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## Dr. Esther Mahlangu crowned Lifetime Achievement Award winner

Renowned South African artist, Dr Esther Mahlangu, was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award during the Metro FM Music Awards gala event held at Mbombela on Saturday 6 May 2023. Mahlangu (87), from Weltevrede Village outside Siyabuswa, was handed the award by HOD for Mpumalanga Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, Godfrey Ntombela, during a star-studded gala evening that attracted thousands of attendees at the Mbombela Stadium. Mahlangu was named Lifetime Achievement Award winner alongside legendary Afro-pop Group, Mafikizolo. Mahlangu is a disruptor from an early age, becoming the first person to reimagine Ndebele design that is traditionally used for decorating cars and houses on contemporary mediums in an exotic and exceptional way over the past 30 years. In 1991, Mahlangu decorated a BMW 7 Series with the Ndebele inspired designs for which she has won global acclaim. She was the only South African artist invited to participate in 'Magiciens de la terre', curated by Jean-Hubert Martin in 1989 at Centre Pompidou and La Villette in Paris. Dr Mahlangu has spent more than 7 decades practising her art-form and has travelled extensively to collaborate with the world's most respected museums, galleries, curators, art fairs, celebrities and global brands. Highlights of the day during the largest South African music act included the announcement of winners per genres and categories of music. During the announcement, the late rap guru, Kiernan Jarryd Forbes (AKA), scooped Artist of the Year Award, Zuko SA became Best Afro-Soul Artist, Best Amapiano Song went to Deep London with Hamba and Limpopo based musician, Makadzi was announced as the Best Female Artist. Nada Wotshela, SABC Group Executive for Radio Nada Wotshela, said they were delighted with the success of the Metro FM Music Awards, which has cemented its place as the biggest and most prestigious music award ceremony on the South African entertainment calendar. "South Africa's music artists have overcome so much in the past five years and there was no better time to re-launch The Metro FM Music Awards than now. Metro FM is extremely proud and honoured to champion this important and high-profile event that recognises and celebrates diversity in music, art, fashion and culture," she said. She said that this year's awards were held in partnership with the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, which joined forces with Metro FM for the hosting of the 17th edition of the high-profile ceremony. "We are really excited to have partnered with the province for this year's Metro FM Music Awards. We are confident that this highly regarded event has benefited the music industry and promoted tourism in the province at the same time," she said.



Dr Esther Mahlangu was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Metro FM Music Awards in Mbombela.

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## Zenzele residents want solutions to their electricity woes

Residents of Zenzele Village in Dennilton, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Ward 7 said they are concerned over the long-standing problem of lack of electricity in the area, which dates back about two decades ago.

The village is privately owned belonging to three families and has been without electricity for the past twenty years. Zenzele residents blame the local municipality for failing to finalize negotiations with land owners to see basic services benefiting the community. About three years ago, an electrification project was started in the village and later halted by property owners who were demanding payment from Elias Motsoaledi Municipality before the project could be finalized. A community leader, Isaac Mkhalipli, told the publication that it was frustrating to live in the dark for the past twenty years. "Living without electricity is a violation of our human rights. You can't do anything without electricity these days. Is a pity that we are still living in the olden days and relying on firewood, gas and paraffin stoves for cooking. It is very

difficult to live under these circumstances," he said. Mkhalipli said they were hopeful that a meeting that was convened on Sunday 7 May 2023, between Elias Motsoaledi Municipality, land owners and community members will bear implacable solution. However, Elias Motsoaledi Town Planner, Boredi Sethojwa, told residents that the local municipality will be unable to pay a land fee demanded by property owners. "We were told only one land owner who occupies a little portion of land in the village will be paid. We were told the municipality will not be able to pay the two other property owners because they demand huge amount of money," he said. Mkhalipli said residents are tired and some suggesting to stage protests to vent their frustrations. "It is in the light of this type of non-responsive nature of our local authorities that we saw communities resorting to go to the streets and vent their frustrations. However, we don't condone and justify violence and anarchy, but communities find it a brutal nature and anarchy of those who occupy public office that breeds the culture," he said. Mkhalipli said residents

will seek ways to urge the local municipality to finalize talks with property owners, before resorting in spending millions of rands in a futile electricity project that has been on hold for the past three years. Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Spokesperson, Simon Makua, said they decided to pay one property owner and could not afford to pay the two others as they demand the amount that exceeds the value of the land. Makua said the issue has been escalated to the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (Cogesta).

