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Est. 2008

351th Edition

Friday 15 March 2024

083 679 3632

Search operation launched to locate missing Tafelkop woman

The Police in Motetema are investigating a case of missing person following the disappearance of a 23-year-old woman, Nkobate Matshingwane from Tafelkop, who went missing since 22 October 2023. According Sergeant Mienkie Ramakgoakgoa, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the victim's father alleges that on 22 October 2023 at around 03:00 in the morning, he received a call from his daughter, and she told him that she was in danger.

"He (the father) did not intervene as he and the daughter were not in good terms. The following day, she did not return home. The father later went to report his daughter missing at the Motetema Police Station on 28 October 2023," explained Ramakgoakgoa. She said the police commenced with search operations around the area however, the victim was never found. "The clothes she was wearing during her disappearance are unknown. The police request anyone with information that can help to locate the missing woman to contact Detective Sergeant Raymond Phago on 082 414 6464.

Alternatively, they can call Crime Stop Number on 08600 10111, the nearest police station or make use of MySAPSApp," she said.

Ramakgoakgoa said police investigation are still continuing.



The police in Motetema appeal to the public to help in locating the whereabouts of Nkobate Matshingwane from Tafelkop Village who went missing since October 2023.

No fire truck and no ambulance for Marble Hall

The Democratic Alliance (DA) said they write to the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Basikopo Makamu, to seek answers on dysfunctional fire stations in Marble Hall Town, Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM). According to the party, over the last couple of months, three homes were gutted by fire after all the fire trucks and emergency services for the town were moved to Groblersdal in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM), over 30 kilometers from Marble Hall, leaving the entire community vulnerable and at risk. Lindy Wilson, DA Constituency Head for EPMLM, said the latest incident occurred on 6 March 2024. A home at Protea Street in Marble Hall was burnt to the ground as there were no fire trucks or emergency services to assist in the crisis. "The fire truck from Elias Motsoaledi Municipality took over 30 minutes to arrive, with no water on board and not one of the fire extinguishers in a working condition. The crew stood idly by while the house burnt down," she said. Wilson added that the Ephraim Mogale Clinic is now also without an ambulance after their fleet was moved to the Toitskraal Clinic, leaving the town with-

The DA in Limpopo has raised a concern with Minister of CoGTA after three houses were gutted by fire due to the dysfunctional Fire Station.



out emergency medical services. Wilson indicated that in a recent response to written questions, the National Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), advised that Limpopo was one of the provinces that did not meet the fire assessments standards. "MEC Makamu must also explain who will be responsible for the losses experienced by the residents as a result of the unavailability of emergency services. The ANC led municipalities have collapsed at every level and we are appalled by the failure of the Ephraim Mogale and Sekhukhune municipalities to provide a safe and secure environment for residents," Wilson explained.

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Major SANRAL projects to boost Ephraim Mogale SMMEs

Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMES) within the vicinity of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM) will be benefiting from the rehabilitation of the R573 Road SANRAL project that will be kicking-off soon. This was revealed by EPMLM Municipal Manager Eric Moropa when the municipality hosting SMMEs during an engagement on Tuesday 8 March at EPMLM offices in Marble Hall. According to the municipality, the main aim of the engagement was to share and introduce to the local SMMEs projects that SANRAL will be implemented within the confines of the local municipality. Part of the meeting was also to engage in the opportunities that the SMMEs would benefit from the projects. SANRAL projects presented to the SMMEs R573 Road from Toitskraal to Marble Hall. Edwin Construction was appointed contractor on the project and it set to start in May 2024 for 18 months.

The project is 20.3km with the value of R419 Million. Rehabilitation of the N11 from Marble Hall to Groblersdal was part of the projects presented during the engagement. The project is 29km with the value of R500 Million set to begin in October 2024 for 28 months, and the contractor has not been appointed yet. Among the projects presented was the upgrading of D2919 road from gravel to tar from Tshikanoshi to Malebitsa. The project 16km with the value of R150 Million and duration of 15 months from May 2024. The municipality said it expects a maximum

participation and full cooperation from the SMMEs and for the companies to refrain from illegal activities that will halt the projects. Addressing the meeting Moropa stated that the municipality is duty bound to protect SMMEs from exploitation in any form. Moropa said the meeting with the appointed contractor on the R573 Road project and the SMMEs is set to be announced.



EPMLM SMMEs are set to benefit from the multi-million rand rehabilitation of the R573 Road project.

