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Five suspects linked to SDM face fraud and money laundering charges



Molefi Kubuzie is one of suspects nabbed for alleged fraud and money laundering committed within the SDA.



Kubuzie, is among the arrested suspects.



One of the accused, Vicky Mantea Makanyane was the company's CEO when the crimes were allegedly committed.

GROBLERSDAL

I ive accused, Peter MdIuli (39), Vicky Mantea Makanyane (42), kgaogelo Chantelle Letsoalo (37), Elizabeth Tshidi Kubuzie (51) and Molefi Kubuzie (26), appeared before the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court on Wednesday, 26 March 2025, on charges of fraud and money laundering for a bail application following their arrest on Tuesday 25 March 2025.

Their bail applications were denied d they were all remanded in custody until 30 May 2025.

Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said reports indicate that in 2022, a former board member of the Sekhukhune Development Agency (SDA) opened an inquiry for investigation of ghost payment on services that were never rendered.

"After one of the members of the Sekhukhune Development Agency informed the board that he found a court order placed underneath one of their offices. A preliminary investigation revealed that all the documentation, including the court order, were fraudulent. The stamp that was used on the court order was reported missing," said Ledwaba.

He added that a case was opened at

Motetema Police Station and transferred to Groblersdal Police Station for further investigation.

"The investigation was activated, which resulted in the arrest of five suspects. The suspects made their first court appearance on Tuesday 25 March 2025, and the case was postponed to Wednesday 26 for formal bail application. On Wednesday 26, the bail application was denied, and they were all remanded in custody until 30 May 2025," explained Ledwaba.

The Provincial Commissioner Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, welcomed the arrest and praised the investigating officer, Colonel Sekhweni and his team who ensured that the suspects remained behind bars.

The Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) Spokesperson, Lemson Moropjane, said they are aware of the arrest of the four former and current employees, who have since appeared before the Groblersdal Magistrate Court on Tuesday for a bail hearing.

"The accused, some of whom are employed by the Sekhukhune Development Agency have appeared again on Wednesday, 26 March 2025, on charges of money laundering and theft involving an amount of R460 000-00,

which dates back to the year 2022," said Moropjane.

He added that the four accused include an Acting CEO of the SDA who is no longer employed by SDA, a seconded company secretary who is now Senior Legal Officer in the Municipality, a project coordinator now project manager at the SDA and a former EPWP fire-fighter who is no longer employed by the district municipality.

"The municipality will closely monitor the case and fully cooperate with law enforcement agencies, ensuring justice proceeds with respect to the principle of "innocent until proven guilty," said Moropjane.

He said the SDM holds a zero-tolerance stance against corruption and reaffirms its commitment to clean governance and ethical leadership.

"Any acts of corruption, fraud, or maladministration, regardless of who is involved, will be dealt with swiftly and decisively. The municipality condemns any form of corruption, as it undermines service delivery and the trust of the community," he said.

Moropjane said the municipality will not make further public comments on this matter pending the outcome of the case.



Kgaogelo Chantelle Letsoalo, who is an attorney, she is part of the suspects who were denied bail by the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court for fraud and money laundering.



Peter Mdluli (39) who is Senior Legal Administrative Officer of the company is among suspects arrested in connection with fraud and money laundering.

The Sekhukhune Dispatch Info@sekdispatch.co.za 03 April - 09 April 2025

SDM launches Road Safety Awareness Campaign ahead of Easter weekend

GA-MANYAKA

Sekhukhune Municipality (SDM), through its Community Services Department and relevant security cluster stakeholders, have on Thursday 27 March 2024, held the R37 Road Safety Awareness Campaign Ga-Manyaka Community Hall, Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM).

The objective of the awareness campaign derived from debriefing session of the Easter Season Road Safety Campaign, and the statistics painted a bad picture about R37, especially incidents involving pedestrians.

During the event, the Mayor of FTLM, Cllr Eddie Maila, assured the community that as they seek to become a city, they must also improve their roads network and also make sure their pedestrians are safe.

"We care about our people, hence when we heard the statistics on pedestrians death on the R37 Road, we guickly responded and organised this awareness campaign to educate our people about road safety. We call on all the users of the R37 to be vigilant and adhere to speed limits," said Maila.

Representing the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) Cllr Orginia Mafefe, MMC responsible for Community Services in district municipality, said that the municipality organised the campaign as a caring government, adding that more campaigns will be held in Fetakgomo Tubatse the situation improves.



