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## LDoH to pay billions of rands on medico-legal claim cases

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo has raised a serious concern about the spiking figures of medico-legal liabilities in public health facilities staggering to billions of rands.

The affected healthcare facilities include Philadelphia Hospital in Dennilton, which is currently facing over 82 cases of medico-legal claims, in excess of R650 Million. Lindy Wilson, DA Spokesperson on Health in Limpopo, said a recent response to a DA parliamentary question indicated that Limpopo's Department of Health (LDoH) has paid out R266.8 Million in medico-legal claims from

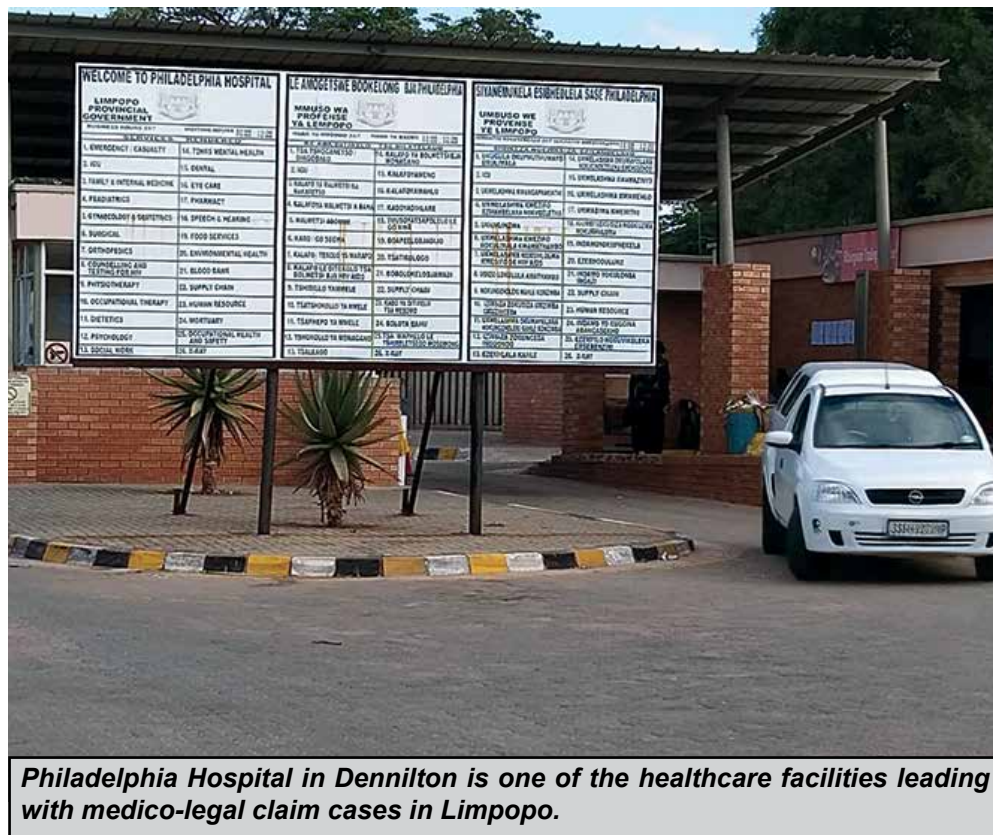
January 2020 to December 2023 from 30 claims.

The province has always struggled to contain medico-legal liabilities, and for the period between 2014/15 and 2021/22 the department registered 1773 cases and incurred liabilities of R8.4 Billion. The department also had 903 medico-legal claims filed against it and spent R63.1 Million on legal costs," she said. Wilson indicated that the Vhembe District accounts for the highest number of cases at 594 and the highest medico-legal liabilities at R5 Billion. "The factors related to the root causes of the high rate of litigation against the

department are critical staff shortages in high-risk areas, clinical errors, poor quality health-care, lack of professionalism, poor communication and staff attitude, lack of equipment, failure to obtain informed consent, missed diagnosis, failure to conduct basic investigations and system errors," explained Wilson. She added that the rising number of claims in Limpopo shows that hospital conditions in the province are not improving but continue to worsen. "The province's health facilities are in an appalling state and the hundreds of millions spent on medical negligence claims could vastly improve the condition of our healthcare facilities.

