



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

December 2024 Edition



North West Provincial Government



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North West Office of the Premier



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TIRO REBURIED AT HIS ANCESTORAL HOME

By Lerato Majobe and Maboni Kgabi

Fallen Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) combatant, Aaron Kenny Tiro was recently reburied at his home village of Lekubung near Zeerust, and a tombstone in his memory erected, following the repatriation of his remains from Zambia, along with 41 other liberation struggle fighters whose mortal remains were returned to South Africa in October this year.

In reading the obituary of late freedom struggle stalwart, Aaron Tiro at his recent reburial in Lekubung near Zeerust, African National Congress (ANC) Veterans league member, Zacharia Pitso Tolo said that current leaders should use the courage of people like Tiro as a prototype to combat contemporary socio-economic challenges facing communities.

Tiro joined the ANC's military wing in exile, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) in 1976, when he was just 20 years old and died in 1986 after he was hit by a car at Lilanda, Lusaka when he was about to return to South Africa.

As freedom fighters had to use pseudonyms or nom de guerre to conceal their true identities, he called himself Ikageng Gaanakgomo and subsequently changed to Lionel Kenny to mislead the enemy that followed them to exile.

"He would have turned 68 years this year, 48 years as a member of the ANC, that would have qualified him to be member of the Veterans league in his own right", Tolo said.

"To young leaders who were born



in 1970s, 80s and after, you are the current soldiers, you must carry on with the fight to ensure that our dreams to see a harmonious South Africa come to fruition by delivering services to the people, ensure that people have access to water, elec-

tricity, roads and so forth, because that is revolution", Tolo told mourners.

Convener of the MK Liberation War Veterans, Nat Serache encouraged members of the governing party to always remember where they

come from and who they really are and continue the legacy of people like Tiro.

He thanked the family for blessing them with their beloved sons to join them in combating for emancipation in South Africa as Onkgopotse Tiro who also died in the 1970s was also from the Tiro family.

MEC for Education and Leader of Government Business, Viola Motsumi admitted that a lot can still be done to improve people's lives, but there is progress registered in improving people's lives and there are measures in place to further improve their socio-economic conditions through accelerated service delivery programme (ASDP), Thuntsha Lerole.

Tiro's sister, Mabontle Lenkoe described her brother as a selfless young person who gave up his life for freedom to be realised.

Lenkoe said because of his involvement in politics, the police continuously harassed her family.

"He might be gone, and others might not have seen him growing up but as a family our hearts are thankful for the reburial. This would help us find closure and forever be grateful of the initiative by government", she said.

Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Mondli Gungubele, said that the one thing the country should recognise is that the liberation was not in vain and that it was for the dignity of all South Africans.

Minister Gungubele said freedom fighters such as Tiro wanted to see change and that it was unfortunate that blood was shed, and lives were lost.

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CHINA DONATES 500 GENERATORS TO NORTH WEST

By Kegomoditswe Ratlhagane

Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi recently signed off the distribution of 500 generators, donated to the North West by the People's Republic of China, to organizations struggling with electricity shortages in rural and far-flung areas at a ceremony held in Zeerust.

Premier Mokgosi said that after he assumed office, he went to China to strengthen the relationship between China and South Africa, particularly the North West, and the fruits thereof are already evident. Premier Mokgosi added that the North West province has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Henan Province in China, whose delegation visited the North West after he visited China to come and assess what investment can they make in the North West.

"They were around our Special Economic Zone in Mogwase, went to Brits and they are also looking at mining and manufacturing, and I said

to them, by the beginning of next year we must see one or two or three of them coming to invest', Premier Mokgosi said. He added that the

government on its own does not have money but also people from China believe that they can be of immense help to this country. He said the

province is rural, underdeveloped, and has electricity challenges and the Chinese investment will go a long way to alleviate those challenges.



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MORE WELISIZWE BRIDGES MOOTED FOR THE NORTH WEST



By Aubrey Motsurupe

The Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Sihle Zikalala, said the North West is set to receive more Welisizwe rural bridges following a R179 million addition allocation. He said this at a recent oversight visit to the two bridges currently under construction at Kraaipan in the Ratlou Local Municipality, as part of his Siyahlola campaign. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has completed one bridge at Montshioa

Stadt in Mahikeng with two in Kraaipan and one in Masutlhe 1 still under construction.

