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Year 11 269th Edition Friday 26 June 2

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Could Lengana be used to fight Covid-19?

Despite stern warnings sent by the World Health Organization (WHO) that the taking of a traditional herb known as Lengana (Artemisia Afra), to fight Covid-19 are not scientifically proven, people still flock in large numbers to harvest the plant in Sekhukhune villages believing that it cures the novel coronavirus. The plant grows in abundance in villages around Jane Furse, Leolo and Schoonoord and was used to cure respiratory ailments for many years. The plant made headlines when Madagascan President Andry Rajoelina announced it as a cure for Covid-19, claiming it contributed to

cure and lower the spread of the virus since the outbreak earlier this year. A remedy made out of the plant was produced and officially distributed in Madagscar. Now Sekhukhune villagers who stay in the area where the plant is growing are worried about the increase of the harvesting of Lengana, claiming that the harvesting is not properly managed as people are removing the roots of the plant. Worried villagers called the police and green scorpions (environmental police) to intervene and arrest those who recklessly harvest the plant. However, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) in Limpopo supported those harvesting the plant. EFF leader in the province Jossey Buthane said the herb has been used for generations without any side effects. Butane attributed that the party is concerned about the health of rural people who can't afford to consult doctors, to continue using Lengana without any fear from the police and green scorpions. Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo said no one was arrested for harvesting the plant. "The police were informed because some of the people were harvesting the plant inside residents' yards without their consent. The police were also monitoring lockdown regulations to make sure that everyone complies with the law," he said. A community member, Tsietsi Maredi from Leolo Village said the plant will soon disappear if the harvesting is not properly monitored. "The plant is used to fight flue and is working, we relied on Lengana for many years. Now we are worried that the plant will disappear because people are coming from far to harvest it recklessly to make business," he said. Maredi said

they are aware that the demand has increased but they want to protect the plant to be used by future generations. "I am 49-years-old and grew up using this plant to fight flue. I have never experienced any side effects since and I have heard no complaints from other villagers. We will protect this plant for our future generation as our grandparents protected it for us," he said. Another community member, Fani Mampane said he used the plant to cure flue but he does not believe that it cures coronavirus. "These people are only harvesting the plant to make business

because it is believed that it cures the virus and I wonder how come the government can't approve it if it really helps," he said. He said they will continue to protect the plant and will seek assistance from the police and local traditional authorities. Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said people are free to use Lengana but there is no scientific evidence to prove it can fight against Covid-19. Mkhize said that the Madagascan government had requested South Africa to help investigate the scientific basis on which such a plant could be used against Covid-19.

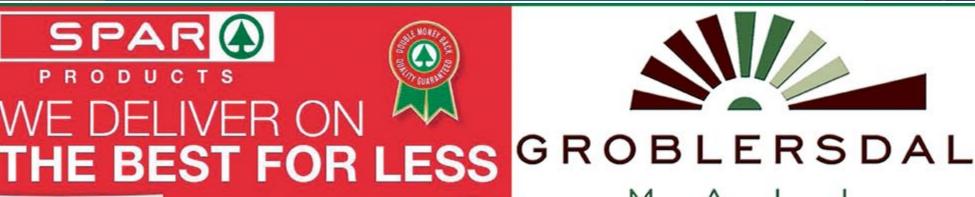










































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Police shut-down drug lab worth multi-million rands at a farm in

Two suspects were arrested at the drugs manufacturing laboratory at Pieon Game Farm in Marble Hall. The suspects, of foreign origin, were arrested on Tuesday 16 June in a concerted effort by members of the South African Police Service to rid Limpopo Province of the prevalence of illicit drugs. Manufacturing equipment, chemicals and illegal firearms and ammunition worth about R10 Million were seized during the arrest. The two suspects, Obele Ifeanyi (43) from Nigeria and Aldeo Mathe (47) from Mozambique, made their first appearance in the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court on Thursday 18 June facing charges relating to manufacturing of drugs, dealing with drugs and illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. They remained in custody and will appear again soon. Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo said the arrest emanate from information from community members who alerted the police about the illegal activity. "The information that was received from community members under Marble Hall policing precinct was put to fruition when police members attached to the Tekkie squad from Denilton and members from Marble Hall Police station followed it up and discovered the drug lab on the said farm," he said. Mojapelo added that the police commenced with the search soon after receiving the information and the operation was conducted until in the early hours of the morning. "Preliminary police investigations revealed that more suspects could have been on the farm and this necessitated a massive manhunt. Due to the vastness of the area and a bushy environment some of the suspects managed to evade arrest," he said. Mojapelo said the police confiscated R10 Million worth of drugs, two pistols, two

