



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

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EXCO REFLECTS ON 100 DAYS IN OFFICE

By Lerato Majobe

Reflecting on the achievements and challenges encountered in 100 days since the inception of the 7th administration in June at a recent media briefing in Mahikeng, North West Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi said that there has been progress towards people's socio-economic conditions and there are still measures in place to further respond to their needs.

To reduce the high unemployment rate in the province currently standing at over 50%, Premier Mokgosi said that the government is leading by example in creating job opportunities by advertising vacant positions targeting designated groups most affected by unemployment.

"We have advertised over 240 funded vacant posts across all government departments targeting vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and people with disabilities to take the lead in job creation", he said.

To reduce the poverty and starvation that people continue to face, he said that the government allocated R300 million to assist farmers in enhancing their food production capacity in the 2025/2026 financial year. "In mitigating the impact of poverty and hunger in our communities we have set aside over R280 million to bolster subsistence, smallholder and commercial farmers to enhance and boost food produc-

tion in the next financial year", he said.

As many citizens suffer from hunger because of the high rate of unemployment, Premier Mokgosi said that the Presidential Stimulus Package has set aside R45 million to the province to introduce a food distribution programme that will benefit over two thousand families with basic food. To establish and intensify global economic relations, Premier Mokgosi further said that the government signed a Memorandum of understanding with the Henan province of China and renewed the economic cooperation with Gyeosangbuk-Do Province of South Korea during a recent visit to these

countries. "We have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Henan province of China and renewed our economic ties with the Gyeosangbuk-Do province of South Korea during our visit to the two countries." "These efforts will culminate into various investment opportunities that will create employment for the people of this province and address high levels of poverty and unemployment afflicting our communities", Premier Mokgosi said.

He further said that he recently met with the Chief Executive Officers of leading Indian companies in the country through the Indian Business Forum and they have also expressed interest in investing in Agriculture,

Tourism, and Mining, which are primarily the province's economic drivers. Premier Mokgosi applauded nine departments for receiving unqualified audit outcomes, two for obtaining clean audit outcomes and one for receiving qualified opinions with reduced qualification paragraphs in the previous audit cycle.

He said that this foundation made the transition easier as the government managed to finalize and table the current financial year's provincial budget focusing on primary service delivery programs and the creation of employment opportunities and extended his praises to the municipalities for also improving their audit outcomes.



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BASIC EDUCATION MINISTER AND DEPUTY MINISTER VISIT NORTH WEST



By Staff Reporter

The Minister of Basic Education, Siviwe Gwarube, accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Education, Dr Reginah Mhaule, visited the North West Province recently, ahead of the 2024 Grade 12 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations currently underway, to meet with MEC for Education, Viola Motsumi, to communicate priorities of the 7th Administration as well as visit a few schools in the province.

The hearing and listening tour was her first visit to the North West since her appointment as Minister.

MEC Motsumi informed them that the province as well as the learners are ready for examinations.

MEC Motsumi said that all the 449 examination centers are ready to cater for more than 45000 learners, 41550 full-time and 3453 part-time, who are currently writing and added

that the province will improve in quality and not only positions.

Minister Gwarube said that she intends to make the education system better in the country but pleaded with the province to deal with all the challenges hindering the education sector.

"I am fully aware that the North West Province is from administration

in the past era but there is something right that the province is doing. I do not doubt that the province will produce good results and even appear in the top 20 learners across the country", Minister Gwarube said.

"The province has potential and that was evident during the recent National Teachers Awards, recently where the province got nine awards

and obtained overall position 1 at the awards", Minister Gwarube said.

She also visited the Tlhabane West Primary School, then proceeded to Oom Paul Special School in Rustenburg.

She then went to the Johane Mokolobetsi Secondary School in Bapong as well as the Wagpos Hoerskool near Brits.



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PREMIER MOKGOSI ASSESSES HOUSING DELIVERY IN MORETELE

By Keorapetse Mosipidi and
Kagiso Masoko

Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi recently visited the completed Ruigtesloot Housing Project in the Moretele Local Municipality as part of the government's Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (ASDP).

He was accompanied by the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Gaoage Oageng Molapisi, and the Mayor of the Moretele Local Municipality Cllr George Manyeke to assess progress made in the construction of the houses as well as to officially hand over keys to two beneficiaries who have been staying in the nearby villages.

Premier Mokgosi said that the completion of the houses marked progress towards restoring people's dignity.

Ruigtersloot is one of the villages known for inadequate settlements crowded by shacks and mud houses. The condition of the poor housing construction in Ruigtersloot posed a threat to residents, as they had been affected by floods since 2014 until recently, putting occupants' lives at risk.

Premier Mokgosi further highlighted the importance of taking care of these new homes to sustain the structures for future generations.

"As we continue to celebrate the development of living conditions in this community, the government pleads with beneficiaries to sustain these structures for future generations. We are committed to ensuring individuals have a roof over their heads in rains and winds. You can now live happily in your homes", Premier Mokgosi said.

"We are grateful to see our community members celebrating the fruits of government. We will continue to work hard in providing human settlements to our people and restore



the dignity of families in our province", MEC Molapisi said.

New homeowner, John Madoba, had been living with his family, including two children, in a small house in the village. The household has been surviving off the government social grants and Madoba's odd jobs around the village. "I have been staying with my parents and children for years but today marks a change in my life. I am finally proud to own a home, and this

moment restored my dignity as a father. I am grateful for the government's efforts in restoring our dignity through the provision of adequate housing in our villages", Madoba said. Another beneficiary, Rosina Belman could not contain her excitement for receiving a new home. Belman has lived her whole life with her late husband and four grandchildren in a small house. The family relied on child support grants

and old age grants to make for survival. Belman now stays with two grandchildren, one in primary school and the other in university to take care of.

"This house signifies the government's efforts in restoring our dignity. My family can now sleep peacefully in a warm household. I am grateful and proud to be a house owner after so many years of living in extremely difficult conditions", Belman said.

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HUMAN SETTLEMENTS HANDS OVER 100 HOUSES IN MABELE-A-PUDI



By Simon Mmope

The North West Department of Human Settlements recently handed over 100 unblocked housing units to beneficiaries in Mabele-A-Pudi outside Rustenburg as part of the government's Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (ASDP) Thuntsha Lerole.

Boitumelo Tsheko (32) and her two children were elated to be handed keys to their new house, following the government's commitment to unblock blocked housing projects across the province.

Handing over the house, MEC for

Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Gaoage Oageng Molapisi, accompanied by the MEC for Social Development, Basetsana Dantjie said he is happy with the rate at which the department is continuing to deliver houses to change the lives of ordinary citizens for the better as well as restore their dignity.

Most beneficiaries had previously lived in shacks and used pit toilets for ablution.

