



NORTH WEST RECRUITS MORE TRAFFIC OFFICERS TO INCREASE VISIBILITY



Let's Grow North West Together

Subheadlines

#StaySafe

- Learners continue to receive shova kalula bicycles
- Long awaited Moeka-Vuma police station to soon service communities
- Stock Theft remains persistent



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Editorial Comment

It is a great pleasure to bring an exciting edition of our Mopalami Newsletter. This edition comes after a while after facing hardships of different lockdown levels where at some point we were not even coming to the office, however, we continued to deliver services to the communities despite all difficulties.

We then started to experience an increase of COVID-19 cases and President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act, with a total shutdown and announced drastic measures to manage the disease to protect the people of our country and reduce the impact of the virus on our society and on our economy.

This had negative implications on our economy, people losing jobs and mostly affecting our vulnerable communities, with severe effects on the country's transport sector which is a key contributor to the economy.

Despite all effects and challenges of COVID-19, we have and continue to work hard on daily basis to ensure that food and other commodities continue to be delivered safely.

We continued doing this as a collective; our government, business sector and the people of our country.

Articles covered on this edition reflect on all service delivery activities undertaken by the department in recent months, as we have ensured that we fight crime in our communities by partnering with all our key stakeholders as we have committed to the Legislature when the MEC presented our financial budget vote.

We embarked on road safety awareness campaigns, hosted a number of law enforcement operations. As show of strength and gain more foot print in the province, we added more new vehicles to traffic stations increasing our visibility on the roads an activity that was graced by the North West Premier.

We have also seen on a number of occasions the MEC has personally leading a number of COVID-19 compliance operations and further the Vooma vaccination drive campaigns.

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NW RECRUITS UNEMPLOYED YOUTH TO INCREASE TRAFFIC VISIBILITY

The process of recruiting young people, it is not only dealing with issues of unemployment and job creation, but immensely increasing the number of traffic officers and their visibility.

The recruitment follows the Department's commitment to intensify traffic law enforcement operations and increasing visibility of law enforcement in an effort to reduce road accidents and fatalities across on all major roads in the province.

It was recently a mixed bag of emotions for the 53 learners heading to Mpumalanga Traffic College in Bushbuckridge. The recruits will undergo a vigorous training programme over a period of 12 months, and after successful completion of the training, they will be qualified traffic officers.

Provincial Inspector Rangata, who completed the training and is now employed as a traffic officer encouraged her future colleagues to continue flying the flag high.

“The North West Province is always ranking number one at the Traffic Training College, due to the respect and commitment they show during the course, please ensure that you keep the same high standard,” said Rangata.

The 29-year-old Tshepo Rahume from Madidi village, outside Brits who is amongst the 53 learners said he is thankful for the opportunity.

MEC Sello Lehari in his send-off message to the recruits laid bare expectations of the department.

“You must all be mindful that when you are finally deployed in the 4 districts of the province, you must be disciplined, diligently discharge your official duties without any fear or favour, stay clear of corruption, endeavour to keep our roads safe,” said Lehari wishing the learners well ahead of their training.



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THANK A TRUCKER CAMPAIGN SET TO APPRECIATE TRUCK DRIVERS ON THE TKC ROUTE



Road safety remains a key factor on the Trans Kalahari Corridor (TKC) that requires an integrated approach by all relevant stakeholders to save lives and ensure seamless and consistent transportation of basic goods to different countries.

This led to the “Thank A Trucker” campaign initiated through the collaboration of the National Department of Transport, Trans Kalahari Corridor Secretariat (TKCS), Namibia's National Road Safety Council and Walvis Bay Corridor Group to advocate on road safety and appreciate truck drivers on the N4 side of the Trans Kalahari Corridor.

A week-long campaign kick started with an information sharing session in Mahikeng with attendance of stakeholders. It continued with direct engagement with truck drivers along the N18 in Mahikeng next to the Ramatlabama border to Botswana and N4 in Brits.

During the information sharing session held at Seasons Conference facilities, the Director for Regional Corridors from the National Department of Transport, Mr Segodi Mogotsi said most truck drivers faced a lot of challenges during the Covid-19 while ensuring that they transport much needed goods. “We continue to complain about the conduct of truck drivers on the road and fail to appreciate their service of ensuring that we receive our goods on time. The food that we eat on a daily basis is transported by these truckers and they face a lot of challenges just to ensure that we receive our trade.

