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WATER WOES MARRIED EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



DA members picketing on the streets of Witbank in eMalahleni to complain about sporadic water cuts in the municipality

BY ERIC MATOME KGOMO
EMALAHLENI: The Democratic Alliance (DA) in eMalahleni Local Municipality, staged a picketing at the decommissioned water tower in Witbank on Monday 3 May 2021. The party was complaining about sporadic water cuts taking place in the municipality, leaving thousands of residents without water for days. Clive Hatch, DA eMalahleni Constituency Chairperson, said they have had enough of water cuts that have been going on for more than the past ten years. "The Democratic Alliance has organized this picket today to demonstrate our displeasure on the ongoing water crisis in eMalahleni, and also to allow the residents who are driving past to show their feelings about this ongoing situation," he said. According to Hatch, for many years residents experience a dire situation that is repeated again and again, with no water supply for days, which gets repeated constantly. Hatch said the matter was reported to the South African Human Rights (SAHRC), which found that the local municipality violated the rights of the residents whereas it has failed to take reasonable steps to provide the residents with sufficient and clean

water. Hatch said instead of the problem being resolved, as accordance to the recommendations by SAHRC, the challenge of water has gone worse. "Noting that the recommendations made in the report of the SAHRC have been implemented. We demand the executive mayor to table a plan of action to address water matters by 31 August 2021," pleaded Hatch. He said among matters that needs executive mayor's attention include challenges of unavailability of water in residential areas for up to seven days, leaks that are not repaired and resulting in thousands of litres of potable water being wasted, water tankers that are not being despatched to areas without water unless specifically requested and a need of sufficient information that has to be supplied on the reason or expected duration of the interruption in water supply. "The Democratic Alliance therefore, submitted a petition calling on SAHRC to investigate the continued abuse of human rights by the eMalahleni Local Municipality. A copy of the petition has once again been submitted to the parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation," he said. eMalahleni Local Municipality

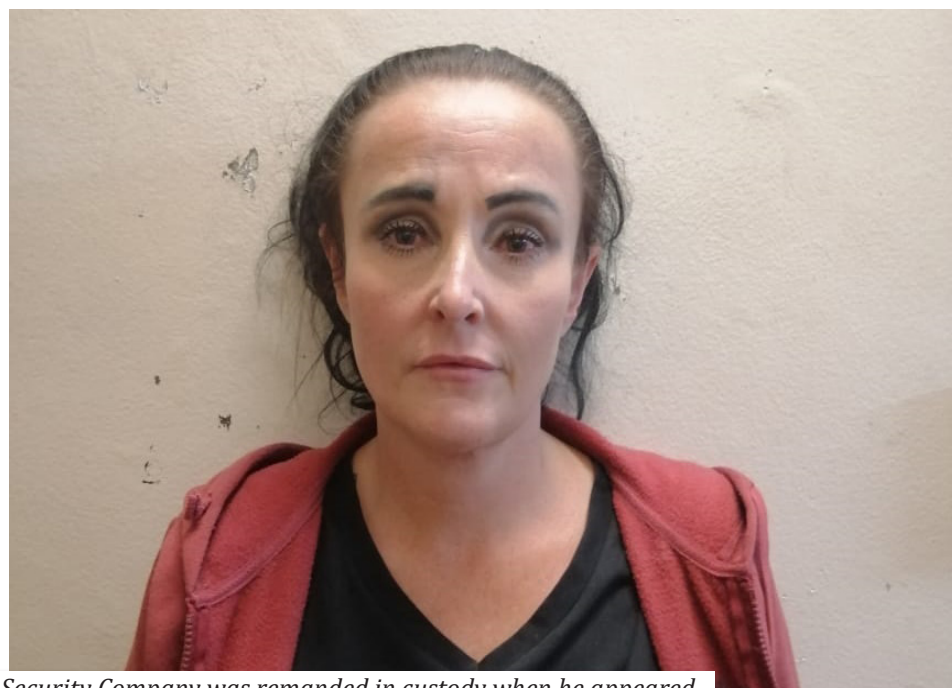
Spokesperson, Lebohlang Mofokeng, said the municipality is planning on water provisions and budgeting tools are developed and implemented to available resources within the its boundaries. "The municipality is a water service authority and a provider with constitutional responsibility to provide quality water services to the communities and consumers," he said. Mofokeng added that the municipality is process of engaging public and private sector to assist with water augmentation schemes to the municipality, to which to date, they have concluded three agreements with contractual obligation of about 44 Ml/day pumped into the municipal water system. "However the supply is constraint by a number of issues such as theft, vandalism of infrastructure, operational constraints, raw water quality, breakdowns and maintenance," explained Mofokeng. He emphasised that in cases where there are interruptions, communication is made with concerned and affected communities to an extent that alternative arrangements of water provision by tankers is made. "This exercise is costly to the municipality and high social considerations.