"I'm pleased at the rate the department is going. We have been delivering houses everywhere we go. I hear that several projects have been completed across the province. This is a clear indication that we are

winning this battle of unblocking blocked projects and continue to change the lives of our communities", MEC Molapisi said.

"Yes, we still have a serious backlog, but we are striving to make more with the little budget the department has been allocated. We are still and will continue to deliver on our mandate, which is to create sustainable human settlements for all residents of the North West Province", he added.

MEC Dantjie said that both departments have common beneficiaries.

"While Human Settlements continue to provide habitable shelter, to our clients, we will continue to look

at the social part. Those who qualify for low-cost houses also qualify for social grants. This will further ensure that other challenges experienced by beneficiaries are easily referred to the relevant department for further assistance", MEC Dantjie said.

Receiving keys to her house, an elated Tsheko thanked the government for moving her from a shack to a decent home.

"We were staying in a shack. My children were being exposed to hazardous health conditions. It is now in the past. I am incredibly happy and grateful for what the government did for me. This is a life-changing moment for me. I am pleased", she said.

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BAAGI BA KGOKGOJANE BA BONA DITIRELO TSA LENAANE LA THUNTSHA LEROLE



By Joe Motlhasedi

Mafapha a puso ya Bokone Bophirima le ditheo tsa poraefete le tse eseng tsa puso, gammogo le keteledipele ya masepala wa sedika wa Ruth Segomotsi Mompati gammogo le masepala wa selegae wa Kagisano-Molopo, a kgonne go tlisetsa baagi ba Kgokgojane le metse e e mabapi ditirelo sesheng jaana.

Seo ene e le karolo ya lenaane la puso la Thuntsha Lerole, eo e leng maitlhommo a puso a go tsewedisa

neelano ya ditirelo kwa baaging ka potlako.

Mo kopanong le baeteledipele ba maphata a farologaneng a puso, ba segosi kwa Kgokgojane ba eteletse pele ke Kgosi Kanono ba gateletse thata dintlha tse di ba tlhokisang boroko le go ba tlhobaetsa ka lenaane le lelatelang.

Dingwe tsa dintlha tse ke tsela ya mmu e e tsenang mo motseng ebile ele makgwakgwa gape esa tlhokomelesege, kago ya puso ya Thusong Service Centre e e sa dirisiweng jaaka e tshwanetse, go sa tlisewe ditirelo mo go yone jaaka ko tshimologong le tlhokego ya metsi ke tlhola-boroko mo kagong eo.

Ba buile gape ka porojeke ya go

rebolela baagi metsi e e tshotseng nako e telele go ka konosediwa le gore go oketswe madutelo a metsi mo metseng.

Puso e tshepitsitse gore e tla dira ka bojotlhe go rarabolola mathata ao baagi ba Kgokgojane ba a iponelang.

Baemedi bagolo ba puso ba etetse porojeke ya Tlapeng Cluster Bulk Water Supply e e tlleng go tlamela metsana e le some-a-mabedi nngwe (21) ka metsi.

Seno ene ele go ka bona fa porojeke e tswelletse sentle mo go tsenyeng peipi ya dikilomitara di le 93 le go epa didibana tsa metsi di le supa (7).

Baitsaanape ba porojeke ba netefaditse fa e ka fela pele ga

kgwedi ya Moranang 2025 e ya fifing. Mokhanselara Matobo o tlhalositse fa a itsi ka tlhokego ya madutelo ko motseng wa Southey, ebile seno se ka tsengwa mo lenaaneng mo tekanyetsong-kabo ya 2025/2026.

Malapa ale mabedi, ba ga Riet le ba ga Tikane, ba kgonne go nna le lesego la go etelwa ke badiredi loago, le go thusiwa ka go phepafatsa matlo a bone le go abelwa dijo, dithlare tse di jalwang tsa dijo le meriti le go tlisediwa melemo kwa gae.

Baagi bao ba neng ba tlhoka makwaloitshupo, ikwadiso ya go amogela madi a SASSA, tlhatlhobo ya pholo ba kgonne go bona thuso mo ka ntlha ya lenaane la Thuntsha Lerole

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THUNTSHA LEROLE CONTINUES TO IMPACT VARIOUS COMMUNITIES

By Lerato Majobe, Zintle Xaba and
Kegomoditswe Ratlhagane

In a continued effort to change people's lives, North West Provincial Government through the Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (ASDP) Thuntsha Lerole Reloaded Phase 4 recently provided various primary services to residents in three local municipalities.

These are the Moretele and Moses Kotane Local municipalities in the Bojanala District Municipality and the Tswaing Local Municipality in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.

The MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism Bitsa Lenkopane conducted awareness campaigns on climate change and waste management, undertook an oversight visit to the Lebotloane Information Center and found that the facility was in its good condition and subsequently inspected taverns and tuckshops around the area where she found seven illegal tuckshops and sixteen taverns and confiscated one illegal gambling machine.



As the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is the custodian of food security, MEC Madoda Sambatha gave away spinach, tomato, and beetroot seeds to villagers in Kromkuil, to cultivate their vegetable gardens.

Sarah Moloto received a Bonsmara bull from the government and said that she was grateful for the gesture as this bull will bring a new breed to her kraal and further said that this will help her realize her envisaged agri-business as this

breed is in demand.

The MEC for Public Works and Roads Elizabeth Mokua led a team that cut down trees and cleaned up the Baloi section in Kromkuil village, cleaned up dumping sites, patched potholes, fixed high mass lights and marked roads at Mootla village.

The provincial Treasury guided the Moretele Local Municipality on how to run its financial affairs accordingly so that service delivery can occur.

In the Moses Kotane Local

Municipality, the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management launched Operation Kwala Mokoti in response to the many illegal mining sites near Sun City, the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism issued renewed liquor licenses to about 50 liquor outlets while the Department of Public Works and Roads completed Road D533 that connects Sandfontein and Senamakgoteng.

Deelpan in the Tswaing Local Municipality was engulfed by torrential rains between 2021 and 2022 that left many residents homeless, took away all their household contents, and dispossessed them of their livestock. Kelebogile Lekwene whose house was also washed away by the floods appreciated the government for giving her an RDP House. The Chairperson of Deelpan farmers, Isaac Thebeyagae who received services on behalf of the local farmers also appreciated the government for giving them 90 goats, 5 bulls, 3 Bonsmaras and 2 Brahman, and a livestock handling facility.

PREMIER MOKGOSI ADDRESSES 23rd SAAPAM CONFERENCE

Stanley Ndzalama Ndlovu

Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi recently told the 23rd annual conference of the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) held at Sun City near Rustenburg that the democratic government has registered some success stories in the past 30

years, but there are still challenges that needed to be attended to better the lives of citizens.

