

TIMELESS 8th YEAR NEWS

"Thought Leaders in Community News"

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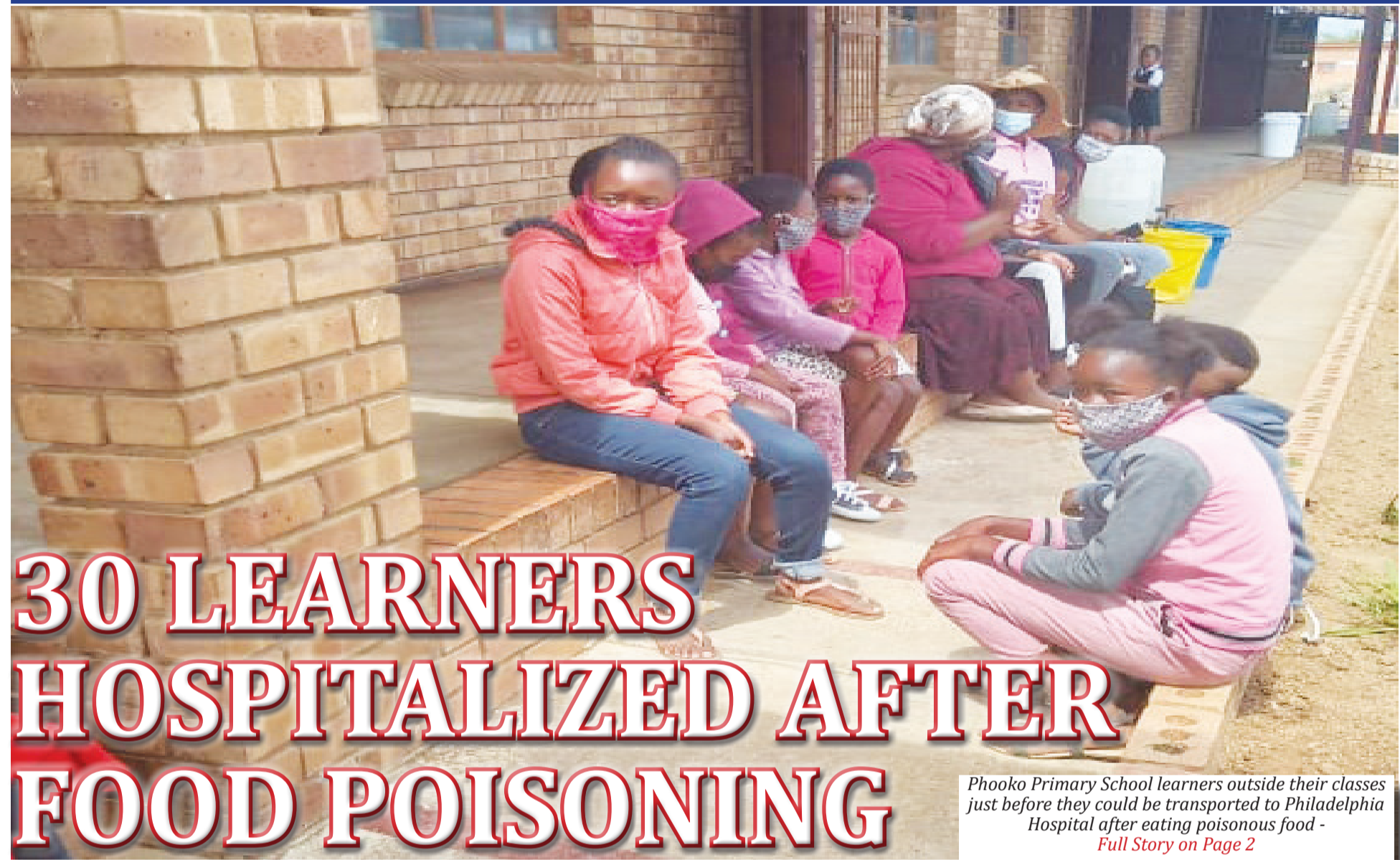
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30 LEARNERS HOSPITALIZED AFTER FOOD POISONING

Phooko Primary School learners outside their classes just before they could be transported to Philadelphia Hospital after eating poisonous food - Full Story on Page 2

TIMELESS NEWS HISTORICAL



8th YEAR

CELEBRATION

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION

AS PART OF OUR 8TH ANNIVERSARY, WE HAVE ADOPTED 8 CHILD HEADED FAMILIES FROM FIVE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN NKANGALA DISTRICT, BY SELLING TIMELESS NEWS HARDCOPY FOR R15 OR MORE WE WILL BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THESE FAMILIES WITH GROCERIES AND SCHOOLING NEEDS FOR THREE MONTHS. SUPPORT THESE FAMILIES BY PLEDGING

INTO THE BELOW BANKING DETAILS.

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MORE THAN 30 LEARNERS HOSPITALIZED OVER FOOD POISONING

STORY FROM PAGE 1

BY STAFF REPORTER

PHOOKO: Thirty-nine pupils from Phooko Primary School in Dennilton were rushed to hospital on Tuesday 19 October after allegedly consuming poisonous food. According to parents, the pupils started complain about stomach cramps and vomiting since last week Thursday on 14 October after eating the feeding scheme food at the school. "My child started complaining about stomach cramps and headache in the morning of Thursday 14 October. I could not take it seriously until my neighbor's child also started complaining with the same illness and they both had to skip school that day," said a parent, Anna Ngomane. Ngomane added that they started suspecting that the children ate poisonous food after noticing more parents started to raise similar concerns because their

children were complaining about stomach cramps too. "It became worse this week on Tuesday when more reports from parents claiming that their children were unwell. Some were vomiting and that's when we decided to rush them to the hospital. The doctors confirmed that the children consumed poisonous food," she said. A community leader, James Masinga, said he was called by the parents to visit the school on Tuesday after more children started complaining with stomach cramps and headache. "When I arrive at the school in the morning, more than thirty learners were outside their classes with their parents complaining about stomach cramps while some were vomiting," he said. Masinga said he immediately called Philadelphia Hospital requesting an ambulance to transport the affected learners to the hospital. "The ambulance took long to arrive and

some of the parents were impatient and started arranging their own transport to take the children to the hospital," he said. Masinga indicated that after the arrival of medical personnel, he followed the pupils to the hospital and it was confirmed that they consumed poisonous food. "Currently, we are expecting a full report from the Department of Health regarding the incident and will hold a parent meeting to seek way forward," he said. Limpopo Department of Education Spokesperson, Tidimalo Chuene, said according to the report they received from the school is that, a concern was raised after a certain pupils started complaining about stomach cramps. "The pupils were observed and were showing symptoms of fever and complaining about headache. Their temperature was very high and they were treated at the nearest hospital," she said.

