

# NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

APRIL - JUNE 2023 SECOND EDITION

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## NORTH WEST COGTA ABSORBS 100 GRADUATES TO TACKLE SERVICE DELIVERY CHALLENGES IN THE PROVINCE



By Lerato Majobe and Stanley Ndlovu

North West Acting Premier and MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Nono Maloyi recently welcomed 100 graduates from North West

University so as to use their theoretical experience and skills to enhance the performance of municipalities in the North West for a period of three years. Speaking at a ceremony held in Mahikeng, Acting Premier Maloyi added that this is also part of government's on-going efforts to address service delivery challenges confronting all the 22 municipalities

of the province as well as reduce unemployment amongst university graduates. "I did indicate previously that we have a number of challenges both in the provincial and local government as they relate to lack of capacity that deters service delivery" "The second challenge is the high rate of unemployment which is standing at 52%, which is quite high

while we have graduates who are not employed with all those qualifications", Acting Premier Maloyi said. He further said that he negotiated with the NWU Vice Chancellor, Prof Bismark Tyobeka, to allow government to absorb graduates so as to meet the annual audit outcomes. "Every financial year, the Auditor-General is always reporting that our municipalities are not performing despite the fact that they employed consultants to do their books, which is quite a challenge" "We had an engagement with Prof Tyobeka that we don't want to have this situation in the North West while we have a university like NWU that produced important people and they came on board", Acting Premier Maloyi said. With the financial constraints facing the public service, Acting Premier Maloyi said that he had to ask private sector for money so that the project can materialize. "We do not have a farm where we cultivate money or a bag full of it, with the limited resources we have, we had to go out and negotiate with other role players like MerSeta that we need these graduates, but they need to survive through a monthly stipend and is the money that we do not have,

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we want you to come on board", he added.

He also said that he is hopeful that these graduates will contribute positively to improving the seemingly dire situation across municipalities.

"They will be going to their different deployments in order to do the work and we hope that we will be able to improve the situation in our different municipalities", he continued.

Professor Daryl Balia, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the NWU's Potchefstroom campus said that he is proud that these graduates will resolve critical challenges related to service delivery and equally elated that this initiative created an enabling environment for job creation.

He further said that he has faith in these graduates as they are capable in various disciplines.

"These graduates are qualified in different areas of technology, engineering, social sciences, and financial control, exactly what is holding a number of our municipalities back in terms of development, so I think they are going to bring necessary skills, help in capacity building challenge we face", Prof Balia said.

With their skills, he further said that he believes that they will change the lives of ordinary citizens.

"I am looking forward to them making a difference to our people in the province", he said.

Karabo Dolodolo, with a Bachelor's



degree in Spatial Planning and placed at the Mahikeng Local Municipality said that she will assist in planning for Mahikeng as it is both urban and rural at the same time.

"My main vision is to improve lives of the citizens of this province through our planning structure and improve our municipalities", she said.

Ntobizodwa Mzizi Bavhloer who studied Environmental Science and placed at the Naledi Local Municipality said that with her knowledge, she is able to identify which soil is suitable for ground water, construction and vegetation.

"I heard the MEC saying that people have been digging boreholes in

wrong places, we have a model that assists in working with boreholes, wells and anything regarding hydrology", Bavhloer said.

"As a graduate I will be able to tell if the place is suitable for doing boreholes, or doing wells or anything water related" "If I include my environmental skills, we can tell different places that are suitable to build houses according to the soil and also the type of soil for vegetation", she said.

Onkgopotse Motang who studied towards a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies said that he will use his experience to better the lives of the people.

"As a graduate, I will be able to use my skills in contributing to the development of municipalities and one of the objectives of the municipality is to bring services to the community to develop our communities" "I'm fortunate as I have previously dealt with issues of infrastructure, I will be able to assist the local municipality in terms of infrastructure delivery", he said.

"I will also assist them in applying for or soliciting funding from National Treasury to ensure that services of infrastructure and municipalities are delivered to the people", Motang concluded.



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# ACTING PREMIER CONDUCTS MANDELA DRIVE INSPECTION



By Lerato Majobe

In an effort to expedite the completion of the construction of the Nelson Mandela Drive in Mahikeng, Acting North West Premier, Nono Maloyi and the MEC for Public Works and Roads (DPWR), Oageng Molapisi and the MEC for Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation (ACSR), Kenetswe Mosenogi recently conducted an in-loco inspection of the site to determine progress registered on the project.

