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Department:
Community Safety and Transport Management
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MOPALAMI

Newsletter
2022

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

Road Safety Models and Strategies to save lives



51 learners soon to increase number of traffic officers in the Province

Fight against GBV&F gains momentum

Private Public Partnership benefits communities in fight against crime





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EDITORIAL COMMENT



Communication Services Director: Thabo Sematle

September is a Heritage Month whose main Heritage Day is celebrated on 24 September annually to mark our nation's diverse culture and heritage. The 2022 theme for Heritage Month was "Celebrating the Legacy of Solomon Linda and South Africa's Indigenous Music".

This year's theme pays tribute to the 60th anniversary of the passing of singer and song writer Solomon Popoli Linda. He is best known as the composer of the song "Mbube" which later became the popular music success "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" and gave its name to the Mbube style of 'isicathamiya' an African folklore Acapella music.

The heritage months brought excitement to the 51 traffic learnership students who were visited mid-training by MEC Sello Lehari. The MEC got a chance to receive a progress report of their training program and was particularly pleased that soon law enforcement personnel will

increase as this cohort of traffic trainee officers completes their 12 months long training and assume their respective duties on our provincial roads, especially.

The Department's focus on crime prevention saw various joint stakeholder program being undertaken noting that it is impossible to expect the police to continue the fight against crime alone. The programs were community driven as North West communities have accepted the fact that criminals live amongst them and that as communities they are no longer keeping quiet about crime but are taking an active role to assist SAPS to restore safety of the community.

Whilst on the other hand, Road Safety Participatory Education Technique (PET) competition was held simultaneously with road safety debate. The PET is an educational flagship programme which aims at changing learners attitude towards road safety as well as encourage learners to be aware of road safety challenges in their community.

Last, but not least, MEC Lehari in his many engagements met with the leadership of SANTACO where he pleaded with SANTACO to continue playing a critical part in ensuring that their members adhere to the law and operate legally. This, in a quest to maintain stability in the taxi industry within the North West Province in particular.

Meanwhile the 2022 October Transport Months is loading in earnest.



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		Editor in Chief: Thabo Sematle
		Editor : Yvonne Maqoboza
		Assistant Editor : Rebaone Moeng
		Contributors: Dipuo Lethoko Tisetso Thiba Lemogang Foke Godfrey Modibedi Thabo Hlope Motshidisi Sebolecwe
		Layout & Design: Tshireletso Bogatsu

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North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management

Please send your publishable stories/information to;
rpmoeng@nwpg.gov.za / tthiba@nwpg.gov.za



'Let's produce a future of reservoirs' - says Morule



Acting HoD Molefi Morule

Onkabetse Thuto Technical, a rural based school in Setlagole village, has emerged as number one, following their eloquent debate skills beating three other schools at the recent Provincial Road Safety Debate Competition held in Rustenburg.

Presenting on whether digital innovation is the best approach to promote road safety, a well prepared team of three boys and one girl delivered well researched debate content.

In second position is Vryburg High, the

school that will represent the Province in the urban category at the National competition.

The Participatory Education Technique (PET) competition that was held simultaneously with the debate, also emerged with a rural St Pauls Secondary School from Taung. The school will represent the Province in the rural category after beating Realeka Secondary school from Ottosdal and B.A. Seobi Secondary from Potchefstroom.

In his address, the Acting Head of Department of Community Safety and

Transport Management, Mr Molefi Morule challenged both competitions to produce a team of future reservoirs who will lead and advocate for road safety.

"Amongst the learners participating here lays solutions to our problematic road canages and incidents which take the lives of our beloved ones. It is evident that their future is bright as they continue to advocate for road safety.

From here, we must have a provincial



blue print and come up with a team that will represent the Province meaningfully during the National competitions," said Morule.

The Acting HoD further appealed to the Department to keep the momentum and continue working with schools to ensure that road safety becomes a concern for everyone.

The Road Safety Debate is a programme that cultivates road safety awareness amongst school going children. It's a flagship programme which is inclusive of learners to become independent thinkers as they are expected to research on

various topics as well as to present and debate them with their peers.

While PET is an educational flagship programme which aims at changing learners attitude towards road safety issues by means of participatory education.

The purpose of this is to encourage learners to be aware of road safety challenges in their community as well as to enhance learner's presentation skills by ways of presentation sessions.

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Life takes a swift turn for unemployed youth through traffic learnership



In 2014, Jevan Ferris from Vryburg applied for the Basic Traffic Diploma through a learnership programme with the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management. Due to the high demand for the learnership he was not accepted at that time. However, he was determined and kept applying with the hopes of one day becoming a traffic officer.

In 2021 he received a call of acceptance into the programme. There is no doubt that the young man has a bright future ahead of him.

