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358th Edition

Friday 28 June 2024

083 679 3632

Ramathuba elected new Premier of Limpopo

Members of the Limpopo Legislature, assembled at the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber on Friday 14 June 2024, have elected Dr Phophi Ramathuba as the new Premier of Limpopo Province. Ramathuba, who was MEC for Health in the previous administration, was among members of legislature who took an oath from Limpopo High Court Judge President, George Phatudi, who presided over the proceedings where members sworn during solemn affirmations to serve in government with honesty and integrity.

Presenting her acceptance speech, Ramathuba expressed her privilege to the ANC, members of the legislature and people of Limpopo for having faith and confidence to allowing her to lead the seventh democratic administration in the province. "I am more than humbled by your faith and the confidence you have shown in me as the first democratically elected female premier of this great province. Allow me to pay my gratitude to the esteemed leaders and members of this great movement, the ANC and the alliance partners who are here today to witness this historic occasion," she said.

The new premier committed to not take her new responsibility for granted but to work tirelessly to change lives of Limpopo people to the better. "I know it as a matter of fact, that my election today is not a personal feat, but a call to action. I shall always strive to exercise my responsibilities with one thing in mind, that the people of Limpopo and their needs must always come first. The word responsibility carries a dual, but complementary, meaning. In one sense it refers to the state of having a duty to deal with something. In another, it talks to the state of being accountable for something," informed Ramathuba.

She said part of her responsibility is to create an environment conducive to the economic growth of the in the province and the socio-economic advancement of people, tilted in favour of the most vulnerable groups. "We also have a responsibility to remain accountable to those who brought us into this chamber and into public office. As public representatives of the people of this province, we are also humbled by the unequivocal and solid voice of the citizens of Limpopo when they said Limpopo must once again be governed by the African National Congress. The people have indeed spoken. As the ANC, we accept your overwhelming mandate, conscious of the service delivery challenges that lie ahead, and again we dare not fail," said Premier Ramathuba.

She ensured Limpopo residents that the current administration will strive to create job opportunities for the jobless, accelerate the provision of houses for the homeless, above all, deliver water and electricity to the most needy in the vast farmlands and far-flung villages in the province. Dr Ramathuba encouraged the youth, particularly women, to get educated and actively be involved in the country's politics.

She applauded previous provincial administrations leaders, saying that have over the past 30 years, ensured that Limpopo is a better place to live in. "Today, about 97% of households are electrified, no less than 70% of households have access to water, 96% of learners are on School Nutrition Programme, we have increased Grade 12 pass rate to over 79.5 % and, more importantly built state-of-the-art schools, hospitals and other essential infrastructure such as roads and bridges across the province," she said.



Dr Phophi Ramathuba was elected as the new Premier of Limpopo Province.

In promoting more woman empowerment, members of the Legislature have elected Makoma Makhurupetja as the new Legislative Speaker of the province, and her Deputy, Portia Mamorobela. The newly appointed speaker, expressed gratitude and how she hopes the legislature will work together in promoting an economically thriving province.

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DA Limpopo apprehensive on new Limpopo Executive Council