MEC for Public Works and Roads, Sempe Elizabeth Mokua, had recently raised her concern about the delay in the completion of the bridges under construction.

This prompted the national department to produce a recovery plan that will see an additional eleven bridges being implemented and completed by the end of the current financial year. Part of the delay in the completion of the bridges currently under construction, according to the

Chief Project Manager for the Welisizwe Programme, Molate Moremi, was the contract expiry for the appointed service providers supplying both steel bridge components and construction material. "This led to delays in the ordering and supply of construction materials which had a huge effect on the project. The expiry of the contract has caused further delays that have caused over four months delay on all projects. Many of the challenges have been overcome, and a recovery plan has been developed to salvage on lost time

and delivery of bridges in the province. The Project Steering Committee has agreed on a new recovery plan with clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders", Moremi said. He said in terms of the recovery plan, six additional sites had been established by the beginning of December and an additional five sites would be established by the end of January 2025.

He added that the South African National Defence Force has further made a request for additional resources with a view to increase the number of active sites.

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REFLECTIONS ON REMARKS BY PREMIER L.K MOKGOSI DURING THE PROVINCIAL WORLD AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION HELD IN MAGOGONG VILLAGE, GREATER TAUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.

Theme: "Equal Rights and Equal Care"



NORTH WEST PREMIER L.K MOKGOSI

Approximately 465,000 people in the North West province are living with HIV. Owing to the expansion of antiretroviral treatment (ART) services, 78.9% of eligible individuals are now receiving life-saving medication, a milestone in our fight against HIV.

The increased availability of ART and improved healthcare services have contributed to a rise in life expectancy in the province, reflecting the positive impact of our interventions.

AIDS Councils, which integrate the efforts of government, private sector, and civil society, continue to play a critical role in coordinating and monitoring HIV, TB, and STI responses.

Women, particularly young women aged 15 to 24, account for over 30% of new infections. This highlights the urgent need to address gender inequalities and vulnerabilities. HIV prevalence among adolescents remains a concern with many new infections occurring in this demographic.

Poverty, unemployment, gender-based

violence, stigma and discrimination, continue to drive the epidemic, particularly in rural and underprivileged communities.

To overcome these challenges, the provincial government needs to do the following;

Expand Access: Ensure that testing, treatment, and prevention services reach all corners of the province, including the most remote communities.

Empower Women and Girls: Invest in programs that protect young women and girls from infection and equip them with tools for self reliance and resilience.

Engage Men and Boys: Encourage men to participate in healthcare services, reducing the burden of undiagnosed and untreated HIV.

Address Stigma: Strengthen awareness campaigns that challenge stigma and promote understanding and compassion.

The provincial government has proudly launched two critical campaigns:

Campaign 1: Undetectable Equals Untransmittable (U=U):

In recent years, an overwhelming body of clinical evidence has firmly established the HIV Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) concept as a powerful scientific strategy. U=U means that people living with HIV who achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load—the amount of HIV in the blood—by taking and adhering to antiretroviral therapy (ART) as prescribed cannot sexually transmit the virus to others.

Campaign 2: TshelaKaltekanelo Campaign

Non-communicable diseases pose a significant burden globally. Unhealthy

behaviors like tobacco use, physical inactivity, and unhealthy dieting increase risk of various chronic conditions. HIV and AIDS also came with health challenges that require healthy lifestyle interventions to complement treatment initiatives. This campaign is designed to step up government efforts to tackle the rising physical, mental, and economic costs of unhealthy lifestyles.

Critically we need to strengthen partnerships across all sectors to amplify our impact and invest in research and new approaches to HIV prevention and treatment by placing our people at the center of our interventions, empowering them to lead the change. I am making a call here today, to every one of us as leaders collectively, to sign a pledge to recommit to Ending AIDS by 2030 in the North West province.

This is our collective mission, and with unity, determination, and unwavering resolve, we will succeed. Let us recommit ourselves today to making an AIDS-free North West Province a reality.

