

NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

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MINISTER MCHUNU TURNS THE SOD FOR DINOKANA WATER SUPPLY INTERVENTION

By Katlego Bolokang

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu said that he will ensure that 'Operation Bulela Metsi' Programme set up by his Ministry, North West Provincial Government and municipalities meets its obligations to the people of Dinokana village and ultimately, the entire North West Province.

Minister Mchunu was speaking at the recent sod-turning ceremony to mark the R106-million Dinokana Water Supply Intervention Project being implemented by Magalies Water at Dinokana village in the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality.

The project is an outcome of the complaints from residents of Dinokana to Minister Mchunu last year that several households in the higher lying areas were not receiving adequate water supply from the current water supply scheme.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) then made funding available under Water Infrastructure Service Grant (WSIG) to provide additional 35000 residents with 200-meter radial standpipe within the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality.

Minister Mchunu, who was accompanied by Deputy Minister Judith Tshabalala, North West Premier, Bushy Maape, Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality



Mayor, Cllr Khumalo Molefe, Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipal Mayor, Cllr Dinah Pitso, Magalies Water Board Chairperson, Dr Lydia Sebege, the Bahurutshe ba ga Moiloa Traditional Council, undertook an oversight visit at the construction sites of the water project and met with the community.

The delegation was taken through the 'sacred' Dinokana eye, a natural spring where the source of the water and the pump station are located and conducted a walk about at the site where a 15-kilometer bulk pipeline is being laid.

Minister Mchunu said that according to stats SA, 34,9% of the population in Dinokana has access to piped water in their residences, while 22,4% have access to water in communal taps.

He said that the DWS will provide standpipes in each household,

however the project is implemented in phases.

"We are happy that there is progress and that ultimately, water will reach everyone who needs to benefit from the project. Refurbishing the pump station is critical so that all the pumps are working optimally to pump the required quantities and to be able to meet the demand of these communities in the four wards", Minister Mchunu said.

The project scope underway entails the refurbishment and upgrade of the Dinokana Water Intervention Project which consists of high lift pump refurbishment and upgrade from 2 MI/day to 4 MI/day, refurbishment of boreholes, upgrading of spring water pump station and pipeline, refurbishment of the distribution system up to the bulk water reservoirs and constructing an additional 2 MI reservoir to provide

additional gravity pressure.

Already over 1000 meters of the bulk pipeline has been laid, work on the refurbishment work has commenced and work on the bulk distribution network has also commenced.

Dinokana Water Supply Intervention project is being implemented in 4 phases:

Phase 1- Bulk Pipeline Distribution construction including reservoir and Refurbishment to Existing Transmission lines.

Phase - 2 Refurbishment of Boreholes and Additional Drilling and equipping of boreholes.

Phase 3 - Reticulation and Standpipe at 200m radial distance within village boundary.

Phase 4 - Upgrading pumpstation and pumping line to allow both reservoirs to be fed by pumpstation with the objective of providing an additional 35 000 residents with standpipes.

Minister Mchunu said that with the current 17 local people benefiting through Dinokana water supply intervention project, 5 more job opportunities will in future be added to benefit 25 locals each per ward.

He further encouraged those with illegal water connections to report to the local mayor to be legally connected for free, this way they won't face the wrath of the law.

The Dinokana Water Supply Intervention Project which commenced at the end of September this year, is expected to be completed at the end of September next year.

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DEPUTY MINISTER TAU DISCUSSES STATE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN THE NORTH WEST



By Poloko Koolatitse and Koketso Phethoe

The Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance, Parks Tau recently visited the North West Province as part of the Ministerial Outreach Programme to engage both the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and ailing municipalities.

In the North West, eight municipalities have been identified as struggling to provide basic services because of a number of issues which include instability in councils, poor political oversight and weak administration.

They are the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality, Ramotshere Moiloa, Ditsobotla, Mahikeng, Tswaing, Kgetlengrivier, Madibeng and Rustenburg Local Municipalities.

At the meeting, which was held in Rustenburg, Deputy Minister Tau said he was there to engage with the Provincial Government on the state of the eight municipalities as well as to discuss the challenges identified in both the State of Local Government and Auditor-General reports.

“Our purpose here is not merely to convene, but to engage in a sincere evaluation of the state of local government in our province.

We must assess our achievements and confront our shortcomings so that we can chart a path that propel us forward towards measurable progress”, he said.

He added that while tangible progress has been made to fulfil the constitutional obligation to provide developmental and transformational local governance and visible service delivery, government admits that there are structural and institutional challenges in ensuring that people’s growing expectations are met and realised.

“These structural challenges, which require national interventions, are rooted in weak institutional capacity, poor governance, poor financial management, corruption, and political instability”, Deputy Minister Tau added.

He said this accounts for why eight municipalities in the North West were identified as dysfunctional with challenges across the key performance areas of administration, governance, financial administration, service delivery and local economic development.

Speaking to the current state of local government, the MEC for Cooperative Governance Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Nono Maloyi stressed the importance of filling senior management vacancies in municipalities in order to bring stability in their administration.

“All senior management positions must be filled as soon as possible, candidates with prerequisite skills and qualifications should be

prioritized to appoint the relevant candidates so that we propel North West municipalities forward”.

He stated that there are many incomplete and abandoned projects in the North West, yet contractors were paid.

“A decision to complete all the projects as quickly as possible must be taken”, he said.

He also said that contractors who collude with government officials must be investigated and arrested if they are found to have misused state funds.

MEC Maloyi also spoke of the water supply challenges in the North West.

“The Operation Bulela Metsi project launch is a significant step towards addressing water and sanitation challenges in the North West Province, and stakeholders are optimistic about the impact it will have on the communities”, he said.