These claims threaten to bankrupt and col-

lapse the health system in the province, and the departmental strategies to reduce litigations, improve governance and improve the quality of healthcare residents receive are failing," Wilson said. Wilson indicated that firm action is needed to improve the quality of care in the province's hospitals to ensure they are functional and do not inflict further harm on patients. "The failure by Limpopo Health MEC, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, and the department to address litigation claims results in the deterioration of care in our healthcare system. We will continue applying pressure on the department to make sure that this financial burden is reduced and healthcare services are improved," she said.



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# “Limpopo 2024 Budget Speech is just more of the same rhetoric,” says the DA

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo says the province has failed to speak to creating enough opportunities to secure the future of Limpopo’s unemployed youth. The party was reflecting following a budget vote speech tabled by MEC for Treasury in the province, Seaparo Sekoati recently. Lindy Wilson, DA Spokesperson for Treasury in Limpopo, said Sekoati’s budget vote speech was more of the same talk of socio-economic recovery and sectors that would provide employment opportunities and economic growth but with not enough action. “This speech. In his speech MEC Sekoati highlighted sectors like construction and manufacturing that could contribute significantly to our provincial economy, but instead of growing these sectors, they continue to haemorrhage jobs. The latest QLFS showed thousands of job losses in the manufacturing, agriculture, trade, finance and community and social services sectors,” explained Wilson. She added that it remains concerning that the compensation of employees’ accounts for about 67% of the total budget remains quite high considering the high number of critical vacancies and leaves very little resources to actually provide services to the people of Limpopo. MEC Sekoati’s budget speech allocated R40.029 billion (48.2%) to Education and R24.639 billion (29.7%) to Health, and these departments continue to significantly underperform while they receive 77.9% of the province’s budget. “These departments are characterised by classroom shortages, the poor state of school sanitation, poor healthcare infrastructure, medical staff shortages and excessively high medical legal claims. These departments need to produce improved services and more value for the money spent,” informed Wilson. She said the province continues to struggle to ensure consequence management and effective controls within the departments. “The PFMA general report 22/23 states that the province’s overall audit outcomes regressed. Non-Compliance with regulations also continue to affect departments and the Department of Education at R1.96 billion accounts for over half of the R3.61 billion in irregular expenditure and RAL for R1.33 billion,” stated Wilson. According to Wilson, it is unacceptable that only 2.2% of the budget is provincial own generated revenue and it is not enough to support the development needs of the province. “In addition to this, revenue enhancement strategies need to be explored and efforts to generate more revenue need to be intensified. Entities like GAAL, GNT and Corridor Mining Resources are in financial distress and cannot collect enough revenue to fund their own operations, or contribute to the province’s own revenue,” she said. Wilson emphasized that while the speech mentions efforts by the Provincial Treasury to support municipalities and allocated funds for Municipal Intervention Capacity Building, the province’s municipalities are still characterized by poor performance in terms of their financial health, completion of infrastructure projects and the rendering of services, in particular water provision. “The DA will be closely monitoring how this budget will be implemented and spent by all government departments and entities,” she said.



**DA Spokesperson for Treasury in Limpopo, Lindy Wilson, said the party is concerned that the province is failing to provide job opportunities for unemployed youth.**

## SDM to provide psycho-social support to families of Strydom Tunnel crash victims

In the wake of a devastating car accident that occurred at the Strydom tunnel on Saturday 23 March, claiming the lives of five individuals from Tafelkop Village, the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), Cllr Minah Bahula, has called for an urgent psycho-social support for the grieving families of the deceased. The accident, which occurred as the victims were en route to visit a family member, a 22-year-old Dineo Mokwana, who is undergoing military training at the Hoedspruit in Phalaborwa Airforce Base, has left the community reeling in shock. Among the deceased were three members of the Mokwana family from Ramogwerane Forest Section in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, who were identified as Margaret Mokwana (48), Kamogelo Mokwana (29) and Reatlegile Mokwana (3), as well as their brother-in-law, Mr. Motha (57), and their neighbour, Lydia Tshehla (45). One other victim sustained serious injuries and is recovering in hospital. During a courtesy visit to the bereaved families on Monday 25 March, Mayor Bahula expressed her condolences and emphasized the critical need for psycho-social support during such trying times. Bahula was alongside EMLM Mayor, Cllr Magetle David Tladi and EMLM Speaker, Cllr Dieketseng Mashego. Mayor Bahula called upon the community to rally around the grieving families and extend support and compassion. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones affected by this devastating loss. We urge everyone to extend their support and compassion to those affected by this tragedy,” Mayor Bahula stated. She said SDM has established a task team to facilitate funeral logistics of all the families affected by the horrific accident. Mayor Tladi was among people who sent their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. “On behalf of the Elias Motsoaledi Municipality, I would like send our heartfelt condolences to the families of the people who lost their lives in the accident. No amount of words can express our deepest sympathies to the families. We hope that the affected families will find comfort, hope and courage during this difficult time and we wish the other passenger a speedy recovery,” said Cllr Tladi. Tladi appealed to motorists to always be safety conscious when using our roads and be responsible and always adhere to the rules of the road.



**SDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Minah Bahula, joined by EMLM Mayor, Cllr David Tladi, during their courtesy visit to families of the deceased who were killed in the fatal accident that occurred at the Strydom Tunnel.**

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## Several arrests during Operation Vala Umgodi

The South African Police Service (SAPS), South African National Defence Force (SANDF), and the Department of Home Affairs are actively engaged in Operation Vala Umgodi to combat the scourge of illegal mining activities in areas affected by this criminal phenomenon. Through a seamless collaboration between the SAPS, SANDF, and Immigration Officers of the Department of Home Affairs under the banner of Operation Vala Umgodi, numerous individuals involved in illegal mining operations and immigration law violations have been apprehended across various districts in Limpopo Province from Thursday, 14 March to Friday, 15 March. In a significant operation on Thursday, 14 March law enforcement agencies successfully intercepted and arrested three male foreign nationals who were illicitly excavating minerals at a prohibited mining site in Mandagshoek village, situated outside Burgersfort in the Sekhukhune District. The suspects are facing charges related to illegal mining activities and contraventions of immigration laws. In a recent series of Operation Vala Umgodi operations, multiple individuals were apprehended for various offenses in different districts of Limpopo. A total of five male suspects of foreign nationality, aged between 28 and 49 were intercepted at Ga-Nkidikitlana village outside Mokopane in the Waterberg District. These individuals were caught in the act of illegally mining sand and loading it into a white Mitsubishi tipper truck. Subsequently, they were taken into custody for both illegal sand mining and violations of immigration laws. The cases are registered at the Gilead SAPS. In another incident within the Capricorn District, as part of Operation Vala Umgodi, a 26-year-old male suspect was arrested at Bergenek village outside Polokwane on Friday, 15 March 2024. The individual was apprehended for the possession and distribution of dagga. Upon inspection of his residence, the Police discovered 40 packed sachets and a substantial quantity of loose dagga, with an estimated street value of R20, 000, along with a significant amount of cash. Additionally, a 31-year-old male suspect was taken into custody on the streets of Bergenek village for breaching immigration regulations. The related cases were collectively lodged at SAPS Westernburg for further processing. Moreover, on the same day, the Border Policing Teams stationed at Beitbridge Port of Entry conducted a successful operation as part of Operation Vala Umgodi. During their patrol along the Beitbridge fence, they apprehended 27 individuals for contravening immigration laws. These suspects were promptly handed over to Immigration Officers for immediate deportation proceedings. The Limpopo Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe hailed the collaborative efforts by the teams involved in these arrests as well as confiscations. The arrested suspects appeared before various Magistrate's Courts on Monday, 18 March.



