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Nolo Dee vying for Miss South Africa pageant crown

Mahlogonolo "Nolo Dee" Bjalane, from Monsterlus Township is one of the 30 semi-finalists contesting for the Miss South Africa pageant crown.



Monsterlus Township beauty sensation, Mahlogonolo Demoivre Bjalane, affectionately known as Nolo Dee, has been announced as one of the 30 semi-finalists vying for the 2024 Miss South Africa title. The 26-year-old beauty from Monsterlus Unit B, in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Ward 20, is also a media practitioner, philanthropist and public speaker. Bjalane specialises in brand strategy for individuals and organisations and is the founder of a non-profit foundation that seeks to uplift the communities. She said she started the foundation to inspire others with her innovative approach and dedication to create a positive change. The model said she has previous experience of winning other beauty competitions, she is confident that she will emerge as the winner of Miss South Africa pageant. "I entered Miss South Africa with a purpose of winning it. I deserve to win simply because of the message I carry towards community development and building which is more importantly the initiative that will help me achieve this goal," she said. When asked about her message to young girls and young women in general in the country, she said: "It is simple, be alive, focus on your purpose and follow your dreams with no fear or doubts. The external noise in the world is only a distraction and temporary inconvenience. Most importantly, be wise enough to listen and be in charge of your life," she said. The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), Cllr Minah Bahula, extended her heartfelt congratulatory message to Nolo Dee for her outstanding achievement. She appealed to all communities to come together and vote for Nolo Dee to secure a place in the Top 25 of the competition. "Let us come together and show our pride by casting our votes on the Miss SA App," she said. EMLM Mayor, Cllr David Tladi, congratulated Nolo Dee in making it into the Top 30 semi-finalists. Tladi is also calling for all community members to vote for Nolo Dee to win the competition. The public can vote for Nolo Dee on the Miss SA App or Miss SA website. The finalist will be introduced in the six-part reality show Crown Chasers starting on SABC 3 on Saturday 29 June 2024.

Four murder suspects arrested near Marble Hall and Jane Furse

The Police in Limpopo have made a major breakthrough in arresting four suspects involved in the heinous house robbery that resulted in the murder and kidnapping of a 38-year-old man on 13 March 2024 in Monsterlus in Hlogotlou policing area, Sekhukhune District. The four suspects aged 23 and 53 were arrested on Thursday, 16 May 2024, following an extensive intelligence

driven joint operation comprising members of murder and robbery and detectives. Two of the suspects aged 23 and 35, of which one is a foreign national, were arrested at Marble Hall informal settlement. During the arrest, police recovered some of the items that were taken from the victims during the house robbery. The other two suspects aged 40 and 54, including the female victim's estranged

husband, were arrested in Matekane village in Jane Furse policing area. One suspect was found in possession of an unlicensed firearm, believed to have been used to commit the crime. The Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe has welcomed the arrests. "The tireless work of our officers in bringing these perpetrators to justice is commendable.

These arrests will send a stern warning to criminals that no lawlessness will be allowed to take hold," stated Lieutenant General Hadebe. The four suspects will soon appear before Nebo Magistrate's Court facing charges ranging from murder, kidnapping, house robbery, possession of unlicensed firearm, and possession of suspected stolen properties. Police investigation continues.

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Nine arrested following Rakgoadi taxi violence