He said a technical task team was established under the steering committee to assess, plan, and implement water and sanitation needs in the province.

MEC Maloyi added that municipalities are expected to apply to Eskom for their water treatment facilities to be exempted from load shedding.

“As a result of load shedding our people are struggling to get access to water.

This is because without electricity power pumps cannot pump and water reservoirs will never be full”.

“When the reservoirs are not full our people will not have water”, he said, adding that during his engagements with Eskom, he appealed to the power utility to assist municipalities.

“The water treatment plants are now going to be exempted from load shedding and this means the problem of water will be partly resolved in the North West”, MEC Maloyi said.

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SAFER FESTIVE SEASON CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

By Rebaone Moeng

North West MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Sello Lehari, with the South African Police Service, Provincial Traffic and other relevant stakeholders recently launched the 2023 Provincial Safer Festive Season operation in Potchefstroom.

With the campaign underway, this will enhance the visibility of law enforcement across the North West, especially on streets and major roads due to the increase in people movement and traffic volumes during the festive season and will carry on until the end of January next year.

The theme for this year's Safer Festive Season campaign is "Combating Crime through Decisive Police Action and Robust Community Involvement".

Speaking to law enforcement officers at the SAPS Headquarters in Potchefstroom, MEC Lehari warned those who violate the law, will face the might of the law.

He said these law enforcement operations are to ensure the safety of all citizens, including those travelling to and from the North West.

"We are not going to tolerate any deviance, wrongdoing, and contravention of any statute. Any wrong move will meet the full might of the law", he said.

"Those using our province as a transit will find the presence of law enforcement on all arterial routes", MEC Lehari said.

He added that operations during the season will focus on, but not limited to, combating aggravated robberies, vehicle hijackings, comparing drugs and human trafficking, enforcement of legislation in respect of firearms, liquor and further combating drunken driving,



speeding and all moving violations.

He further encouraged communities to report crime as and when it happens. "It is only by working together that we can defeat crime", MEC Lehari said.

Provincial Police Commissioner Lieutenant General Sello Kwena assured communities that the police are ready to show criminals that they do not have a place to hide in the

North West.

"The citizens must feel relaxed and at ease, because men and women in blue will be on the streets and all corners, watching over them"

"We are going to combat crime through decisive police action and robust community involvement," Lt Gen Kwena said.

Speaking on behalf of the Provincial Community Policing

Forum (CPF), Mbulelo Makhaza committed to work with police and all law enforcement agencies in the Province.

He said that they will ensure the mobilisation of communities to fight crime. "We will mobilise our communities to be the eyes of the police and report any criminal activity because police cannot be everywhere", Makhaza added.

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HOUSEHOLDS GIVEN FOOD PACKAGES AND FRESH PRODUCE DURING WORLD FOOD DAY CELEBRATION



By Tshegofatso Leepile

More than 500 households at Dikebu village in the Moretele Local Municipality were recently handed food packages, garden inputs, small stock and fresh produce by the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) as part of the 2023 Provincial World Food Day celebration activities.

The event was held at the village under the theme "Water is Food. Water is Life. Leave No One Behind".

One of the beneficiaries, Sinah Nkoane (70), who survives on government's foster child grant for her two orphaned grandchildren, appreciated government's

commitment to address food insecurity, especially in remote villages.

"The majority of us living in Dikebu live in poverty and are unable to meet daily nutritional requirements. Worse, we survive by continuously lending money which we must return at the end of the month, meaning that the money from social grants does not cover monthly basic needs", she said.

"The intervention received here today will assist us in feeding our families and I am grateful to the department for coming to our village", she added.

Rebecca Mashike said that the garden tools she received will come in handy as she already has a small vegetable garden.

Mashike, an unemployed



guardian of two children, shares produce from her garden with neighbours due to the lack of employment in their community.

MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Desbo Mohono said that despite all interventions and mitigations undertaken to date, food insecurity remains a silent catastrophe, one that remains largely unacknowledged and tolerated.

"The department has consequently employed the food and nutrition security plan as a means of ensuring improvement and

addressing the triple concerns of hunger, poverty, and inequality".

"During my 2023/2024 Budget vote earlier this year, I did make mention of the fact that as a department, we must intensify our efforts when coming to food security. Since then, we have been helping with seedlings, chickens, vegetable packages and rolling the goat massification program. To many, this might not be enough, but I am glad that we are consistent and that is what matters most", MEC Mohono added.

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DEPARTMENT SHUTS DOWN ILLEGAL INITIATION SCHOOL

By Boitumelo Seleka

The North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), in collaboration with members of the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee, recently closed an illegal initiation school in Lichtenburg.

The intervention followed information received from whistle-blowers and COGTA acted on it to avert potential danger to the lives of initiates and upholding the cultural integrity of initiation practices.

The Deputy Chairperson of Provincial Initiation Coordinating Schools in the North West, Andries Steenkamp, along with officials from COGTA, visited the area to assess the situation and discovered structures where initiates were housed, however no initiates were present.

The team acted by burning the structures down.

Steenkamp emphasized that all initiation schools in the province must



be registered.

"We will not tolerate people running unauthorized or illegal initiation schools and put the lives of innocent children at risk. Our mission is to advocate for legislation criminalizing all illegal schools, ensuring the safety of initiates", he added.

Kgosi Ramosetlho Gasebone who is a member of the North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders

and the Chairperson of Tradition, Culture and Customs, confirmed that the school had not obtained permission to operate and was outside the legal framework.

Kgosi Gasebone asserted that the closure of the school, along with the destruction of its facilities, sends a resounding message that non-compliance will not be tolerated.