## EFF Sekhukhune Region march to demand recognition of black farmers

Scores of Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) supporters and members, have on Thursday 14 March, demonstrated to deliver memorandum of demands to various private and government sectors at Royal Dawn Farm in Marble Hall Town. The march started at the Old Transnet Railway Station before the disgruntled demonstrators marching on Marble Hall main streets to hand-over their memorandums, which were delivered to Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM), Department of Labour, Department of Agriculture, Competition Commission and Royal Dawn Farm management. They were demanding the recognition of black farmers, transformation of commercial farming sector in the Loskop Valley at Marble Hall and Groblersdal farms to benefit black farmers, empowerment of black commercial farmers in the Loskop Valley, forensic investigation instituted into incomplete EPMLM projects including the Leeuwfontein Stadium and Mamphogo Sports Complex. The marchers were also demanding the immediate budget allocation by SANRAL for the R573 Road Project that will be connecting Marble Hall and Siyabuswa, latest land audit report for all the farms in Marble Hall, provision of permanent housing solution for the community of Koteng with appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene and the scraping of exorbitant water bills and revised indigent register be implemented. The party also demanded reinstatement of sales and purchase agreement between Royal Dawn Farm and Marble Hall business opportunities, compensation in relation to the 2024 crop, compensation to all farm workers injured on duty. EFF Chairperson in Sekhukhune Region, Ali Maloba, said they were marching to raise their concerns because blacks are being excluded from owning farms and only whites are given first priority to run farming businesses. "The land is owned by government through the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), however, only white farmers are allocated the space for farming. We are concerned because interested black farmers who have the capacity are being side-lined," he said. According to Maloba, the party demands thorough investigations in the allocation of land in Marble Hall and Groblersdal as they believe that there are certain farmers who captured PIC authorities for kick-backs. "We are aware of the corruption in the PIC and we want to end it now. We want equal opportunities regardless of the skin colour. Black farmers should also get starting capital to establish farming businesses exactly just like the government supports white farmers. The EFF will not stop fighting until the matter comes to rest," he said. Maloba said the party is expecting all affected government and private sectors to respond to the memorandums within 14 working days. "We will take other extreme measures if the affected institutions fail to respond within the expected period," he said.



**EFF members and supporters, leading by Carl Niehaus, marching to deliver memorandums of demands at the Royal Dawn Farm in marble Hall.**

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Objections must be submitted to the aforesaid Local Liquor Authority within 21 days from the date of lodgement of the application.

1. Full names the applicant: Felani Lucas Nkabinde
2. Intended trading name: Fexo Tavern
3. Identity number or registration number of the applicant: 6005185603084
- 4.1 Full address and location of the premises: 5017 Elandsdoorn C, Tambo Village, Dennilton, 1030
- 4.2 Global positioning system (GPS) coordinates of the property where the retail operations are to be carried out. (Note: coordinates must be recorded from the centre of the property). LATITUDE & LONGITUDE: 25°17'53.4"S 29°11'11.0"E
5. Type of licence applied for: On Consumption (Provision of Food)
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Signature of the applicant or an authorised person



# Kgoši Tseke Kgopotso Marishane ascends his throne

Kgoši Tseke Kgopotso Marishane, of the Moroangoato Traditional Council, of the Moroangoato Traditional Council, was officially inaugurated on Friday 22 March at Ga-Marishane Village outside Jane Furse, Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM). The inauguration ceremony was graced by Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Evaluation and Monitoring, Maropene Lydia Ramokgopa, Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla, NCOP member Dr Namane Dickson Masemola, Member of Parliament iNkosi Zwelivelile Mandela Mandela who is former President Nelson Mandela's grandson, MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (Coghsta) in Limpopo, Basikopo Makamu, Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), Cllr Minah Bahula, Mayor of MLM, Cllr Merah Mahlase, various traditional leaders. Marishane, who is an Advocate by profession, was condoned by the community and government as a visionary leader who will foster unity, empower citizens and drive sustainable development across the village. Minister Ramokgopa addressed the ceremony on behalf of government just before the official inauguration. MEC Makamu presided over the inauguration ceremony and presented a certificate and a Batau Royal Chair on behalf of the Premier of Limpopo. In addition, Marishane was conferred another certificate of membership by the President of Contralesa Kgoši Mathupa Mokoena. Executive Mayor Bahula congratulated Marishane and extended her sincere appreciation, whilst also appreciates traditional authorities for their immense contribution to community development. She said the inauguration symbolises the collective determination to uphold traditions whilst embracing progress. "We look forward to working hand in hand with Kgoši Tseke Marishane and all stakeholders to realize our shared vision of prosperity, inclusivity, and progress in the district of Sekhukhune," she said. MLM Mayor Mahlase called on all community members to rally behind Kgoši Marishane and his Royal Council for the betterment and development of the village through his wisdom and collaborative initiatives with all spheres of government. The occasion served as a platform for engaging discussions on the role of traditional leadership in the modern era, community development initiatives, and the preservation of cultural heritage.



Kgoši Tseke Kgopotso Marishane of the Moroangoato Traditional Council was officially inaugurated at Ga-Marishane outside Jane Furse on Friday 22 March.