Marble Hall shot guns, seven shot gun ammunition, ten 9mm rounds of ammunition, drugs manufacturing chemicals and equipment. "Preliminary police investigation point to the fact that the farm was allegedly purchased recently by the suspect of foreign origin who paid millions of rands in cash," he said. Hawks Spokesperson in Limpopo Captain Matimba Maluleke said the cases were handed over to the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation Narcotic Enforcement Bureau (SANEB), which has been entrusted with conducting further investigations. He said investigations are ongoing and more arrests are expected to be made. National Police Commissioner General Khehla Sithole paid homage to the farm on Thursday 18 June. Sithole described the lab as one of the biggest that was ever seen and capable to supply drugs to the entire African Continent. The Acting Provincial Police Commissioner, Major General Jan Scheepers applauded SAPS members for acting on the information provided and apprehended the suspects. "This drug lab has the capacity to supply the entire country with illicit drugs and therefore, police actions from Dennilton and Marble Hall made a gigantic leap by arresting the suspects in the act," he said.







CLOSING FOR RENOVATIONS

CONSTRUCTION

-ANSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION

UNDER CONSTRUCT

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MARBLE HALL MIDAS
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FROM 29 JUNE 2020 TILL
FURTHER NOTICE.

CONSTRUCTION

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

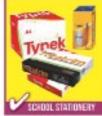






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Ntwane Community Development Forum donates food parcels

The Ntwane Community Development Forum (NCDF) has recently donated food parcels to 60 disadvantaged families at Ntwane, Thabakhubedu and other neighbouring villages. The NCDF is a community based organization with the purpose of uplifting communities through development and empowerment, raised funds and sought donations to purchase and distribute the food parcels to the destitute families in the area amid the Covid-19 lockdown challenges. The distribution of the food parcels formed part of the NCDF's awareness campaign to encourage communities to observe and fully comply with COVID-19 lockdown regulations aimed at minimizing the spread of the dreaded pandemic. According to Noto Madisa, NCDF Chairperson, nothing like that had ever been seen in their community and that it was historical and very heartwarming. The donation was made with the help of donors from local based businesses and local residents who contributed. Madisa

thanked everyone involved and said people could learn humanity and generosity through the initiative. Mangweng Mathabathe, NCDF Spokesperson, said in addition, as a structure indebted to the community, they would continue to encourage those who wanted to be part of the initiative to come on board to extend a helping hand. "NCDF expressed gratitude to selfless community members who came out to support the initiative through offering transport, their hands and time to help distribute the parcels," Mathabathe said. Mathabathe said as part of

> the broader struggle to fully equip the community in the fight against the scourge of COVID-19 pandemic, it was in talks with the Sekhukhune **District Municipality** (SDM) and the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation to provide water to the communities. The local transport department, Dennilton SAPS, community safety and health departments partook in the programme with Moshate wa BaNtwane also forming part of the initiative.



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NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

UPGRADING OF A 5.4 KM STRETCH OF THE TAFELKOP STADIUM ACCESS ROAD, WITHIN THE SEKHUKHUNE REGION OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

Notice of a Public Participation Process is hereby given in terms of Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations published in Government Notice No. R.326 of 2014, regarding the following

Activities: Upgrading of an existing Gravel Road and the Storm water Infrastructure at the Stadium, Tafelkop Rural Settlement.

Location: The project is located in the Tafelkop Rural Settlement at the following GPS Co-ordinates: Start Point 25° 3'46.66"S and 29°30'13.36"E; End Point 25° 2'47.45"S and 29°30'51.46"E. The project footprint is at approximately 17km North-East of Groblersdal, within the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. In order to ensure that you are identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP), please submit your name, contact details and interest in the matter to the contact details given below, within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Date of Notice:26 June 2020 Applicant: Elias Motsoaledi Municipality Consultant: Adioscape (Pty) Ltd Environmental Assessment Practitioner: Linda Mbalane Cell: 082 474 7864 E-mail: lindambalane@gmail.com





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long time including the elderly, pregnant women

and people living with disabilities," she said.