They were accompanied by the Executive Mayor of the Mahikeng Local Municipality, Cllr Tshepiso Mphelo as well as members of the North West Provincial Legislature Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Roads. Spokesperson to the Premier, Sello Tatai, said that Premier Bushy Maape had earlier in the year made a commitment that the North West Provincial Government will be embarking on a rigorous road infrastructure development programme and the Nelson Mandela

Drive is one of roads that had been identified to ensure that this is achieved.

Following the visit, Acting Premier Maloyi said that he was concerned that this road was expected to be completed in the next three months, however the slow progress caused the delay, leading for the road to only be fully completed in December this year.

"We are very worried with the slow pace on this road and according to the report that is before us is that this road was supposed to be completed by September this year and that makes us, communities and business people worried", Acting Premier Maloyi said.

He further said that he was delighted about what the contractor had reported and if he fails to execute his promise, government will take a policy decision.

"The contractor gave us the report and we are satisfied, but we are going to monitor the progress, we will be here fortnightly to check whether they are doing what they said they are going to do, if they are not doing that, the department will be expected to act", he said.



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# NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT STRENGTHENS ECONOMIC COOPERATION



By Stanley Ndlovu  
Pics by Otukile Mosimanegape

Addressing the BRICS summit recently at Potchefstroom, North West MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, Galebekwe Tlhapi said that this engagement will enable African countries to have smooth inter-trading processes amongst themselves to boost their economies and reduce the high rate of unemployment.

"The mandate in trade and investment amongst these countries is to reduce barriers and boost inter Africa trade", MEC Tlhapi said.

She further said that the North West Province offers the most majestic tourism sites in South Africa that include Sun City, Pilanesberg National Park and Game Reserve, Madikwe Game Reserve and the Hartbeespoort Dam.

"Tourism is the largest economic driver in the province with a majestic sites like City, Pilanesberg National



Park and Game Reserve, Madikwe Game Reserve and Hartbeespoort Dam', MEC Tlhapi said.

The Executive Mayor of JB Marks Local Municipality, Cllr Gaba ka Qhele, said that this summit, with the assistance of North West Development Cooperation, creates space for economic growth within the municipality.

"We continue to have faith that this conference will support the culture of economic growth of the JB Marks Local Municipality, but it should also

offer opportunities of networking and business opportunities with participation of organisations such as North West Development Corporation", Qhele said.

Cllr Qhele said that this entity will help in the growth and transformation of the economy by implementing initiatives and assist towards the growth of important economic sectors according to established economic and industrial goals of the province.

"South Africa is at the strategic

site, it is a nation which has promising economy to invest in as well as world class accessibility and infrastructure", Cllr Qhele said.

Representing the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Sous Sherpa said that the relations between BRICS and North West Provincial Government must be narrowed to the needs of the people in the province.

"It is important that the interaction of BRICS and North West Provincial Government aligns with the domestic priorities", Sherpa said.

Ambassador Dikgang Moopelwa said that the relationship between public and private sectors is very key and they need to work closer with businesses that have the potential to trade in a market of over a million people.

"Businesses in the North West have the potential to trade in a market of over 340 million people, and this will assist the private and public sector to enable their relationship to work closer", Moopelwa said.

The Chairperson of Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), Dr Takalani Madzivhandila said that it is important to identify what industries like mines consume on a daily bases, so that these manufacturing companies can create jobs even in the primary mining.

He further said that equipping the local workforce with necessary skills in the province can attract investment and create sustainable jobs.

"Small scale mining contributes to job creation, economic empowerment particular for local communities. Skills development is important for the people of North West and they must be given bursaries for the identified courses needed in those skills", Dr Madzivhandila concluded.

# BAAGI BA MMAKGORI BA ITUMELELA GO TLHONGWA GA KGOSI



*Ka Otukile Mosimanegape*

**G**o latela go nna sebaka se se leele ba sena kgosi, e ne yare go sale gale baagi ba motse wa Mmakgori kwa ntlenyana ga Mahikeng, ba keteka letsatsi la go tlhomiwa ga kgosi ya motse wa bona e leng kgosi Mabedi Mothibi.

Moletlo ono o ne o tsenetswe ke Magosi a a farologaneng go tswa gaufi le kgakala go akaretsa Kgosi Kopano Lekoko wa motse wa Tshidilamolomo.

Fa a abelana ka puo ya gagwe, kgosi o kaile fa

Mmakgori e le motse o o kileng wa nna kafa tlase ga kgosana Sebolaaneng Ketshabang yo o iketseng badimong ka ngwaga wa 2018, mme motse o ne wa nna ka lobaka lo lo leele o sena moeteledipele.

