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## LAW ENFORCEMENT TRIUMPHS IN LIMPOPO: OVER

## 1600 SUSPECTS APPREHENDED IN MAJOR CRACKDOWN



The joint law enforcement forces of South Africa's National Defence Force (NDF), the South African Police Force (SAPS), and various other law enforcement agencies, conducted a disruptive operation in G (3). Picture: Supplied.

**LIMPOPO** - The South African Police Service (SAPS) in Limpopo, in conjunction with key stakeholders such as the Department of Home Affairs and private security firms, has achieved a significant victory in the fight against crime.

Through the meticulously planned and executed KUKULA operations spanning all five districts of the province, law enforcement agencies have recovered seven stolen vehicles and apprehended an astonishing 1,651 suspects.

This monumental achievement underscores the commitment of authorities to ensuring the safety and security of communities within Limpopo.

The suspects detained during these operations were implicated in a wide array of criminal activities, including but not

limited to charges of murder, attempted murder, robbery, rape, sexual offences, assault, burglary, fraud, theft, malicious damage to property, public drinking, drug-related offences, and contraventions of the Immigration Act.

Colonel Malešela Ledwaba, the spokesperson for the Limpopo provincial police, emphasised the multifaceted approach adopted by law enforcement, which included the strategic deployment of roadblocks, stop-and-search operations, blue-light patrols, and compliance inspections at liquor premises and second-hand dealers.

Among the apprehended suspects, 20 were detained for transgressions of the Domestic Violence Act, 393 for contraventions of the Immigration Act, and 117 for drug-related offences.

Notably, the seized contraband included 1552.174 grammes of dagga, 1 gramme of dagga plant, 4.601 grammes of crystal meth, and 34 grammes of nyaope. Furthermore, authorities successfully recovered firearms, 28 knives, and 32 other dangerous weapons, significantly mitigating potential threats to public safety.

A substantial quantity of 604,162 counterfeit cigarette sticks and 569,627.5 millilitres of liquor were also confiscated during the operations.

Colonel Ledwaba disclosed that law enforcement officers responded to approximately 549 reports of domestic violence during the operation period, underscoring the proactive approach taken to address such sensitive issues within communities.

A total of 281 protection orders were

served, indicating a concerted effort to safeguard victims and prevent further harm.

In recognition of the unwavering dedication and tireless efforts demonstrated by law enforcement personnel, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, the provincial commissioner of SAPS in Limpopo, expressed commendation for their commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring the safety and protection of all citizens.

As the accused individuals begin to appear in various magistrate's courts across the province, this significant milestone marks a pivotal moment in the pursuit of accountability and justice in the face of rampant criminal activity.

## DA LEADER JOHN STEENHUISEN ACCUSES ANC OF TURNING UNION BUILDINGS INTO CRIME SCENE

**JOHANNESBURG** - Democratic Alliance (DA) leader John Steenhuisen launched a scathing attack on the African National Congress (ANC) government, accusing them of transforming the iconic Union Buildings into a symbol of crime and dashed dreams for millions of South Africans.

Steenhuisen made these remarks during the party's manifesto launch on Saturday, addressing a crowd of fervent supporters gathered at the Union Buildings.

Asserting the DA's readiness to take charge, Steenhuisen declared, "The DA is launching our 2024 manifesto from the Union Buildings because we are sending a clear message that we are in it to win it."

With the upcoming elections looming on the horizon, Steenhuisen's bold statement underscored the party's determination to reclaim governance and usher in a new era of progress and accountability.

In the build-up to the elections, Steenhuisen emphasised the importance of the Multi-Party Charter as a means to unseat the current government, highlighting the need for a united front among opposition parties.

He expressed confidence that, through collaborative efforts, the opposition could offer a viable alternative to the ruling ANC, resonating with disillusioned voters who have grown weary of broken promises and ineffective governance.

However, Steenhuisen's criticism wasn't

solely directed at the ANC's track record.

During his address, he took aim at President Cyril Ramaphosa's recent State of the Nation Address (SONA), particularly his portrayal of success through the story of a fictional character named Tintswalo.

The DA leader argued that such narratives of progress rang hollow in the face of the widespread socio-economic challenges plaguing many South Africans.

By choosing the Union Buildings as the backdrop for their manifesto launch, Steenhuisen aimed to symbolise the DA's commitment to upholding the ideals of democracy and inclusivity.

As the country braces itself for the upcoming elections, the stage is set for a

fiercely contested political landscape, with the Union Buildings serving as a poignant symbol of the struggle for power and the aspirations of the South African people.

With the countdown to the elections underway, Steenhuisen's bold stance serves as a rallying cry for change, resonating with voters disillusioned by years of stagnation and unfulfilled promises.