"I have made so many sacrifices, the journey leading up to this point has not been easy. I have my wife to thank for always being my anchor and encouraging me to follow my dream. Giving up was the easiest choice but I decided to persevere because I believe this is truly my destiny.

"Saving people's lives is what I intend to do once I officially become a traffic officer because I am passionate about law enforcement and making a

positive contribution where I can," said the 27 year old who could not contain his excitement when thinking about life and future prospects.

Reoikantse Mooketsi, hails from Swartruggens and is determined to make the most of her time at the college as it has provided knowledge and insight that she never could imagine to obtain.

"This entire experience has re-ignited my passion for this career path. I knew it was going to be



different and intensive but my lived experience is way beyond what I had imagined.

"I don't think a lot of people get the opportunity to experience this kind of training and I am truly grateful. We miss our families back home but we need to focus on the bigger picture because when we leave here, all the tears and sacrifices would have been worth it," said the 22 year who shed a tear while thinking about making her family proud.

The two young people are part of the selected 51 learners who are currently undergoing training at the Mpumalanga Traffic College. The MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management Sello Lehari is pleased with the learners' progress saying that they will become a significant contribution to the law enforcement force of the North West Province.

"The learners have displayed a high level of discipline, I am impressed with the feedback on their training progress thus far. This is an indication that we have made a great selection to add to the law enforcement officials.

"Upon completing their training, the learners will be appointed officially by the department and this is how we are dealing with the high unemployment rate especially

amongst deserving young people," said MEC Lehari who was accompanied by a delegation of senior management during the visit to the college.





MEC Lehari lays wreaths for fallen police



condemned the killing of police in strong possible terms.

The Province has lost seven hardworking and dedicated police officers who died in the line of duty during the reporting period of 2021 to 2022.

MEC Lehari was accompanied by Acting Head of Department Mr Molefi Morule, Acting Chief Director of Civilian Secretariat for Police Ms Dikeledi Letsapa, Provincial Community Policing Forum Chairperson Mr Dixon Ngamla.

The event was also attended by the North West Head of Independent Electoral Commission Dr. Tumelontle Thiba and Director of Public Prosecution Dr. Makhari-Sekhaolelo.

In remembrance of police officers who died while in line of duty, the North West MEC for Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, Sello Lehari and the North West Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Sello Kwena have laid wreaths on memorial wall at Police headquarters in Potchefstroom.

MEC and Commissioner were followed by family members of the fallen heroes and heroines, who also laid wreaths for their beloved ones.

This sombre ceremony is an annual commemoration of lives slain by random criminals.

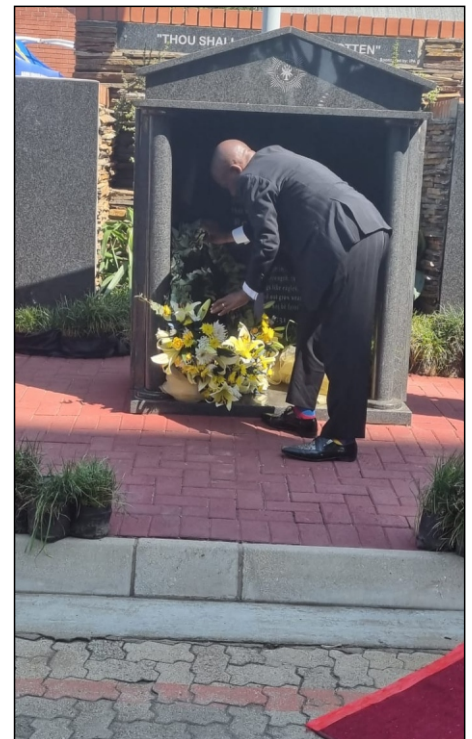
In his address, MEC Lehari said paying tribute to anyone who has

passed on, even as a commemoration is not an easy task, more so in the manner they have died.

"Any killing of Police is a devious action which is an act of lawlessness. An attack on police is an attack on law and order which by reference is an assault to the Constitution of the Republic.

"These officers died in fighting crime, for the love of their country. We salute them for their selflessness and bravery they displayed in serving and protecting the people of the North West Province," said Lehari.

Provincial Commissioner Kwena expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and





NW transport committees find linkage to improve public transport



NW transport committees find linkage to improve public transport

The continuous engagements between Provincial Regulatory Entity (PRE) and North West Public Transport Intervention Team (NWPTIT) to deal with the status quo on the public transport in the Province came out as one of the resolutions during the two-day working session for the two critical committees held in Rustenburg.

The working session was scheduled by the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management to interface and find ways to work together in improving the public transport industry.

These two critical committees are responsible for shaping the

public transport operations in the Province, with PRE being appointed for the adjudication and approval of taxi operational permits, while the NWPTIT was officially appointed in September 2021 to investigate the causes of conflicts, develop remedial actions and implementation in the province.

