

# NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

First Edition - 2023

Page 02 - President Ramaphosa officially opens Jouberton CHC on Freedom

Page 04 - Prof Dan Kgwadi described as a courageous leader and community builder

# MAAPE CONGRATULATES TETE DIJANA FOR DEFENDING COMRADES MARATHON

By Sello Tatai

**N**orth West Premier, Kaobitsa Bushy Maape has congratulated Tete Morena Dijana for successfully defending his Comrades Marathon Championship and setting a new Down Run Record.

Dijana who hails from Lonely Park village in Mahikeng has been running from an early age.

He is employed as a security guard at the Mahikeng Campus of the North West University and took leave to amplify his preparations for the 2023 Comrades marathon.

Premier Maape has described Tete Dijana as a paragon of long distance road running.

"We congratulate Tete Dijana for putting the North West province on the map once more by winning the Comrades Marathon and breaking the down-run record. The province is super proud of his remarkable talent and achievements" remarked Premier Maape.

Premier Maape has also congratulated Adele Broodryk for finishing second in the women's race. The mother of two who is also a lecturer at the North West University,



Potchefstroom Campus was competing for the second time in the Comrades Marathon. Last year she obtained third position.

Premier Maape also extends his congratulatory message to the 2021 Champion Edward Mothibi who took third position in this year's Marathon. Mothibi also hails from Mahikeng at

Magogoe village.

Other top contenders from North West Province included Joseph Manyedi, Gordon Lesetedi, Onalenna Khonkhobe, Johannes Makgetla as well as the 2015 Comrades Marathon Champion Gift Kelehe.

"We are indeed a province of

champions. With so much long distance running talent in our province we can only hope this goes from one generation to the other so that we continue to dominate this race. As the provincial government, we will continue to do our bid to nurture and support this great talent" concluded Premier Maape.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:  
**0800 111 700**  
SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together

# PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA OFFICIALLY OPENS JOUBERTON CHC ON FREEDOM DAY

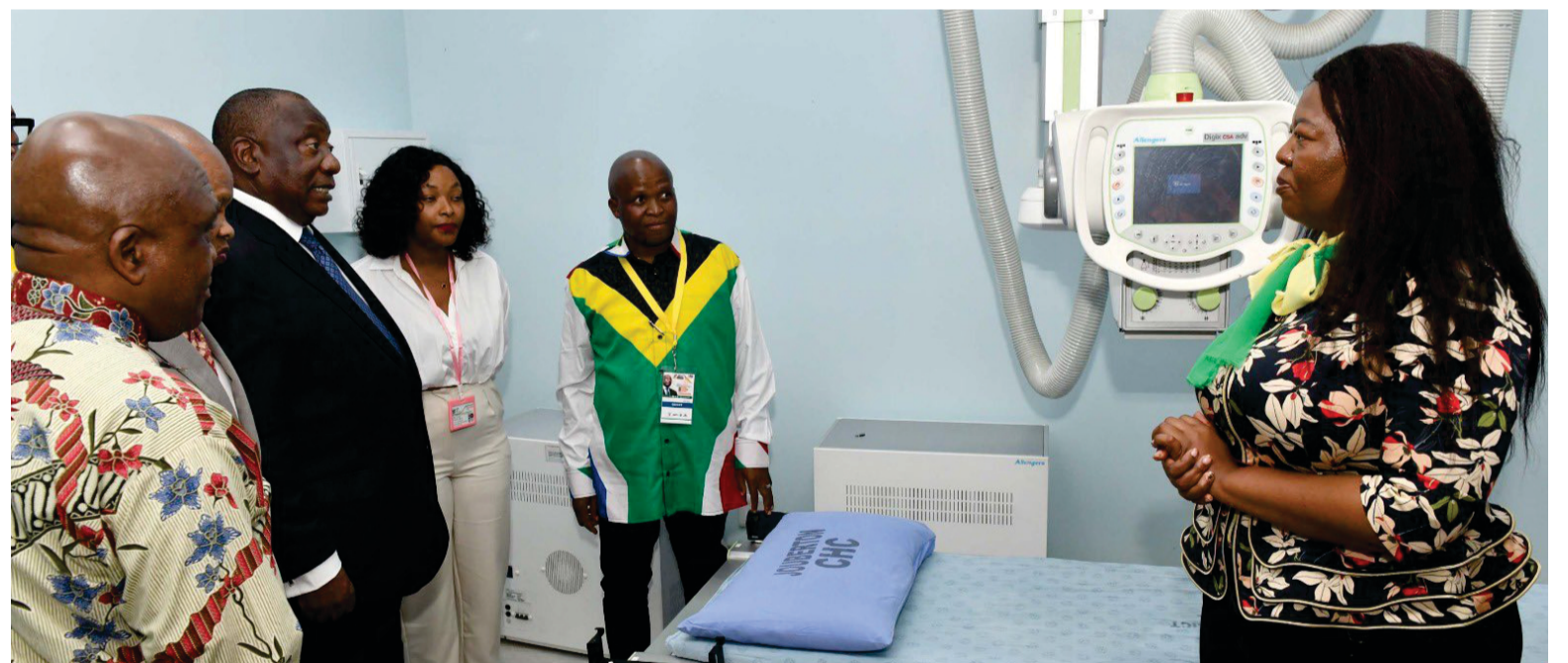


By Omphemetse Johnson

President Cyril Ramaphosa recently opened the newly renovated 24 hour R160 million Jouberton Community Health Centre (CHC) in the City of Matlosana on Freedom Day. President Ramaphosa was accompanied by the Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla, Premier of the North West Bushy Maape and MEC for Health Madoda Sambatha at the opening ceremony.

The Jouberton CHC has been made to be easily accessible to the community and hosts psychology, social work, physical therapy, dentistry, emergency services and clinical forensic medical services.

