



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

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WE CANNOT REMAIN SILENT ANY LONGER

By Obusitšwe T. Kebonèilwe

Despite the plummeting temperatures, it was a typical Saturday night for Botlennyana Matsebula* and her children. Huddled together in her new two-ply mink blanket, she savoured her new freedom as she prepared to go to a warm bed.

Little did she know that the following morning, she would be rescued from near death in a shallow grave with broken ribs, limbs, jaws, a bloodied nose, and torn pyjamas. Her thoughts for a warm bed were disrupted by a door that flung open, the door handles hitting the floor and spinning like a cut-off tail of a lizard trying to confuse its pursuer. Before she could gather what was going on, the calamine on her cheeks was wiped off by a series of open palm slaps. "Hey wena, jou ..." profanities followed concomitant with fists from her former live-in lover. Her crime was ending and walking away from an abusive relationship. The story of Matsebula is not new. It is no longer even shocking. It is the story of our lives; an obdurate stain that the government has vowed to fight with all its might.

"Gender-based violence (GBV) has no place in our society", MEC for Social Development, Lazarus Mokgosi asserted at the Provincial launch of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children campaign in Reivilo, Greater Taung, recently. "The government must fight GBV in the same manner they used on Covid



19 pandemic. GBV is not abetting despite the effort, time, and resources we have put to arrest its rise", MEC Mokgosi said.

This year marks the 25th anniversary since South Africa initiated the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children campaign.

"We should be telling a different story, but unfortunately, we are not. We however remain resolute; no matter what, we will defeat the scourge of GBV. Women and children shall roam the streets freely to enjoy the full freedom that was won through our blood and tears". MEC Mokgosi added. MEC Mokgosi has appealed for boys to be involved in societal activities.

"Neglecting young boys in the activities that make them feel appreciated results in this chain of abuse remaining intact. We must nurture their young minds to know that they must protect their siblings, and family and not be feared monsters at home. It is at home where gender-based violence is allowed to thrive".

"Mostly we remain silent and relegate

the abuse as problems of the affected family. Not only do we maintain silence at home but also in the public space. We tolerate cultural and religious undertones that oppress women and children", MEC Mokgosi said. Despite the growing rate of gender-based violence, the North West Provincial Government is making strides at eating away at the harrowing statistics.

At the only state-run center that caters to abused women and children, Khuseleka based in Vryburg, many women have emerged stronger. One of them is Martha Melato, a 39-year-old mother of two from Sannieshof.

"I was almost a zombie when I got to the centre", recalled Melato who was a guest at the provincial launch.

"I was beaten daily by my husband for four years, non-stop", she said, pointing to the scars on her face.

"I was about to lose my mind, but through the intense counseling I got at the centre, my confidence has come back. The centre has given me skills in sewing and computer programmes, which will come in handy when I get back home", Melato

added.

Tshenolo Kemosedile, 32 from Huhudi in Vryburg says it took counselling at Khuseleka for the penny to drop that what she saw as a loving relationship, was but a subtle abuse under the guise of romance.

"My boyfriend of seven years abused me emotionally. He disapproved of my way of dressing and cooking. He made assumptions that I was a loose girl because originally, I am from a township, and he was from a village.

"What I saw as attention, was a mere obsession with the sole aim of controlling my movements. My self-esteem took an ebb. I lost so much weight from his abuse that even my waist could not hold the underwear, something that amused him to no end", she said.

Today, Matsebula who is a shade of her former self, receives treatment for her injuries.

She used to have spring in her step, but at the hands of an abusive and possessive lover, she now dawdles with the gait of a clumsy child at a hopscotch. She could not even hold her crutch properly and her speech was blurred.

MEC Mokgosi has vowed to make Matsebula's case a top priority.

"The least we could do is for this young lady and her family to get justice. We hope the courts will mete out a sentence that will deter others from raising a hand against a woman. Those who hurt the most vulnerable in society must have no place to hide", MEC Mokgosi said. Men, change is in your hands. Stand up against any form of abuse. Break the silence.

* Name changed to protect the personal identity of the victim.

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NORTH WEST COMMEMORATES WORLD AIDS DAY

By Lerato Majobe

Addressing this year's World Aids Day Provincial Commemoration recently in Vryburg under the theme "Let communities lead", Leader of Government Business, MEC for Corporate Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi said that communities must lead in the fight against this disease.

"This is a clarion call to all of us to invest our energies in strengthening our efforts to fight this pandemic through community led interventions, community centered approach in the management of HIV are vital as they give impetus to the importance of greater involvement of civil society", MEC Maloyi said.

Create an enabling environment for communities to thrive in ensuring that the rights of people with this pandemic are not infringed upon, MEC Maloyi further said that government has to empower them.

