

NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

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IT'S ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR MAHIKA- MAHIKENG

By Lerato Majobe

Addressing the media at the Mmabatho Stadium recently, the Head of the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation (ACSR) Itumeleng Mogorosi announced that they have appointed Megaworxx, popularly known as ShowTime, to render event management services for the upcoming Mahika Mahikeng Arts and Cultural Festival for a three-year period.

The festival was scheduled to take place from the 8th to 10th December last year, but it was postponed to 17th until 19th March 2023 due to compliance with supply chain management laws and regulations.

"We are pleased and excited to inform you that the Department has appointed a service provider to implement Mahika-Mahikeng Arts and Cultural Festival for a period of 3 years at R10.5m per year", Mogorosi said.

"You will note that last year we had to take a policy decision to postpone the hosting of this program in December due to what

we had reported, but we are happy that we had re-advertised the tender, which we have successfully awarded", he added.

Mogorosi further said that the ACSR had followed appropriate supply chain processes to appoint the service provider.

"We ran a very clean bid opening process and a very clean bid compliance check process, which was done by bid specification committee.

We also ran a clean bid evaluation process, with the bid evaluation committee, which was comprised of members not only from the department, but composed of members from various departments, for reasons that we wanted to ensure that there is transparency and proper accountability and avoid any possible maleficence into processes", he said.

The festival will include theatrical productions, an indoor gospel show, a clap and tap show, a youth focused programme and the main jazz festival on a Sunday.

"This will be a three day event and we are expecting a beehive of activities that will start on the 13th March with arts and crafts



HOD for North West Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation Itumeleng Mogorosi

exhibitions as well as entertainment for kids at the same precinct.

The line-up will showcase some

of the best talent from the province alongside national artists", Mogorosi concluded.



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NMMDM LAUNCHES PILOT PROJECT ON SEPARATION OF WASTE IN SUPPORT OF “RATA MAHIKENG CAMPAIGN”.

By Mpho Moseitlo

The Executive Mayor of the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, Cllr Khumalo Molefe, with the Executive Mayor of the Mahikeng Local Municipality, Cllr Tshepiso Mphehlo, recently launched a Pilot Project on Separation of Waste at Source which aims at learning best practices on separating waste effectively.

The pilot project is part of the broader “RATA MAHIKENG” campaign that is currently underway to encourage residents to keep the city of Mahikeng clean at all times.

This pilot project is envisaged to run for a period of six months and Unit 3 as well as Unit 6 were identified as Pilot sites due to its

enabling logistics.

In support of the “RATA MAHIKENG CAMPAIGN”, the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality is involving 503 households and four schools to be given clear refuse bags to deposit recyclables such as bottles, plastics, paper, and tins as well as cans, with schools to be given four 240 litres wheelie bins each for depositing waste.

Recyclers and reclaimers operating within the said sites will also be part of the project in a joint effort by both the District Municipality and the Mahikeng Local Municipality to work together towards a clean environment.

Both Executive Mayors encouraged community members of Mahikeng and its surrounding areas to take pride in their surroundings.



NWDARD SIGN MOU WITH THE NORTH WEST UNIVERSITY

By Thebe Itumeleng

The North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) recently signed a formal agreement with the North West University (NWU) to promote cooperation between the two institutions in pursuit of their respective statutory mandates and on diverse areas of mutual interest.

The strategic focus of this partnership is on areas of cooperation including research, development, and innovation, teaching, learning, and training development opportunities, poverty alleviation projects, agricultural development and Indigenous Knowledge systems, economic development, organisational and institutional capacity building, veterinary sciences, indigenous knowledge systems, irrigation management and any other areas which the Parties may identify and agree upon from time to time including faculty and student exchanges.

The agreement will bring mutual benefits while improving research and capability by sharing knowledge and skills.

Speaking during the formal signing ceremony, DARD Head of Department Mr Thupi Mokhatla described the link with the NWU as a



DARD Head of Department Mr Thupi Mokhatla (on the left) & the Vice Chancellor and Principal of the North West University Professor Mzubanzi Bismark Tyobeka (on the right) signing Memorandum of Understanding.

great opportunity for the Department to work with a world-class university with a strong research tradition.

Mokhatla further said that signing an official partnership agreement with the NWU will see the two organisations working together closely on a range of services to better the lives of the farming communities of the Province.

"This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides the platform for enhanced collaboration

between the Department and the University which seeks to explore co-operation on academic programmes; development of joint research activities; training and development, student exchange and/or visiting programmes; exchange of information, including the results of teaching and research collaboration; and any other activities viewed to be mutually beneficial", HOD Mokhatla said.

Representing the University, the Vice Chancellor and Principal Professor Mzubanzi Bismark

Tyobeka said the NWU was delighted to be partnering with the DARD in this agreement.

He added that he is positive that the relationship between two parties will bring about positive and needed results. "The University is looking forward to the fruitful results this relationship promises to accrue", he said.

The parties agreed that cooperation envisaged under this MOU will be on a project-by-project basis and shall endure for a period of five (5) years.