The centre also encompasses a Pelebox system, which is a smart locker facility that enables patients to collect their repeat chronic medication in just under 60 seconds



instead of queuing for medication for hours at public clinics.

Addressing the community and health workers, President Ramaphosa hailed the facility as a social innovation that will utilise modern technology and innovation to enhance service delivery and offer patient centric service. "It is a great

day indeed to celebrate twenty-nine years of democracy by officially handing over this clinic to you as a community and residents of Klerksdorp and I believe that you will work well together with the facility employees to see this beautiful clinic succeed", President Ramaphosa said. The President commended

the department of health in rendering health services to the community by bringing innovative services closer to them. He also expressed gratitude towards the community of Matlosana for being present during the opening of the new clinic.

The centre, which aims to cater for the 54 000 residents of Jouberton.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:  
**0800 111 700**  
SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together

# PREMIER MAAPE DELIVERS BUDGET VOTE



By Lerato Majobe

**D**elivering Office of the Premier Budget Vote recently, North West Premier Kaobitsa Bushy Maape said that government is hard at work enticing investors to create an enabling environment for economic inclusion and to combat high rate of unemployment.

"We will continue with our efforts to attract investments through interactions with mining houses, tourist promotion stakeholders, agricultural sector, chambers, etc." Premier Maape said.

Paving a way for smooth investment processes, Premier Maape said that he has already

assigned the leader of government business to work with different departments to organize a provincial investment BRICS conference.

"I have mandated the leader of government business to work with Departments of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, Agriculture and Rural Development, Arts, Culture Sports and Recreation, Public Works and Roads as well as Community Safety and Transport Management to prepare North West investment opportunities for the BRICS summit," Premier Maape said.

He further said that government is moving swiftly in prioritizing infrastructure and expenditure through the Premier Infrastructure Coordinating Council to solve challenges within the infrastructure

planning and delivery in the departments.

"We are moving with speed to prioritise infrastructure development and expenditure.

We are driving this through the Premier Infrastructure Coordinating Council.

The reestablishment of the Premier Infrastructure Coordinating Council (PICC) is another milestone to unlock bottlenecks in the infrastructure planning and delivery across departments.

We have already convened the first meeting to look at the plans for the financial year.

The Mega Infrastructure Projects identified by the province will be processed through the PICC working together with Infrastructure South Africa (ISA).

ISA and Treasury have been

engaged to secure funding to deliver these strategic projects that will create much needed jobs for the youth", Premier Maape said.

In an effort to create equal opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs and vulnerable groups, Premier Maape further said that government has approved the internal Preferential Procurement Policy that guides strategic sourcing during the year under review.

"We understand the importance of supporting small and emerging businesses in our communities and are committed to creating equal economic opportunities for all.

We remain committed to procurement expenditure spending on set targets for women, youth, and people with disabilities", Premier Maape concluded.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:

**0800 111 700**

SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together



# PROF DAN KGWADI DESCRIBED AS A COURAGEOUS LEADER AND COMMUNITY BUILDER

By Anderson Mpele

A somber mood filled North West University Mahikeng campus' Great Hall as mourners and well-wishers from all walks of life recently gathered to remember and celebrate the life of former NWU Vice-Chancellor, the late Prof Dan Kgwadi. Prof Kgwadi, who was serving as Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Vaal University of Technology died after a short illness.

He was born on 28 July 1967 at Kraaipan Village in the North West Province. He also served as the first Rector of the North West University, Mahikeng Campus where he started his term on 1 January 2005.

Amongst the attendees at the memorial service were North West Premier, Kaobitsa Bushy Maape,

NWU Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bismark Tyobeka and the university management, academics, government representatives, and scores of local residents.

Many who spoke described him as a courageous and selfless leader who wanted to uplift the life of a black child and that South Africa has truly lost a great man.

One of his acquaintances, - Mr Kgomo said that the NWU was very close to his heart and that as the kind man that he was, he would stop everything at once whenever there was a crisis relating to the University. "He would always go the extra mile to ensure that he finds an amicable solution to address the problem. He was a dedicated, focused, solution-oriented individual who served the university and contributed to the growth of our country with pride and diligence", Mr Kgomo said.

In his message of support, Premier Maape said the province and the entire country is highly saddened by the loss of such a wonderful man and a courageous leader. "Prof Kgwadi knew what he wanted in life as an academic and he has achieved all of that. He is one of the people that bear testimony to the fact that if you're determined not even your poor challenging background can stop you from becoming what you want. Despite many odds that were against him, Prof Dan Kgwadi emerged victorious" "From my several encounters with Prof.

Dan Kgwadi, I can attest to the fact that he was indeed a visionary leader. He was a man of great stature and value, who raised the flag of the North West very high, without fail. We lost a great patriot and the province will continue to do its best in preserving the legacy of the late Prof. Dan

Kgwadi", Premier Maape added. Prof Dan Kgwadi held a BSc in Physics and Chemistry from the erstwhile University of Bophuthatswana, an MSc in Physics from Ball State University in the United States of America, an MPhil in Environmental Law and Management from University of the North, a PhD in Physics Ed from Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education and another PhD in Management – honoris causa from Hanseo University in South Korea. He had recently completed the Oxford Executive Leadership program at the said Business School of the University of Oxford. Professor Kgwadi was laid to rest at Ga Lowe village in Mofufutso 2 near Khunwana in the Tswaing Local Municipality.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:

**0800 111 700**

SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together

# GOVERNMENT CREATES AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR FARMERS

By Lerato Majobe

In ensuring that the District Development Model is being implemented in agriculture to enable food security and reduce the high rate of unemployment, the national and provincial Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development, and Land Reform recently engaged with farmers in the Dr. Ruth Segomotsi District to find solutions to challenges that they continue to face.

