



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

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PAGE 02 : NORTH WEST CELEBRATES MATRIC 2023 RESULTS

PAGE 06 : PULO SEMMUSO YA TSELA YA SEKONTERE KWA LOBATLA

PAGE 15 : MENYATSO SHINES AMONG STARS AT MATRIC AWARDS

DEPUTY MINISTER TAU TRACKS PROGRESS IN DITSOBOTLA

By Dineo Thapelo and
Thebeetsile Keameditse

Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance, Parks Tau recently visited the Ditsobotla Local Municipality to assess the situation at the municipality, which has had numerous challenges since the inauguration of the new council following last year's by-elections in the area.

Deputy Minister Tau was accompanied by the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional, Patrick Nono Dumile Maloyi, and the MEC for Finance, Motlalepula Rosho, Mayor of the Ditsobotla Local Municipality, Thabo Nkasho, councillors, and officials from the three spheres of government. Some of the challenges facing the municipality include electricity supply challenges because of aging infrastructure faults, vandalism of transformers, and the impact of load-shedding on infrastructure.

"To arrest these challenges, the municipality should explore the prioritization of building internal electricity capacity including human, material, equipment, and financial capacity", Deputy Minister Tau said.

Other topics discussed included the state of the municipality, financial recovery plans, electricity supply, provision of water, and management



of the bulk accounts. The engagement presented the municipality with urgent deliverables about the need to employ competent staff to manage and operate services such as water, sanitation, roads, and electricity.

Regarding the water supply challenge to communities in Ditsobotla, Deputy Minister Tau said that the Ngaka Modiri District Municipality, as a Water Service Authority (WSA) should implement the interventions that include a turnaround plan developed by the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) speedily and this plan outlines amongst other things, soft management interventions and hard infrastructure programs which include refurbishing and drilling of

boreholes. "These interventions will alleviate the plight of the businesses and residents of Ditsobotla", Deputy Minister Tau said. The Financial Recovery Plan (FRP) is being implemented in the municipality in three phases, namely rescue, stabilization, and sustainability phases, however, the existence of vacancies in senior management positions is hindering the effective implementation of the FRP. Notable progress has also been registered in key governance undertakings and structures which includes the establishment of a Section 79 Committee to oversee the implementation of the FRP. The Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) is also

functional. The Credit Control policy and by-laws were adopted by the Council for implementation and enforcement pending gazettement. Additionally, a switching stations assessment was conducted which recommended the upgrade of the electricity line that supplies the bulk water borehole to reduce power failure that affects the pumping of water. The council of Ditsobotla was dissolved in September 2023 in terms of Section 139(1)(c) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The decision came because of the failure of the municipality to render basic services due to challenges in both the administration and council. A new council of Ditsobotla was constituted on 09 January 2023 during a special council meeting which was held at the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality council chambers in Mahikeng. The municipality is currently under section 139(5) (a) and (c) of the Constitution, which gives the provincial government a mandatory intervention in the municipality. The imposition of mandatory intervention was because of stubborn challenges including those related to the finances of the municipality.

Both the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Provincial Treasury have deployed a team of officials to assist the municipality.

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NORTH WEST CELEBRATES MATRIC 2023 RESULTS

By Nonkululeko Sereo

The MEC for Education, Viola Motsumi, and the North West Department of Education recently honoured the province's top-performing matriculants for 2023 at a ceremony held at the Sun City Resort.

"I am extremely proud to announce that the North West Department of Education upped the results and obtained position four in the country as compared to the previous matric cohort of 2022 who obtained position five. This class improved on last year's percentage of 79,8% to 81,63%", MEC Motsumi said.

"I wish to salute the educators who went the extra mile by teaching learners in the afternoons, on weekends, and public holidays. I believe that without our teachers we are nothing. I should thank all the departmental officials together with the parents of learners for the support they provided throughout the year", MEC Motsumi added.

Acting Premier, Nono Maloyi congratulated MEC Motsumi, officials, educators, learners, and parents for having done well in the 2023 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations and further encouraged the learners to apply for bursaries, be educated, and later be of service to their communities.

MEC Motsumi appreciated the work and support of school-based, sponsors and all stakeholders.

She said that the province was able to achieve position four because of the efforts, commitment, and determination of principals, teachers, school governing bodies, and most importantly the learners.

She was also excited that all districts improved from the 2022 results.

Top learners in the North West Wian Landman is the top learner in the province from Potchefstroom



Gimnasium in Dr Kenneth Kaunda. He obtained six distinctions and scored 1699 marks in all subjects excluding Life Orientation.