"It is of critical importance that we continue to confront the urgent and difficult challenges confronting our country", Premier Mokgosi said.

He further said that this includes eradicating poverty, underdevelopment, and inequality.

Premier Mokgosi said that one of the roles of the conference is to shape and influence government

policies. "I therefore, believe that this conference is one of the many that continues to shape government policies to respond to the changing and modern societies", he said.

The President of SAPAAM, Prof Kgothatso Shai highlighted the significant contribution that the conference brings in shaping the country to be an effective state.

"The challenges made by the conference are significant in contributing to shaping discussions affect-

ing the public administration but am confident you will succeed in attaining the objectives it seeks to achieve", Prof Shai said.

A delegate, Gift Makgamatha appreciated the opportunity the conference brings to enhance the knowledge of individuals.

"I am grateful to have been a delegate in such an inspiring conference and I learned a lot from the insights and different inputs from people", Makgamatha said.

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PARADIGM SHIFT NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE COGTA MANDATE

By Thebeetsile Keameditse

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi has called for a change in thinking from the management and staff at the Department of Cooperative Governance (CoGTA) in the execution of their duties.

He was speaking at the recently held three-day departmental strategic planning session held in Mahikeng, to coincide with the first 100 days in office of the 7th Provincial Administration, following the 2024 National and Provincial Elections.

Among those in attendance were the Chairperson of the North West House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders (NWHTKL), Kgosi Thari Maotwe, senior officials including the Head of Department, Dr Ben Bole, SALGA representatives, and several other stakeholders.

“Our department must focus on the three key priorities as outlined in the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024-2029 with specific focus on building ethical and developmental state. We need a renewed determination and a realistic plan to improve the delivery of basic services and bring stability to local government”, MEC Molapisi said.

Emphasizing the role of CoGTA in traditional leadership matters, MEC Molapisi called on all officials to build on the work done over the years to restore the dignity of the institution and accelerate pro-poor service delivery and rural development.

He said managers should discuss ways to improve CoGTA's audit status from consecutive unqualified opinions to a clean audit outcome, the use of available performance information of municipalities to inform a strategy to support improved municipal audit outcomes and focus



on research and innovation for solutions.

“Leaving this session, we must

have aligned our strategic plans with available resources, drive development and growth, and we

must prioritize the people on the ground at all material times”, MEC Molapisi said.

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DR RSM DISTRICT COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF POVERTY ERADICATION

By Orapeleng Matshediso

The MEC for Social Development, Basetsana Dantjie, accompanied by the Executive Mayor of the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality, Cllr Motseokae Maje as well as Kgosi Ponatshego Mothibi of the Batlhaping Ba Ga-Mothibi recently commemorated the International Day of Poverty Eradication by handing over donations and equipment to the Thota-a-Tau Fish Harvest Primary Co-operative Limited' and Bagodi Tshibogang Service Club.

The event was held at Thota-a-Tau village in the Greater Taung Local Municipality and present was

the Acting CEO of the National Development Agency (NDA), Bongani Magongo, and the Mayor of the Greater Taung Local Municipality, Cllr Tumisang Gaoraelwe.

The NDA procured a fishing boat, a mobile cooler, and a generator for the Thota-a-Tau Fish Harvest Primary Co-operative Limited as well as a cash donation of R321 225.58.

Notably, Bagodi Tshibogang Service Club also received a donation of R110,000,00 from the Department of Social Development.

Cllr Maje emphasized that the donations, handing over of equipment, and support to the two organizations show that the government is hard at work to address the high cost of living and to create more jobs for rural communities.

MEC Dantjie said that the com-

moration should not be perceived as a celebration, but as taking stock of the challenges facing the people and as the government's re-commitment in a war against poverty, hunger, and food insecurity within the current challenges of climate change.

She further committed to the residents that she would engage with all relevant stakeholders and departments to ensure that, there is proper research conducted at the local dam, explore the prospect of mining gold as well as to further investigate the possibility of the existence of various species of fish in the dam.

The exercise will be undertaken with the intention to create economic opportunities that could benefit society and accelerate sustainable

development in the area as well as the neighbouring communities.

The Thota a Tau Fish Harvest Primary Co-operative Limited was further encouraged to work with existing three fishing co-operatives in their village as part of ensuring that, they form one fishing farm that would create more jobs for the residents.

The Project Manager of the Thota a Tau Fish Harvest Primary Co-operative Limited Tebogo Matlonoko thanked the Tribal Council of the Batlhaping Ba Ga-Mothibi, the NDA, and the government for the support, and indicated that it has already been their plan to integrate with other three existing fish co-operatives to form one big fish farming that will assist to create jobs and ensure sustainable development in the village.

TREASURY COMMITTED TO DRIVING FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY

By Priscilla Masigo

Provincial Treasury recently concluded a successful two-day strategic planning session, to reaffirm its commitment to improve financial governance, enhance resource management, and support sustainable development across the province.

In line with the priorities of the 7th Administration, the department remains focused on ensuring that sound financial practices are in place and aligning provincial efforts with the goals set out in the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030.

Through strategic planning and as mandated by the Public Management Act (PFMA), the Provincial Treasury aims to strengthen financial oversight,

promote transparency, and drive innovation to meet the evolving socio-economic needs of the North West Province.

Outlining the importance of the session, the Head of Department, Ndlela Kunene explained that the Provincial Treasury plays a central role in managing the financial resources of the province, ensuring that provincial departments operate within their allocated budgets while promoting efficient spending.

"As a steward of public funds, the Provincial Treasury ensures compliance with financial regulations, supports sound budgeting practices, and oversees the disbursement of funds to meet provincial priorities. Through financial oversight and reporting, the treasury ensures accountability and transparency across government operations, helping to build public trust", he said.

Kunene said that strategic planning is a crucial part of these efforts, ensuring that the department transitions from the 2019 to 2024 Medium Term Strategic Framework to the 2024 to 2029 Medium Term Development Plan.

He said this will allow the department to align its objectives with provincial and national policies. The department works closely with other provincial departments, public entities, and municipalities to ensure the effective allocation of resources toward economic development, job creation, and improved service delivery.

Endorsing the deliberations of the session, MEC for Finance, Kenetswe Mosenogi told management that they need to restore public trust by ensuring that all government initiatives benefit the residents. She stressed that the road to a prosperous North

West starts with sound planning.

"We are duty bound to ensure that through our planning we develop programs that will strengthen our ability to respond to economic challenges, adapt to changing circumstances, and ensure that provincial resources are used efficiently to benefit all communities", MEC Mosenogi said.

She said that through the strategic planning process, the Provincial Treasury reaffirms its commitment to the principles of good governance, accountability, and ethical financial management.