"We need to strengthen our communities to be at the forefront of strategic interventions against this Stigma, discrimination and Human rights violation of people affected and infected with HIV", he said. The Chairperson of South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in the North West, Khumalo Molefe said that it is on the hands of communities to ensure that the HIV infections statistics drop as government has already done its part in educating and putting necessary measures in place to combat this sexually transmitted disease. "Let communities lead, let us take responsibility as community, it has been a while since we have been educated about HIV and Aids, we should have been long changed, however we have hope that people



will start having protected sex and those who are still young to abstain from this activity and focus on their books"

"As we are also marking 16 Days of activism against women and children abuse, gender based

violence is a contributing factor to the transmission of this disease and government leaders and society must join hands to combat this", Executive Mayor of the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality, Cllr Motseokae Maje,

said.

"We must work together as government leaders and communities to fight gender based violence and HIV and Aids as they are linked in some cases, we must work tirelessly to end this social ill, as many women are sexually abused and as a result they sometimes contract the disease" Cllr Maje said. One of the community members who requested anonymity said that he is going to take full responsibility by using a condom or get tested with his partner before they can have unprotected sex.

He further pleaded with his fellow community members to know their HIV status.

"My advice to all the community members is that they must get tested for HIV and if they are positive, they must take their treatment on time and if they are negative to continue having protected sex", he said.



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TWO HOUSES DELIVERED TO VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN RATLOU



By Tebogo Serai

Setlhwatlhwe village near Setlagole in the Ratlou Local Municipality.

MEC Maloyi was with the Executive Mayor of the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, Cllr Khumalo Molefe, the Mayor of the Ratlou Local Municipality, Cllr Matlhomola Jafta, and Kgosi Lucky Gontse.

The handover of these houses is part of the government's ongoing efforts to unblock blocked projects in the North West.

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi recently handed over two houses to an elderly woman as well as to a child-headed household at

One of the beneficiaries is 87-year-old pensioner Mieta Mahobe who lives with her seven children and 27 grandchildren.

Mahobe's children are all unemployed and survive on their mother's pension, which is not enough to cater for the whole family.

During the handover, MEC Maloyi urged Mahobe's children to ensure that their mother's house was taken care of.

"This is a legacy for your children

and grandchildren, and no one is going to take it away from you. We give people the opportunity to own homes as well as generations to come", MEC Maloyi said.

"What we are doing today is to respond to the call our people made in the Freedom Charter years ago that all people shall have the right to live where they choose, and to bring up families in comfort and security", MEC Maloyi said.

The other beneficiary is 32-year-old Phineas Ngwenya who is unemployed and survives by doing odd jobs to make a living.

Ngwenya lives with his siblings who are also unemployed.

"I would like to thank the Department of Human Settlements for what they have done for us. I cannot wait to move into the house because we have waited for a long time for the house", Ngwenya said.

MEC Maloyi said it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that the elderly, child-headed families, and people with disabilities are prioritized and their dignity is restored as it is stipulated in the Bill of Rights that all human beings shall have houses.



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MEC MALOYI WAS SADDENED BY THE PASSING OF THE ABT HOUSE RECIPIENT IN MADIBOGOPAN

By: Keorapetse Mosipidi

The MEC for Corporative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs, Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi has learned with sadness about the passing of one of the beneficiaries of the Alternative Building Technology (ABT) houses at Madibogopan, Ratlou Local Municipality.

Ms Sophy April sadly passed on at the end of last month.

She was one of the beneficiaries who received keys to her newly built house early last month when MEC Maloyi visited the area, as part of the Accelerated Service



Delivery Programme (ASDP) Thuntsha Lerole.
The house forms part of the

commitments made during the Alternative Building Technology Summit held earlier this year wherein various companies pledged to assist the provincial government with eradicating the housing backlog by building houses for most needy families in the province.

According to MEC Maloyi, her death comes at a time when the family would be celebrating their first festive season in a proper house after spending years in very dire conditions.

"Festive season is a time where families should be spending time together and in a happy mood, sadly for the April family, it will serve as a reminder of when their loved one passed on".

"I would like to convey my deepest condolences to the April family and friends during this difficult period. To her children, this house serves as your mother's legacy, I urge you to take care of it in the same manner your mother would have looked after it", MEC Maloyi said.

The April family was identified as beneficiaries of the house as part of the government's efforts to improve their living conditions.

The family has been living in a one-roomed mud house extended with a one-roomed shack which was used as a kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, and living room all at the same time.

The family only relies on social grants as no one is employed.

PROVINCIAL TREASURY ASSISTS MORETELE MUNICIPALITY WITH REVENUE CHALLENGES

By Kelepile Mokaila

To support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their affairs, exercise their powers and perform their functions, the Provincial Treasury had a fruitful engagement with Moretele Local Municipality officials to unpack and address identified challenges relating to revenue management.

This was part of Phase 2 of the Provincial Government's recent Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (ASPD) in Moretele.

Head of the Provincial Treasury, Ndlela Kunene, said that they



managed to deal with revenue challenges and find ways to enhance the municipality's revenue collection.
"We know that the Moretele Local

Municipality is a grant-dependent municipality and we wanted to work with the municipality in terms of increasing their revenue", he said.