Group photo of officials from both the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the North West University after the signing of MOU ceremony.

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NORTH WEST SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS GET A NOD OF APPROVAL AFTER COMPLETING THE SA-GAP PROGRAMME

By Thebe Itumeleng

A total of eight small scale farmers from the North West Province recently received a stamp of approval from the South African Good Agricultural Practice programme (SA-GAP) after completing the twelve months programme that assists smallholder producers to access both local and international markets by producing good quality products that comply with food safety and quality standards as required by the market.

During the twelve month training programme and thereafter, these smallholder producers were amongst others empowered with efficient farm management practices, received training to comply with legislation on food safety, environmental protection and animal and workers' welfare, assisted in mobilizing the financial means for realizing necessary infrastructural and other related investments in the agricultural value chain.

The certification programme ensures health and safety to consumers and helps producers to gain gradual recognition and acceptance from mainstream commercial markets.

One of the beneficiaries of this programme who has also completed the training is 30 year old Kelebogile Matsose from a small



Her dream is to dominate the sector particularly with her organic tea, having a tea producing plant, supplying the international market and creating employment for residents of Makwassie and the province at large.

farming town of Makwassie near Wolmaransstad, in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality.

At her farm, together with her family, they do mixed farming.

They keep livestock, plant maize, sunflower and various vegetables but Matsose's priority is the production of chia seeds and tea made out of chia plants.

Her passion and dedication to her craft saw her being selected to be part of the South African Good Agricultural Practice Certification Programme (SA-GAP) in 2022.

As an intervention and through the SA-GAP programme, the Department of Agriculture and Rural

Development has assisted her with a 12 meter marine container equipped with steel sinks, tables and shelves.

She has also received a mobile cold room, harvesting crates and packaging and processing equipment.

Since then, Matsose has never looked back.

Currently she has three permanent workers and five seasonal workers.

Matsose has expressed her appreciation to what the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has done for her.

"I am grateful for what the

Department has done for me. Through this SA-GAP I have learned a lot about farm management, data recording, traceability of products, financial management, food safety and handling and a whole lot of other stuff in this business", she said.

Her dream is to see herself dominating the sector particularly with her organic tea, having a tea producing plant, supplying the international market.

As the country is experiencing a lot of unemployment, she is working hard to expand her enterprise so she will be able to hire more people in the next five years.



Kelebogile Matsose's product that is known as Feel Good Tea, is made out of chia plants.



The corrugated iron house which Kelebogile was using as a store room. The Department is currently building her a proper store room and ablution facilities in the farm.

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HEIGHTENING AWARENESS IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING IN MOSES KOTANE

By *Berlina Lekgethwane*

The Moses Kotane Local Municipality continues to forge educational relations with the Department of Education, Sefako Makgatho Health University in Garankuwa, previously known as MEDUNSA and Sun International to pursue long term Mathematics, Science and Engineering career paths that will benefit learners from around the municipality in the future.

These various stakeholders met at the end of last month at the Mogwase Library to heighten awareness amongst learners in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality of the existing career paths in the fields of Mathematics, Science and Engineering through a collaborative Annual Career Exhibition

The Municipality's Head of Community Services, Mr Segale Kotsedi said that this collaboration's aim is to change the mindsets of local learners who still have difficulty in the key focus subjects and fields of study to ensure that



enough support is given to those learners.

The partnership seeks to have

academically deserving Mathematics and Science learners in Grades 10, 11 and 12 placed in an

adoption programme undertaken by the Sefako Makgatho Medical Sciences University.





BRITTEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS PLAN TO START COMMERCIAL FARMING

By Lerato Majobe

As part of Government's ongoing efforts to improve the lives of South Africans through the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM), public service and private sector stakeholders in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District donated livestock to a farming community in the Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality earlier this month.

Bastion Mine, working with the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality, the Office of the Premier and other government institutions, donated six female cattle and a bull to the community of Britten near Bloemhof as a way of supporting subsistence farming in the area.

About 22 members of the community are employed by Bastion Mine.

Community members said that they will look after the cattle they received by ensuring that they multiply so as to enable them to move towards commercial farming and use the means of profit to improve their current socio-economic conditions.

Cecilia Manye, a community member, said that she was grateful to the mining company as their contribution will work towards eradicating poverty in their area.

"I am very thankful to Bastion Mine for giving us the cattle so that we can be able to produce meat and milk and maybe supply the big shops in future.

However to achieve this, we will have to be patient and work very hard", Manye said.

Simon Kesimolotse said that this initiative will formulate an environment for job creation in their area. Bastion Mine's Managing Director, Etienne Schoeman, said that this was their second project in the area wherein they have aligned some of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme with government's District Development Model as part of a concerted Public Private Partnership to fight poverty, unemployment and inequality.

"We have been working on various projects over the years across all our sites and so this is a



part of our mining license conditions as well as a Social Labour Plan project, which we have identified over the years in cooperation with the local community, the municipality and Department of Mineral Resources", Schoeman said.

He also said that they donated a mobile kitchen to the community of Bloemhof recently.

