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Friday 16 February 2024

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BPSA councillor attacked during ANC peaceful march

In what was supposed to be a peaceful march, a Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA) PR Councillor in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM), Herbert Radingwana, was allegedly attacked by ANC protestors who were marching to hand-over a memorandum at Groblersdal Police Station on Wednesday 7 February. The ANC demonstrators were complaining against racism during the court appearance of two farmers, Piet Groenewald and his stepson Stephan Greeff, after they allegedly assaulted a Namibian national and later set a dog on him. Radingwana, who is also a prominent taxi owner in Groblersdal, claims he was allegedly attacked by marching ANC Youth League members in Groblersdal Town when he was on his way driving to the taxi rank. He said he was attacked because his minibus taxi was bearing BPSA stickers. "A group of young men suddenly approached and blocked my way while starting to smash my windscreen. They later took my BPSA bucket hat and left. The attack happened in full view of the party's leadership including ANC Sekhukhune Regional Secretary Tala Mathope who uttered f**k you words towards me at the time," he said. Radingwana said he had not opened any case, however, his party had escalated the matter to the ANC leadership in the region. Seun Mogotji, BPSA Leader, said they were very disappointed with the attitude and inhuman behaviour displayed by the ANC Youth League members on the BPSA councillor. "It is worrisome because this happened in front of ANC secretary in Sekhukhune and he just looked and did nothing to stop that act of hatred and political intolerance," he said. Mogotji said he tried to contact Mathope telephonically to try and resolve the matter but his calls were not answered, however, he ended up sending a letter to him to demand the bucket hat that was taken by his members during the attack. "We also appealed to Mathope to educate those youth league members to shy away from political intolerance and to teach them a difference between being revolutionist and being an anarchist," he said. ANC Spokesperson in Sekhukhune Region, Sam Uwane, has confirmed that the matter was reported to the office of the regional secretary. However, Uwane has rejected allegation that the Regional Secretary Tala Mathope uttered the words "f**k you" words to the BPSA councillor. "The alleged incident happened during the march and because of the number of the people who were marching, the regional secretary could not see what happened," he said. Uwane said the party condemns the incident if it really happened and should it be proven that the damages were caused by the marchers, the ANC is prepared to take responsibility cost for repairs of the windscreen as reported.



The windscreen of the minibus belonging to EMLM Councillor, Herbert Radingwana, was allegedly smashed by ANC members.

Groblersdal Groenewald case postponed

Piet Groenewald (63) and his stepson, Stephan Greeff (27), were denied bail during their appearance at the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court on Monday 12 February. The duo was arrested earlier last month after allegedly brutally assaulting and setting a dog on a Namibian national, Veneruru Kavari (30). They were arrested and are currently facing charges of assault with intent to cause Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH). National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) Spokesperson in Limpopo, Mashudu Malabi-Dzangi, said the bail was not granted after the court remarked that Groenewald had previous convictions. "It was established during the court proceedings that during the incident, the complainant was kidnapped with a bakkie belonging to the security company of the accused and was brought back to Groblersdal. The complainant was also told to tell the police that he was not kidnapped. The court said that there is likelihood that the accused can interfere with state witness should they be granted bail," she said. Malabi-Dzangi said the pair remained in custody and the case was postponed to 11 March 2024. During the previous court appearance on Wednesday 7 February, the court heard from the investigating officer that Groenewald had once absconded his bail conditions after he was arrested in the 1990s. The court heard that Groenewald was re-arrested in 2002 and was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment until he was released on parole in 2010. The investigating officer stated that he should not be granted bail as he is more likely to run away and he could also interfere with state witnesses. During the duo's court appearances, different political parties were seen outside the court chanting that they should not be granted bail. However, Democratic Union Party (DUP) Leader, Tonic Mancidi, has called for political parties in Limpopo to stop interfering and let the law take its course in the case. "We call for calm and unity, and for the court not to be swayed by protesters of different political parties and the farmers who continue to protest outside during the proceedings. However, the DUP frowns upon racism and believes that perpetrators must be brought to book," he said. Mancidi said the party calls for a dialogue of all stakeholders to find a permanent solution to this problem.