She added that they comply with all lockdown

regulations by maintaining social distance and

wearing face masks at all times. Kholofelo said

they are planning to continue with the initiative

even after the nationwide lockdown. "The town

is always overcrowded even before the national

lockdown where the elderly and people living



Motetema Police Station temporarily closed after police member test positive for covid-19

Motetema Police Station was urged to close for 24 hours after one of the SAPS members attached to the station tested positive for Covid-19 on Monday 22 June. According to Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the station's building was closed for fumigation and the member who tested positive has been place under quarantine. "The fumigation has been completed on Tuesday 23 June and the police station commenced with its operations on Wednesday 24 June," he said. Mojapelo advised community members that emergencies and services rendered by the community service centre are available at the police station as provisions were made. "After the incident was brought to light, the mobile community service centre

Caring youth to queue for the elderly and people living with disabilities

As part of an intervention to assist the elderly and people living with disabilities at Groblersdal Town, a group of young people came with a brilliant idea of standing a queue for the people. They called themselves 'I Queue For You' and are standing queues on behalf of the people around Groblersdal. These young people from Tafelkop and other surrounding villages, have come with the idea after realizing that there were people who can't stand for a very long time in queues after Covid-19 regulations were announced to limit the number of people in shops and government institutions. A group of about 30 youth, vowed to help and voluntarily stand queues on behalf of the people at the shops, banks and government offices around Groblersdal. I Queue For You Spokesperson Kholofelo Choeu said the initiative was rolled-out this month focusing on overcrowded places around town. "We usually go to town on busy days including month end and on

Water trucks arrive in Sekhukhune to help drought stricken Moutse

Water shortages in Moutse Villages will soon be a thing of the past. This follows the arrival of the first batch of water trucks in Sekhukhune District Municipality. The first five of the 20 brand new trucks were received by the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila on Thursday 11 June with the aim of providing water to the drought stricken Moutse Villages. Moutse was declared "Day Zero" as a result of the area facing a serious water crisis recently. The area of Moutse has seen a number of water shortages protests where disgruntled residents blocked roads demanding immediate water supply. The endless protests in the area led to the intervention of the Minister of Water and Sanitation Lindiwe Sisulu who allocated R143 Million to fight draught as a temporary measure in the villages. Lepelle Northern Water was deployed as an implementing agent for the Moutse Drought Relief Projects to procure water trucks, refurbishment of boreholes and placement of tanks around the villages. Sekhukhune District Municipality Communications Manager, Moloko Moloto said five more trucks are expected to be delivered in the next two weeks, while the delivery of the remaining ten shall happen by mid August. "These trucks procured by the Lepelle Northern Water, an implementing agent of the Moutse Drought relief project, have been handed over to Sekhukhune District Municipality and will help alleviate the water shortage in the area of Moutse," he said. He indicated that the five new trucks have started delivering water from Friday 12 June. Moloto added that as part of the drought relief project in Moutse, a total of 109 boreholes have been identified for resuscitation. "To date, hydrological surveys have been done on at least 19 boreholes and the results are pending. Similar surveys shall be undertaken on the rest of the boreholes. Once hydrological results provide a clean bill of health, all the boreholes shall be capacitated and supply water through the existing reticulation infrastructure in Moutse," he said. Executive Mayor Ramaila said they are happy about water supply in the drought stricken Moutse Villages and are working on finding a permanent solution to deal with the problem. "We are surely making progress regarding the drought situation in Moutse. Our concerted efforts are equally put on the completion of the Moutse Bulk Water project which will address the totality of water issues in the area," said Ramaila.

was then brought to the station and placed in front of the police station where members of the community where being served from Monday 22 June," he said.







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DELI BEEF INTESTINE R19.99





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DAY BREAK CHICKEN MALA 1KG

BREASTBONE 4KG



CLOVER CREAMEL CREAMER 750G



FLAKES 1KG

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WORS 5KG



SAVOURY MINCE 1KG



SAUSAGE 5KG



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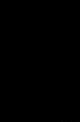
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