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PREMIER MOKGOSI - NORTH WEST GOVERNMENT TO CREATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

By Lerato Majobe and Zintle Xaba

Speaking at the Official Opening of the 7th North West Provincial Legislature recently in Mahikeng, Premier Kagiso Lazarus Mokgosi said government will create an enabling environment for people to participate in economic growth and the creation of much needed job opportunities.

"Government will make resources and tools available to ignite the potential of the people of the province to drive growth and the creation of jobs", Premier Mokgosi said.

With the mining sector in the Bojanala Platinum District being the biggest contributor to the province's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and to ensure that this sector thrives, Premier Mokgosi said that government will partner with the North West University, the Departments of Higher Education as well as Mineral and Petroleum Resources to establish an engineering faculty in Rustenburg so that it can produce skilled labourers to work in these mines.

"The Bojanala Platinum District contributes 52.1% to the North West province's GDP, with Rustenburg alone accounting for 41.9% of the district's GDP. The significant growth in Rustenburg is largely attributed to the impact of the world's largest mines in the immediate vicinity of the town", Premier Mokgosi said.

These include Impala Platinum,



Anglo American, Sibanye Stillwater, Bakubung Platinum, Royal Bafokeng Platinum, Tharisa Minerals, Glencore and many others.

Approximately 97% of the total platinum production occurs in Rustenburg, with the mining sector providing around 50% of all formal employment. He further said that the current administration has started consultation processes with the Minister of Trade, Industry and

Competition, Parks Tau to remove hindrances that deter Cabinet from approving the issuance of a license for the formal proclamation of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Mogwase.

To ensure that there is proper coordination and implementation towards this economic growth, Premier Mokgosi further said that the North West Development Corporation has appointed a Chief

Executive Officer with a focus on assembling strong management team to support industrialization programme.

"We have now appointed a full time CEO for the NWDC who will work with the Board to appoint the rest of Executive Management Team. The NWDC will be restructured to be fit for purpose to drive our economic and industrialization programme", Premier Mokgosi said.

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PREMIER MOKGOSI PRIORITISES VULNERABLE GROUPS FOR 2024/2025

By Lerato Majobe

Presenting the 2024/2025 Office of the Premier Budget vote at the North West Provincial Legislature recently, Premier Kagiso Lazarus Mokgosi said the Office of the Premier will intensify measures to lessen socio-economic challenges confronting vulnerable groups in this financial year.

“Our focus for this financial year is to scale up and massify all interventions aimed at alleviation of youth unemployment, empowerment of women and people with disabilities”, Premier Mokgosi said.

He said that the Office of the Premier has established strategic relations with various stakeholders to



assist students in tertiary education with bursaries and practical experience to make it easier for them to be absorbed into the labour market.

“The Office has entered into several strategic partnerships which will be implemented in the current financial year with partners in the Skills Development sector (SETA's),

private sector bodies to expand our services in bursaries, internships, learnerships, work integrated learning and other formal skills development programmes”, he said.

He added that the Office of the Premier will introduce targeted centralized recruitment for identified entry level posts earmarked for the youth, unemployed graduates and certain critical skills and specializations.

Premier Mokgosi said that a budget of over R13million for the procurement of goods and services from small businesses led by women, youth and people with disabilities.

He said that the Office of the Premier will keep a close eye on all Provincial Government Departments and entities to make sure they do business with enterprises owned by persons from vulnerable groups.

OVER R1,8bn ALLOCATED FOR HOUSING DELIVERY IN THE NORTH WEST

By Keorapetse Mosipidi

MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), Gaoage Oageng Molapisi recently said government is hard at work to address the housing backlog in the North West province.

Delivering the 2024/25 COGHTSA Budget Vote at the North West Provincial Legislature, MEC Molapisi acknowledged that the Department was unable to reach its set target due to budget cuts, impacting negatively on housing delivery.

He said that government had committed to build 4336 houses in



the last financial year, but only managed to complete and deliver 3070 houses.

“As a department, we strive to reach our set targets and continuously work towards overcoming some of the obstacles and challenges to increase our impact”, MEC Molapisi said.

MEC Molapisi said that in the last financial year, the COGHSTA had

planned to deliver 7264 serviced sites, but managed to exceed the set target by completing 8821 serviced sites.

For the 2024/25 financial year, MEC Molapisi said that over R76 million has been set aside towards the completion of 6054 sites.

Regarding the Military Veterans Housing Programme, MEC Molapisi said that 86 units will be built at a cost of over R31,5million.

Construction of ten military veterans' houses in Tlakgameng and Ganyesa as well as three houses at Mabele-a-Podi and Bapong respectively are nearly complete.

“We recognize the importance of providing housing for our military veterans and are working towards meeting our targets as soon as possible”, he said.

Furthermore, a further R2,1 million has been allocated for the assessment of houses with asbestos roofs and the NHBRC has been appointed to undertake this task.

So far over 6000 houses have been identified in four municipalities across the province.

“It must be mentioned here that this process commenced in the previous financial year and was slowed down due to nationwide budget cuts which led to the department reprioritising its programmes. It is anticipated that this exercise will be completed in this financial year which would lead to the commencement of removal and disposal of this unhealthy and hazardous material during the 2024/25 financial year”, MEC Molapisi said.

MEC LENKOPANE COMMITS TO SUPPORT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TO GET SMALL BUSINESSES INTO THE MARKET

By Seloane Seleka and Tshepiso Mathoko

Speaking at an event held to commemorate Nelson Mandela International Day at the Mmabatho Convention Centre recently, the MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, Bitsa Lenkopane, made a commitment to support small businesses, the biodiversity economy, business regulations and tourism in the North West.

She was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Cllr Khumalo Molefe and the Executive Mayor of the Mahikeng Local Municipality Tshepiso Mpehlo, among other guests. Also in attendance were the Ratlou Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Jafta Matlhomola, Kgetleng Rivier Mayor Cllr Thabo Jacobs, and Moses Kotane Mayor Cllr Nketu Nkotswe.

The event is a platform to showcase Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism's significant contributions to economic development.

MEC Lenkopane spoke of the impactful work some of the entities are undertaking towards contributing to the province's economic growth; namely, the North West Development Corporation (NWDC), the North West Gambling Board (NWGB), the North West Parks and Tourism Board (NWPTB), and the Development Finance institutions.

MEC Lenkopane said as part of her inclusive approach to service delivery, her first 100 days in office programme will focus on unblocking and activating service delivery channels for accelerated services. The programme includes skills development initiatives designed to meet market demands, ensuring that communities are equipped for future employment opportunities and



supporting self-sustainable projects.

She donated sporting equipment, groceries, renovations, and provision of desktop computers, projectors, and sewing machines to various schools, childcare centres, and non-profit organizations.

She further announced the appointment of young people who will form part of the tourism safety monitors programme and the "Working on Fire" safety monitors.

200 young people will be employed by DEDECT as data capturers across the province, adding to the existing 200 already in contract and they will, among other things, help to paint a picture of

households' status on their living conditions, employment, and education levels.

In addition, there will also be a skills development programme on farming and food security with more than 5 000 unemployed young people from the Dr Kenneth Kaunda district benefiting. MEC Lenkopane said that through the Integrated Development Services Unit (IEDS), unemployed youth and women were identified for the Dunlop Containers project. This project will provide services such as wheel alignment, puncture repairs, and tyre sales and will be rolled out later this month, with the plan to create much-needed jobs

for young people. Through the North West Development Corporation, DEDECT will support the township and village economy through Tuck Shop Support Initiative, which, in partnership with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), will assist SASSA beneficiaries who are affected by the closure of several grant pay points across the province.

