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# Sekhukhune Dispatch

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Friday 27 October 2023

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## Disgruntled Moteti residents stage a total-shutdown

Angry community members of Moteti Village, lead by Moteti Concerned Community Forum (MCCF), went on a rampage and staged a total-shutdown complaining about water shortages and ward demarcations on Monday 23 October. During the protest, the demonstrators used stones and burning tyres to barricade the busy R573 Moloto Road and the D856 Road that links Moteti and Dennilton holding the traffic to a stand-still. They were demanding to be addressed and given immediate answers by Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) and Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM) regarding their long-standing water and demarcation issues. Local shops including Moteti Shopping Centre and schools were disrupted. The protesters were dispersed when the police shot them with rubber bullets. An urgent meeting between the community and SDM MMC for Infrastructure and Water Service, Bella Kupa, was convened at Ditshego Tribal Authority later on the day. During the meeting, a memorandum of demand was handed to Kupa and she was given seven working days to respond. MMC Chairperson, Booker Makofane, told the publication that they staged a protest to raise their long-standing water shortages dating back eight years. "We raised our concerns with Sekhukhune District Municipality through letters where requested them to come and address our water struggle but they failed to come. Clearly they do not take us serious, this is the reason we are protesting so that we could be heard," he said. Makofane indicated that they also approached EMLM to complain about demarcation of ward 7 which was done before the 2019 local government election. "Most of the part of ward 7 is in Dennilton and the villagers are badly affected by the demarcation because they have to travel when needing services such as proof of residence and job opportunities like EPWP programmes," explained Makofane. Makofane said: "We demand water, we have noted that since the end of apartheid in 1994 our community lives in poverty and water scarcity in Moteti area. Water is one of our basic needs. People of Moteti and the nearest villages continue to suffer under Sekhukhune District Municipality where leaders are selling water and also intimidate those who expose them,". Makofane said they are concerned that water projects are passing through Moteti Village to Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality (DJMLM) without providing them

with drinkable water. "We demand that Sekhukhune District Municipality drills boreholes to all Moteti sections in order to eradicate this water plight," he said. He went on and said they have noted that Moteti ward 1 and 2 which was partly merged with ward 7, was divided and destroyed by the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) without informing the voters. "Ward demarcation is also compromising job opportunities for our people residing in Moteti. We demand that Moteti be united as one ward and the IEC must come and explain why they divide Moteti from ward 2 to ward 7," he said. Makofane said part of their concerns include the poor standard of roads that are only maintained during funerals. "We demand that the Lacoste Seopa Road to Cemetery be paved and the cemetery be fenced," he said.

*Unhappy residents of Moteti Village have blocked roads with stones and burning tyres complaining against water crisis and ward demarcation issues.*



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# Escaped from Police Van

Colonel Malesela Ledwaba said the police in Motetema have activated a massive manhunt for a 31-year-old suspect, Thapelo Sebola who allegedly escaped from lawful custody. According to Ledwaba, it is alleged that members of the Motetema Police Detectives were transporting the suspect from Polokwane Prison to Motetema on Thursday 12 October 2023 and apparently when they were driving along D4100 Road at Mogaladi junction next to Tompi Seleka Agricultural College, the suspect allegedly escaped from the police van and fled into



the bushes. "Circumstances surrounding the escape are being investigated. The suspect is facing serious charges that included murder and attempted murder reported at Motetema and Lebogakomo respectively. The police have immediately activated a manhunt for the fugitive," Ledwaba explained. He said anyone with information that can assist the police in re-arresting the escapee, should contact the Investigating Officer Captain Malesela Mothokwa on 082 414 6464, alternatively report to the nearest police station and can also share information on MysapsApp. Once again, the Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Hadebe has called upon the community to assist with information that can lead to the re-arrest of the suspect.