He further added that they were delighted to have given cattle to the community and that the company will continue to try improve the lives of the communities within which they do business.

"We are happy to be handing over these cows to the Britten community and we are looking forward to further engagements", Schoeman said.

Acting Executive Mayor for the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District, Cllr Solly Matobo said he was happy that this company is playing a critical role towards the implementation of the DDM.

"In terms of District Development Model, we don't only have government participating, we also have stakeholders such as the business sector and others that are participating and now this is the second time that Bastion Mine has invited us down here to donate to



the community; the last time they were giving mobile kitchens to five beneficiaries in Bloemhof", Cllr Matobo said. He further said that there will be a follow up to increase the number of cattle as their additional contribution to what Bastion Mine had contributed.

Cllr Matobo thanked the company for their efforts and said that they are hopeful that companies that are not contributing in the areas they operate in will learn a lot from what Bastion mine has

done for the community.

"We thank Bastion mine for this contribution. These are the people that are showing interest in this community and they have been very consistent in ensuring that there is something that they give to the community; to me this is seriously good work for the benefit of Britten community and a learning curve to others also who are not contributing to the community to take an example from Bastion mine", he said.

BAHURUTSHE BOO MANYANE REMEMBER KGOSI MANGOPE



Kgosi Kwena Mangope laying wreath on his father's grave

By Otukile Mosimanegape
and Nako Makhoro

A great number of traditional leaders, family members, friends and community members recently joined hands in honor of the fifth annual commemoration of the passing on of Kgosi Dr Lucas Manyane Mangope at Motswedi village within the precinct of Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality. The commemoration led by Lucas Manyane Mangope foundation saw speakers showering him with praises and depicting him as the most devoted and hardworking person. Narrating about the passion Kgosi Mangope had in Education, his former Personal Assistant Joseph Jack described him as someone who loved education, agriculture and religion. "He was a giant man, a leader who understood that education helps us get exposure to new ideas and

concepts that we can use to appreciate and improve the world around us and the world within us", he said.

Addressing the attendees, Kgosi Kwena Mangope son of the late Dr Lucas Mangope and the current serving Kgosi of the Bahurutshe Boo Manyane tribe, said his father was a God-fearing person and was there for his people, not for himself. He said he created jobs, built schools, and created national parks. "He might be gone but we miss him every day, particularly with all the challenges that we have, from leadership and all social ills that we have, his legacy will live forever, he was an amazing man". He said.

The Former Statesman and Kgosi of Bahurutshe Boo Manyane passed on five years ago and was buried at the Royal Cemetery in his home village of Motswedi within the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality. The foundation further stated that they are looking forward to laying a tombstone for the late Kgosi Mangope.





SECOND CHANCE

MATRIC SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The North West Department of Education encourages all NSC candidates who wrote examinations from 2008 to 2022 and all Senior Certificate candidates who aspire to complete/ improve Grade 12 to grab the Second Chance Matric programme with both hands.

What is the main Objective of the Programme:

Second Chance Matric programme seeks to provide support to learners who were unable to meet the pass requirements, to upgrade the Matric results of either the National Senior Certificate examination (NSC) or Senior Certificate (SC) examinations.

This programme increases opportunities to pursue tertiary education and later future employment. SCMP creates a platform of face to face tuition/lessons totally free of charge.

Who qualifies to write in June 2023:

- 2022 NSC candidates of 2022 academic year
 - (Supplementary Candidates)
- All candidates who want to improve NSC examination (Open Exam)
 - All SC candidates
- Registration Closing dates:
 - 20 February 2023

Who qualifies to write in October/November 2023:

- All NSC candidates (Full Time)
- ALL NSC candidates (Part-Time)
- Registration Closing date: 15 March 2023:

SECOND CHANCE MATRIC PROGRAMME CENTRES

NMM	DR RSM	DR KK	BOJANALA
Zeerust Combined	Pudumong/ Vuselela	Kedimetse ECD	Eletsa Sec. School
Ngotwane Sec. School	Ganyesa DTDC	Tlhathelelo ECD	Saint Theresa Sec. School
Gaetsho Sec. School	Taung Enrichment Centre	E.M. Mokatsane ECD	Mothotlung Sec. School
Atamelang EDSC	Setswakgosing Sec. School		Manotshe Motsepe Sec. School
Tlhoafalo Sec.School	Gaopalelwe Sec. School		Central Sec. School
Onkabetse Thuto	Majeng EDSC		Jericho Sec. School
Letsatsing Science High	Ikgomotseng		Thutopele Sec. School Thulare Sec. School Ikatisong Sec. School Batlhalelwa ECD Madikwe Resource Centre Lentheng EDSC Tlhabane EDSC Mogwase EDSC

WHERE IS REGISTRATION CONDUCTED?