Chuene said the pupils' health started deteriorating before they could even touch the food which is provided by government for free. "Our food supply for the month of October to the school has not expired, however, we are waiting for the results from the hospital," she said. Thirty-eight of the thirty-nine pupils were treated and discharged the same day. One pupils whose condition was worsening was admitted at the hospital for further treatment. Authorities from the Department of Health had to shut down the school on Wednesday 20 October, to take samples of the water and food the children had eaten to the laboratory to investigate further. The pupils are expected to return to school on Monday 25 October after the Health Department completed the food poisoning probe to determine the cause of the sickness.

TIMELESS NEWS WE HITTING THE BIG 8

BY THULANE MADALANE

5th December 2013 *Timeless News* released its first publication, that coincided with the death of former President Nelson Mandela. Immediately, our former Graphic Designer Mr Puleng Mmotla tributed a front page strip to the former Head of State. I remember we were given accreditation to attend the funeral of Tata in Qunu. *Timeless News* was represented by Chegoane Mabelane, Mosehla Maloka and Lipson Maabane. This year marks eight years of bringing you breaking news, informative stories and diverse entertainment. As part of our eight year anniversary celebration we have decided to adopt "child headed families" in Nkangala Municipality District through *Timeless News Foundation*, helping these families with monthly groceries and school needs. These include stationery, school uniforms and other necessities that will make life bearable for them to continue to go to school. Inorder to achieve this noble initiative we have decided to sell *Timeless News* for a minimum of R15.

We are excited to announce that you will be seeing lot more of *Timeless News* vendors in all busy intersections of your towns including myself. Kindly support us, inturn supporting our initiative in order for us to reach our goal. When we read from the book of **James 2 verse 15 and 16** it says **"If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?"** essentially this scripture is directing us to help the needy. A little goes a long way, as a community we cannot expect the responsibility to solely rest on the shoulders of the government, us, the people, the community need to take a stand and help those who find themselves in destitue situations. Therefore, we urge members of community, businesses both small and big to partner with us in making a difference in the lives of "child headed families" around all five municipalities within Nkangala District Municipality.

This initiative will be running for three months from November to January 2022. As part of our eight years anniversary celebration we will be featuring some of our previous publications interesting pieces as a reminder to our readers of where we started and where we are going as a household brand. Those who wish to contribute may do so by donating any amount from R15 or more to this account:

Account Name: Timeless News Foundation
Bank Name: First National Bank
Branch: Middelburg
Branch Code: 270150
Account Number: 62870840587
Ref: #HELPACHILD TODAY

We look forward to the up coming twelve weeks. We accept the challenge of dedicating our time and resources to impact the lives of those who are less fortunate than us and urge the community to accpet this challenge along with us.



JOINT POLICE OPERATION YIELD POSITIVE RESULT

BY STAFF REPOTER

WITBANK: A total of 25 suspects were arrested in Witbank and surrounding places for various offences including possession of drugs, selling liquor without licence, contravention of immigration act, possession of copper wire and mining equipment worth millions of rands. The suspects were arrested on Sunday 17 October during a joint sweeping operation carried out by members of the Witbank Police as well as Witbank Community Policing Forum. According to the police report, the operation targeted certain areas in Witbank, including Klarinet and Coronation Park where suspects, aged between 20 and 31 were apprehended. "The intense operation culminated into the closure of illegal scrap metal shop where suspected stolen copper wire was confiscated, as well as the seizure of Kenna metal mining drills worth millions of rands. The suspects are due to appear before the Emalahleni Magistrate's Court soon," said Colonel Donald Mdhlu, Mpumalanga Provincial Police Spokesperson. Furthermore, Mdhlu said another two suspects,

Peter Mpitikwana Mathibela, aged 27, as well as Mozambican National, Fabiano Joseph Nyawulane, aged 29, were both remanded in custody during their first appearance at the Emalahleni Magistrate's Court on Thursday, 14 October 2021. "The two face charges relating to being in possession of 18 suspected stolen solar panels valued at about R 180 000," Mdhlu explained. He said the duo's court appearance follows their arrest on Tuesday, 12 October 2021, by members of the police from Witbank Crime Intelligence, in collaboration with their counterparts from Visible Policing. "It is reported that the police members received information about suspects in possession of suspected stolen solar panels which they allegedly kept at their places of residence. The information was then operationalised by the team and on their arrival, the items were confiscated," he said. The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Mpumalanga, Lieutenant General Semakaleng Manamela, has commended the collaborative efforts by the members which produced positive results.



Copper cables that were seized in possession of the suspects during the joint police operation

MSIBI GETS BAIL

BY STAFF REPORTER

NELSPRUIT – Former Mpumalanga MEC for agriculture, rural development and environmental affairs Mandla Msibi has finally being released after spending a week in the prison cells. Msibi and co-accused Anele Sonke Mnisi and Njabulo Mkhonto were released on Tuesday on R20 000 bail each after their attempts to get bail were denied by the state on numerous occasions. Msibi was arrested on Monday, 11 October 2021, and appeared at the Magistrates Court the next day facing two counts of murder and one attempted murder after an alleged shooting incident that resulted into the death of ANC members Dingaan Ngwenya and Sindela Lubisi and injuring Sifiso Mpila on August 22 at Coyotes Shisanyama in Nelspruit. Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane relieved Msibi of his duties two days after the arrest before the ANC which he was elections manager of temporarily suspended him because of the step-aside rule. On Wednesday, 13 October, Court had to be evacuated after Magistrate Suzan Monaleti received a message that there was a bomb inside the court building. Msibi and co-accused were released on conditions they: - Do not to interfere with state witnesses. -Report to Pienaar police station every Mondays and Fridays. -Surrender their passports to the investigating officer. -Do not leave the Mpumalanga Province without informing the investigation officer.

They were ordered to appear again on 06 December 2021 for further investigation. The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Mpumalanga accused Msibi of trying to use his position to influence the investigation. "After his release on bail on Tuesday, Msibi told his hundreds of supporters outside the Nelspruit Magistrate Court that he is in the process of arranging a meeting with Police Minister Bheki Cele to discuss his arrest and subsequent appearance in court because he feels the matter is "politically motivated" by his detractors who want to contest with him for the vacant chairpersonship of the ANC in Mpumalanga," the party said in statement. "Of grave concern is whether Msibi is trying to use his political position to influence the investigation of his pending criminal case. If that happens, then can all accused on bail be given an opportunity to discuss their case with a Police Minister? But with the ANC, anything is possible – like releasing their perfectly healthy convicted criminals on medical parole. "Though the DA is disappointed with the bail given to Msibi, we still call for a transparent and thorough investigation into the matter and that witnesses must not be intimidated. The DA also calls on the ANC not to use its power to protect Msibi from law enforcement agencies. They must let the law take its course, and if he is found guilty, he must be imprisoned like all offenders," said the statement.