The identified tuck shop will receive a facelift on its infrastructure including easier transaction technology for card and or online payments to assist mainly grant recipients as well as supply of stock to ensure necessary supplies for the communities they serve. The biodiversity economy will receive a boost with MEC Lenkopane announcing the revitalization of the Devil's Claw project and acquiring land for the beneficiaries of the project in Ganyesa. The project will have a water borehole drilled for easier access to water.

She further indicated that, as we are in the hunting season, DEDECT will strengthen its compliance and enforcement to ensure hunters comply with licensing laws.

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HUMAN SETTLEMENTS HANDS OVER HOUSE IN TLAKGAMENG ON MANDELA DAY

By Keorapetse Mosipidi

The North West Department of Human Settlements commemorated the 2024 Nelson Mandela Day by handing over a newly built and fully furnished house to a family of eight at Tlakgameng village in the Kagisano Local Municipality recently.

MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi handed over the house to the Mocumi family, who had previously occupied a one-roomed mud house that was used as a bedroom, bathroom, living space and kitchen and did not have proper flooring or windows, and was on the brink of collapse.

MEC Molapisi was accompanied by the MEC for Social Development, Sussana Dantjie, Executive Mayor of the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Cllr Motseokae Maje and the Acting Mayor of the Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality, Cllr Karolo Mothwane as well as representative of the construction company that built the house, Malapane Properties.

According to Rosina Mocumi (59), she has never had any formal employment, survives on temporary work in nearby farms but had to leave due to ill health. The family depends solely on grants being received by her last born son, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"Today is the best day of my life, I never imagined that I would one day be living normally in a proper house with furniture like any other family. I would like to give thanks to our government for recognising me and my family as this has really improved our living conditions, I wish they do the same to other families", Mocumi said. In line with government's poverty alleviation initiatives, the Mocumi family received groceries and a backyard garden. This food



security initiative is aimed at promoting gardening and also seeks to encourage communities to grow their own foods especially during the current economic crisis.

"This day is very essential in our lives because it reminds us of the challenges that we must tackle and resolve in making our country and the

world at large a better place. We should also be mindful that our actions go a long way in the broader work of government in changing the lives of our society", MEC Molapisi said.

"We will continue to work with relevant stakeholders in changing the livelihoods of communities by

identifying families living in poor conditions, especially where there are elderly and disabled people", he said.

"It is for such reason that we brought in the expertise of Malapane Properties to assist in improving the quality of life of the Mocumi family", he added.

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DG MWELI PAYS A COURTESY VISIT TO NORTH WEST WINTER CAMPS

By Godfrey Seattle

The Director General for Basic Education, Mathanzima Mveli, recently paid a special visit to school winter camps in the North West that were held during the school winter holidays at various sites throughout the province.

His educational road shows targeted learners at the camps who were from underperforming schools that were performing below 70% in the first quarter of 2024.

His visit was also intended to support the winter camps by providing necessary messages and tips to Grade 12 learners who will be writing the 2024 examinations in a few months from now.

Throughout the camps, Mveli gave learners five memorable nuggets to use during their studies and preparations for the final examinations.

The nuggets were coming to school every day, paying attention to what teachers say and do, following your own study timetable and utilise



at least six of every 24 hours to study and using all the resources at your

disposal to study.

“Use old question papers,

handouts, radio lessons, digital methods, and make your brother or sister your best keeper as that will encourage team work”, he added.

Mveli explained to learners at the camps that the system wants a significant improvement of the result as that will add value to job creation in the country.

“If you don't change the way you do things, nothing will improve”, he said.

Mveli said he was happy to notice that even though the schools at the camps were classified as schools performing below 70%, some individual learners from those schools performed between 70 and 80 % in average, during the first quarter of 2024. He therefore motivated them to work hard and improve their current average pass percentage.

The winter camps were divided into two groups of underperforming and performing schools.

Mveli was accompanied by the Deputy Director General in the North West Department of Education, Dr Shadrack Mvula and various departmental senior managers.

GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH FOR ALL

By Keletso Ratlhagane

Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi has lauded the North West Department of Health's distribution of health infrastructure and affirmed government's commitment to prioritise infrastructure development as part of broadening access to healthcare to achieve the Universal Health Coverage goal through the Implementation of the National

Health Insurance (NHI).

Premier Mokgosi was addressing the recent opening of the 7th North West Provincial Legislature.

He said that, as government forges ahead to implement the NHI, more focus will be on strengthening healthcare infrastructure, enhancing the training of healthcare personnel, and utilising technology to improve healthcare management.

“Several key infrastructure projects to be prioritised for the 2024-25 financial year include the construction of Uitkyk, Boitekong, Magogoe, Colour Block, Fafung, Koffieekraal, Mothathanyane,

Shiela, Lobatla, Cokonyane, Logageng, Kabe, Matshepe and Modimola Clinics”, Premier Mokgosi said.

Premier Mokgosi also unveiled plans to optimise the provision of health services through collaborations with tertiary institutions across the country.

“The province will be collaborating with the North West University through the medical schools and other institutions like the Sefako Makgatho, Wits and North West

universities to increase the number of health professionals and

specialists in our public hospitals”, Premier Mokgosi added.

“Our plan is to increase access to tertiary health services and expand the services to Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Ngaka Modiri Molema districts”, he continued.

Premier Mokgosi commended the Department of Health for increasing operating hours of the majority of community health centers to 24 hours, saying more clinics will be added to the list of those operating 24 hours as resources become available.

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MEC MAINE SPENDS 67 MINUTES FOR MADIBA IN HEBRON

By Kagiso Mbatha

The MEC for Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Mokone Collen Maine, and departmental staff recently spent Mandela Day with the Ward 41 community in Hebron in the Madibeng Local Municipality where they donated educational toys, cleaned various dumping sites, painted the walls of Love and Learn Pre-School and handed out sport equipment and attire to community sporting organisations.

Among those sporting organisations were International Villa, Rockville FC and Kopano Ya Basadi Social Club.

Earlier that morning, MEC Maine met with the Bakwena Ba Mogopa Traditional Council, where discussion centred on the importance of strategic use of land



and channelling of the vital sources towards the development of the community as well as the empowerment of young people.

"This is an annual day of humanitarian action in celebration of

Nelson Mandela's life and legacy. Also, it is a catalyst to encourage everyone to change the world through voluntary community work. Democracy, equality, diversity,

freedom, reconciliation, and respect are key values Madiba fought for against apartheid. We honour this day in remembrance of our icon that coincides with his birthday", MEC Maine said.

"Commemorating this day is an opportunity to give to those who do not have. The Department is honoured to spend this day with the sporting community and supporting their talent who ensures that they keep a healthy lifestyle", George Marindi, a senior manager in the Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation, said.

Moipone Phaahla of Kopano Ya Basadi Social Club was thrilled to have to spend the day with ACSR.

"We are grateful to have received sporting attire and equipment from ACSR. Our social club hosts elders from the age of 55 and above. The aim of Kopano Social Club is to keep us healthy and mentally stable based on the daily activities that we do", she said.



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PROVINCIAL TREASURY TO ROLL OUT MUNICIPAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES



By Kelepile Mokaila

Provincial Treasury is ready to roll out various tailor-made municipal support programmes to municipalities focusing on four key areas, namely financial management, governance, institutional capacity and service delivery.