"Ke itumetse thata gore gampieno motse wa rona wa Mmakgori ona le keteledipele e e tsepameng morago ga lobaka lo lo leele. Ke rata le go leboga borra lekgotla ba ba ntseng ba tlhokometse motse ono go akaretsa rre Jack Monakwane.

Kena le tshofelo ya gore batla

tswelala pele go thusana le bogosi ka ba na le maitemogelo a keteledipele ya motse ono". Go rialo kgosi Mothibi. Fa a akgola kgosi, rre Jack Monakwane, o rile ga a nyatse sepe go ya ka kitso ya kgosi ya gagwe mme o bona fa motse wa bona o tla u n g w e l w a g o t s w a m o maitemogelong, dikgono le kitso e kgosi a nang nayo ka motse wa Mmakgori.

Monakwane o tshwaetse gape jaana, "rele baagi ba Mmakgori re kopa puso e re thuse ka gore tlhabololela matamo jaaka a sa tlhole a tsaya metsi a mantsi ka ntlha ya fa a kategetse. Diphologolo di a sotlega gonne matamo a huparela metsi a mannye. Rena le tsholofelo ya gore Kgosi o tlaa dirisana mmogo le puso go tlhgisana matshwenyego a rona ka motse wa Mmakgori".

Moletlo o ne wa tswelala go nna monate wa kebolela gole dikoma le bo mma makgabe lorole lo beta mokoduo bo mmaseapei molelo le dipitsa di belela kwa godimo megolokwane e le semphete ke go fete.

Fa a tlotlomatsa Kgosi le go garela, Kgosi Kopano Lekoko o rile "Morafe o tshole ka kagiso.



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# PUBLIC WORKS AND ROADS DOMINATES THE EPWP AWARDS

By Lerato Majobe  
Pics by Lerato Gambu

The North West Department of Public Works and Roads (DPWR) emerged as the best performing government institution in the infrastructure sector category and overall performer for its contribution towards the implementation of extended public works programme at the EPWP Awards held recently in Matlosana.

The Department of Education (DoE) participated in this category by creating 60 work opportunities, while DPWR contributed 14638, with the total of 14698 for the entire sector.

The second category was the environment and culture sector, with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) leading by creating 917 work opportunities.

A total of five departments participated in this category and they included the Departments of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT), Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), DARD, Health, Arts, Culture, Sport and



Recreation (ACSR) and Social Development (DSD).

The third category, which is the social sector, was scooped by the Department of Health having created 5587 work opportunities and ahead of the Department of Education, Community Safety and

Transport Management (COSATMA) as well as Social Development.

The best performing district municipality was the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, which had created 482 work opportunities in all sectors. The JB Marks Local Municipality contributed 1143 job opportunities which made them the best performing local municipality out of 18 that reported.

The Best Innovative Project was won by the Basadi Victim Empowerment Project in the DR Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District.

This project is made up of two centres, which are Khuseleka and Yamoroka, who were appreciated for contribution in empowering women and its impact in the social sector.

Their core obligation is to equip abused victims on how to survive after surviving abuse and Nyamokura trained these women in the use of sewing machines and laptops so that they can establish cooperatives and non-government organisations, and with the opportunities created they can employ other victims and generate income while they get monthly stipend from the EPWP.

Khuseleka also offered information communication technology training to the victims and survivors of abuse.



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# DR RSM DISTRICT VOTED BEST PERFORMING EPWP PROGRAMME

By Orapeleng Matshediso

**D**r Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipal EPWP Programme received an award for being the best performing and innovative programme in the province for 2022/2023 financial year at the EPWP awards ceremony held recently in Matlosana.

The Dr RSM award was because the district brainstormed and came up with an initiative to ensure that persons with disabilities and victims of gender based violence are benefiting from work opportunities in both government and private sector, as well as from the economic opportunities available to improve their living conditions.

The programme goes beyond just cleaning campaigns.

It has coupled the cleaning campaign with skills transfer, economic empowerment and job creation for persons with disabilities and victims of gender based violence.

Thus far through this initiative, 60 persons with disabilities have been temporarily and permanently



employed both in government and the private sector through existing public-private partnership initiatives.

Through this partnership, The Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality partnered with Nyamukara ICT company to provide support, and training on ICT and sewing to six women who were victims of gender based violence and

placed at Khuselaka One Stop Centre.