THANK YOU - KEALEBOGA.



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NORTH WEST FISCAL FRAMEWORK ADJUSTED BY R435 MILLION



By Kelepile Mokaila

Delivering the Provincial Adjustment Budget Speech at the North West Provincial Legislature recently, MEC for Finance Kenetswe Mosenogi said that the 2024/2025 Provincial Fiscal Framework has been adjusted upwards by R435 million from R53,7 billion to R54,135 billion.

No additional funds were received from the national government except the approved rollover of unspent funds from the preceding financial year.

MEC Mosenogi said the adjusted budget is a testament to the positive direction in which the province is headed, and despite challenges, opportunities lie ahead.

"The adjustments seek to solidify and ensure that resources respond to the priorities of the seventh adminis-

tration, and to support the attainment of the three identified priorities. These aim to drive inclusive growth and job creation, reduce poverty whilst tackling the high cost of living, and build a capable, ethical, and developmental state. The attainment of these priorities will lay the groundwork for a stronger, more resilient North West Province", she added.

She said the amount spent is not a measure of success, but it is about how to effectively translate these funds into meaningful change and impact.

"Our goal is not only to allocate resources but to create value that uplifts, empowers, and sustains our communities.

Included in this adjustment are conditional grants rollovers of R205,366 million, equitable share rollovers of R57,702 million, upwards adjustment of R1,550 million on own revenue, R3,996 million from the

national Department of Sports, Arts and Culture for the refurbishment of the Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sports Foundation and R3,271 million in respect of donations from MerSETA and BankSETA.

The balance of the funds amounting to R163.500 million will address service delivery as well as the establishment of the North West Development Fund with an allocation of R24 million.

Regarding the Provincial Own Revenue, which she admitted has been on a downward trajectory, MEC Mosenogi indicated that the Executive Council has directed departments to urgently develop revenue recovery plans for implementation in the current financial year to ensure that revenue targets are achieved.

At the end of the first semester, the province collected R77,4 million below the projected target.

"Furthermore, the Provincial

Treasury has been tasked by the EXCO to work with all departments to develop a comprehensive Provincial Revenue Enhancement Strategy for implementation in the 2025/2026 financial year. This strategy will provide a robust framework for implementation across all departments. Its primary aim is to enhance revenue-raising efforts and support departments in meeting and exceeding their targets", she said.

"Let me emphasize that the 2024/25 Provincial Budget adjustments are a demonstration of our commitment to addressing the needs of our people while investing in key priorities that will ensure sustainable growth and development", she added. In response to the underperforming economy, EXCO is working tirelessly to advocate and execute donor funding coordination as well as the establishment of the North West Development Fund.

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UNEMPLOYED GRADUATE RECEIVES PREGNANT BONSMARA AS A STARTUP BOOST

By Tshegofatso Leepile

Thamsanqa Rabasotho, a North West University graduate and alumnus of the Unemployed Agricultural Graduate Programme, was awarded 30 pregnant Bonsmara cattle and one bull as part of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (DARD) initiative to support unemployed agricultural graduates.

An animal scientist with a passion for farming, Thamsanqa began his journey at a young age.

While undergoing a 24-month graduate programme, he saved part of his stipend to buy cattle. In 2016, he secured land from the Lekung Village Tribal Authority and established his farming enterprise, Thandi and Thami Trading and Projects.

Over the years, he has not only grown his business but also pursued further studies, earning a BSc Honours in Animal Science, AGB New Venture Creation, and training in piggery and business development through DARD sponsored programs.

During the handover ceremony, Rural Development Director Malakia Matlhaba highlighted DARD's commitment to supporting graduates.

"Through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), the department supports a minimum of five beneficiaries yearly. Thamsanqa is one of two beneficiaries who qualified for funding this year, with the department committing R1.5 million towards their ventures", he explained.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Nokuzola Capa and MEC Madoda Sambatha were present to celebrate Thamsanqa's achievements.

"Five beneficiaries is a small number compared to the vast pool of agricultural graduates we produce each year. However, with programs like these, I am confident we are



building a pipeline of commercial farmers who will uplift local communi-

ties", MEC Sambatha said.