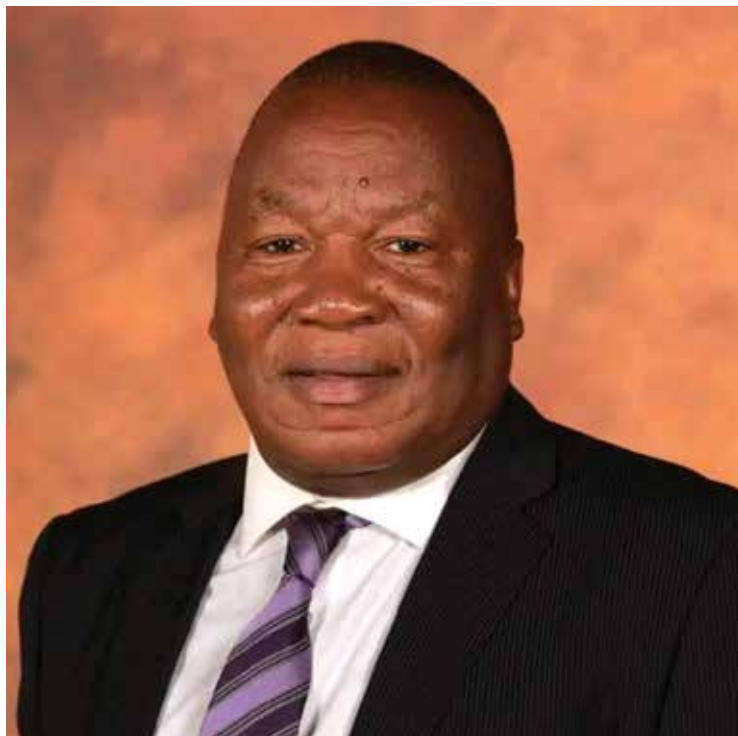
The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo say they are not happy that some of the new cabinet of Members of Executive Council (MECs), appointed by the new Premier of Limpopo Province Dr Phophi Ramathuba, had failed in their previous deployments in a province that has consistently under-performed at every level in the last five years.

DA Leader in Limpopo, Lindy Wilson said the party hoped that Premier Ramathuba would select a cabinet that was without skeletons in the closet and able to steer Limpopo around to address poor service delivery and the plight of the poor. According to Wilson, MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), Basikopo Makuma, has been reappointed despite his failings. "Municipalities are dysfunctional, in severe financial distress, riddled with corruption and unable to provide services to their communities. Not one water service authority is delivering and the Human Rights Commission (HRC) has declared them in violation of the Water Act. The HRC report was clear that the MEC for COGHSTA was negligent in his oversight and monitoring of the water crisis in Limpopo," explained Wilson. She added that the appointment of Kgabo Mahoai as the MEC of Treasury is more concerning because the newly appointed MEC was axed by the Directorate of International

Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) for an irregular expenditure of R118 Million to obtain land in New York, which never materialised. "Mahoai has now been given the cookie jar of the province and will manage its finances. Clearly, he is an unsuitable candidate given his history," said Wilson. She said the party is also not happy with the re-appointment of Florence Radzilani, as new MEC for Social Development, describing it as a red flag for the DA. "Radzilani was called out on the VBS heist in an ongoing investigation, but she is called upon to manage a critical portfolio with a large budget," she said. Wilson further said the party is not pleased with the appointment of new Health MEC, Dicketseng Mashego, stating that she is inexperienced to run this crucial department. "Health must be of primary concern. Hospitals and clinics are under resourced, under staffed and woefully ill-equipped to deal with the needs of poor communities but the premier has elected an MEC with no health background or experience," she said. Wilson said the party will be closely monitoring every portfolio at all times and hold every MEC to account for poor performance, financial management and inadequate service delivery. "While we support a spirit of co-operation, transparency and respect, we cannot sit by while the poor and vulnerable of our province are pushed aside for party or personal gain," concluded Wilson.



The DA in Limpopo is not certain about the appointment of MEC Dicketseng Mashego in the health portfolio in Limpopo, stating that the new MEC has no health background or any experience in the field.



Despite having been held accountable for irregular expenditure amounting to R118 Million during his tenure at DIRCO, Kgabo Mahoai was appointed as new MEC for Treasury in Limpopo Province.

SDM MMC and Chief Whip joins Limpopo Legislature

The Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) has announced two vacant positions following the departure of MMC for Infrastructure and Water Services, Cllr Bella Kupa and SDM Council Chief Whip, Cllr Choris Phokane. Kupa and Phokane handed their resignations after they were deployed by the African National Congress (ANC) to represent the political party in the Limpopo Legislature. The duo was sworn-in as Members of Limpopo Provincial Legislature (MPLs) on Friday 14 June 2024. The Executive Mayor of SDM, Cllr Minah Bahula, has wished the two former employees well in their new responsibilities, adding that they served the district municipality with impeccable track records of service delivery and leadership. "With every conclusion of elections comes different roles and new responsibilities for various leaders. We wish them well in their respective positions of responsibility and leadership and hope they will continue to serve the people of Limpopo with distinction," said Mayor Bahula. The municipality said they will soon announce the process for filling the vacant positions to ensure the continued delivery of services to the community and further details regarding the transition will be communicated in due course.