Elandskraal man slapped with life imprisonment for raping a 90-year-old granny

The Groblersdal Regional Court handed down a life imprisonment sentence to Ephraim Matshela Madiba (35) for raped and assaulted a 90-year-old woman. The hefty sentence was handed down on Wednesday 28 February 2024. During the proceedings, the court heard that on 31 July 2022, the accused broke into the house of an elderly woman at Elandskraal outside Marble Hall and found a machete knife in the victim bedroom, and he then assaulted her with it before raping her. He thereafter fled the scene with the said machete. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the police were alerted about the incident and they opened cases of rape and assault with intent to cause Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH). "The victim was taken to local hospital for medical treatment. Rape case was transferred to Mokopane Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit and assigned to Sergeant Lesetja Langa for further investigation. The suspect was traced and arrested. Police also recovered the machete with blood stains, which was used to assault the victim," explained Ledwaba. He said the accused was sentenced to life imprisonment for rape and 24 months in imprisonment for assault GBH. The sentences will be served concurrently. The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, praised the investigating officer and his team, saying they are ensuring that perpetrators are removed from the society and kept into jail. "We welcome the life sentence and we are glad that justice was finally served," concluded Hadebe.

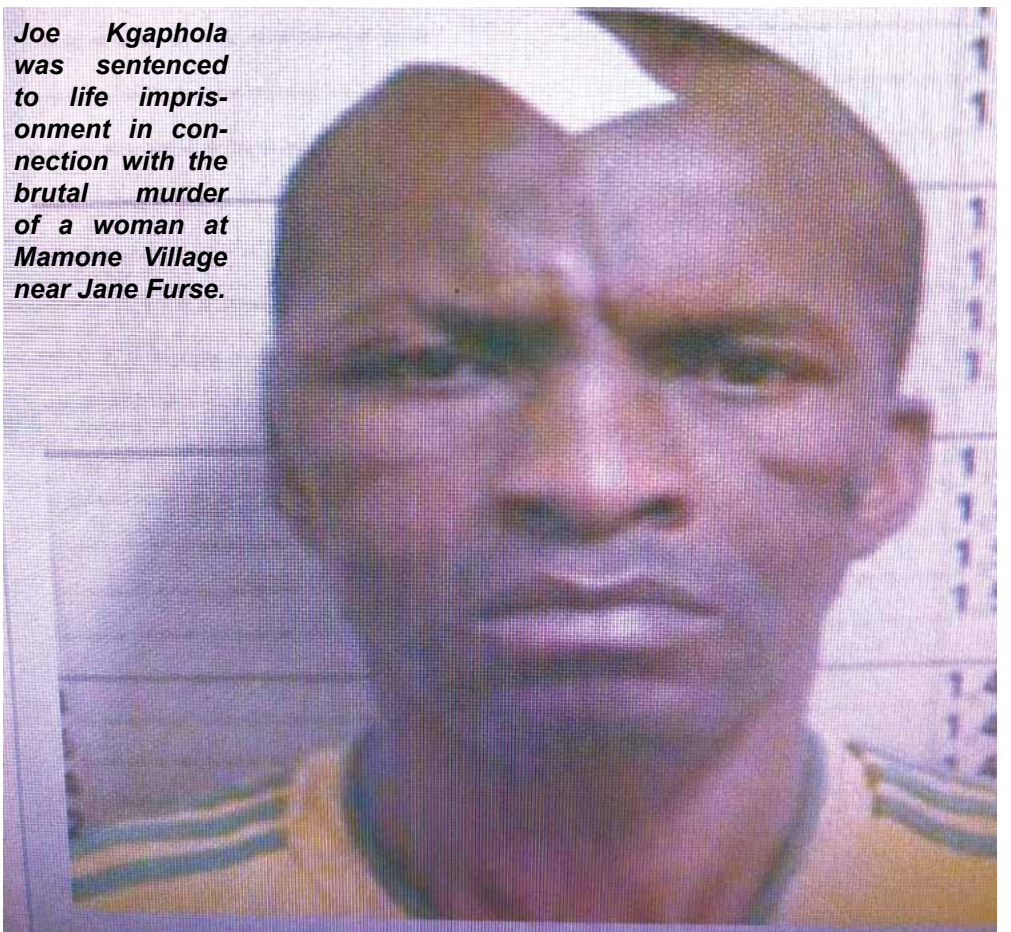


Ephraim Matshela Madiba was sentenced for life imprisonment and an additional 24 months behind bars for raping and assaulting a 90-year-old woman in Elandskraal outside Marble Hall.