"By working collaboratively with all stakeholders and aligning our financial strategies with the priorities of the Seventh Administration, we aim to contribute to building a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable North West Province", she concluded.

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NORTH WEST ACTIVATES SAFER FESTIVE SEASON CAMPAIGN

By Didintle Mokgoma

The MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management Wessels Morweng launched the 2024 Safer Season Campaign recently in Mahikeng, in response to the anticipated increase in crime levels during the forthcoming festive season.

The primary aim of the campaign is to create a safer and more secure environment for everyone during the festive season with a focus on enhanced police visibility, crime prevention, and promoting community safety.

To ensure that the campaign is a success, the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, South African Police Service (SAPS), Home Affairs, the South African National Defence Force, Correctional Services, the Border Management Authority and Municipalities reaffirmed their commitment to creating a safer province during the launch.

MEC Morweng said that due to the increase in movement during the festive season, the government has adopted a comprehensive strategy to address the heightened risk of criminal activity.

He said that the tourism industry is expected to flourish and therefore urged law enforcement agencies to execute their duties with diligence, and integrity as well as to work with communities for the benefit of reflecting a positive image of the province.

"The province has adequate capacity to deal with all forms of crime, criminals must know that we are more than ready to deal with them decisively. Any criminal activity that will oppose the thriving prospects of the tourism industry and compromise the safety of our communities will be obstructed and disrupted by law enforcement agencies. Therefore, it is important that there are collabora-



tive efforts between government and local communities to maintain law and order", MEC Morweng said.

Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Sello Kwena underscored the significance of using multiple strategies to deal with crime patterns as well as emerging trends in the province.

"The campaign will eradicate violence towards people living with disability, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, intersex, Queer or Questioning, and Asexual+ (LGBTQIA+) community, and Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), during the festive season and beyond", Lt Gen Kwena

said. He said that police will continue to combat trio crimes such as carjacking, and robbery at residential and business premises.

"The illicit economy is a crime trend that we will also be focused on, where we combat illicit drug trafficking, illegal mining, and counterfeit goods. We have also identified extortion as one of the high-rated crimes in the North West and we will be addressing it through the implementation of multiple strategies to combat it, this will also include the use of intelligence to collect and analyze data to identify hotspots as well as to effect arrests," said Lt Gen

Kwena added.

The operation will also focus on increased police visibility and patrols in high-risk areas, regular road-blocks, stop-and-search operations, tracking and apprehension of wanted suspects, enforcement of traffic laws to reduce accidents and fatalities. The success of the operation relies heavily on community involvement and cooperation, the public is urged to report suspicious activity to the authorities, join neighborhood watches and community policing forums (CPF), and remain vigilant and aware of surroundings.

"As communities of the North West we understand that police will never win this fight alone, we also have a critical role to play in ensuring that our streets are safer for all targeted groups and individuals to enjoy their festive season without any fear of being attacked, raped and or smuggled. We will work with all our law enforcement agencies in the province throughout the festive and beyond", North West Provincial Community Policing Forum Chairperson Robert Malungane said when pledging support on behalf of the community.

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BATSWANA BA ROTLOEDIWA GO IKITSE

Ka Lerato Majobe

Fa a ne a neelana ka puo-kgolo mo boemeong ba ga Kgosi-Kgolo ya Barolong boo Ratshidi Jeffrey Montshioa kwa moletlong wa ngwaga le ngwaga wa Tholo Ikitse kwa kgotleng yooa Motshegare e eteletsweng pele ke Kgosi Pheny Motshagare kwa Lokaleng gaufi le Mahikeng go sale gale, Kgosi-kgolo Puso Gaborone orile meletlo ya mothale ono e thusa setshaba sa Batswana gore se somarele ngwao le go e tswelatsa mo dikokomaneng.

Moletlo yo one o tsenetswe ke

Dikgosi- Kgosi le Dikgosi tse di akaretsang gareng ga bangwe, Kgosi-kgolo Motsaathebe Moshoelewa Barolong boo- Ratlou kwa Gaborone, Kgosi-kgolo Mongwaketsi Kgosiemang wa Becwana ba Namibia, Kgosi Heilane kwa Morokweng, barutegi gotswa kwa North West University (NWU) le baditame go tswa kwa Pan South African Language board (PANSALB).

“Meletlo ya mofuta o, e re rotloetsa gore re ipotse dipotso, re ipatlisise gore nare re bomang, re eletsa goya kae, ebile re batla go itse rele bo mang, e re thusa go nosetsa ngwao ya rona rele 'tshaba ya Batswana ka

kakaretso”, go buile jalo Kgosi-Kgolo Gaborone.

Kgosi Gaborone o tswelletse ka gore Batswana ba seka ba latlhiwa ngwao ke seemo sa loago se se agang se fetoga.

“Fa re lebelela lefatshe ka kakaretso, re lemoga gore letsatsi le letsatsi tikologo ya rona ya fetoga, mme fa e fetoga ga ya tshwanela gore lebatsa gore sentle sentle re bo mang”, go tswelletse jalo kgosi Gaborone.

O kaile gape gore bogosi ke bone bo kopanyang setshaba le go se supetsa tsela mo go sireletseng ngwao ya bona.

“Bogosi ke tlhale e e lomaganyang setshaba le bogosi, ke pilara e

botshelo ba morafe bo ikaegileng ka yona, rele dikgosi re tswanetse renne sekai se sentle mo go somareleng ngwao ya rona gore setshaba se gate mo dikgatong tsa rona”, go kaile jalo kgosi-kgolo Gaborone.

Meiyara khuduthamaga wa mmasepala wa sedika sa Ngaka Modiri Molema, Mokhanselara Khumalo Molefe o rotloeditse batla moletlong gore ba itlwaetse go dira dilo tsa Setswana tse di akaretsang gareng ga tse dingwe moaparo le go dirisa meriana ya Setswana go alafa malwetsi a ba itemogelang ona.

Kgosi Motshegare o lebogile batla moletlong botlhe abe aba gwetlha gore ba tswellele pele ka go somarela ngwao ya bona.

RUSTENBURG READY TO BECOME A METRO

By Boitumelo Seleka

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi, alongside MEC for Finance, Kenetswe Mosenogi, held another engagement session recently with the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality and Rustenburg Local Municipality as part of ongoing efforts to assess the performance of both municipalities, track progress on governance systems and address challenges faced by municipalities.

The Executive Mayor of Bojanala Platinum District, Cllr Suzan Nthangeni, the Executive Mayor of Rustenburg Local Municipality, Cllr Sheila Mabale-Huma, councillors,

senior officials from both provincial and local government and South African Local Government Association (SALGA) representatives attended the meeting.

