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367th Edition

Friday 15 November 2024

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## SDM First Quarter Mayoral Lekgotla held in Jane Furse

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), Cllr Minah Bahula, has on Monday 11 November 2024, addressed the opening of the district municipality's 2024/2025 First Quarter Mayoral Lekgotla, held at the Makhuduthamaga Municipal Chamber in Jane Furse. The vital session was convened under Chapter 6 of the Municipal Structures Act No. 32 of 2000, serves as a platform to assess and strengthen the delivery of essential services for Sekhukhune residents. The Lekgotla brings together all mayors, municipal managers and senior officials to review performance targets and ensure the district is on track with its commitments to the community. Speaking during the Lekgotla, Bahula informed that the district municipality had closed the 2023/2024 financial year on a high note compared with the previous years, as they managed to achieve 142 out of 203 targets, which constituted 70% of an overall performance. "We also set ourselves 100% performance target for 2024/2025 financial year. We dare not fail ourselves. We committed to prioritise forward planning and judicious implementation of targets. I expect maximum performance from the departmental reports today. We cannot indicate left and turn right," she said. The executive mayor congratulated the twelve shop stewards who were elected during the recent South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) elective meetings, adding that they will assist in making Local Labour Forum (LLF) to be functional. "We congratulate them and are looking forward to work collectively with them to ensure that the municipality enjoys labour peace. We lamented in almost all our performance Lekgotlas on the dysfunctional of the LLF. We call on all LLF parties to play their part. Workers cannot resort to illegal labour actions when constitutional structures to deal with their issues are well in place," urged Bahula. She revealed that the SDM Municipal Council resolved to withdraw municipal employees from the delegation that went on a six-month study programme in China, which she said the decision was taken as a result of the dysfunctional LLF. "The issue was supposed to be thoroughly thrashed out at that level so that the outcomes in terms of the delegation and the policy dynamics will be clear and open to everyone. It is unfortunate that the municipal council were forced to take this unpopular yet necessary decision while employees were already in China. The municipality takes matters of capacity building very seriously, we annually allocate bursaries to employees, regularly send out employees to attend workshops and short courses with the aim of empowering them, not any other thing including financial gains. We will deal with the China matter internally to ensure logical conclusion," Bahula said. Bahula indicated that the district municipality, as the custodians of environmental health, they will be dealing with the scourge of food poisoning allegedly perpetuated following consumption of products bought from shops owned by foreign nationals. "The food poisoning incidents are now spreading like a wildfire in the country with spaza shops operated by foreign nationals as the alleged perpetrators. We are the custodians of the environmental health as the district municipality. We should spare neither effort nor strength in raiding the spaza shops," informed Bahula. Furthermore, Bahula has urged the SDM District Disaster Team, in conjunction with the disaster teams from the local municipalities, to urgently consolidate an assessment report that will guide a rapid and effective response the families affected by the severe storms in the past two weeks. The violent storm has left a number of families stranded in Ephraim Mogale, Fetakgomo Tubatse and Makhuduthamaga Local Municipalities. Bahula said the district municipality will do its level best to ensure that communities get water, however, acknowledging that there is a serious backlog in this regard. "Our communities are sometimes impatient and intolerant to the pace in which we are taking to address their water challenges," she said.

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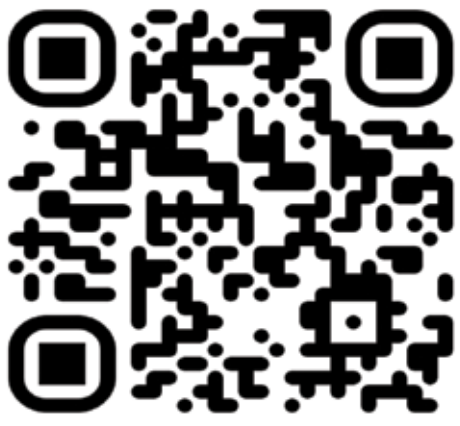
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## 24-Hour services at Rammupudu Community Clinic and CLP awareness

MEC for Health in Limpopo, Dieketseng Mashego, has recently activated 24hr services operations at Rammupudu Community Clinic in Tafelkop Village, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM). The activation is part of the department's commitment to strengthening primary healthcare, with an aim to double the number of clinics offering 24-hour services. The event was attended by Kgoshi Boleu Rammupudu II, councillors, the community and other stakeholders. The MEC made a clarion call to Magoshi, communities and other stakeholders to work together in ensuring that they safeguard the health facility. "This initiative is part of our department's "Operation Bophelo Pele" programme, aiming to give support and to strengthen our primary health care services," said MEC Mashego.