**Residents of Zenzele Village in Dennilton demand Elias Motsoaledi Municipality to finalize talks with land owners to benefit from the resumption of the halted electricity project in the village.**



## Sekhukhune district R270 million tender probed

Source: The Citizen—online 10 May 2023

Hawks spokesperson in Limpopo Lieutenant Colonel Matimba Maluleke confirmed the unit is investigating corruption allegations. A multimillion rand security tender has caused ructions within the Sekhukhune district municipal council with opposition parties claiming the award process was dubious. Municipal manager Danger Madumane allegedly went against the council's recommendations in appointing a security company to guard the premises of four Sekhukhune district municipal sub-regions. The R270 million tender was awarded on 13 April. The council recommended four companies to be appointed to provide security services to these sites, but instead Madumane appointed one company. Madumane's action allegedly did not have the support of the entire municipal council, resulting in the opposition opening a case of corruption with the Hawks. Hawks spokesperson in Limpopo Lieutenant Colonel Matimba Maluleke confirmed the unit is investigating corruption allegations in the municipality. During an ordinary council sitting on 28 April this year, caucus leader for the opposition party, Seun Mogotji of the Bolsheviks, raised concerns about the awarding of the tender. "Mayor Maredi Moganyetji undertook to investigate this appointment. But Madumane went ahead and handed over a letter of appointment to a Nelspruit-based security company against a council resolution to investigate the appointment," Mogotji said. In a letter to the Sekhukhune municipal council and municipal manager Nancy Rampedi, Sigwavhulimu Attorneys ordered the municipality to rescind the appointment, claiming it was illegal. Council spokesperson Maredi Kgetjepe said Madumane was within his rights. But The Citizen can reveal that Treasury declined his request to deviate from the requirements of the tender. He could not be reached for comment.

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## Massive manhunt launched for Ga-Rantho ATM bombers

The Police in Sekhukhune have activated a massive manhunt for a group of unknown heavily armed suspects who blasted an ABSA ATM at a Shell Garage in Ga-Rantho Village. According to the police report, the incident took place in the early hours of Thursday 4 May 2023. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said police preliminary investigation revealed that a group of unknown men armed with firearms entered the garage and started to shoot at a security guard before proceeding to the ATMs; set their explosives and blasted one of them and got away with an undisclosed amount of money. "The police were summoned to the scene and on arrival, the suspects, driving in a white Toyota Legend 45 and blue VW Polo noticed the police and started shooting at them. The police retaliated and a cross fire ensued. One of the suspects of about 35-years of age was shot and fatally wounded in the process while his accomplices managed to evade arrest," he said. Ledwaba said the police appeal to anyone with information that can assist in arresting the suspects involved in the incident to contact investigating officer, Lieutenant Colonel Tshinyadzo Ndou on 082 807 2666, crime stop number on 08600 10111, the nearest Police Station or make use of MySAPSApp. Ledwaba said the police investigations are still ongoing.

**The police in Sekhukhune are searching for a group of unknown suspects who bombed an ABSA ATM at a Shell Garage in Ga-Rantho Village.**



## Over 20 000 child deaths recorded in Limpopo public health facilities

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo said it has written a letter to MEC for Health in the province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to raise a concern about a high number of child deaths recorded during the last decade.

