

Shut-down

Moutse residents close all villages

Angry residents of Moutse have shut down the villages from Moteti to Ntwane on Tuesday 28 January calling for the office of the president to intervene in poor service delivery in their villages. The unrest started as early as 01:00 where the community blocked main roads and internal roads with burning tyres, tree branches and stones complaining about water shortages and poor services at Philadelphia Hospital. Major roads including the R573 (Moloto Road) R25 and Loskop Roads were not accessible at all and motorists were turned away by the angry mob, also children, youth and the elderly, that came in numbers to support the demonstration. A number of vehicles were pelted with stones as some of the motorists were trying to pass through the blocked roads. Schools disrupted and local shopping centres were closed for business after an instruction from the leaders. According to community members, ever since Moutse was incorporated from Mpumalanga to Limpopo, services and developments were halted in the area. Residents claim the area has been struck with water shortages for the past 15 years with no permanent solutions by Sekhukhune District Municipality. Protest Convenor, Chris Mhlana, said the community has tried many

times to engage the municipality and the provincial government about their challenges but nothing has changed since. “There is a serious shortage of water in Moutse, people are drinking with animals and also survive by buying water from those who have boreholes. Philadelphia Hospital is a disaster. People are dying everyday because of incompetent management. The Health MEC Phophi Ramathuba was engaged and responded that , Moutse residents, think we are special, which is among reasons we resorted to protest in order for our voices to be heard,” he said. Mhlanga said engagements were done with local and provincial government, seeking solutions to their overdue service delivery problems but they were given a cold shoulder. “Our concerns were raised with Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and Sekhukhune District Municipality but were not considered. The premier came here last year and promised that our issues will be addressed soon. It has been almost a year and we never heard anything from him. We are still waiting for him,” he said. Mhlanga indicated that the community resolved to shut-down Moutse until the president comes down to listen to their challenges.

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Moutse residents blocked the R25 Road with burning tyres complaining about water shortage and poor services at Philadelphia Hospital.



Stones and tree branches were used to barricade the roads in Moutse when residents complaining about poor services in Philadelphia Hospital and water shortages.



Residents used side walks material to build a wall on the R25 Road opposite Moutse Mall to block the road complaining about water shortages and poor services at Philadelphia Hospital.




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A black and white portrait of a man with a mustache, identified as James Earl Ray. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The image is a headshot, showing his face and shoulders. The background is a plain, light color. The man has dark hair and a well-groomed mustache. He is wearing a dark shirt. The image is slightly grainy, typical of a newspaper photograph.

Moutse residents shut-down all villages

A community member, Lazarus Malatji, told the Dispatch that their nightmare started when Moutse was incorporated into Limpopo in 2006. “Things were better back then when we were still in Mpumalanga. Water shortages have started to be a problem when Moutse was incorporated into Limpopo in 2006 because corruption had infiltrated the municipalities. We are going to protest, this is the only way the government will be able to listen to us. We are going to block the roads until President Cyril Ramaphosa comes to listen to our complaints. We want to go back to Mpumalanga, that is all we want now,” said Malatji. Sekhukhune District Municipality said in a statement that they acknowledge issues raised by the people of Moutse as they embark on a public protest over water shortage. “The Sekhukhune District Municipality as a water authority, has a contract with Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality in Mpumalanga, to provide communities of Moutse with potable water. Due to the persistent drought conditions that negatively affected water levels at the Mkhombo Dam in Mpumalanga, where Dr JS Moroka Municipality (our contractor) sourced water from last year, water supply to Moutse communities was therefore interrupted,” reads the statement. According to the municipality, in an endeavour to lessen this problem, council of the Sekhukhune District Municipality then resolved that money amounting to R12 Million be allocated to provide communities of Moutse with water tankers. “We continue to provide this service while awaiting completion of the Moutse Bulk Water project, which we are confident, will ultimately alleviate water shortage in the area.” concluded the statement. The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila appealed for calm in Moutse, as they await progress report by the Department of Water and Sanitation on the Moutse Bulk Water project. “Through our Inter-Governmental Relations structures, along with our stakeholders, including Department of Water and Sanitation, Provincial Department of Health and other affected sectoral partners, we will continuously seek long-lasting solutions to these challenges,” said Executive Mayor Ramaila. “While we acknowledge the genuine concerns raised by the community, however, we appeal to protesters not to infringe on human rights of other citizens by blocking roads and preventing learners from going to school among others things,” concluded Ramaila.