Then MMC for Infrastructure and Water Service in SDM, Bella Kupa, was deployed as MPL in Limpopo.



Former SDM Council Chief Whip, Choris Phokane, was sworn-in as the new Limpopo MPL in the new provincial government administration.




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Premier Ramathuba appoints new MECs

The newly elected Premier of Limpopo Province, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has on Tuesday 18 June announced a team of Members of Executive Council (MECs) for the seventh administration. Among the ten duly sworn Executive Council are four members who have served in the previous administration, while the rest of the cabinet comprises of new appointments. During the announcement, Ramathuba re-appointed Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya as MEC for Department of Education, Dieketseng Masesi Mashego as the new MEC for Department of Health, Basikopo Rogers Makamu was reappointed as MEC for Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), Fufufhelo Florence Radzilani to lead the Department of Social Development and Funani Jerry Maseko as MEC for Department of Sports Arts and Culture. Elias Kgabo Mahoai was announced as the new MEC for Limpopo Provincial Treasury Baldwin Matibe Tshireke was appointed as the new MEC for Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), Ernest Sebataolo Rachoene was announced as new MEC for Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Grace Nakedi Kekana was appointed MEC for Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural

Development and Violet Susani Mathye was appointed as new MEC for Department of Transport and Community Safety in Limpopo. Premier Ramathuba said the appointments were made in line with the Constitutional requirements of the Republic of South Africa following her election as the new premier of the province. “I am pleased to announce the appointment of the members of the Executive Council who will serve alongside me in our collective mission to advance the development and prosperity of our beloved province,” she said. Ramathuba indicated that the individuals she had appointed to the Executive Council bring a wealth of experience, dedication, and a deep commitment to serving the people of Limpopo. “They have been chosen for their proven track records, their expertise in their respective fields, and their unwavering commitment to the values and principles that underpin our democracy. As we embark on this journey together, our primary focus will be on addressing the pressing challenges that our province faces, including economic growth, unemployment, job creation, industrialisation, agriculture and rural development, water provision, roads and general infrastructure development, healthcare, education and crime. We are committed to fostering an inclusive and transparent government

that works tirelessly to improve the lives of all our citizens,” informed Ramathuba. She said the members of the Executive Council will be tasked with specific portfolios, each critical to the holistic development of the province. “They will be expected to lead with integrity, accountability, and a relentless drive to achieve tangible results. Together, we will work to ensure that the policies and programmes we implement are effective, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of our communities,” Ramathuba said. The premier said she has full confidence in the capabilities of the newly appointed Executive Council members, and she is certain that with their support and the collective efforts of all stakeholders, they will make significant strides in realising the vision of a prosperous, equitable, and thriving Limpopo. “I call upon all citizens of Limpopo to join us in this endeavour. Your active participation, feedback, and collaboration are essential as we strive to build a better future for all. Let us move forward with unity, determination, and a shared commitment to the progress and well-being of our province,” said Ramathuba. She assured that working together with the newly appointed MECs, the new Limpopo administration should achieve its objectives in consultation and will not fail the people of the province. “The elections are over and we now need all shoulders to the wheel. Let us hit the ground running and implement all the plans set out in the election manifesto to ensure that the Limpopo Development Plan is achieved. It is time to walk the talk, and put our province on the map. This way, other provinces can take precedence from us on how things are done,” said the Premier.



Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, says she is confident that the new Executive Council will deliver according to the task.