The police in Motetema have arrested nine suspects in connection with a taxi violence that erupted in the Rakgoadi area. The suspects, aged between 27 and 44, were arrested following multiple violent incidents that took place on 13 May 2024 at the Rakgoadi Taxi Rank in Makgatle, Rakgoadi Police Station, and Makgatle Sport Ground between 09:30 and 15:00. They were identified as Irvin Motaung (44), Jim Marota (32), Branden Ditsepu (27), Collin Masemola (33), Khimotso Manaswe (38), Elias Mashego (28), Mbuyiseni Nkosi (28), Paris Mokalapa (31) and Mphethi Collen (42). They made their first appearance before the Motetema Periodical Court on Monday 20 May 2024 facing charges including public violence, malicious damage to property, and assault GBH and were remanded in custody for profiling of bail applications. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpop Provincial Police Spokesperson, said according to reports, the accused targeted the Tsimanyane Taxi Rank in Makgatle Village, where they vandalized the wheel and tires of a quantum and a patrol vehicle. "Subsequently, they moved to the Rakgoadi Taxi Rank where they damaged tires of taxis, smashed and broke the windscreen of a parked van, caused extensive damage to a blue patrol vehicle and assaulted the driver," explained Ledwaba. He said the accused then proceeded to Rakgoadi Police Station where they vandalized the windscreens of two Toyota Quantum minibus taxis parked at the gate. "Following the incidents, the suspects went to the Makgatle Sport Grounds where they inflicted damage on another patrol vehicle and overturned it. The police swiftly responded to the incidents, registering cases and launching a comprehensive search operation. Through dedicated investigative efforts, a team of officers managed to apprehend all nine involved," Ledwaba said. Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, commended the prompt action taken by the police members. Hadebe further condemned the taxi violence incidents and encouraged taxi associations to avoid engaging in violence when facing challenges. "Acts of public violence, malicious damage to property, and assault, are grave offenses and will not be condoned in our communities. We urge the taxi associations to collaborate with the police in preventing and combating such criminal behaviours," said Hadebe.

Taxi patrol vehicles that were damaged after a taxi dispute between two rival associations erupted around areas of Rakgoadi outside Marble Hall.



Residents of Mabitsi Village are subjected to obtain drinking water from the nearest streams after the area has been hit by water shortages.

No service delivery for Mabitsi residents

Residents of Mabitsi Village outside Marble Hall in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM) say they are fed up with poor service delivery that include poor standard of roads and shortage of water provision. Residents blame EPMLM for failing to upgrade the state of their gravel roads which includes the only main road that links the village with neighbouring places. They say they have been tormented by a serious water shortages that started hitting the area five years ago. The villagers say for many years they have raised their poor service delivery plight with both EPMLM and Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) and were given the cold shoulder. Residents say the poor state of D4328 has been an eyesore which has been a nightmare for motorists. The D4328 is a main road connecting Mabitsi with other villages such as Mohlalaotoane, Moeding, Ngwalemong, Mmakgatle, Vaalbank and Ga-Hlopha. To vent their anger about the poor condition of the road, on 11 January 2023, Mabitsi community staged a total shutdown to complain. They were demanding the Limpopo Department of Roads and Infrastructure to come and address their poor roads standard concerns. The protest was halted after MEC for Roads and Infrastructure in Limpopo, Nkakareng Rakgoale, engaged with the demonstrating communities. Rakgoale committed that the road will be upgraded during the 2023/2024 financial year, however the road project was never implemented. Kali Maelane, who is a community leader in Mabitsi and Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) PR Councillor in EPMLM, said they have been raising poor service delivery concerns and have waited for unfulfilled promises. "It is now long overdue and we are tired of waiting," he said. To add to their woes, Maelane said MEC Rakgoale promised that the road project will be completed in a 12 month period, however, no construction has taken place until now. "This is frustrating because the main road is full of dongas and inaccessible, especially during the rain. The road condition also delays emergency vehicle services such as ambulances and police," informed Maelane. He added they are also facing a serious struggle of water with the community urged to fetch drinking water from the nearest rivers and wells. "We are living without water for the past five years and we were told by Sekhukhune District Municipality that a pipe has been damaged at Vaalbank. We are worried that the pipe was never fixed for so many years. This is one of government's empty promises that badly affect our community," he said. Maelane said residents are fed up and suggesting to stage another protest to raise their concerns. However, community leaders advised that they will be demanding authorities to provide basic services to the village in a peaceful manner. Public Works Department Spokesperson, Danny Legodi the department is aware of the delay of the D4328 Road upgrade, however, they are finalising the design stage. "The designs are now being assessed for environmental authorisation. The project team is in constant engagement with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) to facilitate the authorisation of borrow-pits. This is an important step that has to be compliant with the laws of the country," explained Legodi. He said the total costs of the project will follow after the finalisation stage of the designs. "The Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure together with Roads Agency Limpopo, are committed to afford the process all the attention it deserves and ensure that adequate time is allowed for these critical steps to be implemented to achieve the best quality Road for the communities," he said. SDM Spokesperson, Lemson Moropjane, could not respond to WhatsApp messages sent by the publication when requesting a comment.