The intervention team has so far conducted a taxi audit, route verification and investigated more than 37 cases of conflicts.

In his presentation to the session, the NWPTIT chairperson Mr Phenye Vilakazi says the team has successfully managed to resolve 22 of the 37 cases after interacting with taxi associations.

Conflict and violence remain a challenge for the taxi industry in the country including the province,

with a new identified pattern of door-to-door operators who are paralyzing the industry.

During the deliberations, the two committees realized the shortfall, lack of close working relations or communication which led to a number of challenges that contributes to the cause on some of the route conflicts.

It is as a result of deliberations, the committees guided by the senior management of directorate working with the committees resolved for continuous meetings to strategise on how they will together stabilize the public transport sector.

In his closing remarks of the meeting, the Acting Chief Director for Transport Regulations, Mr Paul Stone called for information sharing and constant communication between the two committees and the Department to close the existing gaps that are causing the shortfalls.

“We are faced with these shortfalls as a result of lack of communication. The PRE must know what is happening at the NWPTIT and the same goes on the other side.

“We need to clean and organise ourselves and start working on reaching our goals which are clearly aligned with the vision and mission of the Department,” said Mr Stone in his closing remarks.



The roll out of GBVF campaigns amplified in districts



The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management's response to Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) is essentially to strengthen existing mechanisms through a multi sectoral, cohesive and intensive awareness campaign implemented at a district level. This includes victim empowerment programmes, the establishment of active Community Policing Forums (CPFs) and the involvement of unified community structures to name a few.

In the first quarter of the 2022/23

financial year the department has implemented GBVF campaigns in the province.

The Director for Crime Prevention Partnerships, Ms Florence Nchoe says the Groot Marico policing precinct in Ngaka Modiri Molema has identified a trend where cases of GBVF against perpetrators are often discontinued by victims. This remains a concern as victims are potentially influenced to do so against their will and the abuse tends to continue.

"The fears of stigma, lack of

economic and financial emancipation often lead women and those who are most vulnerable in our society to become hesitant when reporting cases of violence. Through the department's awareness campaigns we provide a safety net to victims by bringing together stakeholders under the banner of crime prevention to destigmatise asking for help.

"We organise ourselves as government departments and entities to take services directly





to our people through the District Development Model (DDM) approach. This integration allows us to maximise the impact in our ventures to restrict high levels of crime in all communities throughout the province,” said Nchoe.

Crime in general requires active participation by all stakeholders. In Ganaalaagte, the community welcomed the initiative and displayed a unified willingness to play their part in dealing with the scourge. The Tswaing Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Norah Mahlangu described the campaign as a platform that creates sustainable solutions.

“The police cannot be expected to fight crime alone, as a community we are agree that crime can never thrive while we sit back. We live with criminals amongst us and we refuse to enable them by keeping quiet.

“We are ready to work together with the police, our traditional and religious leaders as well as the entire community at large to bring lasting solutions to fight crime through this platform,” added Mahlangu.





Tackling GBV&F through prayer in Dinokana village



Community members of Dinokana responded positively to the call of the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management and various stakeholders for Gender Based Violence & Femicide Prayer held at Dinokana community hall in Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality. GBV&F is a serious violation of human rights, life threatening, health and protection issue.

To date, cultural, political, economic and legal factors are the leading attributes to the scourge. The department has seen it befitting to host the prayer in Dinokana village and this comes after a numerous reported cases of rape, assault, and

domestic violence at Lehurutshe Police Station.

Victims of this tormenting pandemic in the country are mostly women, girls and people with disabilities. "The police alone would not win this battle that is continuing to ravage our communities and we need different community organisation's to join

hands together to put this pandemic to an end," said the Crime Prevention and Partnerships Director, Ms Florence Nchoe.

The fight against Gender Based Violence & Femicide is a Ministerial Six Point Plan which the department continues to implement in all corners of the province.



Khaukhwe community not left behind in the fight against GBV&F



The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management (DCDTM) paid a cordial visit to Khaukhwe village near Dry Harts in the Greater Taung Local Municipality.

The visit is part of the Gender Based Violence & Femicide (GBV&F) campaign coordinated by the Crime Prevention Partnerships Directorate in the department. "Khaukhwe is one of the villages serviced by Pudumoe Police Station and is experiencing high levels of assaults and stock theft crimes.

"The activities of the campaign

include refurbishing house numbers in the village and profile households in terms of their needs to make it possible for the stakeholders to execute their jobs easily without the hassle of identify specific houses due to faded house numbers by the time of service delivery," said programme coordinator, Ms Keitumetse Motlathledi from Crime Prevention Partnerships. Pudumoe Police Station Commander, Captain Tshidiso Leboiho indicated they are happy with the outcomes of the campaign in Khaukhwe village which forms part of previous campaigns held recently in their precinct of work.

