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INCORPORATING LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA - FRIDAY, 08 MARCH 2024

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LIMPOPO'S SOPA:

A TALE OF PROGRESS, PROTEST, AND THE ROAD AHEAD



Limpopo Premier Stan Mathabatha. Photo: Twitter (X).

Limpopo - Limpopo's State of the Province Address (Sopa) on Friday, was a story of two halves.

Outgoing premier Stan Mathabatha's swansong speech, meant to be a victory lap for his decade in office, was met with raucous disruption.

As Mathabatha extolled the virtues of the ANC government's achievements, Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) members boomed from the audience, demanding he address the throngs of protestors gathered outside.

Their chants—a chorus of discontent—echoed concerns over service delivery failures and a bleak job market for the province's youth.

Undeterred, Mathabatha painted a rosy picture.

Under his leadership, rural electrification had surged to a staggering 94.6%, clinics dotted the landscape, and the once-anemic matric pass rate had nearly doubled.

Yet his celebratory tone clashed with the reality outside the venue.

The protestors represented a different Limpopo—one where spigots ran dry, sanitation remained a luxury, and recent job losses overshadowed the government's bragging about employment figures.

The statistics themselves spoke volumes.

Water access, once at a commendable 80%, had inexplicably sputtered down to 69.1%. Sanitation improvements, though welcome, were far from a solution.

The EFF's disruption served as a stark reminder that progress, for many,

remained an elusive dream.

Beyond the Numbers:

A Limpopo Divided

Mathabatha's Sopa laid bare the two Limpopos that coexisted uneasily.

One, a land of gleaming statistics, boasted of infrastructure development, improved healthcare access, and a growing economy.

The other, a harsh reality for many residents, grappled with unmet basic needs and a struggle for economic opportunity.

The protestors outside the venue served as a living embodiment of this disparity.

Their voices, demanding acknowledgment, underscored the chasm between government pronouncements and the everyday struggles of ordinary Limpopo citizens.

Election Looms:

A Chance to Bridge the Divide?

As Mathabatha closed his speech, a question hung heavy in the air: can the future bridge this growing divide?

The upcoming national elections take on a new significance.

Will Limpopo residents elect a government committed to equitable development, one that tackles unemployment and ushers in a future where progress translates to a better quality of life for all?

Mathabatha's Sopa, intended as a victory song, became a stark reminder of the challenges that lay ahead.

The choice now lies with the voters. Will they choose statistics or a future where those statistics paint a picture of a more prosperous and equitable Limpopo for all?

FETAKGOMO-TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY MAYOR CLLR EDDIE MAILA



Cllr Maila Eddie Edwin Maila. Photo: Supplied.

Sekhukhune - The Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM) has announced key appointments to its leadership team following a special council sitting held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at the Apel Council Chambers.

Mayor Councillor Eddie Maila presented reports to the council, including the appointment of an acting director of corporate and shared services and the 2023/2024 adjustment budget.

Significantly, the council endorsed Councillor Morashiya Mabelane as the new head of the Local Economic Development and Tourism (LEDT) unit.

Councillor Daphney Mampa was also appointed to lead the Development and Planning department.

This news comes as the Maila-led council, inaugurated in November 2021, continues to shape its leadership structure. Councillor Reneilwe Pholoane remains the council speaker, while Vincent Shoba retains his role as Chief Whip.

The FTLM's communication team announced these appointments via social media.

These new positions are expected to play a vital role in driving economic development, infrastructure planning, and service delivery within the municipality.

MAKHUDUTHAMAGA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW SENIOR MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS



Makhuduthamaga Municipal Council. Photo: Facebook (Makhuduthamaga Municipality)

Limpopo - In a decisive move aimed at bolstering its administrative capabilities and enhancing service delivery, the Makhuduthamaga Municipal Council announced the appointment of two seasoned professionals during a Special Council Meeting held Monday, March 4, 2024.

The Council unanimously agreed to appoint Ms. Lubisi Nosipho Bridgette as the Senior Manager for the Infrastructure Services (IS) Department and Mr. Phala Ntshwane Walter as the Senior Manager for the Economic Development and Planning (EDP) Department.

The vacancies arose following the comple-

tion of a five-year term for the former EDP Senior Manager and the subsequent resignation of the former Infrastructure Services Senior Manager.