Mamone murder accused gets life in prison

The Division of the High Court in Polokwane has on Tuesday 5 March sentenced Joe Kgaphola (49) to life imprisonment for a brutal murder of a Mamone woman in an incident that occurred two years ago. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the harrowing incident unfolded on Thursday 28 July 2022, at approximately 2am when the accused forcibly entered the victim's residence in Magolaneng, Mamone Village, within the Jane Furse Policing Precinct. "Subsequently, he discovered the victim asleep and proceeded to drag her to another room, where he callously shot her in the presence of her mother before fleeing the scene. The police were promptly alerted to the distressing situation. The suspect was swiftly apprehended and charged with murder, as well as the possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition," said Ledwaba. He said the accused was convicted and sentenced following commendable investigative efforts that were spearheaded by Detective Sergeant Mamaiti Mamaile of the Jane Furse Detectives. "Presented with compelling evidence, the Polokwane High Court found Kgaphola guilty on all charges. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for the heinous act of murder and an additional eight years for the illegal possession of firearms and ammunition," explained Ledwaba. The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, has expressed satisfaction with the life imprisonment verdict handed down to Kgaphola. "We wholeheartedly embrace the court's definitive judgment and commend the dedication exhibited by all parties involved, particularly the investigating officer, in ensuring that justice is served in this case," remarked General Hadebe.

Joe Kgaphola was sentenced to life imprisonment in connection with the brutal murder of a woman at Mamone Village near Jane Furse.



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Ramathuba hand-over state-of-the-art emergency fleet to Sekhukhune EMS stations

Limpopo Health Department MEC, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has on Friday 8 March handed-over 86 ambulances to the Sekhukhune Emergency Medical Services (EMS) stations. The state-of-the-art fleet was handed-over at Maila Segolo Killers Sports ground, Ga-Maila Village outside Jane Furse, with intention demonstrate the department's commitment to improving healthcare services province-wide. The department said the hand-over is a pivotal moment aligned with the set goal by MEC Ramathuba, during the 2023/2024 budget speech, to provide a total of 500 new ambulances. In recent months, many ambulances have been allocated to EMS stations across the province. "It is important to note that all of our new ambulances are fitted with modern medical equipment. Crew members will have to sign an oath to ensure accountability for any loss of the equipment from the ambulances," said Ramathuba. She added that distribution of ambulances to EMS stations across the province has significantly brought a major change in the way EMS personnel respond to the calls. "Ambulance services play a pivotal role in delivering timely medical care to patients, ensuring immediate attention, providing vital first aid, stabilizing patients, and preventing the deterioration of their condition," said MEC Ramathuba. She said the second batch of ambulances will be distributed in the district before the end of April 2024. "The other stations that will be covered the second batch of ambulances will include St Rita's Hospital, Matlala Hospital and Bosele School for the Blind and Deaf," she said. She advised the public to safeguard the ambulances and report any employees who might be seen using the vehicles for personal gains. "This important hand-over signifies a crucial step in ensuring that patients receive the ongoing care and attention they require. This significant event marks a milestone in enhancing our emergency medical service and ensuring swift, effective responses to medical emergencies to our communities," she said. As a symbol of their commitment to service excellence, EMS crew members took an oath of accountability leading by Limpopo Provincial Public Service Commission. The oath emphasized their responsibility for their care and maintenance of the ambulances assigned to them. During the hand-over, MEC Ramathuba conducted an accident drill, simulating a response to an accident scene.



Above:

Some of the state-of-the-art ambulances that were handed-over to various EMS stations in Sekhukhune District Municipality.

Left:

MEC for Health Department in Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, officiating the hand-over of the 86 ambulances at Maila Segolo Killers Sports ground, Ga-Maila Village outside Jane Furse.