Groblersdal Police probe rape of 15-year-old girl

The Groblersdal FCS Police Detectives are investigating a case of rape after a 15-year-old girl was raped at the Nebo Policing Precinct in Mathusand Section, Glen Cowie Village on Saturday 18 May around 19:00. According to Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the police received information that the victim was coming from a local wedding ceremony walking to her residence when an unknown man approached from her behind at Matsumane Sport Grounds. "The suspect came running and he apparently grabbed the victim on the neck and threatened to kill her. He pushed her on the ground, undressed her, and raped her. Thereafter, fled from the scene," explained Ledwaba. He said the victim reported the incident to her mother and she was immediately taken to local hospital for medical treatment. Ledwaba added that the police were informed about the incident and a case of rape was opened at Nebo Police Station. "The docket was later transferred to Groblersdal Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit of investigations," he said. Ledwaba said the police appeal to anyone with information regarding the incident to contact the investigating officer, Warrant Officer Mahuleng Thoka on 072 679 6553, the Crime Stop Number on 08600 10111, the nearest police station or to make use of MySAPSApp.



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High-density Operation Vala Umgodi pays off once again

The joint operational multi-disciplinary forces comprising of the SAPS Tactical Response Team, National Intervention Unit, Public Order Police, Organised Crime Investigation, K9 Unit, Border Police Team along with the SANDF as well as the Department of Home Affairs have recovered five tipper trucks and millions of rands worth of illicit cigarettes through high-density Operation Vala Umgodi. It is reported that the Team in Sekhukhune District, Limpopo, has in the early hours of Monday 27 May 2024, accosted five tipper trucks and a Toyota Hilux double cab along R555 road outside Burgersfort loaded with chrome, suspected of being stolen. Preliminary investigations revealed that the chrome was taken from illegal mining sites. The Police have arrested the five males drivers of the trucks aged between 36 and 66 for possession of suspected stolen precious minerals while the sixth unknown male suspect fled the scene on foot.

The suspects are expected to appear before various Magistrate's Courts in the week.

The five tipper trucks that were confiscated by police



Career Day at Laerskool Marble Hall



The grade 7 classes of Laerskool Marble Hall had Career day on 22 May. The children dressed as teachers, lawyers, judges, hunters, doctors only to name a few. It was fun to see each learner's idea of what they want to become one day.

Wife arrested for murder of her husband

Police in Dennilton, Sekhukhune District have arrested a 33-year-old woman after she allegedly shot and killed her husband. The tragic incident occurred in Elansdoo village on Monday, 27 May 2024 at about 06:00, where a heated argument between the couple escalated, leading to the wife shooting her husband. According to the preliminary information, the violence ensued after the suspect found out about her husband's infidelity which was taking place on the same rental premises. She then fetched her husband's licensed firearm and started firing several shots at him while he was trying to escape. Unfortunately, the 32-year-old victim was shot and he collapsed on the street. Upon arrival at the scene, Police and emergency medical services found the victim lying in a pool of blood and he was certified dead. The firearm, believed to have been used to commit the crime, was found on the scene and was confiscated for further investigation. A preliminary investigation revealed that the couple is originally from Kwazulu-Natal province and they were both educators at different schools around Dennilton. The identity of the deceased will be released in due course.

The Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe has highlighted the continuous struggle against gender-based violence in the province, urging communities to seek professional help to resolve relationship issues instead of resorting to violence. The suspect will soon appear before Moutse Magistrate's Court facing a charge of murder. Police investigations are still continuing.

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Matlerekeng Police sought four unknown armed robbery suspects

The police in Matlerekeng outside Marble Hall are searching for four unknown suspects in connection with an armed robbery incident that took place on Wednesday, 22 May 2024 at Ga-Matlala Ramoshebo Village in Moutse West. Brigadier Hlulani Mashaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the armed robbery occurred when a 40-year-old Pakistani national, who was accompanied by his employee, was allegedly attacked while driving a white Toyota bakkie when a blue Kia motor vehicle, without registration number overtook and stopped in front of them along Ga-Matlala Ramoshebo Village road. "Suddenly, one suspect vacated the motor vehicle and produced a firearm that was pointed at the duo. Moreover, three male suspects also came out of the Kia motor vehicle and demanded money and cellphones from the victims," said Mashaba. He added that during the robbery incident, the two male victims were subsequently dispossessed two cellphones valued at R2000-00 and a substantial amount of cash that was intended to purchase stock for two retail stores that belonged to a 40-year-old Pakistan national. "Afterward, the four suspects managed to flee the scene driving in a blue Kia motor vehicle. A manhunt of the four suspects is underway and anyone with information that can assist with the investigations, should contact the Investigating Officer, Sergeant Gezani Hlongwane on 064 756 8009, the Crime Stop Number on 08600 10111, the nearest police station or make use of MySAPSApp. Police investigations are continuing," concluded Mashaba.