Content subjects
Agricultural Science
Okahia Chingwe from Kgalatlowe High School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Business Studies
Modukanele Tshenolo and Kgori Kutlo, both from Zeerust High School in the Ngaka Modiri Molema district

Modise Paballo from HF Tlou High School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Motau Reneilwe from Tsogo Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Maluleka Regoratile from Eletsa Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Tlale Botshelo from Eletsa Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Economics
Tlale Botshelo from Eletsa Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Geography

Mompoloki Nku from Mmabatho High School in the Ngaka Modiri Molema district

History
Seakela Omphemetse from Mphe-Bana Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Life Sciences
Menyatso Nompumelelo from Boitekong II Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Mathematics
Ntshana Khanimamba from Meridian Rustenburg Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Menyuka Siboniso from Bafokeng High School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Gwiliza Ntambiso from Rakgatla High School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Mdau Ofentse from Zacharia Mankgatlang Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Mathematical Literacy
Beng Rasechaba from Diteho Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Physical Sciences
Chula Reoagile from Tsogo Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum district

Setswana Home Language
Vitelane Anamina from Sunrise View Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum district.

Top learner in Special School
Noge Tshiamo from Tlamelang Special School in the Ngaka Modiri Molema district

Top learner in Independent Schools
Ntshana Khanimamba from Meridian Rustenburg Secondary School in the Bojanala Platinum

district

Top performing Districts
The Bojanala District Platinum district obtained the first position with 84,24% while Dr Kenneth Kaunda obtained the second position with 83,51%.

The Ngaka Modiri Molema District obtained the third position with 78,97% and the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti received position four with 77,16%.

Top learners walked away with different prizes

Nompumelelo Menyatso, Johannes Muller, Rasechaba Beng, and Nku Mompoloki each received R10 000 cash prizes from the Sparkling Water Hotel as top learners in the Bojanala Platinum district.

You FM also donated R30 000 for learners from disadvantaged backgrounds; Nompumelelo Menyatso received R15 000, Botshelo Tlale received R10 000 and Reoagile Chula received R5 000 from You FM.

The Class of 2023 is the tenth cohort of learners to write the CAPS-aligned National Seniors Certificate (NSC) Examinations.

They enrolled for Grade 1 in 2012 when the NSC was written for the fourth time at Grade 12. They are the last matric class of the sixth administration, which commenced in May 2019.

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ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS TO IMPROVE MUNICIPALITY EFFECTIVENESS



By Masego Tiro

To strengthen municipal support and improve effectiveness in terms of Section 154 of the Constitution, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) recently convened one-on-one engagement sessions with all municipalities in the North West to provide support and strengthen their capacity of municipalities to manage their affairs.

The engagement sessions which were graced by the attendance of Municipal Managers, the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Provincial Treasury as well as the Department

of Water and Sanitation (DWS), were held under the theme “Strengthening municipal support program to improve its effectiveness”.

Addressing municipalities during the sessions, COGTA Head of Department Dr Ben Bole said that the engagement sessions are aimed at having a frank discussion to find solutions to challenges facing municipalities.

“We have crafted specific objectives to restore order and stability in municipalities. Information must not be held back so that we can assist and support municipalities to uphold their constitutional mandate of providing services to communities without fail”, Dr Bole said.

He further indicated that they decided on the one-on-one engagements because the methodology that was used in the previous years has not yielded any

positive results and things could not continue like it is business as usual.

“We have the responsibility to support local municipalities because a crisis in any municipality is a crisis of the department. We can only craft intervention measures that are effective for different municipalities as long as we know the challenges that we are facing in our municipalities”, Dr Bole said.

All municipalities provided progress reports on issues related to service delivery and infrastructure grant spending.

They also outlined the challenges that they are facing which hinder the provision of services, including vacant senior management posts and the lack of resources.

The objective was to verify and validate the situation in municipalities, and to assess, review, and develop new improvement plans

on the state of each municipality for improved collaboration and accountability.

After deliberations on the state of municipalities in Dr. Kenneth Kaunda and Ngaka Modiri Molema districts, Dr. Bole appreciated the advice and directives provided to municipalities by different stakeholders to rectify their challenges.

He maintained that constant engagement sessions will assist the department in tracking the performance of municipalities to provide the necessary support.

“We will continue to hold these sessions to support municipalities because a collapse of one municipality is the collapse of the national government and its entities. Therefore, we must support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities for them to perform their functions”, Dr Bole said.

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NEWLY APPOINTED NWDC CEO: A VISIONARY LEADER FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE



By Seloane Seleka

In a strategic move aimed at steering the North West Development Corporation (NWDC) towards a new era of economic growth and prosperity, MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism, Virgina Tlhapi, recently announced the appointment of Mojalefa Nale as the entity's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The announcement was made at a special NWDC Board Meeting.

MEC Tlhapi thanked the acting CEO, Kabelo Mafokwane, and the Board of Directors for their efforts to keep the NWDC stable during the interim period.