1. All 2022 NSC matric candidates will register at their former secondary schools as Supplementary candidates
2. All candidates NSC Matric (2008-2021) and SC candidates will register at the nearest Municipal offices (formerly known as Sub districts) and SCMP centres

For more information, please contact the nearest sub districts and SCMP centres located in district offices:

District	District Champions	Contact No.
BOJANALA	Dr Moime	082 2005938
	Mr Moorosi	071475 9026
NMM	Mr K, Nyamane	082 902 4816
DR RUTH MOMPATI	Ms L. Moalosi	073 628 4918
DR KENNTH KAUNDA	Mr G. Moseki	072 612 9786





C O N G R A D U L A T I O N

CLASS OF 2022

NORTH WEST'S OVERALL PASS PERCENTAGE PER MUNICIPALITY

Local Municipality	Sum of Total Entered	Sum of Total Wrote	Sum of Total Achieved	Percentage Achieved
MADIBENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	5183	5117	4287	83,78%
RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	6701	6582	5474	83,17%
KAGISANO MOLOPO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	1757	1724	1425	82,66%
JB MARKS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	2426	2390	1945	81,38%
MAQUASSI HILLS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	792	780	631	80,90%
RAMOTHERE MOILOA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	2125	2108	1704	80,83%
MORETELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	2588	2558	2058	80,45%
MATLOSANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	4532	4357	3504	80,42%
MAHIKENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	4175	4093	3269	79,87%
NALEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	869	852	676	79,34%
RATLOU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	1357	1334	1053	78,94%
MOSES KOTANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	3293	3245	2506	77,23%
GREATER TAUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	2721	2697	2077	77,01%
TSWAING LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	1643	1627	1251	76,89%
DITSOBOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	2134	2095	1545	73,75%
MAMUSA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	922	903	628	69,55%
LEKWA-TEEMANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	835	816	563	69,00%
KGETLENG RIVER LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	566	545	364	66,79%

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COMBATING SOCIAL ILLS THROUGH THE ARTS IN MATLOSANA

By Kabelo Selebogo

The North West Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation, in partnership with the Mbabana Foundation and the North West Federation of Community Arts Centres (NWFCAC) recently launched the Kanana Community Arts and Heritage Centre in Orkney.

This is part of an initiative to keep young people away from social ills such as gang violence and drug abuse that have engulfed the townships of Jouberton, Khuma, Tigane, Kanana and Alabama in the City of Matlosa Local Municipality and instead help youth to nurture their talents in the arts.

Young artists from the Kanana Community Arts and Heritage Centre and the surrounding communities showcased their skills in a variety of disciplines, including drama, music, cinema, craft, and visual arts during the launch.

Mokula Ramabodu, a local visual artist, has dedicated his time to mentor the local youth.

"I have made the decision to pass on my artistic skills and acknowledge to young creatives for free, as part of mentoring and giving back to my township," Ramabodu said.



"The weekday classes commence at 15:00 comprises painting, charcoal and pencil and the colourful artistic murals on the walls are the collective efforts of myself and my visual art learners", he added.

"These centres strive to identify and develop potential creative talent in many communities. There are currently 23 CAC's in townships and

rural areas that are affiliated to the NWFCAC"

"Individuals and teams can participate at the provincial, national, and global stages, therefore the platform is not limited to local communities", ACSR spokesperson, Shuping Sebolewe, said.

The mission of these Community Arts Centers is to make performing

arts, crafting, and cultural activities accessible to communities.

In addition, they aim to foster skills development, create new opportunities, employment and contribution to social cohesion and nation-building as well as serve as a foundational phase for people who desire to work or pursue professional careers in the arts and heritage fraternity.



STRUGGLE VETERAN PAUL DAPHNE LAID TO REST IN MAHIKENG

By Lehlohonolo Phala

Struggle veteran, academic and senior public servant Paul Daphne was laid to rest recently at a funeral held at the Mmabatho Convention Centre following his passing at the end of January after a short illness.

Daphne had an illustrious career as an academic, political and social activist and conservationist.

Speakers who paid tribute to Daphne spoke of him as a leader, who had passion for nature.

Premier Maape referred to Daphne as a person who demonstrated empathy and abundant patience to everyone.

"Paul carried out his duties and responsibilities diligently, to build the economy of North West", he said.

"His departure is the greatest pain in my life, we formed a good team, and our relationship transcended from that of a fellow comrade to that of a brother", he added.

Maape described Daphne as having an impervious sense of humor and said he will always cherish the moments shared with him as well as the lessons learnt from him.

He said that Daphne's greatest strength was the ability to analyse



the situation, develop appropriate strategies and tactical responses.

Jeremy Daphne said his brother has always been a happy, vibrant man.

"Over the last six months, every afternoon after work he went down to Molopo River, at the Mafikeng Nature Reserve, to look for the

snake bird that would often come to the river. He would take photographs of it and that was special to him", he told mourners.

He added that Daphne family was his priority and he treasured traveling with them.

Paul Daphne held various senior positions in the Provincial and

National Government as well as in State Owned Entities.

At the time of his passing, he was Premier Maape's Special Advisor on Economic Affairs of the North West Province.

He is survived by his fiancé, his children, his brothers, and his ex-wife.