Former EMLM Speaker appointed as new MEC for Health

The Mayor of Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM), Cllr David Tladi, speaking on behalf of the municipal council, has congratulated former MMC Dieketseng Masesi Mashego on her new appointment as the MEC of Health in Limpopo Province. Mashego, hailing from Five Morgan in Dennilton, was announced as the new Health Department MEC by Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba on Tuesday 18 June 2024 and is expected to serve in the new administration for the next five years. In her previous deployments within the EMLM, Mashego previously served as the Speaker of the EMLM Council following the 2021 local government elections until her recent move to the Limpopo Provincial Legislature. Mayor Tladi also extended congratulations to former MMC for Development Planning and MMC for Local Economic Development, Cllr Delly Matjomane, and Cllr Bongani Nkonyana, for their appointments to the Limpopo Provincial Legislature. He said these appointments come at a time when there is a strong demand for increased women leadership and representation across all sectors. Tladi said the local municipality is confident that MEC Mashego will serve the people of Limpopo with dedication and commitment. “We congratulate her and wish her well in her new role,” said Mayor Tladi.



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN IN TERMS OF SECTION 41 OF CHAPTER 6 OF THE EIA REGULATIONS, PUBLISHED IN GOVERNMENT NOTICE NO. 326 OF 7 APRIL 2017 PUBLISHED IN TERMS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT 107 OF 1998) AS AMENDED WITH THE INTENTION TO UNDERTAKE RECTIFICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 24G OF NEMA.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

Rectification of the continuation of the unlawful commencement of Sabekile Small Stock Farming Primary Co-Operative Limited Piggery In Dennilton Area, on Maloekzynkop 58 Js Farm, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Sekhukhune District in Limpopo Province in terms of section 24G of the NEMA.

LISTED ACTIVITIES: According To EIA Regulations 2017

Relevant Government Notice	Activity No (s) (Relevant notice):	Description of listed activity as per the wording in the listing notice
GNR 983	Listing Notice 1: Activity 4	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals for the purpose of commercial production in densities that exceed 8 square meters per small stock unit and, more than 250 pigs per facility excluding piglets that are not yet weaned.
GNR 983	Listing Notice 1: Activity 3:	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the slaughter of animals with a product throughput of (i) poultry exceeding 50 poultry per day; (ii) reptiles, game and red meat exceeding 6 units per day; (iii) or fish, crustaceans and amphibians with a wet weight product throughput of 20 000 kg per annum.
GNR 983	Listing Notice1: Activity 8	The development and related operation of hatcheries or Agri-industrial facilities outside industrial complexes where the development footprint covers an area of 2 000 square metres or more.
GNR 983	Listing Notice1: Activity 27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.
GNR 985	Listing notice 3: Activity 12	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. In Mpumalanga (i) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project is located in Dennilton, on Maloekzynkop 58 Js Farm, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Sekhukhune District in Limpopo Province. The site coordinates are 25°18'38.12"S and 29°9'37.23"

Name of Applicant:	Name of Environmental Assessment Practitioner:
Sabekile Small Stock Farming Primary Co-Operative Limited	Nkhophela Holdings

REGISTRATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Nkhophela Holdings is conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Piggery. As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, we must conduct public participation. Interested and affected parties are invited to register and send comments and issues must be raised within 30 days from the day of publication of this advert in the newspaper to Mokobi Katlego on 061 731 5899 or email katlego@nkhophela.co.za

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Child rapist gets hefty jail term

A 31-year-old man was sentenced to an effective 20 years sentence by the Groblersdal Regional Court after he was convicted for the rape of a five-year-old minor girl child.

Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the accused, who cannot be named to protect the identity of the victim, received the lengthy jail sentence on Thursday 13 June 2024. "The court heard that on 11 October 2022, the accused raped a five-year-old child, who

is his neighbour. The victim was playing in the streets with her friends when the accused gave her money (R1.00) to buy sweets. When the little girl returned, the same man gave her some more money. He thereafter grabbed her to a nearby abandoned house where he sexually violated her," explained Ledwaba.