She commended their diligence in overseeing a transparent and rigorous recruitment process that culminated in the appointment of the

new CEO.

MEC Tlhapi highlighted Nale's deep-rooted familiarity with the province, the NWDC, and the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT), citing his previous position as acting Head of the Department, Chief Director for Integrated Economic Development Services, and former CEO of the NWDC.

His multifaceted experience positions him as a strategic leader equipped to drive the NWDC towards its mandate of fostering economic development.

Nale brings to the role not just a wealth of experience but also a palpable passion and enthusiasm for economic development, leadership, and an intricate understanding of the socio-economic landscape of the North West Province.

A seasoned professional, Nale has previously served as the CEO and Acting Chief Operations Officer

of the NWDC.

During the 2012/2013 financial year, he was seconded to the position of CEO of Invest North West and was instrumental in the successful amalgamation of the NWDC, the Mahikeng Industrial Development Zone (MIDZ), and Invest North West into a unified economic development agency for the North West Province.

His academic credentials further solidify his qualifications.

Holding an MSc in Macro Economic Policy and Planning from the University of Bradford (UK), a Diploma in Development Economics from the same institution, and a Certificate Programme in Law from UNISA, Nale brings a well-rounded educational background to his leadership role.

MEC Tlhapi, acknowledging Nale's extensive experience, urged him and the NWDC Board to build on the agency's achievements, sustain operations, and enhance revenue collection for the province.

"I trust that the board and the

management will give Mr. Nale all the support he needs to revitalize the NWDC.

I am relying on you to ensure the NWDC succeeds in its mandate of growing the economy of the North West Province", MEC Tlhapi said.

Nale thanked MEC Tlhapi and the NWDC Board of Directors for entrusting him with the responsibility of leading the agency's administrative operations.

He accepted the challenge outlined by the MEC and pledged that the NWDC would leverage its full potential to realize its mandate of economic development for the people of the North West Province.

Nale officially assumed office at the beginning of January this year, marking the start of a promising chapter in the NWDC's journey toward economic prosperity.

His appointment symbolizes a collective effort to advance the socio-economic landscape of the North West Province under his visionary leadership.

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NW ROAD P175/1 WILL SPARK OFF MUCH-NEEDED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

By Elvis Mosiwa

The more than 22km rehabilitation road project between Potchefstroom and Vanderbijlpark, which will serve as an economic corridor between the North West, Gauteng, and Free State provinces and is meant to be used for transportation of agricultural produce and tourism, has been completed.

The project, which cost the Department of Public Works and Roads (DPWR) a total of R144 million was completed on schedule and within the allocated budget with very few disruptions for the duration of the project.

Road infrastructure network is the heartbeat of economic growth and social development for any developing nation.



Addressing the farming community of Rietfontein, MEC for Public Works and Roads, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi said this road will play a significant role as it is used by

the farmers to transport fresh produce to Gauteng, which is the economic hub of our country, as well as other markets.

"We are glad that this project reached completion and that our

people will commute safely with neighbouring provinces both for business and leisure", MEC Molapisi said.

"A road network is critical to a country's economic development, it connects cities and ensures the smooth travel of commuters, private vehicles, and logistics solutions", he said.

With the North West being a predominantly rural province, with a total road network of 19 673 km across all the four districts, only 5 470 km of that is surfaced.

The province needs at least R 34 billion to ensure that all its roads are trafficable.

Addressing the 27th World Road Congress in the Czech Republic, which was held in October this year, Minister of Transport Sindisiwe Chikunga said establishing an expansive and effective road network is critical to South Africa's economic growth.



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PULO SEMMUSO YA TSELA YA SEKONTERE KWA LOBATLA

Ka Mmakgori Tong

Tonakgolo ya nama-o-sa-tshwere, rre Nono Maloi a na le Mokhuduthamaga wa Lefapha la Ditiro tsa Setshaba le Ditsela, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi ba ne ba bula semmuso tsela ya D417 kwa motseng was Lobatleng gaufi le torotswana ya Zeerust.

Bogosi gammogo le Majoro 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, e golaganyang metse ya Motswedi, Gopane le Lobatla.

Tsela e, ya dikilometara di le 33 e tlhabolotswe gotswa 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”, Maloi o kaetse baagi jalo ba ba neng ba thologile go amogela tsela e ntsha ka nako ya 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 rile, “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.”

Majoro wa Masepala, Dinah Modukanele o ne a bua le baagi gore mo di projekeng tshotlhe tse puso e di tlišang mo go tlhabololeng matshelo



a baagi ka kakaretso, ba ele tlhoko batho ba batlang go kgoreletsa di projeke, mme re itumelela fa go sa nna jalo ka projeke 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 tkhalositse fa lefapha la gagwe le itumeletse projeke ya tsela ka fa e tsamaileng sentle ka 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 akaretse masepala wa selegae.”