"We took an overall assessment of the state of finance of the municipality relating to budget, revenue, and implementation of Municipal Standard Chart of Account (MSCoA) and we have agreed on the programme of action with the municipality in terms of the areas of improvement", HOD Kunene added.

Provincial Treasury will further enhance the municipality's effort to intensify registration of indigents in their indigent register to allow them to pick up speed in terms of subsidies.

"We have also received reports that more than five hundred

beneficiaries were registered as indigent and we will be sustaining this programme going forward", HOD Kunene said.

Provincial Treasury further assisted small businesses with registration, updating and amending their companies' details on the Centralised Suppliers Database (CSD) and assisting those whose invoices have not been paid after 30 days as stipulated by the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

In addition, the Provincial Treasury is also intensifying support initiatives to all municipalities by training municipal officials on the revenue value chain through the revenue master class programme currently underway.

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THUNTSHA LEROLE ROLLED OUT AT MATHIBESTADT

By Stanley Ndzalama Ndlovu

The North West Provincial Government rolled out the Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme at Mathibestadt in the Moretele Local Municipality recently where Members of the Executive Council, the Kgosi, and the Bahwaduba Traditional Council, and government officials were hard at work to unlock service delivery challenges in the area.

On behalf of the Economic cluster, the MEC for Public Works and Roads, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi led the inspection of numerous spaza shops and found that most did not comply with the law.

"During these inspections, we noticed that most of the products had expired, prices of products were not displayed, the environment where business is conducted was not conducive for business and most do not have operational licenses; as a result, those goods were confiscated", MEC Molapisi said.

He further said that the community members do not bring anyone into their yards to do business and should do background checks first.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) identified beneficiaries that will benefit from eggs and other food parcels as well as giving farmers livestock equipment to improve their business.

"350 households were supported with food parcels, 200 trays of eggs were handed out on site to two institutions, namely the JKSO Old Age Home and the Thabang day care centre", MEC Molapisi said.

He further said DARD handed over a livestock facility, where the beneficiaries have a land portion totaling 161 hectares, which accommodates 41 farmers with a total of 285 cattle.



The Department of Public Works and Roads (DPWR) put much emphasis on the road infrastructure improvement around the Moretele

Local Municipality.

"In my capacity as the MEC for Public Works and Roads, together with the Head of Department, Mr.

Moses Kgantsi undertook an oversight visit to special maintenance of roads D625 and D626 in Maubane Village", MEC Molapisi said.

He concluded by officially opening a 2km internal road in Mathibestadt and added that 45 unemployed young people benefited from the project, which took six months to complete.

MEC for Education, Viola Motsumi, on behalf of the Governance cluster, reported on challenges that municipalities are facing, which harm revenue collection.

"Illegal occupants or unregistered stands contribute to poor revenue collection and dilapidated infrastructure hinders the supply of services to our communities and low collection of money owed", MEC Motsumi said.

She further said that the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management (DCSTM) conducted a roadblock in the area where 273 cars were assessed for roadworthiness, 32 ticket fines were issued, and one taxi was confiscated for overloading.

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MEC MALOYI URGES MANAGEMENT TO WORK ROUND THE CLOCK

By Tebogo Serai

The MEC for North West Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi has recently called on management of the Department of Human Settlements to ensure that contractors improve on service delivery regarding unblocking of blocked projects and issuing of title deeds across the province.

Maloyi pointed out that the Department of Human Settlements has taken a decision previously to unblock blocked projects in the province, saying although there is



visible progress, he is not pleased as it seems to be carried out at a snail's pace.

He emphasized that managers should always follow up on all

projects as well as intervene on challenges encountered by contractors to avoid delays.

He further urged the department to appoint competent contractors to

ensure that projects are completed and handed over on time.

"We have introduced contractors and had sessions with them to say we want them on site immediately so that we hand over these houses to their beneficiaries. You are therefore expected to work round the clock throughout the festive season to ensure that we extend the scope of contractors who have the capacity", MEC Maloyi said.

MEC Maloyi further said that managers must ensure that title deeds are handed over so that we don't focus on blocked projects only.

He said it is the responsibility of the department to ensure that communities have a roof over their heads and own those properties they have been staying in.

MEC TLHAPI STRONGLY CONDEMNNS CRIMINAL ATTACKS ON TOURISTS VISITING SUN CITY

By Jerry Matebesi

The Department of Economic Development, Environment Conservation, and Tourism (DEDECT) in the North West Province strongly condemns the recent attacks on tourists traveling on the notorious R556 road from Gauteng to Sun City beginning of December.

This incident is unfortunately not isolated, as the R556 road has seen several criminal incidents targeting tourists in the past.

This unsettling event occurred just as the department launched its Festive Season Tourism Campaign, emphasizing safety throughout the province.

MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and

Tourism, Virginia Tlhapi has urgently called for a meeting with the MEC for Community Safety and Transport, as well as the Provincial Commissioner of Police to discuss and implement enhanced safety measures for all tourists visiting the province.

MEC Tlhapi aims to highlight the importance of swift and successful arrests and prosecutions for those responsible for this heinous crime.

The DEDECT is engaging tourist guides in the province to reinforce knowledge of safety measures when guiding and welcoming tourists.

"The importance of tourism as an economic sector in the North West Province cannot be over-emphasized. Tourism contributes significantly to job creation and is a critical factor in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)", MEC Tlhapi said.

As part of responding to the recent events, the DEDECT is conducting a

comprehensive Tourism Safety Festive Campaign across the province.

A team of tourism officials and relevant stakeholders has so far covered the Naledi Local Municipality and the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, with more focus on the Ramatlabama, Skilpadhek, and Kopfontein border posts as points of entry into the country.

Safety packs are being distributed, conveying a strong message of vigilance and safety for motorists, tourists, passengers, and visitors during the festive season.

This proactive approach underscores the DEDECT's unwavering commitment to prioritizing the safety of both residents and tourists.

The initiative not only aims to enhance safety protocols but also seeks to regain tourist attractions,

ensuring a positive experience and re-positioning the province as a preferred destination.

Key to the safety precautions communicated during the campaign are guidelines for being cautious at sightseeing and entertainment venues, in hotels, on the streets, on the road, in vehicles, and at ATMs.

The campaign additionally provides insights on avoiding mugging incidents and offers guidance on the appropriate channels for reporting criminal activities.

The DEDECT stands firm in its commitment to safeguarding the well-being of all visitors and residents and will continue with this campaign throughout the festive season, ensuring that tourists are well-informed and enjoy a secure and memorable experience during their stay in the North West province.

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THE EAGLES HAVE LANDED' - MEC LEHARI AS HE LAUNCHES NEW TRAFFIC UNIT

Oshebeng Koonyaditse and Rebaone Moeng

The North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management recently launched a new 24-hour traffic unit that will give special attention and focus to the main arterial routes in the North West over the festive period and beyond.

Speaking at the launch, MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Sello Lehari, said that due to the high number of fatalities on the main roads in the North West Province, the Department deemed it necessary to extend the hours of traffic operation from the 17 hours to 24 hours.

It is expected that the unit will bring a significant reduction in fatal crashes and an improved response of Provincial Traffic on accident scenes.

"It is with humility and a great sense of pride that, today, I am launching a unit that will fight all forms of aberrations on the roads - The Eagles. They will ensure that compliance with the laws is not compromised", MEC Lehari said.

The Eagles will be present on major trunk roads, especially those with high traffic volumes.

"A friendly warning to those who are a law unto themselves on our roads, The Eagles have landed. They are going to be visible, and efficiently patrol all arterial roads."

"Moving violations, criminals impersonating law enforcement, and spikes laid on the roads for unsuspecting motorists will be in our sight. The Eagles have landed", MEC Lehari said.

He added that the unit is divided into four teams to focus on N4, N12, N14 and N18 roads.

MEC Lehari said that two of the four-unit commanders are women.

North West Provincial Police



Commissioner Lieutenant General Sello Kwena welcomed the special unit and said it is a welcome addition to law enforcement in the province.

Delivering a message of support during the launch, the Provincial Chairperson of the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), Ebusang Tladi expressed gratitude for the establishment of The Eagles.

"We are grateful that this unit will make an impact on dealing with the illegal operators which are crippling

the taxi industry", he said.

From the South African National Small Bus Operators Council (SANSBOC), in the North West, Final Kgodumo highlighted the negative impact of unroadworthy buses on the roads leading to accidents.

"We are hopeful that this unit will deal decisively with unroadworthy scholar transport buses and ensure that our learners are safely transported to schools daily", Kgodumo said.

To ensure The Eagles are efficient, the department bought them 30 high-power vehicles, which have been equipped with all the necessary, latest, and advanced technological devices.

They will also pay particular attention to the Sun City/N4 junction which recently has been a focus following attacks on tourists.

A little further up, eastbound on N4, spiking of unsuspecting travelers' vehicles has also become rife and that stretch of road will be closely monitored.

"This is not just a correct step to ensure safety on the roads. It is not just a constitutional requirement for positively influencing road user behavior through safety awareness and traffic law enforcement for safer roads."

"It is not just a departmental obligation as per our mission and vision. It is also a moral rectitude to appreciate the trust South Africans have put in us by tasking the Sixth Administration with their mandate", MEC Lehari concluded.

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KGOSI TSAJOA GETS OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED



By Lerato Modise

Maboloka village in the Madibeng Local Municipality came to a standstill recently when members of the community gathered to witness and celebrate the official inauguration of Kgosi Tsajoa of the

Sechaba sa Bataung Traditional Council.