Lepelle Northern Water the solution to the water crisis in Sekhukhune?

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila, together with Members of Mayoral Committee Cllr Yvonne Mmakola, Cllr Lorraine Manganeng and Cllr Orginia Mafefe as well as acting municipal manager Mr Mpho Mofokeng and his team, held a productive meeting with CEO of Lepelle Northern Water (LNW), Mr Phineas Legodi with his entourage, to finalize important details in the provisioning of water in the district. The meeting by the council and the entity was a preparation to enter into a contract that will see LNW, which is an entity of the Limpopo Provincial Government, to be appointed as a water service provider for the next ten years. Sekhukhune District Municipality Spokesperson, Willy Mosoma said the meeting resolved that a service level agreement between the municipality and the entity should be signed by 1 February 2020, and a business plan be developed before the end of February. Mosoma said the envisioned agreement will see LNW providing bulk water supply services, manage water treatment plants and implement a capital expenditure programme that aims to expand pipelines, reservoirs and pumping stations infrastructure, among others. “Executive Mayor Ramaila is confident this will reinforce Sekhukhune District Municipality’s mandate to provide residents with potable water and sanitation,” said Mosoma.



Cllr Yvonne Mmakola, Cllr Lorraine Manganeng,), Mr Phineas Legodi, Cllr Stanley Ramaila and Cllr Orginia Mafefe during the meeting that was aiming to appoint LNW as water service provider in Sekhukhune.

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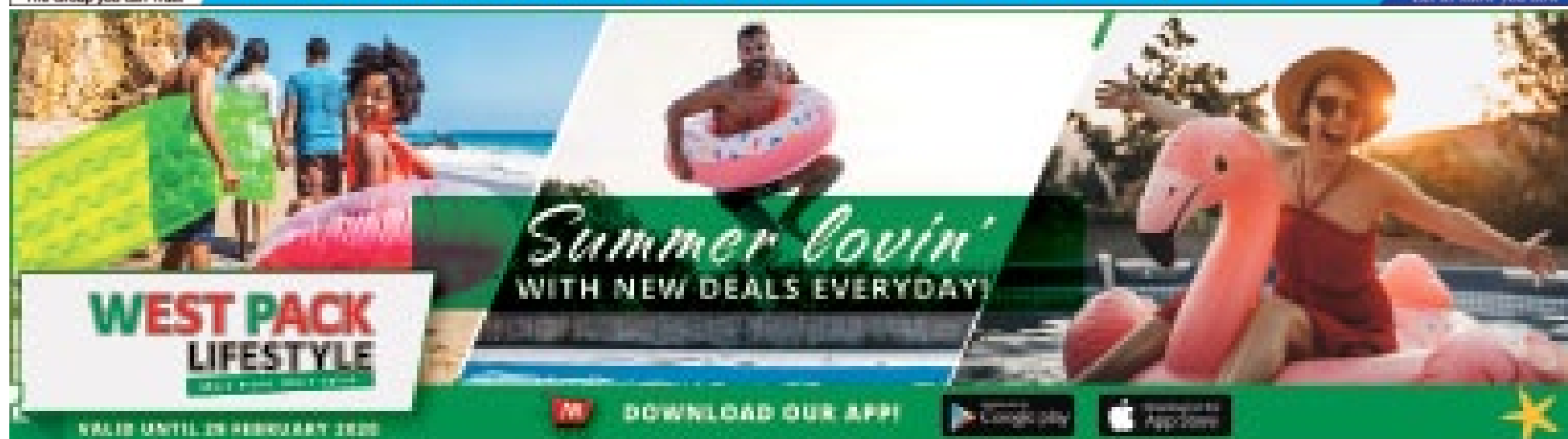
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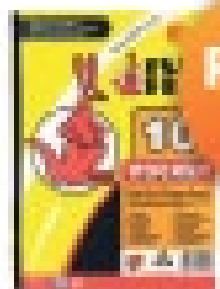
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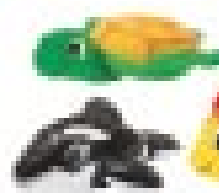
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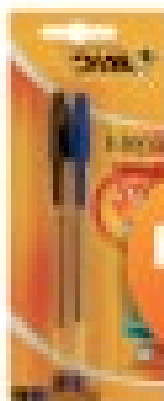
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Eight people arrested for brutal murder of siblings