NEW AND INNOVATIVE KTHC PROVIDES A LIFE-LINE FOR DR KENNETH KAUNDA RESIDENTS

Staff Reporter

The Klerksdorp/Tshepong Hospital Complex (KTHC) in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District continues to operate as a beacon of service delivery excellence, providing communities with quality health care and improving patient satisfaction.

The facility provides primary, secondary and tertiary services

through its two sites which are located in Klerksdorp and Tshepong.

The facility has recently benefitted from a revitalisation programme of both the Klerksdorp and Tshepong hospitals which was implemented in the 2021/2022 financial year.

The project benefitted the surgical theatres which allowed for the strategic reconfiguration of services.

Some of the strategic decisions which were taken to optimise

service included:

Migrating the orthopaedic services to Tshepong.

Permanently relocating the theatres and one ward to Tshepong Hospital were moved initially and in December 2022 to Tshepong.

Housing the orthopaedic services such as neurosurgery and the main emergency medicine department to ensure comprehensive care of poly-trauma patients.

Establishing a new Orthopaedic outpatient department where the

old XDR TB unit was.

The revitalised KTHC is hosted in a commodious area which has space for retrieval of files and boasts multiple waiting areas.

The facility houses a number of consulting rooms, a pharmacy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy services.

All these service points are located away from the other outpatient areas thus ensuring less congestion in the main pharmacy and waiting areas.

The space is also staff friendly.



AN ODE TO A FRIEND, A COLLEAGUE, A REVOLUTIONARY, A SELFLESS LEADER

By Tebogo Job Mokgoro

The North West Province has lost a great and humble giant in the person of Paul Daphne.

For as long as I have known him, Paul has been a selfless, committed, dedicated and true revolutionary, absolutely focussed on the massive task of emancipating the oppressed people of South Africa, and has spent a large part of his life serving the people of the North West Province.

Paul displayed and personified the values highlighted in the ANC Constitution that "...I will abide by the aims and objectives of the ANC., the Freedom Charter and other duly adopted policy positions..."; the principles of the country's Constitution committing to a non-racial, non-sexist, prosperous, democratic South Africa; and as a career public servant, he has consistently demonstrated dedication to high standards of public service, that is developmental in its character, and underpinned by a strong ethical culture

His commitment to the ANC's ideals as propounded by our founding leaders have consistently been matched by his sincere



approach to service delivery in government, a rare feature indeed if one looks at the culture of factionalism, selfishness, greed and looting that one sees in many parts of our public service today.

Perhaps what would be of use to those who remain in the public service is for us who have worked closely with Paul in the ANC as well as in government, to craft a characterisation or profile of what a

true public servant should be like, based on the values he espoused.

I am talking of a public servant who would liberate us from the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment; a public servant who would recognise the urgency of tackling crime, providing basic services such as water and sanitation, housing, infrastructure development and maintenance, resolving our energy crisis, etc.

South Africa is currently in a parlous state and North West, in particular is well known for its instability, infighting, looting, and general chaos.

Our province does not enjoy any respect, wherever you go in the country, and beyond.

We are in desperate need for a Paul Daphne functionary in the entire fabric of our state machinery.

Paul was a committed ANC activist as well as a public service "revocrat".

He was not an unduly politicised senior manager, but a highly politically sensitive senior official. His management and application of government prescripts were underpinned by his deep understanding and appreciation of the urgency to tackle poverty. He was not a mechanical, rules-driven bureaucrat. To him prescripts were meant to enable and accelerate the war on poverty, inequality and unemployment, not to hinder it

I met Paul in the 1980's when we were both lecturers at the University of Bophuthatswana. We both served in the Staff Association, which I led upon succeeding Dr Naledi Pandor. By the way, When I was elected President of the Staff association, Paul became the Secretary. We both joined UDUSA (Union of Democratic Staff Associations), an affiliate of COSATU.

Continues to other page



Around the same time, Paul, I and several other activists formed the Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum (MAREF). Political conditions in Bophuthatswana, at the time demanded that change be urgently addressed.

Clearly, there were similar developments in the country and in exile. The harsh repressive practices perpetrated largely by brutal security forces in Bophuthatswana worked very hard to isolate us from the rest of South Africa, and we had to creatively find ways of engaging in activism, despite these forces. Another structure we became part of was the Anti Bophuthatswana Coordinating Committee (ABCC) that linked us directly to the UDF in 'South Africa'

One driving force behind the work we were doing was Paul's then wife, Laura Taylor. She was simply a powerhouse. She was very effective and efficient in the engine room supporting and leading our various political programmes. In anticipation of Tata Mandela's release, Laura bought large pieces of black, green and gold material which she sewed into a massive flag on the night of Saturday, 10 February 1990.