## Police launch manhunt after body of unknown man recovered in Magakadimeng

The Police in Dennilton have launched a massive manhunt for an unknown suspect(s), who was involved in the murder of an unknown man whose body was dumped at Mogakadimeng Village, along the Bloempoot gravel roads near Mophabetsa River. According to the police report, the gruesome discovery was made by a passer-by on Wednesday 13 March at about 11:20. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said following the discovery, the police were summoned to a scene where on arrival, they discovered an African man's body on the gravel road looking upward with gunshot wounds at the side of the road. "The deceased was wearing blue jeans, a yellow T-shirt, a blue jacket, and brown T-shirts and brown sneakers. His face was covered half with a blue jacket," explained Ledwaba. He said medical emergency personnel were promptly contacted to provide assistance and the victim was certified dead at the scene. "The motive behind this horrific incident is unknown. Anyone who might have information that can lead to the arrest of the suspects to contact Detective Constable Nkgudi Andrew on 076 628 6701, Crime Stop Number on 08600 10111, the nearest police station, or share information on MySAPSApp. An investigation is underway," he said. The Provincial Commissioner of the Police Service in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, urges anyone with information pertaining to this crime to come forward and assist in bringing the perpetrators to justice.

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## Two arrested for murder in Leeuwfontein

The South African Police Service in Motetema are investigating a case of theft from a motor vehicle and murder following the apprehension of a 46-year-old owner of a Panel Beater Shop and 48 year-old male suspect in connection with the murder of a 24-year-old male at Leeuwfontein, near Marble Hall on Tuesday 19 March. Police received a complaint about the assault of two males at one of the local Panel Beaters and rushed to the scene. Upon their arrival, they found a group of people gathered outside the premises and asked for the owner of the Panel Beater. The owner introduced himself and led the police inside the premises. Two males were found bleeding profusely and were suspected to have been severely assaulted. The family of the 24-year-old victim took the duo to Leeuwfontein Clinic for medical assistance. The 46-year-old owner of the Panel Beater apparently accused the two male victims of stealing a motor vehicle part (Block) from his premises and opened a case of theft from motor vehicle against the two wounded male suspects. A 25-year-old male was immediately placed under arrest and is currently admitted at an undisclosed hospital under police guard but his 24-year-old accomplice succumbed to his injuries as a result of the assault. A murder case was opened and the 46-year-old owner of the Panel Beater and 48-year-old male were charged with the murder of a 24-year-old victim. The two murder suspects and a 25-year-old male suspect who is accused of theft from a motor vehicle appeared before the Motetema Magistrate Court to face separate charges on Friday 22 March. Police investigations are continuing.

## High calibre rifles recovered in Moteti

The Police in Dennilton have recovered high calibre automatic rifles and an amount of ammunition at Moteti Village on Friday 15 March. According to the police, the discovery was made during the Limpopo Provincial Operation Kukula which was conducted throughout the province to crackdown criminals. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said during the day of the incident, the police spotted a suspicious red Ford Meteor sedan with four occupants inside driving at a high speed heading towards Moteti Village. "The police members gave chase and the vehicle subsequently stopped at the local shopping center where the suspects abandoned it and fled on foot. "The police searched the vehicle and found an AK-47 rifle, Uzi rifle, 69 rounds of R5 ammunition, 13 rounds of 9mm pistol ammunition and assorted liquor suspected to be stolen," he said. Ledwaba further said during the same operation, the police in the province has arrested 475 suspects and confiscation of assault rifles, a substantial amount of ammunition, illegal mining tools and a large amount of counterfeit goods, among others. "The operations focused on clamping down on criminal activities, ranging from burglary, robbery, assault, rape, drug trafficking, illegal mining, illegal possession of firearms, attempted murder, possession and dealing in dagga, contravention of the Immigration Act, public drinking to contravention of Road Traffic Act," explained Ledwaba. He added that during the intensive operation, police officers conducted several raids, roadblocks and search operations, resulting in significant arrests and seizures. "The police recovered other items that included illegal mining tools such as hammers, wheelbarrows, picks and penducars as well as precious minerals, electrical cables, electrical appliances,

cellphones and others. In addition, 02 fire-arms, 84 rounds of ammunition, three stolen motor vehicles, 1075 counterfeit goods and various types of drugs were also recovered," he said. Ledwaba said some of the suspects have started appearing before their respective magistrate's courts. Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, Provincial Commissioner of the police in Limpopo, has welcomed the arrests and urged members of the community to continue cooperating with the police by reporting illegal activities.