"We can confirm the closure of an illegal initiation school in Lichtenburg

and urge all prospective school operators to follow proper channels for approval. This school failed to register with the department as required by the prescribed Act. It's a relief to us that no injuries or fatalities were reported", he said.

The Chairperson of the North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, Kgosi Thari Maotwe urged initiation school owners to ensure that parents or guardians sign consent forms to prevent abductions.

He emphasized the province's commitment to maintaining the highest standards in the practice and culture of initiation.

"The North West Province stands as a paragon for initiation practices. Permit holders must remain vigilant against those seeking to compromise our tradition by introducing substances like alcohol and drugs. Such actions may lead to negligence and tragic fatalities", Kgosi Maotwe said.

The public is encouraged to report any suspicious activities related to initiation schools as government remains committed to ensuring the well-being of all communities.

PROGRESS MADE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF MILITARY VETERANS HOUSES

By Staff Reporter

North West MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Dumile Nono Maloyi has appreciated the speed at which the Department of Human Settlements is moving to implement the roll out of the military veterans housing programme.

The programme had stalled due to the delay in the approval to

amendments on the new proposed housing specifications that most of the military veterans wanted.

Speaking at the recent Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme at the Tlaakgameng Sports Grounds in the Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality, MEC Maloyi announced that the military programme is being implemented in Lethabong, Tlaakgameng and Ganyesa; and that the houses will be ready to be handed over at an official

ceremony to be held soon.

"I am happy with the progress that has been made in the construction of the houses. As a department, ours is to ensure that we create and facilitate sustainable human settlements for our people as this will help to improve the quality of their households", MEC Maloyi said.

"We have noted that there has been a lot of discrepancies surrounding the military housing programme, as such we are working closely with National Departments of

Human Settlements and Military Veterans, and municipalities to validate beneficiaries' details as this will ensure that the houses are occupied by their rightful owners", he added.

The military veterans housing programme is a collaboration between the Department of Human Settlements and the Department of Military Veterans, that aims to restore their dignity by providing them with access to adequate housing.

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FIGHT AGAINST CRIME STRENGTHENED THROUGH IZIMBIZO



By Rebaone Moeng

Following a pronouncement by the North West MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Sello Lehari, during the 2023/2024 Departmental Budget Vote, the Department put into action 'Crime Prevention Imbizo' as a platform to strengthen the fight against crime.

It is a platform that allows the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management (DCSTM) and communities to have an open discussion, where citizens are able to articulate their concerns, identify the appropriate responses and solutions to crime problems that affect them.

MEC Lehari had made the commitment to strengthen the fight against crime, by working with all relevant stakeholders and timeously engage with communities across the North West.

"We need an integrated approach to fight crime and that requires cooperation of our entire sister departments, private sectors and communities at large", he said.

Clearly designed along the District



Development Model (DDM), approach, these izimbizo have had a possible impact where MEC Lehari has unlocked a number of unattended cases, elevated cases to the South African Police Service (SAPS), while others were immediately attended to and resolved.

MEC Lehari recently held a Crime Imbizo in Letlhabile near Brits to deal with issues related to Gender Based Violence & Femicide.

According to recent crime statistics, Letlhabile Police Station ranked 15 out of 85 police stations in

the North West in terms of reported criminal cases, including GBV&F cases.

"The SAPS is working hard to combat or reduce GBV&F in Letlhabile and surrounding areas but our community members who are victims make it difficult for police, prosecutors and courts to execute their duties properly by withdrawing cases after certain agreements with perpetrators", MEC Lehari said.

"After withdrawal of abuse, rape and murder cases, perpetrators commit the same crimes again", MEC Lehari told the community in

Letlhabile.

MEC Lehari further requested community members to unite in fighting this scourge and to report violence or abuse towards women and children to law enforcement in order to create a safe and conducive environment for everyone.

Leading the Crime Imbizo in Lebaleng township in the Maquassie Hills Local Municipality, MEC Sello Lehari sent a stern warning to gangsters, after certain young people stood up to confirm their membership to certain gangsterism groups in the area.

"We are not going to organize such a huge imbizo with government resources and services to listen to young people confirming that they are tormenting our community"

"We are not going to tolerate this kind of behaviour. When you act against the law we are going to arrest you"

At Tlathlaganyane village in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality, MEC Lehari called upon community to help police fight escalating crime in the area, believed to be as a result of suspected illegal mining activities, illegal mining operations, undocumented foreign nationals running unregistered businesses and the proliferation of illegal weapons topped the list of issues raised.

Kgosi Letlamoreng Batleng said they have resorted to using services of private security companies to ensure villagers' safety and to guarantee learners' safety in schools in the area.

"We have already lost about four learners as a result of crime and illegal mining in our area. We as the traditional council have resorted to hire private security to protect our assets and ourselves. The money used for hiring security companies could well be used for development of our area", Kgosi Batleng added.

"You need to report crime as and when it happens. Do not wait for anti-crime Imbizo to report it", MEC Lehari said.

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NORTH WEST DINGAKA HOLD 40th CONFERENCE IN MATLAPANENG



By Maboni Kgabi

North West MEC for Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation (ACSR) Kenetswe Mosenogi recently told Dingaka to take their trade serious and claim their space in their respective communities to contribute to nation building and social cohesion.

MEC Mosenogi was addressing more than 100 traditional healers from across the four districts who are part of the North West Dingaka Association (NWDA) at the 40th Annual Dingaka Conference that was held at Matlapaneng Community Hall in the Greater Taung Local Municipality.

MEC Mosenogi said that Dingaka have the power to influence government to formulate policy and legislation that would enable Dingaka to operate within the confines of the

law.