The department of water has been contacted, negotiations and requisites studies and reports are done in order for the consideration of increasing the water abstraction from the dam," informed Mofokeng. He indicated that the main water treatment plant is undergoing refurbishment to improve operational efficiency and water quality. "We have concluded service level agreement with external service provider for the installation of additional 20Ml/day modular package plant, to augment water supply and is expected to be commissioned in six months," detailed Mofokeng. He added that reports and recommendations of the Human Rights Commission are implemented to available resources as indicated and reported as such. "The reliable provision of water supply within the municipality is impacted and affected by the factors including high migration, urbanisation and densification, aged infrastructure, raw water quality, breakdowns, theft and vandalism of infrastructure and non-payment of municipal services," Mofokeng said.

BUSINESSMAN AND ESTATE AGENT IN FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING SHENANIGANS



The 55 year-old Fotoboy Makua who owns the nation-wide Foto Security Company was remanded in custody when he appeared before the Middleburg Magistrates Court for fraud and money laundering charges and co-accused Annica Van Staden



BY DAN MDLULI

MIDDLEBURG- The 55 year-old well-known businessman arrested for fraud and money laundering appeared before the Middleburg Magistrates Court on Wednesday, 05 May 2021 and was remanded in custody until 11 May. The suspect, Fotoboy Makua, nationwide owner of Foto Security Company, was arrested by members of the Hawks Serious Commercial Crime Investigations for fraud and money laundering. The Hawks investigation has linked the 55 year-old Makua to Annica Van Staden (46), a real estate agent, who

was sought and arrested by the Hawks' Serious Crime Commercial Crime Investigation team at her hideout in Boksburg, Gauteng Province on Monday, 26 April 2021. According to the Hawks, it had been established that the pair were working together when selling the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) houses without the knowledge of Tokologo and Rockdale owners. Captain Dineo Sekgotodi, Mpumalanga Hawks Spokesperson, said the buyers allegedly paid money into Van Staden's business trust account, trading as Housing First Eiendomme.

Sekgotodi said as soon as the money was received into Van Staden's account, it would be transferred to her private account and also Makua's account as well as those of others. Van Staden is expected to join Makua, her co-accused, in custody on charges of fraud and money laundering on 11 May 2021. Van Staden's arrest followed her recent publications on the media as a wanted suspect dating back to 20 April 2021. It was alleged that she was selling RDP houses without knowledge of the owners. It is further alleged that Van Staden was arrested in Protea Glen,

Soweto in August 2019 for fraud and was released on bail and the matter was postponed to 11 November 2020 but she evaded court. Consequently, a warrant of arrest was issued against her. Further investigations linked her to other cases of fraud worth a total value of approximately R184 000. The cases are in Orange Farm, Nelspruit, Lydenburg and Piet Retief, where more than 36 potential witnesses laid complaints against her. She was arrested on 26 April 2021 and appeared before the Middleburg Magistrates Court on Wednesday 28 April 2021.