SBUSISO BENEFIT FROM BEDC



Exxaro Belfast Coal's Business Enterprise Development Centre beneficiary expresses his gratitude

BY STAFF REPORTER

Belfast: Sibusiso Mahlangu is one of the individuals who have benefitted from the R2, 7 Million Exxaro's Business Enterprise Development Centre (BEDC). Mahlangu expressed his satisfaction of the services that were offered by the BEDC. "I am very appreciative of the company's support, and for making the business management methods available and accessible to all of us." The BEDC was built to develop and equip local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) with coaching, mentorship, and business skills development. These services were offered freely to ensure the growth and sustainability of businesses. Sibusiso is the chairperson of the Emakhazeni Community Joint Structure who owns a company called Gembele. Gembele provides transport services to training beneficiaries offered by the surrounding mines. The company employs locals from the host communities to offer its services.

Mahlangu further acquired knowledge on a number of key business acumen such as paperwork, internet connection, Companies, and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), SARS eFiling and Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) processes and application methods. Sibusiso alluded that more centres like the BEDC are mandatory for the growth and development of local businesses. Through such centres, people from the farming communities gets to access valuable information with ease. As a community steward he plans on growing his business by investing on other established businesses and grabbing every opportunity he comes across to further give back to his community through job opportunities. "To aspiring SMMEs in the business space they should acquire more knowledge as possible, seek for assistance wherever necessary and keep promises to their employees," concluded Sibusiso

DELMAS SPEAKER OUSTED

BY STAFF REPORTER

DELMAS –The controversial Speaker of the Victor Khanye Local Municipality in Delmas, Khaya Segone found himself on the wrong side of the ruling party's step-aside rule following his arrest in October last year for a numerous criminal charges. The rule approved by ANC 54th conference that took place in December 2017 had forced the Delmas most powerful politician to succumb as Council on Thursday, 14 October, had to pass a motion of no-confidence against him after allegedly refusing to step down from his position. The conference resolved that all party members charged with corruption or serious crimes should step aside within 30 days, fail which they will be suspended from the organisation. The ANC in Nkangala confirmed Segone refused to step down after he was required to do so. "The organisation was left with no option but to instruct the council caucus to implement a vote of no-confidence against the Speaker and the motion was supported by all councilors in attendance," regional spokesperson Sello Matshoga said. "The ANC in Nkangala Region welcomed a motion of no confidence

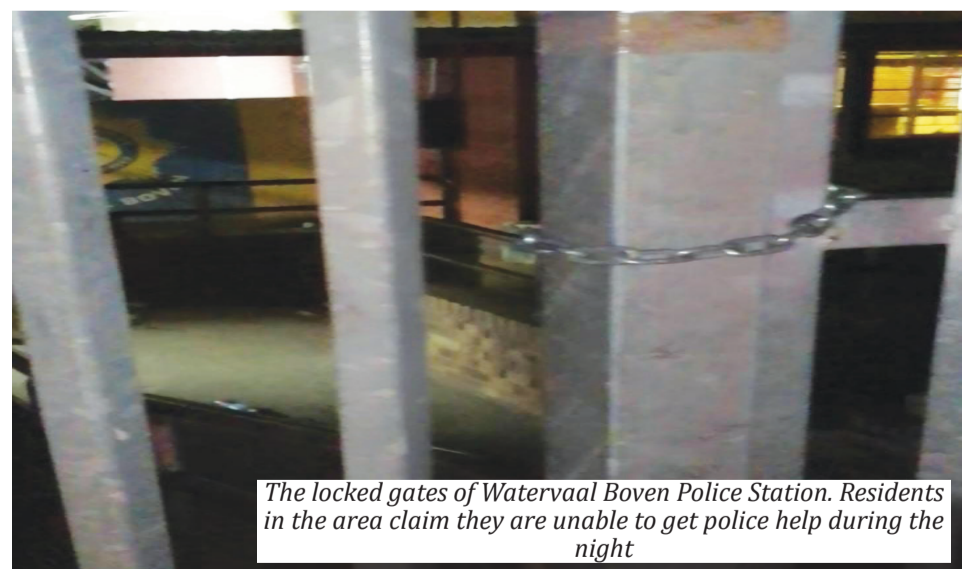
against the Speaker of the Council, Cde Khaya Segone." In line with the fight against ills such as crass materialism, corruption and ill-discipline, the ANC as a leader of society is determined to lead from the front in order to eradicate this cancer from within its rank and file. Ultimately restore the much desired moral fibre of our members and society," he said. The party further announced that it had replaced Segone with Tebogo Malomane as Speaker. "He has a lot to offer both in terms of his experience and commitment. He is hard working and dedicated cadre of the movement," Matshoga said. "His knowledge and capacity will strengthen the functioning of the municipality in driving programmes in meeting the objectives of the manifesto of the ANC." Segone has been Speaker for almost six years. Victor Khanye Mayor, Cllr Vusi Buda told the paper it was one of the toughest decisions the ANC had to take following its step-aside policy. "Tough as it is, we had to implement what the ANC had directed its deployees in the Victor Khanye Municipality to do and we respect the ANC and its policies," he said.

RESIDENTS SAYS THE POLICE STATION IS USELESS

BY STAFF REPORTER

WATERVAAL BOVEN: Residents of Watervaal Boven say their police station is useless, following allegations that it closes its doors for operations at 19:00. They also claim that they are turned back by police members and told to return in the morning to open cases. However, the Watervaal Boven Police Station is supposed to be a 24 hour operational facility and responsible for the safety of residents of Watervaal Boven and other nearest sprawling farms. People whom the police station is supposed to serve are angry at its services and claim it is useless and not helpful as it closes its gates during the night. The residents had also complained about the lack of police visibility and the sluggish response time of the police when called. According to a resident, Sibusiso Ngwenya, told Timeless News that they are fed-up with the service at the police station where they are flocking to try and report cases during the night but turned away. "I accompanied a group of students from Nkangala TVET College who went to open a case of burglary, we found the police station gates locked with a chain.

When we asked, we were told that they were closed and should come back in the morning," he said. Ngwenya added that this is not the first time the public has been turned away by the police while trying to enter the premises to seek help. "We cannot move freely during the night because we are not protected. We are living in fear from our homes as criminals are taking advantage of the situation and attack us. I feel that the government has deprived us of the right to safety in our residence," he said. Ngwenya said the police senior officials in the province and national should play a pivotal role in bringing other officials who are willing to help the community. "Every now and then there is robbery and burglary incidents targeting Nkangala TVET College students at their residence and the perpetrators are not arrested. Criminals operate freely during the night here. We demand the police members who will serve the interests of the people," he said. Mpumalanga Provincial Police Spokesperson, Colonel Donald Mdhuli, said the Watervaal Boven Police Station is operational during the night. However, at night the station management decided to put in place



The locked gates of Watervaal Boven Police Station. Residents in the area claim they are unable to get police help during the night

precautionary security measures to safeguard the lives of members on duty. "This was implemented after security scan of the area was done, in addition to the incident where members at Waterval Boven were attacked whilst on duty. The station has ensured that members of the public use a buzzing system whenever they require to make

use of the Waterval Boven community service centre at night,' he said. Mdhuli said the police members would attend to the public when using the buzzing system placed at the police station entrance. "This does not mean that the services to the community should be hampered in anyway," he said.