Ms. Lubisi brings over a decade of extensive experience in civil engineering and project management to her new role. Having commenced her career as a Project Management Unit (PMU) Technician in 2013, she ascended the ranks within the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality's Infrastructure Services department, ultimately assuming the role of PMU Manager.

Lubisi holds a B-Tech Degree in Urban Engineering from the Tshwane University

of Technology (TUT), a Post Graduate Diploma in Project Management from MANCOSA, and is currently pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in LLB at the University of South Africa (UNISA).

Meanwhile, Mr. Phala brings a wealth of administrative experience garnered over 14 years in local government.

His expertise spans various roles, including serving as Acting Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Senior Manager for Development, Planning, and LED, and Municipal Manager at Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.

Phala holds a Master of Science in Development Planning from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), a Bachelor of Administration from the University of Venda, and has completed programmes in Local Economic Development Management and Presidential Strategic Leadership Development.

Additionally, the Council welcomed the appointment of Cllr. Moshabane Dineo as the Portfolio Committee Chairperson for Corporate Services.

Mayor Merah Mahlase expressed gratitude for the support received from stakeholders in the recruitment process, emphasising the significance of the appointments in steering the municipality towards social, economic, and infrastructure development.

"With the full support of the Council and the Executive, we are poised to further develop the municipality for the benefit of our communities," Mayor Mahlase remarked.

HEAVY RAINS BATTER ELIAS MOTSOLEDI, BUT COMMUNITY STRENGTH SHINES THROUGH



Elias Motsoaledi resident whose house was damaged by rain. Photo: Supplied.

Limpopo - Disaster management teams are racing against time to assist Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality in Sekhukhune District after heavy rains and strong winds wreaked havoc earlier this week.

The storm tore off roofs from houses, snapped power cables, and left roads and schools in ruins.

In no time, the Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) Limpopo department joined forces with disaster management teams from Elias Motsoaledi Local Government and Sekhukhune District to assess the damage.

While a full report is still underway, initial estimates reveal at least 90 households have been affected. Thankfully, many residents were able to make quick

repairs to partially damaged homes.

Responding with urgency, the 3rd, 4th, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th districts came together to deliver critical aid to over 50 families impacted by the storm.

This vital assistance included blankets, food packages, tents, and waterproofing materials to help families repair their homes.

The storm's wrath wasn't limited to property damage. Five members of the Mared family, including four children and one adult, were unfortunately injured. Thankfully, there were no reported fatalities.

Offering his heartfelt condolences to those affected, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr. David Tladi, assured residents they would not face this challenge alone.

"We are working hand-in-hand with other departments like Social Development, Social Administration, and Traditional Affairs to ensure all victims receive the support they need," he declared.

Disaster teams from both the provincial and local governments are continuing their assessments to determine the most effective plan for further government intervention.

Additionally, Mayor Tladi is urging the community to come together and support those affected by donating food, clothing, and any other assistance they can offer.

With the threat of flash floods and thunderstorms still lingering, the municipality is urging residents to stay vigilant and informed through official communication channels for updates on relief efforts and safety precautions.

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District, Cllr Minah Bahula echoed Mayor Tladi's sentiments, expressing her deepest condolences to the families impacted by the storm.

Another family, the Mampuru family, also faced devastation as their home was completely destroyed.

Thankfully, after receiving treatment at Glen Cowie Hospital, family members were able to return home that same evening.

The storm's impact extended beyond homes, causing significant damage to Slindile Primary School and Tshita Kindergarten.

Responding swiftly, both Executive Mayor Bahula and Mayor Tladi mobilised resources to establish a multi-disciplinary task force dedicated to assisting those in need.

This task force will focus on restoring essential services and infrastructure while also providing support to the affected community.



Elias Motsoaledi resident whose house was damaged by rain. Photo: Supplied.

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LIMPOPO SHOWCASES DIVERSE OFFERINGS TO THE WORLD AT MEETINGS AFRICA 2024



Day 1 at Meetings Africa. Photo: Twitter (X).



Mr Fish Mahlalela Deputy Minister of Tourism at Meetings Africa. Photo: Twitter (X).



During the walkabout of the Minister at the exhibition of Meetings Africa, she was welcomed by the Chairperson of the Board, Mr. Andrew Dipela with whom she is holding hands and the CEO of LTA, Mr. Moses Ngobeni. Photo: LTA.