The six women are currently receiving 12 month stipend from the DR RSM District Municipality and further received donations of six laptops and six sewing machines from Nyamuka ICT company.

The initiative further aims to ensure that victims of gender based

violence have an exit strategy from the Khuselaka One Stop centre that supports victims of gender based violence and for them to be economically and socially independent.

This initiative has gone a long way to ensure that gender equality and employment equity is realised in the district and province.

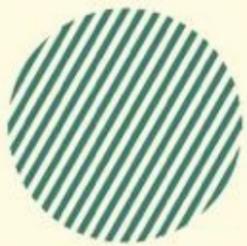


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## Validity of expired SASSA gold cards **extended to 31 December 2023**

- The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) welcomes the decision taken by the Payment Association of South Africa (PASA) to extend the validity of expired SASSA/Postbank gold cards until 31 December 2023.
- This means that social grant recipients can continue using their expired cards for social grant payment transactions at ATMs and retailers (e.g Checkers, Shoprite, USave, OK, Pick n Pay, Boxer and other participating retailers).



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- Proof of bank account received from the bank or
- Three months bank statement that depicts the personal details of the client such as names and bank accounts
- Proof of Identity



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# TOMBSTONE UNVEILING FOR MME REBECCA KOTANE IN PELLA VILLAGE

By Lerato Majobe and Stanley Ndlovu  
Pics by Otukile Mosimanegape

In memory of the late struggle stalwart, Mme Rebecca Kotane, the North West Provincial Government and the Moses Kotane Foundation recently held a tombstone unveiling for her in Pella Village to ensure that future generations would know where her remains have been laid to rest as well as her role in the struggle against apartheid.

Mme Kotane, who was a struggle icon in her own right, was the widow to the longest serving General

Secretary of the South African Communist Party, the late Moses Kotane.

She formed part of the group of women that marched to Union Buildings to oppose the introduction of pass laws for black women and presented a petition to the then Prime minister Johannes Strijdom on 9 August 1956 and was also detained by the apartheid regime.

Kgosi Godfrey Gasebone said that the tombstone will serve as a monument for people to know the role that she played and her sacrifices for emancipation.

He further said that it is their responsibility to encourage young

people to know the role that these stalwarts played in the past and use their courage as a prototype to become better people.

"We must encourage youth to know the history of these stalwarts so they can use their courage and resilience to become better people in the society", he said.

He further said that he would have loved if learners from local schools attended the ceremony so that they can learn about Mme Kotane's history and play an active role in preserving it for future generations.

"I wish that learners from local schools were here to learn about the history of Mama Kotane and why we

are unveiling this tombstone, so that one day when they pass here with their children they can be able to narrate the history behind this tombstone", Kgosi Gasebone said.

The MEC for Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation (ACSR) Keneetswe Mosenogi said that government will continue working with the Kotane family and Moses Kotane foundation to ensure that their history is preserved. "We will continue working with the family and the foundation to ensure that we preserve their legacy, so that we can be encouraged by their deeds. We need to be inspired by those that came before us", MEC Mosenogi concluded.