Fa e sale Thuntsha lerole e thankgolotswe mo porofense Molapisi gammogo le batsaya - karolo ba ba farologaneng go akaretse didika le kantoro ya ga tonakgolo ba ntse ba tlhabolola ditsela di le dintsi go ralala dimasepala.

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CDW RECEIVES AWARD FOR COMMUNITY WORK

By Boipelo Lechuti

The adage that “it takes a village to raise a child” certainly resonated with Basetsana Keogotsitse from Phaposane village in the Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality who was recently honoured for a school campaign she has been working on, in her community.

Upon completing matric, Keogotsitse could not fulfil her dream of studying to become a meteorologist and she settled for a qualification in fashion design although she had always wanted to be involved in her community.

Born and raised in Phaposane, Keogotsitse was employed as a Community Development Worker (CDW) with the North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in 2014.

“As CDWs, we are required to help people in communities to improve their own lives and change their circumstances, and this duty is set in my mind that empowering and improving our communities' lives is important as I am positively representing the department, it is pleasing to know that my hard work is visible to everyone that pushes me to work with dedication”, Keogotsitse said.

“My journey in community development started in 2014 when I started working as a CDW. Working with communities needs dedication and hard work and I am confident that I tick all the boxes. I will put more effort into uplifting my community to make a better environment, especially for children in my area”.

As a CDW It is our mandate to assist communities by bringing together all government departments that implement service delivery projects and programmes at a local level”, she added.

Keogotsitse participates in campaigns such as cleaning schools and back-to-school campaigns



where they motivate children to go to school in the area.

She is also a member of the Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign which mobilizes stakeholders to play a role in promoting a culture of teaching and learning in schools.

She says despite all the challenges that she comes across in her line of work, she still finds her job fulfilling.

“Regardless of the challenges I

face, I am encouraged to work harder to fulfil my duties. Meeting with disadvantaged families is a huge challenge, but I can step up and knock on all doors for them to get the assistance they need”, Keogotsitse said.

The CDW program is a bridge between government and communities that seeks to improve the dissemination of information to the poor about benefits and services

to which all citizens are entitled.

Furthermore, the program is meant to assist the poor to access and benefit from the services that could materially improve their lives and provide interference or bridge between municipalities and communities to enhance the existing local government structures; and to improve the level of participation between communities and the integrated development plans.

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MEC TLHAPI VISITS SCHOOLS IN MADIBENG

Tshepiso Mathhoko and Alex Mothusi

The North West Department of Education recently celebrated the International Literacy Day, with the primary focus being on the promotion of literacy for a world in transition, by holding an event for over 250 parents and learners focusing on poems, short stories and reading skills presentations.

The idea of International Literacy Day was first introduced at the World Conference of Ministers of Education in 1965 and the Department used the day to promote as well as to strengthen the culture of reading among learners and eradicate illiteracy.

MEC for Education, Viola Motsumi, said that the four districts should make sure that schools continue to observe this day during the entire month of September and beyond.

"Since the North West Department of Education belongs to the global world, this day will be



observed during the entire month of September at our schools. The learners' reading culture will be strengthened and encouraged by this activity", MEC Motsumi said.

"As government, it is our

responsibility to see to it that high levels of illiteracy are eliminated through the delivery of high-quality education. Literacy has a huge number of benefits, and in our nation, it is a human rights issue. The right of

every student to education is emphasized by the constitution. Our educators and departmental representatives will continue to fight for this right to education", MEC Motsumi added.



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LAST LAP OF THUNTSHA LEROLE PHASE 2 IN LETHABONG



By Stanley Ndzalama Ndlovu

In bettering and improving the lives of people, the North West Provincial Government rolled out the Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery at Lethabong Village in the Rustenburg Local Municipality recently where Members of the Provincial Executive led by MEC Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi, the Leader of Government Business and government officials were unlocking service delivery challenges in the area.

MEC Galebekwe Tihapi, reporting on behalf of the Social Cluster said

that the Department of Education donated technological devices that advanced the participation of schools in the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR).

"The Department of Education donated cell phone devices and routers to principals to ensure that they communicate effectively and improve the lives of learners", she said.

The Department of Social Development refurbished a community care centre and assisted in financial aid to improve the lives of the people.

"A community Care Centre in Lethabong received new furniture and financial assistance from the Department of Social Development,

this in support of the centres of HIV and Aids programme", MEC Tihapi said.

She further said that the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports, and Recreation donated sports attire and equipment to schools in the Lethabong community.

MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Desbo Mohono said that the Department of Public Works and Roads continues to improve infrastructure in communities around North West.

"The road D520 from Makolokwe to Bethanie has been upgraded from to tar, as well as blading and patching of potholes in Lethabong, Modikwe, and Vaalkop Villages", MEC Mohono

said.

She further said that the economic cluster embarked on a cleaning campaign around the Lethabong area, roadblocks that inspected 416 vehicles and 35 fines.

The second phase of the Accelerated Service Delivery Thuntsha Lerole Programme has continued to improve the lives of the citizens of the North West province with services including shop inspections, infrastructure building, and maintenance, instilling order on roads, encouraging payments of municipal rates, issuing of title deeds, and handing over houses.

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UNICEF DONATES COLD ROOM TO BRITS HOSPITAL PHARMACY



By Virginia Khetse

The United National International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has recently donated a cold room to the Brits Hospital's Pharmaceutical Unit as the old cold room could no longer keep the minimum required temperature range.

According to cold chain management regulations, all pharmaceutical stock should be stored within a temperature range of 2 to 8 degrees Celsius.

District Pharmacist, Linda Oelofse, said that they had asked for the donation after noticing how the hospital's pharmacy was struggling, and understanding the importance of cold chain management that was not being applied due to the

malfunctioning of the old cold room.

Oelofse said that the old cold room would, at times, go below 2 degrees Celsius and the pharmaceutical stock would freeze.

This means that the pharmacist would then have to call the pharmaceutical companies to determine if the pharmaceuticals are safe to use.

"The cold room didn't have an alarm system to alert the pharmacist if the cold room is out of the temperature range, if the cold room went out of the temperature range during the weekend, the pharmacists would only discover on Monday morning", Oelofse said.

This problem caused the Brits District Hospital pharmacy to store their stock at the Madibeng Sub-District pharmacy since they did not have enough fridges to keep all the stock.



The pharmacist would then have to drive weekly to Madibeng Sub-District to collect the stock and this affected the availability of stock at the hospital since they could not order normal quantities to keep all stock

due to lack of space.

Oelofse said that having a cold room has improved the cold chain availability and it has made it easier for the pharmacy to manage their stock better.

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BA SETLAMO SA MOLEBOTHA BA GODISA TLHAGISO YA NAMA

Ka Tsholofelo Dintwe

Fa o goroga mo motsaneng wa Morokweng, mo kgaolong ya masepala wa Kagisano Molopo, ga o kake wa lemoga ka bonako khumo eo e leng teng mono ka ntlha ya leruo leo baagi ba lefelo leno ba ineetseng go dira ka lona.

Kwa Polasing ya Kontario e eleng thuso ya puso, go na le setlamo sa balelapa la ga Bonokwane bao ba tswelletseng go dira ka dikgomo go godisa temothuo mo lefelong mmogo le go thusa porofense ya North West ka tlhagiso ya nama.

Setlamo seno sa balelapa la ga Bonokwane se bidiwa Molebotha mme ba ruile dikgomo, dipodi le dinku.

Ke setlamo sa maloko a le matlhano a lelapa le le lengwe e leng Rre, Mme le bana ba le bararo.

Botlhano jono bo kopantse ditlhogo go tlisa puso kwa Morokweng le go e lemosa fa lefelo leno le na le isago e ntle thata ya leruo.

Fa e sale Molebotha e kwadisiwa semmuso ke motlhami e leng Rre David Bonokwane, maloko otlhe a ne a tshwaragana go netefatsa gore toro ya go godisa leruo e tswela pele.

Ga jaana morwa mo lapeng e leng Lebogang Bonokwane ke ene bogolosegolo a etelletseng tiro kwa pele.

Fa a ne a buisana le ba Letsema, Bonokwane o tlhalositse fa e le nakonyana ba ntse ba semeletsa mme ba leka gape thata go buisana le ditlamo tse di farologagneng tsa puso ka thuso.

E ne ya re monongwaga, Lefapha la Temothuo le Tihabololo ya Metsemagae la thusa setlamo seno ka motlhape wa tsalo wa mofuta wa Simbra e le go leka go ba tsosolosa le go ba rotloetsa go tswela pele.

Ga jaana leruo la Molebotha le a



gola mme ba leboga lefapha thata ka thuso ya lona.

“Re leboga lefapha thata ka tshegetso mme re dira ka natla gore tiro eo e saleng e simololwa ke rre motsadi e golele pele”, Bonokwane o tlhalositse jalo.

Ba Molebotha ba setse ba iponetse mmaraka o o tsepameng wa go rekisa nama ya bona mo lebenkeleng le lengwe le legolo mo Afrika-Borwa.

Fa esale ba iponetse mmaraka ono ka dingwaga di le mmalwa tse di fetilweng.