The first session focussed on an in-depth review of monitoring systems tracking the performance of both municipalities, followed by report-back sessions for councillors of both the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality and Rustenburg Local Municipality, respectively.

The session also featured a comprehensive progress report on the implementation of the municipal turnaround strategy, which was initiated following a detailed assessment of local government across the North West Province.

This report highlighted significant improvements in addressing long-

standing issues, including the filling of vacant political positions, a move that strengthens the administrative capabilities of both municipalities.

Cllr Mabale-Huma highlighted the Rustenburg Local Municipality's financial strength and governance improvement as key indicators of the municipality's preparedness and readiness to transition into a metropolitan municipality.

MEC for Finance, Kenetswe Mosenogi said the district municipality has consistently adopted funded budgets for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 fiscal years, positioning the municipality for improved audit outcomes and placing it on track to achieve an unqualified audit opinion.

She said the municipality's ability to meet its financial obligations and maintain a positive cash flow over the

medium to long term is a critical foundation for enhanced service delivery.

“We can transform how things are done, improve our revenue collection, and deliver better services to our residents. Our recent strides in governance demonstrate that we are prepared to take on this new role as a metropolitan municipality”, Mabale-Huma said.

MEC Gaoage Oageng Molapisi called for heightened accountability by senior management.

“Consequence management must be taken seriously. Senior management accountability is not option, but it is essential for good municipal performance. Advanced provision of services can only be driven by accountable municipal officials”, MEC Molapisi said.

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COGTA VISITS DR KENNETH KAUNDA DISTRICT



By Simon Mmope and
Keorapetse Mosipidi

The North West Department of Human Settlement has committed to address the housing backlog currently facing the government.

This includes ensuring that all blocked projects are unblocked, contractors are back on site, and contractors who abandoned the site are reinstated or new contractors are appointed.

This was in response to questions from the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs during a recent oversight visit to housing projects in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District.

The committee visited projects in Maquassie Hills, Ventersdorp, Kanana, and other areas to assess progress made on blocked and other departmental projects.

During the visit, the committee was not satisfied with the progress

made on the construction of houses and called on the department to fast-track the process of delivering houses in the province. The committee further urged the department to implement consequence management on officials and contractors who continue to abandon projects and not do their work as expected.

Moreover, the committee expressed mixed feelings on several projects, however acknowledging the progress made in unblocking blocked projects and completing other projects. The committee also expressed satisfaction with the level of delivery, quality, and processes followed by the department in prioritizing, the elderly, women, people with disability, child-headed households, and other vulnerable groups. In some of the projects, the committee was informed that contractors had abandoned the site mainly because of administrative challenges facing the department such as the serious budget cuts, the hike in material prices, and the old

housing quantum.

The acting committee chairperson CJ Steyl, called on the department to ensure that it follows proper processes in liaising with the national department and provincial treasury to request extra funds to resuscitate blocked projects and appoint contractors in most of those that have been abandoned. According to Steyl, the department must work around the clock to make sure that beneficiaries receive houses and that contractors are paid on time in 30 days as directed by the provincial treasury.

"It is critically important that we ensure that the department delivers houses. We are also responsible for making sure that we conduct oversight, to ensure that government funds are spent appropriately and that the department is delivering according to its mandate. We therefore need reports from the department, about its plans in addressing the serious challenge the department is faced with", Steyl said. Acting Head of Department, Dr Ben Bole acknowl-

edged some of the challenges raised by the portfolio committee and committed to work closely with the Provincial Treasury and the National Department of Human Settlements in ensuring that they deliver houses to communities as per their mandate.

"As a department, we are aware of the challenges raised by the portfolio committee to further improve the department's performance. As such, we will work with other spheres of government to find workable solutions to ensure we deliver adequate housing to our beneficiaries", Bole said.

However, beneficiaries like Bertha Modibe are some of those who expressed happiness as the government managed to give them houses. She said that she stayed in an inhabitable environment and ever since they moved into their new homes, life has changed for the better. She further expressed her gratitude toward government and the municipality for ensuring that houses are delivered as promised.

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MEC MOKUA OFFICIALLY OPENS THE MULTIMILLION ROAD PROJECT IN MADINONYANE VILLAGE, DR RUTH SEGOMOTSI MOMPATI DISTRICT



By Keabetswe Seekaro

The MEC for Public Works and Roads, Sempe Elizabeth Mokua, accompanied by the Head of Department, Moses Kgantsi, recently opened Road D327 from Ganyesa through Vragas to Madinonyane villages in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti district to traffic.

This was part of the annual October Transport Month intended to highlight transport infrastructure services in aviation, maritime, public transport, and roads, and to use it to further advance the country's road safety initiatives while creating awareness of the economic benefits of the sector.

They were accompanied by Kgosi Letlhogile of the Barolong boo Tlou le Tau as well as the Acting Mayor of the Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality, Cllr Karolo Mollwane.

The upgraded road is 16.5km of Road Z389 from the intersection with Road D327 up to Madinonyane village as well as 3km of Road D327 from Vragas up to the Northern Cape border and 2km of Road D327 in Ganyesa.

MEC Mokua said this is a demonstration that the government can deliver quality infrastructure when all stakeholders work together with minimum disruptions and disputes.

"Where there is properly constructed, and well-maintained road infrastructure, communities will be well connected, and economic activities will follow that public

infrastructure, and more job opportunities will be created", MEC Mokua said.

She added that infrastructure serves as the foundation of a nation's economy because it provides the necessary physical and social systems for sustained growth and development.

"If there are pressing community issues that need to be resolved, please engage constructively to find a solution rather than damaging the road by burning tires, take care of the infrastructure presented, preserve it, and look after it", she said.

Boitumelo Sepadile, a sub-contractor from Ward 8 in Madinonyane, said he is grateful for the opportunity as he has benefitted a lot from the project and thanked the Department for introducing such projects within their community, for it

gives local businesses a chance to grow and also create more jobs.

Agisanang Mahatlhe, a community member in the same ward in Madinonyane was employed for the duration of the project as a labourer.

"I had an opportunity to work on the project and not only did it help me financially, but it also assisted me to enhance my skill that will help me in the future to better my life", Mahatlhe said.

A taxi operator, Tlotlo Senakala says he is happy with the new road project because it will shorten the time to travel between the villages, especially during rainy seasons.

"The road was untrafficable, particularly during rainy days, this comes as a much-needed relief to us as taxi operators because we have to commute on this road daily", he said.

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TOURISM DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES CHAIRPERSON OF WOMEN IN TOURISM NORTH WEST

By Seloane Seleka

Addressing the recent Department of Human Settlements strategic planning session held in Rustenburg, MEC Gaoage Oageng Molapisi said the District Development Model (DDM) remains the cornerstone of service delivery in the North West.