Tshepiso Jantjies of Jantjies Voere that has been producing and processing lucerne for animal feeds for the past four years as well as maize said that with the limited land and resources, they managed to make way into three neighboring countries' agricultural markets.

"We have been around since 2019 and we managed to secure markets from Namibia, Lesotho, and Botswana at the smaller scale that we are producing", Jantjies said.

To advance their agri-business, Jantjies further said that they need much bigger land space and contemporary machinery so that they can be able to produce on a larger scale.

"Going forward we need to get a bigger land where we can produce, because now we only produce in 10 hectares which is communal land, so we need a bigger land which is commercial and we also need mechanization like tractors and machines with advanced technologies as we are in the fourth industrial revolution so that we can maximize our production", Jantjies said. When the business booms,



Jantjies said that they will have the ability to employ about 200 people on various contracts of employment.

"We will have the capacity to employ 100 to 200 employees on a seasonal, temporary, and permanent basis", Jantjies said.

Mosimaneotsile Letshabo of Letshabo brothers, a family farming business that specializes in vegetables and sometimes seasonal crops for rotational cropping purposes said that they cannot

prevail as the land they cultivate on is rented and they share most of their means of profit with the landowners.

"We have not been going anywhere because the land we are operating from is rented, we are paying R250 000 per six months", Letshabo said.

Letshabo further pleaded with the government to secure their land so that they can be able to take their business to greater heights and make their district proud.

"We need land so that we can be self-sustainable, we need to take this project far and raise the flag of this district", Letshabo said.

Motswedi Tlhomelang who owns Ideal Farming pleaded with the government to give him capital to kick-start his business.

"All I am requesting from the government is funding so that my business can be operational", he said. He further said that he believes that government will also assist him with funding as it did with other farmers. "I can now see a lot of progress since last year, there are so many fundings that are going out to help farmers so I believe that through this engagement I will be able to also get funding in the near future", he said.

He said that he was elated that government creates an environment so that they can be actively involved in resolving their own challenges.

"I am happy that they are involving us so that they can hear our needs directly from us", Tlhomelang concluded.

The government has committed to addressing the various challenges and proposed solutions and finding ways to assist these farmers soon.

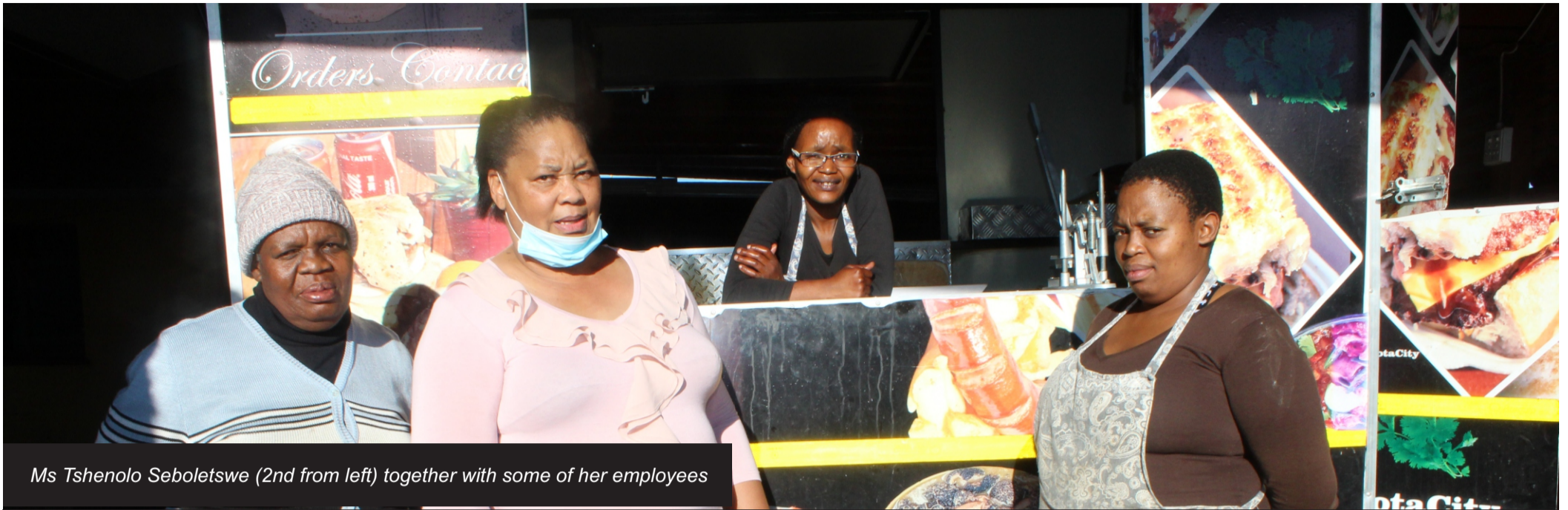
BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:

**0800 111 700**

SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together



Ms Tshenolo Seboletswe (2nd from left) together with some of her employees

## LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR'S BUSINESS FLOURISHES WITH GOVERNMENT'S FUNDING SUPPORT

By Jerry Matebesi

**T**shenolo Seboletswe, the owner of a fast-food eatery in Itsoseng Zone 3, has experienced a significant boost in her business after receiving catering equipment from the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism's Empowerment Fund Programme.

The assistance came at a crucial time when her business was grappling with the adverse effects of the COVID-19 lockdown and frequent power outages.

Seboletswe, who applied for funding to rescue her struggling business, expressed her gratitude for the department's support.