Addressing the official opening of the Legislature recently, Premier Kagiso Lazarus Mokgosi spoke of the deplorable state of most municipalities in the North West and directed Provincial Treasury to implement intervention measures to assist municipalities to improve service delivery.

“A stable local sphere of government is critical to ensure provision of services and

infrastructure to attract investment and contribute to local economic development, many of our municipalities are in financial distress, unable to collect sufficient revenue to fund their operations and drive development”, Premier Mokgosi said.

“Regrettably, in some cases, poor financial management and questionable procurement and tendering processes are responsible for the collapse of governance systems. We have instructed Provincial Treasury to conduct financial assessment on the 2024/2025 draft budgets of municipalities to assess the credibility and funding of municipalities”, Premier Mokgosi added.

He said that the 7th administration has seconded senior managers to the Bojanala Platinum District as well

as the Tswaing and Ditsobotla Local municipalities to assist with institutional capacity.

“In addition the Executive Council has adopted pre-emptive implementation of Sections 139 (5) and 154 of the Constitution to assist municipalities meet their financial Recovery and support programmes”, Premier Mokgosi said.

He said the skills audit project in all municipalities, with the exception of the Naledi Local and the Ngaka Modiri Molema District municipalities, is now complete and will be implemented any time from September this year.

As a result of Provincial Treasury's intervention, most municipalities have managed to adopt funded budgets and met requirements to participate in the Eskom debt relief programme.

The Ramotshere Moiloa, Maquassi Hills and Madibeng Local

municipalities were able to honour their respective current Eskom accounts and stand to benefit from the incentive programme.

Emanating from the outcome of the financial assessment by the Provincial Treasury, Premier Mokgosi said a meeting of the North West Premier's Coordinating Council (NWPCC) will be convened with all mayors to present the outcome of government's assessment and demand accountability from municipalities to improve financial management.

In addition, Premier Mokgosi said that the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs has appointed a turnaround team of engineering, finance, town planning and information technology experts to help change the face of local government.

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NORTH WEST ESTABLISH AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP TO DRIVE GROWTH

By Thebe Itumeleng

In a major development for the North West's agricultural sector, Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi recently announced the establishment of an Agriculture Working Group, as an essential component of the Economic and Investment Advisory Council aimed at propelling the sector forward.

Premier Mokgosi was addressing the official opening of the North West Provincial Legislature.

The Agriculture Working Group, comprising a diverse team of industry experts such as agricultural economists, farmers, agribusiness

professionals, and government representatives, is dedicated to exploring emerging opportunities, addressing challenges, and formulating cutting-edge strategies for sustainable growth in the agricultural sector.

Premier Mokgosi stressed the vital importance of collaborating with the private sector to carefully review and realign the Agriculture Master Plan with the province's new growth trajectories.

"We intend to work closely with the private sector to review the Agriculture Master Plan. Our goal is to align it with new growth trajectories for the province", Premier Mokgosi said.

This strategic plan aims to

overcome structural constraints and foster inclusive growth within the sector, envisioning the development of an inclusive, competitive, job-creating, and sustainable agriculture and agro-processing sector.

In his address, Premier Mokgosi also stressed the importance of implementing measures to support small black farmers in bringing their products to the commercial market. Additionally, he underscored the necessity of extending the mega-farms program across all four districts in the province to effectively access and capitalize on new market opportunities.

"We are convinced that it is possible to facilitate the commercialization of small black

farmers and to open new markets without affecting the profitability of existing commercial farmers. We want to revive and scale up the mega-farms programme in all four districts to multiply successes such as the KMF Farm Holdings which is in Ditsobotla Local Municipality and operated by Dr Obakeng Mfikwe. This includes the Jantjies Boerdery owned by Tshepo Jantjies from Taung which provides an array of services that benefit other emerging farmers", Premier Mokgosi said.

These mega-farms will be centres of large-scale production and serve as an anchor for other farmers in surrounding communities by attracting private markets for inputs and outputs.

PREMIER CHARTS PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC GROWTH PATH

By Seloane Seleka

Speaking at the recent opening of the North West Provincial Legislature, Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi outlined a transformative vision for the North West, focusing on bolstering economic sectors and fostering growth and competitiveness.

Premier Mokgosi said that the plan hinges on robust infrastructure to drive manufacturing and industrialization, aiming for inclusive and sustainable growth across the province.

A key announcement is the establishment of the Economic & Investment Advisory Council (EIAC), which will guide the implementation of the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS) and develop sector-based plans to promote inclusive growth, reduce unemployment, and address inequalities.

Furthermore, the Premier's Infrastructure Coordinating Council will convene to spearhead the mega

cities programme through the North West Housing Corporation, (NWHC) to bolster infrastructure.

Premier Mokgosi highlighted the significant economic contributions of the Bojanala Platinum District, which accounts for 52.1% of the Province's GDP, with Rustenburg alone contributing 41.9%.

The district's growth is propelled by major mining operations, including Impala Platinum, Anglo American, Stillwater/Gold, Bakubung Platinum, Royal Bafokeng Platinum, Tharisa Minerals, and Glencore. The mining sector, producing about 97% of the world's platinum, provides roughly 50% of all formal employment in the region. To support the province's economic ambitions, Premier Mokgosi announced plans to establish an Engineering Faculty in Rustenburg in collaboration with North West University and the Departments of Higher Education and Minerals and Petroleum Resources. This initiative will address the demand for technical and engineering expertise in mining

and related fields.

The 7th administration is also focused on reinforcing the establishment of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Mogwase. Premier Mokgosi revealed ongoing consultations with the Minister of Trade, Industry, and Competition to expedite the approval process. A full-time CEO has been appointed for the North West Development Corporation (NWDC), which will undergo restructuring to drive the province's economic and industrialization programs effectively.

Investment commitments for the SEZ currently total R164 billion, with advanced stages for eleven projects and pre-lease agreements signed for three. In the energy sector, Premier Mokgosi emphasized the strategic priority of Pelindaba, South Africa's main nuclear research center. Plans for a 2500MW nuclear plant under the new Electricity and Energy Minister's vision aim to make the North West Province a powerhouse in energy generation, nuclear medicine, and human resource

development.

To revitalize the tourism sector and other industries, the province will establish the North West Development Fund in partnership with private sector stakeholders.

This fund will support initiatives such as the revival of George Dick Montshioa and Pilanesberg Airports, agro-processing, mineral beneficiation industries, and the development of innovation hubs. The province is also advancing broadband connectivity with infrastructure projects targeting over 2,900 Community Wi-Fi Hotspots in Rustenburg, Zeerust, and Kopfontein. Premier Mokgosi reaffirmed that the apex priority of the 7th administration is job creation for the youth. Through the Labour Activation Programme, the government aims to generate 27,000 work opportunities and provide training for unemployed individuals. A Memorandum of Agreement with the National Skills Fund will finance critical interventions across provincial departments.

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STABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPHERE IS CRITICAL TO ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS

By Thebeetsile Keameditse

Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi has called on authorities in municipalities to contribute towards a stable local sphere of government which is critical to ensure provision of services and infrastructure upgrade to attract investments and contribute to local economic development.

Premier Mokgosi made the remarks when he was addressing the recent opening of the North West Provincial Legislature.

He maintains that some cases of poor financial management and questionable procurement and tendering processes are responsible for the collapse of governance systems.

"We have directed the Provincial Treasury to conduct financial assessment on the 2024/25 draft budgets of municipalities to assess the credibility and funding of municipalities", Premier Mokgosi said.