FTLM Mayor, Cllr Eddie Maila, participating in the SDM Road Safety Awareness Campaign along the R37 Road at Ga-Manyaka Village.



The SDM has conducted the R37 Road Safety Awareness Campaign at Ga-Manyaka ahead of the Easter holidays long weekend.

Easter Campaign here on the 11 The event culminated in all "Limpopo government is going this issue, we are indeed a caring compliance and safety."

to launch its Provincial Road Safety government," said Cllr Mafefe.

April 2025 at Nthame Primary stakeholders conducting a stop Municipality especially R37 until School. This showcases how and search of all vehicles passing seriously we as government take through the R37 Road to check

Kit Kat Cash and Carry brings affordable shopping to Groblersdal



Councillor Ndumiso Ndlovu, MMC for Budget and Treasury in EMLM cutting the ribbon to officially open the new Kit Kat Cash and Carry retailer in Groblersdal

GROBLERSDAL

The town of Groblersdal has on 28 March 2025, marked the grand opening of one of the biggest retailers in the country, Kit Kat Cash and Carry retailer, a momentous occasion celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by the Mayor of the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM), Cllr David Tladi, along with MMC responsible for Budget and Treasury, Cllr Ndumiso Ndlovu and Kit Kat CEO Riaz Gani.

The event signified a major development for the local communities, enhancing access to retail services and providing a much-needed shopping option for residents.

Kit Kat Cash and Carry is wellknown for its competitive prices and regular seasonal specials, positioning itself as a one-stop shopping destination for locals. The store aims to cater to the diverse needs of the community, offering a wide range of products at affordable prices.

The opening of this store is expected to create approximately 200 jobs for residents, providing a substantial boost to the local economy.

The development underscores Kit Kat Cash and Carry's commitment to supporting the community and enhancing the livelihoods of its members, fostering economic growth and improving the quality of life for many families in the area.

The event was well-attended, with community members expressing excitement about the new opportunities and services that Kit Kat Cash and Carry will bring to Groblersdal.

During the grand opening, the atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm as residents looked forward to the benefits that this new retail option will provide, reinforcing the importance of local businesses in driving community development.

Ongoing Sekhukhune TVET College protest gains momentum

Some of the students at Sekhukhune TVET College CS Barlow Campus in Motetema outside Groblersdal stated that the ongoing protest is affecting their studies. The protest had since erupted on 8 March 2025 over payments dispute by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), paying their accommodation allowance to their landlords, rather than directly into their own accounts.

The new NSFAS allowance payment legislation announced on 13 February 2025 and ever since then, students are in loggerheads with college management and the financial aid scheme urging them to overturn the decision.

They are claiming that most of their rental places do not comply with new NSFAS accommodation standards set by the financial aid scheme. Among the new NSFAS accommodation standards, landlords, who will be qualifying to house students, are required to have, Wi-Fi connectivity, spacious rooms with proper sanitation and

have to meet safety and security standards. The landlords are also compelled to get registered with local municipalities and have police affidavits to confirm that they are indeed accommodating students. Students claim that their rented rooms are very small with no proper sanitation at all and no Wi-Fi. They say there is also no proper safety measures in place.

With the college suspended the NCV and PLP classes since 18 March 2025 because of the protest, some of students state that they want the strike to come to an end because they are left behind in their studies.

"We are currently writing assessments and exams and we are affected because we only go to the college when going to write because of the ongoing protest," said one of the students who did not want to be named.

The suspended classes are expected to resume on 7 April 2025. Another student, who also wish to remain anonymous, told the publication that they are protesting because they want the college's management to pressure NSFAS to change the decision.

"Students want to directly pay for their accommodation because the standards of the rooms they are staying in are very poor. It is unfair that NSFAS will be using a student's R2 500-00 allowance to pay for the room that is only worth R500-00. We are the ones who know how much to pay and the landlords are not having a problem with that. This legislation should be overturned," he said.

He said students are currently signing a petition to remove the Students Representative Council (SRC), citing that the structure is failing to help address students' problems with college management and NSFAS.

He said students resolved to continue with the protest until NSFAS agrees to allocate their accommodation allowances directly into their bank accounts.

Attempts to get Sekhukhune TVET College's comment bore no fruits after its Spokesperson, Abicky Kgolane, could not respond to our enquiries.