The suspects, Stephan Greeff and Piet Groenewald were denied bail and remained in custody after their third appearance at the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court.

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Ramathuba pays unannounced homage to Jane Furse and Groblersdal Hospitals

Following numerous complaints about pregnant women sleeping on the floor due to shortage of beds, Limpopo MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has recently paid unannounced homage at Jane Furse Hospital to verify the claims. During the visit, the MEC discovered that all pregnant women had beds, however, in the previous night two pregnant women arrived around 2am and all the beds were full, therefore the midwives had to improvise and accommodate them on the mattresses. According to the department, the other challenge was experienced earlier this month when 15 pregnant women were admitted for elective caesarean sections which resulted in shortage of beds. Ramathuba said the shortage is caused because Jane Furse Hospital attracts more patients and its maternity is one of the busiest in the province where on average, they deliver around 400 a month. "Their maternal mortality is one of the lowest in the province while their perinatal outcome is also good. Unfortunately their good performance has resulted them in attracting patients from all over to want to deliver at Jane Furse and we need to discourage that by making sure all our facilities improve their performance," she said. Ramathuba indicated that the other contributing factors to the shortage of beds include accessibility in terms of transport hence patients prefer Jane Furse. "A temporary measure was put in place where an extra cubicle was identified, extra beds will be sorted and fitted in the identified area to address this challenge," she said. Meanwhile Ramathuba had also conducted a support visit to Groblersdal Hospital, where she engaged in a walkabout. She expressed satisfaction after witnessing

the hospital's adherence to the 8-day menu cycle, which has been rolled out across all healthcare facilities in the province.



EC for Health in Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, engaging in a walkabout at the Groblersdal Hospital during her support visit.



CIVIL ENGINEERING GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BACKGROUND

Phatsimo Management Consultants acting as an agent of Sekhukhune District Municipality herewith invites a minimum Civil Engineering S3 & S4 candidates or equivalent primarily those seeking experiential learning in order to satisfy graduation requirements as part of their academic obligations. Only 3 candidates, preferably from within Sekhukhune District Municipality area will be employed for this internship.

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All enquiries must be directed to:

Ms Juliet Dibetle (Phatsimo Management Consultants) – 011 943 3790 or 084 218 5471

Mr Ronald Mabidilala (Phatsimo Management Consultants) – 011 943 3790 or 083 4588 130

Applications accompanied by a comprehensive CV and certified copies of results and or qualifications are to be directed to: juliet.d@phatsimogroup.co.za or ronald.m@phatsimogroup.co.za

Closing Date: 29 February 2023.



Shortage of beds marred Groblersdal Hospital

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo said it has requested the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), to investigate the horrendous conditions and serious shortage of beds for mother loggers and heavily pregnant women at Groblersdal Hospital. The party said the discovery was encountered on a recent oversight visit to the hospital recently. Linda Wilson, DA Spokesperson for Health in Limpopo, said during the oversight visit, the party discovered that the hospital still operates with an old infrastructure, with small space available and a serious shortage of beds in the maternity ward. "The conditions at Groblersdal Hospital, puts the health and well-being of patients at risk. The hospital is far too small and maternity patients at the hospital are crammed into the little space available and many pregnant women are forced to sleep on mattresses on the floor. The situation is so dire that even benches are used to accommodate the overflow of patients," informed Wilson. She added that the hospital infrastructure is neglected and crumbling. "The hospital, that caters to approximately 200 patients daily has never had additional infrastructure built by the Limpopo Department of Health," explained Wilson. According to Wilson, the hospital faces severe challenges due to the overwhelming influx of patients from surrounding areas as far as Mpumalanga, and a large number of patients from accidents on busy roads around the hospital such as the N11 and R25 Roads. "The hospital initially had 22 beds and now it has 53 beds crammed into the same space. The entire hospital only has 2 theatre beds and both are not fully functional. There are severe staff shortages including doctors, nurses, ambulance staff, cleaning and garden staff. The hospital has 11 ambulances but can only make use of two due to staff shortages," she said. Wilson indicated that the hospital is also experiencing outdated and broken equipment, insufficient equipment like autoclave machines, incubators and warmers, lack of vital medical supplies and a need for more beds in all of the hospital's wards. She said the DA will write to Health MEC in the province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, urging her to prioritize the revitalisation of the hospital and to address the severe staff, bed and equipment shortages as a matter of urgency. "The staff at the facility are dedicated but need to be supported in their efforts to save lives," concluded Wilson.



