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Four died, three hospitalized in Chisampama mass shooting

The police in Siyabuswa are investigating four counts of murder after four people were fatally shot at Chisampama Tavern in Kgobokwane outside Siyabuswa. The horrific incident occurred Sunday 21 January around 21:00. Colonel Donald Mdhuli, Mpumalanga Provincial Police Spokesperson, said three of the victims died at the scene and the fourth one succumbed to his injuries in hospital. "Currently, a report by the police indicates that there are three other victims of this mass shooting who are being treated for gunshot wounds in hospital, however, the number could increase as the investigation is still at an early stage. According

to Mdhuli, police preliminary investigations revealed that on that fateful night, a group of armed suspects are said to have stormed into the said tavern at Kgobokwane Village along the R573 Road outside Siyabuswa, reportedly carrying high calibre firearms and they began shooting randomly at the liquor outlet. "It is further revealed that three victims died on the spot, meanwhile the fourth one who was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment of gunshot wounds unfortunately succumbed to the injuries as well. At this stage, the police are investigating four counts of murder with multiple counts of attempted murder," explained Mdhuli. He said no one has been

arrested so far however, a team of experts in the investigation field has already been assembled under the leadership of the Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Mpumalanga, Lieutenant General Semakaleng Daphney Manamela to probe this heinous crime. "The motive for the shooting is currently unknown, and this quest will form part of the investigation. Police urge anyone with information that may assist in the investigation, leading to the arrest of the perpetrators to call the Crime Stop number at 08600 10111 or send information via MYSAPSAPP. All received information will be treated as confidential and callers may opt to remain anonymous," Mdhuli said. General Manamela has strongly condemned the shooting incident.

mous," Mdhuli said. General Manamela has strongly condemned the shooting incident.



The Police in Siyabuswa are investigating four counts of murder and three attempted murder cases after a mass shooting incident that happened at Chisampama Tavern.

Father and son nabbed for assaulting security company employee

The police in Groblersdal have arrested two suspects, a security company owner, Piet Groenewald (63) and his son Stephan Groenewald (27) in connection with assault with intent to do Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) incident that occurred on Thursday 18 January 2024 at Groblersdal Town. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said according to police preliminary investigation, the 30 year old victim was performing his guard duties at a network tower on Wednesday morning, 17 January 2024, at Kwaggafontein in Mpumalanga Province, when his supervisor paid an oversight visit. "The supervisor then accused the victim of being intoxicated while on duty and as a result, he drove with him to Groblersdal in Limpopo Province to discuss the matter with the manager. Upon arrival, the two got into an argument that resulted in the manager hitting the victim with a hard object," explained Ledwaba. He added that the manager then allegedly instructed a male relative, who happens to be his own son, to unleash their pet dog on the victim, which bit the victim on both legs. "The victim reported the incident to the police and a case of assault GBH was opened. The two suspects, were traced and arrested the following day and appeared at the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court on Friday 19 January 2023. They remained in custody and will appear again soon for formal bail application. Police investigations are still underway," he said. Acting Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Major General Jan Scheepers, has condemned the brutal assault of the security officer. "This act of

brutality will never be tolerated regardless of the suspects' social status. It is also appalling how the dog was used in this horrific assault. This case must be thoroughly investigated to ensure the suspects face full might of the law," concluded Major General Scheepers.



Piet Groenewald (Left) and his son Stephan Groenewald were arrested by the police in Groblersdal after allegedly assaulting a security officer.

The bail application for Piet and his son took place on Wednesday 24 January 2024. Groups from all sides of the case gathered outside the Groblersdal Court. Police kept them apart.