YOUR VOTE.



YOUR FUTURE.

MASHIKA ELECTED SPEAKER OF CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

BY STAFF REPORTER

KwaMhlanga: Given Mashika, from KwaMhlanga in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, was elected speaker of the 10th edition of the Children's Parliament.

The 17-year-old Mashika is a grade 10 learner at Musa Secondary school in KwaMhlanga. He was elected recently ahead of the first sitting of the Children's Parliament session, an official platform for students to look at local and global problems and come up with their own solutions.

The election of the speaker took place in an open session to all members of the 10th Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province.

Mashika was equally elated when the honourable members of Children's Parliament chose him to chair their session for this year.

"I am very happy not only for myself, but for the other children who could not make it to the Parliament. I may not be able to make an atomic bomb with my hands, but with my heart and words, I will strive for change for a better life and future," he said.

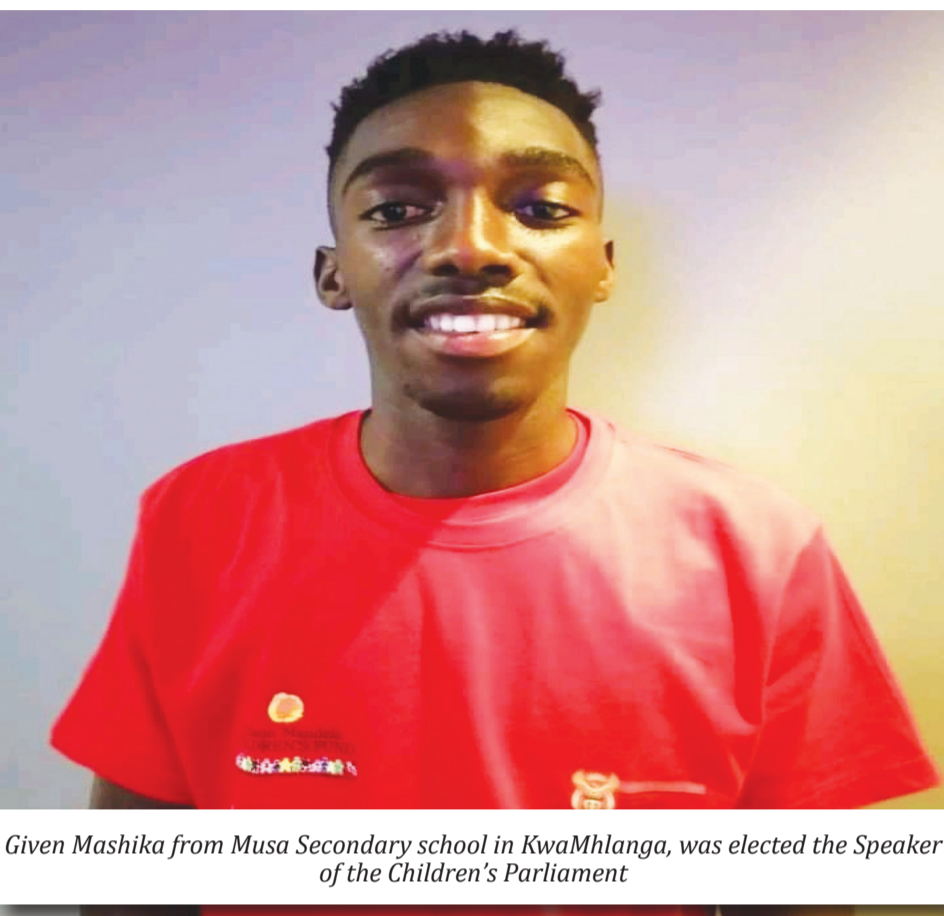
The Children's Parliament is held in honour of South Africa's first democratic

President, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, by bringing children across South Africa to debate and deliberate on issues such as Covid-19, teenage pregnancy, climate change, poverty and other challenges facing young people.

The ultimate goal of the Children's Parliament is to create a channel for children's participation and afford them an opportunity to influence policy as well as programmes targeted at ensuring that their rights are realised. Last year, the Children's Parliament could not sit due to Covid-19. This year's parliamentary proceedings were in line with the Social Development Month Campaign, which seeks to reach out to poor and vulnerable South Africans under the theme: "Delivering DSD Services during Covid-19, in The Year of Charlotte Maxeke."

The 2021 sitting was held under the theme: "Accountability to enhance the voices and rights of children during Covid-19 and beyond", where the ambassadors for all nine provinces in the country were announced.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education congratulated Mashika for representing the province, following his election as the speaker of the 10th edition of the Children's Parliament.



Given Mashika from Musa Secondary school in KwaMhlanga, was elected the Speaker of the Children's Parliament

DETERMINED TO WIN ELIAS MOTSOLEDI WARD 9

BY STAFF REPORTER

Moutse: Christopher Malope, a community leader at Dennilton in Moutse, says ethical leadership is needed to turn things around and deliver quality services to the community of the area. Malope will be contesting the 2021 Local Government Election in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Ward 9 as independent candidate. Malope promises people who will be voting for him a clean governance with quality services they are entitled to as South African residents. "I have positioned myself to introduce professionalism to fight cadre deployment and nepotism, which benefit individuals and causing backlog in the delivery of services in the community. A clean government is needed and this is what I am intending to achieve," he said. Malope said he stepped out of the shadow of the ANC when realizing that after 27 years of democracy, people's lives haven't changed in Moutse. "Yes I was supporting the ruling party all along but not anymore. I am a community leader and against the organization that take decisions not made to benefit the majority, but for the benefit of the selected few. Community involvement is essential to tackle service delivery issues and needed to address residents' challenges," he said. According to Malope, the people are sick and tired to face a situation where basic services such

as water and houses are not provided by the government they have voted for into power. "The provision of water should be prioritized but as you can see, the infrastructure is down and the local and district municipalities can't keep up to their promises," he said. Malope said to tackle water crisis issues, a needed short term solution is the proper provision of water through water trucks and later the drilling of boreholes not more than 500 metres apart. "Underprivileged residents should also get RDP houses as well. It seems like these houses benefit only those who are close to senior officials in government and not the poor," he said. In terms of youth empowerment, the candidate said adoption of youth development programme is essential to equip young people with skills to fight unemployment and poverty. Malope said his campaign is in full swing in the ward and he has found ways of being visible and relevant to the public when garnering votes as an alternative from the failing ANC. "A political shift and alternative to the failing government is needed for a change. People can't just keep on voting without a better life that they are promised being materialized," he said. Malope said he is supported by the local South African Communist Party (SACP), South African National Civic Organization (SANCO) and Congress of South African Teachers Union (COSATU).



Elias Motswaledi Local Municipality ward 9 independent candidate Christopher Malope says he is intending to turn things around if he could be voted as a ward councilor in the upcoming local government elections

A MESSY STATE



Steve Tshwete Local Municipality is in state of mess since the waste management employees embarked on a strike over a month ago demanding grade six salaries and the removal of the Municipal Manager

ANC AT WORK



ANC Deputy Chairperson in Sekhukhune Julia Matheba debriefing ANC volunteers after a door-to-door campaign in Hlogotlou Sub-Region

YOUR VOTE.