“If we have Dingaka at the forefront in assisting government to make, repeal or amending some of the laws, this will add more value to the work you do on a daily basis”, she added.

Kenalemang Boswaeng, a traditional healer from Ga-Maidi, said that although it was her first time attending the conference, she was hoping to meet with relevant people in the industry and get to gain more knowledge on how to register and be regulated.

“We have been operating in our

small corners with no knowledge of affiliating as members of the association but today we are clear on what we need to do as traditional healers. We are thankful to the department for the programme”, Boswaeng said.

Lerato Matsaunyane from Agricultural Research Council said they are more than delighted to have been part of the conference to share insightful information with Dingaka and ordinary community members.

Matsaunyane said that they collaborate with communities and Dingaka, in providing agricultural

support since they use medicinal plants in their business, commercialisation of their products and enterprise development.

Matsaunyane said the information they share will help Dingaka to cultivate in their yards and reduce harvesting in the veld.

Speaking at the end of the conference, the Association's President, Mme Anna Rabotapi said that it is the responsibility of Dingaka to demystify any wrong perceptions regarding their work.

Rabotapi said that people need to know that, as an association, their work is regulated and the role played by key stakeholders such as Departments of Health, Social Development and Education becomes crucial to ensure compliance.

“We must be thankful that today we stand here on a solid foundation that the ACSR has assisted us in building and now it is upon us take this association forward”, Rabotapi said.

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JOB SHIMANKANA TABANE HOSPITAL TACKLES EFFECTS OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION

By Katlego Legwale

The Job Shimankana Tabane (JST) Hospital in Rustenburg recently observed the Occupational Therapy Week under the theme 'unity through community - embrace the change by embarking on a campaign to engage the elderly at the MTS Ancillary Health Care Centre, an old age home located in Tlhabane.

Furthermore, the visit was also meant to counteract the effects of institutionalization, which is a state of being placed or kept in a residential institution.

The hospital's occupational therapy department said the effects of institutionalization are boredom, loss of contact with the outside world, loss of interest to participate in activities, loss of connection to self, loss of self-esteem, enforced idleness and disorientation to time & place.

"From an Occupational Therapy lens, the resident's well-being is determined by their needs being met. Their needs of connectedness, growth, security, identity, autonomy, and joy are not currently being met, therefore O.T week implemented a programme that meet their needs", Moleboge Kgarodi, Chief Occupational Therapist at the JST Hospital said.

"The effects of institutionalization may occur on people that are at home and are given complete assistance in their activities of daily living.

It is recommended that elders or sick family members are not kept indoors and to refrain from doing everything for them, rather give them choices in activities, routines and opportunities to do tasks on their own and expose them to current events of the outside world" Kgarodi said.

Various activities were identified for a period of three day to help those who are institutionalized to overcome it. The first day's activities included a



spa day, providing salon services to the residents as well as hair care, hand care, manicure, pedicure, and facial make-up.

Activities for the second day incorporated health education to

caregivers with the following topics: causes and effects of institutionalization, role of occupational therapy and care givers to combatting the effects, positioning

of stroke patients and diabetic foot care and wheelchair transfers.

The third day was a fun day comprising of arts and crafts as well as leisure activities.

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NORTH WEST PROVINCE TO DECISIVELY DEAL WITH SPAZA SHOPS SELLING EXPIRED FOOD STUFFS

By Thebeetsile Keameditse

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs as well as Leader of Government Business, Nono Maloyi recently announced that government will deal decisively with spaza shops owners, most of whom are foreign nationals, who are allegedly selling expired food stuffs that are poisonous for consumers.

MEC Maloyi said this when he met the Provincial Executive of the North West House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders together with Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Zolile Ncamashe in Potchefstroom ahead of the recent District Development Model Presidential Imbizo.

The briefing to the Deputy Minister Ncamashe was a follow up meeting

from the prior engagements with former Deputy President David Mabuza where traditional leaders raised challenges with the government with a view to finding solutions aimed at enhancing the running of traditional councils.

The Chairperson of Provincial House of Traditional Leadership, Kgosi Thari Maotwe, raised several issues relating to administrative grants, tools of trade, allowances, filling of positions in the traditional offices, traditional council buildings as well as matters relating to legislations.

Kgosi Maotwe also raised issues regarding the influx of foreigners in their areas, with many being undocumented, who are conducting business in traditional areas.

He pleaded for the review of immigration laws and other laws regarding foreign nationals.

"Government must review business licencing laws to ensure that foreigners who conduct business in traditional areas are compliant with

laws and taxation", Kgosi Maotwes said.

MEC Nono Maloyi indicated that government is attending to the challenges faced by traditional leaders expeditiously.

He also said that challenges raised by communities relating to foreign owned spaza shops will soon be a thing of the past.

He said there is a need to conduct a special compliance check operation on spaza shops.

"There are 150 000 spaza shops in the province and a larger percentage of residents especially in our rural communities buy from spaza shops. The Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism together with the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management will lead the campaign and will report regularly on progress registered", MEC Maloyi said.

"We need to work together with traditional leaders because borders

are in your traditional communities. Some spaza shops are in your yards. It can't be a project of government alone, it must be tackled by all of us", he added.

Deputy Minister Ncamashe welcomed the engagement saying it will go a long way in fostering relations between traditional leadership structures and government.

In his address he emphasised the need for House of Traditional Leaders to resolve disputes and not government.

"Government is undated with disputes from traditional leaders. Find a way to resolve those disputes amongst yourself. Government must be the last option", Deputy Minister Ncamashe said.