As political parties gear up for the battle ahead, the Union Buildings stand as a testament to the democratic process and the power of the people to shape the future of their nation.

## CHIEF AMPIE MAYISA SECONDARY SCHOOL WAS ROCKED BY ALLEGATIONS OF WITCH-CRAFT AND DEMON POSSESSION



Chief Ampie Mayisa Secondary School learners staged a sit-in outside the school on Monday. Picture: Supplied.

**MPUMALANGA** - Tensions flared at Chief Ampie Mayisa Secondary School on Monday, February 19, 2024, as learners staged a sit-in outside the premises, decrying what they perceived as the school's involvement in witchcraft and satanic rituals.

The protest follows disturbing incidents that occurred on Friday, February 16, 2024, and again on Monday morning, where learners reportedly exhibited signs of possession and fainting spells, fueling fears of demonic influence.

According to eyewitnesses, the scenes witnessed on both occasions were deeply unsettling, with some learners allegedly behaving as if possessed, including rolling on the ground like snakes.

Concerned parents had previously implored the school principal to arrange for a religious intervention, with the presence of a pastor, to pray for the affected learners.

But the principal allegedly rejected their entreaties.

The escalating situation prompted the intervention of law enforcement authorities, who were alerted to the disturbance by a whistleblower.

Upon arrival, police officers escorted the school principal and monitored the protest,

as both learners and parents voiced their frustrations over the perceived occult practices within the school.

As negotiations ensued, frustrated learners remained outside the school premises while parents pressed for a meeting later that same day.

The police maintained a vigilant presence to ensure order during the protest, which was temporarily halted to facilitate the scheduled discussions initiated by concerned parents.

While investigations into the matter are ongoing, both learners and parents are steadfast in their refusal to tolerate any form of satanic practices or rituals within the school's confines.

Learners have opted to remain in their homes until concrete measures are put in place to prevent the recurrence of such disturbing incidents and to safeguard the well-being of all students.

The community awaits further developments as authorities work to address the grievances and concerns raised by learners and parents alike, with a collective determination to restore peace and normalcy to Chief Ampie Mayisa Secondary School.

## DECOMPOSED BODIES OF HUSBAND AND WIFE DISCOVERED; 3-YEAR-OLD GIRL RESCUED FROM GRUESOME SCENE



Two lifeless bodies of couple in the same yard at Ga-Marishane. Picture: Supplied

**LIMPOPO** - Police in the small town of Nebo, located in the Sekhukhune district, have launched a harrowing murder investigation and inquest after the grisly discovery of decomposed bodies belonging to a 38-year-old African male and a 34-year-old woman at their residence in the Ga-Marishane Dihlaganeng section.

The grim incident unfolded between Wednesday, February 14th, and Thursday, February 15th, 2024, around 7:00 p.m.

Concerned neighbours alerted authorities upon detecting a foul odour emanating from the house.

Promptly responding to the distress call, police officers arrived to find the residence securely locked.

With no response to their repeated knocks, they were forced to breach the entrance.

What awaited them inside was a scene of unimaginable horror: the lifeless body of a man hanging from the roof in an advanced state of decomposition.

Amidst this macabre tableau, a 3-year-old girl was discovered, miraculously alive, and promptly taken into police custody.

Visibly distressed, the young girl wasted no time in divulging her ordeal to the authorities upon the door's forced opening.

Urgent medical attention was swiftly

arranged, and she was transferred to a nearby hospital for evaluation and care. Further exacerbating the tragedy, a suicide note was reportedly recovered from within the residence, offering a glimpse into the events leading up to this horrific discovery.

In a concerted effort to meticulously scour the premises for any additional evidence, the search and rescue unit, in collaboration with the K9 Unit, were summoned to the scene.

During the ensuing search, conducted on Thursday evening, February 15th, 2024, investigators observed suspicious disturbances in the yard.

Upon closer examination, a shallow grave was unearthed, concealing the decomposed remains of a woman wrapped in blankets.

To ascertain the precise cause of death for both victims, a thorough post-mortem examination has been scheduled.

The deceased have been identified as Johannes Mahlaba (38) and Magabjane Cecilia Maila (34), adding sombre identities to this tragic saga.

Authorities are urging anyone in possession of pertinent information regarding this case to step forward and assist with the ongoing investigation, in the hopes of bringing closure and justice to the grieving families involved.

## WIFE AND ACCOMPLICE SENTENCED BY POLOKWANE HIGH COURT FOR HUSBAND'S MURDER

**POLOKWANE** - In a case that has sent shockwaves through the community, the Polokwane High Court has delivered its verdict, sentencing Mmamoraba Jacob Mashiba (41) and Tubake Sister Maesela (44) to life imprisonment for the murder of Mogokolodi Cleopass Digama (53).