STLM CELEBRATES CLEAN AUDIT



The Executive Mayor of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Cllr Diphale Motsepe flanked by Chief Auditing Officer Lesiba Dolo and Chief Financial Officer David Mogofe celebrating the municipality's clean audit on Tuesday

BY THABO MCKENZIE

MIDDLEBURG A jubilant executive Mayor cllr Diphala Motsepe, proudly announced on the 28th of April 2021 during his budget indaba key note address that STLM received a clean audit for 2019/2020 financial year. Simply put, this means the municipalities financial statements are clean, with no findings on predetermined objective, no findings with non-compliance to key legislation or any significant deficiencies in internal control. This municipality has a 20 year history of clean governance and excellent service due to its approach to service delivery. STLM has so far seen a payment rate by its residents rise to more than 95%. This has allowed the municipality to maintain the highest quality service and to provide free services to more than 17 000 indigent households. Between 2002 and 2008 the municipality received an unqualified audit opinion. After the advent of the clean audit status in

2008, the municipality has, in every subsequent year thrived in obtaining a clean audit reports. The 2013/2014, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 financial years were an exception where they obtained another unqualified audit report with a single blemish on their records. "I am incredibly proud of the political and administrative leadership of the municipality," said Executive Mayor Diphala Motsepe. "It is a joy and privilege to announce that our financial records, procedures, processes and internal controls are at a level that is clean in the opinion of the Auditor-General," added Motsepe. The report also added that there were no deficiencies identified in the municipality's internal controls. In conclusion, the mayor said, "The residents can therefore be assured that the current political leadership and administration led by Mr. Bheki Khenisa are responsibly managing their assets and rendering services at the acceptable levels.

ROAD CRASH CLAIM FOUR LIVES



Four people lost their lives in a fatal car crash between eMalahleni and Verena

BY ERIC MATOME KGOMO

VERENA: A horrific head-on-collision between a Toyota Corolla sedan and Isuzu Light Delivery Vehicle (LDV) occurred on the R544 Road between eMalahleni and Verena, left four people dead. The accident, which was described as the bloodiest road carnage, occurred around 17h30 on Tuesday 4 May 2021. Both vehicles caught fire in the impact. Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety Security and Liaison (DCSSL) Spokesperson, Moeti Mmusi, said three of the deceased were occupants of the sedan and they include the driver. "They were burnt beyond recognition. The fourth person was a passenger in the LDV. The driver of the LDV was critically injured and was rushed to a nearby hospital in eMalahleni," Mmusi said. Mmusi told Timeless News publication that the deceased

were not yet identified as they burned beyond recognition and processes of their identification is still a subject of police investigation. "The cause of the collision is still being probed by the police, working closely with safety engineering team from the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison," said Mmusi. DCSSL MEC, Vusi Shongwe, advised drivers to obey the rules of the roads and reiterated a call to motorists to save lives by being super cautious at all times. "We are appealing to motorists to be highly cautious. We cannot be counting fatalities everyday on our roads. Motorists must come to the party and use the road responsibly," Shongwe said. Meanwhile, Shongwe, sent condolences to the bereaved families and also wished the critically injured person a speedy recovery.



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PERSON SPECIFICATION

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- Ability to do report writing and data trending or analysis for reliability engineering
- Ability to work under pressure and meet work deadlines with attention to detail

- Computer literate with thorough knowledge of MS Office

JOB SPECIFICATION

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- Perform standard and shutdown schedules and tasks
- Test spares that have been repaired
- Maintain store items (spares) and identify and manage LRU's
- Work in close relation with other Instrumentation Techs, Electricians and Millwrights.
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- Implementing optimisation and new capital projects.

POSITION: SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

PERSON SPECIFICATION

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- Maintaining and administering all Supplier information.
- Reporting on all Supplier Management matters.
- Handling of all Creditors' Queries related to Supplier Management matters.
- Keeping and maintaining the Supplier B-BBEE information.
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DR JS MOROKA MAIN SOURCE OF WATER DRIES-UP



Residents of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality are subjected to drink water with domestic and wild animals as a result of lack of water supply in the municipality

BY ERIC MATOME KGOMO

SIYABUSWA: Residents in the drought-stricken dr js moroka local municipality says they are urged to go without potable water for days, as a result of the local municipality's failure to supply drinkable water. This is after taps in the municipality have run dry in the past few years, with one of its main water source, mkhombo dam, experienced a significant drop in water level and dried up. According to residents, water challenges are not properly addressed by the municipality, subjecting the community to buy water or resorting to drink with animals from the nearby streams and wells in areas of kaatjibane and mokgwane. The water shortage problem is also affecting where residents pay for water every month.