**The police seek public assistance to locate Thapelo Sebola who allegedly escaped from lawful custody on Thursday 12 October.**

# Lydia Komape-Ngwenya laid to rest

Political activist and former Member of Parliament (MP), Lydia Komape-Ngwenya was laid to rest on Saturday 21 October at Tsimanyane Village in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM). Komape-Ngwenya was accorded the Special Provincial Official Funeral Category 2 by President Cyril Ramaphosa after she passed away on Wednesday 11 October in Polokwane at the age of 88. Born and raised in a farm in the then Northern Transvaal, her political prominence took center stage in the mid-1970s. Her father worked as a deacon in Lutheran Mission looking after livestock and sweet potatoes while her mother moved to Johannesburg to find a job as a domestic worker. The stalwart also moved to Johannesburg to seek work. In the mid-1970s she became one of the few senior women in the Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU). She and other shop stewards were fired in 1976 for helping in organising the solidarity protest in the Soweto uprising. Komape-Ngwenya then got recruited on a full time basis as a union organizer by MAWU. In 1986 she returned to the rural area and worked for Black Sash, and founded the Rural Women's Movement (RWM) to attract



**Veteran political activist, Lydia Komape-Ngwenya was laid to rest on Saturday 21 October at Tsimanyane Village in EPMLM.**

greater attention to women's issues in the negotiations to end apartheid. She used her experience to negotiate with tribal authorities for women's involvement in socio-political participation of decision-making structures. In 2009, President Kgalema Motlanthe awarded Komape-Ngwenya the Order of Luthuli in Bronze for her commitment to workers' rights, the empowerment of rural women and liberation of people from the harsh arm of the apartheid government. Post-1994, Komape-Ngwenya served at the National Assembly as member of Portfolio Committee on Agriculture and Land Affairs, member of the Joint Monitoring Committee on Improvement of the Quality of Life and Status of Women and supported the passage of maintenance Bill to grant legal recognition to customary marriages. She also served two terms as a member of Limpopo Legislature until her retirement after 2019 elections. Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha, who delivered a eulogy during the funeral service, said: "As a province and country, we have lost a giant, a woman and mother who fought endlessly for emancipation of women at all costs. The Limpopo Provincial Government conveys words of condolences to the family, friends and her comrades. Her star shall continue to shine bright in the sky with other fallen hero and heroes of our struggle." Mathabatha said Komape-Ngwenya's name has become synonymous with ongoing struggle to dismantle the legacy of colonial and apartheid oppression altogether, to ensure the complete economic and social emancipation of the people. "As the Limpopo Provincial Government, we stand together with all South Africans, especially the family, as well as the Ephraim Mogale and Sekhukhune communities, to offer our deepest condolences for the loss of a remarkable individual. Other prominent politicians including Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader, Julius Malema, attended the funeral.

**Lydia Komape-Ngwenya's coffin surrounded by pallbearers during a funeral service held at Tsimanyane Village.**




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# MLM bags R35 000-00 in the GMC Competition

The Makhuduthamaga Municipality's implementation of strategies and policies for green economy got a nod at this year's Greenest Municipality Competition (GMC), which was held at the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane recently. The competition is organised and facilitated by the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), in partnership with other sector departments such as the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environmental (DFFE) as well as the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). Makhuduthamaga has been involved and participated in the competition since 2008 and won numerous accolades and awards for its innovative measures that protect and nature the environment. The Municipality has won R20 000-00 in 2019, which was channelled towards purchasing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) products for its waste general employees. This year, the local municipality been awarded R35 000-00. MLM Municipal Manager, Ronald Moganedi, said the municipal concept of embracing full green economy is in full motion and he is happy that Makhuduthamaga also contributes to the collective efforts by government in responding to challenges and concerns posed by climate change. The assessment was tied to the provision of Waste Management, Water Management and Conservation, Tree Planting and Greening as well as