Scores of Sekhukhune TVET College students at CS Barlow Campus in Motetema have embarked in an ongoing strike protesting against the new NSFAS accommodation allowance allocations.

Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure strengthens internal capacity



The new recruits of the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure with MEC Ernest

LIMPOPO - Limpopo MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Ernest Rachoene made another move to bolster internal capacity of the department to be able to deliver on its mandate.

Rachoene welcomed 168 new officials into the department on 01 March. The MEC said, "This is a realisation of one of the priorities of the seventh administration, under the stewardship of our Hounorable Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba. This is not just an appointment of employees, but an effort which will directly translate into strong government capacity. Just in December last year, the department appointed employees."

Of the 168, 67 are females, 80 are youth and two are persons with disabilities. Fifty-two of them will be attached to the Roads Infrastructure Unit, to further capacitate Dikgerekgere teams at the 36 cost centres across the province.

expressed Rachoene delight on the new recruits, stressing that public service is not just a job but a calling. "It requires dedication, integrity and a deep understanding that the work done impacts on millions of lives," said expressed Rachoene.

The commissioner of the Public Service Commission,



Limpopo MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Ernest

Mr. Magerule Sekonyana also emphasised on the significance of public employees since the first cohort was absorbed last

service, focusing on the constitutional values, which include upholding the rule of law. The department has welcomed a total of 342

year in December.

ensuring that of its residents.

The municipality the community.

The local municipality



EMLM Mayor, Cllr David Tladi, will be outlining the council's key priorities during the public

Shanela operations nab 427 suspects



Unlicensed firearms and ammunition were recovered during the Police Operations Shanela which were conducted in the five districts of Limpopo Province.



The ongoing Operation Shanela led to the

LIMPOPO - Operation Shanela, also known as Kukula, resulted in the arrest of 427 suspects for various crimes across the five districts of Limpopo from March 24 until March

Lieutenant Colonel Thakeng, Limpopo Provincial Police spokesperson, said the joint operation was conducted by SAPS components, traffic police, SANDF, Department of Correctional Services and Community Policing

indicated Thakeng that the suspects were arrested for rape, assault GBH, assault common, sexual assault, business robbery, contravention of

the Immigration Act and driving under the influence of alcohol.

"The operation was executed focusing on stop and searches, tracing of wanted suspects, motor vehicle testing, visibility and other related measures to enhance law enforcement effectiveness," explained Thakeng.

Two suspects arrested possession of firearm, 14 for dealing in drugs, three for possession of illicit cigarettes, five for murder, six for rape and four for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Twenty-six litres of alcohol, 32 ammunitions of different types of firearms,

13 counterfeit goods, nine dangerous weapons, 0.22 grams of dagga and 10 packets of illicit tobacco were confiscated.

The Provincial Commissioner of SAPS in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, remarked, "We have more boots on the ground heighten visibility with a specific focus on preventing and combating crime especially since we are heading towards the Easter Holidays.

These operations will be intensified to ensure the safety and security of our citizens, business community and holiday

the

General Junior Lehabe-

Metsi to follow up on the

allegations levelled against

the police and expedite the

been referred to the

The matter has also

investigation process.

District

Major

directed

Commissioner

Sekhukhune,

EMLM Council green-lights 2025/2026 Draft IDP

GROBLERSDAL

The Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM) Third Ordinary Council meeting, sitting in the Municipal Chamber in Groblersdal and presided over by Council Speaker Cllr Junior Thethe on Monday March 31 March 2025, adopted the 2025/2026 Draft IDP and Budget for public consultation.

During the session, several important reports were presented, including the Audit Committee (AC) report and the Municipal **Public Accounts Committee** (MPAC) report, along with mayoral committee.

Recently, EMLM Mayor, Cllr David Tladi, tabled the

Draft 2025/26 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and the Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) for the period 2025/2026 to 2027/2028. Once these documents are adopted by the council, they will initiate the IDP roadshows aimed at engaging with community and stakeholders ahead of the new municipality financial

his presentation, the mayor outlined the key elements of the Draft Budget and Draft IDP, emphasizing the council's recommendations from the financial priorities and developmental goals for the upcoming year.