SDM warns of tender scammer targeting potential service providers

The Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) is alerting all communities and potential service providers about scammer who impersonate to be senior municipal officials, with aims to solicit money from unsuspecting service providers doing business with the municipality. According to the district municipality, the fraudulent activities are involving an individual named Isaak Kgware, with contact number 060 875 9786, who is falsely claiming to be the SDM Municipal Manager, Meshack Kgware. "The said Isaak Kgware has been reported to request money or financial assistance from service providers in exchange for awarding tenders. Please be advised that these actions are fraudulent and not sanctioned by the municipality," said SDM Spokesperson Lemson Moropjane. He said the municipality does not solicit any form of payment or financial assistance from service providers for the awarding of tenders. "All tender processes are conducted in a transparent and fair manner, in accordance with our official procurement procedures. If you are approached by Isaak Kgware or anyone else requesting money in exchange for tenders, please do not comply and report the incident immediately to the municipality's fraud hotline on 0800 212 212," he said.

Laerskool Julian Muller cares

The learners of Laerskool Julian Muller supported the benevolent fund with open hearts by bringing loads of goods to school in support of the fund. The school would like to thank each and every learner and parent who made a contribution that will certainly help to make a difference.



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MEC Monama delivers science equipment gesture to Elias Motsoaledi schools

MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism in Limpopo (LEDET), Rogers Monama, has on Tuesday 21 May, handed-over science equipment to two schools in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM). Monama handed-over the donated science equipment in partnership with the Limpopo Gambling Board and 4Racing at Mafato Primary School in Motetema Township and Mashung Primary School in Moeding Village. During the hand-over, Monama was accompanied by Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) Member of Mayoral Committee, Cllr Orginia Mafefe who was representing the Executive Mayor of SDM Cllr Minah Bahula. In her message of support, Mafefe applauded the MEC and the donating partners for their generous gesture. "Thank you, MEC Monama and your partners for choosing Sekhukhune. These science equipment donations will motivate our learners to work harder and improve their knowledge," said Mafefe. Delivering his keynote address Monama stated that they came to the school, which happens to be the school where Premier Mathabatha was a learner in his youth. The MEC thanked Limpopo Gambling board and 4racing for the science kit donation to learners and further encouraged the pupils to ensure that they study and become educated learners. He also encouraged the learners to shy away from illegal gambling, including Fafi, which is a well-known illegal gambling in the townships and villages, and



Mafato Primary School pupils, staff members as well as representative from LEDE, Limpopo Gambling Board and 4Racing showing off the donated science equipment.

also not to make use of gambling machines slots in tuck shops. MEC Monama expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders involved, encouraged both schools to take excellent care of the equipment. He also called on teachers to expand the knowledge of their learners, as they are the future of the country. "Seated here are future engineers, doctors and nurses. The young ones are the future of this country. With this gesture, we aim to contribute to the welfare of our next generation and ensure a bright future," said Monama.



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Tshakuma boys end Ratanang's unbeaten streak

Ratanang FC unbeaten run within the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM) Local Football Association (LFA) was ended after they suffered a thrilling 4-1 defeat from Tshakuma Boys FC at Ditshweneng Sports Grounds in Moganyaka on Sunday 26 May. Prior to their loss on Sunday, Ratanang, from Tsimanyane Village outside Marble Hall, was enjoying the longest unbeaten streak after playing 14 matches without a defeat. After the match, the team management admitted that Tshakuma Boys were the toughest opponent they have met since the league started. Tshakuma Boys Head Coach, Moruti "Ras" Monama, said they have been preparing to end Ratanang's unbeaten record since the begun of the football season. "Our aim was to collect maximum points against Ratanang and we made sure we execute our plan in the field of play. We have a tradition where we encourage our players that winning every match we play is important," he said. Despite the defeat, Ratanang is still on top of the EPMLM LFA and are hopeful to gain promotion to the Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League in