Currently, over 50 clinics in the province operate on a fixed 24-hour schedule, while others provide 24-hour coverage on an on-call system. The department said to achieve this goal, they are focusing on rearranging the management of primary healthcare services. This includes having operational managers stationed at fixed clinics oversee mobile services, ensuring resources are maximally utilized. The geographic service area model will also define levels of healthcare, integrating services from community healthcare workers to tertiary health services. After the activation, MEC Mashego proceeded to address the Cleft Lip Dialogue Awareness Campaign, which took place at the Sekhukhune District Municipal (SDM) Council Chambers in Groblersdal Town. The campaign was attended by traditional leaders, traditional health practitioners, healthcare professionals such as dentists, doctors as well as medical specialists from the University of Pretoria Dental and Oral Hospital, and community members attended the CLP dialogue awareness. Cleft lip and palate (CLP), is a common congenital condition affecting 1 in 500 to 700 births. Children with CLP may face feeding, speech and hearing challenges. Treatment involves a team of specialists, including surgeons, speech therapists, and nutritionists. "We urge parents with children affected by cleft lip and cleft palates to seek help at our health facilities. CLP is a medical condition, not witchcraft, and can be corrected by specialists," said MEC Mashego.

## Executive Mayor Bahula sounds alarm on rising GBV cases

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), Cllr Minah Bahula, said she is deeply disturbed and strongly condemns the recent surge of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) taking place in the Sekhukhune District. In one of the incidents, two girls, aged 8, were allegedly raped by an elderly man at Elandsdoorn in Dennilton, Moutse area, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM). According to the district municipality, the two victims are both learners at Ekhucathuleni Primary School. The alleged perpetrator was apprehended by the community that later handed him to the police on Sunday 3 November 2024.

Meanwhile in another incident, a 17 year old girl was also allegedly raped by three men in at Glen Cowie Village in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM). No one has been arrested at this stage. Executive Mayor Bahula strongly emphasized the urgent need for psychosocial support for the families of the victims. She further called on communities to work closely with law enforcement agencies to ensure that perpetrators are receiving the full might of the law. "We are under siege as a district, and we call for calm while we continue to monitor the wheels of justice to ensure they keep grinding and send a strong message to would-be perpetrators," she said. Bahula further emphasized that a collective war must be declared against GBV, both in society and in all aspects of life. "Our focus is to continue strengthening community-based interventions, including awareness programs in schools, workplaces, and community centers, to shift societal norms and address the root causes of GBV," she said. The executive mayor reassured the community that the district will continue to monitor the progress of these cases and others to ensure that justice is served.



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# EFF Sekhukhune seeks Coghsta MEC to address alleged unlawful councillor removal

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) in Sekhukhune has written to MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Coghsta) in Limpopo, Basikopo Makamu, seeking him to charge Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM) Council Speaker, Rebecca Lentsoane, for unlawfully removing EFF councillor from the EPMLM Municipal Public Account Committee (MPAC).

The party said in July 2024, Lentsoane solely removed EFF Councillor, Sibongile Mashiane, from MPAC without following proper legislations of the council. The party accuses Lentsoane of contravening the Local Government Municipal Structures Act no 117 of 1998. According to the party, during the removal, Lentsoane informed the council that she has taken the decision to remove Mashiane from MPAC in her own capacity and powers invested in her within the municipality.

EFF Chairperson in Sekhukhune Region, Ali Maloba, said they were surprised by Lentsoane's remarks and unlawful behavior as there was no formal submission except that she only insisted her decision to the council verbally. "We are very much disturbed and disappointed by

the speaker's unethical behavior. The speaker needs to be reminded she doesn't have executive authority and even councils with executive authority follows protocol and procedure guided by council roles and procedures and structures act," he said.

Maloba added that EPMLM accounting officer was supposed to have intervened in the unlawful removal and advice the council accordingly, referring to the adopted standing rules of council on establishment of committee stated in section 79 and 80 which are very clear. "Unfortunately the council of Ephraim Mogale and their accounting officer opted to work against the standing rules and municipal structures act no 117 of 1998.

EFF representative serving in MPAC committee was replaced by council speaker without consulting the affected political party and without submitting a resignation letter. The Chief Whip of the council and the affected political party were never consulted on the matter," informed Maloba.

He said the EFF in Sekhukhune Region view the issue as lack of administrative leadership in the institution which was supposed to have advised

accordingly in the matter. "In Ephraim Mogale Municipality, it is evident that the speaker has extended her roles and responsibilities and she is deliberately undermining both political heads, which is the mayor and the administrative head which is the accounting officer including the municipal council," Maloba said.