DA Spokesperson for Health in Limpopo, Lindy Wilson, during her oversight visit in one of the maternity wards at Groblersdal Hospital.

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SDM to boost emerging contractors

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), Cllr Minah Bahula, said the municipality will be striving to equip local emerging contractors with opportunities arising within the district municipality. The gathering brought together emerging contractors and those already active in the field, marking a significant step forward in the ongoing collaborative efforts between the municipality and the National Department of Public Works. During the engagement, the two parties entered into the agreement with the full knowledge that, it will lay the basis for skills development which is fundamental in the country and the district. The agreement also stated that the national Department of Public Works allocate funding for EPWP programme, for the sole purpose of training learner contractors who are employed in the EPWP through labour intensive infrastructure projects and the district municipality allocates onsite projects. Therefore, the primary objective of the meeting initiated by the executive mayor, was to address the challenges faced by contractors and provide tangible solutions to enhance their capabilities. "I called you all in here to understand what could be the challenges hindering some contractors to complete their tasks. This programme is aimed to equip the people of Sekhukhune so that whatever opportunity that arises in the district of Sekhukhune can benefit each one of you. But however what is expected from you guys is quality work. Our role as the district, is solely to manage and deliver on operation. We continue to thank the department for this monumental support," explained Bahula. The contractors expressed their enthusiasm for contributing to community sanitation project efforts while on the other side highlighting key obstacles such as grading, procurement, and limited access. Despite these hurdles, both the Executive Mayor Bahula and

Municipal Manager, Meshack Kgwale, reiterated their commitment to overcoming barriers and delivering effective solutions. They underscored the importance of collaborative support from municipal authorities to address systemic issues and foster sustainable development in the water and infrastructure sanitation sector. The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment from all parties involved to work together towards a more prosperous and inclusive future for SDM. Also present amongst others, were SDM Council Speaker, Cllr Kwediyebotse Chego, MMcs in the Infrastructure Water Services and leader of executive business in Sekhukhune Cllr Kuki Sefala.



NOTICE

LIMPOPO GAMBLING BOARD

ACT 3 OF 2013

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL AND CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that PRUDENT CAPITAL (PTY LTD, intends submitting an application for consent to directly hold financial and controlling interest in the business conducted by Michael Selemela Masemola, trading as BETS MORATIWA, and the consequential transfer of the aforesaid LPM site licence; on 16 February 2024

The purpose of the application is to obtain approval for consent to financial and controlling interest in terms of Section 42 of Limpopo Gambling Act, in the business conducted by Michael Selemela Masemola as **BETS MORATIWA**. If successful, the transfer of Mishael Selemela Masemola business to **PRUDENT CAPITAL (PTY) LTD**, trading as **BETS MORATIWA** licensed as LPM Site Operator (GMS0-0143-GOLD). If successful the duration of the licence is in perpetuity, subject to continuous suitability.

The application will be open for public inspections for 30 days at the offices of the Limpopo Gambling Board located at 08 Hans van Rensburg Street, Polokwane, and Limpopo Province from 23 February 2024

The Premises of the Applicant are Situated at farm Klipspruit 870 KS, Sekhukhune, Limpopo

The Directors/and Managers of the applicant are as follows:

1. Michael Selemela Masemola
2. Potu Daniel Khomotso Masemola

Attention is drawn to the provisions of section 26(6) of the Limpopo Gambling Act 3 of 2013 which makes provision for lodging of written representations and objections in respect of this application. A person lodging written representation should indicate whether or not they wish to make oral representations when the application is heard.