Digama, a warrant officer in the South African Police Service (SAPS) stationed at Apel police station, met a tragic end when he was shot and robbed of his service pistol and vehicle.

The horrific incident occurred at his Somali friend's tuck shop on June 17, 2023.

Evidence presented during the trial revealed that the deceased was fatally shot with an unknown pistol at Lerajane village in the Sekhukhune district.

Subsequently, his vehicle was discovered burned, adding another layer of brutality to the crime.

A meticulous police investigation led authorities to the doorstep of the deceased's wife and her lover, who also happened to be the father of one of her children.

Further revelations in court unveiled a chilling plot, suggesting that both accused individuals had made previous attempts to poison Digama.

In a bid to cover their tracks, they even sought the services of a traditional healer for cleansing rituals.

Their lawless spree didn't end there, as they resorted to bribing witnesses with a substantial sum of R4,635,000 in an attempt to conceal the death of the deceased.

The sentencing marks the culmination of a long and arduous legal process, bringing a semblance of closure to the family of the victim and the wider community.

The Polokwane High Court's decision underscores the gravity of the crime committed and sends a clear message that such heinous acts will not go unpunished.

As Mmamoraba Jacob Mashiba and Tubake Sister Maesela begin their life sentences, the hope for justice prevails, serving as a reminder that the law will always strive to uphold the rights and safety of all individuals, irrespective of their station in life.

# RAMAPHOSA WRAPS UP AU SUMMIT: "EDUCATE AN AFRICA FIT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY," TACKLING PANDEMICS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



President Ramaphosa departs Ethiopia after AU summit. Picture: Supplied.

**Pretoria** - President Cyril Ramaphosa concluded his participation in the 37th African Union (AU) Summit on Sunday, February 18, 2024, where the future of education, regional security, and pandemic preparedness took centre stage.

## Investing in the Future:

The summit resonated with South Africa's vision, echoing the theme "Educate an Africa fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa."

Ramaphosa joined the call for a continental overhaul of education systems, emphasising, "We must transform and revitalise our education systems to place education at the centre of Africa's development agenda."

This aligns with South Africa's unwavering commitment to ensuring quality, inclusive, and lifelong learning for all Africans.

## Addressing Urgent Security Concerns:

Worries simmered regarding ongoing conflicts plaguing West Africa, the Eastern DRC, Sudan, South Sudan, and Mozambique.

The need for collective action reverberated throughout the summit. As the AU's COVID-19 response champion, Ramaphosa presented a report on pandemic preparedness, urging continued vigilance.

He stressed the importance of a unified "Common Africa Position on Pandemic Preparedness and Response," declaring, "Despite these successes, we are still at a delicate juncture of recovery."

There is the threat of future pandemics. Our rapid and precise interventions have averted further crises, and for this, we must continue to sharpen our vigilance."

## Championing Gender Equality:

Ramaphosa emerged as a vocal advocate for the development of the AU Convention on Violence Against Women and Girls.



He passionately advocated for continent-wide consultations, framing it as a "moral imperative to redefine our societies, to confront the legacies of colonialism, patriarchy, and racism, and to champion equality, freedom, and self-determination for every African."

"As President of South Africa, I hereby commit to supporting the development and timely adoption of a comprehensive convention that is backed by resources and institutional mechanisms to ensure its efficacy," Ramaphosa pledged, solidifying South Africa's steadfast commitment.

## Strengthening Regional Ties:

Beyond formal addresses, Ramaphosa actively fostered regional cooperation.

Bilateral meetings with leaders from Angola, Palestine, Kenya, and South Sudan aimed to solidify partnerships.

He further participated in a trilateral meeting with leaders from the DRC and

Burundi, focusing on the crucial task of restoring peace in the Eastern DRC.

## Passing the Torch:

Following the election of Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani as the new AU Chairperson, Ramaphosa commended the outgoing leadership and wished the new chair a successful tenure.

This summit served as a platform for South Africa to champion crucial issues for the continent's future.

Ramaphosa's leadership on education reform, pandemic preparedness, and gender-based violence underscores South Africa's commitment to a more prosperous and equitable Africa. As the continent charts its course towards the 21st century, the echoes of Ramaphosa's calls for unity, education, and equality will continue to resonate.

## GLENCORE COAL BOOSTS EDUCATION IN MPUMALANGA, EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH TECH AND SUPPORT



Students receive tech support and awards. Picture: Supplied.

**DELMAS, MPUMALANGA** - Recognising education's transformative power, Glencore Coal is actively empowering South African youth through technology and resources.