He said the victim's mother was alerted by one of the kids that were playing with her that the accused left with her child. "She then followed them, and she caught him while busy

with the ordeal. Upon noticing the victim's mother, he released the girl," Ledwaba said. He said the incident was reported to the police and a rape case was registered against the accused at the police station. "The docket was transferred to Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit at Groblersdal, and it was investigated by Sergeant Thabitha Letladi. The suspect was traced and later arrested for rape," informed Ledwaba.

He said subsequent to trial appearances, the

accused was sentenced to direct 20 years in prison, declared unfit to possess a firearm and he will be registered on national sexual offenders register.

Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, Limpopo Provincial Police Commissioner, has welcomed the conviction and sentencing by the court and further praised the investigating officer, the arresting team, prosecutions and all involved for removing this perpetrator within the community.

Elandskraal man nabbed with unlawful high calibre rifle

The Police in Elandskraal outside Marble Hall have on Thursday 13 June arrested a 33-year-old man for possession of unlicensed firearm and ammunition. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the police were summoned to the scene at Tsantabela Village whereby two groups of family members were involved in a heated argument. "Upon arrival, the police approached the group and led them to the Elandskraal Police Station for further interrogation. While at the police station, the police searched all the occupants who were driving in two vehicles, charcoal Ford Ranger double cab and white Hundai H1 minibus. During the search, one of the group was found in possession of an unlicensed AK47 rifle and 27 live ammunition. The suspect was immediately arrested for possession of unlicensed firearm and ammunition," explained Ledwaba. He said circumstances that led to the two families to engage in a heated argument are still under investigation and the arrested man will appear before Marble Hall Magistrate's Court after further police investigations. Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, has applauded the police members for arresting the suspect and recovering the unlicensed firearm. "We praise the team for being vigilant when performing their duties and responding quickly to the situation," said Hadebe.

Massive manhunt activated for Philadelphia Road armed robbery suspects

The Police in Dennilton have launched a massive manhunt for a group of unknown suspects who robbed two employees, who were selling meat, of an undisclosed amount of money along the Moteti-Philadelphia Road. According to the police report, the armed robbery was committed on Friday 21 June 2024 at about 13:30. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said police preliminary investigations revealed that the two employees of a company selling meat were driving in a company vehicle when a white BMW overtook their vehicle and barricaded the road, restricting the movement of their vehicle. "The suspects, armed with firearms, alighted from the BMW and they pointed victims with firearms and instructed the driver and his colleague to drive towards Moteti Road. The victims obliged and the suspects stopped them and demanded money. The suspects searched them and made off with an undisclosed amount of money and the car keys belonging to the victims' vehicle," explained Ledwaba. He said the police were alerted about the incident and a case of armed robbery was opened at Dennilton Police Station. "The suspects are still at large and anyone with information that can lead to their arrest should contact Constable Andrew Nkgodi on 076 628 6701, or the Crime Stop Number on 08600 10111, the nearest police station or make use of MySAPSApp. Police investigations continue," he said.

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SDM Executive Mayor leads a girl-boy mentor-ship programme

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), Cllr Minah Bahula, led the Annual Take a Girl and Boy Child to Work Programme, held at Moutse West in Ephraim Mogale Municipality (EPMLM) on Thursday 13 June 2024.

The initiative was aimed at encouraging learners, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to gain valuable experience and insight into various levels of government and different institutions including the private sector. The Take a Girl and Boy Child to Work Programme is designed to inspire and equip young individuals with the knowledge and confidence to change their circumstances. This year's programme had a significant impact on close to a thousand participating learners, who had the unique opportunity to learn and witness first hand operations of the fire fighting and rescue unit as one of the functions from the District Municipality's Emergency Services Management. Among the participants was Mashiane Abongile, a 19-year-old Grade 12 learner from Malebitsa Village outside Marble Hall, who aspires to be a firefighter. During the programme, Abongile was thrilled to experience and take part in the demonstrations, reinforcing her passion for this critical and noble profession.