"I will be convening the North West Premier's Coordinating Council with all Mayors to present the outcome of



our assessment and demand accountability from municipalities to improve their financial management", Premier Mokgosi added.

The North West Executive Council has adopted pre-emptive implementation of Section 139 (5) & 154 of the Constitution to assist municipalities meet their financial recovery and support governance.

"We have seconded senior managers to Bojanala, Tswaing, and Ditsobotla to assist with Institutional Capacity. The Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs has appointed a Turn-Around team of experts in the fields of engineering, finance, town planning and information technology to help

change the face of local government", Premier Mokgosi continued.

The Skills Audit Project in all municipalities is now complete with only Naledi and Ngaka Modiri Molema as outstanding municipalities. The audit will be ready for implementation by beginning of September 2024.

PREMIER MOKGOSI CALLS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PROVINCIAL RURAL SAFETY STRATEGY

By Rebaone Moeng

Crime remains a serious challenge in the North West, negatively affecting the investment and economic growth in the Province, with stock theft and Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBV&F) cases leading, with Premier Lazarus Mokgosi calling

for the development of the Provincial Rural Safety Strategy in the fight against crime.

Speaking at the recent opening of the North West Provincial Legislature, he said the strategy will contribute immensely towards eradicating stock theft as well as the abuse and killing of women and children.

"This strategy will also bring police

services closer to the communities of the North West Province", Premier Mokgosi said.

The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, has committed through its Crime Prevention and Partnerships Programme, to coordinate and mobilize stakeholders for the development of the strategy in the current financial year.

This follows the Minister of Police's approval of the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS), which is the implementation tool for the White Paper on Safety and Security.

The North West Provincial Government continues to intensify the fight against crime in creating a safer environment for the communities.

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MAYOR NUM VISITS EXT 7 & 8 IN TIGANE AS PART OF MANDELA MONTH

By Staff Reporter

As part of her Nelson Mandela Month Community Visit Programme, the Executive Mayor of the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, Cllr Nikiwe Num recently visited Tigane township in the City of Matlosana Local Municipality to engage with the community, address pressing issues, and promote their safety and wellbeing during the winter season.

Accompanied by the local fire department, Mayor Num's visit emphasized the critical importance of fire safety during winter.

With colder temperatures prompting residents to use indoor fires for warmth, the risk of accidental house fires increases significantly and the fire department took this opportunity to raise awareness about the dangers of winter fires.

They conducted demonstrations and provided practical advice on how to safely use heating devices and open flames.

A crucial message conveyed was the inherent danger of sleeping with a burning fire canister inside the house, which can lead to devastating fires and loss of life.

The fire department urged residents to ensure that all fires are properly extinguished before going to bed and to use safer heating alternatives whenever possible.

In addition to addressing fire safety, Mayor Num focused on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which remains a significant concern in many communities.

She spoke about the importance of community vigilance and collective action in combating GBV, adding that protecting women and vulnerable members of the community requires a concerted effort from everyone.

She encouraged community members to support each other, report incidents of violence, and



utilize available resources such as local support centers and hotlines dedicated to assisting victims of GBV. Furthermore, she even donated

fire extinguishers as well as whistles and pepper sprays. By partnering with the local fire department and

directly engaging with residents, she aims to foster a safer and more supportive environment for all.

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MEC SAMBATHA EMBARKS ON ENGAGEMENT WITH AGRICULTURE SECTOR ROLE PLAYERS

By Thebe Itumeleng and
Kgalalelo Mashomo

The MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Madoda Sambatha, has hit the ground running with a series of engagements with agricultural stakeholders, with the aim to have an understanding of the challenges faced by role players in the sector.

These include challenges faced by farmers and organized structures from various sub-sectors, foster collaboration, identify specific needs, and formulate targeted interventions to support and develop the agricultural sector of the province.

In one of his initial meetings, MEC Sambatha emphasized his desire to collaborate with all role players to grow the sector.

He said this will allow industry role players to make strategic inputs on how the Department can improve the way it conducts its business.

"As the newly appointed MEC for this Department, I aim to build upon



the foundation laid by my predecessor while introducing some fresh perspectives and approaches. I also promise to work closely with every role player in this important sector. My thoughts are focused on the immense potential of our agricultural sector, and I am committed to unlocking opportunities

for our farmers, rural communities, and the entire value chain", he said.

"By forming sectoral contributions, the Department and its associations can leverage collective expertise, resources, and efforts to address challenges, implement innovative solutions, and create sustainable development in the Province. This

united approach ensures that everyone benefits and contributes to a thriving economy", he added.

MEC Sambatha emphasized that he is mindful of the challenges ahead, including climate change, food security, and economic growth. However, he expressed confidence that, together with all industry players, these obstacles can be overcome to create a thriving agricultural sector that benefits all.

MEC Sambatha's strategy includes enhancing stakeholder engagement, prioritizing sustainable agricultural practices, boosting agricultural economic growth, improving infrastructure development and precision agriculture.

By adopting a collaborative, inclusive, and innovative approach, MEC Sambatha hopes to make a meaningful impact and elevate the agricultural sector to new heights.

The engagements will continue in other districts with the sole intention of soliciting strategic inputs that will facilitate the sector in the province.



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MEC MORWENG CALLS FOR ADVANCED SAFETY MEASURES ON THE TRANS KALAHARI CORRIDOR



By Rebaone Moeng

North West MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Wessels Morweng has called on law enforcement agencies in the Province to stamp authority in the fight against any form criminality on the Trans Kalahari Corridor (TKC).

In his recent address to law enforcement officers, prior to a Trans Kalahari Corridor National Committee (TKCNC) domestic operation in Rustenburg, MEC Morweng said the objectives of the Trans Kalahari Corridor Management Committee (TKCMC) are geared towards improving trade relations between the three-member States and are also in line with Department's mandate of providing protection to the communities.

"Make sure that you deal with any kind of lawlessness that might emerge. It is in our quest to provide stable communities because it is incumbent upon us as government to

make sure that there's relative stability and that will be possible if you carry out your duties with diligence", MEC Morweng said

"Ensure that all those who are on the wrong side of the law are brought to book without thinking twice", he added.

MEC Morweng was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of the Rustenburg Local Municipality Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma.

During the operation, eleven undocumented foreign nationals were arrested.

Amongst them, was a woman who was arrested immediately on MEC Morweng's arrival at the operation while the other ten male foreign nationals were arrested during the vehicle stop and search exercise, where a total of 500 vehicles were searched.

Home Affairs' Immigration officers were on hand to initiate the processes of identifying the nationalities of the said individuals and proper procedures came into effect.

As part of the operation, two stolen vehicles were successfully

recovered by the Gauteng NaTIS, 72 vehicles inspected and charged for various vehicle and driver defaults by both provincial and municipal traffic officers.

Thirty trucks were inspected, and one issued with a fine by the Cross Border Road Transport Agency (CBRTA) for failing to complete consignment note, while the Rustenburg Fire Department charged three trucks for transporting dangerous goods without adequate protocols.

The operation was held to promote compliance with law enforcement, promote safety and security and increase law enforcement visibility on the corridor and further to enforce laws and regulations intended to improve traffic safety and enforce related laws to transport, including weight limits and response rules to transportation of dangerous goods.

Segodi Mogotsi, the Director for Corridor Management at the National Department of Transport and also the Trans Kalahari Corridor Management Committee Co-chair commended all stakeholders who

participated in ensuring the success of the operation in bringing law and order on the N4 Corridor.