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Premier Mathabatha unleashes Back-to-School programme in Sekhukhune

The Premier of Limpopo Province, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, kick-started the 2024 Back-to-School Campaign by visiting Poo Secondary School and Nyaku Secondary School in Sekhukhune West. Mathabatha was accompanied by MEC for Education in the province, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya and other dignitaries from the provincial government office as well as the Department of Education in Limpopo. The back-to-school visits are meant to ensure that learning and teaching in all the provincial schools start on the first day of opening. The premier and his delegation monitored amongst other things, the availability of learner teacher support material, school nutrition and the state of infrastructure. The two schools had new ablution facilities completed late last year as part of the department's effort to eradicate pit latrines and improve school infrastructure. During the campaign, Mathabatha said he was happy with the fact that there was a great level of discipline and dedication at Poo Secondary, which has enrolment of over 1600 learners. He applauded the school for having produced over 100 bachelors passes in the previous year. The Premier also welcomed those who started Grade 8 in 2024 as well as encouraging the matric class of 2024, saying "pain is temporary and success is permanent." The premier used the opportunity to visit the newly built 60 seats water-bone toilets as well as 20 urinaries in line with the aim of improving school sanitation. The Mvula Trust, which was supporting the programme, donated school uniform, sanitary towels

and laptops to underprivileged pupils and the earmarked schools in Sekhukhune Education Districts. According to the Limpopo Provincial Government, the campaign will be proceeding to other districts during January 2024.



Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha handing-over some of donations during the Back-to-School Campaign at Nyaku Secondary School in Atok.



GENERAL NOTICE PROPOSED SUBDIVISION IN TERMS OF SECTION 65- OF THE ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY SPLUM BY-LAW, 2016

We, KMC Geomatics (Reg No. 2008/017997/21), the authorized agents of the registered owners of Portion 69 of the farm Klipbank No. 26 - JS, hereby give notice (in terms of Section 92 of the SPLUM by-law, 2016) that we have applied to the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality in terms of Section 65 of the SPLUM by-law, 2016 for the following:

- Proposed Subdivision of Portion 69 of the farm Klipbank No. 26 – JS, to transfer the subdivided portion into a different entity's name.

Particulars of the application will lie for inspection during normal office hours at the Town Planner of the Local Municipality, 22 Van Riebeeck St, Groblersdal, 0470, for a period of 30 days from 25 January 2024.

Objections to or representations in respect of the application must be lodged with or made to the above-mentioned address before 26 February 2024.

Any person who is unable to read or write can consult with any staff member during office hours and assistance will be provided to write down the person's objections or comments.

Contact details of the Authorised Municipal Employee: Mr. B. Sethojoa: 013 262 3056/7/8

Address of authorised agent: KMC Geomatics,
10 Kruger Street, Groblersdal, 0470
Cell No 082 929 8554.
admin@kmcgeo.co.za
Ref. No.: 69/26JS

ALGEMENE KENNISGEWING ONDERVERDELINGS AANSOEK IN TERME VAN ARTIKEL 65- VAN DIE ELIAS MOTSOLEDI PLAASLIKE MUNISIPALITEIT SPLUM BYWET, 2016

Ons, KMC Geomatics (Reg No. 2008/017997/21), die gemagtigde agente van die geregistreerde eienaars van Gedeelte 69 van van die plaas Klipbank No, 26 - JS, gee hiermee kennis (in gevolge Artikel 92 van die SPLUM by-wet, 2016) dat ons by die Elias Motsoaledi Plaaslike Munisipaliteit ingevolge Artikel 65 van die SPLUM by-wet, 2016 aansoek gedoen het vir die volgende:

- Voorgestelde Onderverdeling van Gedeelte 69 van die plaas Klipbank No. 26 – JS, sodat die onderverdeling oor gedra kan word na 'n ander entiteit.

Besonderhede van die aansoek lê ter insae gedurende gewone kantoorure by die Stadsbeplanner van die Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, Van Riebeeckstraat 22, Groblersdal, 0470, vir 'n tydperk van 30 dae vanaf 25 Januarie 2024.

Besware teen-, of verhoë ten opsigte van die aansoek moet voor 26 Februarie 2024 by bogenoemde adres ingedien of gerig word.

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Sel No 082 929 8554.
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Gr. 1's welcomed at Julian Muller

The first day back at school was very exciting for every learner. From Grade 1 to Grade 7, all were happy to be back at school. The new Grade 1 learners had to ring the bell, as a tradition and will ring it again when they finish Grade 7. Welcome class of 2035.



Mrs. James Steal headmaster from Laerskool Julian Muller welcoming the grade 1 students for their first day at school.