The party say they were shocked by a response on the Minister of Health DA parliamentary questions, which revealed that the province has recorded 24 744 child deaths in public health facilities over a ten year period, from 1 January 2013 to December 2022. The minister's report listed Limpopo as the fourth highest number of child deaths in a province,

**The DA in Limpopo demand Limpopo Health Department MEC, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, to provide a clear breakdown on the cause of child deaths at public healthcare facilities in the province.**

with the most common causes of death: diarrhoea and pneumonia. DA Spokesperson for Health in Limpopo, Risham Maharaj, said the most common underlying causes of death in children are severe and moderate acute malnutrition, which could have been prevented by the Health Department. "Ramathuba and her department must provide clarity on a breakdown on the reasons for child deaths in the province, how many of the child deaths were due to unnatural causes, the most common causes of death and underlying causes of death in children in Limpopo, how many medical negligence claims the department faces as a result of child deaths, the nature of the claims and the potential cost to the department and the number of child deaths by public health facility," he said. Maharaj said the large number of deaths in children in the province is worrying and is evidence of a health system that is poorly managed, understaffed and under-resourced. "The DA is committed to ensuring adequate healthcare for children that ends preventable child deaths in Limpopo," he said. At the time of going to print, the Limpopo Department of Health was not available to respond if they have received the letter from the DA.



## Body fell out of coffin during funeral proceedings

The Mokwana family in Mmotwaneng Village outside Monsterlus, say they are going to take legal actions against a funeral parlour after a body fell out of a coffin.

This is after the bottom of the R15 000-00 casket inexplicably fallen out. The macabre incident occurred during funeral proceedings at the family home in the morning of Saturday 6 May. The family blame Somalakazi Funeral Services for delivering the deceased in the faulty coffin. The traumatic experience happened when the pallbearers carry the coffin to a local church for a service just before holding burial proceedings at the village's grave site. The incident left dozens of mourners terrified, with some saying that they decided never to attend funerals again after the shocking experience. The family had to stop the proceedings and wait for Somalakazi to deliver another coffin before they can bury their loved ones nearly three hours later. When contacted by the publication, the family was too upset to talk about the incident, saying it was painful and traumatic to bury their loved one after such shocking circumstances. Somalakazi Funeral Services owner, Sarah Mabuza, has apologised to the family saying the incident was unprecedented.

Mabuza has blamed the coffin manufacturer about the unfortunate incident experienced by the family during the funeral service.



**The Mokwana family in Mmotwaneng say they are going to take legal actions against Somalakazi Funeral Services after the body of their loved one fell out the coffin during funeral service.**

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## Public assistance needed to identify CIT suspects

The Hawks in Limpopo seeks public assistance to identify armed suspects who committed a Cash-In-Transit (CIT) heist in Ga-Masemola Village outside Jane Furse on Tuesday 2 May 2023. According to Captain Matimba Maluleke, Hawks Spokesperson in Limpopo

Province, the suspects robbed G4S security guards who were collecting money from Global Filling Station at the Big Boy Shopping Complex in Ga-Masemola at around 11:45 am.

"The security guards were allegedly ambushed by three unknown men who were armed with firearms. It is further alleged that the suspects pointed the G4S crew with firearms and took the money bag with an

undisclosed cash amount from the security guards before fleeing the scene," he said. Maluleke said the suspects were allegedly using a grey Toyota Corolla as their get-away vehicle. He said anyone who can assist to identify the suspects or knows their whereabouts is requested to contact the Investigating Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Makutu on 071 481 2461.



*The Hawks in Limpopo request the public to help identify and report the suspects who robbed G4S security guards at Ga-Masemola Village outside Jane Furse.*

## Ephraim Mogale Municipality wraps 2023/2024 Draft IDP/ Budget consultations

Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality has conducted its last public consultation on the 2023/2024 draft IDP / Budget consultations at the Municipal Town Hall in Marble Hall on Monday 8 May 2023.