Such objections should be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer of the Limpopo Gambling Board at 8 Hans van Rensburg Street, Polokwane, or Private Bag X9520, Polokwane 0700, within 30 days from 23 February 2024

Operation Vala Umgodi pounce on illegal miners

The Limpopo Illegal Mining Task Team, through Operation Vala Umgodi, has nabbed four suspects in Saaiplaas outside Monsterlus on Thursday 8 February. Operation Vala Umgodi steadily stamps the authority of the state through joint efforts with relevant police units and external stakeholders that include South African National Defence Force (SANDF), Department of Mineral Resources and Energy as well as Department of Home Affairs in Limpopo. Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, said the arrested suspects were found red-handed mining sand in Saaiplaas illegal mining site without proper documentation, as per the National Environmental Act. "Police confiscated mining equipment that included a trailer with a gas tank, a diesel pump and a TLB front loader," he said. Ledwaba said moreover, a total number of seven male suspects were arrested and charged for Contravening the Immigration Act in Sekhukhune District. Ledwaba added that Members of Illegal Mining Task Team, during the execution of Operation Vala Umgodi, while raiding at Tinmyne policing area in Waterberg District, have pounced on four male suspects, aged between 37 and 47 in the process of illegal mining activities. "In addition to the arrests, illegal mining equipment were confiscated in Mankweng and Lebowa kgomo, which included an Isuzu truck and TLB at the mining sites," he said. Furthermore, Ledwaba said the police in Driekop have apprehended three suspected illegal miners, aged between 19 and 32 at Mooihoek illegal mining sites around Sekhukhune. "It was reported that members of the Illegal Mining Task Team received information from a reliable source about illegal mining activities being carried out in Mooihoek, and they swiftly followed up with the information. Upon arrival, the team in conjunction with members of the SANDF, they pounced on three male suspects with two tipper trucks loaded with chrome and one TLB plant machine was in progress of loading chrome into the tipper trucks," explained Ledwaba. He said the police managed to arrest the three suspects and confiscated the two tipper trucks and a TLB machine for the purpose of investigations as exhibits. "In separate locations across the province, occurred on Monday 5 February 2024 during Operation Vala Umgodi, the police arrested six foreign nationals, aged between 26 and 42 for dealing in thousands of rands worth of illicit cigarettes and three male suspects were nabbed for contravention of the road traffic act in various offenses respectively. All the accused were charged and issued with the fines and were ultimately released," he said. Ledwaba said the suspects are already appearing before different magistrate's courts in the province and police investigations are underway. Acting Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Major General Jan Scheepers, has applauded the members of the Police Task Team and the SANDF for their collaborative efforts that yielded tangible and meaningful successes in riding the province from illegal mining and crime.



A TLB front loader plant machine that was recovered by the police during Operation Vala Umgodi conducted in Saaiplaas Village.

DA approaches Green Scorpions over spilling SDM raw sewerage

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo has on Monday 12 February filed a complaint with the Environmental Management Inspectors (Green Scorpions), against the Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) and Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipalities (EMLM) for raw effluent spills into water sources in the area. According to the DA, the complaint was laid after the discovery of raw, untreated effluent that is running into the Olifants River near Groblersdal Town and surrounding villages. "These charges were laid due to the violation of Section 107 of National Environmental Management Act and Section 24 of the Constitution for the non-functioning wastewater treat-

ment plant in Groblersdal, which continues to pollute the environment," said Lindy Wilson, DA Spokesperson for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) in Limpopo. "The spillage does not only pose the risk of a cholera outbreak, but also destroys plant and animal life and the safety of livestock drinking from the river," she said. Wilson further said during a recent oversight conducted to the wastewater treatment plant, the party discovered that no pumps were in working condition and the aerators were also non-functioning. "We have also discovered that the clarifiers were not operational, no E-Coli testing is being done and no chlorine was avail-

able to treat the water," she said. Wilson indicated that the party is concerned because the officials working there are at risk, not only because of the conditions at the plant, but they have noticed that there is a crocodile living on the site in the tall shrubs. "Another worry is that raw effluent runs directly into the Olifants River and the stench on site was unbearable which nearby communities are exposed to it daily," she said. Wilson said the party will invite the MEC for CoGHSTA in the province, Basikopo Makamu, to personally visit the wastewater treatment plant to familiarize himself with the mess and stench created through the neglect and incompetence of his ANC run municipalities. "The DA will not

allow further compromise of service delivery to the residents of Elias Motsoaledi local Municipality by the unconstitutional behaviour of ANC cadres and will cooperate with the Green Scorpions during their investigation," she said.