I had been insisting that the time was ripe for us to launch the first ever ANC branch, because we had been doing a lot of groundwork. As a result, we were given the go ahead to accelerate preparations for the establishment of an ANC branch. To give effect to this, we held a critical meeting at Cooke's Lake. This meeting resolved to establish an ANC branch, and this decision came to be affectionately known as the Cooke's Lake Minute

Mafikeng fell within the Northern Cape region of the ANC at that stage, and the first thing we did was to travel to the newly opened ANC office in Vryburg where we met with Cde Jomo Khasu, the regional organizer for the ANC. The five of us joined and returned to Mafikeng with a load of membership cards and joining forms

One major breakthrough that is worth highlighting came when we managed to smuggle membership forms into the Rooigrond Prison and to recruit Sergeant Timothy Phiri and around 130 former members of the Bophuthatswana Defence Force who were serving time for their role in the abortive coup of 1988.



They joined en mass and we released a statement that they had joined the branch. The authorities reacted with rage and indignation claiming that it was impossible for these prisoners to have joined as they were being held in the maximum security section of the prison

For the establishment of an ANC branch it was necessary for over 100 paid up members to be present at a launch meeting. Given that ANC meetings were being broken up by the police throughout Bophuthatswana, it was decided that the best strategy would be to have an 'underground' launch of the branch with the required 100 members and then to announce the launch to the public.

The intention was not to operate as an underground structure but rather to ensure that the launch could succeed and then to operate and recruit openly thereafter. Dr David Green, a Mafikeng doctor and a member of the branch, offered his surgery which had a large enough space to be used as a meeting venue and the date was set for the night of Monday, 20 August. The plan was for comrades to meet in small groups and then to travel together to the surgery. All communication was done one on one by word of mouth in order to try and ensure maximum secrecy.

The plan went off like clockwork. At the appointed time 110 enthusiastic but disciplined paid-up

members of the Mafikeng ANC were crowded into David Greens surgery, and the Mafikeng ANC was re-born almost 30 years since the people's movement had been banned across the county by the apartheid government.

The meeting did not have to go on for long. I gave a report on recruitment where I explained the strategy that had underpinned the decision to hold a secret launch, and further indicated that we had indeed even slowed taking on new members prior to the launch in order to contain our exposure and security risk. Jomo Khasu addressed the meeting and indicated that the Pretoria Minute, which had been signed between the ANC and the Apartheid Government applied to every inch of South Africa and Mafikeng was no exception.

He went on to indicate that despite the signing of the Pretoria Minute, it was necessary to build structures for the defence of the people as the tyranny of apartheid was continuing in many parts of the country.

Cde Jomo presided over the election of office bearers and a 9 member executive was elected comprising myself (Job Mokgoro), Chairperson; Paul Daphne, Secretary; Mandla Magwetyana, Treasurer and a further 6 executive members whose portfolios would be finalized at a later date. These 6 members were Silas Mbipha, Thaka Seboka, Kaelo Maropofela,

Mmoloki Legodu and the late Jane Matsomela.

As the newly elected Chairperson, I closed the meeting with a short but stirring speech in which I indicated that we were not asking anyone to be allowed to exercise our democratic rights but we were taking these rights with both hands and would proceed to exercise them in building the ANC in Mafikeng and in bringing the democratic project to a logical conclusion in that part of the country.

On the 24th August 1990, almost 33 years ago we surprised (and shocked some) everybody when we appeared on the front page of Mafikeng Mail under the title 'ANC launched in Mmabatho'

After the 1994 elections I was appointed Director General, and Paul Deputy Director General in the Office of the Premier, serving under Dr Popo Molefe

In the new democratically elected government, MPLs were housed at the Ministerial residence (where Ministers in the Bophuthatswana cabinet had lived. They were charged a paltry sum of R120.00. For some strange reason they refused to pay. I was highly embarrassed by this behavior, as it was a very bad way to usher in a democratic dispensation.

Paul and I were housed at the embassy and had to pay about R200.00. I discussed this spectacle with him, and we both agreed that on the basis of some assessment of the houses we were living in, we should pay R1200.00, just to lead by example, and we could be reimbursed later. We never bothered to claim back our money, for after all, we had to lead by example. That is the Paul our Province has lost, that is the Comrade we no longer have, the Advisor we now have to do without. But his values live. Let us document these, and have them inform us on how to renew our institutions.

My condolences to his family, including his fiancé, Disa Ramagaga, his children Daniel and Matthew; foster children Jeana, Tshidi, and Itumeleng; his brothers Jeremy and Robert; and his ex-wife Laura. May his revolutionary spirit rest in peace. *Prof Tebogo Job Mokgoro is the former Premier of the North West and former Director-General in the Office of the Premier. He writes in his personal capacity.*

**“Daphne was ethical and incorruptible.
He espoused the true values of the post-apartheid South Africa.”**

COMMUNITIES URGED NOT TO WITHDRAW GBV CASES

By Thabo Hlope

The withdrawal of Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) cases is a rubber stopper against the efforts to curb this societal pandemic.

The department of Community Safety and Transport Management is focused on regressing the scourge especially in rural areas; where crime, alcohol abuse and unemployment are the primary causes of the GBVF incidents.

As a means of intervention and responding to the needs of the people in Mamokete informal settlement and Lekubu village near

Zeerust, the department recently conducted a series of activities to intensify victim empowerment programmes.