She believes that this assistance will not only revitalize her establishment but also have a positive impact on growing the local economy. The equipment received includes a Mobile Kitchen with a cart, a Double Barrel Slush Puppy Machine, an Ice Cream Machine, a Popcorn machine, five Food warmers, a Display Fridge, a Manual Donut maker, a Double Deep Fryer, two Sweet and Chip Shelves Serving Hatch, Cutlery, and an Oven Stove.



Ms Tshenolo Seboletswe dish a meal for one of her clients

The business, which operates directly from Seboletswe's home, caters to a diverse clientele.

School learners, teachers, taxi drivers, and community members from Itsoseng, Verdwaal, and Bodibe areas frequent her establishment.

Furthermore, she provides catering services for funerals, weddings, government functions, the unveiling of tombstones, and various parties. Seboletswe, reflecting on her journey, shared how her passion for entrepreneurship began after being retrenched from her permanent job at The Star Bus Company in the early 1990s. Inspired by her late mother's successful tavern, known as "Ko ga Ghost," she started by cooking food for her mother's clients. The positive

feedback she received motivated her to establish her own food outlet, not only to support her family but also to create employment opportunities for young people in the area.

However, frequent power outages have inadvertently contributed to the growth of Seboletswe's business.

She noticed that during power outages, her clients flocked to her eatery for a hot meal.

Her best-selling dish, bunny chows with chips, garnered immense popularity, and the slush puppy mocktails she prepared for weekend gigs became a hit among the younger crowd. Seboletswe emphasized the importance of starting her day early, with preparations beginning at four in the morning to cater to the needs of

early morning taxi drivers and local schools.

With the department's assistance, she plans to increase production, expand customer base, and create more employment opportunities.

She believes that the newly acquired equipment will add value to her business and bring her closer to realizing her dream of owning a self-sustainable catering enterprise and food outlet.

Seboletswe extended her heartfelt appreciation to the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism for their support. She expressed optimism about the future, as her business now has the potential to thrive and serve as a source of pride for her community.

DEDECT's Empowerment Fund was established as part of its intervention of offering support to small businesses and cooperatives operating within the North West Province with equipment worth R100 000 for start-ups and R200 000 for existing businesses.

The fund excludes excluding those in the liquor and gambling industries, costs associated with tendering, costs of acquiring property (including renovations) constructions, fire, and ammunition, primary agriculture, and transport.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:

**0800 111 700**

SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together

# SPEAKER CONFRONTS PROBLEMS IN DR KAUNDA COMMUNITIES



DR Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality Speaker Xolile Nxozana talks to the masses at the "Speaker Do Something" Public Participation Program at the Reagile Sports Grounds in Witpoort, Maquassi Hills Local Municipality

By Thabo Moloji

The Office of the Speaker in partnership with stakeholders in the district continued its "Speaker Do Something" programme in Rulaganyang Township, Maquassi Hills Local Municipality.

Alongside provincial sector departments of Education, Health,

Home Affairs, Agricultural Development and Land Reform, Social Development as well as Finance and Economic Development, the program is brought about by the need to strengthen service delivery to communities, especially those in rural and semi-urban areas where government services are not readily available.

According to DR Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality Speaker Xolile

Nxozana, the required outcome of the program is to bridge the gap between government and society.

"The desired product of this program is to eliminate the disconnect between government and our people which the government is meant to service, which then necessitates for government to undertake extra measures to eradicate this gap.

"We should take a look at public protests as a barometer for such a disconnect and drive towards the creation of a more proactive and solution driven type of government where measures must be adopted to ensure active service to the people.

"This is why there is a need to integrate government efforts and resources across local, district and applicable provincial departments to address registered issues as informed by the data collected during the implementation of the program when it started in November 2022 in Tigane, Hartbeesfontein."

Some of the problems addressed by representatives from sector departments include undocumented

foreign nationals, drugs and substance abuse, access to educational funding, lack of recreational facilities, monitoring of business premises as well as access to agricultural education mentoring.

The occasion was attended by communities of Rulaganyang (Witpoort), Kgakala (Leeudoringstad), Lebaleng (Makwassie), Boskuil, Oesenskraal, Tswelalng (Wolmaranstad) as well as the Maquassi Hills Local Municipality Speaker Sarah Nkatlo and Councillors.

The program is a key feature required to give effect to the "Batho Pele Principles". It is a part of the Public Participation process formed by the legal framework of Chapter 4 of the Municipal Structures Act (Act 117 of 1998) which provides municipalities with a legislative mandate to undertake programs that seek to enhance community involvement in matters of local government and providing an easy way for the members of the public to engage with municipalities regarding service delivery issues.



People from Leeudoringstad, Makwassie, Wolmaranstad, Witpoort, Boskuil and Oesenskraal attended the "Speaker Do Something" Public Participation Program in large numbers. The event was held in Rulaganyang (Witpoort) in Maquassi Hills Local Municipality.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:

**0800 111 700**

SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together

# MUNICIPALITIES-DARD PARTNERSHIP IMPARTS KNOWLEDGE TO FARMERS



DR Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality Local Economic Development MMC Raymond Mampe addresses the farming community at the Farmers Workshop held at the Potchefstroom Agricultural College

By Thabo Moloji

A recent Farmers Workshop hosted at the Potchefstroom Agricultural College in Potchefstroom looks set to provide continuous support to small scale farmers in the DR Kenneth Kaunda District.

This is buoyed by Information Sharing and Capacity Building Intervention Sessions currently underway in the region following the successful establishment of a MuniMec in the North West Province in June 2022.

Led by the DR Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality's Local Economic Development and Planning department alongside partners North West Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (the DARD) and JB Marks Local Municipality, these Farmers Workshops are used as a tool to equip aspiring and small-scale farmers with relevant expert knowledge for the implementation of a 'Refocused Agricultural Sector' strategy.