Among the dignitaries present at the ceremony was the Chairperson of the North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders (NWHTKL) Kgosi Thari Maotwe as well as members of NWHTKL.

Delivering the message of support, Kgosi Maotwe encouraged Kgosi Tsajoa to be strong in his reign

as the community looked up to him for guidance and wisdom.

"You are now the head of the community, and you need to work together with the government to ensure that service delivery is brought to your people. You need to fight and gain the trust of your people; they look up to you to make informed and trustworthy decisions that will benefit them in the long run".

"You need to be part of the NWHTKL in all aspects, attend our meetings, and participate in all our activities to ensure you are well informed about the council, don't be a silent spectator", Kgosi Maotwe said.

Kgosi Tsajoa thanked everyone who came from various parts of the province to celebrate with him and the community of Maboloka.

He added that he is confident that he will serve his people with pride and dignity.

"I will ensure that I spend my time working towards improving the lives of the community and making sure that I work hard and not let my community down. I am willing to do whatever it takes to safeguard the livelihood of my people and ensure that our village is put on the map for all the right reasons. I can only achieve this if we all work together", Kgosi Tsajoa said.

One of the villagers, Kedisaletse Mogwera said she is excited that Kgosi Tsajoa is finally recognized as their traditional leader and said she hopes he will get the necessary support from the royal family.

"We are happy to be celebrating this day, we hope that Kgosi Tsajoa will restore the confidence of the people of Maboloka", she said.



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GOVERNMENT LISTENS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



By Lerato Majobe

To address socio-economic challenges facing persons with disabilities, the sector engaged with the government on issues affecting them at the Provincial Disability Rights Dialogue on Economic Justice for Persons with Disabilities held recently in Zeerust.

Representing people with disabilities, Itumeleng Kalamore said that the 0,5% economic inclusion of people with disabilities is an issue of concern as South Africa marked 29 years of democracy this year and that the 2030 National Development Plan (NDP) goal to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality will not see the light of the day as it lacks implementation.

"I am worried that we are only left with six years to 2030 and I do not see the objectives of the National development plan being implemented", Kalamore said.

Responding to the issues raised, on behalf of the North West Premier Bushy Maape, MEC for Education Viola Motsumi admitted that she was not entirely delighted as the government is still lagging in addressing the socio-economic challenges that people with disabilities are confronting, however,

there is progress registered and there are measures in place to further include them towards the economic growth of the province.

"Let us agree that at least the government is doing something even though we have a long way to go, remember that we were at 0%, but now we are at 0,5%, that gives us hope that we are going somewhere, we will reach a percentage that all of us are going to be proud of", MEC Motsumi remarked.

To ensure that these measures

come to fruition, MEC Motsumi said that with the pledges worth R134,4 billion that the government secured from various investors recently meant to establish and complete economic projects, everyone will benefit and emphasize that people

with disabilities will receive equal opportunities.

"We are confident that everybody will benefit from these projects, as a government we assure you that that people with disabilities are also going to benefit from this", she concluded.



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ENSURING SAFE CELEBRATIONS: NORTH WEST LIQUOR BOARD TAKES A STAND AGAINST UNDERAGE DRINKING DURING END-OF-YEAR FESTIVITIES

By Seloane Seleka

The North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism (DEDECT) has noted, with concern, the emergence of the "pens down parties" phenomenon being hosted by learners, especially matriculants as seen on various social media platforms recently.

Taking a proactive stance, the DEDECT has issued a firm warning to all liquor establishments in the province.

Licensed liquor traders are reminded of the explicit prohibition outlined in Section 45 of the Liquor Act no 27 of 1989, which strictly forbids the presence of juveniles on their premises.

Mandated by the Liquor Act, the DEDECT is actively overseeing the liquor industry in the province and emphasizes the importance of responsible liquor regulation, particularly during celebratory events.

In South Africa, the sale of liquor is tightly regulated through licensing, expressly prohibiting the sale of alcohol to underage individuals, or allowing them access to licensed premises.

Despite legal provisions surrounding end-of-year celebrations, the DEDECT has observed some liquor outlets knowingly permitting underage drinking, a clear violation of the law.

To address this, the DEDECT asserts that ignorance of the law will not serve as an excuse, and any establishment found hosting such activities will face severe sanctions recommended by the office to the board.

The DEDECT underscores that profiting should not supersede the well-being, safety, and future of the youth.

Liquor traders are urged to comply



with regulations and are encouraged to report any noncompliance from licensed facilities to the department.

Recognizing the negative consequences associated with underage drinking, including fights, sexual assault, and physical violence, the department emphasizes the importance of avoiding such incidents.

It holds accountable those who

advertise such events on social media if they occur in their licensed establishments. As a joint effort, the department calls on the community, other sector departments, and liquor traders to collaborate in ensuring the safety of young people.

While action will be taken against those who sell liquor to children, parents are urged to refrain from sending underage individuals to

purchase alcoholic substances.