"Improvements on the corridor start with maintaining law and order by dealing with criminal activities and ensure total compliance on the route and at the same time we are working hard to address challenges such as maintenance of the infrastructure and improving our relations with communities living along the corridor", Mogotsi said.

According to Mogotsi, the corridor is a conduit for economic growth and development for the entire region in fulfilling the objectives of the SADC Protocol and African Union Vision 2063.

"Government invests billions of rands in the transport infrastructure and people must see economic and developmental spinoffs available along the corridor", he said.

The Trans Kalahari Corridor is a tripartite trans-boundary Corridor Management Institution that was established with a political and economic vision to pursue or contribute towards deeper regional integration programmes of The Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD.)

The Trans Kalahari Corridor Secretariat has resolved to establish National Committees in the Three Member States and South Africa became the first country in achieving the initiative. These committees are set to facilitate and enhance the implementation of the TKC Memorandum of Understanding of 2003 objectives set to improve and harmonise relations between Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

The Trans Kalahari Corridor National Committee (South Africa) will continue working towards intensifying law enforcement, improving relations and creating and identifying opportunities for communities along the corridor.

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COGTA EMPOWERS TRADITIONAL LEADERS TO ENSURE ECONOMIC GROWTH



By Boitumelo Seleka

The North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs recently held a transformative training programme named “The Art of Facilitating Socio-Economic Development for Traditional Leaders” in Rustenburg.

The session, which was facilitated by the National School of Government (NSG), was aimed at empowering and supporting traditional leaders in driving the socio-economic agenda of their respective communities. It provided traditional leaders with practical capabilities to engage and empower their communities to leverage on available opportunities for sustainable development.

The session, which created an environment for traditional leaders to learn from each other and from experts in socio-economic

development, was attended by more than 20 traditional leaders in the province, including the Chairperson of North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership (NWTKL) Kgosi Thari Maotwe.

Kgosi Maotwe highlighted the

importance of such initiatives to traditional leaders in the province and is hopeful that the programme will yield good results.

“This programme has the ability to equip us with the necessary skills to act as economic change agents in

our communities. By understanding and utilizing local natural resources in an environmentally sustainable way, we can create jobs, build wealth and foster an active rural citizenry”, Kgosi Maotwe said.

The Art of Facilitating Socio-Economic Development for Traditional Leaders Programme is part of an ongoing effort by the national Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs through National School of Government to transfer skills and knowledge essential for building sustainable economic interventions in rural areas.

The training emphasized the role of traditional leaders in creating sustainable jobs and fostering economic growth.

“This programme seeks to support traditional leaders in becoming pivotal figures in their communities. It's about empowering them to identify opportunities and utilize local resources effectively to the benefit of local residents”, Valencia Mbuli from the National School of Governance said.

The training sessions were interactive and practical, offering leaders insights into best practices for community engagement and resource management.



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MILITARY VETERANS TO RECEIVE HOUSES

By Tebogo Serai and Keorapetse Mosipidi

The North West Department of Human Settlements (DHS), in collaboration with the National Departments of Military Veterans as well as Human Settlements and various municipalities, rolling out a programme to address a backlog in the construction of houses for military veterans.

Deputy Director for Housing Development, Orapeleng Tabile was speaking at a recently held quarterly military veterans project steering committee feedback session to address the backlog, identify beneficiaries from the database as well as the allocation of sites where the houses will be built.

Tabile said that the DHS has already built six houses at Mabele-a-Podi and Bapong villages respectively, as well as other houses at Tlakgameng and Ganyesa and Lethabong in Rustenburg.



He said those houses will be completed and handed over to beneficiaries before the end of this year.

"The contractor is currently on site and promised to deliver on time and our officials will continue to monitor and give report back about progress made", Tabile said.

One of the beneficiaries identified is Mosiwa Sekhutle, a 61-year-old man who worked for former

Bophuthatswana Defence (BDF) for a period of ten years and later joined the South African Defence Force (SANDF) for three years.

"I am happy because I have been living in my family home and I can't wait to have a place of my own. This is a legacy for my children", he said.

Another beneficiary, Daniel Mandlane, also worked for former BDF and SANDF.

Mandlane is married with three children and is from Bapong village.

"I would like to thank government for building a house for me and my family, I never thought I would see this day, I am really thankful", Mandlane said.

Meanwhile, Jacky Mamabolo, from the National Department of Human Settlements, advised the North West Province to ensure that they have more projects so that they can deal with the backlog.

"The department must ensure that they extend the scope of work to existing contractors rather than appointing new contractors to avoid delay and under-performance. Appointment of new contractors takes a long time because it is a process and this causes unnecessary delay", Mamabolo said.

Tabile said that despite challenges faced by the department, they intend to build 86 military veterans' houses in the province for the current financial year. He added that the DHS will comply with policy governing the Military Veterans Housing Programme in terms of projects roll out.



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STAKEHOLDERS GATHER TO SEEK DIVINE INTERVENTION TO CURB GBV

Rebaone Moeng

Spirits were high as congregants sang at the top of their voices during the prayer session against Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBV&F), held at a local sports ground in Dinokana in the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality.

Organised by the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management (DCSTM) in collaboration with the SAPS Lehurutshe and the local Community Policing Forum (CPF), numerous stakeholders including Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) and Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) gathered in numbers to seek divine intervention to curb the scourge of violence against the vulnerable.

Speaker after speaker echoed the message of all parties playing their role in curbing gender based violence, instead of overburdening the police and accusing them of failing to protect the most

endangered groups and communities at large.

They all agreed that crime exists in communities they reside in and emphasized that fighting it should be a collective responsibility.

One of the congregants made a call to the community saying "we should teach ourselves to care for one another in solidarity, because as much as a victim is your neighbour's child today, tomorrow it may be your own. If we are quiet, and do not fight against it, then we will not go anywhere."

A Chaplain from Kgarathelo Foundation, an NPO that supports the victims of GBV in the area, Onica Masemola pleaded with government to extend a hand of protection to victims rather than perpetrators.

She further made a call to government to review certain policies that she views as lenient to and favourable of perpetrators.

"It does not matter how intense the case is or dangerous the perpetrators are, the law always seems to be in their favour, and they are fully aware that an arrest will result in them being

granted bail in a few days. The case will also drag, affording them time to enjoy themselves roaming the streets, tormenting our people further. We really plead with government and will not stop supporting our people in these difficult times", she said.

Captain Ndumiso Mayisela of the SAPS said the Lehurutshe police station is experiencing gender based violence and rape cases every weekend, hence they are amongst stations with high reported cases.

"We have a serious challenge with people who come to the station to open a case, and in no time, return to withdraw the same case. It is a serious inconvenience, at which we will never bring an end to this scourge", Mayisela said.

The Chief Director for Provincial Secretariat for Police Service at the DCSTM, Mpho Maleme, said that the province is experiencing a high number of GBV cases, especially in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, and Dinokana sits at the highest rate.

Maleme added that the department, through MEC Wessels Morweng, tabled the departmental

budget vote at the Provincial Legislature, and recommitted to strengthen the fight against crime.

"We have already started with the commitment that the MEC has made on strengthening the fight against crime and are doing so by reviving our community structures and collaborating with all relevant stakeholders, hence we are here today", Maleme continued.

"We are no longer going to work in silos but are coming here in District Development Model (DDM), bringing all government departments and sectors in unison to provide services to our people", she said.

She called on victims and complainants not to withdraw cases, as she explained the role of the department in ensuring that police service communities according to the policy.

"We are responsible to ensure that you get the service that you deserve at police stations, and upon our investigations, we are able to re-register your case if any discrepancies are detected from the police side upon their investigation", Maleme said.