Minister Patricia de Lille presenting at Meetings Africa. Photo: Twitter (X).

Limpopo - The Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) made a splash at Meetings Africa 2024, a major tourism event held at the Sandton International Convention Centre from February 26th to 28th, 2024.

Led by Board Chairperson Mr. Andrew Dipela, the LTA delegation aimed to position Limpopo as a top choice for business and leisure travellers from across Africa and the globe.

Meetings Africa serves as a central meeting point for the African travel industry, connecting tourism products and services with a global network of decision-makers.

The event fosters business-to-business interaction and provides opportunities for booking vacations or securing event venues.

The LTA embraced this collaborative spirit, utilising a strategically designed "Limpopo pavilion" to spotlight key tourism attractions and experiences.

The LTA's participation at Meetings Africa 2024 had several key objectives.

First, they aimed to increase tourist arrivals in Limpopo by promoting the province as a destination for business events and sports tourism.

Second, they hoped to bid for and host major local and international events.

In addition, the LTA sought to gain insights into the needs of event organisers considering Limpopo as a potential venue while also showcasing the province's expertise in hosting and managing large-scale events.

The theme for the LTA's Meetings Africa presence was "Limpopo is open for business." The agency highlighted the diverse cultural heritage that can enrich

any gathering.

The Limpopo pavilion served as a unified platform for twelve exhibitors, including established tourism businesses, up-and-coming small, medium, and micro-enterprises (SMMEs), and the Limpopo Provincial Tourism Association (LPTA).

The LTA played a critical role in supporting SMMEs participating in the event.

Meetings Africa provides an ideal platform for interaction between tourism product providers and international buyers.

The LTA delegation actively participated in business meetings, fostering new connections and generating optimism for future events hosted in Limpopo.

"We believe these engagements will have ripple effects," stated Mr. Dipela, "with several business events coming to the province as a result of the connections made at Meetings Africa."

Mr. Dipela further emphasised the LTA's long-term vision: "Our presence here is to expose and showcase the provincial tourism offerings to the continent and the world, but ultimately, we want to grow our MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions) sector within the province."

By actively participating in Meetings Africa 2024, the Limpopo Tourism Agency has taken a significant step towards achieving this goal. The event provided a valuable platform to connect with potential partners, showcase Limpopo's diverse offerings, and solidify the province's position as a leading business and leisure destination within Africa and beyond.

LONG-AWAITED LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL THEATRE BREAKS GROUND, FUELING HOPES FOR LOCAL ARTISTS



Building of R300m theater kicks off. Photo: Supplied.

Limpopo - A new era for Limpopo's vibrant arts scene has begun with the official commencement of construction for the Limpopo Provincial Theatre.

Local artists have shown great enthusiasm for this project, which provides a dedicated space for artistic development and performances.

The sod-turning ceremony held on Thursday, February 22, 2024, marked a significant milestone.

Under the direction of Premier Stanley Mathabatha, the occasion demonstrates the province government's dedication to fostering regional talent.

The state-of-the-art theatre, planned for completion within 24 months at a cost exceeding R300 million, will boast a 300-seat capacity.

Actor and filmmaker Fumani Shiluvana voiced the sentiments of many artists, highlighting the transformative potential of this project.

"Limpopo artists won't have to travel to other provinces for access to a theatre," he said.

"This can unearth hidden talent, providing a platform for development and training, just like the State Theatre did for me."

Shiluvana acknowledged logistical challenges for those residing far from the

theatre's location in Polokwane.

However, the overall impact on the artistic community is undeniable.

Mokgadi Mashako, another artist, echoed the long-standing need for such a facility.

"In my opinion, Limpopo was the only province without a theatre," she said.

Mashako proposed an initiative to ensure wider accessibility, suggesting government-allocated buses for transportation to and from the theatre.

Premier Mathabatha expressed his satisfaction, stating, "The commencement of construction brings immense comfort."

The dream of a dedicated space for our artists has finally materialised."

He further acknowledged the diverse artistic landscape in Limpopo, encompassing theatre, film, music, and more.

This project aims to provide a platform for these artists to showcase their talents and further enrich the cultural landscape of the province.

The Limpopo Provincial Theatre signifies not just a construction project but a commitment to promoting and nurturing the artistic spirit of the province.