Their support demonstrably impacts communities and propels students towards academic success, as seen in the impressive achievements of the 2023 matric class.

Glencore Coal's commitment materialised through donations of 20 laptops and 10 smartphones at the Nkangala Mayoral Awards and 25 tablets to top learners in select host schools.

These directly address the need for digital access, which is crucial in modern learning. But the impact goes beyond individual devices.

Their innovative Ligbron eLearning programme has revolutionised education by offering live-streamed mathematics and science lessons across 16 supported schools. This transcends geographical barriers, ensuring equal opportunities regardless of location.

The program's effectiveness is undeniable. In mathematics, 12 schools saw improved pass rates, with seven exceeding 20%

gains. Notably, six achieved pass rates above 80%, showcasing remarkable progress. Science mirrored this success, with 13 schools experiencing higher pass rates and six recording improvements exceeding 20%. A total of 13 schools achieved pass rates above 80%, highlighting a shared commitment to scientific excellence.

"We are incredibly proud of the Matric class of 2023," said Khomotjo Mashiane, Community Manager at Glencore Coal. "Their achievements through the Ligbron programme prove the positive impact of investing in education, particularly in science and math. This journey exemplifies our collaborative efforts with communities and stakeholders to implement impactful corporate social investment plans."

As the story unfolds, Glencore Coal's unwavering commitment to education paves the way for a brighter future. By fostering academic excellence and nurturing future leaders, the company continues to make a tangible difference in the lives of countless young South Africans.

## RISING FROM RURAL ROOTS: PLAN PHOGOLE, THE KING OF DRAWING, SETS HIS SIGHTS ON ARTISTIC GLORY

**LIMPOPO** - Plan Phogole, a visual painter and graphite artist, hails from Mphanama village, just outside Burgersfort.

At 27 years old, he is deeply immersed in his artistic journey. His passion for the arts ignited in 2017, propelling him towards creating stunning portraits and intricate home designs.

Reflecting on his beginnings, Phogole recalls the initial struggle for recognition.

"At first, I did not know which proper steps to take for my portraits to be recognised.

I tried publicising myself in nearby areas, but no one seemed to care."

Undeterred by the initial setbacks, he persevered, channelling his efforts into improving his craft through social media.

"I ignored all the negativities and put more work into improving my portraits through social media, and that's when people started recognising and loving my pieces of art," he explained.

Now widely known as the "King of Drawing" (KOD), Phogole remains committed to pushing the boundaries of pencil artistry.

"I have a passion for pencil art, and I fully devote myself to my craft because it makes me unique among my fellow artists," he remarked.

With a vow to delve deeper into drawing as a means of expressing his innermost thoughts and emotions, Phogole sets himself apart in the world of the visual arts.

In his pursuit of artistic excellence, Phogole has turned his passion into a livelihood.

He sells his portraits at nearby shopping centres and also creates paintings and drawings for local creches.

His target market comprises art lovers who seek his creations at affordable prices.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the interruption of several drawing competitions in 2020, Phogole remains undeterred.

In 2024, he eagerly joined another competition, poised to showcase his talent on a larger platform.

Looking ahead, Phogole harbours dreams of establishing his own art gallery, where he can impart his knowledge to aspiring artists.

"This is my dream, and it will come true," he affirmed. With an unwavering determination to succeed, Phogole sets his sights on winning more competitions in the future, driven by the hope of being rewarded for his dedication and artistic prowess.



Artist: Plan Phogole. Picture: Supplied.

# POULTRY TAKES FLIGHT IN MPUMALANGA: HOPE SPROUTS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES



The Vuligqondo Innovation Networking Platform sponsored the registration of 20 new Poultry Farming Businesses towards achieving Poultry Production Value Chain System, Food Security and Poverty Alleviat. Picture: Supplied.

**MPUMALANGA** - The Dr. JS Moroka Poultry Farmers Association in Mpumalanga is celebrating a significant step towards food security and poverty alleviation in rural communities with the launch of their innovative poultry farming initiative at the Vuligqondo Digital Lab.

Twenty new poultry farming enterprises have already registered as a result of this project, which is supported by the Vuligqondo Innovation Networking Platform and its Smart and Organic Farming System Model.

This establishes the groundwork for a thriving and long-lasting production value chain.

The initiative received a crucial boost from the Vuligqondo Innovation Networking Platform, which generously sponsored the registration of these fledgling ventures.

This support is instrumental in propelling these new farmers towards success, contributing to a larger vision of improved food security and poverty reduction in Mpumalanga's rural communities.

Beyond the mere numbers, the story unfolds in the lives of the individuals participating in this project.