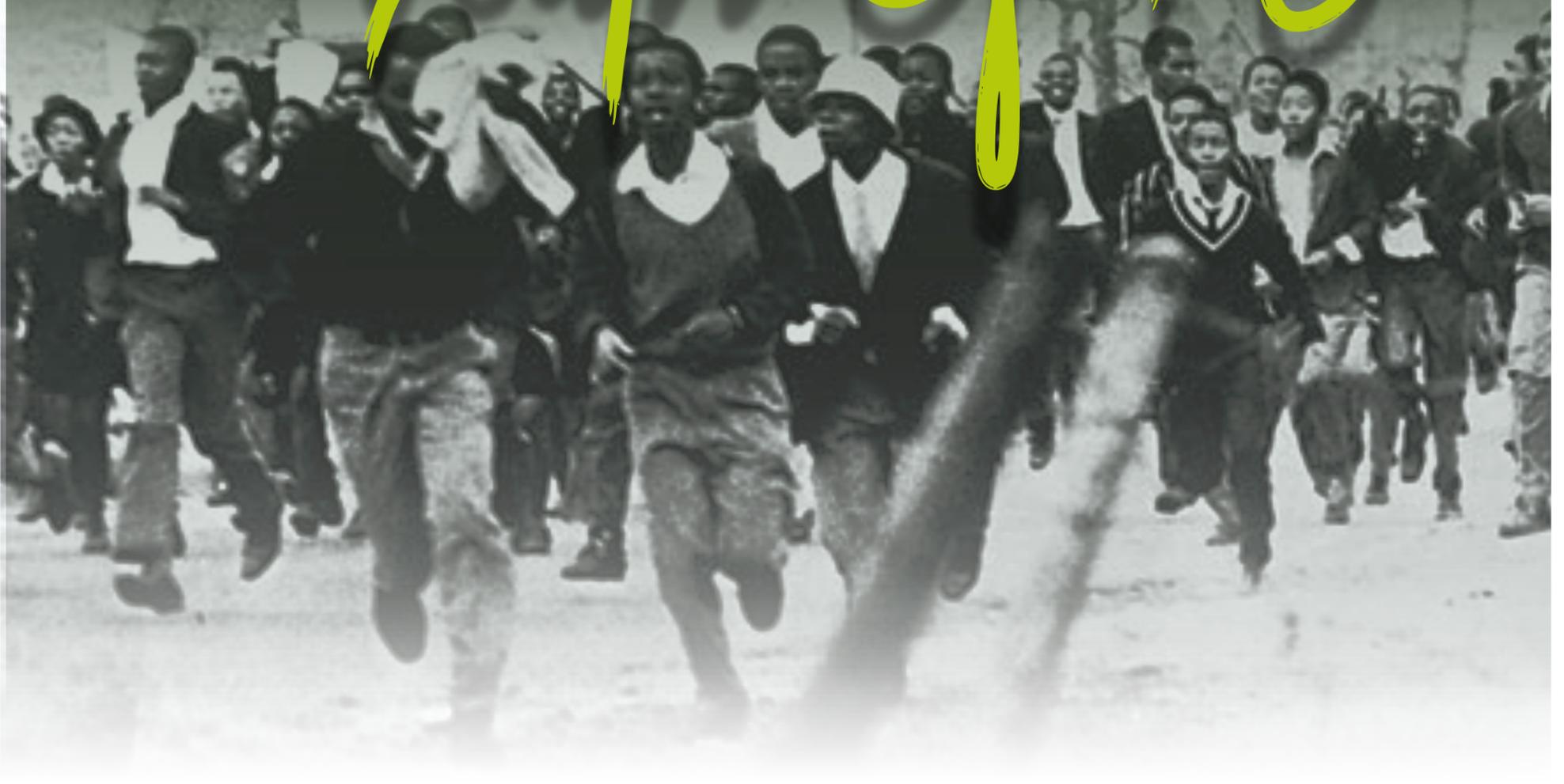
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# REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING THE

# Youth Of '76



By Anderson Mpele

**Y**outh day remains a reminder of the role played by young people of South Africa in the struggle for liberation as they confronted the might of apartheid and its injustice on that fateful day in June 1976.

Over 500 young people, including learners from various schools in Soweto, lost their lives while many more suffered injuries on that day.

In celebration of Youth Month, North West Premier Kaobitsa Bushy Maape, when delivering the 2023/24 Office of the Premier Budget Vote and Policy speech, emphasized the importance of youth in the society.

Premier Maape said that despite criticism against government for not doing enough to empower the youth, there are imminent issues of high unemployment rates and drugs that are ravaging the lives of our young people today, calling for urgent attention and action.

As part of interventions going forward, Premier Maape said that

government is working closely with other key stakeholders in ensuring that there are vibrant youth empowerment programmes in place; especially for those already in businesses and new entrants.

He also emphasised that enterprises and small businesses will be assisted with funding during 2023/24 financial year to establish their enterprises.

Premier Maape said that by collaborating with various SETAs, including the MERSETA, the North West Provincial Government will provide funding towards critical skills

development programmes, as well as to look into possibilities of installing solar panels where more youth will be inducted.

Premier Maape also said that there are plans to train about 3,000 young people across the province for purposes of capacity building and sustainable livelihoods of the people of the North West Province.

In addition to this, funding will be set aside for student bursaries and payment of outstanding debts for the many needy and indebted youths who were unable to register with educational institutions.

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# NORTH WEST TREASURY COMMENDED FOR USING DRONE TECHNOLOGY IN MONITORING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

By GoitseOne Mooki

**D**elivering the departmental budget speech before the North West Provincial Legislature, Finance MEC Motlalepula Rosho, highlighted the North West Provincial Treasury's commitment to support, oversight and monitoring of infrastructure projects in the province.