Energy Efficiency. "As human beings, we are connected to the environment. So it is indeed an honour to have our projects recognised at this platform and we will continue to initiate projects and services that embrace the green revolution and programs for a sustainable economic development," he said. Moganedi said the R35 000-00 that was awarded to the municipality this year goes directly to the public purse and will be used towards other environmental related projects. Makhuduthamaga Municipality came second in this year's competition with a whopping 57%, following Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM), which claimed position 1, by scoring 60% and with the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM) tailing and settling for the 3rd position, with 55%, in the Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM). MLM Mayor, Minah Bahula, who was attending the SALGA's National Executive Committee Meeting in Durban on different governance matters, wel-



MLM officials posing with the cheque after the local municipality scoops a R35 000-00 second prize in the GMC Competition.

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comed the good news and encourages team Makhuduthamaga to double their efforts going forward. Bahula also called on "more public support and involvement in preserving nature and its resources". "We are mandated by the constitution to promote safety and a healthy environment for our people," she said.

## Mashaba appointed new Police Head of Corporate Communication and Media Liaison Officer

The police in Limpopo have appointed Brigadier Hlulani Mashaba as the new Provincial Head of Corporate Communication and Media Liaison Services to work together with media houses and serve the public. Mashaba was appointed following the retirement of the former Provincial Head, Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, in March 2023. "It is our duty as communicators to communicate the successes of integrated policing to society and various stakeholders. I am here to enhance the prestige and image of SAPS and am ready to serve Limpopo province with humility, commitment, dedication and passion," remarked Mashaba. He further said he will be strengthening relationships with media houses as part of media relations building exercise and appreciated the already existing working relations forged by the SAPS Media Relations team in the province. He also stressed the need for collaboration between police and media in information sharing with the purpose of educating and empowering communities. Mashaba concluded by saying that he believes in empowering the citizens to participate in fighting crime collectively with the police. Participants from the media houses engaged in the questions and clarifications and, in return, received appropriate responses from the SAPS.



Brigadier Hlulani Mashaba was appointed new Police Head of Corporate Communication and Media Liaison Officer in Limpopo Province.



## Six nabbed for illegal mining activities



**The items that were confiscated by the police when arresting six alleged illegal miners at Ga-Phasha Village.**

In a concerted effort to combat illegal mining operations, the Police Illegal Mining Task Team in Sekhukhune District carried out a successful operation on Wednesday 17 October 2023, resulting in the apprehension of multiple individuals involved in this illegal mining activities. The task team executed a meticulously planned operation targeting known illegal mining sites at Ga-Phasha Village. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the operation aimed to put an end to the environmental degradation, safety hazards and illicit activities associated with illegal mining. "As a result of this operation, six suspects were apprehended at Ga-Phasha Village illegally mining chrome and the used items were confiscated which will be used as evidence in ongoing investigations. The confiscated items include four generators, eleven wheelbarrows, six jackhammers, seven shovels and bundle of electric cables," explained Ledwaba. He added that as part of the operation, two more suspects, aged 24 and 25, were arrested for possession of illicit cigarettes and contravention of the Immigration Act. "The six suspects, aged between 23 and 35, arrested for illegal mining as well as two for possession of illegal cigarettes, are expected to appear before court soon," he said. The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, said the established Illegal Mining Task team is dedicated to safeguard the environment and public safety by eradicating illegal mining activities. "The operation represents a significant step toward achieving this goal," she said.

## Police Task Team pounce on dagga dealers

The Police in Rakgoadi outside Marble Hall have on Tuesday 17 October 2023 arrested five suspects, aged between 24 and 37 for dealing in dagga. According to the police, the suspects were arrested when members of Sekhukhune District Task Team spotted a white motor vehicle Volkswagen Polo parked besides the road along D4100 Road at Letebejane Village under Rakgoadi Policing precinct with five occupants, a female and four male persons. "Upon arrival of the police at the said vehicle, the suspects were found while in process of selling and buying of dagga. A transaction of cash payment of the amount R2800-00 was done. It is further reported that the three parcels of dagga were found in the vehicle upon searching with the estimated street value of about R3000," explained Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson. He said the police have opened a case of dealing in dagga and detained the five suspects; charged them and confiscated the dagga and the cash money as exhibit for investigations purposes. "The suspects are expected to appear before Groblersdal Magistrate's Court soon," he said. Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, Provincial Commissioners of the Police in Limpopo, hailed the police task team for their hard work that led to the apprehension of the suspects.