Rabasotho, who was introduced

to farming by his late father, has ambitious goals. He envisions becoming a registered stud breeder, venturing into animal feed production, and offering agricultural training.

"In the future, I will tell my success story about how the department supported me and how I contributed to the development of other young farmers. As young black farmers, we must support each other, start with what we have, and meet the government halfway", he added.

Offering advice to his peers, Rabasotho encouraged farmers to embrace lifelong learning and adopt a business mindset.

"Farming is hard work, but when treated as a business, it has the potential to create sustainable jobs and drive economic growth," he concluded.

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MORE CITRUS GROWERS ANTICIPATED IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE



By Tshegofatso Leepile

The North West Province is poised for significant growth in its citrus sector, with six registered black citrus growers currently operating in the region.

In partnership with the Citrus Growers Development Agency, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) is working diligently to expand the number of citrus farmers and increase the hectares planted annually, all while ensuring that current growers continue to achieve high yields.

Over the years, DARD has been a steadfast supporter of citrus farmers, offering training and extension services to ensure the long-term sustainability of citrus farming in the province.

The recent Citrus Growers Farmers Day, held at the Kgora Farmers Training Center in Mahikeng, was a key platform for



emerging farmers and industry experts to exchange insights and best practices in citrus farming. DARD continues to create opportunities for farmers to stay informed on market trends, citrus cultivars, and the necessary quality and quantity standards for success in this growing industry.

The discussions at these farmers' days covered essential topics

including production requirements, technical support, financing strategies, market demand, and access.

MEC Madoda Sambatha expressed his optimism about the expansion of the citrus sector and the potential for increasing the province's export capacity.

"Supporting citrus businesses presents significant advantages, given both the strong local market

and the growing international demand. We are currently developing a business study to better support existing citrus growers and new entrants into the sector. Government backing for viable businesses is key to creating sustainable jobs, which will reduce poverty and unemployment in the province", MEC Sambatha said.

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OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

The following service providers are appointed for outdoor advertising from 2024 to 2029

Go Big Media (PTY) LTD

Appointed for part 1- signs, Billboards and street pole ads (Klerksdorp area).

Contact: 018 468 8555

Email: accounts@gobig.co.za

Adreach Group (Sole Pole Ads)

Appointed for part 2- signs, billboards and street pole ads in (Stilfontein, Orkney and hartebeesfontein areas).

Contact: 018 468 8057

Email: lorraine@solepoleads.co.za

Lihlebo Media Trading

Appointed for part 4- signs, Billboards and Streetpole ads in (Khuma, Kanana, Vaal-Reefs and Tigane areas)

Contact: 0726266619

Email:

banathiludidi@lihlebomedia.co.za

Guluva Empire (PTY) LTD

Appointed for Part 3- signs, Billboards and Street pole ads in (Jouberton and Alabama areas)

Contact: 0822631214

Email:

kasi4lifetainment@gmail.com

Mega Signs Trading as Bonnyelle (Pty) LTD

Appointed for part 5- trailer ads, water tower raps, and wastebin ads.

Contact: 071 473 7997

Email: megasigns@gmail.com

PJAds

Appointed part 5- trailer ads, water tower raps, and wastebins ads in (Stilfontein, Khuma, Orkney, Vaal-Reefs, Kanana, Hartebeesfontein and Tigane areas).

Contact: 071 473 7997

Email: thabompholo545@gmail.com

Kgiba Communications & Projects (PTY) LTD

Appointed for part 6- signs, street pole ads and billboards at taxi ranks in (Jouberton, Orkney, Kanana, Vaal-reefs, Khuma, Stilfontein and Tigane areas).

Contact: 0835209430

Email: infokgibaindutries.com

Gautemi Communications

Appointed for part 6- signs, street pole ads, and Billboards at taxi ranks in (Klerksdorp area).

Contact: 0822266756

Email: damoyi@gmail.com

For More Information Contact:

018 487 8307 / 018 487 8072 / 018 487 8311

tramone@klerksdorp.org / kmoete@klerksdorp.org / ntswakl@klerksdorp.org



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Ward Delimitation Legal Process



**In terms of the Local Government:
Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998 as amended (MSA)**

1



IEC provides the municipal segment of the national common Voters' Roll Electoral Act 73 of 1998.