Maloba indicated that the party has also brought to the attention of the MEC that the current EPMLM speaker is the former mayor of the same municipality of which during her term, she implemented but never completed some of the projects including Leeuwfontein Sports Complex which was abandoned since 2019, Mamphogo Stadium which was also left incomplete and failed to complete the harners lights project in the municipality's ward 9. "All above

projects were implemented during Lentsoane's turn as the mayor and millions were spent for the projects which were never delivered. The sad part is no one has ever accounted or held accountable for the failures of those unfinished projects," he said.

Maloba furthered said the speaker's actions is evident that she is trying to infiltrate the independency of the MPAC by micro managing them, deploying those who will continue to hide her hidden skeletons. "We want the MEC to urgently intervene and hold the speaker into account for bringing the institution into disrepute and zooming into all the incomplete projects which were never accounted for," he said.

At the time of going to print, EPMLM could not respond to the enquiries sent by the publication.

## Dennilton Police probe brutal murder of 71-year-old man

The Dennilton Police are investigating the mysterious murder of a 71-year-old male victim, who was found deceased at his residence at Matlala Lehwelere Village on Monday 28 October 2024 at about 06:10. Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the police received a complaint about a murder incident in the area and rushed to the vicinity. "Upon arrival on the scene, the police found a family member who took them to a bedroom inside the house where a lifeless body of an elderly man was discovered lying on the bed in a pool of blood with severe wounds on the forehead," explained Ledwaba. Ledwaba said the deceased was reportedly hacked with a sharp object and was immediately declared dead by the members of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on arrival at the scene. "Preliminary investigations revealed that the deceased was last seen while at home on Saturday 26 October 2024. On Monday morning the family member made a gruesome discovery of the old man brutally murdered inside the bedroom," he said. Ledwaba said the police appeal to anyone with information that can assist with the investigation to contact Investigating Officer, Constable Malose Lamola on 060 674 2649, the Crime Stop Number on 08600 10111, the nearest police station or make use of MySAPSApp. Ledwaba said police investigations still continuing.

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LICENSE IN TERMS OF SECTION 28(1)(C)

Limpopo Liquor Act 2009 (Act No: 5 of 2009) Regulation 8

1. the undersigned applicant hereby give notice in terms of section (1)(c) that an application for license will be lodged with the Sekhukhune District Local Authority.

In terms of section 28(2)(b) of the Act, you may lodge an objection to the application. The objection form is obtainable from the above mention Local Liquor Authority.

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

Full Names of the applicant

**Phatlane kwapeng toys**

Intended trading name

**Relokwane liquor store**

Identity number or registration of the applicant

**630712 5496 086**

Full address and location of the premises

**No Z1E-TAFELKP MGABABA SECTION**

Type of license applied for: **LIQUOR STORE**

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Invitation for public comments in applying for liquor licence in terms of section 28 of the Limpopo liquor licencing Act, 2009

I, Mr Matsie Makgoba Adam, ID No. 6604295333085 as an adult male, hereby invite written public comments concerning my application for a liquor licence to the Limpopo Liquor Authority to trade under the name MM Liquor restaurant

The physical address of the business premises is at: Stand No. 532, Dihlabaneng Ngwana kwena, Sekhukhune 1124. And the postal address for the business is: PO Box 1907, Sekhukhune 1124, Limpopo Province. CEL No: 0768187346


I make this application for myself under section 28 of the Act. Licence type is the retail sale of Liquor for consumption on and off the premises where the Liquor is sold

Members of the community are invited to submit, within 30 days of publication of this notice their written inputs or comments to: 20 Hans Rensburg street/19 Biccard street, Polokwane.

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# Drowning tragedy claim lives of two school children

Two children from Station Village in Roosenekal lost their lives following a drowning incident that occurred when they were playing in a water-filled ditch near a local mining dump site on Saturday 2 November 2024. The victims, from the Thamane and Moela families, were both pupils at Sisabonga Primary School and were among a group of fellow learners who were busy with