The consultation was attended by municipality staff members, local traditional leaders and people living with disabilities. Percy Moagi, Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality Spokesperson, said the objective of the IDP/Budget Consultation Programme was to consult with members of the public on the best practices to identify opportunities and for constraints development in their respective areas. During the proceedings, Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Given Moimana, presented the draft budget to the stakeholders and future planned infrastructure projects. Amongst developmental challenges raised during the programme were lack of access to sustainable provision of water, internal roads infrastructure and economic opportunities. The public consultations kick-started jointly with Sekhukhune District Municipality at Leeuwfontein Township Hall on Friday 15 April.

Representing the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, MMC for Water and Infrastructure Services, Cllr Bella Kupa, reiterated to the various communities of Ephraim Mogale that water projects are receiving urgent attention and through Fetakgomo Tubatse Special Economic Zone and economic opportunities will be unlocked for all residents of the district. The public consultations proceeded at cluster ward 1 to ward 6 at Malebitsa Community Hall in Moutse West on Monday 17 April and also held at Dichoeung Tribal Hall on Thursday 4 May 2023. Moagi said inputs from all the participants will be considered by council soon during the adoption of both the IDP and Budget.



*Mayor of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Cllr Given Moimana, presenting the local municipality's draft budget at Municipal Town Hall in Marble Hall.*

## EPMLM appoints senior officials

The Council of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM) has appointed Mogabadi Eric Moropa as new Municipal Manager (MM) and Thabo Modisane as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Moropa and Modisane were appointed during an ordinary council meeting held on 31 March 2023 on a fixed term employment contracts. The senior officials started with their official duties on 2 May 2023 after serving a notice on the same positions in April 2023 immediately after the council resolution. Moropa is also a seasoned administrator in local government and has more than ten years of experience in local government sphere. He is the former councillor, Corporate Director and former Municipal Manager of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM). Moropa brings to the local municipality a wealth of experience and expertise. During his tenure at MLM as an Accounting Officer, he score a number of Unqualified Audit opinions. At the time of his appointment in EMLM, Moropa was the advisor of the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation. He is a scholar of note and his academic achievement speaks volume, armed with Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration, post graduate Diploma in Project Management, Masters in Business Administration and currently studying Masters of Philosophy. EPMLM Mayor, Cllr Given Moimana, has on behalf of the municipality, welcomed the appointment of the duo. "On behalf of the Council of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, we would like to take this opportune moment to welcome both Mr Mogabadi Moropa and Mr Thabo Modisane in our institution and also to wish them well in their respective responsibilities," he said.

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## Manhunt launched for fugitive who escaped from Hlogotlou Police custody

The Police in Hlogotlou outside Monsterlus have launched a massive manhunt for two male suspects who escaped from police custody on Thursday 4 May 2023. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the suspects, Thabang Nzima (31) and Lewis Magoro (36), escaped from lawful custody at Hlogotlou Police Station holding cells at about 18:00. "One suspect, Sello Mankge, aged 29, was re-arrested in the station premises while trying to escape. Mankge allegedly committed robbery with aggravating circumstances and kidnapping that took place in Hlogotlou policing area in January 2022. Another fugitive, a 20-year-old Thabang Mokoena, who was amongst the four suspects who escaped from police cells was re-arrested on Sunday 7 May 2023. Mokoena was allegedly handed over to the police by a family member after they learned about his escape. He will be facing charges of robbery with aggravating circumstances and escaping from Lawful Custody," he said. Ledwaba added that Nzima is facing charges of rape that he committed in Motetema policing area in January 2019, while Magoro was nabbed for attempted murder and robbery charges that were committed in Motetema policing area in December 2022 and January 2023. "It is alleged that during the escape, the police were exchanging shifts when they discovered that the mash wire that protected the roof of the cells was cut out and four inmates were missing. They promptly launched a massive manhunt for the suspects, which led to the subsequent arrest of Mankge in the police station premises while the other three managed to escape," he said. Ledwaba said the other two suspects, Nzima and Magoro, are still at large and preliminary investigations indicated that the suspects were arrested for a series of crimes that were committed at different locations in the Sekhukhune District between 2019 and 2023 period. Ledwaba said Acting Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Major General Jan Scheepers, has activated all the appropriate resources for the immediate rearrests of the suspects and he is encouraging the members of the community to assist with their apprehension. "Anyone with information that can assist in locating the suspects is urged to contact the Investigating Officer, Sergeant Rocco Given Morgan on 072 114 1732, the crime stop number 08600 10111, the nearest police station or make use of MySAPSApp," he said. Ledwaba said police investigations are continuing.