According to Member of Mayoral Committee (MMC) Raymond

Mampe, this project is the bedrock of economic stimulation, particularly where agriculture plays a significant role in the creation of sustainable business growth and employment to small scale farmers.

"We saw it fit to start working together with the DARD on various projects with the primary goal of serving our communities in order to give meaning to projects related to

(DDM) as it seeks to coordinate a responsive intergovernmental action towards challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality particularly amongst women, youth and people living with disabilities.

For emerging farmers to be able to produce at commercial standards, they have to be capacitated in primary production practices so that when government entities facilitate funding informed by the MUNIMEC strategy, they do not waste valuable time on basic items which we as municipalities could have addressed", MMC Mampe says.

Information packaged and presented by specialists from the DARD covered Animal Health Management, Agricultural Products Marketing, White Meat Production Practices, Pasture and Grazing Management and Plant Production Practices.

These topics are aligned and focus on a number of areas with high agricultural potential for farmers in the DR Kenneth Kaunda District. They incorporate dry land, irrigation

crop farming and animal production.

Similar interactions with aspirant and small-scale farmers with determination to develop into tertiary level farming are planned across all three local municipalities of JB Marks, City of Matlosana and Maquassi Hills.

The DR Kenneth Kaunda District, which is also known as the South East Corridor has been identified as a stronghold of white meat production whilst Agro-Processing has been identified and listed as a growing sector.

Projects of this nature are given support by the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, which amongst others requires national, provincial and local governments to facilitate coordination in the implementation of policy and legislation.

This includes a coherent government in the delivery of services, realization of national priorities and monitoring of compliance and implementation of policies and legislations.



Farmers from the breadth of JB Marks Local Municipality attended the Farmers Workshop organized by the DR Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality and the Department of Agriculture and Land Reform in Potchefstroom.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:  
**0800 111 700**  
SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together



# THE NATIONAL HEALTH HOTLINE

## OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

## FOR ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT

# CHOLERA



TOLL FREE NUMBER  
 **0800 029 999**

 WEB CHAT ON [HEALTH.GOV.ZA](https://health.gov.za)  
 **0600 123 456**

CALL THE NATIONAL HEALTH HOTLINE 24/7 OR WHATSAPP "HELP"



BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
 TOLL-FREE NUMBER:  
**0800 111 700**  
 SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
 Together

# CUSTOMARY INITIATION SCHOOLS REGISTRATION FOR THE WINTER SEASON



By Dineo Thapelo

**P**rincipals of initiation schools who are interested in operating customary initiation schools have until the 31 May 2023 to submit their application to the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, in line with the Customary Initiation Act No 2 of 2021.

All the applications are processed by the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee which is constituted by members of the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, officials from the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, representatives from the district and local municipalities in whose area of jurisdiction initiation schools are held, persons representing emergency service in the province and a Traditional Health Practitioner who is a member of the Interim Health Practitioner Council of South Africa.

Any principal, care-giver and traditional health practitioner or

surgeon who wishes to be involved in initiation practices must be at least forty (40) years old and must have undergone initiation.

A principal must have prior and proven experience as a care-giver for a minimum of five (5) initiation seasons

A care-giver traditional surgeon or traditional health practitioner may only be involved in initiation practices after a period of 10 years has lapsed since he or she graduated from an initiation school.

No person may participate in any aspect of initiation if he or she is unsuitable to work with children in terms Children's Act or is convicted of an offence as per the database of a Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC).

Parents or legal guardians are urged to ensure that their children undergo medical checks ahead of the initiation process, ensure psychological readiness of initiates, use legally registered initiation schools, ensure that the traditional surgeons are registered, young men and women must go through the pre initiation medical screening process,

initiates should drink lots of water to avoid dehydration, parents to have medically trained personnel ready for any intervention required and communities to report any illegal or unregistered initiation schools to the authorities for appropriate action.

No role-player involved in initiation practices may unfairly directly or indirectly discriminate against an initiate on the grounds of disability, gender or sexual orientation.

Customary initiation in South Africa refers to a cultural practice that marks the transformation of young boys and girls into adulthood. It is practised by many communities in the Province as a sacred and respected practice.

In the North West Province, this practice is predominant in all four districts in both traditional and non-traditional communities. Whilst the Batswana are predominant ethnic group in the province, there are other ethnic groups such as AmaXhosa; Basotho, Vatsonga and Amandebele who also practice customary initiation.

Customary initiation is practiced in both summer and winter seasons;

however each ethnic group has its own peculiarities in the manner in which the ritual is practiced. Batswana refer to the practice as Bogwera for boys Bojale for girls; AmaXhosa refer to the practice as Ulwaluko; Basotho refer to the ritual as Lebollo whilst Vatsonga refer to the practice as Nkoma and lastly Amandebele refer to the practice as Ingoma.

According to the Act, an initiation season may under no circumstance interfere or overlap with official school terms. However, if an initiation school commences before a school holiday or continues beyond, the principal will be liable to suspension from holding an initiation school.

For this winter season, the PICC can only issue out permits for qualifying initiation schools after the academic schools close in June 2023 as prescribed by the department of Education.

Any illegal or unregistered initiation schools must be reported to both the department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and to the South African Police Service.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:

**0800 111 700**

SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together

# FIRST SMILE WEEK LAUNCHED AT THE KLERKSDORP/ TSHEPONG HOSPITAL COMPLEX

By Lerato Mothibedi

The North West Department of Health has partnered with the Smile Foundation to combat the massive backlog of patients requiring facial plastic and reconstructive surgery.

This is an initiative aimed at supporting the Department of Health at academic hospitals in the North West with specialized surgery in plastic and reconstructive surgery.