2



Minister of CoGTA determines the formulae for determining the number of councillors of Metros, Districts and Local Municipalities in terms of section 20(1) and (2) of the MSA.

3



MEC determines the number of councillors for all municipalities in their respective provinces in terms of section 20(3), (4) and (5) of the MSA.

4



Municipal Demarcation Board determines the number of wards for municipalities and delimit wards for local government elections in terms of schedule 1 of the MSA.

5



Municipal Demarcation Board publishes wards in provincial gazettes and invites any person aggrieved by a delimitation to submit objections within 14 days of publication.

6



Municipal Demarcation Board considers written objections received and either, confirm or vary its delimitation. The final decision is published in provincial Gazettes.

7



The MDB submits the final ward boundaries to the IEC to prepare for local government elections.

info@demarcation.org.za
www.demarcation.org.za

012 342 2481
072 819 8220

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Municipal Demarcation Board

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AMBULANCE AND EMERGENCY VEHICLE FROM SIBANYE



By Keletso Ratlhagane

The MEC for Health, Sello Lehari, received two ambulances and an emergency response vehicle as part of a donation to the Department of Health by Sibanye Stillwater in Rustenburg recently.

The vehicles, fitted with modern equipment, will provide solutions for health facilities in the Bojanala Platinum district and allow for ease of transportation of patients to specialized units equipped to treat unique ailments.

MEC Lehari said the donation is a good example of how the private sector can work with the government to find solutions to challenges confronting citizens.

"South Africa's public health-care facilities are under great strain and the ambulance service is no exception, which is tragic, given that when it comes to health issues, speed of reaction by medical personnel is very often the difference between life and

death. As a government, we hold a firm view that it takes the community, the private sector, civil society organizations, and government partnerships to significantly impact service delivery", MEC Lehari said.

Vice President for Social Sustainability at Sibanye Stillwater, Sibongile Zikalala said the gesture symbolized their commitment to community development.

"As Sibanye we are putting every effort in partnering with government as we have a long-standing partnership with the provincial department. To date, the company's PGM operations have donated 23 ambulances, three mobile clinics, and one emergency response vehicle to enable improved health services", Zikalala said.

"Undoubtedly, this contribution will improve our ability to deliver essential medical services to our citizens. "I am very confident that these vehicles will enable high-quality medical service delivery to patients requiring inter-hospital transfers and external referrals", MEC Lehari said.



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DR KK HEALTH MARCH AGAINST GBVF DURING OPENING OF JB MARKS CHC KGOMOTSO CARE CENTRE



By Vincent Mooki

The Department of Health in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District with different stakeholders, observing the 16 Days of Activism of No Violence Against Women and Children, recently marched against Gender-based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in Tshing, Ventersdorp.

The march was led by the District Chief Director, BP Maboe, with officials from the Department of Health, SAPS, NPA, JB Marks Local Municipality and the Department of Social Development, and this included the opening of the JB Marks CHC Kgomotso Care Centre, which will care for and support victims of gender-based violence in the Ventersdorp

Local Area.

The centre offers various health examinations and support functions from the National Prosecuting Authority, Social Development, and the South African Police Service to streamline and fast-track the reporting and prosecution of cases all from one facility.

Maboe encouraged the Tshing/Ventersdorp community to take advantage of the services that the department has brought close to them.

"This centre is for you, the community of Ventersdorp. We would like all victims of gender-based violence to rest in the knowledge that there is a support centre specifically focused on assisting them through their experiences. It is a place of comfort and support, brought to you by the department and our critical partners", he said.

TSHEPONG HOSPITAL COMPLEX CONDUCTS FIRST EVER OFF PUMP CORONARY ARTERY GRAFT SURGERY IN THE PROVINCE

By Keletso Ratlhagane

MEC for Health Sello Lehari has congratulated staff and management at the Tshepong Hospital for successfully conducting an Off Pump Coronary Artery Graft - Off Pump GABG - on two patients recently.

The procedures were a first to be conducted in the North West, be it in a private or public facility.