DA Spokesperson for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) in Limpopo, Windy Wilson, during her oversight visit at the malfunctioning SDM wastewater treatment plant.

BPSA dismay over D856 Road poor workmanship

The Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA) has written to the office of the Public Protector (PP) of South Africa to complain about shoddy workmanship on the newly constructed D856 Road that links Moteti and Dennilton. The road was rehabilitated about a year ago by Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL), however, it has started to peel off a year after its construction. BPSA Leader, Seun Mogotji, said they are seeking an urgent intervention of the PP to deal with unscrupulous contractors who used poor quality material to deliver substandard work.

"The intervention of Public Protector's office is urgently needed where a contractor was given a tender to revamp this road, but it seems like he has no expertise or experience about road construction at all," he said. Mogotji added that a portion of that road, which he said was signed off

as complete project and handed over about 12 months ago, looks horrible, even worse than it was before it was revamped. "Something does not add up, how can engineers and the consultants can miss all those red flags



which can be seen by a layman passing by with no decorated degrees?" asked Mogotji.

Mogotji indicated that the road is of poor quality and by the look of things, the developers had just cut corners and pocketed the money. "There is so much sand that covers the road every time it rains. It looks like the culverts are not there or the ones that are there are blocked because the amount of water that covers that road when it rains is just too much," explained



Mogotji. He said to make matters worse, the same contractor who delivered shoddy workmanship has been given a go ahead to start digging up and constructing the road from Philadelphia to the R25 T-Junction, despite his failure to deliver quality work in the previous project. "That road was constructed during the apartheid era and is of good quality. We believe now they are going to mess it up and replace it with poor quality using sub-standard material. We want the PP to get rid of this contractor before he messes all the roads in the area," concluded Mogotji.

RAL Head of Communication, Danny Legodi, said the agency is investigating and will respond after the investigation is finalised.

The D856 Road that connect Moteti and Dennilton has started to peel off after it was revamp a year ago.

Malies Enjoy Interhouse Athletics



Left: Snr. Victor Ludorum - Trevor Sindana



Right: Snr. Victrix Ludorum - Riani Potgieter

The Interhouse athletics of Laerskool Marble Hall took place on 23 January. During this event it was the Duikers against the Steenbokke and we would like to congratulate each and every learner that participated. The Steenbokke won the athletics and the Duikers won the trophy for the Best Spirit.

The following athletes received the following trophies:

Jnr. Victor Ludorum - Alex Sihirinda
Jnr. Victrix Ludorum - Sumieke Jansen
Snr. Victor Ludorum - Trevor Sindana
Snr. Victrix Ludorum - Riani Potgieter



Academy learners enjoy Robotica

Groblersdal Academy are a pilot school for the new Robotica subject that the DBE plans to implement. Here some of the gr.7 learners busy coding via their cellphones using an interactive application. The learners enjoy the subject.

CTM

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Alleged house robbery suspect killed in mob justice attack

The Police in Dennilton are investigating a case of murder after a group of angry residents of Waalkraal in Moutse, allegedly took the law into their own hands and killed an alleged burglary and house robbery suspect.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Friday 9 February at Waalkraal Phase 8. According to Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, police preliminary reports indicate that the unknown suspect went to the house belonging to a male victim where he knocked on the door, and when the victim opened, he pointed him with a firearm. "The victim managed to push the door back and blew the whistle for assistance. Community members responded in numbers and started chasing the suspect until they caught him. They then assaulted him, and he allegedly admitted that he was the one who broke into the victim's house days ago, where groceries as well as a water storage tank were stolen. The victim had never reported the matter to the police," explained Ledwaba. He said after the confession, some of the community members took the victim, who was severely assaulted to the local police station and the emergency medical services were summoned and the man was certified dead upon arrival at the hospital. "The police went to the place where the stolen items were allegedly found hidden inside a certain vehicle and upon arrival, the vehicle, as well as the stolen properties were not discovered," said Ledwaba. He said the police have opened a case of house robbery, burglary and murder for further investigation. "The toy gun used to commit the crime was confiscated. The deceased is an African male in his twenties and is not yet known," he said. Ledwaba said the police appeal to anyone with information that can assist in identifying the deceased or in tracing the suspects involved in mob justice to contact Dennilton Detectives on 082 303 9907, crime stop number on 08600 10111, the nearest police station or make use of MySAPSApp.

