are still ongoing,” Mamabolo said.

The Police in Sekhukhune appeal to the community to help in finding the missing Mahlatse Thuli Phetla from Ga-Malekane Village.

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