## Hefty sentence handed down against Dennilton serial rapist

The Polokwane High Court has handed down an additional 86 years sentence to Eric Sello Sebothoma (31) for two counts of attempted rape and four counts of rape.

Sebothoma, who is already serving jail terms for previous offences, was sentenced on Wednesday 20 March. The accused was sentenced to eight years imprisonment for attempted rape in count 3, another 8 years imprisonment for attempted rape in count five, twenty-five years for rape in count eight, ten years imprisonment for rape in count 11, ten years imprisonment for rape in count 14 and twenty-five year jail term for rape in count 16.

Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the conviction stems from a series of heinous crimes that took place between 2012 and 2017, targeting vulnerable women and young girls between the ages of 10 and 31. "The court heard how the accused terrorized the community of Dennilton in Sekhukhune District using the same modus operandi. He would break into the victims' houses during the night, threaten them with a knife, and rape them. The accused also robbed some of the victims of their valuables," explained Ledwaba. He indicated that in one of the incidents that took place on 29 June 2013, a ten-year-old girl was sleeping with her seven-year-old cousin on the same bed when an intruder tried to strangle her. "The accused threatened both children with a knife before raping the victim. He thereafter informed the victim that she should not worry because he used protection.

The cases were investigated by Sergeant Pebetse Maile of Groblersdal FCS Unit. The accused was finally linked to the cases and arrested in 2020," Ledwaba said. According to Ledwaba, at the time of the arrest, the accused was already convicted and sentenced to 29 years imprisonment on counts of rape and house breaking committed in Gauteng Province. "Despite already serving sentences for unrelated crimes, the Polokwane High Court sentenced the accused to 25 years imprisonment, highlighting the severity of the crimes and its dedication to upholding the rights and dignity of the survivors and sexual offences," he said. Ledwaba said the court ordered that sentences in counts, 03,05,08,11 and 14, run concurrently with the sentence in count 16. The court further ordered that the 25 years imprisonment run concurrently with the sentence of 29 years, which the accused is currently serving.

Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo Province, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, welcomed the hefty sentences. "We hope this sentencing sends a clear message that the police, together with the judicial system, will not rest until individuals who prey on the most vulnerable members of our society are brought to justice," said Hadebe.

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## Goodbye Mam Hyla



**The learners of Laerskool Julian Muller bid farewell to Mrs. Hyla Scholtz on 19 March. Mrs. Scholtz was part of the teacher's team of Julian Muller for the past 30 years and made a huge difference in several learner's lives. The children truly loved her to bits and she played a huge role in the welfare of the learners. Julian Muller together with the community wish her a well deserved rest and would like to thank her for the part she played in the school and community. "You will be dearly missed".**

## Several Awards for Ben Viljoen

The Sekhukhune-South district's excellence award ceremony took place on 19 March at the Boiketlong Lodge in Jane Furse, and the Dallers made a clean sweep of the awards!

Nine of our staff members walk away with the award as best teacher in their respective subject areas:

Ms Iea Meyer - Afrikaans First Additional Language  
Ms Anneke Snyman - Afrikaans Home Language  
Ms Marelize Barnard - Computer Application Technology  
Ms Christelle Nieman - Consumer Studies  
Mr Johan Cronje - Electrical Technology  
Ms Hannelie Erasmus - English Home Language  
Ms Marianda van Jaarsveld - Information Technology  
Mr Thinus Marais - Mechanical Technology  
Ms Mareli de Klerk - Visual Art

We are also proud of Pabalelo Kgolane and Kai Gerber, who respectively occupy second and third place in the district based on their grade 11 final exam marks.

Hoërskool Ben Viljoen also takes second place in the district with 78% of our matriculants from 2023 gaining Bachelor's degree admission.