The programme aligns with the district municipality's mission to work closely with stakeholders to promote and produce quality education. Executive Mayor Bahula also noted the ongoing challenges posed by social ills, including teenage pregnancy, and



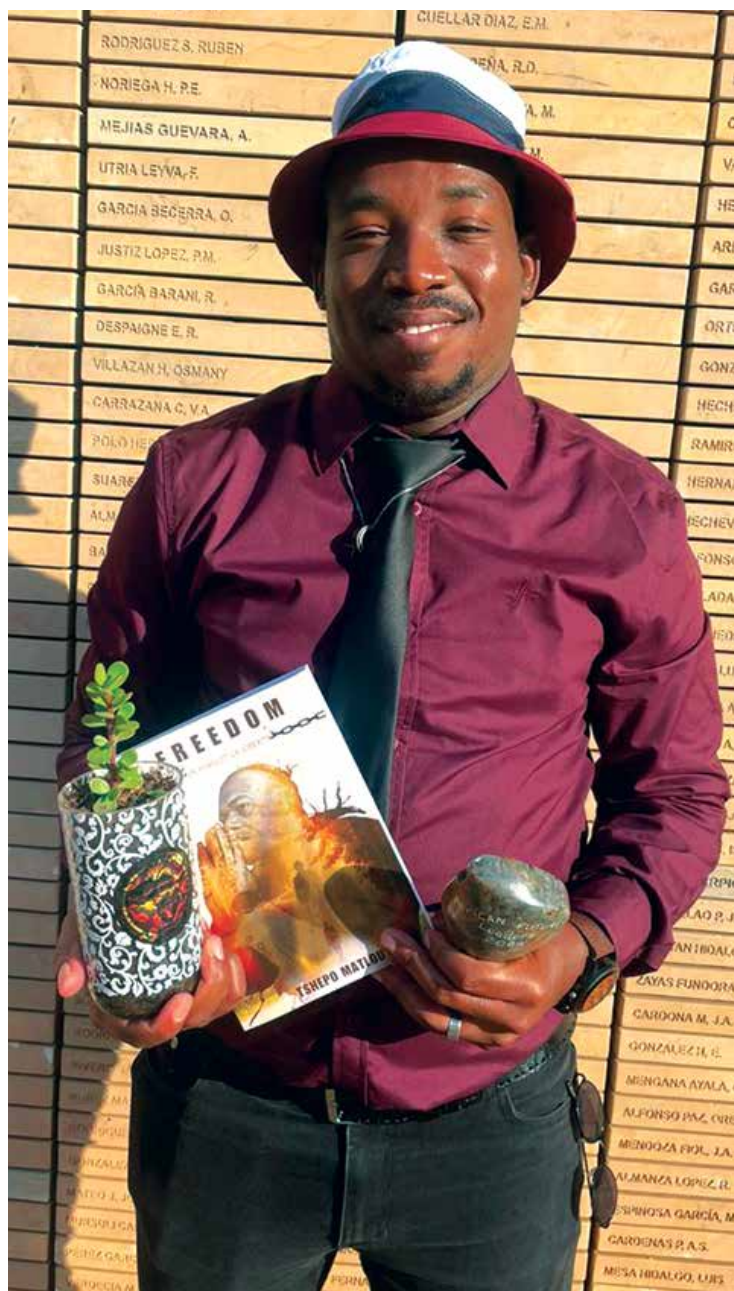
SDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Minah Bahula, donating school shoes to benefiting pupils during her Take a Girl and Boy Child to Work Programme held at Moutse West EPMLM.

remains dedicated to addressing these issues through continuous support and intervention alongside other sector departments such as Social Development and the South African Police Service (SAPS). Bahula also committed to organise a career development expo with the University of South Africa (UNISA) and other institutions of higher learning, further emphasizing the importance of education and career guidance. Additionally, Bahula donated essential items, including stationery, school shoes and sanitary prod-

ucts to needy students, ensuring they have the necessary resources to succeed in their educational journey. The two benefiting schools were Sebjaebjale Secondary and Kgakgatlou Secondary, which are the executive mayor's adopted schools located at Driefontein and Malebitsa Village, situated in Ward 1 of EPMLM. The school management, in collaboration with the School Governing Body (SGB), expressed their gratitude for the executive mayor's support and the opportunities provided to their learners.