One of the fugitives, Lewis Magoro, is wanted by the police after escaping from the Hlogotlou Police Station holding cells on Thursday 4 May 2023.

## Help needed to re-unite these elderly missing persons with families

The police in Siyabuswa are requesting community members to assist in reuniting 69-year-old Tshagane Sindane with his family. Sindane, who is residing at Maphotla Village, was last seen leaving home to fetch his cattle from the grazing field on Saturday 29 April 2023 at about 13:00. "By the time of his departure, he was wearing a pair of blue jeans, brown shoes, navy blue jacket and black cap. He is estimated at 1,59 metres tall and dark in complexion," said Brigadier Selvy Mohlala, Mpumalanga Provincial Police Spokesperson. Mohlala said the police appeal to anyone who might know the victim's whereabouts to contact Siyabuswa Police on 060 737 3254 or call the Crime Stop number at 08600 10111. "Alternatively, members of the public can send information via MYSAPSAPP.



All received information will be treated as confidential and callers may opt to remain anonymous," he said. Meanwhile the police in Lebowaikgomo seek public assistance in locating a missing 67-year-old woman, Raesetje Tryphosa Mphahlele, from Seleteng Sefalaolo Ga-Mphahlele. According to Sergeant Tsietsi Lamola, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, before her disappearance, the granny was last seen on Friday 22 April 2023, at about 14:15 while at home. "Searches were conducted from relatives and places she frequently visits without any success," Lamola said. He said anyone with information that can assist to reunite Mphahlele with her family is requested contact the Investigating Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Nyamanyayo Thomas Baloyi on 082 565 8234, the nearest police station, alternative report to crime stop line on 08600 10111 or share the information on MysapsApp. Lamola said police investigations to locate the missing victim are continuing.

Top Left: The police in Lebowaikgomo appeal to the public to help locate the missing Raesetje Tryphosa Mphahlele (67), from Seleteng Sefalaolo Ga-Mphahlele.



Left: The Siyabuswa Police seek the public assist to find Tshagane Sindane who disappeared since Saturday 29 April 2023.

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# National Freedom Day celebrated in Tafelkop