This is a Public/Private Partnership with the National Department of Health and the Smile Foundation, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). "The Department of Health's resources often do not meet the demands of our people as the available budget is never sufficient to provide all the services required", Klerksdorp/Tshepong Hospital Complex CEO, Mr Madonsela said. "Therefore, partnerships with organizations such as Smile Foundation enable the Complex to realize its mission of excellent hospital service motivated by innovation, the opportunity to serve with compassion, an empowered workforce, and efficiencies derived from the use of technology", Madonsela added during the Smile Week campaign.

The campaign focused on cleft palate corrective surgery. Cleft lips and palates are one of the most common birth defects in the world.

In Africa, 1 in every 700 babies is born with either a cleft lip or palate. Not only are clefts cosmetically disfiguring, but they also significantly affect the development of a child. Children with cleft lips and palates



MEC for Health Madoda Sambatha with some of the team from the Smile Foundation and children who will receive the surgeries with their parents during the Smile Week Campaign at the Klerksdorp/ Tshepong Hospital Complex.

often experience difficulties in eating, breathing, and learning how to speak.

This can result in psychological problems and difficulty interacting and socializing.

To ensure the best possible outcome, clefts should ideally be surgically corrected within the first year of life.

In South Africa and the North West Province, in particular, this poses a remarkable challenge. With limited access to healthcare services, skills shortages, and a general lack of awareness, treatment is invariably delayed.

Not only does this have detrimental implications for the child, but leaves families uninformed, desperate, and often frightened. "We are very excited to be involved in organizing the North West

Klerksdorp/Tshepong Hospital Complex's first ever 'Smile Week,' an initiative aimed at identifying and providing world-class, multi-disciplinary treatment to children suffering from a variety of craniofacial abnormalities", Health MEC Madoda Sambatha said.

"This is the first step in combating the massive backlog of patients requiring cleft surgery", MEC Madoda Sambatha added.

He further said that Smile Week represents the perfect opportunity to create awareness in communities and advertise the home-grown options available to cleft patients.

"Attracting patients from all over the province, our goal is to inform, educate and empower patients and families, while providing them with the support network they need", MEC Sambatha said.

"Smile Week should also go a long way in banishing the stigma associated with clefts, promoting self-confidence, contributing to a high level of functioning, and improving self-esteem" MEC Sambatha said the aim is to restore hope and dignity, integrating patients seamlessly into society and added that the vision of the Klerksdorp/Tshepong Hospital Complex is to be the leading Provincial Tertiary Hospital, and is devoted to providing the best quality service.

"Among others, our strategic goals are to improve the quality of health care services to the people and reduce waiting times of patients in all clinical areas.

We cannot achieve this without the partnership of organizations such as the Smile Foundation", he said.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:  
**0800 111 700**  
SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together

# MOLEMIRUI CHRIS MELAMU O DIRISA KITSO LE KATLEGO YA KGWEBO YA GAGWE GO GAKOLOLA LE GO MATLAFATSA BA BANGWE.

Ka Tsholofelo Dintwe

**M**o nakong eno ya kgwetho e ntsi ya dikgwebo, batsamaisi ba le bantsi ba netefatsa gore ba ikgobokanyetsa, mme ga go ke go nna le nako e lekaneng ya go sheba ba bangwe.

Le fa gontse jalo Rre Chris Melamu eleng molemirui wa kgomo ya Bonsmara kwa Motseng wa Dithakwaneng gaufi le toropo ya Vryburg o dirisa kitso ya gagwe go gakolola balemirui ba le bantsi ba kgaolo ya gagwe.

O tswelletse go adimana ka dipoo tsa gagwe go thusa barui ba bangwe go tlhabetlha leruo labone. Seno se feletsa se thusa ba le bantsi ka kitso ya go rua ka tsela e isang ko kgodisong ya leruo.

Jaaka fa bantsi bo eletsa gore leruo la bone le matlafale mme le ba tsenyetse letseno le le bonalang, go nna le kitso go thusa thata gore ba simolole go latela tsela e e siameng ya thu.

Rre Melamu ke mongwe wa borre ba ba ineetseng go arogana kitso e le go thusa balemirui go fetola maemo a maphelo a bona.

Fa a ne a simolola kgwebo ya gagwe, Melamu o netefatsa gore o ne a dira kwa meepong mme o ne a tlhoka go gakololwa ke bangwe ba balemirui bao ba neng ba setse ba godile ka nako eo.

O lemoga gore ga jaana a tswelletse go gola mme go na katlego e kgolo mo kgwebong ya gagwe, o tlhoka le ene go ema nokeng balemirui ba bangwe ba ba mo leetong la go godisa leruo la bone.

Ka ngwaga wa 2000 fa a ne a simolola, Melamu o ne a reka dikgomo di le tlhano tseo neng a dirisa tuelo ya gagwe go di oketsa ka a ne a santse a dira kwa moepong. O ne morago a lemoga fa go tlhokega

gore a nne le leruo la gagwe, a tlogela tiro ya gagwe ya moepo.

Ga jaana Melamu o na le dikgomo di le 350 tsa Bonsmara. Leruo leno le kwa dipolasing tse a di dirisang di le pedi eleng Reivilo ya dihektara di le 1200 mmogo le Nilsne Farm ya dihektara dile 1958.

Kwa Motseng wa Dithakwaneng Rre Melamu o ntse a thusana le setlhopa sa balemirui ba ba ipitsang ka leina la Ratseleng projects.

O ntse a ba adimana ka dipoo tsa gagwe tsa Bonsmara go tokafatsa leruo la bona. A re o dira jalo gore ba lemoge bothokwa jwa go nna le dipoo tse di siameng. "Balemirui ba setlhopa seno ba mpoleletse ka mokgwa o ba itumeletseng thuso eno mme ba lemoga gore leruo le na le letseno le le bonalang fa go na le poo ya boleng mo go lone," ga bua jalo rre Melamu.