“It is through this campaign that we want to appreciate them and advocate for road safety on our corridor,” said Mogotsi, who called on women to take advantage of opportunities available on the corridor. Ms Ipeleng Kwadi from Motshotelo Farming Enterprise called for outreach programmes targeting communities living around the Corridor to be given awareness on the Trans Kalahari Corridor and its role in creating job opportunities and the economic growth of the three countries; South Africa, Botswana and Namibia.



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Kwadi's call followed her experience of protests where she lost more than 60 of her pigs at the time of looting of trucks during the protests on the N4 in Zeerust.

“When communities protest, they destroy the infrastructure and frustrate our truck drivers and that further causes delay of transportation of goods,” said Kwadi.

The Trans Kalahari Corridor Secretariat's Executive Director Mr Leslie Mpofo said there is a need to harmonize COVID-19 regulations among SADC countries, adding that the situation frustrates the drivers as it prolongs their traveling and transit times.

He however, appreciated their patience at the borders. "They keep our economy alive besides all these frustrations, and we really thank them for that," he concluded.

North West MEC for Department of Community Safety and Transport Management Sello Lehari has sent gratitude to the truck drivers who pulled through, despite all their daily challenges, during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep moving and transporting goods to different SADC countries.

The MEC who was accompanied by Kgosi Gobusamang Shole, the Mahikeng Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Tshepiso Mphelo and officials from Trans Kalahari Corridor Secretariat, Namibia's Road Safety Council and Walvis Bay Corridor Group , led a “Thank a Trucker” campaign on the N18 road towards the Ramatlabama border to Botswana.

MEC Lehari acknowledged and appreciated the essential work that truck drivers do on a daily basis, this while interacting with those who drove passed the border, travelling from different countries.

“You go through various areas and meet different people, therefore your lives are at risk. Unlike other workers, you can't work from home. We plead that you take good care of yourselves as the work that you do is important to us and the economy.” said the MEC.

The Trans Kalahari Corridor is a tripartite, trans-boundary Corridor Management Institution that was established with a political and economic vision to pursue or contribute towards deeper regional integration programs of SADC, SACU and NEPAD.



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SHOVA KALULA BICYCLES CONTINUES TO BENEFIT RURAL LEARNERS IN THE PROVINCE

The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management in the Province has accelerated pace in the delivery of bicycles to learners who walk between two and five kilometres to and from schools on daily basis.

The bicycles help improve the quality of education for the learners by ensuring that they get to school on time.

Handing over the bicycles to the learners in different schools across the Province, the Departmental MEC, Sello Lehari considered them as educational tool or support to learners to reduce their travel time between homes, school and reduce fatigue while improving on their concentration level at school.

“These bicycles will reduce traveling time of learners to schools and will also provide physical training to the user.”

"Learners whom are walking 5km everyday to and from school qualify for scholar transport provided by department. These bicycles should be used for school related matters by learners and parents should refrain from using them for their errands and deprive learners their rights to use them," said MEC Lehari.

The Department in collaboration with the National Department of Transport handed over 1000 bicycles to different schools in the four Districts of the Province.

Mr Jeremiah Madise, principal of Zakheleni Intermediate School dedicate his heartfelt gratitude to MEC Sello Lehari and the department for delivering their promises. He further said that these bicycles will help their learners to make it on time to school and home safely. Nonhlahla Thambe representing learners receiving bicycles also thanked the MEC for this precious gift that is a solution for their late coming and they will be more productive in their school work.

The Shova Kalula bicycles project was initiated mainly to assist learners in rural areas, especially who are facing daily tiring trips to - from school. The objective is to maximize and promote the use of non-motorized transport to enable communities to access social and economic opportunities as province is predominantly rural. Thus far the department has handed over approximately 20 000 bicycles in four districts of the province since the inception of the project.

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DEPARTMENT LEADS GBV CAMPAIGN IN TLOKWENG



Various Departments, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) and community members joined hands for activation of 16 days of activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign in Tlokweng – Silwerkrans.

The activation was led by Department of Community Safety and Transport Management in partnership with Moses Kotane Local Municipality in Bojanala, South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Health, Department of Justice and Community Police Forum.