In response, Kgosi Maotwe indicated that the Provincial House resolved recently that all disputes must be referred to the Provincial Houses as they are better positioned to deal with all the disputes.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING BENEFITS VULNERABLE CHILDREN

By Petrus Siko

Orphans and vulnerable children at Utlwanang township near Christiana stand to benefit from a year-long funding initiative from the North West Department of Social Development.

This after the MEC for Social Development Lazarus Mokgosi recently handed over a symbolic cheque of R952 324,00 to the Utlwanang Council of Churches representatives, as part of government's Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme, for them to continue providing services to vulnerable children, older persons, and person

with disabilities.

Receiving the symbolic cheque, Utlwanang Council of Churches project manager Obakeng Thomas thanked government for providing their organisation with funding nine times in a row, citing that the financial boost will enable them to provide psychosocial support to vulnerable children.

"We are grateful to the state for funding us. We are so humbled by this gesture and promise to use it in a transparent and efficient and effective manner for the benefit of the needy among our communities." Thomas said.

He added that they will continue to provide support to HIV/AIDS infected and affected families and individuals

in Kanana, Kgwapapa, Ikageleng, Sonderwater, Greenfield, Geluksoord Extensions, Monoto and Ngape.

Thomas said that the Utlwanang Council of Churches was established by leaders of various churches amidst the high rise of HIV infections in the area which contributed to an increase in the number of orphans and vulnerable children.

Unemployment, Thomas said, is also rife in the area forcing most residents to depend squarely on social grants and odd jobs from the neighbouring farms.

MEC Mokgosi cautioned the council of churches to use government funding for its intended purpose. "NPOs are strategically

located within our communities to provide much needed services to the most vulnerable and they serve as an extended arm of government. As such we trust them with government money and we urge them to submit financial reports to the department", MEC Mokgosi said.

Since the launch of the Thuntsha Lerole ASDP in July this year, MEC Mokgosi and the Department of Social Development have handed over cheques to more than ten NPOs including women owned SMMEs across the province.

He has also provided social relief of distress in the form of food parcels to poverty-stricken families across the four districts of the province.

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PULO SEMMUSO YA TSELA YA SEKONTERE KWA LOBATLA

Ka Mmakgori Tong

Tonakgolo ya nama-o-sa-tshwere ya North West, Rre Nono Maloyi a patilwe ke Mokhuduthamaga wa Ditiro tsa Setshaba le Ditsela, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi, ba ne ba re go sa le gale, ba bula semmuso tsela ya D417 kwa motseng wa Lobatleng gaufi le toropo ya Zeerust.

Bogosi gammogo le Mmatoropo wa Masepala wa Selegae wa Ramotshere Moiloa, Dinah Modukanele, tlhogo tsa mafapha le batsamaisi bagolo, e ne e le karolo ya pulo semmuso ya tsela e, eo e golaganyang metse ya Motswedi, Gopane le Lobatla.

Tsela e, ya dikilometara di le 33, e tlhabolotswe go tswa go ya mmu go nna ya sekondere.

Ke nngwe ya ditsela tse rakonteraka a e feditseng ka nako ebile a e agile ka manontlhotlho.

“Re neela tsela e ntsha e, go masepala wa Ramotshere Moiloa go e tlhokomela. Re lebogela gore ga go a nna le dikgoreletsego ka nako ya kago ya tsela e. A re tlhokomeleng tsela e, gonne ke ya rona re le baagi ba metse e tsela e kgabaganyang mo go yone”, ga bua yalo Tonakgolo Maloyi.

Tonakgolo Maloyi o ne a bua le baagi bao ba neng ba tlile ka thologelo go amogela tsela e ntsha ka motsing wa letsholo le le potlakileng la thebolo ya ditirelo la Thuntsha lerole.

Fa a amogela tsela ya sekondere go tswa mo keteledi peleng ya puso, Kgosi Pontsho Gopane o lebogile puso ka go kgona go arabela kopo eo e neng e le tlhoba boroko mo baaging ba metse eo e umakilweng.

“Re leboga puso ya rona go arabela kopo e e ntseng ele tlhoba boroko mo baaging ba metse ya rona. Ga jaana tsela e dirile bobebe gore re golagane le masika le ditsala



go sena matsapa a go diega mo tseleng.”

Mmatoropo wa Masepala, Dinah Modukanele o ne a bua le baagi gore mo di projekeng tshotlhe tse puso e di tlisang mo go tlhabololeng matshelo a baagi ka kakaretso, ba ele tlhoko batho ba batlang go kgoreletsa di

projekte.

“Mme re itumelela fa go sa nna jalo ka projekte ya mono Lobatla, ka tsibogo le tshwaragano ya bogosi ga mmogo le Makhanselara”

“Tsela ke mafaratlhatlha a a re gokaganyang, ka jalo re le baagi a e seke ya re ga re ngongoregela

ditirelo ebe re senya tirelo engwe, mme re di tlhokomele jaaka ele tsa rona”, ga bua Modukanele.

Mokhuduthamaga Molapisi yo ga jaana a ikarabelang mo mafaratlhatlheng a motheo, o boletse fa lefapha la gagwe le itumeletse projekte ya tsela ka fa e tsamaileng sentle teng le go tswela baagi mosola ka go tlhola ditiro di le 71 go baagi ba ba sa direng mo motseng.

“Go tswa mo projekeng e ya boleng jwa R104,3m, go ungwetswe bo rankonteraka-potlana le batlamedi ba le 18. Re na le tsholofelo ya gore tsela e, e tla godisa ekonomi ya metse e amegang go akaretsa masepala wa selegae”

Fa e sale Thuntsha lerole e thankgolotswe mo porofenseng, Mokhuduthamaga Molapisi ga mmogo le batsaya -karolo ba ba farologaneng go akaretsa didika le kantoro ya ga tonakgolo ba ntse ba tlhabolola ditsela di le dintsi go ralala bo-masepala.