These collective actions represent the shared responsibility to create a safe, secure, and conducive environment for the youth.

By working together, the DEDECT and relevant stakeholders aim to prevent the potential harm associated with underage drinking and make a positive impact on the community.

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NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO DELIVER SERVICES BEKE LE BEKE

By Lerato Majobe

The North West Provincial Government, through the Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (ASDP), led by Leader of Government Business and MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) Nono Maloyi, continue to deliver primary services to the various communities in the province. The latest local municipalities to receive the benefits of the programme are Naledi in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District as well as Ratlou and Ditsobotla in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District. Residents of the Naledi Local Municipality have been without water for a long time, however they can now put smiles on their faces again as government handed over a water tanker for them to access clean drinking water.

MEC Maloyi said that government saw it necessary to bring this truck as a temporary intervention while they are still busy coming up with a permanent solution to this problem. "We saw it necessary to bring this truck as an alternative plan to ensure that people in this area have water, we have not outsourced this service, the water will be provided directly from the municipality", MEC Maloyi said.

The MEC for Education Viola Motsumi assured parents in the area that Huhudi Primary School will be operational by January next year, enabling learners to attend a school that is within close proximity to their homes.

"As per parents' request we went to inspect progress made on the completion of Huhudi Primary School and we are pleased to inform you that the school is 75% done; we told the contractor to complete the construction of this school so that we



can officially hand over the school next month", MEC Motsumi said. With its Operation Dignity Programme, the Department of Social Development handed over food parcels to four most needy families in Vryburg. In the Ratlou Local Municipality, the Department of Human Settlements handed over two houses to two beneficiaries that the department's

officials and the municipality had identified as having been homeless. As consumers' rights in the rural areas are more likely to be infringed upon, the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism conducted consumer rights education in Utlwanang Extensions 2 and 3.

As the prices of eggs continue to

soar, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development gave trays of eggs and vegetables to residents at Lokaleng section.

Meanwhile at the Ditsobotla Local Municipality, MEC Motsumi said that government has registered progress towards the completion of Coligny Special School.

With the current power challenges brought about by the loadshedding, MEC Maloyi said that there is R3,8 billion solar project in Lichtenburg that will enable people in the areas access to electricity.

He also said that there are measures in place to deal with the water challenges in Lichtenburg town, Boikhutso and Coligny townships, in addition to the R4 million project to upgrade the sewer system in Coligny.

MEC Maloyi further pleaded with communities to protect the infrastructure that government has put in place as it is difficult to redo projects that have been deemed as completed.

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PUSO YA NORTH WEST E TSWELELELA GO THUNTSHA LEROLE

Ka Lerato Majobe

Ka go tswelletsa lenaane la puso ya North West la go itlhaganedisa thebolelo ya ditirelo go baagi go ralala profense la Thuntsha Lerole, mafapha a bosehaba, gammogo le mafapha a puso ya North West le bo masepala ba le bararo ba ne ba neelana ka ditirelo mo dibekeng tse di sa tswang go feta.

Bo-masepala bao ba akaretsa masepala wa selegae wa Ramotshere Moiloa mo sedikeng sa Ngaka Modiri Molema, masepala wa selegae wa Kagisano Molopo, gammogo le wa selegae wa Lekwa Teemane mo sedikeng sa Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati.

Mokhuduthamaga wa Social Development, Kagisho Lazurus Mokgosi o kaile fa masepala wa Kagisano-Molopo o thusitse projeke eo ya baagi ba motse wa Phaposane bao ba ipopileng seoposengwe go tthagisa ditene tseo ba di rekisang gore ba tsenye letseno go reba bohuma le botlhoka tiro jo bo kwa godimo mo profenseng.

"Projeke e e dirang ditene, e na le borre, bomme le basha ba ba ntsi thata mo go yona, masepala o ba thusitse ka gore bogosi bo ba fe legora le ba direlang mo go lona", go kaile jalo Mokhuduthamaga Mokgosi.

Go matlafatsa kgwebo eno e e thuthugang, Mokhuduthamaga Mokgosi o tswelletse ka gore mafapha a Public Works and Roads, gammogo le la Human Settlements a tshwanetse go reka ditene mo koporasing e, mme fela o ikuetse gore ba dire ditene tse di maemo a a kwa godimo gore mafapha a, a tle a kgone go reka mo go yona fa ba batla go aga ditsela le matlo.

O kaile gape gore masepala o agile tsela ya Seitsang access road, e e golaganyang baagi le dikago tsa mafapha a puso.



Kgabagare Mokhuduthamaga Nono Maloyi o ribolotse tsela ya

D415 e e golaganyang Lobatla le Gopane mo masepaleng wa selegae

wa Ramotshere Moiloa. Annah Hoogstander wa kwa Christiana a re o itumetse tota go bona gore puso e atumetse mo go bona gore a kgone go direla morwadie kopo ya lekwalo itshupo jaaka bane ba tshwanetse go tsamaya sekgala se se leele go bona ditirelo tsa lefapha la Home Affairs.