the 2024/2025 season. Two weeks ago, Ratanang played a spectacular football during their league match in honouring the legacy of the late community activist, Madingwane Joyce Rakolote. The team honoured the late Rakolote for being a loyal servant of football and philanthropist as she contributed immensely to the growth of football in the community and touched lives of many by restoring human dignity. Rakolote was described as an "agent of change" by many. During the match Ratanang put on dominant display to beat Elandskaraal Vultures 3-1 in the LFA match which was played at Ratanang Sport Complex in Tsimanyane. The honouring of Rakolote's legacy has motivated the team in the field of play when they managed to defend the lead during the match and collected 3 points which put them in a favourable position of getting a promotion. The hosts, Ratanang FC, made their intentions clear from the first whistle as they created few scoring opportunities within the first ten minutes. Ratanang continued create more goal scoring chances but they failed to convert when they were denied by defenders. The missed goal scoring opportunities came back to haunt them when Vultures took the lead against the run of play after a swift counter attack which lead to one on one chance with the strike who managed to calmly finish a well-placed ball in the bottom corner of the net. Vultures' joy was short lived when Ratanang player, Bonolo Rakolote, affectionately known as "Stuta", stunned them with a long-range free-kick which was taken from 35 yards. Ratanang grabbed the lead when Kamogelo "Skhecho" Maelane scored from close range with a beautiful finisher after receiving a pass from Lefa "Mshishi" Kodibona, who dispossessed an opponent then quick-



Tshakuma Boys FC from Moganyaka Village managed to sink Ratanang FC unbeaten run after winning with a thrilling 4-1 victory during the EPMLM LFA match.

ly passed the ball to Skecho who made no mistake. The game went to halftime 2-1, with the host leading. The second half of the match was evenly balanced as the visitors were looking for an equalizer while the hosts were fighting to extend the lead. Ratanang scored a third goal towards the referee's final whistle with a nerve wrecking goal when Boikamo "Vicks" Magutla complete a good team move in the dying minutes of the game. The match ended 3-1 to Ratanang with man of the match awarded to their player Lefa "Mshishi" Kodibona who played exceptionally well during the match.

Dynamique Primary School choirs are reaching new heights

Dynamique Primary School Choir participated at the 2024 annual and flagship South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE). The competition remains the most crucial school enrichment program coordinated by the Department of Basic Education with an aim to manage and monitor schools music competition, promote unity in diversity, national reconciliation, positive values and social cohesion among school-going ages. Our choir tackled 5 beautiful renditions composed and re-arranged locally and internationally. At cluster level on the 8th of May 2024 in Marble Hall, the Junior choir led by Lesedi Diago and Elizabeth Mabuza, won 2 trophies for the songs Thuto and To God be the Glory. The Senior choir also led by Lesego Mathabela, Elijah Mokoena, Mfundo Mthombeni, Nthabeleng Makhubedu, Letago Nkogatse, Khanyisile Rammupudu, while co-conducted by

Gobjalo Mokoena, Thato Ntjana and Karabo Selala posted impressive results that yielded 3 trophies for the songs An die Freude, Come Away and Xidimokrasi. Their stage presence was enhanced greatly by the knowledgeable attire committee led by Sepheu Makgetlaneng, Mosa Tlaka and Zimi Simayile who ensured every chorister looked the part. Furthermore, the food committee led by Leago Mothogoane, Luthando Mtsweni and Khumo Podile played their part for the happiness of all choristers. The media committee led by Mpho Kgatle, Kefilwe Phetla and Rethabile Shokwana capped off the competition with clear pictures for memories. At district level on the 17th of May 2024 in Monsterlus, both choirs produced 2 trophies which also motivated them to keep the groups intact and participate in other music endeavors. Once again our brilliant quartet (Tshegofatso Mogudi, Lesego

Mathabela, Philani Mtsweni and Tokelo Mohlala) raised their hands by hitting the correct notes to their western boys song and Tshegofatso Mogudi shone the brightest with adjudicators also in agreement to his composure, voice projection, phrasing and pitch control. After exams the choir will perform in the school hall during the end of term concert and prepare for their possible destination in George, Western Cape for the CANTAMUS NATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION in August. Indeed to God be the Glory!!



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