MEC Rosho said that the Provincial Treasury's oversight role of monitoring infrastructure projects has been resourced through the use

of drone technology to assist with oversight reports that will improve reporting on infrastructure outcomes by providing evidence-based performance.

"In October 2022, Provincial Treasury in collaboration with National Treasury conducted infrastructure site visits wherein eight projects from all the four districts were visited. The outcome of the site visits was shared at the Provincial Infrastructure Coordinating Meeting (PICM) at National Treasury which includes all Provincial Treasuries", MEC Rosho added.

Through these efforts and accomplishments, Provincial



Treasury was commended on the use of drone technology as being at the cutting edge of the Fourth

Industrial Revolution (4IR).

Amongst the resolutions taken at PICM, it was advised that all Provincial Treasuries are to benchmark with the North West on our site visits planning and delivery processes.

Provincial Treasury together with Office of the Premier successfully assisted the Department of Public Works and Roads to submit comprehensive roads projects for Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) funding.

Infrastructure South Africa and National Treasury are currently assessing the submission to ensure that it moves to the next stage.

# TWO DAY TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL STRATEGIC MEETING

By Orapeleng Matshediso

**A** two day strategic session on the District Development Model (DDM) to reflect on the progress registered since the adoption of the One Plan, One Budget for the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District was held recently in Vryburg.

The first day's session was attended, among others, by senior managers and officials from the three spheres of government in the district, so as to prepare for the second day's session with the DR RSM District Executive Mayor Cllr Motseokae Maje, who is the DDM District

champion as well as other political principals in the district.

The meeting further took stock of the challenges experienced throughout the implementation of the DDM Plan as well as to review the implementation plan in the context of declaration of 2023 as a "year of implementation".

The meeting also deliberated on future projects and programmes, and the planned activities for young people in the district for the June Youth Month.

Indeed, the District Development Model is starting to yield the envisaged results.

Delivering the Budget Speech for the National Department of Cooperative Governance and

Traditional Affairs in May this year, Minister Thembi Nkadimeng said that the DDM is making recognisable progress in being institutionalised across the spheres of government.

"It cannot be emphasised enough how the DDM, anchored in the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, is critical for policy implementation coherence and impact maximisation", Minister Nkadimeng said.

Some of the critical issues that the two day strategic meeting discussed were the strategic plan on the provision of water and sanitation in the district, the integration of faith-based organisations, progress on Municipal Cleaning and Greening projects of DFFE Youth

Empowerment and Development, the provision of support for SMMEs, District State of readiness for fire season, preparatory report for investment summit, labour and employment issues as well as progress report on Agricultural and Rural development initiatives.

The discussions of the two day strategic session resonated with the slogan "leave no one behind" in a "year of implementation".

The session agreed that civil society organisations, the three spheres of government and government agencies must work together in unison for the realisation of tangible developments and implementation of impactful service delivery to the people.

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# TIPS ON HOW TO PREVENT WINTER FIRES



By Boipelo Lechuti

The North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), through the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, is advising communities and farmers to be more vigilant and put plans in place this winter season as possibilities of veld fires seem to be on the increase.

The outbreak of fires takes place more often during the winter months than any other time of the year and are mostly caused by excessive heat on the ground or land due to the dryness caused by the winter season, due to animal friction on the ground and stones friction.

Other notable negligent causes of these fires involve leaving fires

unattended after burning rubbish, tossing cigarette butts on the side of the road, cooking outside or conducting a fire break.

Some other causes are bee hunters that start a fire under a beehive and these fires are not properly extinguished, which then contributes to the fires in communities near forestry plantations.

Candle safety is another looming factor as the country continues to experience load shedding, where candles are placed in the house and also the type of candle holders we use and being vigilant to blowing out a candle before going to bed.

When temperatures plummet in winter, most people love to light a cosy fire or to snuggle up to a heater to keep warm.

All of these heating efforts increase the risk of fires in the home,

so it's important to make everyone in your family aware of the dangers of fire during this season.

Almost 99% of all fires are caused by human negligence, specifically through electrical faults or carelessness.

Cigarettes, matches and lighters, candles, heating appliances and open braai fires can all cause fires if not carefully monitored.

These are the tips to prevent electrical fires at home to keep heat-producing appliances unplugged not in use, only use extension cords temporarily, never cut off the third prong on a power cord, update your home's electrical system, don't plug in devices with damaged power cords, follow the directions that come with your appliances and don't ignore signs of trouble.