Major General Jan Scheepers, Acting Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, has condemned the mob justice incident, saying that the community members continue to act irresponsibly and take the law into their own hands. "This clearly indicates that the public should report suspected criminals to police, who will be able to arrest all perpetrators as well as to recover the exhibits.

The suspects responsible for mob justice should be arrested and face consequences of their actions," concluded Major General Scheepers.

Operations Kakula yield positive results

The police members in Limpopo Province, together with other stakeholders including Department of Home Affairs and private security companies, have arrested a total of 1651 suspects during Operations Kukula that were conducted in all five district in the province from Monday 5 February to Sunday 11 February.

Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the suspects were arrested for charges including murder, attempted murder, robberies, rape, sexual offenses, assaults, burglaries, fraud, theft, malicious damage to property, public drinking, drug related cases and contravention of Immigration Act. "The operations were conducted through roadblocks, stop and search, blue light patrols, compliance inspections at liquor premises, and second-hand dealers, amongst other duties. The police also recovered seven stolen or hijacked motor vehicles during operations," he said. Ledwaba said during the operations, 20 suspects were nabbed for transgression of the Domestic Violence Act, 393 suspects for contravention of

Immigration Act and 117 suspects for drug related crimes. "The drugs confiscated were 1552.174 grams of dagga, 1 dagga plant, 4.601 grams of crystal meth and 34 grams of nyaope. Police recovered nine firearms, 28 knives, 32 dangerous weapons, 604 162 counterfeit sticks, and 569627. 5 ml of liquor," explained Ledwaba. He added that the police had also during the operations attended to about 549 reports of domestic violence and 281 protection orders were served. "The suspects have started to appear before various magistrate's courts across the province. The police investigations are continuing," he said. Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, has commended the police teams for working relentlessly and ensuring that the citizens of the province are safe and secured.



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Minki Thokoane embarks on highly contested Mrs SA Pageant journey

One of former Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM) bursary beneficiaries, Minki Thokoana, has officially set off on her Mrs South Africa journey on Friday 2 February 2024, during the pageant's National Public Casting, held at the Clearwater Mall in Roodepoort, Gauteng Province. Born and raised in Kutupu Village outside Jane Furse, the 33-year-old Thokoane has joined other countrywide beauty contest hopefuls to compete in the Dallmayr's Mrs South Africa, which is a pageant and female empowerment programme designed to unleash women's hidden potential by equipping them with valuable skills in leadership, financial competence, sponsorship management, communication, personal branding and media management. Thokwane is counted among a list of ambassadors and she's a living testimony of Makhuduthamaga Bursary Fund (MBF) and continues to make the municipality and her community proud. Passionate about traditional affairs, women empowerment and youth education, Thokwane, who is also a traditional healer, is a product of MBF and now holds a BSC in Chemical Engineering from Wits University. She matriculated at Maserumule Secondary School in 2008 with four distinctions and currently employed as a Software Engineer in one of the biggest banks in South Africa after furthering her studies. Thokwane grew up in a community where her light skin tone was portrayed as a joke. She now believes she has always been beautiful and well equipped with all qualities to inspire young women particularly those in rural villages. "I didn't believe I could make it through as a semi-finalist, and I view this opportunity as a window for more possibilities. When I got selected to this space, I was filled with tears of joy and this was a confirmation that I am indeed beautiful in my own way," she said. The Mayor of MLM, Cllr Mera Masekwele Mahlase and the council collectively weighs their support for Thokwane as she endeavours in one of South Africa's highly contested beauty pageants. Mahlase said she supports platforms and opportunities that seek to help uncover strengths and leadership capabilities in young women. "Minki Thokwane made the entire municipality proud when she completed her BSC using financial aid from our bursary fund. She is one of those that has motivated the municipality to develop the bursary policy to become more accessible and impactful to our hard-working students," said Mayor Mahlase. The MLM bursary committee said it has concluded with verification and selection processes for 2024 applications. The committee said successful candidates will soon be issued with bursary letters to submit to their respective institutions. Already, the municipality is funding 18 students with all educational expenses such as tuition fees, books, accommodation and meals. Mrs South Africa Pageant contestants are set to battle at the semi-final showcase in July 2024 for selection of finalists and the crowning ceremony will take place on the 16 December 2024. The Makhuduthamaga Municipality has called on all community members and stakeholders to support its semi-finalist, Minki Thokwane, with all the necessities and by liking and sharing her photos on Mrs South Africa social media platforms as well as voting for her Name and Surname to 47587 via SMS.