The municipality said



The EMLM Council sitting has adopted the 2025/2026 Draft IDP and **Budget for public consultation.**

the meeting marked a significant step towards institution's plans align with the needs and aspirations

encouraged everyone to take part in the consultation process, stating individual's input is vital to ensuring that Elias Motsoaledi plans reflect the aspirations and needs of

has thanked for the public's continued engagement and support n their



consultations

Police Commissioner orders probe into viral crime videos

MANKWENG/ **MOTETEMA**

The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, says she has noted with concern video clips making rounds on social media platforms in Mankweng and Motetema policing

According to the police, in Mankweng policing area, a gentleman was captured on social media alleging that he was stabbed by a person well-known to himself. In the video, he could be heard saying that he will avenge himself.

Meanwhile, Motetema area, a video depicting another gentleman was recorded alleging that he was wrongfully arrested and assaulted by police

He further alleges that he was threatened by a civilian, suggesting that an arrangement was made for him to be fatally shot. The police say the videos have sparked public outrage especially in the social media space.

Following the incidents, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadehe

Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) for further handling. The police said in addition, the civilian in the video from Mankweng is urged to report the alleged stabbing incident at Mankweng Police Station and cautioned against



The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, says she directed the District Commissioner of Sekhukhune, Major General Junior Lehabe-Metsi to follow up on the allegations levelled against the police and expedite the investigation process.



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2025/26 SMMES AND COOPERATIVES SUPPORT FUND

Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) invites eligible SMMEs and Cooperatives to apply for support/funding. SDM has identified a need to provide support to SMMEs and Cooperatives within its jurisdiction to create a conducive environment for sustainable growth and development of SMMEs and Cooperatives. To achieve the above objective SDM has a project called Support to SMMEs and Cooperatives in the 2025/2026 Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP). The main primary objective of the support is provision of production infrastructure, equipment, and inputs to enhance production capacity.

Criteria and other requirements are stated in the application form. Applicants should have never received any funding from SDM within the last two years. Applications in Tourism, Agriculture, Mining, Trade and Manufacturing sectors will be given priority, and take note that the funding ranges from a minimum of R10 000 to a maximum of R33 000 per SMME. The municipality has developed an LED Funding Policy to guide administration of the application processes for funding and assessment of the applications for selection of eligible SMEs and Cooperatives. Copies of the prescribed application form can be downloaded from SDM website: www.sekhukhunedistrict.gov.za. Supporting documents required are outlined in the application form.

Applications not meeting the set criteria will not be considered. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. The outcomes of final selection process will be communicated to all selected applicants only and should applicants not receive communication 2 month after the closing date, they should consider their application unsuccessful.

For further enquiries, kindly contact us on the following contact details: Email Addresses; nchabelengc@sekhukhune.gov.za or mahlakwanei@sekhukhune.gov.za; Cell Numbers: 083 345 7579 and 072 330 8447 respectively. Applications must be hand delivered to AB Skhosana Fire Station (Groblersdal) in the dedicated tender box marked "2025/26 SMMES and Cooperatives Support Fund" and can also be delivered to the local municipalities: On or before the 30 May 2025 by 11h00.

- Ephraim Mogale LED office: Precious Pitso 071 647 3016
- Makhuduthamaga LED office: Wonder Nkobo 082 455 2245
- Fetakgomo Tubatse LED office: Goldolar Mtheza 072 294 0180
- Elias Motsoaledi LED office: Edgar Sebei 073 763 8083

Mr Meshack Kgwale Municipal Manager Sekhukhune District Municipality

PUBLIC NOTICE

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AT BOKONI PLATIMUM MINES, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

A Public Notice is hereby published in terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (No 25 of 1999) of a Heritage Impact Assessment study underway to pave way for expansion of mining operations in the Rapholo River Valley, Fetakgomo Local Municipality, Limpopo Province. The area is approximately 500Ha in extent.

Anyone with information or has objections regarding the potential impact of the project on heritage resources is hereby required to make the same known in writing to the emails given below or by telephone within thirty (30) days from the date of publication hereof, after which the period of notice will lapse.

TSEBIŠO YA SETŠHABA

Tsebišo ya Setšhaba e phatlalatšwa go ya ka Karolo ya 38(8) ya Molao wa Methopo ya Bohwa bja Bosetšhaba (NHRA) (No 25 ya 1999) ya nyakišišo ya Tekolo ya Kamego ya Bohwa yeo e tšwelago pele go bula tsela ya go katološa ditiro tša meepo ka Moeding wa Noka ya Rapholo, Mmasepala wa Selegae wa Fetakgomo, Profenseng ya Limpopo. Lefelo le le ka ba 500Ha ka bogolo.