If a fire does start on the stove, these are measures that one can

take; turn off the heat source either on the stove or at the fuse box, and if cooking oil catches fire, slide a lid over the pan or use a fire blanket to smother the flames and turn the burner off.

Thereafter, check that tea towels and curtains are not too close to the stove-top, keep the stove clean and clear of grease, consider installing a stove guard to keep inquisitive fingers away, make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off so if it tips over it shuts off and keep anything that can burn such as bedding, clothing and curtains at least 30cm to 45 cm from the heater or candle and plug portable heaters directly into wall outlets.

Never use an extension cord or power strip and turn heaters and candles off when you go to bed or leave the room.

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# DR RSM HOSTS DEPUTY MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FOR DDM IN TAUNG

By Orapeleng Matshediso

The Executive Mayor of the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality, Cllr Motseokae Maje and the MEC for Social Development, Boitumelo Moiloa recently hosted the Deputy Minister in Presidency responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (WYPD), Nokuzola Tolashe, at a District Development Model (DDM) engagement session at Mmabana Taung.

Also in attendance were the Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature, Basetsana Dantjie and Kgosi Tshepo Mankuroane of the Batlhaping Ba-Ga-Phuduhuchwana, as well as mayors and councillors from both the district and local municipalities.

The purpose of the meeting was to have an engagement, in a form of dialogue with the designated groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities organisations, as well as visit some of their projects, assess and provide necessary immediate and future interventions.

The delegates representing the designated groups and organisations were given an opportunity to raise their concerns, challenges and suggestions to the three spheres of government.

The engagement with the delegates resonated with and served as a response to what the Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disability, Ms Nkosazana Zuma said in the 2023 budget speech, that “women, children, youth and persons with disabilities live in fear as they bear the worst of poverty, economic exclusion and unprecedented nightmare of gender-based violence and femicide”.

In his welcome remarks, the



District Champion of DDM, Executive Mayor Maje, indicated that, the meeting with Deputy Minister and other stakeholders serves also as a follow up meeting to the DDM stakeholders' engagement that was held in Mamusa last year where various stakeholders from the women, youth and persons with disabilities formations raised pertinent issues.

Cllr Maje said that while some of the issues have been attended to, others needed the Ministry of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities to urgently intervene.

“This is a commitment, I made last year, as the Executive Mayor and District Champion of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti, that we will ensure that, the office of the relevant Ministry is invited to join us in listening to your concerns and further resolve them”, Cllr Maje said.

After the delegates were given an opportunity to raise their concerns, challenges and proposals, Deputy Minister Tolashe responded with the provision of immediate and future interventions.

She indicated that she was accompanied by senior officials from

government as well as from the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to assist and provide the necessary support, so that, the concerns and challenges are well captured and urgently responded to.

“As a government of the people, we must be responsive to their plights and challenges”, Deputy Minister Tolashe added.

While the various institutions of government have been tasked to attend to all the immediate issues raised, Deputy Minister Tolashe further committed to have a follow up meeting in August this year to provide feedback to the delegates who represented organisations of women, youth and persons with disabilities in the district.

“Despite all the challenges and the setbacks, the Dr Ruth Mompoti District Development Model is number one and the best in the country”, Deputy Minister Tolashe said.

The Dr Ruth Mompoti District Development Model has in the context of the slogan “leave no one behind”, declared 2023 “a year of implementation”.

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# DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO MONITOR AREA OUTSIDE PILANESBERG GAME RESERVE FOR THE ALLEGED FREE ROAMING LEOPARDS

By Jerry Matebesi

The North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) has assured the public that the department is continuously monitoring the situation after the communities living closer to the Pilanesberg Game Reserve raised concerns regarding leopards that were believed to be roaming in the area.

"We are aware of the various and sporadic reports of the problem leopards causing a scare and allegedly killing livestock in the vicinity of the Pilanesberg Game Reserve, Director for Biodiversity Management and Conservation, Jonathan Denga, said.

About a month back, the department's Biodiversity Management and Conservation officials successfully captured a leopard that was confirmed to be responsible for the death of livestock in and around Moruleng.

The leopard was subsequently relocated to an area where it will have minimal contact with livestock, ensuring the safety of both the animals and the local community.

According to Denga, another complaint was received recently from the Dwarsberg area regarding a similar issue.

In response, the DEDECT promptly set a trap to capture the animal, with the aim of addressing the situation effectively and ensuring the wellbeing of the community and their livestock.

"We are also in constant communication with the North West Parks and Tourism Board and other relevant authorities", Denga said.