Lebenkele leno le ne la ba neela ka dikgomo go tsadisa mme bona ba ne ba tshwanelwa ke go isa dinamanyane go godisiwa sentle le go rekisiwa.

Lebenkele leno gape le ba neetse le motataisi yo o tswelletseng go didirsana le bone go ba thusa go ntsha diphologolo tsa nama ya boleng.

Tiro ya bonatla ya Molebotha e ba

gapetse sejana sa molemi-rui yo o boneng kgolo ka ngwaga wa 2019.

Ka ona ngwaga oo, ba ne gape ba amogela thuso go tswa go letlole la ditiro la puso ya bosetshaba morago ga go tsenya kopo.

Letlole la puso la ditiro le ne la ba neela ka motlhape wa tsalo go oketsa tlhagiso ya bona mmogo le go ba thusa gape go baakanya mafaratlhatlha mo polasing ya bone ya dihektara di le 3754.

Le fa gone ba itemogetse melelo ya naga mo segaufing, ba leka ka bojotle gore morero wa bona wa temothuo o tswela pele. Ba jala le masimo mme ba dirisa ditlhagiso tsa ona bogolosegolo go fepa leruo la bone. Ka ntlha ya pula e e diegileng monongwaga mme e tlhaedisa phulo, ba reka dijo go tlaleletsa.

Ga jaana Lebogang o buile fa ba thusana le balemirui ba ba golang mo kgaolong ya bona ka go neelana ka dipoo di le pedi morago ga dingwaga di le pedi tsa tlhagiso.

Gape ba rulaganya dikopano tsa tshedimose tso.

“Re setse re kile ra rulaganya letsatsi la tshedimose tso la balemirui mme re ile ra ngoka ditlamo di le dintsi tsa temothuo go tla go neelana ka dithuto”, go buile jalo Bonokwane.

Ma gareng ga ditiro tsa bona, Bonokwane a re ba eletsa go gola go fitlhela ba itirela tiro ya tlhagiso, kgodiso le go fitlha kwa matlhabelelong.

“Re eletsa go ipona re itirela tiro yotlhe ya tlhagiso ya nama mme re dumela gore kemonokeng e puso e tswelelang gore neela yone, le yone e tla re kgontsha go fitlhelela toro ya rona”, Bonokwane a rialo a konosetsa puo ya gagwe.

Leruo le o ba nang le lona le akaretsa dipoo tsa mofuta wa limousine, dikgomo tsa Simbra mmogo le Bosmara.

Ba na le badiri ba le bane mme ba na le ba ba tlang ka nakwana ba ka nna masome a matlhano.

STAKEHOLDERS AMEND THE DHET POLICIES

By Lerato Majobe

In ensuring that skills development providers thrive in training graduates, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) through its statutory body, the National Skills Authority (NSA), and North West Provincial Government recently conducted a public consultation workshop in Brits to solicit ideas to amend skills development related policies.

This is to increase graduates' chances of finding employment and improve their socio-economic conditions.

Employers that spend R500 000 or more on their payroll are required, by law, to pay skills development levies of 1% of their total payroll to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) convert it to 100%, and give it to DHET.

The Department allocates 20% of



this money to the National Skills Fund and 80% to Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) as they provide financial support to sectors that provide training, on this 80% the Trainers only receive 10% to run their administration affairs while 49,5% is

allocated to Discretionary grant funding, 20% for mandatory funds and 0,5% to QTC.

Tshepo Ntwagae said that the 10% admin fee that SETAs allocate to them is not sufficient and pleaded with the department to at least

increase it by 5%.

"The 10% allocated to SETAs is not enough, I propose that it should be increased to 15%", Ntwagae said.

Thabang Modise pleaded with the Department to guide SETAs to provide a fair allocation of funds nationally.

"All nine provinces should receive equitable share so that we can all have functional administrations," he said.

Masixole Bangeni said that SETAs should allocate special funds for contemporary Technological equipment.

Deputy Director General for Administration in the Office of the Premier Relebohile Mofokane expressed his satisfaction with stakeholders' active participation during the session, saying that their ideas will resolve their challenges.

The DHET engagement team will consolidate these ideas and suggestions so that the department can find ways on how best to implement them.



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RESTORATION PRAYER FOR A COMMUNITY IN DISTRESS



By Staff Reporter

The North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management recently held a Restoration Prayer Service at the Popo Molefe informal settlement outside Rustenburg, where nine people lost their lives and another eleven were left seriously wounded following an earlier deadly shooting incident in the area.

Amongst those who survived is a ten-year-old boy who escaped unharmed but is undergoing psychological treatment because of the mental scars he has sustained from witnessing the gruesome shootings.