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Police launch intensive manhunt following Dennilton fatal shooting

The Police in Dennilton together with the Limpopo Provincial Taxi Violence Unit have initiated an extensive manhunt following a tragic murder of a man along the R25 Road in Phooko Village in the Dennilton Policing area. According to the police, the murder incident occurred on Friday 1 March at about 22:20. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the Dennilton Police swiftly responded to reports of a shooting incident at R25 Road and upon arriving at the scene, they discovered a male victim with gunshot wounds seated in a white Suzuki vehicle with its doors open. "Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were promptly contacted to provide assistance and the victim was certified dead on the scene," he said. Ledwaba added that police preliminary investigations have revealed that the victim, identified as Andile Brian Khubeka (33), was the driver of the white Suzuki and was accompanied by two other men when armed individuals approached and opened fire on the parked vehicle. "Tragically, the driver was fatally shot, while one of the passengers sustained an injury to the lower body and other escaped unharmed. EMS personnel declared the driver deceased at the scene while the two surviving victims were transported to a local hospital for medical treatment," explained Ledwaba. He said the police are actively investigating a case of murder and two cases of attempted murder in connection with this incident. "While the motive behind the shooting remains unknown, the police can not rule out taxi-related violence. The South African Police Service urges anyone with information pertaining to this crime to come forward and assist in bringing the perpetrators to justice," he said. Ledwaba said the police request anyone with information about the incident to contact Detective Sergeant Richmond Mushwana on 076 972 1016 or Colonel Samuel Mnisi 082 565 8601, Crime Stop Number on 08600 10111, the nearest police station or make use of MySAPSApp. "Our commitment to upholding law and order in the Limpopo province remains steadfast," he said.

No waiting period to report missing person

When a child goes missing, it is of the utmost importance to report the matter to the SAPS as soon as possible. Obtain the investigating officer's contact details, and send any additional information that might become available.



Zaaiplaas suspected stock thief remains in custody

A 48-year-old suspect, Lesofo Buti Maredi, who was arrested in connection with a stock theft incident where 20 cattle were stolen at Zaaiplaas last year, remains in custody during his appearance at the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court on Friday 8 March 2024. The suspect was arrested following an extensive investigation, by members of SAPS Marble Stock Theft Unit. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the breakthrough came on Thursday 7 March 2024, after DNA tests of the stolen cattle proved they belonged to the farmers, leading to arrest of the suspect. "The arrest emanates after unknown suspects cut the fence and stole 20 cattle in September 2023 from a communal grazing camp belonging to a group of farmers. During investigation, the suspect was found in possession of six of the cattle and he claimed they belonged to him even after the farmers positively identified them. They were not brand marked, DNA tests had to be obtained to prove if indeed the cattle belonged to the complainants," explained Ledwaba. He said the suspect, who was apprehended at his residence, is believed to be part of a larger syndicate involved in stock theft activities across the area. "The suspect appeared before the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court where he was remanded in custody for formal bail application and further police investigations," he said. Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, the Provincial Commissioner of the police in Limpopo, has commended the tireless efforts and dedication of the officers involved in the investigation. "This arrest sends a strong message that the SAPS will not tolerate criminal activities that threaten the livelihood of our farming communities and will continue to pursue all leads to bring perpetrators to justice. Farmers are urged to be vigilant and ensure they brand mark their livestock," concluded Lieutenant General Hadebe.

The stolen livestock that was found in possession of Lesofo Buti Maredi during his arrest.



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1 MARCH TO 31 MARCH 2024

NTT Toyota Groblersdal gives back

Ntt Toyota Groblersdal sponsored Ipelegeng Special School (For the Mentally Handicapped) with some beverages during the SASA II that recently took place in Polokwane. The school and learners would like to thank Ntt Toyota Groblersdal for the sponsorship.



Operation Kukula yields success as Limpopo police apprehend 464 suspects for multiple offences

The Provincial Commissioner of Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe commends the remarkable efforts by men and women in blue who have showcased unwavering dedication in the fight against crime across the province during Operation Kukula, which took place from 26 February to Sunday, 3 March. A total of four hundred and sixty four (464) suspects have been arrested for a range of offenses following intensive high-visibility patrols, roadblocks, searches, and other operations. The arrests include individuals involved in 6 cases of illegal possession of firearms, 6 of illegal possession of ammunition, 10 of possessing dangerous weapons, 4 of drug dealing, 1 of illicit cigarette possession, 19 of illegal dealing in liquor, 34 of drug possession, 5 of aggravated robbery, 9 of murder, 1 of attempted murder, 8 of rape, 66 cases of assault GBH, 35 of common assault, 4 of business burglary, 9 of residential burglary, 29 of malicious damage to property, 6 of driving under the influence of liquor, 42 of contravening the Immigration Act, and 141 cases of other crimes. Additionally, detectives successfully tracked down and apprehended 5 suspects involved in business robberies, 1 for house robbery, 5 for murder, 9 for rape, 33 for assault GBH, and 108 other wanted suspects linked to various criminal activities. Furthermore, the police seized 139 units of ammunition, R2068 in cash, 4 counterfeit goods, and 7 dangerous weapons, 21 700 grams of dagga, 9 firearms and 5 stolen motor vehicles. The Limpopo Provincial Commissioner acknowledges the significant impact of Operation Kukula and the relentless commitment of the Police to ensuring the safety and security of all residents in the province. The suspects arrested have appeared before various Magistrate's courts across the province.