This was done through a coordination of Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPSC) stakeholders with crime prevention initiatives led by the department, wherein key role players in government, civil society organisations, and religious groups mobilise communities with a concerted effort of reducing incidents against vulnerable groups.

According to the Director of Crime Prevention Partnerships, Florence Nchoe, Lekubung and Mamokete have been identified as

hotspot areas where GBVF cases are on a rise.

"Subsequent to rigorous consultations and research in the Zeerust policing precinct, our determination is to bring sustainable solutions to the scourge of GBVF. We want our communities to be part of the solution, they too bring an important element as they play an active role in organising themselves to work together with us in the implementation of our programmes.

"We also have a moral regeneration item, where we pray over these social ills and motivate our people through spiritual means, with the objective of changing the behaviour and mind-set of our people for the greater good of their

communities," said Nchoe.

Government has an obligation to protect victims from intimidation and tampering, this is done through the Service Charter for Victims of Crime. Therefore, to fuel the gains made against GBVF, victims are discouraged from withdrawing cases against perpetrators.

"In order to truly transform our society, we must allow the justice system processes to unfold the way it is supposed to. We encourage people to give the police the necessary space and time to be able to do their work," said Prosecutor Steve Mongwe, from the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), in his address during the recent campaign in Zeerust.

WADEE BAGS POSITION ONE IN THE PROVINCIAL 2022 MATRIC RESULTS

By Lerato Majobe

Safiyyah Wadee is the top matric learner in the North West Province 2022 National Senior Certificate examinations.

She scooped seven distinctions, with Mathematics being the highest at 99%.

Wadee, who matriculated from Zinniville Secondary school in Rustenburg has attributed her success to time management.

"I created a timetable at the beginning of the year and made sure that it was as detailed as possible, I was also disciplined, dedicated and determined to follow it because I did not want to skew away from my

study time", Wadee said.

With her dedication and determination, Wadee said she aspires to be a medical doctor

"I would like to study medicine this year, preferably at the University of the Witwatersrand", she said.

She further said that she has always had interest on human biology and she drew her motivation from her uncle and aunt who are both exceptional medical doctors.

"I have always had fascination with human biology; my aunty and uncle are excellent doctors who served in the communities and also during the covid-19 period of sickness when there was difficulty in the medical field, they created such a large impact and that motivated and inspired me that one day I could do the same", she concluded.



MBIZO SCOOPS THREE DISTINCTIONS

By Lerato Majobe

Pontsho Mbizo, from Marikana High School, obtained three distinctions in Agricultural Science, Geography and Physical Science in the 2022 National Senior Certificate examinations.

Mbizo attributed his outstanding achievement to sleepless nights, hard work, dedication and perseverance.

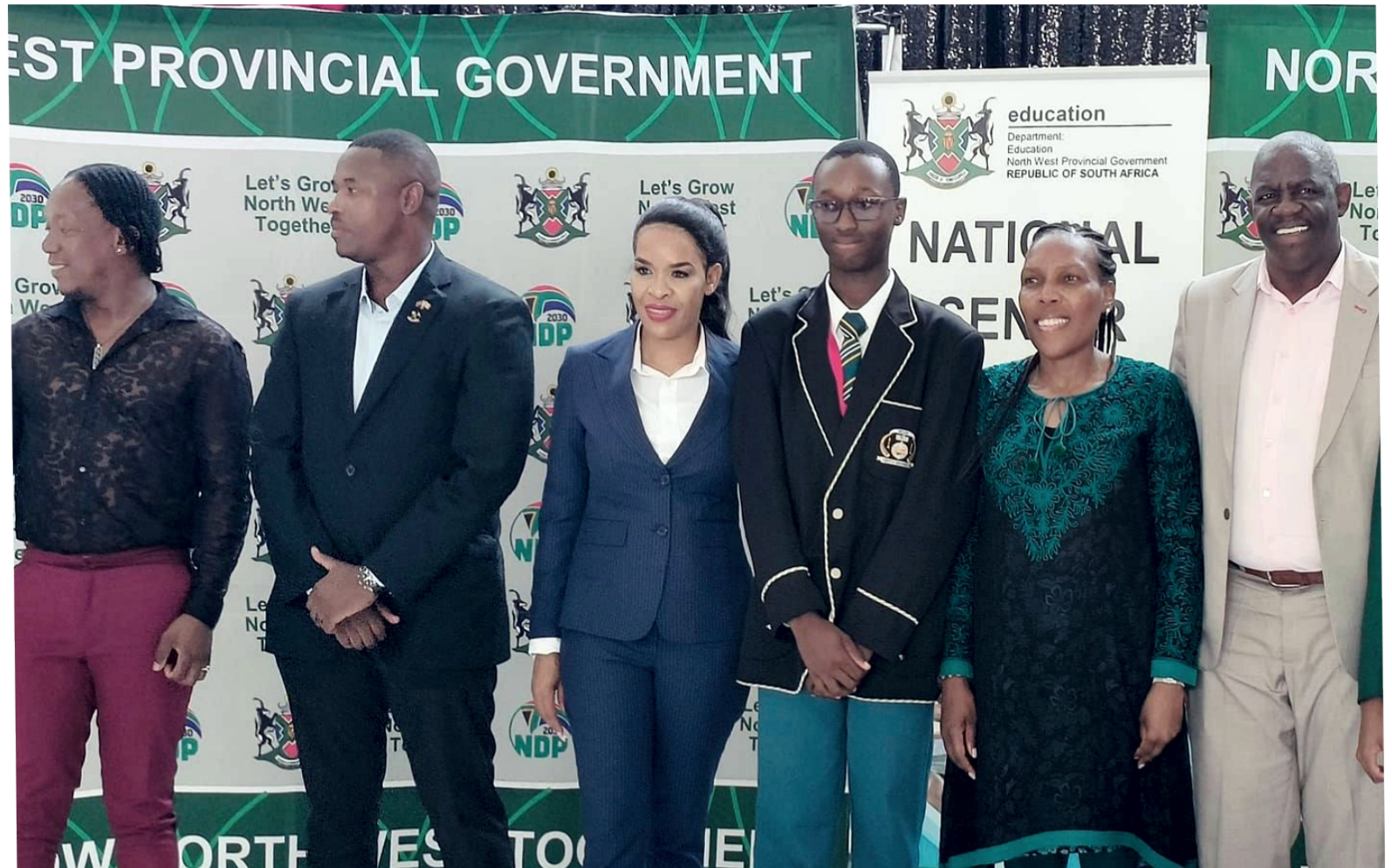
He said he was very delighted that he ultimately received the fruits of his labour.