The grade 1 students all rang the school bell during a welcoming ceremony. Siba Nkomo above.

Grade 8's welcomed at Gr.8 Camp

The grade 8 camp of Hoërskool Ben Viljoen took place this past weekend, 19-20 January 2024, and they are proud to say that the Ben Viljoen owlets all passed their first flying lesson! After the interhouse athletics, the grade 8's practiced hard with their tired bodies for the grade 8 concert that takes place in February.

Big thanks to the Executive Council (EC) who worked hard to plan and facilitate the camp and games.

Ben Viljoen are sure the new Dallers already feel at home and are looking forward to the best new chapter of their lives!



The Grade 8 camp of Ben Viljoen Hogg School had some interesting discussions and introductions in the groups.

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Concerns raised as Limpopo pupils significantly drop out at high schools

According to the Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo, although the 2023 matric results have a significant improvement on consecutive years of shambolic results that saw the province achieve the lowest matric pass rate, the failure to retain learners in the education system is still a major concern.

According to the party, of the 147 934 learners that enrolled for grade 10 in 2021, only 93 533 wrote the 2023 NSC exams, indicating that 54 401 learners, 36.8%, dropped out between grade 10 and matric.

Only 74 400 learners passed the 2023 NSC exams out of the cohort of 147 934 learners that enrolled for grade 10 in 2021, presenting a real pass rate of 50.3%. DA Limpopo Provincial Leader, Lindy Wilson, said allowing so many learners to drop out will only exacerbate the youth unemployment and poverty crisis Limpopo is already facing. "Learners will be deprived of opportunities such as higher education and employment that may improve their lives and that of their families. The poor performance of progressed learners continues to be a cause for concern for the province with only 4261 candidates, 42.2%, passing out of the 10 092 that wrote the NSC exams. The province also had 31 schools that failed to reach a 40% pass rate," she said. "Despite the upturn in the province's results, Limpopo's education system still faces historical challenges such as poor school infrastructure, inappropriate sanitation, overcrowding, classroom shortages, insufficient scholar transport, underqualified teachers, mismanaged school nutrition programme and insufficient support to learners," explained Wilson. She said the party will call on Education MEC in the province, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, to make efforts to ensure they implement strategies to retain learners, implement the intervention plan adopted at the Education Indaba, offer more support to progressed learners to better prepare them for the exams, increase support for all learners in the gateway subjects, address other challenges that contribute to poor exam performance such as scholar transport, the school nutrition programme and poor infrastructure.

"We would like to congratulate the Limpopo matriculants who qualified for entry into tertiary education, and we would also like to urge the matriculants who did not obtain the required results to try again. We are committed to ensuring that every learner in Limpopo has the opportunity for a bright and successful future," she said.



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Historic pass rate for Limpopo's 2023 matric class

With an impressive overall pass rate of 79.54% in the 2023 matric results, Limpopo has emerged as the number one most improved province in the country, a historic milestone since 1994. The outstanding performance was announced by MEC for Education in the province, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, during the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations announcement event held at the Ranch Resort in Polokwane on 19 January 2024. Tracking back from 2021, Limpopo recorded 67% pass rate and a boost of 5 percent in 2022 that took the province to 72, 1 percent. The 2023 cohort has recorded a huge improvement of 7.3% from the previous class of 2022 with an improved pass rate of 79.54%. The province managed to register 34 018 Bachelor passes (36.4%) 24 481 Diploma passes (26.2%) and 15894 (17%) Higher certificate passes. Limpopo is sitting in the seventh position nationally followed by Mpumalanga with 76.95% and Northern Cape is at the bottom with 75.84%. Free State emerged as the topping province in the country with 89.03%. Mopani West emerged as leading district with 83.3% pass rate, followed by Mogalakwena District with 82.6% with Vhembe East in the third position with 82.5%. Capricorn South is in position four at 81.9%, position 5 is Capricorn North at 80.9%, position six became Vhembe West with 79.1% pass rate, Waterberg is position seven at 78.4%, and Mopani East is at eighth position with 77.3%. Sekhukhune East is sitting at position nine with 74.7% and at the bottom is Sekhukhune South with 73.4%. Limpopo Premier, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, said the achievement is not only commendable but also historic, as it marks the highest pass rate Limpopo has ever achieved since the dawn of democracy in 1994. "Today's results are heart-warming, a true testament to the implementation of our education turn-around strategy that came after our Education Indaba in the beginning of 2023," said the premier. The Limpopo Provincial Government congratulates the Limpopo matric class of 2023 on their remarkable achievements. This historic pass rate is a source of great pride for the province and a testament to the success of the current administration's commitment to education. The government looks forward to witnessing the Class of 2023's continued success and wishes them the best in their future endeavours," he said.