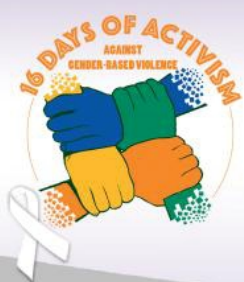
“We have been raising awareness about Gender Based Violence & Femicide Against elderly Persons and other Vulnerable Groups, now is the time to take accountability, report any act of violence to the nearest police station for perpetrators to be brought to book. Neighborhood Watch Culture should be revived in our Community, said Florence Nchoe, Director of Crime Prevention and Partnerships in the department.

In Tlokweng village the most reported cases are assault and theft. Community members are encouraged to work together with SAPS, Community Police Forum and Crime Watch in the communities. The Department installed Memeza alarms in the identified houses in Tlokweng, to utilize them at any given time when their lives are in danger.

The Moses Kotane Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Nketu Nkotsoe send a stern warning to perpetrators. “Our women and children cannot live in fear on the street and in their houses.

We plead with you our communities let us report these cases and also urge our police officers to ensure that they leave no stone unturned when investigating all reported cases to ensure that no one lives with fear , our people must enjoy their freedom,” said the Mayor.

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16 DAYS

of **Activism** for **No Violence** against **Women and Children 2021**

The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: 16 Days of Activism – moving from awareness to accountability



The Future We Want





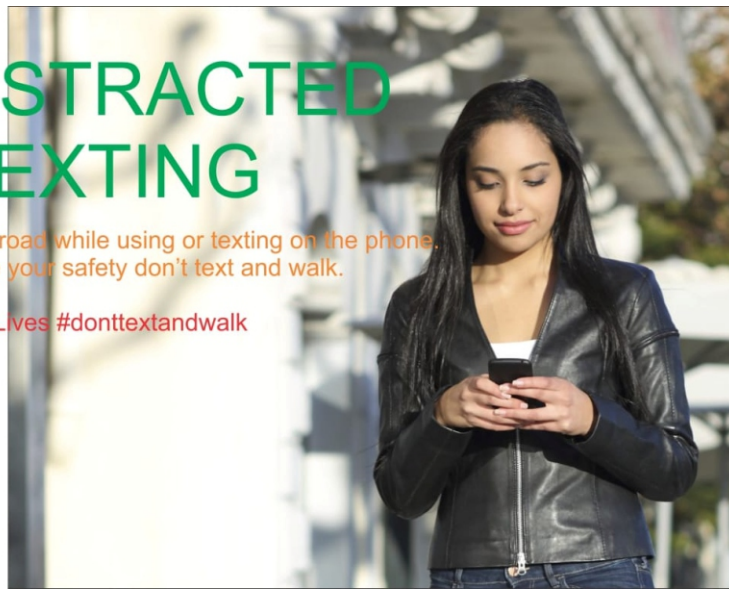
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DISTRACTED TEXTING

Don't walk on the road while using or texting on the phone.
Don't compromise your safety don't text and walk.

#StaySafe #SaveLives #donttextandwalk



MOEKA-VUMA POLICE STATION TO BE COMPLETED SOON

The long wait for the opening of the Moeka-Vuma police station is soon to end as the station is set to be completed by the end of March this year.

The good news landed well on the ears of Moeka Communities in the Moretele Local Municipality when the North West Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Sello Kwena announced the much anticipated handing over of the station.

Kwena reported the status on police service at the Bojanala District during the oversight visit of the Portfolio Committee.

He said the key personnel has been appointed for the station. "We have already appointed three critical posts for Moeka-Vuma police station.

Furthermore, vehicles and furniture have already been procured.

A new contractor is on site to complete this project and we are confident that by 1 April 2022 this station will be operating and servicing the people. Recruitment processes of members who applied for lateral transfers to come work at Moeka-Vuma Police Station are currently underway, so as SAPS we ready to service the people," said Kwena.

The Moeka-Vuma construction project was terminated due to poor performance of the initial appointed contractor.

Community Safety and Transport Management, MEC Sello Lehari applauded the sterling progress that has been recorded so far. "Our police are working hard to fight crime, and with the completion of this station, we are progressing well on improving their resources so that they can be able to fight crime diligently. I am excited to be part of this journey and hope members of community are happy too," said Lehari.