The surgical procedures were conducted on two male patients in collaboration with a specialist from India and his team as well as specialists from the Wits/Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital. One patient underwent surgery on Monday, 11 November 2024 while the second patient was operated on 12 November 2024.



"Normally, when an open-heart surgery is done, the heart is stopped from pumping blood out. The heart lung machine is used as a temporary heart while the blocked artery is by-

passed. However, this type of operation is done while the heart is still pumping blood hence it is called an Off Pump Coronary Artery Bypass Graft", Klerksdorp/Tshepong

Complex CEO Mr Thulane Madonsela said.

MEC Lehari thanked the lead cardiothoracic surgeon Dr Murali Vettath, newly appointed Cardiothoracic Surgeon for Tshepong hospital Dr Rusunyo Kanyongo and lead anesthetist Dr Aunel Mallier for performing the groundbreaking procedure.

"Dr Vettath has to-date performed over five thousand (5000) such operations across the world. He was assisted by Dr Taunyane who is originally from Jouberton in the North West province and currently works at the Charlotte Maxeke Hospital while Dr Mallier is an anaesthetic specialist based at our very capable Tshepong Hospital. I also wish to convey my gratitude to the Surgical and Thoracic team from Tshepong hospital for having been part of this historic event," MEC Lehari said.

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ACSR HOSTS LONG SERVICE AWARDS



By Maboni Kgabi

The Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation (ACSR) recently hosted its 3rd Long Service Awards ceremony at Seasons' Conference and Wedding Centre outside Mahikeng. 65 employees received non-financial and financial recognition awards and certificates for their

commitment to the public service.

The categories were 20, 30, and 40 years of unbroken service, retirees, and certificates in appreciation of clean audits for directorates in line with the Long Service Recognition System.

John Phetoe (65), from the Assets unit, who served 40 years of unbroken service said he felt honoured to be part of the ceremony.

Sharing his journey, Phetoe said he started working in 1983 at the Bophuthatswana Central Prison,

now Rooigrond Correctional Service Centre, and joined the ACSR in 2005 until his retirement.

"I thank the department for the recognition. This came at the right time of my retirement, and I will forever cherish this moment", Phetoe said.

During the award ceremony, ACSR Head of Department, Itumeleng Mogorosi said it was important that staff serve with diligence.

Mogorosi spoke of the well-being

of employees in the workplace and said that employees need to be taken care of for them to perform well.

He thanked staff for the clean audit outcomes for the 2023/24 financial year and encouraged them to do even better.

"Our efforts and hard work collectively were proof that we are indeed trendsetters. Just like the recipients of tonight's awards, let's continue doing what we are required to do - serving our people", Mogorosi said.

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HOUSING CORP HOLDS COMMUNITY MEETING IN LEHURUTSHE



By Neo Maja

The North West Housing Corporation (NWHC) recently held a successful community meeting with residents of Lehurutshe Units 1 and 2, focusing on revenue enhancement, debt collection, and the registration of title deeds.

During the meeting, NWHC Chief Executive Officer, Bishop Sello Mogodiri, underscored the importance of tenants collaborating with the NWHC to settle outstanding

debts and adhere to the rental payment terms outlined in their lease agreements.

"Tenants must work closely with the NWHC to meet their financial obligations", Bishop Mogodiri said.

"By doing so, we can continue to improve services and create a sustainable environment for all residents. We are here to resolve all issues faced by our clients in Lehurutshe", he added.

He also emphasized the ongoing collaboration with the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality to address clearance certificate issues, which are essential for enabling tenants to

register their title deeds.

"We are working hand-in-hand with the Municipality to ensure that tenants can finally register their title deeds, a step that will empower them to fully own their homes", he said.

Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality Speaker, Cllr Portia Letshufi, expressed her gratitude for the NWHC's visit and its commitment to resolving long-standing issues.

"The issue of title deeds has been a source of concern for many residents of Lehurutshe for years, and we are pleased that the NWHC, alongside the Municipality, is dedicated to finding a lasting solution.

This is a significant step towards ensuring a brighter future for our community", Cllr Letshufi said.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for community members to voice their concerns, all of which were addressed during the session.