Limpopo Province 2023 matric top achiever, Nthabiseng Lefophana, flanked by Reverend Bishop Dr Barnabas Lekganyane of the ZCC Church (Left), Limpopo Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha.

67 Distinction for Class of 2023

We all know that most times - dirt roads lead to tar roads - tar roads to highways and highways to the best destinations! Today we would like to express our gratitude to every teacher/educator who has been part of this journey until the end of 2023. This journey might not have been as easy without your support and input.

First of all, we are grateful for the foundation that the parents and primary schools laid in the lives of the Class of 2023. Matric results do not start in gr. 8 or in gr. 1, but with parents and family who stimulate their children at home from birth. Play schools that teach and stimulate toddlers to be eager to learn on a daily basis play an important role. The feeding schools of Hoërskool Ben Viljoen are doing an excellent job!

These learners' life paths were certainly filled with the right signposts, road maps and a good compass for guidance. The foundation and adventures along everyone's life paths, the hard work and time that everyone has put in, together serve as the key to success.

125 learners completed the exam. The matrics of 2023 had excellent results; 75.63% qualified for degree studies and 20.16% for diploma studies.

Hoërskool Ben Viljoen is very proud of these learners who said goodbye to their high school career with a matric pass rate of 95.2%. The total number of distinctions stands at 67.

7 Distinctions:

Andrea Bronkhorst

6 Distinctions:

Carla Roesch

4 Distinctions:

Jo-Mari Janse van Rensburg, Nthipe Phoku and Carla Vermeulen

3 Distinctions:

Ashley Mathebe, Vinette du Plessis and Petrus Chabedi

2 Distinctions:

Chanté Badenhorst, Michelle Greyling, Lethabo Kgofelo, Khwezi Kubheka, Joané Lindeque, Lara Potgieter, Francesca Riphagen, Sinitha Vanmali and Christian Venter

1 Distinction:

Adrian Coetzee, Mariaan de Jong, Quinten Eksteen, Ernlise Enslin, Zaria Fourie, Lynelle Gouws, Markos Hough, Tarina Keyser, Kemelo Letsela, Lindokuhle Mabuza, Khutso Mampuru, Emmaneul Mthombeni, Pebetse Sefoka, Kgalalelo Sekhukhune and Keagan Truter

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Colonel Basson recognized for long outstanding service

In line with celebrating women who exceptionally shown outstanding dedication to ensure safety and security in the province, the police in Limpopo said they proudly salute Colonel Maria Basson, who dedicated 40 years of resolute commitment and exceptional service to the community. Basson, who is currently Sekhukhune District Operational Command Centre Commander, is a long-serving member of police service, and has exemplified dedication, integrity, and a tireless commitment to maintaining the safety and well-being of the residents. Sergeant Maphure Manamela, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said throughout her distinguished career, Colonel Basson has consistently demonstrated leadership, professionalism and a deep sense of duty. Manamela said when joining the police force, Colonel Basson was first instated at Marble Hall SAPS in 1983, deployed as student working at the detective office. "In 1984, she completed her basic police training at Pretoria West College. She then began her official duties at Silverton Police Station, working shifts. In January 1986, she moved to Kempton Park police station, working at the then enquiry office, investigating reckless and negligent cases, as well as common assaults, serving warrant of arrests, summons and enquiries," explained Manamela. She added that in September 1987, Basson was transferred back to Marble Hall after her application was approved and continued her duties in various positions and from April 1993 until December 1993 she acted as Station Commander of Marble Hall, at the rank of a warrant officer and that is where her career in management commenced. "In May 1994, after the first democratic elections, she moved to Groblersdal Police Station and continued working in other various management positions. In 2002, she was promoted to a rank of captain and Station Commander of Marble Hall. She was the only female station commander in Area Highveld under then Mpumalanga and for more than six months leading as the