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GOVERNMENT HANDS OVER HOUSES TO FAMILIES IN MORETELE



By Staff Reporter

North West MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Nono Maloyi, recently handed over houses to three families at Dertig village in the Moretele Local Municipality as part of government's Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme.

The houses were part of the blocked projects that the Provincial Department of Human Settlements had committed to eradicate early this year when it visited the area.

MEC Maloyi reiterated government's ongoing commitment to ensure that communities are provided with habitable human settlements.

"There were 300 blocked housing units in Moretele the last time I visited this area, Today, I am proud to announce that out of those 300, we are only left with 20 units which are now at roof level and will be



completed in a few weeks' time", MEC Maloyi said.

"Our observation as a department amongst all the challenges that

hindered the completion of the houses were the fact that some contractors lacked capacity to complete building the houses", he added.

"However, alternative initiatives to speed up completion were applied and further to that a decision was taken to only appoint contractors who have the capacity to carry out such projects as this will get rid of all the housing backlog our province has been experiencing for a long time".

One of the beneficiaries, Mitamini Maluleka, received a house on behalf of her son Stevens Maluleka who had gone job hunting.

She could not hold back her tears as she spoke of her son's wish to own a proper house and how the gesture will help him regain his confidence.

Another beneficiary who received the house on behalf of her uncle is 21-year-old Kamogelo Sithole, who said that they shared a one roomed shack as a family.

According to Sithole, the new house will ensure that they no longer share a small space.

"We used to struggle a lot, especially during the rainy season, we will now sleep peacefully at night without having worries as we have a proper house", Sithole said.

MEC Maloyi wished all the beneficiaries happy beginnings in their newly built houses and urged them to refrain from renting out the houses as it seems to have become a norm in other parts of the province where communities are turning their houses into business and residential sites.

"People are renting these to foreigners who in turn open spaza shops and shebeens, while some are without proper documentation to be in the country or to run businesses".

"It is through your continued efforts that as government, we will be able to achieve the creation of human settlements that are habitable and also home to millions of fellow South Africans who continue to live in abject poverty", MEC Maloyi said.

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APRIL FAMILY RECEIVE AN ABT HOUSE

By Simon Mmope

The April Family in Madibogopan in the Ratlou Local Municipality recently celebrated with tears as they received keys to their house which was built by a philanthropist.

The house, which is one of the few to be built through Alternative building technology in the province has brought relieve to the family as they have been living in a one roomed mud house, extended with another one roomed shack.

The family of 10 has been living in Madibogopan for the past few decades and rely on social grants as no one in the family is employed, while another two members of the family do not have identity documents.

The old house which has been used as kitchen, bedroom, a living room and bathroom all at the same time, has seen the family struggling to ensure privacy, as well as living in hazardous conditions.

The mud house was in a brink of collapse and the adjoining shack was also not in a good condition, with a risk of being destroyed by heavy winds.

Receiving the keys to her newly built house, 51-year-old Sophy April was in tears and unable to express herself, for the beautiful gift she has received.

She gave thanks to government and all other people who contributed towards the building of her house.

She said that it's a great relief to her family to receive such a beautiful house with furniture.

She however appealed to government to assist the two members of her family who do not have identity documents to be assisted, as well as employment for others and a fence to her yard.

"I have never received such a gift in my life. These are blessings to me and my family. It gives me great pleasure to know that we will be living in a proper house with furniture. I want to thank government for the



loving gesture and for being considerate. We have been asking for assistance from our local municipality, the councillors, local traditional leadership and others. I almost lost hope. But today God showed his mercy on us. I would like to thank everybody including government for their kindness and love", she said.

Human Settlements MEC Nono Maloyi expressed his satisfaction on all companies that have pledged to build houses for most needy families as the province is experiencing a serious housing backlog.

The Department of Human

Settlements (DHS) has adopted the alternative building technology programme, mainly to assist in expediting housing delivery and reduce the current housing backlog.

The technology has been hailed as more durable than the normal building technology and quicker to build.

To address the housing backlog, the DHS previously signed a memorandum of understanding with six Alternative Building Technology companies on investment and delivery of 95 000 housing units of various typologies over the next five years.

The MOU was signed at the DHS's two-day summit held in Sun City recently.

"I am pleased to see business working with government to ensure that we deliver services to our communities. I am also pleased to see that this family has brought local traditional council and local government to work as a unit. The situation in this family and many other families across the province need such immediate interventions"

"We need more philanthropists to assist government to close such gaps. I am personally grateful, that the Sun City summit and the resolutions adopted there, are now coming to fruition. We thank businesses like Mr Otukile Kgabi and many others who heard our call and delivered as promised", MEC Maloyi said.

Kgosi Motseothata Phoi promised to donate a fence, others donated JoJo tanks while Sun City resort donated linen and other household items.

The DHS assured members of the public that it will continue to work closely with other spheres of government and ensure that services are delivered to the people of the North West Province.

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MEC MOTSUMI LAUNCHES BOOK CLUB IN LOTLHAKANE



By Refiloe Motswenyane

The North West Department of Education, in partnership with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) recently launched a book club at the ZM Seatlholo Secondary School at Lotlhakane village outside Mahikeng to encourage the culture of reading in the province.

A total number of 200 people were invited to the launch, that not only

targeted learners but parents and the community to inculcate the spirit of reading in villages and rural areas as well.

A local writer, Malebo Old-John Tsindi who authored a book called Trapped was recognised by the organisers and her book was sampled as a good example of locally produced books that can be used to promote a culture of reading in the North West.