A re o dirisana le setlhopa seno go ba gakolola ka go tshwara leruo sentle gore le tle le nne le dinamane tse di siameng mme go feletse go na le letseno le lentle. Ntle le setlhopa seno, o tswelletse go arogana le barui ba le bantsi ba Bonsmara mme botsi jwa bone bamo dirisa go ba thusa ka go lekola leruo la bone go fitlha le be le kwadisiwa semmuso jaaka tsa



Bonsmara.

Go tloga boineelong jono Rre Melamu o ntse a iponela kgolo go ya pele mo kgwebong ya gagwe. Ga jaana o setse a amogetse dikabo di le dintsi tse di netefatsang fa e le molemirui yo o tlhwatlhwa wa Bonsmara. Gareng ga dikabo tse dingwe tse dintsi, ka ngwaga wa 2020 o ile a amogela kabo ya mofenyi

ya Top SA Stud Book Elite Award. Go latela seno, o ile a bula semmuso Thekiso ya gagwe ya leruo la Bonsmara teng kwa Reivilo eleng Lamus Bonsmara Production Sale. Thekiso eno fa e sale e simolola ka ngwaga wa 2020 mme o setse a tshwera thekiso dingwaga di le tharo ka go latelana.

Mo thekisong eno o tliša dipoo tsa gagwe tse di kwadisitsweng semmuso tsa Bonsmara mme o neela le barui ba bangwe tshono go rekisa. Nngwe ya maano a gagwe go ya pele ke fa a ka kgona go tshwara Thekiso ya leruo gabedi mo ngwageng. "Ke rata go dirisa thekiso eno ya leruo go thusa balemirui ba bangwe le gore le bone ba kgone go ikemela ka go ipulela Thekiso mo isagweng," a tlhalosa go ya pele.

O tlhalosa fa gape a le teng go ka thusa olemirui mongwe le mongwe yo o mo tlhokang go aroganya kitso.

Rre Melamu o gakolola balemirui go ema ka thata le go itirela gore batle ba bone dikgwebo tsa bona di atlega. A re bao ba ratang go tswelela pele ba ikgolaganye le balemirui ba bangwe mme botshelo bo tokafale. "Mokoduwe go tsosiwa yo o itekang!" Rre Melamu a khutlhisana jalo puo ya gagwe.



BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:

**0800 111 700**

SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together

# 91 YOUTH BENEFIT FROM THE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY PLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2022/23

By Jerry Matebesi

The North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism has created opportunities for eligible unemployed youth graduates to be part of the North West Tourism and Hospitality Placement Programme for 2022/23.

Through this programme, 91 unemployed youth were allocated work opportunities and placement at tourism establishments across all districts of the province.

The North West Tourism and Hospitality placement programme is a project under the auspices of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and aims to provide work opportunities for unemployed youth in the tourism and hospitality sector, through established host companies within the province.

Host companies include accommodation establishments such as guest houses, bed and breakfasts, hotels, lodges, resorts, conference centres, attractions, recreational establishments, tour operators and travel agents.

The Tourism and Hospitality placement project further assists unemployed graduates with skills development and work experience and provide the tourism industry with temporary subsidised labour.

Successful youth were placed at various participating tourism and hospitality host companies in the North West Province for a period of up to six months.

The applicants were subjected to an interview process to assess their suitability, and it is expected that they will demonstrate commitment and discipline throughout the programme.

The host companies will provide the beneficiaries with appropriate



work-based responsibilities, promote learning in the work environment and keep accurate work based records.

The beneficiaries will receive a monthly stipend from the department, and the scope of their tasks and duties will be directly related to four key areas; food and beverage, housekeeping, guest relation and administrative duties.

"As a department, we would like to extend our gratitude to the companies that have partnered with us in addressing the challenges of unemployment faced by young people throughout the province. We encourage the graduates to take full advantage of this opportunity to gain experience and knowledge", Sarah Manone, DEDECT Chief Director for Tourism Growth and Development, said.

Manone also added that the programme is part of a public private partnership initiative aimed at addressing unemployment and work experience issue in the tourism sector in the North West Province,



and that it will go a long way in developing skills and expertise

required for a flourishing tourism industry.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:  
**0800 111 700**  
SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PARTNERS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO LAUNCH THE MEASLES CAMPAIGN IN THE PROVINCE

By Lerato Mothibedi

As part of the nationwide efforts to contain outbreaks of measles, as experienced in several other provinces, the North West Departments of Health and Education together launched the Measles Campaign recently at the Signal Hill High School in Mahikeng. The rollout is envisaged to take place in schools and health facilities across the province.

The launch of the Measles Campaign comes as a result of the high number of positive cases reported across the country. The partnerships with the Department of Education will maximize the number of children under 15 years being vaccinated.

The boosters will ensure healthy and thriving children. A national vaccine drive targeting the disease started earlier in the five provinces battling the outbreak.

The health ministry had initially planned to roll out the national vaccine campaign next month. The focus is on children between six months and 15 years.

Measles is extremely contagious and is one of the most easily spread viruses that infect humans.

Symptoms usually include fever, cough, red eyes and a rash. Prevention and control of measles outbreaks can only be achieved through vaccination.

Unimmunised children are at the highest risk of contracting measles and infecting other classmates and household members.

Measles symptoms include fever, red eyes, runny nose and cough which typically appear before the onset of the disease's characteristic maculopapular rash.

Although often mild and self-limiting, some people, especially



young children and pregnant women may develop complications such as diarrhoea, pneumonia, ear infections and eye complications resulting in admission to hospital and in severe cases death. HPV vaccine protects girls from developing cervical cancer later in life. "The Department is encouraging parents and caregivers to take up this life-saving opportunity and support the measles vaccination campaign by ensuring that they keep up with their children's immunisation schedule and being alert to the symptoms of measles, which is a preventable disease", MEC for Health, Madoda Sambatha said.