best performing station," she said. Manamela indicated that in 2005, Basson moved back to Groblersdal and in 2009, she played a vital role in establishing the Groblersdal Cluster Office. "In 2015, she was promoted to the rank of a major and transferred to Motetema SAPS as Vispol Commander. Furthermore, Manamela said in 2022, the dedicated policewoman was promoted to the rank of colonel as the Sekhukhune District Operational Command Centre Commander in Groblersdal, a position she is holding currently. Basson said she is always prepared to assist her colleagues throughout her career. "For me there is no 'I' in the team work. I met a lot of people and made friends in the SAPS through sharing my knowledge and learning from others. Being a police officer can be very challenging at times, as we are often exposed to gruesome incidents and in my case, vehicle accidents, especially where children were involved and suicide scenes are challenging," she remarked. Sharing one of her worst experiences in the police service duties, Basson highlighted an incident where she had called to a murder scene in Marble Hall at the Oliphant's River after the mutilated body of a new born baby was found under the bridge, with some body parts removed. "That was one of the cases that had



an impact on my life as a police official. Through reactive investigation that led me to a farming compound nearby, I was able track down the mother and link her with the murder," shared the colonel. In 2017 and 2018, she was awarded the best cluster co-ordinator by the provincial commissioner of the police. Acting Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Major General Jan Scheepers, has extended heartfelt congratulations to Colonel Basson and expressed his sincere appreciation for her years of dedicated service.

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"Mahlangu's journey is a testament to passion, innovation, and resilience. The retrospective pays homage to Esther Mahlangu's unique approach to art, which intersects African cultures with modernity and the contemporary. The exhibition celebrates Mahlangu's voice, agency, and pioneering spirit, symbolizing her self-enunciation, self-determination and creativity," remarks Curator Ntombela. Recounting how her artistic journey began, Dr Mahlangu often tells the story of being trained by her grandmother and mother in the early 1940s. "I would continue to paint on the house when they left for a break. When they came back, they would say: What have you done, child? Never do that again'. After that, I started drawing on the back of the house, and slowly my drawings got better and better until they finally asked me to come back to the front of the house. Then I knew I was good at painting," she said. The retrospective exhibition draws its inspiration from Esther Mahlangu's remarkable story of how she discovered her extraordinary artistic talent as a young girl of just 10 years old. It is in this

self-assertive stance that the retrospective exhibition is framed, which is conveyed through her own voice and self-positioning. “Painting has always been a part of me. I cannot separate it from myself, and neither would I want to. I look forward to sharing my practice and long and colourful story with you on my upcoming retrospective exhibition,” she said. Acting CEO of Iziko Museums, Bongani Ndhlovu, said the retrospective is a landmark achievement for South African art and it recognizes Mahlangu as one of the few South African artists who have had the opportunity to present a retrospective exhibition in world-renowned museums. “Iziko Museums is honored to celebrate the living legend, Dr Esther Mahlangu, and to host this colossal showcase where creativity, culture, and aesthetics are fused. Dr Mahlangu is a living symbol of triumph against adversity. Her approach to art has inspired generations and is a reaffirmation of calls for Africa-centred innovations,” he said. Peter van Binsbergen, BMW Group South Africa CEO, said the company is counting the exhibition as a testament to

the respect and admiration for Dr Mahlangu's pioneering spirit and remarkable contribution to the world of art. "This exhibition not only celebrates the incredible journey and legacy of Mam' Esther but also symbolizes a cherished collaboration that dates back over three decades. We are especially excited about the return of the BMW Art Car to South African soil, a significant symbol of our shared history and appreciation for art that transcends boundaries," he said. Transcending the boundaries of canvas and mural, Mahlangu's work displays an inimitable fluency across diverse mediums, from small, treasured keepsakes to vast public installations and murals. With its main point of departure in traditional Ndebele practices of wall paintings and beadwork, her artistry finds expression in the most unlikely places, extending to novel surfaces such as sculptures, ceramics and everyday objet trouvés. Her unparalleled mastery in transforming space and form invites contemplation on complex themes, ranging from the nexus of art and society to the resonances of historical warfare and land reclamation.