## Leeufontein man hacks biological father to death

The Motetema Police have arrested a 28-year-old man after he allegedly hacked his 58-year-old biological father to death during an apparent domestic dispute, the police said. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the incident took place on Tuesday afternoon 17 October 2023 at their home in Leeuwerfontein outside Motetema. According to the reports, the two were doing some construction work in the yard when they got into an altercation. "In reaction, the son grabbed a spade, hacking the victim multiple times. After the incident, the police, as well as the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Motetema were called to the said location and upon arrival, they found the victim lying in a pool of blood. The elderly man was certified dead on the scene. The police managed to apprehend the suspect on the scene," explained Ledwaba. He said the police have opened a case of murder and are currently investigating the circumstances which might have led to the brutal act. "The suspect is expected to appear before the Motetema Magistrate's Court soon facing a charge of murder," he said. Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, condemned the brutal incident. "We urge community members to resolve matters in a civil manner rather than resorting to violence. The brutal and senseless attack could have been avoided if they made a decision to seek professional help," Hadebe said.



**Shocked community members at the crime scene where a 28-year-old man hacked his biological father to death.**

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# Operation Shanela yields positive results

The Police Operation Shanela has yielded positive results after a 35-year-old business robbery suspect was arrested in Mmamethlake outside Siyabuswa shortly after committing a crime on Thursday 19 October. Colonel Donald Mdhuli, Mpumalanga Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the suspect was swiftly nabbed after committing a crime at Marapyane Village a few kilometres from Mmamethlake. "According to information, on the day of the incident at about 17h00, a group of armed men driving in a white VW Polo stormed into a shop and allegedly pretended as if they wanted to buy some items. When a male victim who was selling at the time opened the burglar door to assist them, they suddenly shove him inside the shop whilst pointing firearms. It is further reported that they demanded cash and assaulted him, took an undisclosed amount of cash from the till, three mobile phones as well as groceries, then fled the scene, leaving the victim behind helplessly on the floor," explained Mdhuli.

He said the victim was rescued by a customer that came a few minutes. "The incident was reported to the police who were busy operating in the area whilst on the lookout for the said VW Polo and that enabled them to swiftly respond. The vehicle matching the description of the one reported to have been involved in the robbery was spotted along the Mmamethlake Road, driving at high speed but when members attempted to stop it, the driver continued and ignored them. A chase then ensued and when suspects realized that the men and women in blue were not backing down, the driver stopped the vehicle where three quickly got out, then took off on foot before disappearing into the nearby bushes trying to evade arrest," he said.

Mdhuli said during the arrest, several properties believed to have been stolen during the robbery were recovered and when the police checked inside the vehicle, they found only one suspect left. "A search was

then conducted and it was during this period when the astute police members discovered an undisclosed amount of money, groceries, music speaker and sneakers in the boot of the vehicle, hence the man was arrested then charged for business robbery as well as for possession of suspected stolen properties," he said. Mdhuli said the vehicle, as well as the recovered items were confiscated for further investigation where preliminary investigation shows that the vehicle belongs to the brother of the arrested man.

"The suspect is expected to appear at the Mbibana Magistrate's Court soon. An investigation is underway," he said. Mdhuli said the management of the Police in Mpumalanga has gladly welcomed the arrest and encouraged members of the public with information on the whereabouts of the other suspects 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," he said.