With its completion on the horizon, the Limpopo arts scene is poised for an exciting new chapter.

FROM SHARPEVILLE TO DEMOCRACY: SOUTH AFRICA MARKS HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH WITH ACTION

Pretoria - South Africa's Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture, along with the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, launched Human Rights Month 2024 at the Kgosi Mampuru II Correctional Centre.

The ceremony, imbued with the weight of history, included a tour of the Gallows Museum, a stark reminder of the sacrifices made in the fight for freedom.

2024 holds immense significance for South Africa.

This year not only Human Rights Month but also the 30th anniversary of democracy and the upcoming national elections.

Minister of Sport, Arts, and Culture Zizi Kodwa emphasised the ongoing fight for human rights globally, stating, "Human Rights Month serves as a reminder of the ongoing work needed to uphold and protect human rights for all individuals worldwide."

The launch programme paid homage to those who lost their lives in the liberation struggle.

Minister Kodwa announced the commemoration of National Human Rights Day on March 21st at the George Thabe Stadium in Sharpeville.

This symbolic location acknowledges the 1960 Sharpeville massacre, where

peaceful protestors were killed by police.

Minister Kodwa delved into the historical significance of the Sharpeville massacre, highlighting its role in galvanising the anti-apartheid movement both domestically and internationally.

He explained, "The Sharpeville massacre galvanised the anti-apartheid movement both within South Africa and internationally..."

Over the following decades, the anti-apartheid movement gained momentum, ultimately contributing to the dismantling of apartheid in the early 1990s."

Looking beyond commemoration, the launch signifies a call to action.

Minister Kodwa urged all South Africans to participate in planned activities, including an International National Human Rights Conference focused on assessing progress on human rights since 1994.

Human Rights Month serves as a critical opportunity for reflection and recommitment to the principles of human rights.

By acknowledging the struggles of the past and celebrating the progress made, South Africa can continue shaping a future where human rights are the cornerstone of a more just and equitable society.



Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola at the 2024 Human Rights Month Launch at Kgosi Mampuru. Photo: The Department of Correctional Services.

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MPUMALANGA DOCTOR ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY STEALING MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Mpumalanga - A 31-year-old female doctor, Bridget Malindisa Masina, faces theft charges after being arrested on Friday, March 2, 2024, for allegedly stealing medication and medical equipment from a government hospital in Mpumalanga.

Captain Magonseni Nkosi, the Provincial Police Spokesperson, stated that security staff searched the doctor's car as she was leaving the hospital.

The search uncovered medications and medical equipment valued at an estimated R50,000 concealed in the car's boot.

"The doctor could not explain why the government properties were in her car," stated Captain Nkosi.

Authorities were called to the scene, and the doctor was arrested on suspicion of stealing from the hospital.

This incident highlights a concerning trend

of theft within healthcare facilities.

This past year, a data capturer at a Limpopo clinic was arrested for allegedly stealing and attempting to sell antiretroviral (ARV) medication.

The theft of medical supplies not only disrupts essential services but can also have a significant impact on patients relying on those medications and equipment.

The Mpumalanga doctor is expected to appear in court on April 5th, 2024.

This case underscores the importance of robust security measures within hospitals and clinics to safeguard vital medical resources.

It also serves as a reminder of the ethical obligations healthcare professionals hold in upholding the integrity of the healthcare system.

SIYABUSWA POLICE INVESTIGATE ATTEMPTED MURDER-SUICIDE, RECOVER STOLEN LIVESTOCK

Mpumalanga - In Siyabuswa, a series of disturbing incidents have gripped the community, leaving authorities grappling with complex investigations.

The first case involves a suspected murder-suicide attempt that unfolded on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. Sergeant Lizzy Mahlangu, stationed in Mamelodi, tragically lost his life in a harrowing sequence of events at his girlfriend's residence.

According to the Siyabuswa SAPS spokesperson, the incident stemmed from a prior disagreement, which escalated when Sergeant Mahlangu, fueled by accusations of infidelity, entered the premises.

Witnesses described the sergeant making a terrifying comment about becoming national news the next day, and then there was a locked door that caused an instant alarm to go off.

While a temporary reconciliation briefly occurred, tensions erupted once again early Tuesday morning.

The situation turned perilous when a struggle ensued, resulting in the sergeant's firearm falling to the ground.