"We understand the concerns and anxieties of the affected communities, and we want to reassure them that we are taking



these matters seriously. The department will continue to work closely with relevant stakeholders, including the affected communities, to address any potential threats and implement appropriate measures to prevent any incident that may pose danger to their lives", Denga added.

However, it is important to emphasize to the public to note that leopards do occur naturally in many rural areas of the North West Province including the said geographical areas surrounding the Pilanesberg Game Reserve.

While the Pilanesberg Game Reserve may become the most obvious suspect source circumstantial by its nature and its proximity, it is at times difficult to say where exactly the leopards may have escaped from the Pilanesberg Game Reserve as mentioned in some of the reports without evidence to back such claims.

The DEDECT raised concern when it established that a photograph that was circulating on social media, purported to have been taken from the Moruleng area, was also found to have been misleading.

It was evident that the image is a random professional photo sourced from the internet and does not depict the actual situation in the area.

Leopards are solitary animals and they are only together when they mate or when a female had small cubs.

Leopards are also nocturnal, meaning that they mainly move around during the night.

The DEDECT is actively monitoring the situation on the ground at all times and will take necessary action to remove any other wild animals found in any residential area.

Any member of the public who may come across or witness any evidence relating to the presence of such animals must contact the DEDECT or their nearest police station.

"We humbly request community members living around the Pilanesberg Game Reserve to refrain from allowing their livestock to graze in close proximity to the reserve fence. Livestock grazing right next to the fence of the reserve can inadvertently lure wildlife from inside the park, as the presence of such

livestock may present easy prey for livestock.", Denga said.

The DEDECT is also stepping up its efforts and focusing more on environmental education and raising awareness in communities, particularly those living near game reserves and parks, about how to safeguard their livestock from predation and warn people that are perpetuating false news and unfounded claims, not only causes unnecessary panic but also diverts valuable resources and efforts away from real challenged areas that require attention.

The DEDECT is warning the public that it is critical to recognize that spreading misleading information not only damages the ability to protect the wildlife but also undermines the confidence and collaboration required to address true wildlife-related issues.

"Let us work together to promote responsible behaviour and a well-informed society." By doing so, we can better channel our resources and address the real challenges that our natural environment and its inhabitants face", Denga said.

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# NORTH WEST GOVERNMENT REWARDS TOP COMRADES ATHLETES



By Mmaboni Kgabi

The North West Provincial Government, through the Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation, recently hosted a heroes welcome for the 2023 Comrades Marathon winner, Tete Morena Dijana as well as other top performing ultra matharon athletes at a ceremony held at the Mmabatho Stadium.

The MEC for Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation (ACSR) Kenetswe Mosenogi, accompanied by North West Provincial Legislature Deputy Speaker Lenah Miga, the Executive Mayor of the Ngaka Modiri Molema Municipality, Cllr Khumalo Molefe

and the Executive Mayor of the Mahikeng Local Municipality, Cllr Tshepiso Mphehlo, were on hand to welcome the athletes.

Earlier on the day, the athletes went on a parade through the town centre and the entourage proceeded to Dijana's former school, Lapologang Secondary School in Montshioa township, where MEC Mosenogi handed over sports attire to the school.

The top 10 performing athletes at the 2023 Comrades Marathon in both the male and female categories were rewarded with cash prizes.

Tete Morena Dijana was rewarded with R500 000 for winning the race back to back and setting a new marathon record.

Edward Mothibi received R250

000 for position 3, Gordon Lesetedi received R100 000 for position 4, Johannes Makgetla received R50 000 for position 6, Gift Kelehe was given R40 000 for position 9 while Joseph Manyedi received R30 000 for taking position 10 in the men's race.

Meanwhile, Dave Adams, who is both Dijana and Mothibi's coach received R150 000.

The women's race runner-up, Adele Broodwyk received R400 000 and Dan Matshailwe who finished second in this year's Two Ocean Marathon walked away with R150 000.

Also present at the ceremony were soccer teams from the North West Province, that have recently gained promotion to higher leagues

and they included Orbit College FC, who have been promoted to the National First Division, Montshioa Swallows FC who have been promoted to the ABC Motsepe Provincial League, who received R300 000 and R100 000, respectively.

In addition to those, Spain FC from Rustenburg, also received R100 000 from the North West Provincial Government.

In total, the North West Provincial Government rewarded the athletes as well as the soccer with a combined R2,1 million for their outstanding performances.

The North West Provincial Government remains committed to support and reward excellence in sports.

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