YOUR FUTURE.

MHRF GUNNING FOR 50 PERCENT PLUS

BY STAFF REPOTER

MIDDELBURG - The Middelburg and Hendrina Residents Front (MHRF) says it will continue to exist post the elections period and beyond.

The organisation came into being in November last year and contested the by-elections for the first time at Ward 22 where they received 21 % (184 votes) overtaking the EFF that received 13 % after the ANC won the Ward by a 67% (589 votes).

Party chairperson and Mayoral candidate Jomo Segage told The Open House Tales, an online political channel, they will continue to exist even after the local government elections are over. "Not in our right minds that we will exist today only for elections and disappear after the

elections," he said.

"We will continue to exist. The experience is that most of the comrades form organizations but they still have an appetite to go back where they come from," Segage said.

"It is not something that some of us have started today to reprimand to say this is not what we struggled for and our comrades laid their lives for. We struggled to liberate the people of South Africa and to make sure we bring better lives for our people," he said.

He said his party wants to bring fresh air for the people on permanent basis. "If you are in a house and it is smelly you actually must go outside for fresh air... hence the colour green because we want to bring the fresh air. So the MHRF will be here today,

tomorrow and in the future."

"We are not going to dissolve except if there are those who still have an appetite to go back to the ANC because that is how the ANC will kill you as an emerging party," he said.

Segage also said they are aiming for 50% of the votes in the coming local government elections. "Our ambition is to get 50% plus one so that we don't have to talk to anybody and make sure that, based on our manifesto, we take this town [Middelburg] back to its former glory," he said.

The MHRF chairperson Jomo Segage has vowed that his organisation will exist beyond the upcoming local government elections



MALEMA PROMISE MORE JOBS

BY STAFF REPOTER

EMALAHLENI - EFF leader Julius Malema has promised eMalahleni residents his party will create jobs for everyone including those without a senior certificate as is minimum job requirement in South Africa.

Malema said this during the party's campaign trail at Santa a week ago. "We are going to hire everyone whether you have grade 12 or not, whether you have a degree or not," he said.

"There is work in municipalities that does not require a degree. We want those who do not have grade 12 to be given work that they qualify for."

"You do not matric certificate to sweep the streets of eMalahleni, you do not need a matric certificate to cut grass and patch the potholes. We are going to do all of these for those that do not have matric because we understand our people could not get an opportunity to get up to matric because of poverty and were therefore forced to be farm and domestic workers," Malema said.

"They did not leave school because they are dumb. To prove that, we are going to hire them to sweep the streets so they can register to for ABET and improve their studies." Malema added that his party is a party that represents



EFF leader Julius Malema says that his party will create jobs for people who do not have a senior certificate regarded as a minimum requirement for employment

hopes and aspirations of people seen as "nothing". "We want to take you and turn you into something because we are an organisation of the hopeless masses of our people," he said. Malema spent 3 days in the province where he visited all the three districts to ask people to

vote for the EFF in the local government elections to take place on the 1st of November. "I went everywhere, there are no roads. The whole province has potholes as big as a swimming pool but there are mines. It is not like there is no money in Mpumalanga. There is too

much money both in government and the private sector but your roads are in a dilapidated state," Malema said. "Your roads are a complete disaster it does not even show that the country's Deputy President comes from this province," he said.

WATER IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

BY STAFF REPOTER

MIDDELBURG - Federal leader of the Democratic Alliance (DA) John Steenhuisen told residents of Doornkop in Middelburg access to running water is a basic human right. Steenhuisen visited the area on the weekend Saturday to generate for votes ahead of the local government elections on 1 November. He was accompanied by DA Mpumalanga leader Jane Sithole, national spokesperson Siviwe Gwarube and Steve Tshwete Mayoral candidate Bosman Grobler. "Of all the basic services a local government is meant to deliver, clean drinking water is surely the most important. It is so important that it is written into our Constitution as a human right. They have to supply it to you or they will have failed in their Constitutional duty," he said. "I know about the water tanks that are meant to be filled by contractors appointed by the ANC government, but are often left empty for days, even weeks, at a time. I know about the poor water quality, and of the long distances some of you have to walk to collect water in containers," Steenhuisen said. "These things are not right. Your local government has had 27 years in which to sort this out, and yet here you are - no closer to having your water issues sorted out

than you were two decades ago." "If a local government cannot guarantee this basic human right - if it cannot install the taps, fix the pipe leaks, maintain the infrastructure and replace the stolen cables - then it has no business being in government. Then it must make way for one that can do these things." Steenhuisen further said that the DA governments understand that dignity and quality of life are impossible without access to water and other basic services. "I'm not talking about putting in a few standing taps along the road. I'm not talking about a few water tanks filled every now and then by well-paid ANC cronies. I'm not talking about water points that require residents to push wheelbarrows for kilometers to fill their containers. I'm talking about clean, running water right near your home. That's your right, and that is what a DA government will deliver," he said. "And we will do the same for electricity provision. And refuse removal. And flush toilets. And street lights. And road resurfacing. All the things that will make your life here liveable." DA received 33 603 (17%) votes during the 2016 government elections retaining 17 Council seats trailing behind the ruling party that got 64 124 (63%) votes retaining 32 seats while the EFF got 13 027 (13%) getting 7 seats.



John Steenhuisen the Federal Leader of Democratic Alliance told Doornkop residents that water is a basic human right

EXXARO CONDUCT VACCINATION DRIVE



Londolani Rampfumendzi, Belfast Coal Business Unit Manager



Dr Matjila, Manager Sustainability Safety and Health



Exxaro's digital and connected Belfast coal mine conducted a vaccination drive in the mining premises

BY STAFF REPORTER

BELFAST- Belfast Coal conducted its third vaccination drive on Thursday, 14 October. The drive was a call to action for employees to vaccinate as part of safety measures and keeping employees safe at the workplace. It drive included vaccination stations and medical practitioners ready to vaccinate the employees on the spot. When addressing the employees, Dr Matjila, Manager Sustainability Safety and Health, cited that 33 lives have been lost at Exxaro alone through Covid_19. "Covid_19 does not have legs; we are the ones that move it around," he said. He further encouraged employees to vaccinate as this will increase the chance of

fighting the virus and limiting the chance of being hospitalised.

"Once you have vaccinated you have a better chance of surviving and that Exxaro employees were privileged to have access vaccines free of charge, these vaccines have been tested and are being used all over the world."

Londolani Rampfumendzi, Belfast Coal Business Unit Manager, said that Belfast Coal has made this day possible and brought the vaccination station to employees.

"Safety is at the centre of our operation; therefore, it is important that we need to vaccinate ourselves to survive Covid_19 as we strive for zero harm, keeping our slogan of Khetha Ukuphepha," he said.