Portfolio Committee Chairperson on Community Safety and Transport Management, Public Works and Roads, Kim Medupe welcomed the progress recorded for the completion of the project of Moeka-Vuma Police Station.

"We are grateful to receive the report that the station is set to be opening soon. The construction of this police station took a very long time and our people have been disadvantaged as far as service delivery is concerned," concluded Medupe.



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STOCK THEFT REMAINS PERSISTENT - FARMERS AND LIVE STOCK OWNERS URGED TO BE VIGILANT

Stock theft has an influence on price increases and threatens the sustainability of the livestock industry as some farmers are leaving the industry due this challenge. This element of criminality is a serious concern as it has a negative effect on the economy of the country, and hinders the empowerment of especially emerging livestock owners.

In order to deal with the rising number of incidents, the South African Police Service (SAPS), supported by the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management and all other relevant key stakeholders recently held a stock theft awareness campaign in the Kagisano Molopo Municipality.

The awareness campaign aimed at encouraging and educating farmers and live stock owners on how to mark their animals as prescribed by the Animal identification Act of 2002 (Act No. 6 of 2002), and they were urged to brand their livestock.

The Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Sello Kwena led a delegation of structured stakeholders to engage with the communities during the campaign, and given more details on outstanding cases.

Lieutenant General Kwena further handed over two vehicles to the local police stations in the area in order to assist with day to day service delivery operations.

Other stakeholders who contributed to the campaign included National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Tribal Authority, Department of Economic Development, Environment Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT), Community Policing Forum (CPF), Department of Rural Development Land Reform, Kagisano Molopo Municipality as well as Farmers Unions.



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RAILWAY SAFETY ON THE SPOTLIGHT

Some of the most horrific accidents happen on railway line crossings; this is according to the 2020/2021 state of safety report. Furthermore, it indicates that the North West is amongst the top 3 provinces that contribute to the majority incidents and alone accounts for about 20%.

Therefore this worrying trend prompts a change in behaviour and attitude. The MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management Sello Lehari has called for more efforts to ensure a change in the mindsets of motorists and pedestrians.

“People's behaviour needs to change, we welcome this collaboration to ensure that the comprehension of the dangers associated with recklessness on railway crossings is elevated.

“We must do away with thinking we can beat a train to a level crossing, a train has a complex mechanical system, it cannot stop in a blink of an eye, so motorists and pedestrians must be more aware of that and practice patience when approaching a railway,” said Lehari.

This was during an ongoing awareness campaign by the National Department of Transport led by Deputy Minister Sindisiwe Chikunga in collaboration with the Railway Safety Regulator (RSR).

The activity took place in Rustenburg which is considered a railway incident hotspot in the province. The main objective of the campaign is to educate, cultivate a culture of railway safety amongst the users this will in turn reduce the risks associated with level crossings.

The railway industry also provides many career opportunities and therefore learners from surrounding schools were present at the event to engage directly with stakeholders.

The Transport Education Training Authority (TETA), Transnet, SANTACO in the province were also amongst sector stakeholders involved and offered messages of support.



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ADVANCED DEFENSIVE DRIVING WORKSHOP FOR DRIVERS IN NW



The Professional Advanced Defensive Driving workshop came at the right time for drivers in both local and district municipalities in Bojanala, as the country is currently working towards the implementation of the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offenses (AARTO) regulations.

More than fifty men and women drivers from Bojanala, Moretele, Rustenburg, Madibeng and Moses Kotane Municipalities enhanced their driving skills during the workshop held at the Bojanala District Municipality Chambers.

The workshop tapped on a number of facts that will assist drivers against the demerit system for traffic offenses, and further set to play a major role in influencing positive attitudes and behaviour of communities on the roads of the Province.

Talking about the purpose of the workshop, the Director for Road Safety Management, Ms Motshabi Tshukudu said that accident statistics have recorded an increase in the number of incidents particularly in the district.

“One accident in the Province is too many, and we have realized that this district continuously records a high number of incidents and accidents, we therefore saw it fit to conduct workshops like this one to improve the skills of drivers. We also appreciate the cooperation and involvement of municipalities represented here.