Hundreds of people from various parts of Limpopo Province flocked to Tafelkop Stadium to commemorate the National Freedom Day on Thursday 27 April 2023. The event marked the 29th anniversary of South Africa's first democratic elections and celebrated under the theme: "Consolidating and Safeguarding Democratic Gains". Premier of Limpopo Province, Stanley Mathabatha, his Members of Executive Council (MECs), local traditional leadership, district and local mayors and other government senior officials attended the event. Delivering a keynote address, Mathabatha said the day was commemorated to honour the unsung heroes and heroines who fought for freedom and paved a way for an equal, representative and non-racial nation. "We are also here to increase an understanding of our history and development in democracy as well as celebrate South Africa's struggle icons. That is the reason why here in Limpopo, we honour heroes and heroines like Mohumagadi Madinoge, Ike Maphoto, Comrade Tambusa, Collins Chabane, Norman Mashabane, TT Cholo, Peter Mampogwane Nchabeleng, Peter Mokaba, Mme Lebea Mampuru, Mothupi Pharephare, Professor Muofhe, Jantjie Kabini, Ephraim Mogale, to name but a few," he said. Mathabatha added that the province was also remembering revolutionary banners who contributed towards freedom such as the 1958 Sebatakomo Uprising, the fighters under the banner of Fetakgomo o Sware Motho, the 1976 Youth Uprising, the Sekhukhune Youth Congress detachment and the 1986 fighting forces. "We cannot forget the selfless sacrifice of the Rivonia Trialists, Rolihlahla Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Andrew Mlangeni, Ahmed Kathrada, Dennis Goldberg, Arthur Goldreich, Goven Mbeki," he said. Reflecting on progress made since the dawn of democracy, the premier said the province has made significant impact in fighting unemployment rate. "To date, the total number of employed persons in the province is now at 1, 337 million compared to 1, 184 000 million in 2021," he said. However, Mathabatha said they are very much concerned about millions of young people, aged 15 to 24, across the province who are not in employment, education or training. "It is in this context that government is working tirelessly with social partners and the private sector to resolve the challenge. On the other hand, will accelerate infrastructure development projects to achieve our mandate of industrialisation and job creation," committed Mathabatha. He said the Limpopo Provincial Government has also reduced the percentage of people living in poverty, achieving 51% of their 20% target they had previously set based on the Socio Economic Review and Overview of 2022. "Regarding access to basic services like water, 69% of the people in Limpopo are having access to clean and portable water. In this regard, government is working very hard to move to 100 per cent access. On electricity provisioning, we are pleased to report that 97.2 per cent of people living in Limpopo, have access to electricity," informed Mathabatha. He said the Limpopo Government had successfully implemented agricultural revitalization programmes to ensure food security, along with primary, secondary and tertiary health care system provided for free to all patients in the province. In addition, Mathabatha said the mining sector in Sekhukhune and other parts of the province continues to record significant progress with regard to employment of our young people in Limpopo. "Through all these programmes,



**Top: Colourful traditional artier and traditional music were a centre of attraction during Freedom Day event that was commemorated in Tafelkop Stadium.**

**Right: Limpopo Province Premier, Stanley Mathabatha, addressing the attendees during the Freedom Day celebration event held at Tafelkop Stadium.**



the standard of living in Limpopo has improved tremendously. However, we are the first to admit that while in the main, we are elated by the gains that we are making, more still needs to be done. The people of Limpopo deserve better," he said. Mathabatha said all people of Limpopo should continue working for freedom from poverty, unemployment, racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination. "As a people, we are stronger together and have more

in common than that which divides us. Each citizen has a responsibility to take charge and play an active role in building the Limpopo we all want," he said.

## Tafelkop Mall officially open for business

The long-awaited Tafelkop Mall has finally opened their doors for the public on Wednesday 26 April 2023. After years of negotiations and development, the R260 Million Tafelkop Mall opened for official business with 53 stores and 420 permanent employees. The mall, situated along the R579 Road, accommodates household names such as Ackermans, Clicks, Mr Price, major retail banks, Build it, Sports scene, Markham and many other big names known in South African retailing, with Shoprite and Boxer as anchor tenants at the newly opened shopping mall. The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Maleke Mokganyeti, expressed her gratitude to the investors and founders of the mall, praising them for bringing an investment to the people of Tafelkop, as the shopping mall created employment and brings in new opportunities to the street vendors and

taxi association. Speaking during the grand opening, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr David Tladi, the project opened a huge economic opportunity for local people, as well as business people in this area. "This is the beginning of the upliftment of the local communities, particularly Tafelkop and surrounding areas," he said. Tladi indicated that

the new development comes with massive employment opportunities, with job creation as the construction phase saw more than 2500 people on site and 100 contractors with 32% local residents employed on site. "Retail employment is now standing at 420 employed people and 90% of these people are local residents, which will increase with new shops

opening up," said Tladi. He said the mall also create an opportunity for residents to do shopping in a closer vicinity, rather than spending more money going to Groblersdal. Tafelkop Mall Co-founder, Papela Morare, informed that the mall has taken close to 15 years to be completed. "It has been years of negotiations, sourcing investments and land," he said.