Each new poultry farm represents a beacon of hope, a chance for families to build a brighter future. Imagine the excitement of Mrs. Dlamini, a single mother, as she sees her first chicks thrive, or the pride Mr. Msibi feels as he learns the intricacies of the Vuligqondo model,

a system designed for both efficiency and sustainability.

Yet, challenges remain. Access to markets, managing costs, and navigating the complexities of running a farm all present hurdles these new farmers must overcome but they are not alone.

The Vuligqondo model provides them with crucial knowledge, resources, and ongoing support, equipping them with the tools they need to navigate these challenges and build resilient businesses.

The potential for this initiative extends beyond the immediate participants.

This model, with its proven effectiveness and focus on empowering rural communities, can be replicated in other regions, igniting a spark of hope across the South African landscape.

Imagine a network of thriving poultry farms, each contributing to a stronger, more food-secure nation.

The Dr. JS Moroka Poultry Farmers Association and the Vuligqondo Innovation Networking Platform are taking bold steps towards this vision.

Through their innovative approach and unwavering commitment to rural development, they are nurturing not just poultry but also the dreams and aspirations of communities seeking a brighter future.

This is a story not just of poultry but of hope taking flight in the heart of Mpumalanga.

## TWO RHINOS POACHED IN LIMPOPO, PROMPTING INTENSE MANHUNT FOR PERPETRATORS



Two Rhinos Poached in Limpopo, Prompting Intense Manhunt for Perpetrators  
Picture: Supplied.

**LIMPOPO** - In a devastating blow to wildlife conservation efforts, two rhinoceroses fell victim to poaching at a local game reserve near Thabazimbi in Limpopo, South Africa, sparking an urgent manhunt by authorities to apprehend the perpetrators responsible for this heinous act.

**Tragedy Strikes at the Reserve:** The grim discovery unfolded on the morning of Tuesday, February 20th, when a ranger conducting routine patrols made a chilling find: the lifeless bodies of two rhinos.

Both majestic creatures had been mercilessly killed, their horns callously removed after being fatally shot.

**Authorities Spring into Action:** Taking immediate charge of the investigation is the Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit (STESU), which has swiftly mobilised resources and expertise to probe this despicable crime against wildlife.

**The Police Commissioner Calls for Swift Action:** Expressing her outrage over the incident, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, the Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo, issued an impassioned plea for the prompt apprehension of the suspects.

Hadebe stressed the necessity of a collaborative effort to ensure that those responsible for this atrocity face the full force of the law.

**Public Urged to Assist:** In a bid to expedite the investigation, authorities are urging the public to step forward with any information that may aid in the apprehension of the individuals behind the rhino killings.

Community members are encouraged to contact Warrant Officer Cois Van Deventer

at 082 872 1741, Crime Stop at 08600 10111, or utilise the MySAPS app.

The cooperation of the community is deemed crucial to swiftly resolving this case.

**Grim Reminder of Ongoing Threats:** This tragic incident serves as a stark reminder of the persistent threats facing rhinos and other wildlife in the Limpopo region.

Despite national efforts to combat poaching, reports of such incidents underscore the ongoing challenges confronting conservationists in the province.

**Sustained efforts are required:** Addressing the scourge of wildlife crime demands a comprehensive approach, including:

- Enhanced anti-poaching measures: Reinforcing ranger training, employing cutting-edge technology, and fostering collaboration with private reserves are essential.
- Community engagement: Empowering local communities through education and involving them in conservation efforts can foster a sustainable coexistence between humans and wildlife.
- Demand reduction campaigns: Raising awareness about the illegal wildlife trade and its detrimental impact on endangered species is crucial to curbing demand for rhino horns and other wildlife products.

There is still hope for the future of rhinos and other endangered species in Limpopo, despite the depressing tone this tragic event has created.

Through unwavering dedication and concerted efforts in the fight against wildlife crime, there exists the potential for positive change and the preservation of these iconic species.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE PROVIDES FULL SCHOOL UNIFORMS TO NEEDY LEARNERS IN MPUMALANGA

**DR J.S MOROKA** - In a heartwarming gesture aimed at fostering educational equity and social empowerment, the MEC for Social Development, Lindiwe Ntshalintshali, along with Honourable Executive Mayor Cllr Nomsa Sanny Mtsweni, traditional leaders, ward councillors, and officials, came together on February 14, 2024, to donate full school uniforms to two schools in Ward 25 of Mpumalanga province.

The beneficiaries of this noble initiative were Somabedlane Primary School and Modiboane Primary School, where identified learners, chosen by their educators based on the urgency of their needs, received a complete set of school attire tailored to their requirements.

The boys were outfitted with school shirts, shorts, shoes, socks, ties, vests, underwear, track suits, and school bags, while the girls received tunics, skirts, shirts, socks, vests, jerseys, pullovers, underwear, school shoes, and bags.