MEC Molapisi said that the provision of water, sewer, and housing, among others, to communities remains a challenge.

"The District Development Model is the most viable tool at our disposal to address some of the challenges that we deem as shortcomings within human settlements", MEC Molapisi said.

"We must work closely with other departments, district, and local municipalities to address the poor maintenance of infrastructure and inadequate bulk, poor implementation, and limited community engagements and population growth which lead to informal settlements. Working together will lead to an increase in us fulfilling our mandate of providing habitable human settlements for the people of the North West province",



MEC Molapisi said.

"The current conjecture, the GNU, places us at the epicentre of ensuring that we lead to improved living conditions through the provision of integrated sustainable human

settlement in this province. We are therefore all required to place our skills and expertise to realize this objective. Some of those areas require our immediate intervention", he said. MEC Molapisi lamented the

state of infrastructure, especially blocked and incomplete projects, and called on the departmental management to ensure that the situation is remedied, and citizens receive adequate, habitable housing.

MEC MOLAPISI ADDRESSES HUMAN SETTLEMENT STRAT PLAN

By Simon Mmope

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EMPOWERING YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE: MAKUMO MULTI COOPERATIVE LEADS THE WAY



By Masego Tshilo

Since its inception in 2020, the Makumo Multi Cooperative has steadily positioned itself as a beacon of youth empowerment and agricultural innovation.

The cooperative, led by Jane "Windy" Kungoane, fosters young women's talent to ensure long-term sustainability in the agricultural sector. With five members, including two young women in leadership roles, the cooperative is committed to building and transferring skills to the next generation of agricultural leaders.

They specialize in cultivating onions, spinach, beetroot, mustard, and butternut. These crops were strategically selected based on their nutritional value, market demand, and resilience to climate change, in line with the cooperative's mission to improve livelihoods, increase crop yields, and promote sustainable



farming practices to address food security.

Makumo has expanded its footprint by utilizing borrowed backyard spaces from neighboring households, allowing it to increase production.

Currently, the cooperative has one permanent employee and up to four seasonal workers during harvest time, providing job opportunities in the community and being able to

supply fresh vegetables to local markets consistently.

Makumo has received support from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), including extension services that have proved vital in their journey, and they include training in pest control, soil fertility management, crop marketing strategies, and business administration.

"The support we have received

has been invaluable, and while we still face challenges such as limited land and water, we are determined to grow beyond a backyard garden. This cooperative has incredible potential", Kungoane said.

Despite facing hurdles like climate change, market fluctuations, and resource limitations, Makumo Multi Cooperative continues to thrive as they work towards diversifying their crop offerings, adding value through processing, and exploring new markets. Their resilience and forward-thinking approach serve as an example of how youth-led agricultural initiatives can drive meaningful change.

Makumo is not only empowering young people but also laying the groundwork for a sustainable, inclusive future in agriculture. Their story is a testament to the strength of youth-driven agricultural development, showing that with the right support and a clear vision, the future of farming is bright.

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FROM BACKYARD TO TABLE: INDIGENOUS CHICKEN FARMING MEETS HOUSEHOLD DEMANDS

By Tshegofatso Leepile

A cock and two hens marked the beginning of subsistence farming for Tshediso Sebobane, a mine worker from Mmakau Village, whose passion for agriculture led him to buy indigenous chickens and start a backyard farming project to sustain his family's daily nutritional needs and generate surplus income.

The decision to specialize in an Indigenous breed stemmed from its advantage of being fed on homemade feed rations.

Sunflower and maize are crops that Sebobane plants to feed his small stock, supplementing the high cost of buying feed from outlets. During months that sunflower and maize are unavailable, he spends 50kg of feed weekly, which becomes expensive as he cannot predict the number of live chickens because fertile eggs hatch regularly and those chicks should be included in the daily feed schedule.

Therefore, crops from the garden make it easy to prepare sufficient meal portions.

The surplus chickens are sold to locals to generate income that assists with household needs.

"On average, my backyard can have up to 500 chickens and this number is determined by the number of eggs hatched and the survival rate of the chicks at a time. That is when I can make a significant profit that I usually plough back into the sustainability of the project and maintaining the family's livelihood. The cost of a live chicken ranges from R150 to R200 depending on the size of the chicken the buyer wants", Sebobane said.

Unlike exotic breeds, indigenous chicken is tolerant to many diseases, which reduces veterinary costs, and this has been the case for him.

"Medication can be costly, especially with contagious diseases. I have been lucky to have not been exposed to any outbreaks that may



result in the death of chickens. The only medication I buy are growth promoters with vitamins and minerals supplements including for when chickens are sick, which is rare, he

added.

Since its inception in 2019, Sebobane's project has received continuous extension and advisory services from the DARD's local

agricultural office in Madibeng. His knowledge of growing healthy chickens has been enhanced through the advice of his extension officer.

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MEC MOKUA HANDS OVER REFURBISHED 10KM ROAD IN MAUBANE



By Dirontsho Sebego

The MEC for Public Works and Roads, Sempe Elizabeth Mokua, recently handed over newly refurbished Roads D625 and D626 in Maubane in the Moretele Local Municipality, as part of the annual October Transport Month activities. The project began in May 2023 and was completed in June this year, for R47 million, well on time and within the allocated budget. It was initially set to employ 30 people but it increased to 42, including persons with disabilities.

The scope for the 10km maintenance project included patching and construction of the concrete base, stormwater, and



concrete lining for open drains as well as slurry seal.

MEC Mokua said that the repairs will benefit local communities by facilitating easier access to essential services and promoting local businesses.

"The handover is part of a broader initiative aimed at improving infrastructure across the province, ensuring that residents can enjoy better mobility and safety on their daily commutes", MEC Mokua said.

"This road serves as a connectivity between the community and social services. Therefore, my humble request is that we take care of this beautiful infrastructure and not destroy it by burning tires on it during community protests", she added.

Kgosi Pontsho Maubane of Bakgatla Ba-Mocha welcomed the initiative and encouraged the community to refrain from destroying the road.

"On behalf of the community of Maubane, we welcome this project that we commit to protect. To the community members, if there are pressing issues you want resolved, please engage us as bogosi and we will further engage the municipality and the provincial government to find an amicable solution rather than damage or destroy our infrastructure", Kgosi Maubane said.

Meanwhile, MEC Mokua recently opened the rehabilitated 33km Road P117/1 between Ottosdal and Hartbeesfontein, in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District. However, part of the road that was rehabilitated is in the Tswaing Local Municipality, which is part of the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.

Applauding the contractor who completed the 18-month project on time, MEC Mokua said that the road was of top quality and was a pleasure to drive on. These initiatives reflect the government's efforts to invest in public infrastructure, which is crucial for fostering sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life for citizens.