their school projects inside the mine yard next to the abandoned dam. It is alleged because of high temperatures during the day, the deceased might have tempted to swim in the abandoned muddy dam where they later unfortunately drowned. It is alleged that the learners who were busy with school projects realized that two were missing and they quickly rushed home to seek for help. On arrival, community members joined by families of the victims, searched the area and proceeded to the abandoned semi flooded mine catchment dam which was filled with water due to the recent persistent heavy rains in the area. During the search, only the children's clothes were located near the dam and the group started anticipating that the victims might have been drowned. The police search and rescue team was informed where the lifeless bodies of the two boys were retrieved from the muddy dam at around 18:00. They were positively identified by their families and they are both from Railway Station Village. Following the tragic incident, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) in Sekhukhune Region, leading by its Chairperson Ali Maloba, paid a visit to the drowning site. According to Maloba, the party discovered that Mapoch Mining Company which is currently operating in the area, has left some of the catchments open which poses danger of drowning to local residents during rainy seasons. "We are very much concerned about the loss of these innocent young lives and we urge Mapoch Mine management to take full responsibility of the negligence for leaving unclosed area not rehabilitated after mining. This will continue to pose threat to villagers living next to the mine," he said. Maloba added that during the visit, the party had identified other hazards in the mining area that included lack of proper fencing, very old shaft structures, lack of warning or direction signs, non-functional access control and safety department, expired plant equipment permits, lack of protective clothes among workers and also the occupational health and safety programmes not in place. "Over eight abandoned dams are also not properly fenced nor rehabilitated in the area including the oil mining dam that has since been abandoned, which is the violation of health and safety Act, 1996 (Act No 29 of 1996) Safe guard the health and safety of mine employees and communities affected by mining operation," he said. Maloba said the party will ensure that the mine is held responsible and complies with mining regulations. Mapoch Mine could not respond to enquiries sent by the paper at the time of to print.






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## Affiliation issues halts Sekhukhune Regional Football League kick-off

SAFA Sekhukhune has delayed the resumption of the Hollywoodbets Sekhukhune Regional Football League due to lack of affiliation from participating football teams. The league was scheduled to kick-off on Saturday 16 November 2024 for the 2024/2025 football season, however, the league management was urged to postpone the resumption until further notice because only a few teams affiliated within the league. About 88 football clubs from the four local municipalities in the entire Sekhukhune Region are expected to form four football streams in order to participate in the league. Fifteen football teams from the four sub-regions of Sekhukhune, including Elias Motsoaledi, Ephraim Mogale, Makhuduthamaga and Fetakgomo Tubatse, were promoted to the Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League in the 2024/2025 football season. Ever since Hollywoodbets taken over as new sponsors of Regional Football Leagues in the country in August 2023, each participating team is compelled to affiliate R3500-00, which according to the teams' management is becoming difficult to pay the fee due to lack of sponsorships and other financial support. Frank Maredi, Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League Coordinator, said about 42 teams have paid the affiliation so far. "Out of 88 teams that are expected to take part in the league, only 42 football clubs affiliated. This is the reason the regional executive committee of SAFA decided to delay the start of the league until further notice," he said. Maredi indicated that the executive committee has noted that some of the teams are unable to affiliate because of lack of sponsors and is currently suggesting to reduce the affiliation fee to R1500-00 to be paid by each club. "However, the executive committee is still going to sit and make final decisions in this regard. The teams will be informed if there are any changes. I cannot confirm anything by now as the committee has to sit and decide," he said. Maredi advised the teams to try and affiliate immediately after the end of every football league season to avoid similar delays in the

### School food sales resume following temporary ban due to poisoning

The Limpopo Department of Education (LDoE) has on Wednesday 6 November 2024, announced that it has taken a decision to lift the suspension of food sales in all schools in the province. This is after the department had previously announced that it had temporarily suspended food sales in and around schools in Limpopo due to a surge in alleged food poisoning incidents across the province. However, the department said the lifting of the suspension will be based on conditions whereby schools and vendors were given until 11 November 2024 to ensure that they fully comply. LDoE Acting Head of Department (HOD), Martin Mashaba, said the lifting is aimed at actualising the Executive Committee (EXCO) directive and providing further conditions under which food sales can take place at schools. "The safety of learners remain a key priority for the department, with the lifting of the suspension of food, we hope that food vendors will adhere to all the regulations and work closely with School Governing Bodies (SGB)," said Mashaba.



**Kgoogo FC are among football clubs eager to take part in the Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League.**

future. "We understand that the majority of team owners and coaches operate on a strict limited budget. But we encourage them to try and make other means to pay the affiliation fee earlier than expected. This will give the management enough time to prepare for the league to commence on a scheduled date," he said. Maredi appealed to local businesses to support the teams and contribute towards shaping talent of future soccer players who might have a dream of playing football in



**Real Stars FC from Ntwane Village in Dennilton is one of the teams that performed well within the previous campaign of the Hollywoodbets SAFA Sekhukhune Regional Football League.**

professional level. "For instance, we had four teams pulling out of the league because of lack of sponsors and financial support they needed to keep on taking part within the league. Without sponsorships, it is not easy to fulfil their ambitions. We are hoping that good Samaritans will come on board and help the teams to reach new heights," he said. Maredi said they are hopeful that the league will commence later this month or earlier in December 2024.



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