Mang le mang yo a nago le tshedimošo goba a nago le dikganetšo mabapi le khuetšo yeo e ka bago gona ya protšeke go methopo ya bohwa o swanetše go tsebiša se se swanago ka go ngwala go di-imeile tšeo di filwego ka mo tlase goba ka mogala mo matšatšing a masometharo (30) go tloga ka letšatšikgwedi la phatlalatšo ye, ka morago ga moo nako ya tsebišo e tla feta.

CONTACT DETAILS

Heritage Officer
Development Applications Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency
Tel: 021 202 8660 / 021 462 4502

The Heritage Specialist
P O Box 2702, The Reeds 0158
Centurion

21 202 8660 / 021 462 4502 Email: <u>e.matenga59</u> <u>info@sahra.org.za</u> Cell: 071 505 9071

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION BY: MAKULE GENERAL SAND MINING (PTY) LTD

Notice is hereby given in terms of EIA Regulation 41(2) (c) of the Regulations, under the Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)

Makule General Sand Mining (Pty) Ltd applied for a Mining Permit for mineral Sand General Only, in terms of Section 27 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002. The project will be following the Basic Assessment Report procedures in terms of regulation 41(3) (b) (i) of the NEMA: EIA Regulation, 2014. The project will trigger Activity 21 of Listing Notice (LN) 1 of the EIA Regulations "Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the mining permit.". The applications cover farms:

JAGDLUST 418 KS AND MATABA'S LOCATION 306 KS (REMAINING EXTENT) DMRE REF: LP 30/5/1/3/2/12782MP.

Located in the magisterial district of **Lepelle-Nkumpi/Greater-Tubatse/Fetakgomo**. You can be involved in the Public Participation Process by:

- sending a fax, email or mail with your name, contact details and concerns/questions relating to the project.
- Providing us with the names of additional people that can be contacted.

All correspondence be received within 30 days from receipt of these notice will be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources & Energy (DMRE). All issues raised during the public participation process will responded to in writing to the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). I&AP include all parties concerned, who will be affected by the project and interested in the prospecting/exploration project.

CORRESPONDANCE MAY BE DIRECTED TO: VM Mafanele

EMAIL: <u>info@mafanelegeo-enviro.co.za</u> or <u>michaelmafanele@mafanelegeo-enviro.co.za</u> or <u>mafanelevm@gmail.com</u> or Postnet Suite 210

Private Bag x 5981 Polokwane North 0750

OFFICE: 26 Thabo Street (AL Smit Building), Polokwane, Limpopo

FAX: 0865 444 911

CEL: 072 395 9511/066 389 1021/078 174 4835

DATE OF NOTICE: 11 April 2025

Five killed, nine injured in gruesome taxi accident

MATILU

MEC for Department of Transport and Community Safety in Limpopo, Violet Mathye, said she is saddened by the loss of lives in an accident which occurred on the D4285 Road in Matilu Village, Ephraim Mogale Municipality (EPMLM).

Department Spokesperson, Tidimalo Chuene said preliminary reports indicate that on Sunday 30 March 2025, a taxi boarded by 13 passengers overturned, which resulted in the loss of five lives and Opiniusion

"All the injured have been transferred to Matlala Hospital. Preliminary reports

also indicated that a mechanical fault might be the cause of the accident," she said.

MEC Mathye urged roads users to stay vigilant to avoid similar unfortunate incidents ahead of the Easter long weekend.

"As we approach the Easter weekend, I urge road users to be more cautious. On behalf of the department and the people of Limpopo, I wish to convey our sincere condolences to the families and next of kin to those who lost their lives. We also wish the injured speedy recovery," said Mathye.

Members of the Topa Nama Cooperative in Ga-Mashabela Village within Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality.