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CAROL MAITHUFI, THE CREATIVE VISIONARY BEHIND TSHIBERRY BOUTIQUE B&B IN PHOKENG VILLAGE

By Seloane Seleka

As South Africa observed the recent World Tourism Month, it is fitting to shine the spotlight on the remarkable women shaping the future of South Africa's tourism industry.

Among these trailblazers is Carol Maithufi, the dynamic owner and founder of TshiBerry Boutique B&B, located in the heart of Phokeng village in Rustenburg. Her story is one of resilience, vision, and an unwavering commitment to her local community.

Her journey to entrepreneurship is deeply rooted in the values instilled in her by her father, who emphasized the power of learning and the belief that anything is possible.

"I am who I am today because of my father, who always made me believe that the way to life is through learning", Maithufi said.

With that belief, she pursued a career in chemistry, spending 25 years with multinational companies like Hullet Aluminium, Sasol, and DuPont. Her last role was as Director for Chemours, an American-based company.

The inspiration for TshiBerry Boutique B&B came during a trip to Thabong near Welkom, where she and her husband were surprised by the lack of quality accommodation in the township. This experience ignited a vision to create a premium lodging experience in Phokeng, a location rich in cultural heritage and economic potential. "Phokeng, as one of the most developed villages, was the perfect place, and it became the foundation for what would become a renowned hospitality destination", she said.

From its inception, TshiBerry was designed with the highest standards in mind, adhering to the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa's specifications during construction, which paid off as the establishment quickly gained recognition.

Within just three months of



operation, TshiBerry began attracting international guests, including a group of Germans who "truly enjoyed themselves," marking the beginning of its global appeal.

Supported by the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) through the North West Parks and Tourism Board, Maithufi has had access to market opportunities at major trade shows such as the Annual Meetings Africa and Africa Travel Indaba held annually in Durban.

These platforms have been instrumental in positioning TshiBerry on the global stage, facilitating networking and business

connections between African stakeholders and international buyers. Beyond her business success, Maithufi is deeply committed to empowering the youth in her community.

"When you arrive at TshiBerry, you are welcomed by beautiful young Bafokeng ladies who wear their hearts out for guests to enjoy", she proudly said.

The proximity to their workplace saves her employees money on transportation, furthering their economic well-being. She also plays an active role in mentoring local students and TshiBerry's employees, offering personalized guidance and a "discovering yourself" program.

"I give the students my undivided

attention and take them through who I am, where I started, and how I got to where I am", she added.

This nurturing environment has fostered a strong sense of trust and loyalty within her team.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges for the hospitality industry, but her resilience saw TshiBerry through the storm. With the help of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, she was able to retain her staff and even expand the business.

"Covid attacked us just as we were beginning to experience stability and growth, but we persevered", she recalled. Since its inception in 2018, TshiBerry has grown from two employees to 14 full-time and four contracted employees as well as providing workplace training to six to eight students annually.

The establishment takes pride in sourcing supplies from local small businesses, further contributing to the local economic development, including lemons, avocados, figs, and blackberries that are all grown locally. For Maithufi, women in the hospitality industry must identify their position and excel in it.

"Pour your heart into what you do and believe that it is possible," she said.

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DR RSM DISTRICT COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF POVERTY ERADICATION

By Orapeleng Matshediso

The MEC for Social Development, Basetsana Dantjie, accompanied by the Executive Mayor of the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality, Cllr Motseokae Maje as well as Kgosi Ponatshego Mothibi of the Batlhaping Ba Ga-Mothibi recently commemorated the International Day of Poverty Eradication by handing over donations and equipment to the Thota-a-Tau Fish Harvest Primary Co-operative Limited' and Bagodi Tshibogang Service Club.

The event was held at Thota-a-Tau village in the Greater Taung Local Municipality and present was the Acting CEO of the National Development Agency (NDA), Bongani Magongo, and the Mayor of the Greater Taung Local Municipality, Cllr Tumisang Gaoraewwe.

The NDA procured a fishing boat, a mobile cooler, and a generator for the Thota-a-Tau Fish Harvest Primary Co-operative Limited as well as a cash donation of R321 225.58.

Notably, Bagodi Tshibogang Service Club also received a donation of R110,000,00 from the Department of Social Development.

Cllr Maje emphasized that the donations, handing over of equipment, and support to the two organizations show that the government is hard at work to address the high cost of living and to create more jobs for rural communities.

MEC Dantjie said that the commemoration should not be perceived as a celebration, but as taking stock of the challenges facing the people and as the government's re-commitment in a war against poverty, hunger, and food insecurity within the



current challenges of climate change.

She further committed to the residents that she would engage with all relevant stakeholders and departments to ensure that, there is proper research conducted at the local dam, explore the prospect of mining gold

as well as to further investigate the possibility of the existence of various species of fish in the dam.

The exercise will be undertaken with the intention to create economic opportunities that could benefit society and accelerate sustainable development in the area as well as

the neighbouring communities.

The Thota a Tau Fish Harvest Primary Co-operative Limited was further encouraged to work with existing three fishing co-operatives in their village as part of ensuring that, they form one fishing farm that would create more jobs for the residents.

The Project Manager of the Thota a Tau Fish Harvest Primary Co-operative Limited Tebogo Matlonoko thanked the Tribal Council of the Batlhaping Ba Ga-Mothibi, the NDA, and the government for the support, and indicated that it has already been their plan to integrate with other three existing fish co-operatives to form one big fish farming that will assist to create jobs and ensure sustainable development in the village.

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DARD EMPOWERS NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA FARMER TO SUPERCHARGE POTATO PRODUCTION



By Kgalalelo Mashomo

In an ongoing effort to empower farmers with the tools necessary for enhancing food production, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) recently handed over a ten-hectare (10ha) centre pivot irrigation system to Sello Nthoesane, an emerging potato producer in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.

This strategic intervention aims to boost the production capacity of farmers which contributes significantly to the province's food security.

Driven by MEC Madoda

Sambatha, this initiative forms part of the department's programme focused on delivering critical farming infrastructure to ensure sustainable food production. The installation of this system will not only allow the farmer to increase his crop yield but also ensure efficient water application and reduce labour costs.

Systems such as centre-pivot irrigations are crucial for enhancing the resilience of the agricultural sector in the face of challenging dry climate conditions.

"With a crop high in demand and with the potential to meaningfully boost the local economy, we are committed to empowering farmers like Nthoesane with essential resources needed to boost

production. This project supports the creation of jobs for local people to improve their livelihood", MEC Sambatha said.