During her address, MEC Ntshalintshali emphasised the program's commitment to extending its reach to benefit more communities across Mpumalanga. She reaffirmed, "We shall continue to ensure that more and more other children enjoy the fruits of democracy in our province."

"Motivated by the principles of social empowerment, this programme aims to elevate worthy students who have been

identified by their teachers based on predetermined standards.

The event also underscored the importance of inclusivity and unity through the hashtags #LeaveNoOneBehind and #Let'sGrowMpumalangaTogether, symbolising the collective effort to elevate social standards for all young citizens in the province.

MEC Ntshalintshali cited President Cyril Ramaphosa's account of "Tintswalo" in his State of the Nation Address to illustrate the significance of such initiatives.

She reiterated the department's commitment to ensuring that more children, like Tintswalo, reap the benefits of democracy in Mpumalanga.

"Through our social grants, we have been able to change the story of many Tintswalos, and through our food nutrition programme, we have ensured that no child attends class on an empty stomach," stated MEC Ntshalintshali, emphasising the holistic approach to social development.

As the event concluded, MEC Ntshalintshali urged learners to take ownership of their education in the academic year 2024, emphasising the role of individual responsibility in improving year-end results.

Such efforts, she noted, not only enhance educational outcomes but also elevate the province's standing nationally, thereby contributing to the overall quality of education nationwide.



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# FATAL SHOOTING IN SABIE, TAXI DRIVER INJURED IN KRIEL: POLICE LAUNCH MANHUNT FOR SUSPECTS



Fatal Shooting in Sabie, Taxi Driver Injured in Kriel. Picture: Supplied.

**MBOMBELA** - The tranquil town of Sabie was rocked by tragedy last Tuesday, February 13th, 2024, as a man fell victim to a fatal shooting incident.

Meanwhile, in Kriel, a taxi driver sustained gunshot wounds in a separate attack just days prior, on February 8th, 2024.

The incidents have prompted a swift response from law enforcement, with police launching a manhunt for the suspects responsible for these senseless acts of violence.

According to reports, authorities responded to a distress call regarding a shooting incident in Sabie.

Upon arrival at the scene, emergency responders had already rushed the victim to the hospital, where he tragically succumbed to his injuries.

Preliminary investigations have revealed that the victim sustained multiple gunshot wounds in the attack.

As of yet, no arrests have been made, and police continue to pursue all leads in their quest for justice.

In light of these disturbing events, the police urge anyone with information

regarding the shooting incident to come forward and assist with the investigation.

Individuals can reach out to the nearest police station or contact the Crime Stop number at 08600 10111.

Alternatively, information can be submitted anonymously via the MySAPSApp, with all submissions treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Semakaleng Daphney Manamela, the Provincial Commissioner of the SAPS in Mpumalanga, has vehemently condemned the acts of violence.

She reassured the community that law enforcement agencies are working tirelessly to apprehend the perpetrators and ensure that they face the full force of the law.

As the community grapples with the shock and grief brought about by these incidents, the resolve of the police to bring the culprits to justice serves as a beacon of hope.

Together, with the cooperation and support of the public, authorities are committed to restoring peace and safety to the streets of Sabie and Kriel.

## TIMELESS NEWS FOUNDATION SHINES A LIGHT ON TOP ACHIEVERS IN MATSEBONG



Some of the best performers across all grades flaunting their accolades in jubilation during the awards ceremony in Matsebong Secondary School. Picture: Supplied.

**DICHOUENG, LIMPOPO** - On Friday, February 16, 2024, the Timeless News Foundation held a glittering ceremony at Matsebong Secondary School to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of its students.

Over 500 learners and teachers gathered to witness the event, aimed at igniting a passion for excellence and preparing students for successful futures beyond high school.

Ms. Antoinette Thamaga, the keynote speaker, encouraged students to set ambitious goals and seek mentorship.

"Goal setting requires dedication, determination, and self-discipline," she emphasised.

"And on your journey, finding a mentor who can guide you towards your aspirations is crucial."

She represented Mr. Nkopodi Mashabela, a former Matsebong teacher and successful businessman, who generously donated R5000 and R2000 to the top achievers in grades 11 and 12, Qiniso Talent Choma and Grace Mmabatho Riba, respectively.

Other inspirational speakers included Pastor Norah Masha, who urged students to persevere through challenges with hard work and dedication, and Mr. Monama,

representing FNB Jane Furse, who painted a hopeful picture of the future awaiting these bright minds, many of whom come from underprivileged backgrounds.

Outgoing headmaster Mr. Solly Lentsoane expressed his pride in leaving the school in the capable hands of Mr. Nkadimeng, the new headmaster, and highlighted his own legacy of fostering successful students, including Thulane Madalane, the founder of Timeless News.