MUNICIPALITY/ VENUE	DATE	TIME	STAKEHOLDER
Rep Forum, Sekhukhune District Municipality Council Chamber, Bareki Mall, Groblersdal	Wednesday, 02/04/2025	10h00	Sector Departments
Sekhukhune District Sekhukhune District Municipality Council Chamber, Bareki Mall, Groblersdal	Thursday, 03/04/2025	09h00	Staff
Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Council Chamber, Groblersdal	Tuesday, 08/04/2025	11h00	Magoshi
Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Council Chamber, Marble Hall	Wednesday, 09/04/2025		
Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Ga-Nkwana	Thursday, 10/04/2025		
Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Council Chamber, Jane Furse	Friday, 11/04/2025		
Sekhukhune District Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Moses Mabotha Hall, Ga- Nkwana	Monday, 14/04/2025	11h00	Special groups
Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality Matlerekeng Thusong Centre, Ward 6, Matlerekeng Village	Tuesday, 15/04/2025	11h00	General public
Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Moutse Circuit Office, Jabulani D1, Phooko Village	Wednesday, 16/04/2025	11h00	General public
Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality Sefateng Community Hall, Sefateng Village	Wednesday, 23/04/2025	11h00	General public
Makhuduthamaga Phokwane Community Hall, Phokwane Village	Tuesday, 06/05/2025	11h00	General public
Sekhukhune District Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Council Chamber, Marble Hall Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Council Chamber, Burgersfort	Wednesday, 30/04/2025	18h00	Rate payers
Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Kgaula Mafiri Municipal Hall Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Council Chamber, Groblersdal	Monday, 05/05/2025	09h00 18h00	Rate payers

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune 🚹 🕴 LIVE















Topa Nama Cooperative continues to uplift lives

GA-MASHABELA - Topa Nama Cooperative is set to significantly benefit from the support it continues to enjoy from Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM).

The municipality provided the cooperative critical resources and committed to ongoing monitoring of the project through Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) support initiative.

The cooperative, founded by Nong John Makola from Ga-Mashabela Village, remains a testament to the transformative power of local businesses.

Thomas Mashabela, spokesperson, said the institution's support for the cooperative has been instrumental at every stage of its development.

Mashabela reflected that in 2022, the municipality provided the cooperative with 2000 broiler chicks, chicken feed and medication, 80 sawdust bags, a water pressure pump and assistance with completing the cooperative's chicken area.

"This support enabled the cooperative to boost its poultry production. With the municipality's backing, the cooperative has been able to produce 800 chicks every three weeks, leading to remarkable growth in both sales and production capacity," stated Mashabela.

Topa Nama enjoys an increase in business and expansion of its operations with an addition of a fourth chicken area which is capable of accommodating 2500 chicken. The project further boasts expansion of its food farming.

The Department of Rural Development provided cooperative an asset grant to procure equipment including two automatic incubator hatches, 4000 chicks and poultry food.

Twenty leaners involved in the cooperative participated in a learnership programme funded by AgriSETA.

Six of the learners were offered permanent employment in the cooperative after completion of the programme.

Mayor Merah Mahlase committed to continue supporting local business initiatives that not only grow economy but further invest in the future.

"This project exemplifies the positive impact of collaboration between various spheres of government.

By supporting such cooperatives, we are ensuring that our people, especially the youth, have access to opportunities that improve their livelihoods and contribute sustainable development," remarked Mahlase.

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Bana Ba Sekhukhune honours Naledi Ya Meso top matric achievers

DIKGALAOPENG

Bana Ba Sekhukhune Community Solutions, a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) seeking to uplift communities in Sekhukhune, has on Wednesday 26 March 2025, organised the 2024 Matric Top Achievers Awards at Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School in Dakgalaopeng outside Groblersdal, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM).

The initiative was held under the NPO's '2025 Lend A Hand Campaign', rewarding the top achievers with merit certificates, in a purpose to acknowledge and motivate learners and educators for their hard work and determination.

During the awards ceremony, Charmaine Nomusitsa Choma and Jabu Knowledge Mokgoatjana became best performing learners with Bachelor passes while Tumisho Maloma, Happy Ramphisa and Teballo Segokodi became second best achievers with Diploma achievements.

Tlaisego Mmoge Kgwale, Refilwe Edna Matlo and Maureen Mokgoatjana were awarded for being best achievers with Higher Certificates.

Teachers' assistants from Ipopeng Cultural Group who also contributed to Naledi Ya Meso matric achievement were also rewarded. They are Kgantso Nape, Benneth Nkadimeng, Peggy Tlaka and Millicent Mohloba.

Delivering a keynote address, Bana Ba Sekhukhune Chairperson, Jeffrey Hlabirwa Walker, said Naledi Ya Meso Secondary was earmarked for the awards after emerging as one of the schools that performed well in the 2024 academic year, despite facing challenges of having only five educators.