The police in Rakgoadi outside Marble Hall have arrested 8 suspects in connection with the murder of two siblings at Letebejane Village during an apparent mob justice incident. The brutal murder took place on Monday 27 January 17:00 where a group of community members attacked the siblings and stoned them to death. The siblings were identified as 46-year-old Lukas Seloma and his 47-year-old brother Willem. Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said according to preliminary police investigations, the

brutal attacks followed an incident that occurred on 13 June last year when the victims left home with a community member for fishing in the nearby river. "The incident emanates from last year's incident when the two siblings went fishing at Olifants River with a community member named Peter Mapitso Phahlamohlaka. Allegedly Phahlamohlaka disappeared while fishing. The police were notified about the incident and a search operation by the Search and Rescue Team was conducted but without any success. A missing person file was opened with the police and the search continued," Mojapelo said. He said two weeks before the siblings were murdered; the community mobilized and attacked the victims at their homes. "The Public Order Police Unit was activated and the situation was stabilized. A case of assault GBH was opened and no one was arrested. On Thursday 23 January the community mobilized again and demanded that the two siblings tell them about the whereabouts of Phahlamohlaka. The unrest continued until on Monday 27 January when the community members allegedly dragged the brothers to the nearby mountain and stoned them to death," added Mojapelo. He said the police, accompanied by a police helicopter and medical emergency services were called following a tip-off and rushed to the scene. "On arrival, the police discovered the bodies of the two siblings covered with tree branches. It is suspected that the mob was aiming to set the bodies alight and were dispersed after the police arrived," he said.

Mojapelo said the suspects, between the ages of 19 and 44 are expected to appear before the Motetema Magistrate's Court soon facing charges of murder and public violence.

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The sight where the brothers were stoned



DA demands reversal of alleged unqualified Acting Director of Corporate Services

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in the troubled Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality has written to the Acting Municipal Manager (MM), David Mashoeu to reverse the appointment of the Acting Director of Corporate Services, Virginia Maphutha, with immediate effect. The party is accusing Maphutha for not meeting the requirements to be in the said position. Maphutha's appointment came into effect 1 January and will extend until 31 March 2020. This position became vacant after the appointment of the then Corporate Services Manager, Isaac Phasha, was declared irregular in September 2019. DA Councillor in Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, Lethabile Kgwedi, stated that it

is clear that the appointment was made without following due process and that there was no transparency whatsoever. "This appointment wasn't even approved by council. According to her CV, Maphutha, who currently works as a clerk in the municipality, does not have the appropriate qualifications or experience to occupy this position and it begs the question as to why she was appointed. She will be smiling all the way to the bank to allegedly collect approximately R78 000 per month including benefits, despite not qualifying for the position," he said. Kgwedi indicated that ordinarily, the requirements to occupy this position are that the candidate must have a bachelors degree in certain fields including, Public Administration, Management Sciences, Law or equivalent. Considered to be with five years relevant experience at a middle management level and have proven successful institutional transformation within public or private sector. "It is abundantly clear that the newly appointed acting director of corporate services does not meet these requirements. The DA believes that this key position should be filled with a skilled, competent and capable individual who will excel in this position and ensure accountability in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality. The communities of Tubatse and Fetakgomo continue to suffer without access to water, poor sanitation, lack of housing, extremely bad roads and high unemployment rates. These residents are desperate to get proper service delivery," explained Kgwedi. He said the DA will urge the acting MM to take the matter seriously and ensure that appropriate procedures are followed to fill up this position. "Should the MM fail to take action, the DA will have no other option but to file a complaint with the Public Service Commission (PSC) to probe this irregular appointment," Kgwedi said.