"Di Kantoro tsa merero ya selegae di fela kwa Jan Kempdorp, re ne re tshwanetse gore re palame sepalangwa sa botlhe le ngwana gore re tle re bone tirelo ya go dira kopo ya lekwalo itshupo la gagwe, ke itumetse gore gompiano lefapha leno le tlike kwano, ka jalo re kgonne go bona thuso ka bogaufi", go kaile jalo Hoogstander yo o neng a phophoma ka boitumelo.

Tirelo Modisaokae are ene o na le lekwalo lwa thuto e kgolwane lwa Human Resources, fela go bona tiro morago ga dingwaga di le tlhano a konoseditse dithuto tsa gagwe go ntse go retela, gompiano o itumeletse gore o kgonne go ikwadisa le lefapha la ditiro gore fa tshono ya tiro eka tlhaga a kgone go thapiwa gore a fetole seemo sa gagwe sa bohuma.



P R E M I E R

MAAPE'S

Christmas & New Year Message

The end of the year is a special time for everyone as it marks the end of the journeys we have traversed throughout the year.

It is a time to reflect on the commitments we made and the personal goals we have set for ourselves.

The accomplishments and challenges we have endured during this year should serve as an inspiration to focus on new possibilities and future endeavors.

Over the last 12 months we have worked together as government, opposition parties, business, labour and civil society to try and overcome challenges of socio-economic concern bedeviling our developmental trajectory.

As we note the many milestones we have reached and celebrated, we also acknowledge the enormous

sufferings of our people due to worsening socio-economic conditions in the province.

In dealing with these challenges our provincial government Executive Council adopted a comprehensive and aggressive investment promotion programme to create jobs and change the development landscape of our province.

Through this initiative we have garnered investment pledges amounting to R132.4 billion for various projects. Of the original thirty projects, fifteen have been confirmed and are at different stages of readiness. The confirmed projects have a total value of R45, 398 billion. Five projects are ready for implementation and will be rolled out in the next three months while four projects will be ready in the next six to twelve months. Several more

projects will be processed in the next two years.

We also acknowledge the concerted efforts we have implored as the Provincial Government to ensure efficient and effective service delivery to our people.

In achieving this we have intensified our Accelerated Service Delivery programme through Thuntsha Lerole to reach all areas of our province to resolve service delivery related challenges.

Through this initiative we are also deepening social solidarity with different segments of our society, tackling poverty, unemployment, inequalities as well as social ills such as Gender Based Violence and Femicide.

This initiative is gaining traction every day and continues to resonate with residents of our province across

many and diverse communities. We recognise that in parts of our Province the challenges facing our people far exceeds the interventions we have made thus far, much more will be required to make impact in order for our people to see real change.

As we celebrate the end of a productive year and recharge for the New Year, let us do so responsibly. I would like to take this opportunity and call on all our people to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate in our communities.

As we go into the new year, let us continue to work together towards building a prosperous and peaceful province.

On behalf of the North West Provincial government leadership, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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DEDECT APPOINTS 113 YOUTH DATA CAPTURERS TO STRENGTHEN BUSINESS LICENSING COMPLIANCE

By Seloane Seleka

Following a pronouncement by the North West MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism during the 2023/2024 Departmental Budget Vote, the Department has appointed 113 youth data capturers to strengthen business licensing compliance.

The initiative is a crucial strategy to combat illegal business activities and ensure ethical operations throughout the province.

As part of the Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme, the DEDECT conducted a comprehensive induction, providing in-depth training for the newly appointed data capturers on their roles and responsibilities.

MEC Tlhapi said that the primary task is to identify and address illegal tuckshops operating without licenses or using fraudulent documents to conduct business.

She added that this initiative is mainly meant to curb criminal activities and ensure the legality of businesses.

The data capturers will conduct thorough checks on every business outlet in their assigned areas to verify licenses and compliance with regulations.

"Our province is plagued by illegal tuckshops not registered and operating without the necessary licenses. As the department responsible for regulating businesses, we need assistance in identifying and registering these outlets. We are conducting this induction and workshop, to make sure that everyone involved in this operation has a clear vision and understanding of the goals we are trying to achieve", MEC Tlhapi said.

Ms Onnicah Sithole, DEDECT's Chief Director for Business Regulations, said that the role of the data capturers is to ensure



compliance with the North West Business Licensing Act No. 03 of 2019.

"The appointments of these Data Capturers will significantly enhance our ability to verify that all businesses operating within the province are duly licensed with their respective municipalities", she said.

Appointed for a one-year term, the data capturers will ensure adherence

to regulatory requirements and escalate non-compliance issues to the department's regulatory divisions.

Sithole outlined the stringent monitoring mechanisms that have been implemented, with data capturers required to submit weekly reports for consolidation and subsequent submission to the

department.