A resident, christopher mhlanga from section d in siyabuswa, told timeless news that they experience extreme water cuts, even when they are sent bills to pay for water. "We sometimes go without water for about six months, while paying for municipality services," he said. Mhlanga said there is no contingency plan to solve water problem issues in the municipality. "Residents here buy water to survive or drill boreholes in their yards. That is the only way to survive water crisis facing our municipality," he said. Da caucus leader in the municipality, cllr thapelo mokoala, said the party has challenged water crisis issues in the municipality without seeing the problem being addressed. "Yes we understand that water challenge is

a national matter at the stage. But it could have been handled better by the municipality to supply drinkable water to the communities," he said. Mokoala lambasted the municipality for failing to complete a water infrastructure project from loskop dam that was aiming to supply water to residents after the drying-up of mkhombo dam. "About R20 million was set aside for the project but it was never completed because of corruption. Another project on which millions were budgeted to provide boreholes as a temporary measure was also never materialized. The boreholes were only constructed in yards of councilors while the community struggles to get water," he said. Mokoala said the only intervention the municipality has is through water

tankering, which is inadequate due to the vast area of the rural dr js moroka local municipality. Dr js moroka local municipality spokesperson masabatha ramatsetse, said the municipality is experiencing an excessive water demand as a result of drying-up of mkhombo dam. "In areas where there is water shortages, we dispatch water tankers to supply water to the residents," she said. Ramatsetse added that the only time when siyabuswa d section experience water cuts is only when there is maintenance of infrastructure. "It is not true that there no water in the area for six months at siyabuswa d and we urge residents to pay for water they consume," she said.

THLM MEET THE PEOPLE



The Executive Mayor of THLM, Cllr Nomsa Mtshweni (Standing), outlining the municipality's draft IDP budget at Kwaggafonteing Community Hall

BY ERIC MATOME KGOMO

KWAGGAFONTEIN: The Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (THLM) Mayoral Imbizo's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) budget public consultation is currently ongoing. The programme has kick started on Tuesday 4 May until Friday 14 May 2020 with consultations to various stakeholders in different villages of the municipality, seeking to radically transform interaction between government and communities to better respond to the needs of the people. During the outreach, THLM Executive Mayor Cllr Nomsa Mtshweni, accompanied by member of the Mayoral Committee, presents the adopted IDP, budget and proposed tariffs for the 2021/2022 financial year. Some of the key issues address by the executive mayor include 2020/21 capital projects progress report that contains the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) and Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Grant (WSIG). Mtshweni explained the ongoing multi-year projects that includes the drilling, refurbishment and equipping of boreholes with the aim of curbing the spread of Covid-19 in the villages. Among other capital projects, the executive mayor outlines the construction of day waste water treatment plants, construction of outfall

sewer lines and internal reticulation over a 20 year period, in phases. Furthermore, the executive mayor commits construction of a soccer fields, a multipurpose netball courts, volleyball courts, tennis courts, basketball courts, and community centres. Mtshweni says the local municipality will soon be completing paved roads and bus routes within the municipality. In terms of tariff increase, the municipality has set a R87.00 basic water flat rate per households. Businesses, churches and government institutions will be paying R637.00. Basic sanitation flat rate per households will be R40.02, Government buildings R742.78, flat rate for churches and schools R297.11 and businesses will pay a R297.10 flat rate. The 2021/22 Nkangala District Municipality has injected R92 330 000, 00 for THLM projects. The budget will be used to construct a community hall in Moloto in the excess of R7 500 000, 00, the building of Bundu/Machipe Community Hall with the amount of R500 000.00, implementation of Disaster Management Awareness Campaign THLM with the amount of R60 000, 00 and to widespread HIV/Aids Awareness Campaigns in THLM with a R60 000.00 budget. In addition, the district municipality allocated R650 000.00 for THLM land surveying, R60 000.00 for education and awareness campaign, R75 000 000.00 Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply, R4 000 000.00 for Phumula storm water and R4 500 000.00 for Kwaggafontein Storm water projects. Challenges commonly raise by the public in various villages are poor services that include water shortages, youth unemployment, lack of opportunities for local businesses, poor roads standards, shortage of RDP houses, incomplete projects and lack of electricity.