MEC MOKUA RECEIVES A WARM WELCOME FROM DR RUTH SEGOMOTSI MOMPATI DISTRICT EMPLOYEES DURING HER MEET AND GREET

By Keabetswe Seekaro

The MEC for Public Works and Roads, Elizabeth Mokua, together with Head of Department Moses Kgantsi and senior managers recently held a one-on-one meet and greet session with the staff in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District offices in Vryburg.

The aim was for MEC Mokua to meet with district managers and gain better understanding of the broader

programmes, get to feel the district's state of affairs, and be formally introduced to the entire staff in the district.

In her address to staff, MEC Mokua said she was satisfied with the district's performance.

"I am very proud of the good impression I received, the excellent work, determination, and dedication shown by employees in the district in making sure that the department is well represented. Continue working hard as a team to ensure fast-tracking performance on service

delivery", MEC Mokua said.

MEC Mokua stressed that infrastructure is one of the DPWR's core pillars in the province, hence, the department's strategic goal is to manage and maintain provincial infrastructure.

She insisted that the DPWR must work closely with sister departments in order to monitor the department's facilities, ensure the issue of vacant buildings is addressed as soon as possible and is resuscitated to further generate income.

"Let us continue to be a winning

team despite the challenges encountered and perhaps change ways of doing things in achieving our mandate as a department, but also show commitment in serving the people of our province", MEC Mokua said.

MEC Mokua and her entourage concluded the day with a walk-about at the Mini Garona offices where she engaged with employees of other government departments regarding the status of the building and envisaged improvements.

OMACHEKE LEARNS BEST AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FROM DR RSM FARMERS

By Lerato Majobe

Following Tshepiso Jantjies's annual visits to Namibia for agricultural exhibitions, the Namibian Agriculture Ministry from Office of the Governor led by Omaheke Regional Council Chairperson, Ignatius Kariseb recently visited farmers in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati (RSM) district to benchmark on best farming practices.

The Omaheke Region in Namibia is primarily characterized by cattle farming.

Because the Dr RSM district is considered one of the best crop and livestock farming districts in South Africa, Kariseb said that they will utilize the agricultural skills they have acquired from different farmers as a prototype to improve farming back home in Namibia.

"We are going to refer to what we have learnt here to conduct our agri-business and we will be able to implement how things are done here", Kariseb said.

Tshepiso Jantjies who owns Jantjies Boerdery, a factory that produces absolute value chain of lucerne from farming to the factory until the product reaches the client, said that this is a great platform to establish relations between farmers in their district and those who are in Omaheke as they are in need of animal feed.

"We are actually soliciting the relationship, because I have noticed in my research there is a need for animal feed, people in that region are doing very well in cattle, but when you look at the production of crop, there is none, so we intend to work with them hand in hand", Jantjies said.

The Speaker of the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality, Cllr Dr Kgalalelo Sereko said that these foreign agricultural relations will address challenges of inequality, unemployment and



poverty confronting young people in the district.

The delegation also visited the PH Moeketsi Agricultural High School where learners are being educated on all aspects of agriculture as well as visiting Letshabo Brothers who specialize in vegetable production.

To further impart good business practices, Jantjies Boerdery in partnership with Logiic held Business ignition session with the delegation from Namibia in Madibogo village where Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) from Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Ngaka

Modiri Molema districts were taught on how to make their businesses thrive on traits that included amongst others exporting their products to SADC countries, how to manage crisis, business ethics and tendering and Leveraging on Fourth industrial revolution (4IR).

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SMART AND MEGA CITY PROJECTS TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

By Lerato Majobe and
Kegomoditswe Ratlhagane

Speaking at the official opening of the 7th North West provincial Legislature in Mahikeng recently, Premier Kagiso Lazarus Mokgosi announced the implementation of the smart and mega city projects to unlock investment in key focus areas including housing, infrastructure,

transport and logistics, leisure and tourism as well as healthcare.

"The Presidency has delegated the Lanseria Smart City Development to the Gauteng Provincial Government as an implementing agent and will collaborate with the North West Housing Corporation to execute this smart city development", Premier Mokgosi said.

Premier Mokgosi said that the Executive Council (EXCO) has

started talks with their Gauteng counterparts. They will soon meet to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding to roll out this project.

"We have started discussions with our colleagues in Gauteng to convene a joint EXCO meeting to finalize a memorandum of understanding between the two provinces for the implementation of the smart city development", he said.

"The North West Housing

Corporation will be assigned to incorporate the Lanseria Smart City mandate into the existing Mega Cities programme to achieve synergy and integration", he added.

Premier Mokgosi further said that R19 million has been set aside to roll out three other mega infrastructure projects in the region this year.

"Furthermore, three mega infrastructure projects in the region of nineteen billion rands will be rolled out this year", he said.

DRY SEASON: A CAUSE FOR CONCERN AS WILDFIRES PREVAIL



By Tshegofatso Leepile

The prevalence of wildfires during the dry season, usually between May and October months in the northern parts of the country, is a yearly concern and the North West has in previous years experienced uncontrollable wildfires that affected farmers and the operation of various businesses.

Although most of the fires are due

to natural causes, human error also plays a critical part in the cause and spread of wildfires. Therefore, communities are warned against burning vegetation during land preparation, and disposing of cigarette stubs, matches, and lighters as these actions can potentially cause a fire.

Accidents, deliberate acts of arson, burning of debris, and fireworks as well as other substantial causes of wildfires are not

encouraged. Residents are also cautioned not to throw bottles in the veld as they can magnify the sun's rays and start fires.

Farmers are advised to ensure that firebreaks are well placed, especially in summer seasons where the fuel load is high and may exacerbate the spread of fires. Veld fires are a threat to life, livestock, and vegetation. Owners of land are encouraged to comply with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act Act

101 of 1998 by constructing, maintaining fire breaks and ensuring that firefighting equipment are well serviced.

Although no cases have been recorded thus far, the public should be aware that wildfires raise environmental management and sustainability impact challenges as the effects posed by veld fires include property damage, reduced soil fertility, destruction of vegetation, grazing land for animals, air and water pollution as well as destruction of wildlife.

Members of the public are advised to refrain from containing or putting out veld fires themselves as this may pose a danger to them. In the event of a fire, contact trained personnel to extinguish the fire.

Contact details in case of emergency:

Chairperson of the North West Umbrella Fire Protection Association (NWUFPA)

Mr Eric Stoch: 071 077 6653

North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development – Disaster Management

Gabriel Phorotho: 082 975 7737

Schalk Voster : 083 443 1638

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YOUNG FARMER ACCUMULATES TWO MORE FARMS AND INCREASES COMMODITIES



By Tshegofatso Leepile

When Koketso Baloyi started her farming business in 2018 from a leased piece of land, she envisioned herself owning land of her own, which she was able to acquire.

The 32-year-old farmer purchased land in Beestekraal and Mooinooi in Bojanala whilst still operating on the leased 18,5-hectare land in Sonop.

Her business, Diatla Tshweu, has since expanded and she has added more commodities from planting just spinach.

"Two of the plots, are for mainly horticulture where I plant spinach, cabbage and potatoes. I also plan on planting watermelons this August and lucerne as it is in demand. The lucerne will also be beneficial to my small livestock as I have recently bought pigs, sheep and goats as part of my strategy to increase the commodities that I trade in. The Beestekraal plot houses layers only and the intention is to develop the farm to be able to meet the demand for eggs every week", Baloyi said.