Mabena bags his sixth prestigious literary award

Vusi Mabena, an award winning author, poet, actor and motivational speaker, has been awarded with yet another accolade during the African Future Leader Award ceremony held at Freedom Park Sanctuary in Pretoria on Saturday 15 June. The Dennilton born writer, affectionately known as "Global Champion Multi-Award Winning Self-Published Author, King of Philosophy in Writing Inspirational Books", was amongst the 30 African heavyweight writers who were honoured by Anthea Thyssen-Ambursley, who is the founder of African Future Leaders Awards. Mabena said he was speechless about receiving the award and happy that finally his hard work and dedication pays off. "This is the sixth award since I started my professional writing career. I received my first award in 2018 and I am glad that I have managed to receive six awards in this short space of time. I am grateful for my achievements," he said. Mabena said he was overwhelmed when he first received a call from the founder of the awards letting him know about the nomination. "I could not believe I was one of the 30 authors to get this special award from Anthea Thyssen-Ambursley after she called to tell me that she would love to personally honour me for my work. This is a great milestone for someone like me who is just celebrating five years as a professional author," he said. Since his professional writing career, Mabena penned six books and sold over 4000 copies nationwide. "I am happy about this success, my books are not yet on the shelves and digital platforms but I am receiving an overwhelming support and being celebrated by most South Africans. This is something I was not expecting to happen so soon," he said. Mabena emphasized being born in the dusty streets of Dennilton could not deter him to fulfil his writing passion dream to come a reality. "Looking back from where I come from, the struggle to get where I am today, the effort and hard work, I must say I am humbled for my journey as an author. I am looking forward to continuing walking the journey of writing with everyone who supported me including my fans, family and colleagues, not forgetting media power houses that always cover my stories since I became a writer," he said. The dedicated young writes said he is currently busy making final touches of his two books that he worked on for the past two years and they will be released in less than five months. "I would like to tell my fellow peers that everything is possible as long as you put your mind on it. Stop entertaining or listening to people's negative opinions because they will make you stop achieving what you are destined for," he said. Apart from writing, Mabena is a part time actor featured in some leading soapies and telenovela in the country such as Generations the Legacy, Muvhango, The Queen, Skeem Saam, Gomora and others. Mabena recently completed his three year Media and Acting course and currently auditioning for a permanent television role with various media companies. "Acting classes helped me to handle monologue and body language which are needed from a professional actor during the auditions. In



Dennilton young writer, Vusi Mabena, after receiving the African Future Leader Award at Freedom Park Sanctuary in Pretoria

the meantime, I am still getting gigs to shoot for background artist and future part time roles," he said.

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Youth Day soccer match organized to promote football in Mmakgatle

Hungry Lions FC from Mmakgatle Village hosted Man City FC from Mabitsi Village during their first Annual Youth Day Football match, held on Sunday 16 June at Stumpuna Sports Grounds in Mmakgatle Village. The inaugural of the first annual sporting activity was set to inspire youth participation in sports while celebrating the National Youth Day. During the match, both teams worked up a sweat trying to win the match which ended 1-1 in 90 minutes and heading straight to the penalty shootout. Man City were crowned champions after defeating the host, Hungry Lions 2-1 on penalties and walked away with first prize money. Hungry Lions Head Coach, Shadrack Maelane, said the main idea behind the sporting event was to take young people off the streets and bring them to the sports field. "The main focus is to keep children off the streets but most importantly, we want to improve sports participation among young