This process aims to maintain a comprehensive and up-to-date business licensing database for effective regulation.

The DEDECT envisions a well-regulated environment that fosters growth and economic prosperity in the North West Province, encouraging collaboration between business owners and data capturers.

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EDUCATION HOSTS WORLD ROBOTIC OLYMPIAD LOCAL COMPETITION IN NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA

By Tshego Mnisi

The North West Department of Education in the Ngaka Modiri Molema district, in partnership with the University of Johannesburg (UJ) Techno Lab and Standard Bank Robotics recently hosted the World Robotic Olympiad (WRO) local completion at the Mafikeng Primary School to introduce coding and robotics to primary schools.

This included workshops for educators of identified schools, the establishment of robotics clubs, and supporting educators during robotics club practices.

The UJ Techno Lab and Standard Bank Robotics Project is an initiative by UJ-Techno Lab within the university's Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment.

The initiative started in 2020 but due to the Covid19 outbreak, the



actual implementation commenced in 2021 in the Limpopo and North West provinces.

In the North West, the participating districts are Ngaka Modiri Molema and Bojanala

Platinum.

The learners participated in the Robotic Olympiad in their different schools and then proceeded to the World Robotic Olympiad (WRO).

Each school received a tablet, laptop, and robot for the educator.

All the learners who participated in the project received WRO Certificates and gifts from UJ-Techno Lab.

The top five Schools were Thebeyame Primary School, Sefathane Primary School, Lichtenburg Primary School, Shukran Primary School and R.B Dithupe Primary School.

MEC for Education Viola Motsumi said that the aim is to expose each learner in the North West to robotics.

"As a department, we plan to ensure that every learner becomes exposed to robotics. We also appreciate public public-private partnerships implemented by the private sector. Indeed, Education is a societal matter", MEC Motsumi said.

For this year, the teams learned about shipping logistics and the infrastructure for digital technology where learners had to investigate how robots can help both shipping and digital technology infrastructure to be more safe, sustainable, and efficient.



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TWO NORTH WEST ARTISTS IN TOP SATMA CATEGORIES

By Kabelo Selebogo

Songstresses Mamakie Motlogelwa and Mma Ausi lead the nominations list for the North West in the South African Traditional Music Achievement (SATMA) Awards taking place in Durban on December 16.

Mamakie's latest offering titled "Kabelo" secured her Best Upcoming Artist/Group and Best Setswana Artist/Group nod, while multi award-winning artist MmaAusi will be competing for the main award Most Voted Song of The Year against industry heavyweights from across the country.

"Chiba le kgomo" by MmaAusi has been on high rotation on various radio stations and captured the hearts of music lovers as they enjoyed her performances at prominent events and functions.

The two artists are also in competition in the Best Setswana Artist/Group category.

Nomtiti, who are also in contention, made history by becoming the first group or artist from the province to win this major award in 2021.

The competing groups are being supported by the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation (ACSR) with transport and accommodation in Durban, as well as pre-event publicity on various platforms.

Singer-dancer Chomza is a familiar face in the Best Reggae Artist & Group category, having won it in 2019 and 2021.

She made it as one of the finalists for the same category.

Other groups and artists from the province that are battling for the Best Setswana Artist/Group are Thebe Arts Group and Boitumelo.

Motsweding FM will be defending Best Traditional Music SABC Radio Presenter of the Year title, won by Tom Perez last year.



Tebogo Joseph Hotane (TJH) will be looking to bring the award back home.

North West Kgati Team, which won a silver medal at the 2023 South African Nation Indigenous Games, will grace the SATMA Awards stage.

The group's captivating performance will incorporate a simultaneous rendition of singing, dancing and rope skipping.

MEC for Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation Kenetswe Mosenogi has congratulated all the nominees and urged members of the public to vote for them.

"It is really good to see our artists and traditional groups competing at prominent awards such as SATMA Awards in various categories," she said.

"We are really proud of them. The

department will accompany the nominees to the main event and take care of all logistics. We encourage the public to vote for their favourite groups or artists as the winners will be determined by the highest number of votes in each category", MEC Mosenogi added.

To vote, SMS your preferred nominee and their unique code to 49495. You can vote as many times as you like. SMS is charged at R1.50 each.

Here is how to vote:

- Most Voted Song of The Year**
 - MmaAusi – 150SATMA18
- Best Setswana Artist/Group nominees**
 - Mamakie Motlogelwa - 117SATMA18
 - Nomtiti - Seileng Seile - 119SATMA18 to 49495
 - Thebe Arts Group (TAG) - 120SATMA18 to 49495
 - Boitumelo - 121SATMA18
 - MmaAusi - 122SATMA18
- Best Traditional Music SABC Radio Presenter of The Year**
 - Tebogo Joseph Hotane - 162SATMA18
- Best Upcoming Artist/Group**
 - Mamakie Motlogelwa - 30SATMA18
- Best Reggae Artist & Group**
 - Chomza - 19SATMA18