### Top Achievers by Grade:

- Grade 8:** Malatji Daniel Katlego
- Grade 9:** Makgoga Makopi Lerato
- Grade 10:** Ditabeng Tebogo Anna
- Grade 11:** Riba Mmabatho Grace
- Grade 12:** Choma Talent Qiniso

The Timeless News Foundation extends its gratitude to its social partners and sponsors: Mathomomayo Investment Holding, Old Mutual Jane Furse, and FNB Jane Furse, for their invaluable support in making this event and countless others possible.



## FOOD MENU

BEEF STEW, PAP & MOROGO	R120
MALA MOGODU, PAP & FRIED CABBAGE	R90
HARDBODY CHICKEN & PAP	
MASONJA & PAP.	R110
CHICKEN FEET, PAP & FRIED CABBAGE	R65

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## CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

### PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL [B18B-2023]

The **Portfolio Committee on Premier's Office, Finance; Economic Development and Tourism** and its Chairperson, Hon TS Thomo, MPL, hereby invite members of the public, interested parties and stakeholders wishing to make comments or inputs, on the above-mentioned Bill.

#### Purpose of the Public Procurement Bill, 2023

To regulate public procurement; to prescribe a framework within which preferential procurement must be implemented; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

#### Public Involvement

The Committee will conduct public hearings on the above Bills as follows:

Public hearing on the **Public Procurement Bill, 2023** as follows:

DATE	VENUES	TIME
Thursday, 22 February 2024	Ehlanzeni District: City of Mbombela Local Municipality – Matsulu Community Hall	10:00 – 13:00
Thursday, 29 February 2024	Nkangala District: Victor Khanye Local Municipality - Sinethemba Community Hall	10:00 – 13:00
Wednesday, 06 March 2024	Gert Sibande District: Dipaleseng Local Municipality – Siyathemba Community Hall	14:00 – 16:00

Copies of the Bills can be obtained from the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature website at [www.mpuleg.gov.za](http://www.mpuleg.gov.za) .

For any enquiries, kindly contact the Committee Coordinator, Mr Henry Khuvutlu on 072 691 6233.

Written submissions on the Public Procurement Bill, 2023 can be sent to [Sbusisok@mpuleg.gov.za](mailto:Sbusisok@mpuleg.gov.za) or on the Legislature WhatsApp number **067 428 3345** on or before **Thursday, 07 March 2024**.

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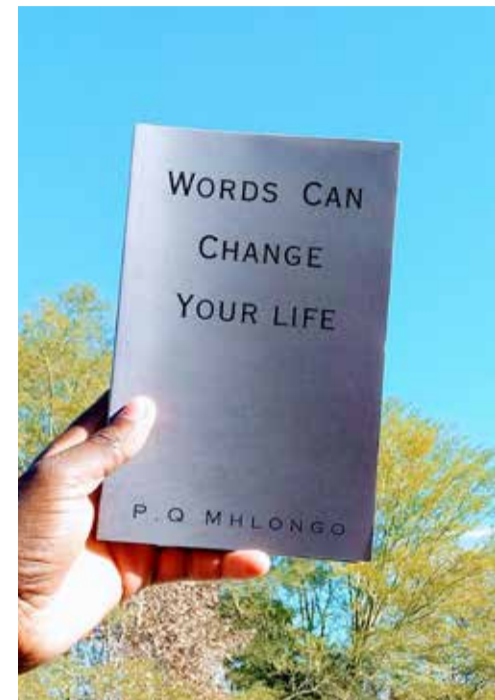
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# BOOK REVIEW



## "WORDS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE" BY P.Q. MHLONGO



**Overview:** "Words Can Change Your Life" by P.Q. Mhlongo is a thought-provoking exploration of the profound impact that words can have on our lives.

Released in April 2023, this self-published gem provides readers with insights and practical guidance on harnessing the power of words for personal growth and transformation.

**Content:** The book takes readers on a transformative journey, highlighting the significance of language in shaping thoughts, emotions, and actions.

P.Q. Mhlongo delves into the art of effective communication, emphasising how our choice of words influences relationships, self-perception, and overall well-being.

Techniques for using language consciously are explored, including the power of positive affirmations, active listening, empathy, and effective persuasion.

Real-life examples and relatable anecdotes enrich the narrative, demonstrating the transformative potential of words in different contexts.

**Writing Style:** Mhlongo's writing style is

engaging and accessible, effortlessly making complex concepts understandable and applicable.

The book strikes a balance between depth and simplicity, ensuring readers from various backgrounds can benefit from its teachings.