Another survivor is 52-year-old mine worker, Balekile Nomahelle, who is part of the eleven survivors and wears a sling to support his injured left arm, which is a painful reminder of the events of that fateful day.

Even though he says he is recovering well, he fears the injury might have adverse consequences

eventually and affect his ability to provide for his family.

The trauma, because of the attack, has also affected him physiologically. Normally a jovial person, sadness clouds his face as he recounts the events of the day.

"A group of people were gathered here in my yard, nothing unusual because it was during the long weekend. Suddenly, two armed people entered the yard. I quickly realized that there was more outside. I made a run for it as they opened fire randomly in a short space of time", He shook his head still wondering how he survived.

"I can still recall the thick pungent smell of the gunpowder in the air, the screams from fear and confusion, the lifeless bodies in puddles of blood right on my doorstep. It was horrific, it

was frightening, and I am still trying to come to terms with the trauma", Nomahelle said.

The ruthless killings sent a wave of shock to the community, leaving them feeling unsafe and in fear for their lives.

It is alleged that the shooting was a retaliation by the Sesotho-speaking group of the community against the IsiXhosa-speaking group who had lived peacefully with each other for a long time.

The source of conflict allegedly stems from among others stock theft and a subsequent torching of properties.

The MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Sello Lehari led the prayer and cleansing ceremony at the scene of the shooting.

This formed part of the ongoing social intervention programmes in the area.

This is a partnership between the government, private sector, community leaders, and religious groups to restore trust and social cohesion as well as healing to the community.

"As South Africans our diversity in culture, language, tradition as well as other variations should unite us as one people. We ought to embrace those differences and not use them as tools of destruction, disunity, and a source of conflict", MEC Lehari told the more than 500 community members in attendance.

"The tears shed by our people will not dry on their own. We speak life back into this community. We ask God to deal with the pain that has dimmed the light of this community. The Holy Book tells us, that in agony, God's peace shall be left with us and so may it be", Chaplain Jerry Batshelakang said.

The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management with other stakeholders continues to work towards reconciling the two groups.

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NORTH WEST CONSUMER AFFAIRS ALERTS LEARNERS AGAINST FRAUDULENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

By Kagiso Masoko and Omphile Motsei

The North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) has issued an advisory through its Consumer Affairs Office to alert parents and students about the growing threat posed by unregistered higher education institutions.

The Consumer Affairs Office acknowledges the increasing risk faced by prospective students who may be misled by deceptive institutions, leading them to obtain qualifications that hold no recognition or value.

These bogus institutions prey on the aspirations of students seeking higher education, manipulating their

desire for academic credentials.

One concerning tactic involves adopting names and logos that closely resemble those of legitimate universities, making it difficult for students to differentiate between credible and fraudulent entities.

Expressing deep concern, the Consumer Affairs Office warns that unsuspecting students may inadvertently pay tuition fees to colleges lacking accreditation, rendering any qualifications obtained from such institutions worthless.

To address this issue, the Consumer Affairs Office strongly encourages parents and students to take initiative-taking measures.

The Consumer Affairs Office advise verifying the credibility of institutions by cross-checking with relevant departments, especially the Department of Higher Education (DHE), and ensuring course

accreditation with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) before registration and fee payment.

For easy verification, the Consumer Affairs Office recommends contacting the Department of Higher Education at 012 312 5911 or their toll-free number 0800 87 2222, visiting their website at www.dhet.org.za, reaching out to UMALUSI at 0860 35 66 35 or visiting www.umalusi.org.za, and checking (SAQA) at www.saga.org.za.

The rise in fraudulent tertiary institutions poses a critical issue requiring swift intervention to preserve students' educational ambitions and the integrity of higher education.

The DEDECT emphasizes the long-term consequences of this trend on students' academic and career lives.

"It is important for consumers to be

aware of their rights and responsibilities. Thoroughly research the institution before enrolling to avoid falling prey to illegal or non-registered institutions. According to the Consumer Protection Act No. 68 of 2008, consumers have rights, including 'The right to choose' and 'The right to disclosure and information', a departmental official said.

The DEDECT urges those who have fallen victim to illegal operators to contact the Consumer Affairs Office at 018 388 5844/845 or visit the office located at the NWDC Building, Corner University and Provident Drive, Mmabatho.

Consumers can also seek assistance from the departmental district offices located in Rustenburg, Klerksdorp, Brits, and Vryburg.

Stay informed, stay vigilant.

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MENYATSO SHINES AMONG STARS AT MATRIC AWARDS

By Refiloe Motsonyane

Nompumelelo Menyatso from Boitekong 2 Secondary School was one of the shining lights which were honoured by the North West Department of Education at a glittering ceremony held recently to announce the 2023 Matric results at the Sun City Resort.