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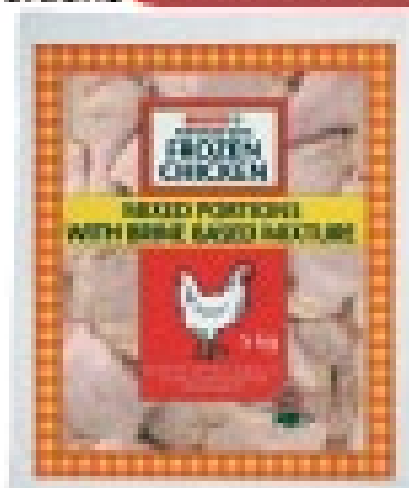
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SDM visit adopted school for back-to-school campaign

Acting Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Orginia Mafefe paid homage to the district's adopted school, Tlhako Secondary at Moteti Village on Thursday 23 January.

Mafefe, who is MMC in the Office of the Executive Mayor, made a follow-up visit after the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Stanley Ramaila adopted the school earlier last year. The school was announced as one of the schools in Limpopo Province that is experiencing a high rate of teenage pregnancy and drop-outs. When the executive mayor adopted the school earlier last year, five learners were pregnant at the time and were teenagers. Of those 5 learners, two were in grade 12 and they failed their matric, three of the pupils were in grade 11 and they dropped out of school.

During her visit, Mafefe met with parents, teachers, grade 11 and grade 12 pupils at the school's hall. Mafefe said she was impressed that the number of pregnant learners has dropped since the executive

mayor adopted the school in 2019. The executive mayor promised to send relevant officials to come and motivate learners to deal with the scourge of teenage pregnancy and drop-outs facing the school. "This year only one learner from grade 9 is pregnant and we are impressed about the important role played by the executive mayor in the school," she said.

The MMC encouraged the learners to abstain from sexual activities and focus more on their education, work hard and improve their pass percentage for 2020. Tlhako Secondary school class of 2019 had 64 learners who wrote matric, 43 passed and 21 failed. The school obtained 9 bachelors and achieved a pass percentage average of 67, 12%. Cllr Mafefe indicated that the district municipality has a bursary programme for learners who pass well and want to go into fields such as engineering, finance and agriculture. The school Mr Rantate Sepogwane thanked the executive mayor for adopting the school and for Sekhukhune District Municipality's continued support.

Education MEC visit Sekhukhune for a Back-to-School Campaign Programme

Limpopo Department of Education MEC Polly Boshelo, paid homage to various schools in Sekhukhune on Wednesday 15 January, schools re-opening day. The MEC's visit formed part of the department's annual Back-to-School Campaign Programme, aiming to monitor the operations during the re-opening of schools across the province. Accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Stanley Ramaila and Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Mayor Minah Bahula, the MEC started the programme at Rantobeng Secondary School in Diphagane Village outside Jane Furse. Boshelo visited Diphagane to monitor the start of the new academic year and to extend her heartfelt condolences to the school following a tragic accident that claimed lives of three learners attached to the school. "Today we visited Rantobeng High School to congratulate them for obtaining 93% in the 2019 NSC matric exams. They were also able to produce a National Top Learner, Trevor Mashabela. Makhuduthamaga Municipality has awarded Trevor a bursary and he will be going to study medicine at MEDUNSA," said Boshelo. The school has since started with lessons as early as on Monday 6 January 2020, which is their recipe of success. The MEC proceeded with the

campaign to visit Moreko Secondary School at Phokwane Village. The aim of the visit was to congratulate the school after it achieved 100% pass in the class of 2019 matriculants. Moreko Secondary School topped Sekhukhune District Municipality and was also honoured in the province. Boshelo concluded her campaign at Hoerskool Ben Viljoen in Groblersdal where she motivated and encouraged learners. "We welcome back all our learners and educators. As a department, we are ready to start the academic year and we have done everything that needed to be done to have a smooth start in terms of teaching and learning. We urge our communities and various stakeholders across the province to partner with us in ensuring that the education of our children is protected and promoted throughout the academic year. Education is a societal matter and together we can do a lot more in the interest of our learners," said MEC Boshelo.