"The campaign targets schools, and health districts in consultation with education district offices will manage the school visits," MEC Sambatha added.

He further said that the government's goal is for all children under the age of 15 to get vaccinated as too many children in that age group have been left without protection against measles and other vaccines preventable diseases, due

to the COVID-19 pandemic. "This has seen the risk of large outbreaks increasing in the country.

Now more than ever, ensuring that children are up to date with their routine immunisations will help limit the risk of measles for them and others", MEC Sambatha said. "The vaccine provides lifelong protection against measles and is available free of charge at our public health facilities and through our integrated school vaccination programme.

The measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR) is also available, at cost, in private sector clinics and is equally effective and safe", he said. "Schools have been issuing consent forms to learners for parents and caregivers to sign to enable health workers to immunise learners. No learner will be immunised until his or her parents or legal guardian has given permission through signing a consent form, and parents are strongly encouraged to provide this consent", MEC for Education Viola Motsumi said.

She further said that the parents of

children under 15 who are not in crèches, day-care centres or public schools, are urged to take their child to their closest clinic.

For children in crèches, day-care centres or public schools, health officials will be visiting them through the integrated school vaccination programme to offer convenient and safe vaccinations.

Parents will need to sign an informed consent form, sent by the education facility, giving permission for their child to receive the measles vaccination.

Through this campaign, the government is working with residents to ensure that children's immunisations are up to date and provide them with additional protection against this life-threatening infection. "We urge parents, guardians and caregivers to vaccinate their children against measles.

Remember to sign and return the consent form to your child's crèche or school", MEC Motsumi said.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:  
**0800 111 700**  
SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together

# MEASLES OUTBREAK IN NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA



By Lerato Mothibedi

The North West Department of Health is encouraging parents and guardians to check their children's 'Road to Health' booklet to make sure that their routine vaccinations are up to date.

This comes after the Centre for Vaccines and Immunology and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) recently recorded a measles outbreak in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District.

The outbreak of Measles was first confirmed in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District by the Centre for Vaccines & Immunology (CVI) and National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) on 02 December last year; with the specimens having been collected at Lonely Park Clinic in Mahikeng sub-district at the time.

"To date, the North West Province has 36 confirmed cases of Measles with Ngaka Modiri Molema at 29 cases, Bojanala at 3 cases, Dr Ruth



Segomotsi Mompoti at 2 cases and the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District at 2 cases.

This situation is alarming and we urge our community to act and protect their children by taking them to healthcare facilities and immunisation outreach campaigns rolled out throughout the Province",

Health MEC Madoda Sambatha said. The North West Department of Health has been notified of three laboratory-confirmed measles cases with one "equivocal" case and announced that tracing was underway for patients who live in Signal Hill, while officials will continue

to monitor developments through the online dashboard.

The provincial measles vaccination coverage is 79.4% for those who received the first dose and 82.3% for those who received their second shot.

"There is an outbreak of measles in South Africa and in Ngaka Modiri Molema District, which is easily prevented with the measles vaccine.

The vaccine is usually given when children are six months and 12 months old, but you can get the vaccine at any age," the Health Department said. Measles is a highly contagious virus that lives in the nose

and throat mucus of an infected person.

It can spread to others through coughing and sneezing.

If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected.

Measles symptoms appear 7 to 14 days after contact with the virus and typically includes high fever, cough, runny nose, and watery eyes. Measles rash appears 3 to 5 days after the first symptoms.

Measles is a vaccine-preventable disease but can be deadly, particularly for children who have missed routine childhood immunizations.

"Ensuring that children are vaccinated against measles and other preventable childhood diseases is a matter of life or death", MEC Madoda Sambatha said.

"We call on all parents and caregivers to check the status of their children's immunization coverage and to get up to date as quickly as possible", MEC Sambatha added.

MEC Sambatha said that the Department of Health has enough vaccines to deal with measles in the province and urged communities to share the message and raise awareness about this outbreak and mobilize for more children to be protected through immunisation.

In response to the measles outbreak, affected districts follow up on laboratory-confirmed measles cases and vaccinate the contacts.

The public health response to the measles outbreak in provinces should target improving measles immunity in all affected districts.

Routine immunization should be reinforced as the outbreak is an opportunity to identify and correct vaccination programme weaknesses.chool", MEC Motsumi said.

BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:

**0800 111 700**

SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together

# NORTH WEST SWIMMERS BACK HOME WITH MEDALS APLENTY

By Vusi Kama

The 46-strong North West Schools swimmers returned home from participating at the South African Schools Swimming Championships recently held at the Kings Park Stadium in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal with 39 medals.

The championships were held from 21 to 23 April 2023.

The North West girls and boys, aged between 12 and 19, gave a good account of themselves in the various aquatic events, amidst strong competition from provinces such as Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal and Western Cape.

In total, they swam home with seven gold, 17 silver and 15 bronze medals to the jubilation of their parents, teachers, coaches and the support staff who had formed part of the North West contingent.

The young learners were in KwaZulu Natal to display their



aquatic skills with the support of the Departments of Education as well as Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation.

“It is heart-warming that our swimmers displayed such great mental and physical attributes in the

pool against formidable opponents”, ACSR spokesperson, Shuping Sebolelewe said.

“We encourage parents to back their children in sports such as aquatics, as they could even earn a

living through the sports and could ultimately take part in the Olympics and world championships, representing our beautiful country.

“We are proud of our boys and girls”, he added.



BATHO PELE CALL CENTRE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:

**0800 111 700**

SMS PREMIUM SERVICE: 43883



Let's Grow  
**North West**  
Together