"That is why the department's unwavering commitment to empowering the province's farmers by equipping them with infrastructure remains a priority. Assisting to facilitate the transition of farmers such as Sello to commercial farming will ultimately enhance rural development", he added.

Nthoesane expressed profound gratitude for the department's effort in supporting black potato farmers in the province.

"As a beneficiary of the department's potato programme which started three years ago, aimed

at increasing the number of black potato farmers in the country, this centre pivot will allow me to expand production to the 10ha that the system covers", Nthoesane said.

"Maximizing the use of arable land on the farm is the goal so that we meet the market's constant demand for fresh potatoes thereby driving profits - the ever-growing demand includes informal traders, retailers and agro-processors that manufacture a variety of potato products. The pivot will be fully utilized to its maximum potential", he added.

The initiative forms part of a broader strategic effort to combat food insecurity, and uplift farmers across the North West Province.

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EDUCATION AND ACSR SIGN MOU TO BOOST EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS

By Bayanda Zenzile

In a significant step towards promoting holistic development in schools, the MEC for Education, Viola Motsumi, and former MEC for Arts, Culture, Sports, and Recreation (ACSR), Collen Maine, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the MM Sebitloane Special School in Taung.

The MOU formalized during a press briefing, marked a key partnership aimed at fostering the integration of arts, culture, sports, and recreation into the provincial

school curriculum.

The collaboration seeks to empower teachers to implement a comprehensive range of extracurricular activities designed to enhance the personal growth and well-being of learners.

This partnership will promote balanced development in learners, encouraging not only academic excellence but also active participation in cultural and sporting activities.

Speaking at the event, MEC Motsumi emphasized the importance of providing learners with opportunities that extend beyond the

classroom.

"This partnership will allow our learners to discover and nurture their talents, whether in the arts, sports, or culture. It is vital that we create an environment where they can grow holistically, preparing them not just for within the classroom walls but for life", MEC Motsumi said.

Former MEC Maine said that the MOU aligns with the province's strategic goals of fostering community engagement and youth development through sports and cultural activities.

"We believe that by investing in the future of our learners, we are

building stronger, healthier communities", MEC Maine said.

This partnership represents a proactive approach to ensuring that learners in the North West Province have access to programs that will not only enrich their educational experience but also equip them with the skills needed to thrive in diverse environments.

The MOU will be rolled out across the province, with teachers receiving the necessary support and resources to successfully integrate arts, sports, and cultural programmes into their schools.

NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LAUNCHES LAST PUSH CAMPAIGN

By Godfrey Seatile

The North West Department of Education recently launched the Last Push Campaign at the MM Sebitloane Special School in Taung, a few days ahead of the start of the Grade 12 National Senior Certificate examinations that are currently underway across the country.

This was to pledge government support to learners and to call on parents, guardians, and everyone involved to allow learners space to concentrate on the examinations, where the North West hopes to achieve an improved 90% pass percentage rate.

Seven secondary schools in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati district were in attendance, with 301 learners who were on their last day of the spring camp at MM Sebitloane Special School.

MEC for Education, Ntsetsao



Viola Motsumi encouraged learners during the last push to work hard during this period and ensure that they pursue their dreams for a better future. She said that no learner will be left behind during this period and further appreciated the support from

the community and all stakeholders in ensuring that all learners are prepared and ready for the final examinations.

The Last Push Campaign is part of the department's broader initiative to ensure that all learners across the

province are fully equipped and prepared for the Grade 12 NSC examinations and it is a critical reminder to everyone to take responsibility to ensure that all learners are ready to write and pass the examination.

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DR RUTH SEGOMOTSI MOMPATI COMMEMORATES WORLD TEACHER'S DAY

By Poloko Koolatotse

The North West Department of Education recently held a pledge signing and provincial prayer ceremony attended by more than 500 people at the Mmabatho Convention Centre in Mahikeng for the Grade 12 National Senior Certificate examinations, that are currently underway.

In addition to praying for an incident-free, smooth examination season, it was also to ensure that learners and educators pledge to adhere to uphold principles of honesty and integrity and to report any form of wrongdoing they might witness during the examinations.

MEC for Education Viola Ntsetsao Motsumi congratulated the class of 2024 and wished them well for their Grade 12 examinations.

She spoke of the importance of learners taking their lessons seriously, as each lesson is critical for achieving success in examinations, and thanked all the principals, teachers, SGBs, stakeholders, and parents that contributed to the learning, teaching, and success of



the learners.

"What is left is for the class of 2024 to prove themselves and make us proud", MEC Motsumi said. Learners took an oath to adhere to all examination regulations and pledged to

encourage their peers to do the same to prevent any irregularities. The prayer was attended by the Executive Mayor of the Mahikeng Local Municipality Cllr Tshepiso Mphehlo, accompanied by MMC Cllr

Kgomotso Sechogo, departmental management, representatives of the religious fraternity, traditional healers, Representative Councils of Learners, Grade 12 learners, parents and departmental officials.

GRADE 12 SIGNING OF THE PLEDGE AND PROVINCIAL PRAYER FOR NSC EXAMS

By Godfrey Seatle

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MEC MOTSUMI HANDS OVER ASTROTURF SPORT FACILITIES IN MFIDIKWE



By Godfrey Seatle

The MEC for Education, Viola Motsumi, recently handed over the multi-purpose Astro-turf sports facilities at the Ramochana and Mfidikwe Primary schools outside Rustenburg at an occasion attended by representatives of Sibanye-Stillwater, the Gift of the Givers, the Royal Bafokeng Administration, and councillors from the Rustenburg Local Municipality.

The facilities, worth R2,5 million

per school, were donated by Sibanye-Stillwater in partnership with the Gift of the Givers.

Each facility comes fully equipped with a fencing system with two access gates, including locks, two basketball posts, two volleyball posts, one volleyball net, two mobile goals with netball nets, two soccer posts with nets, and eight 200-watt LED lights.

MEC Motsumi thanked Sibanye-Stillwater and the Gift of the Givers for their contribution towards sports development and physical education

in the province.

"This generous donation will not only promote physical well-being but also bridge the divide between schools in rural or underdeveloped areas and those in urban areas to foster an equitable culture of teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship among our learners", MEC Motsumi said.

"These facilities are an asset to the schools and the broader community, and I urge everyone to jealously guard and preserve them for future generations. These combi courts will

prevent learners from engaging in drugs and help reduce teenage pregnancies", MEC Motsumi said.

Dr Sibusiso Msomi, Stakeholder Relations Manager at Sibanye-Stillwater said the sports facilities will contribute towards nurturing young talent in schools.

"We believe in equipping our communities. We believe that the community will utilize these facilities knowing that this is a seed to have renowned sportsmen coming out of these communities", Badr Kazi, from Gift of the Givers, said.

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