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100% Pass rate for Kutlwanong matriculants

Kutlwanong Centre for Maths, Science and Technology had all their matriculants pass in the 2019 academic year. The centre, which is situated in Jane Furse provides extra classes for mathematics and physical science learners from various schools around Jane Furse. Kutlwanong Centre caters pupils from 24 secondary schools in different circuits including Mmashadi, Glen Cowie and Phokwane. Two of the pupils who were taking extra lessons with the centre, Kabelo Mhlongo from Moreko Secondary School and Manaka Makwena from Jane Furse Comprehensive School were among those who rewarded during the provincial matric results for achieving 100% in physical sciences. According to centre manager, Majeletje Mogaladi, all 167 pupils who were taking extra classes in the centre have passed their grade 12 last year. "They performed exceptionally well, all of them managed to pass, some with flying colours. Thirty of the students achieved distinctions in mathematics and 67 have also scored distinctions in physical sciences," said Mogaladi. Mogaladi said as part of motivation, their students are offered free holidays to different destinations across the country. "These holidays are offered to students who achieve 90% average in our mid-year tests results. The best performers in the final year results are taken to Cape Town for holidays to enjoy themselves. This is done as part of incentives for their good work they have done throughout the year," he said. Mogaladi said the centre has registered 149 matric pupils for the 2020 academic year. "The students have already



The class of 2019 at Kutlwanong Centre for Maths, Science and Technology students who all passed their matric.



A Kutlwanong Centre for Maths, Science and Technology student Makwena Manaka from Jane Furse Comprehensive School achieved 300/300 in physical sciences.

COSA demand re-admission of grade 12 learners

The Christians of South Africa (COSA) have noted with regrets the refusal of Grade 12 students to repeat class and improve their grades. The 13 learners who failed their grade 12 from Mphela A Marumo Secondary School in 2019, were told by the school principal to go rewrite their matric at private colleges because the school is overpopulated and cannot re-admit them. This angered parents and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in Apel Cross where the school is situated. According to COSA President, Pastor Derrick Mosoana, the school principal is denying the affected students access without an existing admission policy of the Education Department. "The principal's actions will never be tolerated and his actions cannot go uncontested," he said. Mosoana added that COSA is also investigating allegations that the school charges Grade 12 learners R1000-00 for compulsory Saturday classes. Mosoana said the principal denied the pupils admission stating that he is eying for best results at the end of the year. "Principals are obsessed with obtaining 100% pass rates and are willing to even go to the extent of denying the less fortunate their constitutional rights," explained Mosoana. He said only children of parents connected to the principal are the only ones granted access to repeat grade 12. "The party has it on record that a daughter of one of the SGB members was allowed to repeat Grade 12 last year and the principal has improved her Admission Point Score (APS) to qualify for her career of choice," he said. In a letter addressed to the school the party demands that re-Admission of the 13 learners into grade 12 and the development of a catch-up plan to compensate them for the time lost during this scuffle. "The party plans to also approach the courts for an urgent relief should their demands fall on deaf ears," he said. The Limpopo Department of Education Spokesperson Sam Makondo was not immediately available for a comment as his phone rang unanswered.

started with their extra classes on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and we will also offer them extra classes during schools' holidays," added. Mogaladi. He said due to financial challenges experienced lately, the centre was urged to exclude grades 10 and 11 and accommodate only grade 12 pupils for the 2020 academic year. "This is because our main sponsors have pulled out from supporting us. Hopefully things will be normal again after we have potential sponsors in the centre," he said.