TIKUNDLA REGIME KILL HARMLESS PEOPLE

BY STAFF REPORTER

OSHOEK: A call for more intervention in the mountainous Kingdom of Eswatini intensifies as reports of abuse of power and human right violation are on the rise. Scores of harmless Swati people have reportedly lost their lives at the hands of police and soldiers deployed by the government as citizens and pressure group remain steadfast calling for political reforms in the country regarded as Africa's absolute monarchy. Just recently, Wednesday, 20 November, Public Service workers who went to deliver a petition to the government were brutally met with violent force as police used teargas and rubber bullets, at close range, to stop them from attending the march in Mbabane. The workers who were in a bus had to jump out of the bus windows as the King aligned security forces kept on shooting. Six people were reportedly injured from the incident. The government also reportedly shut down the internet and all social media communication channels in an attempt to restrict flow of information. "The state is muzzling the media not to report whatsoever that is happening on the ground. So it is very sad indeed," said a Eswatini resident who remained anonymous. "The broadcast media and radio are state owned and controlled so they will not at any stage report the people who are injured in protest march or anything." Spokesperson of the Swaziland Solidarity Network (SSN), Lucky Lukhele said the people of Eswatini are fed up with continued tyranny under King Mswati. "Amaswati cannot it continue living under abject poverty while the King, his family and relatives continue to live in luxury," he said. "To make it even worse, the poor people are not allowed to speak about these things that they are experiencing on daily basis." Lukhele also cast blame on the SADC region for dragging feet on the Swazi situation. "This is an unfortunate but very understandable scenario, which could have been avoided if regional bodies and foreign agencies had acted proactively," he said.



Six public servants were seriously injured when police threw teargas canisters and used rubber bullets and live rounds to shoot them in the bus they were traveling in preventing them from attending a march in Mbabane

"We therefore wish to continue to urge the South African government, the Southern African Development Community and other regional bodies to act decisively on king Mswati."

In an effort to quell the violence and get the government to talk to its people for an amicable solution, South Africa has sent a high level delegation to the country to facilitate talks.

"To this end we wish to acknowledge the efforts of President Cyril Ramaphosa who has sent a high level delegation to the kingdom to engage the king. "We hope that these talks will be fruitful because if they are not then the world must brace itself for the worst," Lukhele said.

EMALAHLENI BLAMES AGING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WATER INTERRUPTIONS

BY STAFF REPORTER

EMALAHLENI-The Emalahleni local municipality has blamed old infrastructure for its continued interruptions in the supply of water to its residents. Thus comes after residents have recently almost a week without water. Emalahleni municipality spokesperson Lebo Mofokeng said that the water supply infrastructure is composed of old and outdated technology components which are prone to failure. "Further that majority of the distribution and reticulation networks are comprised of the asbestos cement pipes which require to be replaced," he said. He further said that the Municipality is a Water Services Authority and Water Services Provider responsible for water services within the Municipal Jurisdictional area. "This in the main includes ensuring that there is adequate bulk potable water supply to all areas and that there is enough water retention in the system to sustain supply should there be an unforeseen event." "The main source of potable water supply in the municipality is the Witbank Water Treatment Plant, reclaimed mine water and the modular package plant which supplies potable water into the municipal water supply system for the Greater Emalahleni area. Potable water supply to consumers is facilitated by means of an integrated water supply system comprising of: raw water storage (dam), pumping mechanism, purification plants, storage receptacles, and distribution and reticulation networks to the point of consumption," Mofokeng explained. In recent past the municipality

has been inundated with complaints from consumers about lack and or insufficient water supply as well as poor quality water from the municipality. An investigation has been conducted and was found that the main cause of the intermittent water supply and compromised quality was amongst others the following: old and aged infrastructure, uncontrolled high water pressures in the water supply system, installation of other services, interference by external factors, and access to affected areas, implementation of other projects, materials and spares turn around. "The above factors are interrelated and contribute to extended restoration of water supply services which impacts negatively on consumers especially during this pandemic period," he said. "The following are major water supply interruptions which had taken place within the municipality: Witbank Extensions 16 and 41: the municipality has embarked on asbestos water pipe replacement program which the execution thereof results in water cuts. The main challenge faced is that the project is implemented in the build-up/developed areas, many other services within the same servitude and lack of as built drawings this identification of services takes long time, theft and vandalism of infrastructure. Moreover that there are no visible water leakages that could be linked to cause of low water pressures in the system. Siyanqoba, Klarinet Extensions, Pine Ridge: two major pipe breaks occurred in Old Coronation and Pap Vleis

vicinity on the main line transporting potable water to these areas. The requisite materials and spares could not be sourced easily as they are non-shelf items and had to be obtained from outside. Further that repairs were stalled and delayed by safety consideration such that the municipal contractors and employees were insulted and threatened. Kwa Guqa New Extension and Kwa Mthunzi Vilakazi (Clewer): there is a burst at Costas intersection which supplies potable water to Clewer, Kwa Guqa New extensions, Hlalanikahle Extensions and Empumelweni. The pipe is rusted and corroded and three lengths of pipe has been replaced and observation has been made that the interconnecting valve is no longer functional and needs replacement. Theft and vandalism is rife in these areas which is due to metal content of components used in the infrastructure system. Model park Extensions, Die Heuwel Extensions, Highveld Park, Blancheville and Riverview Plots, Clearwater Estate and Jackaroo Park: the intermittent high pressures in the system resulting in water pipe breakages, aged infrastructure mainly composed of asbestos cement pipes. The municipal wide water demand is much higher than the water supply into the municipal system and this phenomenon result in these unprecedented water supply interruptions. The following are some of the interventions employed to mitigate water supply shortages and low pressures: water tankers are utilized to affected areas, water rationing where

practicable and enabling infrastructure is in place, monitoring and managing water storage reservoir levels for efficient distribution and attending to reported and observed water pipe bursts and leakages. Long term intervention are acted upon which unfortunately requires both time high capital investment and the following are underway: increasing of the water use licence, exploring additional water supply schemes (Highveld, Siyanqoba scheme, Ben Fleur/Reyno Ridge, recycling of effluent, Doornpoort Scheme and underground water). The municipality has approved and adopted the water conservation water demand Management Strategy which is the product of the Municipal Water Summit which has identified a number of areas for implementation. We are delighted that the BenFleur/Reyno Ridge water supply scheme by the utilization of modular package plant to a capacity of 20 Ml/day is at an advance stage and expected to be commissioned in this year. It has been observed and reported through the South African weather services that the temperatures are soaring which will result in high water demand to burden the municipal water supply system, it is on these basis that communities and consumers are urged to use water sparingly and report all water leakages to the municipality for attention. Further that the Country and the world at large is still experiencing COVID 19 for which we expected to observe and respect the protocols," Mofokeng said.