The NWHC reassured residents that their issues would be closely monitored and addressed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

This initiative reflects the NWHC's commitment to strengthening relationships with local communities and ensuring that all residents have access to the support and resources they need to thrive.

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EYE ON THE BALL TO NEGATE STORMWATER SETBACK

By Ipeleng Matlabe

MEC for Public Works and Roads, Sempe Elizabeth Mokua, has raised concern with the stormwater challenges that recently surfaced on Nelson Mandela following heavy rains that hit parts of Mahikeng.

MEC Mokua said that the stormwater challenges in Mahikeng can be attributed to the flat terrain with minimal slope yields.

Regarded as one of the Department of Public Works and Roads (DPRW) flagship projects due to its heavy traffic volume and serving as a connecting route to Botswana, the rehabilitation of Nelson Mandela Drive was implemented in 2023 to deal with the poor condition of the

road.

As a maintenance project, the main works on the project included resurfacing the road and providing above ground stormwater channeling. MEC Mokua said that it was during the implementation processes that a much greater need for stormwater was noted. "We, upon this new information, decided to avail additional funding to include major stormwater infrastructure which forms part of the Local Municipality Stormwater Master Plan in line with the District Development Model", she said. These plans included designing of stormwater channels that will collect all stormwater from the northern parts of Golfview and Signal Hill and along Nelson Mandela Drive Road to be deposited to the lowest point, which is Molopo River. "These

recent heavy rains have shown that the road still collects heavy run-offs from Golfview and surrounding areas resulting in a huge surface run-off on the Nelson Mandela Drive", MEC Mokua said. "Part of the reason water remains on the surface of the road is because the underground stormwater pipe is yet to be fully commissioned", she added.

The DPWR has devised a long-term plan as part of its ongoing efforts to mitigate this matter. MEC Mokua explained that, during Phase 1, the only stormwater channel constructed was the one leading up to Victoria Street. "Our intention, during Phase 2 which is currently under design stage, and we envisage to implement in the next financial year, is to construct the stormwater pipe, rehabilitate the road from Victoria

Street up to the Danville bridge.

We also aim to improve deviation roads as well as construct Non-Motorised Transportation Infrastructure", she said. "We will then, upon completion of this phase, commission the stormwater project and this will address the flooding of Nelson Mandela Drive during heavy rainfalls", she added. In the interim, MEC Mokua said the department will engage the Mahikeng Local Municipality to conduct maintenance of the existing municipal stormwater channels to reduce the flow of water on to the road during heavy rains. "We have fully accepted the lessons that have come out of this experience and can confidently say that the department is at an advanced stage with planning and design processes", MEC Mokua said.

MEC MOLAPISI REMAINS HOPEFUL TO UNBLOCK BLOCKED PROJECTS

By Simon Mmope

Handing over houses in Taung recently, the MEC for Human Settlements, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi remained hopeful that blocked housing projects in the North West will be unblocked.

MEC Molapisi said handing over houses that were part of the blocked projects means the department is making progress in delivering houses to beneficiaries.

"We are a caring government

that understands the challenges facing our communities. Our continuous efforts to unblock blocked projects remain a priority and we will continue to work closely with municipalities to ensure integration in delivering services to our communities", Molapisi said.

Norah Sibinda (70) had been waiting for years for her house to be constructed and completed.

Sibinda who was overwhelmed by joy, could not contain her tears when MEC Molapisi and Public Works and Roads MEC Elizabeth Mokua, handed over the keys to her

house.

"This will be the legacy to me and many generations to come. My three unemployed children will now have a place they can call home.

Our lives will change to be much better, because we now have a shelter above our heads, with basic amenities", Sibinda said.

The Taung Extension 5 and 6 project is one of those that were blocked, and the Department of Human Settlements hopes to complete the 109 units in the next financial year.



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MAHIKA MAHIKENG FEST BRINGS TOURISM, ECONOMIC SPIN-OFFS



By Bakang Ditibane

The 2024 Mahika Mahikeng Cultural Festival recently transformed Mahikeng into a vibrant hub of cultural celebration and economic activity, bringing a significant boost to the town and its surrounding areas.