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Local sensational Gospel Star - Eager to win Royal Gospel Music Awards 2024

Abicky Kgolane, the “Mphe Matla” gospel hit maker from Groblersdal town, in the Elias Motsoaledi local municipality in Sekhukhune District is moved from being an upcoming artist to the South Africa best gospel star.

Abicky shocked many when he released his debut album in 2021 shifting his followers focus from his journalism writings to his gospel genre and since then he never looked back. His songs gained airplay at all local radio stations in the Sekhukhune district and lead various gospel top 10 shows including the popular Moutse FM gospel top 10, Mascom FM and SKFM respectively and now his music premiered at Various television shows including Tshwane TV, Mpuma Kapa TV, Soweto TV, Gauteng TV, 1 Gospel and Dumisa TV. His passion for worship and praise saw him releasing his latest singles “Ha ole teng and Tsamaya le rona” which got nominated to compete at the national gospel awards, namely: Royal Gospel Music Awards 2024 in the category of the Best Male Artist. To help him to bring home the trophy to Sekhukhune, please vote for him by sms ROYGMA 460 to 40439, sms only cost you R2.

Abicky, perform at all functions and his music is available at all online stores and can be downloaded, he is also booked to perform at the coming Sekhukhune All white Gospel Festival scheduled for 04 May 2024 at Hlogotlou stadium, Monsterlus alongside the likes of Solly Moholo, Godfrey Mahlagu, Lucas Maloma, Dr Siphon Ngenya, Zaza Mokgethi, Pastor Jonas Masotla and many more.

Book him at 072 797 2922 or follow his facebook account Abicky Kgolane.



Help SAPS to take guns off the street

Illegal firearms pose a danger to our communities. According to our records, firearms are the most preferred weapon when crime is committed during robberies and murders, and that is why as the SAPS our focus is to remove these firearms from our streets. In the past year, SAPS has confiscated more than 4000 illegal firearms during operations and more than 72 000 firearms that were seized during operations in the past three years have been destroyed by the police. Tip offs from our communities play a pivotal role in assisting the SAPS to trace these illegal firearms. We plead with our communities to report and share information on criminals who are in possession of illegal firearms so that we are able to save more lives and reduce crime levels. Communities must call 08600 10111 immediately when they are aware of anyone in possession of illegal firearms.

Firearm owners must also remember to keep his/her licensed firearm in the safe and be the only person with the key of the safe whenever the firearm is not in use or keep it in his possession on a holster attached to his or her body. A firearm owner must always be in control of his firearm. If anyone wants to own a firearm legally, they firstly need to go for training and be in possession of a competency certificate from a registered firearms training institute. Once you have obtained the competency certificate, you can apply for the firearm licence at your nearest police station. It's important to note that you need a licence for every firearm that you possess.

Always remember that you must renew your firearm licence at least 90 days before the expiry date. The validity of the licence varies between two and ten years depending on the type of licence.




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Sekhukhune to host Hollywoodbets SAFA Limpopo Provincial playoffs