He further urged the community to report any cases to Pudumoe Police Station and grant police officers space to deal with reported cases lawfully and refrain from taking law into their hands.

Stakeholders who embraced the campaign were SAPS, Pudumoe CPF, Lovelife, Department of Health, Department of Community Safety and Transport Management and Department of Justice. Department continues with Gender Based Violence and Femicide in all parts of the province.



Partnership between government and public benefits communities in fight against crime

A good working relation between government, Dikgosi and businesses has benefited the communities of Mooipan and Weldevrede following a successful Letsema activity that was implemented through Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), coordinated by Department of Community Safety and Transport.

The flexible communities braved the windy weather to join government with stakeholders to clear the bushes between the two villages an area estimated for 3 kilometers, which is identified as a crime hotspot.

Leading the communities to create safer environment for women and school learners who have been victimised by criminals in this area was the Headman of Weldevrede, Mr Shadrack Mpoihi, who the member of the Barolong Boo Kopano Tribal Council.

Mr Mpoihi appreciated the project by show of his work commitment and continuously encouraging community members who volunteered themselves to work throughout the day.



"I am very grateful for this project. We are here as the Community because this will directly benefit us for the safety of our children and women.

With the attendance of Community members in this numbers it shows the willingness of our people to work with government for successful development in our villages. We believe with this kind of projects we will be safe and win the fight against crime," said Mpoihi.

According to the Mareetsane Warrant Officer Leepile Diphae said

the space between the two villages mostly exposes primary and secondary school learners to criminals.

"We have learners passing here on daily basis going to schools from one village to the other and they are mostly targeted by criminals.

The communities are also going to churches, young people crossing for entertainment between the villages and they end up being victimised within this area," explained Warrant Officer Diphae who shared a disturbing story of a teenager who was raped in front of his bother who was tightened on a tree, on a



Sunday morning on their way to church.

"The sad part is that the suspect is still at large because he couldn't be described as the victims explained that he had balaclava covering his face," said Warrant Officer Diphae.

However, there are still hopes that the suspect will be arrested. "No one can defeat the arm of justice,"

said one of the communities during the project.

Warrant Officer further related to a case of an elderly's body that was found in the bushes where it is suspected that she was tired and couldn't walk anymore.

"A body of a man was also found here suspected to have hanged himself," said Warrant Officer who concluded by revealing that

assault cases are at alarming rate.

Mooipan and Weldevrede are part of the 5 villages policed by the Mareetsane police station with Mooipane being the furthest with 19 kilometers.

The Department continues to coordinate CPTED projects to create safer environment and fight crime through integrated approach in communities.



'No crisis in the taxi industry' - MEC Lehari



The MEC for the department of Community Safety and Transport Management, Sello Lehari is happy with the relative stability of the taxi industry in the Province. The MEC says though there are still challenges, they are manageable. It was the MEC's first meeting with the new executive of the SANTACO Provincial Taxi Council (PTC) since elective Annual General Meeting held in April. Shortly thereafter the North West hosted the SANTACO National Conference.

The MEC reassured the PTC of the department's continued support. He

emphasized there is a need for the relationship between the department and the taxi industry to be strengthened.

"I am glad that this meeting has finally taken place. I hope this happens frequently henceforth. There are many challenges faced by the industry that can be resolved around the table, with sincere engagements. We still have a long way to go, but it can be a smooth ride if we all work together," the MEC said that in a meeting with the leadership of the Provincial Taxi Council.

MEC Lehari pleaded with SANTACO to play their part in ensuring that their members adhere to the law and operate legally.

"The industry in our province has always been calm. We have had a few incidents that could have been avoided but I hope we have learnt from our past mistakes. This industry is the backbone of the economy. Let us ensure that we take care of it so that it can continue to provide transportation to many people who rely on it," MEC Lehari added.

The Chairperson of the PTC Ebusang

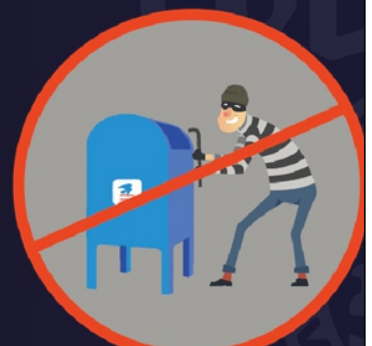


Tladi was encouraged by MEC Lehari's words. "Our request to the department is that the MEC engage with other provinces to come up with a way that allows a cordial working relationship with our colleagues. The situation in the streets tends to be hostile, but with intervention, it can easily be resolved. We, as

SANTACO, have always been willing and ready to work with the department." said Tladi.

The MEC has been meeting with various stakeholders in the public transport industry and other engagements are planned for the coming weeks.

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