Tsindi describes herself as an author, life coach and motivational speaker who shares her energetic

personality and message on various platforms including radio stations, TV shows and social media networks.

She is an enthusiastic and vibrant young woman who has a desire to transform the world and shares her story about the challenges that motivated her to be who she is today.

She was motivated by Kgosi Thabo Seatlholo of the Barolong boo Mapulana in Lotlhakane village, who was in attendance, to write books and that her book illustrates how trauma and generational wounds have created an illusion that has kept

many from living the life they desire and why healing is important.

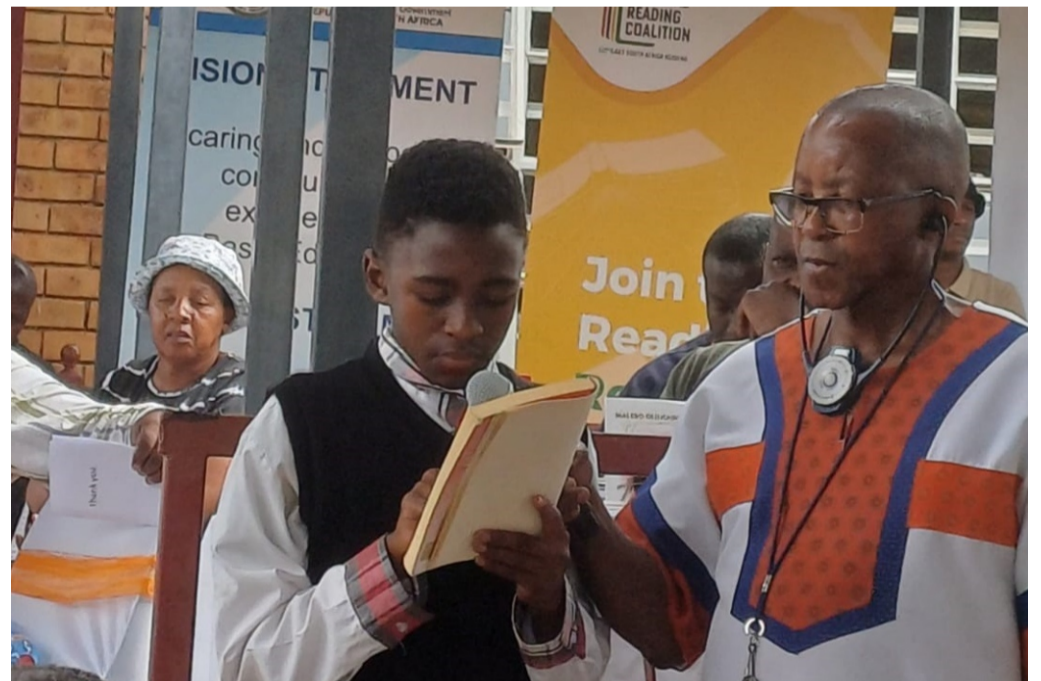
She said she uses her writing skills to inspire black women to explore themselves inside and outside and embrace who they are.

Kgosi Seatlholo is also the current National Chairperson of the House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership.

Among those who attended the launch were the Executive Mayor of the Mahikeng Local Municipality, Cllr Tshepiso Mphehlo, senior government officials, learners and teachers of the Z M Seatlholo Secondary School as well as representatives from the Independent Electoral Commission, the University of the North West, Ikamva Youth, Macmillan and Shutter and Shooter.

The Independent Electoral Commission extended their services to registering and checking people who came to the launch and educating the learners about the upcoming election programme of 2024.

Under the theme, "Let's activate book clubs in our communities", 5000 books were given to five schools in the community by NECT to encourage them to be a reading community.



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GANYESA SCHOOLS RECEIVE SPORTS EQUIPMENT FROM ACSR

By Vusi Kama

School sports at two primary schools at Tlaakgameng village in the Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality got a shot in the arm when the North West Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation (ACSR) recently donated sports equipment as part of government's Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme.

Seitsang and Kegakilwe Primary Schools both received equipment for football, netball, basketball and table tennis, at an event held at the Seitsang Primary School premises.

The MEC for Education, Viola Motsumi, handed over the equipment to the schools, as well as donations from various other Provincial Government departments.

After the donations, attention shifted to the nearby sports and recreation grounds, where various departments showcased their offerings and answered questions from various community members.

The ACSR stall came complete with a mobile library, which proved to be a major attraction for learners from various schools in the area, as well as the Mmabana Arts, Culture, and Sport Foundation (MACSF) exhibition stall on hand to provide information to the locals on projects and programme on offer.

"This is a great learning experience for me. It's an eye-opener that will impact positively on my studies", Oratile Ntau, a 17 year old learner at the Thuto Thebe High School.

Local crafter Dimakatso Kosie (50) also lauded the initiative.

"The Thuntsha Lerole initiative is a good one. It will instil a sense of service delivery in our communities. It's also a good opportunity for community members to ask questions about the various government offerings", Kosie said.



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NORTH WEST SPORTS AWARDS A ROARING SUCCESS



By Vusi Kama and Lerato Majobe

The North West Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation (ACSR) honoured sportsmen and sportswomen at the North West Sports Awards held at the Mmabatho Convention Centre.

The awards are organised jointly by ACSR and the North West Sports Confederation.

It was a night when the stars came out to shine, with the brightest and the best earning deserved accolades at the glittering event which was hosted by Skeem Saam soapie star, Tshepo Senatle, and award-winning sportscasters, You FM's Karabo Mokgalagadi and Motsweding FM's Oatile Jacobs.

Comrades Marathon kings of the road Tete Dijana, who scooped the Premier's Award and Edward Mothibi, who won the MEC's Excellence Award were the big winners on the night, while Atisang Batsi was the people's choice, having been voted by the public as the



Sports Star of the Year.