Sekhukhune Region will be hosting the Hollywoodbets SAFA Limpopo Provincial Championships playoffs in the 2023/2024 football season. This was confirmed by Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League Co-ordinator Frank Marede. He said the region was given a go-ahead to host the provincial competition during the recent provincial meeting. According to Marede, the date of the provincial playoffs is still going to be decided after the regional playoffs that will be played in the five regions of Limpopo Province. "Only the venue has been confirmed at the stage. The matches will be played at Mapodile Stadium in Mapodile Village," he said. Marede said the region is currently preparing their teams to be competitive in the competition. "Obviously we are the host and expected to do better in the competition, we want to be well represented. We are the favourites and we have to equip our teams to be highly competitive in the competition," he said. Marede said the regional league is currently running smooth in all local municipalities across Sekhukhune District. The Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League consists of 84 football clubs with six streams battling to be crowned Sekhukhune champions. "I can say everything is going as planned so far within the league. Teams are attending to their matches every weekend and we are satisfied about that as the executive," he said. However, Marede said some of the teams are struggling due to lack of sponsorships and other support. "It costs over R20 000-00 to run a team in the league and some of the teams are struggling because they cannot easily afford that. We appeal to anyone who is willing to support to come forward and provide any necessary assistance," he said. Furthermore, Marede said SAFA in Sekhukhune Region is preparing for the FIFA D Licensing Courses for coaches and instructors who are involved with teams that are participating within the league. "The process is in advanced stage as we speak. We are only waiting for FIFA's approval then we are all set. The intention is to equip technical staff members of the teams with necessary skills before the upcoming provincial competition," he said. Hollywoodbets was introduced as the new official sponsor of the regional leagues in all the provinces after it was launched at the SAFA House in Johannesburg in August last year, replacing SAB that sponsored the competition for about a decade. During the launch, SAFA Vice President, Linda Zwane, announced that it will be a two-year sponsorship with an option to renew. All SAFA regions are regulated to play in a league, where the top two provincial teams gain promotion to the ABC Motsepe League, the third tier of professional football in the country. "We are really happy about this partnership that will benefit football in rural areas. It is great to have a big entity that understands football needs financial support. For two years, the lack of sponsorship has made it hard for teams to develop. But now, with the prize money, teams will feel motivated. "They will know there is something to win beyond just moving up to a higher division," said Zwane. He said with this new partnership, they anticipate a future of enhanced player exposure, elevated competition and professional club development. "This sponsorship is more than just financial support, it is a powerful testament to the shared vision of uplifting communities," he said.



Bakwena FC are one of the hopeful teams determined to win the Sekhukhune playoffs and represent the region during the provincial playoffs that are set to take place at Mapodile Stadium at the end of the 2023/2024 football season.



Kgogo FC are among teams playing well in the Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League. The team is one of the favourites to can win the regional playoffs and represent Sekhukhune in the upcoming Limpopo Provincial playoffs.

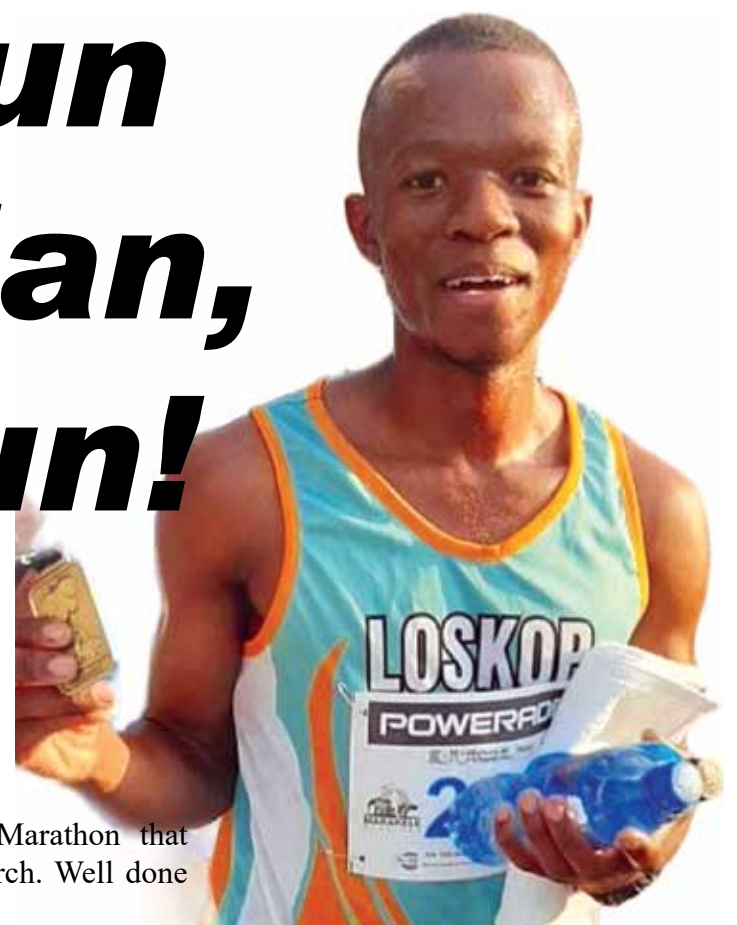
Thank you Herotel

The netball teams of Groblersdal Academy would like to thank Herotel for the sponsor of netball balls. The girls look forward to a great netball season.



Run Brian, Run!

Brian Legodi is a member of the Loskop Marathon Club. He won the 10km race at the Powerrade Marakele Marathon & Half Marathon that took place on 2 March. Well done Brian.



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