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Schoonoord Chiefs to represent Sekhukhune in the Provincial Women’s Football Play-offs

Schoonoord Chiefs Ladies FC, from Schoonoord outside Jane Furse will be representing Sekhukhune District Municipality in the Provincial Womens Football Play-offs. Schoonoord Chiefs Ladies gained entry in the provincial play-offs after winning the South African Football Association (SAFA) Sekhukhune Regional Womens Football Play-offs held in November last year. The team will be competing against the other four regions in the provincial championships to be held on Saturday 8 February at Waterberg. SAFA Sekhukhune League Coordinator, Frank Maredi, said the team will be fighting to gain entry in the SASOL Football ‘League, which is the biggest provincial league. “The league will pave their way to the SAFA National Womens’ Football League that was established last year. The league comprises of 14 ladies football clubs coming from different regions across the country. But their entry in the National Womens’ Football League will be determined by their position in the SASOL League, only position one and two will be accommodated,” he said. Maredi added that their hopes are high that Schoonoord Chiefs will be winning the provincial play-offs and will be taking part in the National Womens’ Football League. “The ladies are determined and always prepared for every match. They are always there for a practice session. Playing in the provincial play-offs will be easier to them as they already participated against the teams that are forming part in the play-offs. Our main aim is to see them in the national competition and we wish them all the best,” he said.

Schoonoord Chiefs Ladies FC will be representing Sekhukhune in the Provincial Womens Football Play-offs.



SAFA SAB Sekhukhune Football League

SAFA Sekhukhune League Coordinator, Frank Maredi , says that the SAFA SAB Sekhukhune Football League, male category is running very smooth. “The second round matches for this year started on Saturday 18 January and everything is going well as planned. The teams are participating and the players are attending in large numbers. Unfortunately our regional champions, Kingborn FC lost to North West University in the Nedbank Cup National Play-offs representing Limpopo Province in December last year. Their form dropped a little bit when they return home but we managed to motivate them and the football spirit is high again, they are now winning matches again, their form is satisfactory” he said. Maredi indicated that the window period for the transfer and registrations of players is still open for the teams participating in the SAFA SAB Sekhukhune Football League. “The window period was opened on 15 January and will be closing on 15 February. This is a month long window period and will allow teams to register their players of choice to strengthen their squads. Late registrations of players will not be allowed. Teams that will fail to register players during this period will have to wait when the window period opens again at the end of the season,” concluded Maredi.

Suspect arrested for shooting wife and son in hospital premises

A 51-year-old man, Sopi James Mankge appeared before the Nebo Magistrate’s Court on Tuesday 21 January after he was allegedly arrested for shooting his wife and son on Monday 20 January. The suspect was facing two counts of attempted murder after shooting his son and wife, critically injured them in hospital premises. According to Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the shooting took place at the casualty ward in St Rita’s Hospital in Glen Cowie outside Jane Furse. “The father and son were admitted at the hospital for injuries sustained during a fight that broke out between them on Sunday 19 January 2020 at about 20:00 at Riverside Village next to Jane Furse. According to the information, the suspect was busy assaulting his wife, allegedly over another woman when his son 25-year-old son tried to intervene. He then turned on him and the son allegedly fought back by stabbing his father. They then sustained injuries that required medical treatment and both went to the hospital separately,” said Mojapelo. Mojapelo said whilst in the casualty ward, an argument allegedly broke out again between the father and son, the mother and the other woman, who is suspected to be the suspect’s nyatsi. “Suddenly, the suspect removed the drips, went to his vehicle and when he came back to the ward, he allegedly shot his son and wife, critically injuring them. The other woman was not affected. The suspect later handed himself over to the police. His licensed firearm was then confiscated and the process of declaring him unfit to possess a firearm has already commenced. The mother and son have since been admitted in hospital and the mother is still in a critical condition,” said Mojapelo. He said the suspect remained in police custody and his case was postponed to 5 February 2020 for a formal bail application. The Limpopo Department of Health has confirmed that it is investigating an incident of shooting in St Rita’s Hospital. Department of Health Spokesperson, Neil Shikwambana, said the man drove into the hospital premises accompanied by his alleged nyatsi who was pretending to be very sick so that they can evade to be searched at the entrance. “He then started a fight at the casualty where he produced a firearm and shot the two. The woman is critically injured and has been referred to Pietersburg Provincial Hospital and the son is in a stable condition at St Ritas Hospital,” Shikwambana said.

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