BUSINESSWOMAN SLAIN IN SUSPECTED HIT



The police in Mpumalanga have launched a manhunt after a businesswoman was murdered in cold blood at Maphotla Village outside Siyabuswa

BY ERIC MATOME KGOMO

MAPHOTLA: The police in Mpumalanga have launched a massive manhunt for suspects who murdered a businesswoman at Maphotla Village outside Siyabuswa. According to the police, the 48-year-old woman, who was identified as Emily Mthimunya, was gunned down in a hail of bullets by four unknown suspects at her business premises on Monday 3 May 2021. "According to information received, armed suspects entered the woman's premises and forced her children to open the kitchen door to gain entry, as she was not home at the time. Two of the suspects then entered while the others remained outside and waited for her to come home from her business. The victim arrived and one of the suspects fired shots and fatally wounding the woman after she closed the gate," said Brigadier Leonard Hlathi, Mpumalanga Provincial Police Spokesperson. Hlathi said all suspects fled the scene

after leaving the woman lying on the ground in a pool of blood. "However, no valuables were taken. Police as well as medical personnel were notified about the incident, where upon arrival, the woman was certified dead. She was identified as Emily Mthimunya, who owned a tavern in the area," explained Hlathi. He said a case of murder was opened and the matter is currently being investigated. "The motive for the killing is unknown," said Hlathi. **Hlathi appealed to anyone with information that can help police trace to trace to contact the investigating officer, Captain Sergeant Mahlangu on 082 6317103 or call the Crime Stop number on 08600 10111.**

"Alternatively members of the public can send information via MYSAPSAPP. All received information will be treated as confidential and callers may opt to remain anonymous," concluded Hlathi.

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DILAPIDATING PRIMARY SCHOOL POSE RISK TO PUPILS

ERIC MATOME KGOMO

SAAIPLAAS: Embokodweni Primary School in Saaiplaas, Elias Motsaoleli Local Municipality in Limpopo, is in dire state of despair.

The condition of the school is causing sleepless nights to parents, with its old dilapidating structure and ceilings falling off frequently.

According to parents, the school was since built in the early 1980.

The only primary school in the village admitted more than 600 pupils with only two four-classroom blocks.

Now parents and concerned residents threaten to shut-down the school demanding urgent intervention by the Limpopo Provincial Department of Education.

A concerned parent, Abram Mahlangu, informed Timeless News that they informed the Education Department about the poor state of the school about ten years ago.

"We have spoken to the department immediately when we realize that the school has started falling apart. They promised to send officials to assess the school and that never happened. They did nothing to attend to our problems," he said.

Mahlangu added that their main concern is safety of pupils, who are urged to take their lessons in classrooms that are seemingly to be posing risk to their lives.

"The structure is no long conducive for teaching and learning, particularly for young primary school learners. Back in 2019, ceiling boards collapsed in several classrooms, it wounded a learner, who was later, hospitalized in one of those



The collapsing Embokodweni Primary School in Saaiplaas pose danger to lives of hundreds of learners

classes. Something must be done about the situation," he said.

Mahlangu said parents pleaded with the Education Department in the district level to renovate the school as a temporary measure, however, they were told to use the norms and standard budget to do the renovation work.

"It is impossible to use those funds for renovations as they have other purposes to serve in the school. This is a clear indication that the school is neglected and abandoned," he said.