Four hectares of drip irrigation and sprinklers on the Sonop and Mooinooi farms were supported by the department. The system is the most efficient water delivery system for crop irrigation. This system saves water, electricity and crop protection products, and the water is directed exactly to the plant's root zone, in the right amounts and timeously.

"I appreciate the Department's assistance with the irrigation system, it has made watering crops seamless and effective. I've received consistent extension and advisory services on horticulture. The experience and knowledge possessed by the extension officer in my area is the reason I can continuously produce quality vegetables that meet industry standards", Baloyi said.

The young farmer secured an off-take agreement with McCain Foods for her spinach which she also supplies to Choppies and Boxer retail chains. She also supplies cabbages and potatoes to retailers and individual stockiest.

As the business continues to grow, Baloyi is determined to cultivate more produce, especially potatoes that she has just recently exported to Mozambique. Potatoes



will always be in high demand as the consumption of potato products varies, buyers are everywhere and

they significantly contribute to the total gross value of vegetable production in South Africa.

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YOUTH-OWNED CREATIVE PROJECT, JIKA NAYE, RECEIVES EQUIPMENT TO BOOST BUSINESS SUCCESS

By Kagiso Masoko

The African continent is widely regarded as the next frontier in small business development, representing immense potential to transform lives, families, and communities. This month, we feature Kabelo Moloto, a remarkable young entrepreneur and the founder and managing director of Jika Naye Projects.

Based in Protea Park, Rustenburg, Moloto embodies the spirit of innovation and perseverance, propelling his company to new heights through creative vision and hard work.

Jika Naye Projects, a 100% black and youth-owned South African company, received essential equipment from the Empowerment Fund, an initiative by the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism (DEDECT), marking a significant milestone in the company's journey, enhancing its operations and expanding its impact.

Kabelo Moloto holds a BA in Communications from the University of Johannesburg and several diplomas in writing, public relations, marketing, graphic design, and business management, founded Jika Naye Projects in 2010. His academic background and visionary mindset have been instrumental in navigating the challenges in the creative industry.

The company offers a diverse range of services, including graphic design, corporate clothing, sportswear supplies, personal protective equipment, office consumables, corporate gifts, printing, and video production. Despite limited equipment in the past, Moloto's determination allowed him to maintain quality and fulfill client demands, even if it meant outsourcing to other printers.

The equipment received, valued



at R111,500,00 includes a Cotex vinyl cutter and stand, Anycut contour cut software, a heat press, a cap and panel press, a mug press bulk 5 head, a plate press, an Epson sub printer, a color 2 station screen printer, a four-color 2 station printer, a flash ink dryer, an exposure unit, a pad printer, a flash stamp machine, a badge press with two molds, and an

A3 guillotine. This investment has enabled Moloto to offer competitive pricing and expand his portfolio to include school uniform design, vehicle branding, and signage.

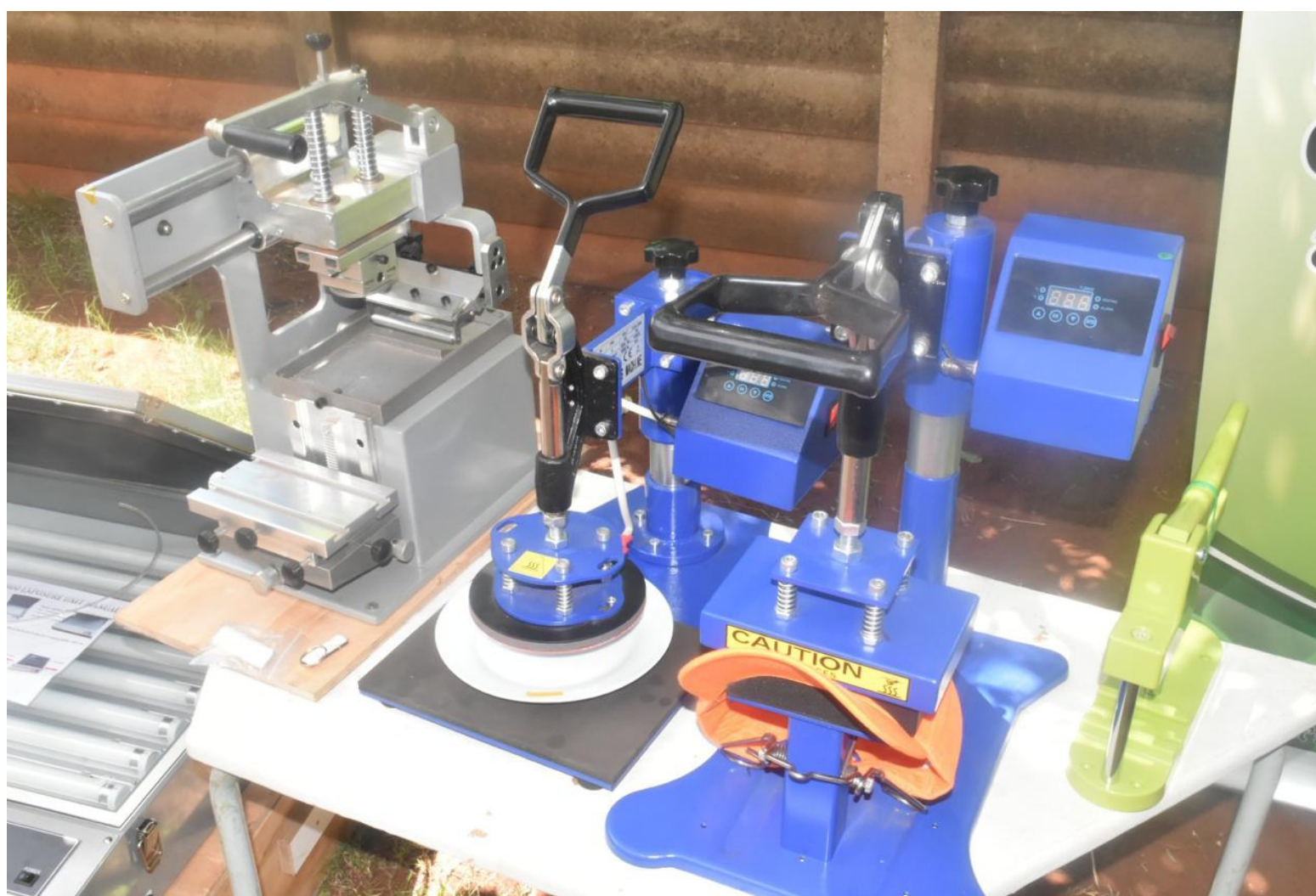
"I can now confidently say that my pricing is competitive, as I am now servicing other entrepreneurs within my area and surroundings who are still struggling with resources. It's a value chain", Moloto said.

The influx of equipment has not only improved production efficiency but also increased the company's client base, particularly in funeral parlours for their vehicle branding.

Moloto's vision extends beyond business growth. He is committed to community empowerment, aiming to create employment opportunities, particularly for women and people with disabilities operating within his area. He envisions Jika Naye Projects not only thriving within the province but also reaching intentional markets, thereby contributing to employment, skills development, and community upliftment.

Carol Rasego, Director for Economic Empowerment at DEDECT, commended Jika Naye Projects for their resilience and encouraged them to maximize the benefits of the new equipment.

"We encourage other young people to follow suit and come up with innovative ideas to assist in reducing the rate of unemployment in the North West Province", she said.