“Your participation in the workshop will play a vital role in increasing road safety, and with more numbers of participants, we will ultimately minimise the factors leading to road fatalities in the province and the country at large,” she said.

The workshop was conducted by Drive 4 Life, with the support of Road Accident Fund (RAF) and also covered the Ngaka Modiri Molema as well as the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality.

Furthermore, as part of the October Transport Month (OTM) activities, the Department conducts workshops of this nature in all four districts. The target group for the workshops were also open to taxi as well as bus drivers as they spend a considerable amount of time on the road.

“These workshops are seen as a way to create shared responsibility of being safe on the roads. It is one of the ways in which the department aims to reduce fatalities in the province as a whole, we create awareness on issues of road safety and get more stakeholders on board,” added Tshukudu.

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REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS OF WEIGHBRIDGES TO BE PRIORITISED



The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management has to reprioritise the repair and renovations of weighbridges to improve services at these centres.

The Portfolio committee led by Chairperson Ms Kim Medupe accompanied by members of the committee Freddy Sonakile and Lebogang Xaba, recommended that the department must upgrade facilities including technology used to ensure there is value for money on spending by government on such facilities.

Weighbridges play an important role in ensuring that vehicles are not overloaded and damaging roads. The Committee embarked on a weeklong oversight in Bojanala District.

The committee instructed the Department to implement its resolutions to challenges faced by different Driver Learners Testing Centres (DLTC's) and Weighbridges to improve service delivery.

"We are here to make sure that our communities are getting services that they deserve. Where there is a challenge we will intervene and make resolutions that will improve service delivery standards of the department," said Medupe.

The committee visited the Koster Weighbridge which is one of the three that are currently not working due to technical challenges.



- Always cross the road at the pedestrian crossing or intersection where drivers expect pedestrians.
- Look for cars in all directions, including those turning left or right.
- Also make use of walk over bridges



MEC SELLO LEHARI LEADS VOOMA VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

The fight against COVID-19 continues, with the VOOMA VACCINATION CAMPAIGN being rolled out once again. In the province, the programme is led by various MEC's in partnership with stakeholders to accelerate vaccination in order to reach population immunity. Sello Lehari, the MEC for the department of Community Safety and Transport Management took to Mmotla Kgapola village in Moretele Local Municipality as a starting point.

MEC Lehari used this opportunity to drive positive messages about the vaccine and to dispel myths as well as to alleviate fears amongst the community.

“Following revelations of the low turnout of people that have vaccinated so far, government has taken a decision to engage with communities in order to encourage vaccination against COVID- 19. We do this because the lives of people are important, in the province we want to have at least 75% of our population vaccinated.

“This disease has robbed us of heroes in our communities, future leaders and therefore we are taking a stand. I would encourage you to take the jab as we fight for safer and healthier communities,” said MEC Lehari who was also accompanied by senior officials in the department.

The vaccination site which was coordinated by the department of Health as well as the Moretele Local Municipality saw hundreds of people, young and old take the vaccine. John Mohomana, Ward 9 Cllr was satisfied with the turnout of people at the site.

“We are happy to see the number of people who made time to come here today and to hear for themselves the message that the MEC has shared with us and of course, to get vaccinated. We currently have two sites; the Department of Health has also setup at a local church and that way we are able to reach as many people as possible,” he said.



OUR DIRECTORATES AT WORK



Sports against crime



Debushing Letsema



Gender Based Violence march



NWPTIT



Crime prevention



COVID19 compliance check



Remembering our beloved colleagues



Shova kalula



VOOMA Vaccine



Advance Defensive driving



VOOMA Vaccine



VOOMA Vaccine



GBV Dialogue



Face masks, please!

Given that infected people without symptoms can transmit the virus, it is vital to wear masks wherever in public.

#StopTheSpread



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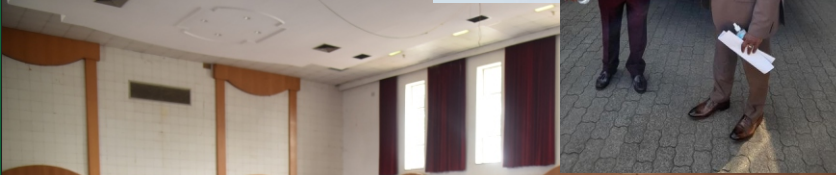
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