AMBITIOUS AUTHOR PUBLISHES FIFTH BOOK IN TWO YEARS

TIMELESS NEWS BOOK REVIEW

BY STAFF REPORTER

DENNILTON: Award winning Dennilton born author, actor, entrepreneur and motivational speaker, Vusi Mabena, is breaking barriers in the writing fraternity. In a very short space of time, Mabena has published his fifth book titled: "Scars and Tribulation of My Journey Volume 5", a motivational book that aims to uplift the spirit of the reader.

Through his work with pen and paper, Mabena said the latest version of his work is inspirational and teaches the people not to allow laziness and life tribulation to be a stumbling block of what they want to achieve in life.

"The book encourages the reader to have self-belief to familiarize themselves with the hardships of life no matter what happens," he said.

The 29-year-old Mabena has penned five books in a period of two years and is also the recipient of the Best Poet Award in the International South African Poetry Awards (ISAPA), in November 2020.

"I feel so speechless and running out of words and don't believe that I have accomplished so much in just a period of two years. To be honest, I never thought it was possible for me to write and publish five books within two years," he said. Mabena has promised the readers to

expect more encouraging publications in the near future. "I won't quit anytime soon. My wish is to keep on writing in order to change lives of many people," he said.

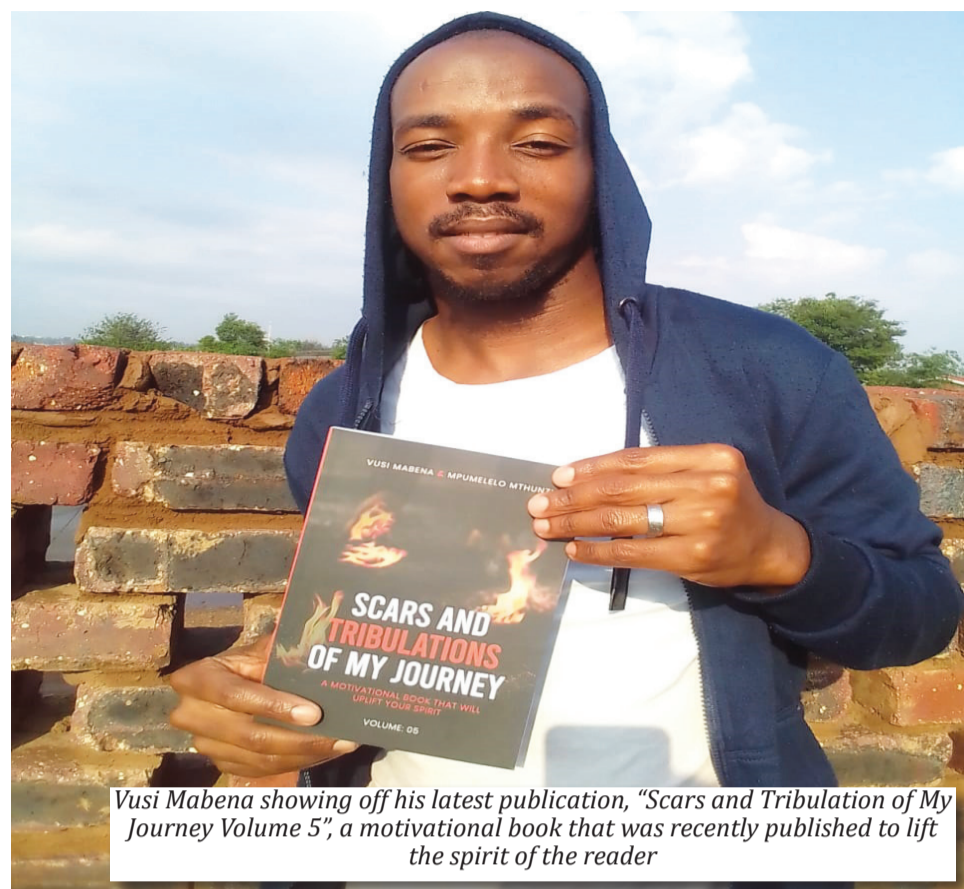
Mabena said in his latest book, he worked with a young ambitious author, Nompumelolo Mthunzi, who was also very hands-on in ensuring that the project a success.

"It was amazing working with him. My aim is to empower other young up-coming writers to become the greatest authors in future," he said.

The book has not yet hit the bookstores, however, it is available from Mabena and anyone who wish to support him can feel free to contact or WhatsApp 0792445754 or email vusithepoet23@gmail.com.

Mabena is a nominee in the APAPA Awards as Best Poet, Storyteller and Writer. The author is also nominated for the MAKOYA Entertainment Awards in categories including Best Poet and Best Writer.

To vote for him in the APAPA Awards, the public is requested to SMS APAPA04 VM43 to 33903, voting lines are closing on 27 October 2021. To vote for Mabena in the MAKOYA Awards, people are encouraged to SMS MEA 002 to 33903. Voting lines closes on 25 November 2021.



Vusi Mabena showing off his latest publication, "Scars and Tribulation of My Journey Volume 5", a motivational book that was recently published to lift the spirit of the reader

FROM JOURNALISM AND WRITINGS TO SENSATIONAL GOSPEL STAR

BY STAFF REPORTER

GROBLERSDAL: The Sekhukhune born author, editor, journalist, motivational speaker and the founder of popular local newspaper, "Focus News/Magazine" shocked his followers when he released his debut gospel album titled, "Mphe Matla".

The album is currently receiving airplay at various radio stations and is leading the Gospel Top 10 programmes. In his talk about album he collaborated with his cousin brother, Liver Digomo and recorded at Black Ronco Music Production.

The album is available at all digital stores and can be downloaded. The mid-forties persona says he used

the Covid-19 lock down period to record his music and now he is ready to hit to road and showcase the world what he can offer.

Abicky told our reporters that he always wanted to heal people's hearts, from early age he have been singing at Catholic Church Choir and later joined Solly Matseba as his backing singer and the group called Limpopo Brothers.

When quizzed about whether he is happy with his musical journey, he couldn't mince his words when saying, "I am at peace, this is what God has anointed me with the spirit of praise and worship to minister his Kingdom".

He further announced that soon South African will see him on their television

screens because he has already finished shooting his music video to be televised on the SABC gospel programmes and other community television such as 1Gospel or Dumisa TV.

This happily married gospel star and the father of two kids, Pabi and Pheny performs his songs at events such as weddings, concerts, festivals, birthdays, funeral, tombstones unveilings and church services and he could be booked at **072 797 2922**

Abicky Kgolane and Liver Digomo during the video recording performance



NGO EQUIPS YOUTH WITH RARE SKILLS

BY STAFF REPORTER

BOKENHOUTHOEK: A group of young people from Bokenhouthoek, Mathyzensloop and Bundu Villages, in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, have finally graduated for a scholarship initiative launched by Isibusiso Home Based Care in partnership with Advance Academy institution.

The 187 new graduates benefited from the scholarship in 2019, they were studying project management and safety management courses.