Agricultural Investment to bolster Ephraim Mogale economy

The Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM), in partnership with Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM) and the Limpopo Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD), have recently held an Agricultural Investment Summit at the EPMLM Municipal Town Hall in Marble Hall. The initiative, which was set to empower local farmers and boost Ephraim Mogale economy, was held under the theme: 'Advancing Agricultural Investment for Sustainable Growth'. During the summit, attending stakeholders discussed the future of agriculture in Ephraim Mogale with key attendees included EPMLM Mayor Cllr Given Moimana, EPMLM Council Speaker Cllr Rebecca Lentsoane, Chief Whip of EPMLM Council Lina Magane and several other council members and officials. Other stakeholders included Department of Rural Development, UCanGrow Africa, NYDA, LEDA, Small Enterprises Development Agency, Sekhukhune Development Agency, Red Meat Industry Services, Agri-Limpopo, AFASA, National Movement of Rural Women, FNB, Piet Engelbrecht Trust and commercial farmers from Marble Hall and Elias Motsoaledi respectively. The summit discussed funding for emerging farmers, public/private partnerships, agro-processing, and the creation of an agricultural master plan to achieve the municipality's vision of becoming a 'world-class agricultural hub'. FNB has in the summit, committed to providing funds for emerging farmers, and commercial farmers, offered experiential learning and incubation programs. LDARD committed to farmers that they will help with access to water and land, while the local municipality committed that they will provide farming spaces through the Local Economic Development (LED) department. Projects earmarked to be supported include a 35 hectare center pivot and 40 hectare sprinkler irrigation in Mogalatsane, Mashasha Farm animal handling facilities, Cooltton Farmers: Ploughing and planting 350 hectares with seeds, fertilizers, and chemicals for cotton farmers. The private partnership support includes peace table grape project for Schoonbee Farm at Moganyaka, support for Kopanong citrus and Mogalatsane irrigation scheme at Piet Engelbrecht Trust Farm and support for Jan Terblanche Irrigation Scheme in Dichoeung. "This diverse gathering is dedicated to setting a new economic growth path to enrich our agricultural landscape, transfer skills, implement agro-processing, and provide funding to our emerging farmers to tackle poverty, unemployment, and inequality," said Mayor Moimana.

people in our village. This is where professional football players start their careers," he said. Hungry Lions was established in 2021 by Ouma Ranala and since its formation, the team has been lacking resources to gain entry in the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM) Local Football Association (LFA) league. In 2024, Hungry Lions received sponsorships from Gold Rush Groblersdal and African Bank that donated soccer kits and soccer balls. Maelane applauded Gold Rush and African Bank for the donation saying that the gesture has assisted the team a lot as they were previously playing without any soccer kit and lacking soccer balls. "It was very difficult for the players to participate in the matches without a soccer kit. We thank Gold Rush and African Bank for their goodwill of joining us to develop the communities through sports. I can assure them that the donations will be used fruitfully with the intended purpose to ensure that football is fully developed in Mmakgatle and neighbouring villages," he said. Maelane indicated that they are currently grooming Hungry Lions Ladies Football team which will be assembled soon and start participating with other teams in their area. "The only challenge we are facing now is lack of interest and participation from young girls. However, there are some who come on board, but the number is not satisfactory. We call upon to parents and women who may have interest in joining the team to come forward," he said. Maelane has called for interested boys and girls from Mmakgatle and surrounding villages such as Hlopha, Ngwalemong, Serithing, Mabitsi, Lukau and Legolaneng not to hesitate and come to join the football club free of charge. "We are



Hungry Lions FC wearing the brand new soccer jersey donated by Gold Rush Groblersdal.

currently reinforcing our squad to register in the EPMLM LFA league for the upcoming season and calling for interested football players to come forward. We also request potential sponsors who are willing to support this initiative to come on board and assist to shape the future of this young generation," he said. For any enquiries regarding Hungry Lions FC joining terms and support, people are encouraged to contact Shadrack Maelane on 071 125 8921/076 251 2978.



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