Mahlangu said they will prevent their children from attending the school if necessary intervention is not taken by

the department.

Limpopo Department of Education Spokesperson, Tidimalo Chuene, said they dispatched an infrastructure team to make assessment in the school. "We will comment further about our interventions as soon as we receive the assessment report," she said.

MEC SUSPENDS MIDDLEBURG TAXI RANK



Mpumalanga MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Mohita Latchminarain (Left), shutting down the Nazaret Taxi Rank in Middleburg

BY ERIC MATOME KGOMO

MIDDLEBURG: Following the spike of taxi violence that plagued the province recently, Mpumalanga MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Mohita Latchminarain, have on Wednesday 5 May suspended taxi operation at the Nazaret Taxi Rank in Middleburg.

The closure of the taxi rank left hundreds of commuters stranded, however, later on the day, the department contracted the services of Thembaletu Bus Service, as an interim measure to provide transport services to commuters in the affected areas. Department Spokesperson, Cyril Dlamini, said the MEC has taken the decision after a meeting held on 4 May with top six taxi associations in

the province, whereby Latchminarain raised serious concerns regarding taxi violence in the province and expressed her sentiments about the spike. "The MEC has eventually taken extraordinary measures to curb taxi violence in Middelburg by shutting down one of the town's taxi ranks due to persistent conflicts between two taxi associations. This is after several attempts to find common ground between the two have proven unsuccessful," Dlamini said. He added that last week the department announced the MEC's intention to implement extraordinary measures as required by the National Land Transport Act no. 5 of 2009, which gives the Executive Authority powers to suspend operating permits. "The closure, which

has already come into effect, only affects specific routes between Middelburg and Nazaret that are currently the main cause of conflict. Taxi operations will however continue in other areas within Middelburg that are not affected by the conflict," he said. Dlamini indicated that the department is equally concerned about the implications of this decision, particularly towards commuters who are relying on taxis for their daily transport. "However, safety remains the key priority. In the meantime, the department is also investigating other alternative public transport to assist commuters while imposing strict measures," he said. According to Dlamini, five minibuses taxis have already been impounded in at the

Nazaret Taxi Rank in Middelburg by the Department's Transport Inspectorate Unit for failure to comply with the suspension of the operating permits.

"While the department continues to plead with the associations, strict measures will be imposed without fear or favour if the situation intensifies and becomes a threat to the pillars of the democratic rule," he said. Dlamini notified commuters who will be traveling from town back home to make use of the Thembaletu buses that are stationed next to Middelburg Police Station in town. "These buses will also be made available in the morning and during the day for the duration of the suspension in various pickup points in all affected areas," he said.

SDM SENIOR OFFICIAL IMPLICATED IN GBV SCANDAL



**STOP
GENDER-
BASED
VIOLENCE**

BY ERIC MATOME KGOMO

GROBLERSDAL: Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) has condemned acts of violence implicating one of their senior official Mpho Maepa, following altercation and assault acts he committed on a female victim in Groblersdal. The assault was captured in a video showing Maepa harassing and slapping a woman at a Groblersdal Mall parking space. The video has since gone viral on social media. "The Sekhukhune District Municipality has learned with disgust about a video on social media, in which a female is being harassed, insulted and seemingly assaulted, by a male employee of the municipality," said SDM Spokesperson, Moloko Moloto. Moloto indicated that, even though, the incident happened outside the workplace, and that the victim is not a municipal employee, the district municipality still, does not take kindly to it. "First, we confirm that the male who is captured in the video is indeed a senior official who recently acted as chief financial officer of the district municipality. Secondly, the district municipality is disgusted and disappointed that one of its officials perpetuates gender based violence, a social ill that has become an intolerably painful affliction in our country," he said. Moloto informed that the district municipality has held campaigns against gender based violence, and

the Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila has repeatedly encouraged victims of GBV to speak out. "Therefore, the municipality applauds the victim for speaking out. While the victim indicates on social media that she has lodged a formal complaint with the South African Police Services, a decision the municipality applauds, the municipality will, as the employer, get to the bottom of this matter, with a view of taking appropriate action," explained Moloto. He pleaded that the complainant is urged to get in touch with the municipality to assist with the internal investigation. "Last year, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared the scourge of gender based violence a second pandemic which all South Africans must fight against," he said. Moloto stressed that SDM will not tolerate any conduct that seeks to undermine efforts to rid our society of gender based violence. Economic Freedom fighters (EFF) Councillor in SDM, said the opposition condemn the official's GBV acts with strongest possible terms. "The official should be suspended immediately. We can't stand for immoral acts against women perpetuated by a public figure," he said. Maloba said the party will support the victim and make sure that the implicated official is held accountable and face the full might of the law.

7 THINGS THAT APPEAR AS LOVE BUT ARE ACTUALLY EMOTIONAL ABUSE.

BY MYSTIQ REFLECTIVE HEALING
MIND, BODY AND SOUL:

Abuse is not always physical wounds and scars, abuse can be emotional as well and to a certain degree it can look like gestures of love. The most important thing is to understand that just because it looks like love doesn't mean it is love. Sadly, many confuse the signs of emotional or mental abuse as the love they desire the sad realization is it's anything but that. Sometimes your partner can come across as they are just doing things to protect you or because they love you, but beneath all that charm and caring front you are basically nothing but a toy that they can control. Which is why it is important to notice the signs of unconditional love verses emotional abuse.

Here are 5 signs of emotional abuse that appear as love:

1. They want to know every little detail about you

Naturally when a person loves you they will want to get to know you better, and there's nothing wrong with that however, an abuser would want to know everything about you so that it can be used against you in future arguments or quarrels. Abusers love it when you open up and share everything about yourself, your darkest secrets, pain, fears including your past. You could easily find yourself sharing everything about yourself because they make you feel wanted, loved, heard, safe and this way you slowly start trusting them. This is what they wait for from the beginning for that blind trust. They pay attention so well that all the fire power lies with them and can be used when the times comes. This is why it is so important that you take your time in learning and trusting any person you dealing with. It is for you to establish whether or not they should know everything about you or not.

2. They call and text you all the time

Some people won't text back nor answer their phones when you call, and the most they do when being confronted is shrug their shoulders and say they always busy. Then you get the ones that call and text you back as soon as they have a moment. It makes you feel loved and cared for knowing that you get speedy responses, calls every hour, good morning and good night text, no matter how busy they might be. It might sound ideal, but it can become suffocating and creepy. One of the major signs of abuse is someone that constantly texts and calls and wants to know what you doing, where you are and with who. This is their way of keeping tabs on you when they are not in your presence and it shows traits of possessiveness and jealousy. Not all possessiveness is healthy; a little possessiveness is okay, but too much of anything is never a good thing.

3. The apologies never stop

Every time there's a confrontation about their abuser ways or there cunning tactics, they instantly ask for your forgiveness and tone down their ways. This is just temporary, their apology is just a temporary solution and the moment you start letting your guard down they back to doing the same things again. They know how to pacify you, say things you want to hear, declare how much they love you, how their lives have changed since you are part of it, how their life would be empty without you and the list goes on. This is all part of their award winning act of portraying their "love" for you. Be careful, this roller coaster goes on all the time with the same mistakes and say excuses and same apologies.

4. The claim no one else will love you the way they do

That is a very good thing. This is the most dead giveaway you can have hit you as a sign of emotional abuse. Those words are not meant in a

romantic or loving way but more in a toxic way. Emotional abusers use this trump card to make their partners feel unlovable, unworthy of genuine love and plain down fear to look for what they actually deserve. Statements such as "no one will do what I do", or "no one will love you the way I do" is a big part in manipulating their partners into believing that they will never find someone better and that you don't deserve anyone better. When they leave you, with a destroyed self esteem and self worth they know that they have won their game.

5. They want to know what you doing all the time

When your partner want to know what you doing at all times, especially when they not with you, this should not be taken lightly. Accountability for your every move is far from a healthy situation. Looking out for your safety and caring about you are their go to words to make you feel obligated to indulge in such toxic behaviour. The trick they use is to sound as sincere and convincing as possible, keeping watch on you, every minute of everyday like a spy is not a healthy relationship.