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MEC MOTSUMI MEETS WITH PRINCIPALS TO BOOST UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS

By Refiloe Motswenyane

The MEC for Education, Ntsetsao Viola Motsumi, met with 74 school principals from underperforming schools as well as circuit managers at the Seasons Conference and Wedding Centre in Mafikeng recently.

Acting Head of Department, Maropene Seshibe said the meeting was to ensure that principals and circuit Managers double their efforts to improve performance before the end of the year.

"We should create a platform to look into the challenges the principals are faced with and come up with solutions that are going to help us to perform", Seshibe said.

MEC Motsumi said that schools performing under 70% require monitoring and assistance to enable the North West to go beyond the 816% pass rate obtained in the 2023 matric results



"The approach that has been used by circuit managers and principals needs to change. We should self-introspect if we want to be taken seriously by other provinces. Principals should be allowed to relate and tell us their problems. North West should get 90% this year", MEC Motsumi said.

MEC Motsumi said that for schools to perform better, it is

important to expand the school-based intervention programme with district directors giving circuit managers all the necessary support.

A preliminary report on these schools revealed that there are fundamental protocols and educational strategies that were not followed adequately.

As a result, the school management teams are now

required to account for these deficiencies and circuit managers need to account for the level of support they provide to these principals.

Based on these findings, solutions will be developed to enhance overall learner performance.

Circuit coordinators from the four districts already have plans on how they are going to help their principals to perform better than in 2023.

A strategy has been devised to focus more on GET phase, incubation camps for autumn and winter were done, teams of circuit managers have been established to support the schools, circuit managers should focus more on school improvement plans (SIP), qualified teachers for foundation phase should be hired.

The results will be analyzed each term and put under administration to change the status quo while the monitoring of underperforming schools will be done monthly to ensure continuous support.



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MEC MOTSUMI MEETS WITH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND NEWLY ELECTED SGB MEMBERS

By Nonkululeko Sereo

The MEC for Education, Ntsetsao Viola Motsumi recently held an interactive session with school principals, newly elected School Governing Body (SGB) chairpersons and secretaries, together with the district Representative Council of Learners (RCL) structures at the Mmabatho Convention Centre in Mahikeng.

"I officially welcome and congratulate you on your positions and pledge to support you in all aspects. If we work together, we can take the province far", MEC Motsumi said.

She raised her concerns about gangsterism and ill-discipline in some schools in the province, inadequate infrastructure and mutual relationships between principals and the SGB members on school related issues or their day-to-day work.

She pleaded with all parties to appreciate each other's work and ensure good working relationships.

The Representatives Council of Learners urged SGB's to include them in all meetings scheduled to address pertinent issues affecting the school and learners in particular.

They also pledged their regular support where it is necessary.

The meeting was also attended by Department of Education's executive and senior managers.



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63 LEARNERS OF RE-E-LWELE PRIMARY HANDED NEW SCHOOL SHOES

By Shimane Seriteng and Abraham Mothobi

The Department of Education's Bojanala District, in collaboration with the EAP Platinum Outreach Programme, recently handed out brand new school shoes to 63 learners during a community outreach program at the Re-E-Lwele Primary School at Madibeng near Rustenburg.

The aim was to give back to the poor and vulnerable communities through a multi-stakeholder engagement to curb absenteeism, late coming, and poor learner performance as part of the department's Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC).

The QLTC programme was launched in 2008 as a pledge for departmental officials, educators, learners, and the community to ensure that, for every young South



African to realize quality equitable education, it remains crucial to mobilize and galvanize the entire nation to rally behind the ideologies of excellent quality education.

Since EAP offers capacity building to professionals rendering public service, it has also partnered with Liberty as a key stakeholder and has set objectives as part of its

Community Service Investment (CSI) to offer the necessary care and support to garnish professional service standards through collective partnership.



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NORTH WEST 2024 ABC MOTSEPE SASCE PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Godfrey Seatle

The North West Department of Education recently hosted a three day Provincial South African School Choral Eisteddfod competition at the Mmabatho Convention Centre in Mahikeng to showcase the creativity, inspiration and artistic talent among schools in the province, as well as giving the choristers an opportunity to discover

and showcase talent. In attendance was MEC for Education, Ntsetsao Viola Motsumi, as well as the executive management of the Department of Education, principals, learners and members of the community. Primary and secondary school choirs from all the four districts participated in the singing of both western and traditional songs during the competition. Participating choirs were classified as follows, primary schools

being Grades 3 to 7 and secondary schools being Grades 8 to 12. The schools performed in categories such as special school choirs, mixed choirs (Western and African), boys choir, soprano solo, mezzo sopranos solo, indigenous Folklore, Own choices, chamber choirs, sextets, trio, septet and baritone solo. MEC Motsumi congratulated each and every learner who has made it to the competition and said credit should be given to teachers for their

excellent work. “As a Department, we do not only teach learners in class, we also expose their talents in music and sports. I want to make a humble request to our artists in the province to consider featuring our learners in their music albums”, MEC Motsumi said. Out of 92 schools that participated, 21 schools will represent the North West at the National SASCE Championships to be held in Gauteng from 7 to 10 August 2024.

DAY 1 PRIMARY SCHOOLS	Songs	Position	Name of the School	District
Western	To God be the Glory	1	J D Mosia	Bojanala
African	Thuto	1	J D Mosia	Bojanala
Own Choice	Own Choice/Figara	1	Reoleboge	Bojanala
Boys Choir	Ode to Joy	1	Motlhabane	NMMD
Sextet9SSA/SAT)	Masakhe Umzantsi	1	Ramaifala	Bojanala
Chamber Choirs Farm &small schools	Nobody knows this troubles I've seen	1	Ramaifala	Bojanala
Mixed Choirs (Western)	Come away, sweet love	1	Kgwanyape	Bojanala
Mixed Choirs (African)	Xidimokrasi	1	Kgwanyape	Bojanala
Social –lls Jingle & Foklore	Sepedi Culture Culture of choice	1	Sunrise View	Bojanala
DAY 2 SECONDARY SCHOOLS Special Schools	Songs	Position	Name of the School	District
Own choice	Own choice/Emajikeni	1	Tlamelang	NMMD
Soprano Solo	Mein Herr Marquis (Die Fledermaus)	1	Batswana	NMMD
Tenor Solo	Ixsha lokunduluka	1	Baitshoki	NMMD
Mezzo Soprano Solo	Non Piu (Le Nozze di Figaro)	1	Tshebedisano	Dr KKD
Bass/Baritone	Yim lo!	1	Ntolo	Bojanala
Septet	3030		Kebonang	NMMD
Mixed Choirs (Western)	Never Again/ Ave Verum	1	Mothotlung	Bojanala
Mixed Choirs (African)	Thompo	1	Ikatisong	Bojanala
DAY 3 CHOIRS IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS (Grade7/8-12) Farm & Small schools	Songs	Position	Name of the School	District
Mixed Double Quartet	Wonk'Um'Ontsundu	1	Moedwil	Bojanala
Chamber Choirs Farm & Small schools	Song of Peace (Finlandia)	1	Moedwil	Bojanala
SSA Choirs	My Friend	1	Mmabatho	NMMD
TTBB Choirs	Prisoners Chorus(Fidelio)	1	Kebonang	NMMD
Mixed Choirs (Western)	Dixit Dominus Domine Jesu Christe	1	Kgapamadi	Bojanala
Mixed Choirs (African)	Vuk'uyibambe	1	Matlosane	Dr KKD
Social –lls Jingle & Foklore	Any Voice Combination	1	Setilo	NMMD