Menyatso was recognized for being the top achiever in Life Science with a final mark of 291, Top Girl Learner in Mathematics and Physical Science combined, as well as obtaining position one in quintile 1 in six best subjects.

She was awarded R10 000.00 in cash from Sparkling Waters for being the top learner in the Bojanala Platinum District. She was one of the three top-performing learners from disadvantaged backgrounds who were awarded R30 000.00 cash by You FM radio station.

Menyatso received a further R15 000.00 cash as well as numerous



trophies and certificates,

"I want to congratulate Nompulelo Menyatso for her sterling performance. I am happy to see girls

rising and performing alongside boys. Many girls will be motivated from Nompumelelo to work hard in their studies", MEC for Education,

Viola Motsumi, said.

Menyatso has since enrolled for an Engineering degree with the University of Pretoria.

TSHIAMO NOGE OBTAINS 3 DISTINCTIONS AGAINST ALL ODDS

By Elias Malindi

The North West Department of Education is proud of Tshiamo Noge, an 18-year-old male learner from the Tlamelang Special School in Gelukspan, who obtained three distinctions against all odds in the 2023 matric examinations.

Noge, from Agisanang township near Sannieshof, who is using a wheelchair to move around, obtained three distinctions in Business Studies, Life Orientation, and Setswana, and further obtained level six in English and Accounting.

Noge indicated that his disability

did not stand in the way of achieving his dreams.

"I would like to emphasize that I did not allow my disability to stand in my way and stop my dreams. I want to tell people that having a disability does not mean you are unable, there are better things you can do and achieve. Do not let disability stand in your way, reach for the sky", he said.

"I would like to convey a special thank you to all my teachers who were very patient with us at school. They were well-experienced; they understood our weaknesses. They helped us in everything we did, and they motivated us. I would not have achieved this milestone if I did not get the support of my teachers. Lastly,

thank you to the Department of Education for supporting learners in my school, we received all the necessary support", Noge said.

Gerald Komape, Deputy Principal at Tlamelang Special School, who taught Noge Mathematics indicated that he was a humble learner from an incredibly supportive family.

He said all the teachers liked him for who he was and described Noge as an introvert who did not talk too much, so much that one would not easily see how intelligent he was.

The MEC for Education, Viola Motsumi said that Noge was a motivation to many young people who thought passing Grade 12 was just a pipe dream.

"On behalf of the department I

want to congratulate Tshiamo Noge who passed his matric against all odds. This shows that if you are dedicated and committed to your goals nothing is impossible. Many young people can learn a lot from Tshiamo, he did not allow his condition to cloud his dreams. I want to encourage each one of us to learn from his experience", MEC Motsumi said.

For the current academic year, Noge wants to improve his Mathematics results in which he obtained level 3.

He intends to pursue a degree in commercial studies, after obtaining satisfactory results in Mathematics.

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MAMAKIE & NOMTITI WIN SATMA AWARDS

By Kabelo Selebogo

Emerging North West music sensation Mamakie Motlogelwa got a career boost at the South African Traditional Music Achievement Awards (SATMA Awards) in Durban in December last year when she took home the coveted Best Upcoming Artist Award.

In addition to her win, the multi-award-winning Nomtiti ensemble was named Best Setswana Artist/Group.

North West artists and traditional music groups as well as the nominees, who included MmaAusi, the Thebe Arts Group, and TJH of Motsweding FM attended the prestigious event with the support of the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation (ACSR).

The province's artists demonstrated their unity by accepting the two awards as a team and uniting in celebration.

The North West entourage, led by the Head of the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Itumeleng Mogorosi, was the centre of attention at post-event activities, breaking into spontaneous Setswana songs and dance, to the awe of onlookers.

None led the celebrations other than MmaAusi.

Also stealing the show was celebrated Mahikeng FM traditional music host and an Intern at the DSACR, Thapelo "Thapelino" Medupe, who showcased the Setswana culture clad in traditional Setswana attire known as tshega.

Dikwena tsa Matlosana Traditional Group from Klerksdorp graced the stage with their offering "tiki" which had previously won them 2022 Best Setswana Artist/Group.

Former President of the Republic of Botswana, Ian Khama, was honored with a Legacy Award for preserving culture at the ceremony.



"We are proud of our artists who did well and the support they have displayed as a collective. Mamakie's triumph did not come easy as she was facing her tough counterparts representing various communities and cultures across the country.

Nomtiti also did well by having won the best Setswana artist or group, bringing their awards total to four to date", MEC Kenetswe Mosenogi said. She also congratulated all the nominees and those who participated in the awards by putting

the province on the map.

Mamakie intends to drop a single titled "Sananapo" followed by an album next year.

Nomtiti is also in the studio cooking single tracks that will be released this year.

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