Their graduation ceremony was held at the Isibusiso Home Based Care premises at Bokenhouthoek on Monday 18 October. Isibusiso Home Based Care is a Non-Government Organization (NGO), which its primary focus is to develop disadvantaged young people to deal with socio-economic challenges facing the country.

According to Isibusiso Home Based Care Manager, Thamsanqa Mahlangu, the initiative is focusing on assisting deserving young people to acquire training and grow the pool of qualified individuals in the asset of project and safety management industries. "I started the initiative back then in 2019 after realizing that young people in my community lacked opportunities because they don't have certain skills requisite for employment. I approached Advance Academy Manager Lucas Ntuli who responded positively and



Young people from Bokenhouthoek, Mathyzensloop and Bundu Villages in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, during their graduation ceremony at Isibusiso Home Based Care in Bokenhouthoek

he allowed these young people to enrol at his institution through a scholarship programme with a sole purpose of uplifting them," he said. Mahlangu added that the focus of the scholarship was on scarce skills, which are desperately needed as part local economic growth. "Providing opportunities that are empowering young people is Isibusiso's main focus because as an organisation we want to see our youth reaching greater

heights in the near future. I am happy that they were all passed with flying colours and we will be able to place in various projects around Thembisile Hani Local Municipality and beyond," he said. Mahlangu indicated that the home based care is currently busy training other young people who will be graduating soon. "They have started their training in 2018 doing Business Administration with HPS Academy in partnership with Tshiredo

Training Academy. As part of their training, the 50 students receive R2000-00 stipend every month," explained Mahlangu. He said after completing their training, the students will be placed in various government institutions such as Department of Health's local clinics from Moloto to Bundu, Department of Safety and Security, Thembisile Hani Local Municipality and Zithabiseni Holiday Resort.



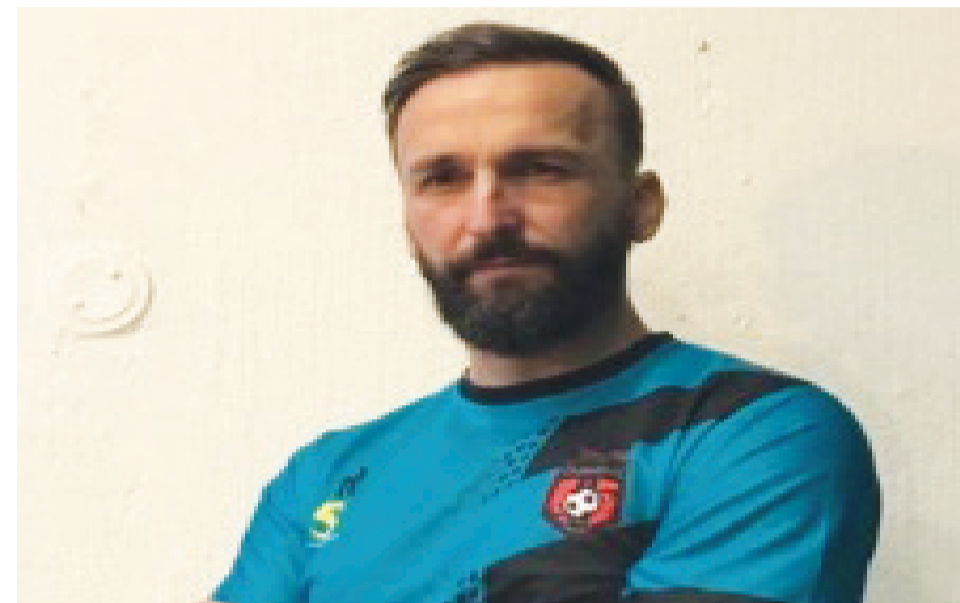
TIMELESS SPORT

TS GALAXY LOST TO USUTHU

BY STAFF REPORTER

MNOMBELA: With just six minutes gone, AmaZulu defender made a great block to deny Ebrahim Seedat. The Rockets conjured up some neat touches as Mbatha played an exquisite pass to the path of Mngomezulu who was denied by Gumede but the rebound fell to Seedat who was denied by Xoki. In the 11th minute, Siyethemba Sithebe delivered a dangerous ball into the box and Augustine Mulenga arrived late and unleashed a curling right footed shot that went narrowly wide. As Xoki had done for Usuthu, Pogiso Sanoka came to the Rockets' rescue on the half-hour mark when he cleared Mulenga's effort off the line. Mulenga was the best player on the pitch and close again shortly before the interval when he turned his marker and let fly with a thunderous shot that went only a couple of inches wide of the right-hand post. Usuthu took the lead in

the 56th minute when Tercious Malepe played Luvuyo Memela down the right of the box and he curled a sublime effort on his left foot into the far corner. Galaxy pressed forward and came ever so close to equalising. Tshegofatso Nyama did a wonderful job down the right hand side and delivered an exquisite pass to Siphon Mngomezulu but his header was cleared off the line. The complexion of the game changed when Sanoka was sent off for a second yellow for his challenge on Malepe. However, Galaxy were showing bravery with ten men and after Lindokuhle Mbatha was fouled on the edge of the box, Seedat rifled his free-kick over the bar with ten minutes left to go. The Rockets had one more good opportunity in stoppage time but Mokete Mogaila's cross was diverted over the bar by Mxolisi Machuphu as Galaxy remain bottom of the DSTV Premiership standings



Sead Ramovic side TS Galaxy has lost 1-0 to Amazulu on Tuesday afternoon at Mbombela Stadium

CITY WIZARDS TO HOST MASANDAWANA

BY STAFF REPORTER

EMALAHLENI - Coming from a 1-0 drubbing at the hands of Thunderbirds Ladies on Saturday, 16 October at their home ground Puma Rugby Stadium, the Emalahleni outfit Coal City Wizards FC are looking to redeem their league status on the Hollywood Superbets League. They seem to be facing the toughest contenders ever when they are booked for an outing with log leaders Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies FC on 30 October at Groenkloof Stadium on Pretoria. Coach Mabu Moroaswi the game against the Masandawana will be decided by the results after the final whistle. "I would not want to be pre-emptive about how we will play but as the saying goes, you are as good as your last game," he said. "The results after the referee has blown the final whistle will definitely be the decider of the game." "One thing I can tell you is that we definitely not be showing them any respect as we will be taking the game to them," Mabu said. City Wizards also suffered a 2 - 1 defeat when they faced Bloemfontein Celtics FC on 6 October at Dr Petrus Molemela Stadium in Bloemfontein. This follows a 0-0 draw with Durban Ladies FC at home on 25 September. The team is currently occupying the 11th spot after playing 19 games with 5 wins, 5 draws and 9 losses. They have so far accumulated 20 points. Moroaswi further said that his team is in search of sponsorship and has appealed to local businesses to assist. "It is very difficult running the club without a financial support. The league involves a lot of travelling to away games and the players have to be accommodated in hotels for a good rest," he said. "But we are keeping on knocking on doors hoping that any good samaritan will one day respond positively."



Emalahleni's Coal City Wizards are looking to make amends when they host Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies FC on 30 October