"We felt that there is a need to present them with this token of appreciation and to acknowledge their efforts. Educators are our torch bearers as communities but their contribution goes unnoticed. We believe they need more than an award as an acknowledgement," he said.

Walker urged parents and community members as stakeholders to take it upon themselves in the process of learning and teaching to play their roles in instilling discipline in children, stating that "because some kids behave in a way that makes it difficult for educators to teach other learners."

"Lend A Hand Campaign is a platform that helps individuals and businesses to plough back in their communities primarily focusing on youth and programmes, women led projects and the elderly," explained Walker.

A community activist, Nthwaleng Tlaka, who is also a Chairperson of Ipopeng Cultural Group, acknowledged Bana Ba Sekhukhune for their support by recognising learners, teachers and volunteers who played a vital role towards the tremendous achievement of Naledi Ya Meso matric class of 2024.

"When you send your soldiers to war and they come home victorious, they deserve to be rewarded. Today I stand here with pride because our volunteers have achieved their goals as assistance at Naledi Ya Meso," she said.

Tlaka stressed that the community should give full support to learners and educators who are working hard to improve the school's performance every year, urging parents to also come on board.



Bana Ba Sekhukhune Secretary, Hunadi Mamogobo, thanked local businesses and individuals who sponsored the awards including Schoeman Boerdery, Mentum Homes, Noko Mashilo and Nthwaleng Tlaka, saying their unwavering support will not go unnoticed.

"Your selfless and love for humanity can be seen through your actions and we believe more communities will learn from your actions and spread hope within their respective communities. Let us work towards developing our respective communities and give our children a safe and peaceful learning environment," said Mamogobo.

Bakgaga Ba Kopa Traditional Council Representative, Joel Maipushe, praised Bana Ba Sekhukhune for holding the historical event in the area.

"We are here to give support to our educators and learners and also to acknowledge their hard work in their matric exam. We want to assure the community of Dikgalaopeng that we are with them all the way and they have our support as the traditional council," he said. The class of top performing 2024 matric learners from Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School showing off their merit certificates during the awards



One of Naledi Ya Meso top achieving 2024 matric pupil, Maureen Mokgoatjana (Left), receiving her prizes from Bakgaga Ba Kopa Traditional Council Representative, Joel Maipushe and Bana Ba Sekhukhune Chairperson Jeffrey Walker during the event.

Public servants living with disabilities engaged



Attendees of the Limpopo provincial government's disability engagement session held in Polokwane which targeted public servants living with disabilities.

POLOKWANE - To amplify voices of public servants living with disabilities, the Limpopo provincial government organised a disability engagement session in Polokwane on 28 March.

The event, hosted at Nirvana Hall, was observed under the theme: "Celebrating 30 years of Democracy, creating a disability inclusive society for a better quality of life and protection of the rights of persons with disability".

Addressing the gathering on behalf of Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, MEC for Health, Dieketseng Mashego, indicated that the objectives of the engagement are to create a space where public servants living with disabilities can voice their concerns and shape policies that directly impact them.

Mashego stated that the engagement seeks to also ensure that disability mainstreaming remains central to government planning, monitoring and

evaluation.

She added that it aims to reinforce government's commitment to reasonable accommodation within public service, so that all employees, regardless of their physical, visual, hearing or intellectual disabilities, are provided with the necessary support to perform at their full potential.

Mashego stressed on the availability of government policies that ensure the protection and empowerment of persons with disabilities. "These policies go beyond legal frameworks, they are a call to action to make workplace more inclusive, ensure accessibility in public spaces and eliminate barriers that hinder the full participation of persons with disabilities. Since the dawn of democracy, we have made significant strides in improving access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities for persons living with disabilities," remarked Mashego.



Sports





INSIDE

Ongoing Sekhukhune TVET College protest







GROBLERSDAL - The Groblersdal Bidvest McCarthy partnered with Suzuki and JAC, have recently donated a new netball kit to Hoerskool Ben Viljoen senior netball team.

The car dealership company has recently unveiled the donation of netball dresses for the school's Under 14 squad where each player was also presented with a rose.

According to the company, the gesture was handed-over as part of their initiative of giving back to the community.

The school appreciated the donation saying it will help them achieve wonders during their netball games.

"Congratulations to every girl who made the first netball team and who will represent the Dallers with courage and dignity this season. Remember, 'A team that encourages each other is unstoppable," the school said.