*The suspected stolen items that were recovered in possession of the suspect before he was arrested along the Mmamethlake Road outside Siyabuswa.*



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# Dr JS Moroka heavily reliant on provincial government for financial bailouts

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality has called on the Municipal Manager Monica Mathebela, to urgently review the municipality's revenue policies. The party said it has gathered that 75% of the municipality's overall revenue is subsidized by provincial and national grants with actual revenue generation contributes a meager 25% to the budget. "These grants include the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG), Finance Management Grant (FMG), Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and Equitable Share (ES) amongst others," said Maureen Ngoatle, DA Councillor in Dr JS Moroka Municipality. Ngoatle indicated for years, Dr JS Moroka has been failing to meet its financial obligations and this can also be attributed to its inadequate revenue collection system. "In the previous financial year, the municipality adopted a number of financial revenue strategies, these included increasing the tax base by selling stands, making public land accessible to developers and implementing a new efficient method of monitoring water meters," informed Ngoatle. She said these interventions were aimed at developing a meticulous credit management and debt collection system. Ngoatle said through their annual report, the municipality listed a number of factors that have contributed to their revenue challenges, which includes, inaccurate data on the financial system due to lack of title deeds, departments and municipalities making late payments, resident's unwillingness to pay for household utilities, a limited sales base that needs to be expanded, water meters not efficiently operating and billing at a predetermined rate. "Revenue collection is an important mechanism at local governance and if not well managed and reviewed timeously, these challenges will continue persisting. The DA will not tolerate the ANC's incompetence. We will make sure that the municipality's revenue collection is reviewed to make sure that there is improvement in the revenue value chain," she said.

## Heavy plant machinery unveiled to accelerate services across Limpopo

The Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI), has on Monday 23 October, unveiled heavy machinery plant vehicles that are set to bolster service delivery to all five districts of Limpopo Province. The unveiling is part of commitment made by the MEC for LDPWRI, Nkakareng Rakgoale, in her 2023/2024 Budget Vote wherein she announced that the department has set aside a budget purchase plant equipment that will be distributed across the province. The unveiling was attended by engineers, senior managers and district representatives. They include a yellow fleet that consists of 25 graders, one excavator and 17 light delivery vehicles that will replace the aged plant equipment in 36 cost centers of the department across Limpopo's five districts. In her address, MEC Rakgoale stated that the fleet is part of the important tools for infrastructure development. "These are our important tools in the construction and maintenance of our road network," she said. Rakgoale further highlighted the significance of the unveiling taking place during the October Transport Month, which is aimed at promoting the utilisation of public transportation. "This occasion happens during the October Transport Month, which is a key annual programme aimed at promoting the use of integrated public transport systems in the country. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure in Limpopo then becomes central in the transport sector and in this regard we are responsible for the provision and maintenance of the province's road network which enables transport activities to flow smoothly," she said. Rakgoale indicated that the department is determined to ensure that there is improved service delivery, particularly on maintenance of roads infrastructure. "This is about showcasing service delivery. Service should be taken to our people and the economy of our province. These vehicles are important instruments in the hands of government to improve the lives of our people," she said.



MEC for LDPWRI, Nkakareng Rakgoale (Second from right), cutting the ribbon to officially unveiled the fleet that is set to accelerate service delivery in the five districts of Limpopo Province.

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## EPMLM youth benefit from Annual Summit