Well-structured chapters facilitate easy navigation through the content, allowing readers to absorb the information effectively.

**Impact:** "Words Can Change Your Life" has the potential to be a life-changing read for those open to exploring the power of language.

By mentioning self-awareness and intentional communication, the book empowers readers to take control of their words and, consequently, their lives.

It serves as a reminder that language not only shapes personal reality but also has the potential to inspire and uplift others.

In conclusion, "Words Can Change Your Life" is a captivating book that explores the transformative power of language. Through practical guidance, relatable examples, and insightful anecdotes, P.Q. Mhlongo encourages readers to harness

the potential of words for personal growth and positive change. Whether seeking to improve relationships, enhance self-esteem, or become a more effective communicator, this book offers valuable wisdom and tools for a transformative journey through language.

**Biography:** Pholoso Quietness Mhlongo is a multi-talented individual who has left an indelible mark as an author, musician, and public speaker. With a diverse range of skills and a passion for creative expression, Mhlongo has captivated audiences across various platforms. As an author, their literary works have garnered critical acclaim, explored complex themes and resonated with readers from all walks of life. Additionally, Mhlongo's musical talent spans different genres, showcasing versatility and creativity. As a public speaker, their impactful speeches and presentations have left a lasting impression, connecting with audiences through clarity and passion. Pholoso's contributions to the arts and public speaking have earned numerous accolades, leaving a legacy that will endure for years to come.

**Author:** P.Q. Mhlongo/ Pholoso Quietness Mhlongo

**Published:** April 2023 (Self-Published)

**Book Title:** "Words Can Change Your Life"

## PODCAST REVIEW: THE PENUEL SHOW

### Overview:

"The Penuel Show" is a captivating podcast that aims to engage listeners in thought-provoking discussions spanning a diverse array of topics.

From leadership conversations and business insights to spirituality, psychology, and conspiracy theories, this podcast offers a rich tapestry of content designed to stimulate the mind and inspire reflection.

### Content:

Listeners of "The Penuel Show" are treated to a unique blend of topics, catering to a wide audience with varied interests.

The discussions on psychology delve into the complexities of the human mind, behaviour, and mental well-being, offering practical tips for personal growth and introspection.

For those inclined towards spiritual exploration, the podcast delves into various spiritual practices, beliefs, and philosophies.

From mindfulness and meditation to the exploration of higher consciousness, these conversations offer insights into the spiritual journey.

The inclusion of conspiracy theories adds an intriguing dimension to the podcast's repertoire. While promoting critical thinking, the podcast presents different perspectives on controversial topics, encouraging listeners to question the world around them and engage in open-minded discourse.

Business enthusiasts will find valuable insights in episodes dedicated to entrepreneurship and leadership conversations.



Penuel Lungelo Mlotshwa. Picture: Supplied.

Covering topics ranging from business strategies to success stories and leadership principles, these discussions offer actionable advice for aspiring entrepreneurs and leaders alike.

### Host and Guests:

The podcast, which is hosted by Penuel Lungelo Mlotshwa, aka "the black pen," has knowledgeable guests that contribute their insights and experiences.

The conversations are engaging, well-researched, and thoughtfully conducted, ensuring a high-quality listening experience for the audience.

### Production and Presentation:

"The Penuel Show" maintains a professional production quality with clear audio and well-paced conversations.

The host adeptly guides the discussions, ensuring that they flow smoothly and allowing listeners to easily follow along and absorb the information being shared.

In conclusion, "The Penuel Show" offers a diverse range of thought-provoking topics, including psychology, spirituality, conspiracy theories, business, entrepreneurship, and leadership conversations.

Whether listeners are seeking personal growth, spiritual enlightenment, or business inspiration, this podcast aims to cater to their interests and facilitate engaging conversations.

With its captivating content and knowledgeable host, "The Penuel Show" provides an enriching listening experience that leaves a lasting impact on its audience.



Ms Makhosazane Masilela  
Speaker:  
Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature

# SOPA 2024

## State of the Province Address

### OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE: STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS 2024 – 01 MARCH 2024

The Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Ms Makhosazane Masilela has the pleasure of announcing the Official Opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mpumalanga Legislature and the delivery of the State of the Province Address (SOPA) by Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane. The event is scheduled to take place as follows:

**Date : Friday, 01 MARCH 2024**

**Time : 10:00** (Invited guests are expected to be seated by 9am)

**Venue : Riverside Government Complex: Baobab Building,  
Legislature Chamber**

The Proceedings will be live on Legislature's Facebook page and YouTube Channel, Ligwalagwala FM, Ikwekwezi FM, Rise FM and on several Community Radio Stations

**Theme: "Following up on commitments, growing South Africa, together."**

## #MPSOPA2024



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