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Hollywoodbets Sekhukhune Regional Football League resumes after Christmas break

The Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League resumed on Saturday 20 January 2024 following a Festive Season break. The football league consists of 86 football clubs forming six streams from various villages in all local municipalities of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), currently battling for the first prize in the 2023/2024 season. League Coordinator, Frank Maredi, said the Festive Season break demoralized some of the teams from participating in the league when it resume on Saturday. This is after four of the teams failed to honor their matches between Saturday and Sunday. "We do not promote this behaviour as this trend delays the league from operating professionally. Some of the teams have to be awarded three points and three goals through walk-overs because their opponents failed to pitch at playing grounds. We understand that other contributing factors to their absence might be lack of sponsorship but we cannot promote it either," he said. Maredi added that some of the walk-overs are caused by ill-disciplined players who intentionally fail to attend the matches. "Some of teams' absenteeism comes as a result of some players who cannot make it to the matches because they also attend extra classes on Saturdays and Sundays. But we are currently trying to get to the bottom of that problem with teams' management and I am confident that it will be sorted very soon," he said. Maredi said the league is expected to be completed in July 2024 where they will be preparing for the regional and provincial play-offs. "Normally we complete the league in May but we are going to finish in July because we started later than we planned. This was caused by late affiliation by some of the participating teams," he said. Maredi reliably told the paper that they will be hosting the highly anticipated Far Post Football Tournament around May if all goes as planned. "I cannot confirm anything now because we are still confirming with Far Post as main sponsors of the sporting event. However, I believe that chances are very high that the tournament could take place in the next few months," he said. Maredi has called on potential sponsors to come forward and support the teams. "Many of the clubs are not pitching at their matches because they are struggling with everything. We call on sponsors to come and assist the teams with resources such as soccer ball, soccer kit, training equipment and also transport them to their matches as most are scholars and could not afford transportation fees," he said. During the 2023/2024 season, Hollywoodbets replaced SAB as the new sponsors of all regional football leagues in the country for a period of two years with an option to renew.



Underground FC started their Hollywoodbets Sekhukhune Regional Football League by defeating Banareng FC 3-1 in their 2024 opening match.

Premier Mathabatha donates much-needed gesture on his birthday

Limpopo Premier Chupu Mathabatha has on Friday 19 January during his 67th birthday celebration, handed 24 laptops to his former school, Mafato Primary in Motetema Township, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM). The premier chose to celebrate his birthday at Mafato Primary which is the school where he did his primary education and also to plough back to the community where he was raised. Addressing pupils and school's staff members, Mathabatha said the laptops are meant to ensure that the school move with the technological period of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. He further dwelled on his experiences when he was still a learner at the same primary school, indicating that he could not be deterred by some of the hardships he endured as a result of the previous education system of the country. "You don't need to come from a family of public figures to make it in life. Nothing should influence your hard work during your studies. What I can tell you is that it is possible and it can be done. It is possible to become what you aspire to be as long as you are determined," he said. Mathabatha encouraged pupils to follow their career path and be respectful to their teachers at all times. Representing Limpopo Provincial Government, MEC for Health Department in Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, had wished Premier Mathabatha well wishes on his birthday. Ramathuba described the premier as a leader who is very down to earth and humble. MEC Dr Ramathuba has also commanded Premier Mathabatha for his sterling leadership for having taken the province when it was under administration, improving its financial status and also making sure that it is improving on the delivery of services to the people of Limpopo. Mathabatha congratulated Bokamoso Phokwane for being the best achiever in 2023 matric results in Motetema Circuit.



Phasha City Rocks FC is one of the teams adamant to can win the Hollywoodbets Sekhukhune Regional Football League.

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