"These results really pleased me, I worked too hard for them and I am glad that I received what I have worked for", he said.

Mbizo said that despite the challenges brought about by rolling power outages, he ensured that he made time for his studies during the day to prepare for his examinations.

"At times, there was load shedding and as a result, I could not study at night, so I decided to study immediately when I got home from school", he said.

He further said that he wants to pursue Electrical and Computer Engineering studies at the



University of Cape Town this year.

Advising current matriculants, Mbizo said they must work hard and develop passion for their studies.

"Grasp any opportunity you get, if there is an opportunity to gain information about a certain subject, just take it because you need

everything for the final exam, hard work is also one of the important things and love your books and your books will love you back", he said.

MONAMODI ELATED BY HIS MATRIC RESULTS

By Nako Makhoro

Onkabetse Monamodi is a top learner from Nyetse Village near Zeerust.

He attended Maruapula Secondary School and managed to score seven distinctions for his final matric results despite service delivery issues the community endured on a regular basis.

"I feel proud and validated, and I believe God gave me this talent to showcase in our province and make a difference. I made it this far because our school is a very small school, and we were able to stick and work together in a united manner", Monamodi said.

He alluded that Nyetse village is struggling a lot with service delivery and access to resources.

However, he added that his former teachers always pushed them to work hard, even though there were tough times.

"Coming from a school as disadvantaged as Maruapula and achieving this type of results is outstanding", Monamodi said.

He is aspiring to study Informatics and Information systems with the University of Pretoria or to study Mathematical statistics with the University of Johannesburg.

He said that he would like to weigh his options on which one to enroll for before it is too late, because he is passionate with both career choices.



GUMEDE WANTS TO BE A CHEMICAL ENGINEER

By Lerato Majobe

Maikaelelo Gumede of Lerothodi High School in Bethanie near Brits did so exceptionally well in his 2022 National Senior Certificate examinations that he wants to study Chemical Engineering at the

University of the Witwatersrand.

Gumede said that he made this career choice because he wants to make people's lives easier as the products he will innovate will be used quotidian.

"The products I will develop as a chemical engineer will make people's lives easier and are the things that people will use daily", he said.

He attributed his outstanding

performance to determination, time management and positivity.

"I was determined, managed my study time effectively and believed actually, because if you believe, you will achieve what you want to achieve", Gumede said.

He concluded by encouraging current matriculates to start preparing for their examination in advance to ease the pressure during their final examinations and

urged them to use previous question papers to acclimatize themselves with how questions are asked.

"Start early, because when you write your finals, is actually a lot of work and manage your time effectively, study to understand, use past exam papers to familiarize yourself with exam questions and to respect your teachers", Gumede concluded.

SOLWANE FLYING GEYSDORP FLAG HIGH

By Nako Makhoro

Melvin Odirile Solwane from Madibogo village in the Ratlou Local Municipality is one of the North West Province's top achievers in the 2022 National Senior Certificate examinations.

Solwane, who attended the Geysdorp Secondary School, expressed his heartfelt gratitude that his results are exceptionally good and that was against his expectations.

"I am really glad that I have managed to reach this kind of performance through hard work, determination and constant prayer", Solwane said.

Encouraging the class of 2023, Solwane said they should work hard and start preparing earlier with some confidence of doing their best.

He further reiterated that they should focus, be resilient and dedicated in their journey.

He plans to study Medicine and Surgery at either the University of the Witwatersrand or the University of Cape Town this year.

He further said that he appreciates everyone who contributed to his academic success and thanked his parents, former teachers and friends for their support throughout his school journey.



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