In what was described as a festival of ideas and an informative affair, young people from various walks of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM) benefited from a robust platform of ideas during the Annual Youth Summit held at Marble Hall Town Hall recently. According to the local municipality, the purpose of the summit was to disseminate relevant information to the youth regarding business establishment, how to access grants and loans and to further their studies in order to enhance their business process. The summit was attended by the first citizen of EPMLM, Mayor Cllr Given Moimana, Chief Whip of the Council, Cllr Lina Magane, Chair of Chairs Cllr Nkoana and EXCO members. Various sector departments and government agencies present included the Correctional Services, National Youth Development Agency, Department of Employment and Labour, Department of Agriculture as well as Office of the Premier in Limpopo, Independent Electoral Commission and Tompi Seleka College of Agriculture. Addressing the summit, Mathapelo Motau, Sekhukhune Centre for Entrepreneurship representative, encouraged young people to venture into business and be their own bosses, however, she said they must know that business is like a game of dice it can be successful or it could fail. She also committed to help them to access the business market and link them with relevant industries to sustain themselves. Mayor Moimana urged young people to work together and complement each other in order to achieve more. "As the youth of Ephraim Mogale, you have gathered here today to share ideas among yourselves and to get relevant information that would make you grow and develop your business. And also to help those who aspire to become or establish businesses to seek help from these departments that are here with us today," he said. Moimana advised young people to work together so that they can fight all the challenges that they are faced with. "My advice to you is that you should be better than my generation. You must fight for your economic freedom so that you become actively involved in the economy of our country. Again you should fight against these social ills such as the abuse of alcohol, drugs and Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), as and when it rears its ugly head, he said. Moimana stated that it is imperative that youth should improve their literacy levels, citing that "this is because this country needs people who can read and write". "We promise you that we will channel funds towards youth development and committing ourselves as the municipality that we will add more money in Local Economic Development (LED) unit during budget adjustment so that we are able to cater for your needs," concluded Moimana. The Department of Labour and Employment also encouraged the youth to visit their offices and check which avenues they can access information and explore.

**EPMLM Mayor, Cllr Given Moimana, has committed that the local municipality will assist young people businesses through the municipality's LED unit.**



**Young people from various villages of EPMLM listening attentively during the Annual Youth Summit held at Marble Hall Town Hall.**



## Sekhukhune United advance to Carling Cup quarter-finals

**Babina Noko striker, Jamie Webber with the R100 000 cheque after he was voted as man of the match.**



Sekhukhune United FC is one of the eight top-flight teams to advance to the newly launched Carling Cup Knock-Out Tournament after defeating Royal AM FC 1-0 that was played on Saturday 21 October at Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane. Babina Noko will be playing facing TS Galaxy FC in Mbombela on Sunday 29 October as their next Carling Knockout opponents. The Carling Cup Tournament has replaced the Telkom Knockout which ended in 2021 after the sponsorship was not renewed. The previous round saw Dstv Premier Soccer League (PSL) giants, Mamelodi Sundowns FC and Kaizer Chiefs FC fall to the likes of TS Galaxy and AmaZulu FC. However, another Limpopo based team, Polokwane City, has joined the title race when they emerged as the true protagonists of the round of 16, delivering a master-class by beating SuperSport United FC 4-1. Their great performance earned them a place in the quarter-finals, where they will host Stellenbosch FC. Orlando Pirates remained steadfast in their quest for another title after a victory over Cape Town Spurs at Orlando Stadium. They now face Richards Bay FC, who eliminated Moroka Swallows on Sunday 22 October. With R6,5 Million on offer for the winners, the talk of the town has been the R100,000 for the Man of the Match winners, with many suggesting it is brought increased performances from the stars of the South African top-flight. These include fans voting for the man of the match, predicting when goals will be scored and voting for players and a coach for a selected team that will face the cup's winners early next year. The man of the match system has had some hitches. In the first round of matches some popular players who turn out for big name teams won the R100 000, rather than the best player on the field, even if their side did not win. Sekhukhune United's Jamie Webber and Kaizer Chiefs star Keagan Dolly are among players walked away with the won the man of the match it because of their fan-favourite status. Other Carling Cup fixture matches will see Polokwane City vs Stellenbosch FC, Richards Bay vs Orlando Pirates and AmaZulu playing with Golden Arrows. After the tournament winners are crowned, all roads will lead to the Peter Mokaba Stadium on 6 January 2024 where the Carling Knockout champions will face off against the All-Star PSL XI voted by the fans.



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