6. They move very fast and fall in love even faster

When someone moves very fast in a short space of time, hint this is a red flag. True love does not happen overnight let alone that easily. True love takes a lot of time and patience to develop and blossom. As surprising as it may sound, stay clear of anyone that shows a drastic romantic intensity towards you or one that seems to have fallen head over heels for you after a few days. In the case of spending a lot of time with them and it feels as if you have known them your whole life... please! RUN! Abusive relationships have a fast and intense start and without noticing it you already in a relationship with a person who's sole purpose is to hurt and control you. Taking a step back

has never hurt anyone, slowing things down will allow you to learn to love the person, will help you grow together rather than feed off one. If slowing things down seems to make them angry or irritated, don't feel obligated to doing anything you not comfortable in doing, which could be another sign that this person is not for you.

7. Expecting you do to as they do

Yes, it's all cute and romantic to do things together, but there's a limit. Being over bearing and demanding that the two of you spend time together all the time is outrageous and can eventually affect your mental health. Please don't tolerate it. In the beginning of a relationship it is natural to want to spend time with each other, go on dates, call and text all the time and make plans to meet every day, that's normal. But when you have to deal with demands and orders of spending time with them all day every day, bad temper when you refuse or if you unable to, don't miss that sign. Personal space and boundaries are the few needs that need to be respected in any relationship. If you don't get that maybe it's time you sit and rethink your whole relationship with this person. If you don't put a stop to it when you see the warning signs you might not only end up in an emotionally abusive relationship but in a physically violent one as well.

If you see any of these signs, in the person you are dating, please understand that that is not what love is, it is emotional abuse. You deserve so much more than that. Your deserve to be with someone that respects you, knows your worth, someone that would never belittle you not even as a joke, someone that would not control you and that understands that you are an individual person all on your own.

**Know your worth! Love you enough to say...
I AM WORTH MORE!**



TIMELESS SPORT

WITBANK UNITED TOPS LFA LEAGUE



Witbank United FC players are eager to get promotion to the SAFA Nkangala SAB League

BY ERIC MATOME KGOMO
WITBANK: Following the return of amateur football on the field after the lifting of Covid-19 prohibition, Witbank United FC performed exceptionally well. The team is currently on top of the eMalaheni Local Football Association (LFA) League log with seventeen points after playing seven matches. United Owner-coach, John Tshela, told Timeless News that his players were eager to return to the field of play after amateur football was prohibited, amid the Covid-19 pandemic. "They were thirsty for action and finally quenched their thirst after the resumption of

amateur football, which is the reason they are performing well this season," he said. Tshela said his ultimate goal is to get promotion to the SAFA Nkangala Regional SAB League next season and probably be promoted to the ABC Motsepe League thereafter. "As a football enthusiast I'm dreaming big and aim high. I want the team to get promoted, I want to compete with the big teams in the country. I'm up for the challenge," he said. Witbank United caters different divisions ranging from the under-13, under-15, under-17 and open. According to Tshela, all the players participating in the divisions of his team were recruited in order

to form a potential solid senior team that will be forming their squad when promoted to upper football leagues. "We want to develop players instead of taking good players from other soccer teams to participate in professional football. My aim is to see these young stars playing professional football even if they can go and join big professional teams to advance their career I will be happy," he said. Tshela said he is happy that his players are safe as all Covid-19 health and safety protocols are followed in each and every game. "Local health authorities come to screen players before the games. I'm glad that their parents also feel safe to release them

to come and play," he said. However, Tshela said he is challenged by lack of government support and sponsorship from private sector. "Resources are of a main concern because I have to fork out money from my pocket to finance the team and buy soccer boots for each and every player. I have approached the government and local businesses for support without any success," he said. Tshela indicated that he will continue with his objective of financing the team in an effort to optimize community development and ensured a continued positive impact in the society.

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