Over four days, the festival attracted thousands of attendees, filling local guest houses, restaurants, and taverns, and driving economic activity across various

sectors.

From full bookings at local accommodations to increased sales at petrol stations and convenience stores liquor outlets reported record-breaking sales as everyone joined the celebrations, while vendors at the SMME Flea Market enjoyed a surge in demand for their products.

The SMME Flea Market, organized with support from the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism (DEDECT), promoted sustainable economic growth by providing market access opportunities for local

entrepreneurs.

The North West Parks and Tourism Board, partnered with the Mafikeng Hotel School and Taung Hotel School to deliver exceptional culinary experiences during the festival, and to serve as official catering providers, offering students firsthand training in a real-world environment. The partnership highlighted the schools' role in developing talent and promoting local gourmet traditions.

"By participating in events of this magnitude, our chefs and students gain invaluable exposure while positioning the North West as a hub

for culinary and cultural excellence", MEC Bitsa Lenkopane said.

MEC Lenkopane hosted a networking session with tourists from Botswana during the festival, reinforcing the strong relationship between North West and Botswana Tourism, to promote tourism and destination marketing between the two countries, and solidifying their shared commitment to cross-border tourism development.

Liquor inspectors also conducted compliance inspections during the festival to ensure adherence to the Liquor Act, and all trading licenses were compliant.

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NORTH WEST SHINES AT THE 2024 NEDBANK GOLF CHALLENGE

By Tshepiso Matlhoko and Zia Cassim

The Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism (DEDECT) has congratulated Johannes Veerman of the United States for winning Africa's golf major, the 2024 Nedbank Golf Challenge.

Veerman's recent thrilling one-stroke win over South Africa's 20-year-old Aldrich Potgieter at Sun City's iconic Gary Player Country Club crowned a spectacular event that displayed world-class golf and the beauty of the North West Province. Veerman closed the tournament with a final round of 69, finishing five under par. The tense finale saw Potgieter, tied for the lead, falter on the final hole, securing Veerman's maiden Nedbank Golf Challenge title. Potgieter, despite an impressive performance, finished third after a challenging closing stretch.

This year's tournament was held from 5 - 8 December and featured a stellar field of international golfers competing for a \$6 million prize, solidifying its status as a highlight of South Africa's sporting calendar. As part of the Dubai Ports (DP) World Tour and a key event in the Race to Dubai, the NGC drew global attention, providing a unique platform to promote sports, business, and tourism.

The Nedbank Golf Challenge was more than a sporting event, it was a catalyst for economic growth in the Bojanala region. The North West takes immense pride in hosting such a prestigious occasion, which brought thousands of visitors from across the globe and provided a significant boost to the local tourism sector and economy.

The event created valuable opportunities for local small enterprises, particularly in the Bojanala District, where SMMEs displayed their self-manufactured products to



an international audience. This is in line with the department's Access to Market Programme, designed to empower small businesses by creating platforms to connect them with buyers and potential investors.

"This event highlights the role of SMMEs in driving economic growth, creating jobs, and reducing poverty. We remain committed to fostering an enabling environment where small businesses can thrive, said MEC Bitsa Lenkopane. "Through its partnership with the Nedbank Golf Challenge and North West Parks and Tourism Board, DEDECT aimed to spotlight the North West Province's

rich cultural heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and diverse attractions. The initiative sought to position the province as a premier destination for both international and domestic travellers. Local businesses reported significant gains from the event, with SMMEs leveraging the platform to access new markets and forge partnerships. "The NGC is one of the biggest sports events in the province, providing a golden opportunity for small businesses to grow and thrive," noted a department spokesperson.

The government's commitment to supporting SMMEs extends beyond the event, with continuous efforts to

enhance market access and facilitate sustainable economic development.

The 2024 Nedbank Golf Challenge not only highlighted the North West's ability to host world-class events but also its potential as a hub for tourism, business, and cultural exchange. By attracting visitors and investment, the province is setting a course for long-term growth and prosperity. The collaboration of the department and the Nedbank Golf Challenge demonstrates a sustainable economy, ensuring that the benefits of such high-profile events extend to every corner of the North West Province.

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