The Sports Administrator of the Year Award went to Onalenna Tsae, Sportsman of the Year was won by Tshepo Tshitse, Sportsman of the Year with Disability was Leon Els, Sportswoman of the Year was Elmere van der Berg, Sportswoman

of the Year with Disability was won by Linda Bosele while the Sports Team of the Year went to Orbit College Football Club.

Meanwhile, Kamogelo Moncho was named as the Young athlete of the Year, Thabo Bontsi was chosen as Coach of the year, Volunteer of the

Year went to Azwindini Steven Makananise while the Indigenous games Team of the Year was taken by the North West Kgati team.

The other winners of the night were North West Cricket for the Provincial Federation of the Year awards, Saving Lives Foundation for the Community-based Sports and Recreation Programme of the Year, School Sport Team of the Year went to the MM Sebitloane Special School and the Khumo Sejo Secondary School was voted the Rural Team of the Year.

Lastly the Journalist of the Year in Print Media Awards was taken by Mohanoe Khiba, with the Journalist of the Year in Electronic Media award going to Mosela Mokgosi.

Mokgosi expressed her appreciation to ACSR for the award and thanked the station's management for entrusting her to present the show that was previously presented by male legends.

Elmere van Der Berg, who took home the Sportswoman of the Year award, said that she was grateful to ACSR for recognizing and appreciating her talent and further said that this award encouraged her to work harder than before to reach greater heights.

"Thanks to ACSR for the privilege of receiving this award, it motivated me to work harder and achieve more", Van Der Berg said.

MEC for Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation Kenetswe Mosenogi congratulated those who won and assured those that did not make it that she believes in them.

"Congratulations to those that won the awards, to those that did not make it, even though you did not get the awards, but the fact that you are nominated is a clear demonstration that we have seen you and we got your back, next time you will be here, honoured as others are being honoured", MEC Mosenogi concluded.

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ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR MAHIKA MAHIKENG

By Vusi Kama

The Mahika Mahikeng Music and Cultural Festival gospel spread wide and far recently when the event was launched to a national and global audience at the Maboneng Precinct in downtown Johannesburg.

Members of the media, including print, electronic and social media, attended the star-studded launch, which was carried live on Mahikeng FM.

Spokesperson for the Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation, Shuping Sebolewe, said that the reason to host the launch in Gauteng is to promote the festival to people beyond the North West.

"We want Mahika Mahikeng to be a key driver of the economy, to model what we say that the arts play an important role in the economy",



Sebolewe said.

He said ACSR wanted the benefits from Mahika Mahikeng to be broad

not only for the artists, but also for sectors such as catering,

accommodation and fuel services.

Among those present at the launch was the day's programme directors, musician Staan Seate, as well as known Kaya FM radio host Bee Sting and Setswana traditional singer MmaAusi.

Seate paid tribute to his hometown of Mahikeng and praised musicians produced by the province.

Thebe, who grew up in Mahikeng, was also there, and so was Judith Sephuma.

They will be sharing the stage on the main festival on December 10.

Spearheaded by popular American songstress Karyn White, the main festival is packed with well-known entertainers such as Vusi Nova, Tshedi Mholo, Jaziel Brothers and Freddy Gwala.

An Amapiano night is scheduled for December 8.

It will feature genre heavyweights such as Kabza De Small, DJ Maphorisa, Tira, Big Zulu and Kwesita..

HOMA WINS AND THE NEDBANK CHALLENGE GIVES BACK

By Kleintjie Kraai

When Max Homa won the 2023 Nedbank Golf Challenge and took home the R20 million prize money with him back to America, the question must have been in many minds as to what the communities that surround the Sun City resort and have been part of the Challenge throughout the years, stood to gain.

Well, apart from the economic spinoffs in the form of fully booked guest houses around the resort and Rustenburg, The Nedbank Challenge has, through the years, made it a point that the tournament promotes a positive change in the surrounding communities with several initiatives.

These include among others, a multi-purpose sports court at the Mphuphute Primary School in the Ledig village just outside Sun City which was installed by the Sports Trust and funded by the National Department of Sports and Recreation in partnership with Nedbank, Sun International and the Bakubung Platinum mine.

The Nedbank Challenge has also showcased the pride of the local communities through its partnerships with local artists and entrepreneurs as part of its ongoing drive to invest back in the North West Province.

Over the years, the Nedbank Challenge has transformed its procurement criteria to include a 40% local eligible spend on procurement for the tournament.

The event has now taken this a step further and identified local

partners and suppliers with companies wholly registered in the North West Province and not branch offices of companies based elsewhere.

These companies must also be 51% black-owned and preference is given to black female-owned companies.

"The success of the strategy has already revealed greater engagement with and the development and growth of companies around Sun City. Products and services that have been awarded locally include plumbing, electrical and paving service, scaffolding, fuel, printing and stationery, water cooler supply, chauffeur services, draping and security."

Back to the golf, Homa, a debutant at a tournament known as Africa's

Major, closed with a 66 at the Gary Player Country club that included a memorable eagle at the ninth to win by four shots on 19 under par.

It was the first victory by an American since Jim Furyk in 2006, and it capped what Homa described as a life changing visit to Africa.

"Back home I'm fortunate to get a lot of great support. But I just can't really get over that I can come across the world to people I've never met and they can be this kind and welcoming. I had these kids following me all day and they kept boosting me whenever it got tight, and they kept cheering my name"

"I also had the mantra of rather be the lion than the impala in my head. And walking up 18 and that ovation was extra special. I just have to give so much credit to this country and the quality of the people", Homa said.

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