**The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Maleke Mokganyeti (Left) and the Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Cllr David Tladi (Right), officially opening Tafelkop Mall for business.**



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# Sekhukhune United advance to Nedbank Cup final

For the first time in history, Sekhukhune United FC are through to the final of the Nedbank Cup Challenge. Babina Noko advanced to the final after defeating Stellenbosch FC 4-3 on penalty shootout at the Danie Craven Stadium in Stellenbosch, Cape Town, on Sunday 7 May. United will be facing tournament favourites, Orlando Pirates FC in the final match to be played on Saturday 27 May 2023 at Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria. 'The Sea Robbers' advanced to the final match by defeating Kaizer Chiefs FC 2-1 in a thrilling Soweto derby match played on Saturday 6 May at FNB Stadium in Johannesburg. During a post-match interview, Babina Noko Head Coach, Brandon Truter, said he was grateful that his team has given it all during the match. "We faced so many struggles this week during preparations, we faced flu, injuries and fatigue. It was a massive effort coming here. For me and the players it means a lot to be in the first cup final. The spot guarantees us to participate in Africa if we win the tournament which is a challenge as well," he said. Truter said he will be now looking forward to secure a top eight spot in the Dstv Premier Soccer League (PSL). Before their meeting in the Nedbank Cup Challenge final, Sekhukhune United will be facing Orlando Pirates in the Dstv Premiership match to be played on Saturday 13 May at Orlando Stadium in Soweto, Gauteng. The ANC Sekhukhune Region applauded Babina Noko for advancing to the finals of the Nedbank Cup tournament. ANC Secretary in Sekhukhune Region, Tala Mathope, said the party in the region is not surprised by the results as the club has always played good football, with its standing in the PSL log speaks volume. "The ANC appreciates the commitment and the professional work ethics from the players and the technical team and wish them the club well in the final of the Nedbank Cup. The people of Sekhukhuneland are very proud of Sekhukhune United FC," he said. Mathope said the party is calling upon people of Sekhukhune to rally behind the team throughout their journey.



**Sekhukhune United FC players celebrating after defeating Stellenbosch FC in the semi-finals of Nedbank Cup Challenge to book a place in the final.**

## Marble Hall roads get a facelift

Roads Agency Limpopo's (RAL) roads rehabilitation programme is currently underway in Marble Hall. The programme is part of the agency's efforts to address road infrastructure service delivery challenges in the province, which sees several streets in Marble Hall Town and nearby residential areas within Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality revamped. Luyanda Sithole, RAL Spokesperson, said the refurbishment in Marble Hall forms part of the agency's Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), signed together with the Limpopo Government and ten local municipalities where RAL is drawing on its road construction expertise and capacity to fast-track road maintenance in these municipalities. "The streets undergoing construction in the residential areas and the town of Marble Hall include Tambotie, Ivy, School and First Streets. The scope of work includes pothole patching, milling and surfacing with asphalt. Upon completion, this will enhance efficient and safer driving," explained Sithole. She explained that the RAL-Municipal road maintenance intervention initiative is only responsible for planning, construction, maintenance, management and control of the provincial roads and municipalities are responsible for municipal and residential streets, whilst South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) is responsible for national roads. "The agency commits to working together with all government stakeholders and strategic partners to fast-track road infrastructure development in Limpopo and in turn boost tourism, agriculture and mining sectors whilst contributing to socio-economic development," she said. Ephraim Mogale and nine other municipalities, namely, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, Polokwane Municipality, Bela Bela Local Municipality, Musina Local Municipality, Collins Chabane Local Municipality, Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and Makhado Local Municipality, are all party to the MoA.



**RAL construction workers rehabilitating Marble Hall Town streets as part of the agency's intervention initiative.**

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