**Ben Viljoen staff shines bright during the District Excellence Award Ceremony!**

## CoGTA and SDM foster relationship on DDM Developmental Strategies

The Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Parks Mpho Tau, has emphasized the importance of fostering partnerships and leveraging external expertise to optimize the implementation of developmental strategies with Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM). Tau said during a crucial meeting convened with the Executive Mayor of SDM, Cllr Minah Bahula, held on Monday 18 March at Centurion in Pretoria, aimed at enhancing the District Developmental Model (DDM) strategies within the district municipality. The meeting provided a platform for robust discussions on leveraging the DDM strategy to expedite developmental initiatives and programs across the Sekhukhune District. During the engagement, SDM Municipal Manager, Meshack Kgware, outlined a comprehensive overview, highlighting key milestone achievements within the framework of the DDM and other intergovernmental relations coordination. Officials from the department and the municipality were present, ensuring and confirming the collaborative effort towards sustainable development of the two spheres of governance. A focal point of the discussions was the integration of Public Private Growth Initiatives (PPGI) into the DDM. This initiative advocates for government collaboration with private entities to supplement areas where government resources and expertise may be lacking. During the meeting, Deputy Minister Tau reiterated the government's commitment to facilitating an enabling environment for public-private collaboration, emphasizing its pivotal role in driving socio-economic development.

"We call on the district municipality to treat the DDM model as a strategic vision and that it should be aligned and integrated within other departmental projects of the municipality. We congratulate the district for embracing this project under the leadership of the Executive Mayor Cllr Bahula and her political management team," he said. The engagement concluded with a commitment from all stakeholders to continue working closely to enhance the efficacy of developmental strategies within the SDM. This collaborative relationship will now be elevated to other strategic forums of the municipality for further discussion.



**GoGTA Minister, Parks Tau (Left), with SDM Executive Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula during the developmental strategies meeting at Centurion in Pretoria.**

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# Limpopo hosts SASA National Primary School Track and Field Championships

Primary schools from all districts of Limpopo Province and other provinces in the country have battled in the South African Schools Athletics (SASA) in the National Primary Schools Track and Field Championships hosted in the province on Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 March. The athletics were organized by the Department of Sport Arts and Culture (DSAC) partnered with the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in spearheading the National School Sports Championships since its inception in 2012 together with SASA. MEC for Education in Limpopo, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, has officially welcomed the athletes and wished them luck. "It gives us courage as team Education Limpopo to be the host of this historical event of this magnitude, we are gathered here because of you our learners therefore I want to extend my gratitude to you and wish you luck as you are about to embark on a national

journey and put your parents and schools in general on the national map. We welcome you to the City of Stars Polokwane in the Limpopo Province and remain adamant that you will leave our province," said Lerule-Ramakhanya. She said school sports remains the bedrock of sport development within the province's school calendar and therefore, they are encouraged to be hosting the national competitions as a province. "We extend our heartfelt wishes to the organizers and our learners in general from the beginning and towards the completion of the competitions," she said. Lerule-Ramakhanya indicated that the National School Sport Championships remains the natural stimulant of the rollout of the school sport league programme where children are provided with access to participate in an organized sport programme, which has a product born out of the institutional and legislative frameworks as endorsed at the 2011 Sports Indaba. School sport operational structures were established in March 2012 at National and Provincial levels with the objective of coordinating and rolling out of the schools' sport programme. The primary aim of the school sport programme is to ensure that each one of South Africa's schools such as primary and high schools, are afforded an opportunity to participate in at least one sporting code. The athletes participated in various sporting codes such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault,

shot put, discus, javelin, hammer throw and track and field competing in 100m and 3000m, relays and hurdles.



Primary school pupils from primary schools competing in hurdles sporting code in the National SASA Championships.

## Laerskool Julian Muller Rugby Seniors tour to Jubaweni



### Results 1st team

Day 1: LJM 21 – 14 Bakenkop  
Day 2: LJM 35 – 0 Totiusdal  
Day 3: LJM 9 – 7 Suidskool  
Day 4: LJM 26 – 7 DF Malherbe



### Results 2nd team

Day 1: LJM 5 – 12 Klipfontein (U/13A)  
Day 2: LJM 0 – 35 Noordskool  
Day 3: LJM 5 – 18 Suidskool  
Day 4: LJM 0 – 7 Jan van Riebeeck



### Results U/11 team

Day 1 : LJM 21-7 Kollegepark  
Day 2: LJM 12-0 Emfulenipark  
Day 3: LJM 12-5 Pietersburg Suid  
Day 3: LJM 0-27 Jan van Riebeeck  
Day 4: LJM 31-0 Noordskool

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