Former MLM bursary beneficiary, Minki Thokwane, is gunning towards the Dallmayr's Mrs South Africa pageant crown.

Sereme Combined School pupils get much needed donation

Scores of Sereme Combined School learners in Dennilton coming from disadvantaged families, received new school uniforms from the South Africa Social Security Agency (SASSA). The uniform donation hand-over was conducted by MEC for Social Development in Limpopo, Nandi Ndalane, on Wednesday 8 February. During the donation, Ndalane was joined by MMC responsible for Community Services in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM), Cllr Nkitseng Ramogoana, who was representing the Mayor of EMLM Cllr David Tladi, SASSA Regional Executive Manager, Zodwa Mvulane, SASSA Acting Regional Manager of Grants MR Manamela, EMLM Ward 9 Councillor Jessy Mogotlane and EMLM Ward 11 Councillor Moses Mafiri. Parents of the beneficiaries were also part of the event. During the hand-over event, Ndalane and her entourage donated 57 packages of full school uniforms including shirts, trousers, skirt, blazers, socks, shoes, jerseys and pullovers. Addressing the hand-over event, Ramogoana revealed that the donation was part of the provincial government's programme, which is aiming to ensure that learners who come from disadvantaged families go to school in a proper uniform. "As a caring government, we want to ensure that no pupil goes to school without proper uniform. We also want to ensure that our pupils are well equipped in order to make the right career choices when they matriculate," she said. Ramogoana added that they donated because they have noted that some of the children are going through a difficult upbringing, under very harsh conditions of coming to school with no shoes and as a result of lack of educational support. "Poverty and unemployment have left many rural parents unable to afford school shoes for their children," she said. Delivering vote of thanks, Cllr Mafiri, closed-off by quoting former President Nelson Mandela's famous quote, saying "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."



Sereme Combined School beneficiaries with SASSA and EMLM officials during the hand-over of the donation at the school premises in Dennilton.

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Sekhukhune Golf Federation structure to be launched

The Sekhukhune Golf Federation formal executive structure is set to be launched in March 2024. This is after many people across the length and breadth of the district have shown love for the sporting code. Kwatetsi Arnold Segafa, Chairperson of Sekhukhune Golf Federation, said the launch was initially set to take place on 4 February at Marble Hall Golf Course, but it was postponed by the interim executive due to internal reasons. "Sekhukhune District has shown a great potential in golf development and this needs proper attention in ensuring that all the aspects of the golf development are prioritized with the aim and objectives of bringing the golf sport closer to the people," he said. Segafa indicated that they decided to launch a formal structure that will contribute in the development of the sporting code particularly

in rural places, where golf will get exposure to young people to take them away from doing drugs and alcohol abuse. "The federation has been operating with interim structure for a while. The first step that leads to a proper golf development programme is to have a formal functioning structure within our region to table the issues of sport development to the relevant stakeholders and empower communities through sport, art and culture," he said. Segafa said he believes that there are many young talented people in Sekhukhune villages whom the federation want to draw their attention to come and take part in the sporting code. "We want to develop their talent so that they can be professional golf players in the near future. We want to launch Sekhukhune Golf Federation structure to enable us to take the sporting code forward within our region and beyond," he said. Previously, Desnold Caddywise Golf Club from Pretoria, had officially launched the Sekhukhune Golf Development branch at Groblersdal Golf Course. The activity was hosted with a sole mandate of empowering surrounding villages with golf playing skills and raise awareness on opportunities available within the sporting fraternity including caddy work, event organization, golf sport coaching, graphic designing and



Some of Sekhukhune Golf Federation interim structure members, Gilbert Mohlahlo, Rimbo Mashiloane, Milton Mokgwatjana and Tito Mosehla during a golf game demonstration.

horticulture. Segafa, who was event organizer, said the launch became a success after a number of young people showed interest in the sporting code.

Ben Viljoen crowned Top 15 medium school winners

Ben Viljoen's top 15 athletes, according to the ASA table, took part in the Noordheuwel Top 15 Athletics Meeting where a total of 53 schools were present, and they did an excellent job.

Schools participated in one of two competitions - total number of enrolled learners more than a thousand and total number of enrolled learners less than a thousand. This competition leg of the Noordheuwel Top 15 was based only on the average ASA points achieved by the fifteen learners from each school. Schools that participated in the medium schools section, i.e. with learner numbers of less than a thousand learners, include Fochville, Secunda, Lichtenburg, Hans Moore, Ben Vorster, Dinamika, Driehoek, Randpark High, Hoër Volkskool Potch, Hans Strijdom, Hoër Volkskool Heidelberg, Overvaal, Northcliff High, Oosterlig, Pretoria North, Linden, Riebeeckrand, Vereniging Gymnasium, Roodepoort, Jan Viljoen, Birchleigh, Krugersdorp High School, Fourways and Sutherland. Ben Viljoen's athletes provided top-notch athleticism and we are proud to announce that our athletes were named the winners of the medium schools division with an average total of 854 points, compared to Fochville in second place with 817 points. Overall, our athletes finished in 10th place, ahead of schools such as Transvalia, EG Jansen, Garsfontein, Eldoraigne, and Nelspruit to name just a few. This announcement puts the crown on the hard work that goes into the preparation for the Bosveld Interhigh that takes place on 24 February 2024.

Results: Under 14: Mea-Né Hancke obtained 732 points for her shot put while Liliana Janse van Rensburg obtained 749 points for the same event. Emma-Lee van der Westhuyzen obtained first place in the 100m event as well as third place in the 200m with 889 points and 865 points respectively.

Under 15: Edunette Kriel obtained 805 points for her participation in the 200m as well as second place in the 90m hurdles with 924 points. Marnu Hancke took first place in shot put with a total of 891 points, as well as second place in discus with a total of 965 points.

Under 16: The lightning-fast Jaco van der Westhuyzen won both his 100m and 200m events and acquired 844 points and 827 points respectively for his participation. Johan Helberg obtained 773 points for the shot put and achieved fourth place for discus with 833 points.



Qualified for Comrades 2024

Mr Excellent Mnkomo recently participated in the Blue Mining Services' 5 in 1 marathon. This marathon took place in Middelburg and Mr Mnkomo covered the 42.2 km in a time of 4:38:07. The marathon also served as a qualifier for the Comrades marathon which takes place on 9 June 2024 and he has qualified to take part in it.



Under 17: Kyra Hancke obtained 864 points for her participation in the shot put item and 798 points for the discus item. Ellené van der Westhuyzen obtained a fourth place in the 100m, for which she obtained 832 points, as well as a fifth place in the 200m, which earned her an additional 848 points. Kadmiel Lotika took part in the 400m, which was also one of the last events for the evening and obtained 769 points for his participation, while Omphile Tshikane, one of our long distance runners, obtained 820 points for the 1500m and 734 points for the 3000m respectively.

Under 19 Vanessa da Silva took third place in the 3000m, adding 853 points to our total, as well as fifth place in the 1500m adding another 718 points. Leané Janse van Rensburg obtained 739 points for her participation in the shot put-item, as well as 756 points for discus, while Mhlali Ntlebi contributed 686 points for his participation in the 110m Hurdles.

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