Miraculously, the girlfriend managed to seize the weapon and throw it out of reach.

However, Sergeant Mahlangu's determination to cause harm prevailed as he retrieved the gun and fired a shot towards his girlfriend, narrowly missing his target.

Seizing an opportunity, the girlfriend escaped through a window and sought help from her uncle.

Tragically, additional gunshots rang out before their arrival, and upon reaching the scene, authorities discovered Sergeant Mahlangu deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Investigations into the attempted murder and the circumstances surrounding Sergeant Mahlangu's death are ongoing, shedding light on a deeply troubling domestic dispute.

In a separate incident just a day prior, Siyabuswa police attempted to intercept a suspicious Isuzu bakkie on February 26th.

The driver, however, defied the stop, abandoning the vehicle in nearby bushes before fleeing.

Upon closer inspection, authorities uncovered a startling discovery - 30 stolen goats, comprising 27 females and 7 males.

The recovered livestock is currently being held at Tweefontein "Skiet" for safekeeping, as Siyabuswa Police appeal to the community to come forward if they suspect their goats may be among the recovered animals.

This incident highlights ongoing efforts by law enforcement to combat rural crime and protect local livelihoods.

As investigations unfolded, the department also provided an update on the Chesa Mpama mass shooting, indicating that no arrests have been made thus far.

Authorities continue to dedicate resources to unravelling the complexities of this case, underscoring their commitment to ensuring justice and safety for all residents.

The incidents in Siyabuswa serve as a stark reminder of the challenges faced by law enforcement in maintaining public safety and addressing underlying issues within the community.

Authorities continue to pursue justice with vigilance as investigations develop, hoping to provide closure to those impacted by these unsettling incidents.

DSAC AND ANFASA UNVEIL GROUNDBREAKING LITERARY COLLABORATION AT DISTONG MUSEUM BOOK LAUNCH



ADG Dr Cynthia Khumalo shares a few words of the importance of literature and reading at the book launch hosted by DSAC and Academic and Non-Fiction Authors Association of South Africa. Photo: Supplied.

Pretoria - The literary world in South Africa witnessed a historic moment as the Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture (DSAC) and the Association of Academic and Non-Fiction Authors of South Africa (ANFASA) joined forces to present the DSAC Publishing Hub Book Launch at the Distong Cultural History Museum in Pretoria on February 29, 2024.

The event marked the culmination of the 2023/24 DSAC Publishing Center Manuscript Competition, which garnered an overwhelming response with 21 outstanding manuscripts selected for publication.

In a move that celebrates diversity and inclusivity, three of these masterpieces have been translated into Braille, ensuring accessibility to a wider audience.

The collaboration between DSAC and ANFASA saw the convergence of four esteemed publishers: Dee Wee Productions, Evera Publishing, Jacana Media, and Maluks Books.

Each publisher brings a unique flavour to South Africa's literary landscape, promising to enrich the cultural tapestry of the nation.

Dee Wee Productions, renowned for expanding publishing opportunities in rural South Africa, offers inclusivity and regional representation.

Evera Publishing, home to the internationally acclaimed Blackbird Books, continues to redefine the literary landscape under the visionary leadership of Thabiso Mahlape.

Jacana Media, a pioneering independent publisher, is committed to showcasing works by award-winning minds. Meanwhile, Maluks Books focuses on

preserving the autobiographies of South Africa's iconic figures, leaving an indelible mark on the literary world.

Speaking at the event, ANFASA President Prof. Ngubane extended a sincere invitation to talented authors to entrust their manuscripts, emphasising the commitment of DSAC and ANFASA to empowering authors and shaping the story of South African literature together.

Among the exceptional manuscripts showcased at the DSAC Publishing Hub Book Launch, two stand out for their profound impact on South African literature: "Umrhayili" by Mafika Jetro Mahlangu: This isiNdebele novel skillfully juxtaposes traditional laws with modern legal systems, inviting readers to reflect on the evolving values of society.

"Molayakgosi" by Motshegofatsi Pitsane: This outstanding Setswana novel, which takes place in Galotlhare village in Kuruman, Northern Cape, delves into the murky side of chieftaincy, motivated by the lack of an heir.

Despite the author's status as a Grade 8 student, the novel exudes youthful wisdom and has been translated into Braille for wider accessibility.

The DSAC Publishing Hub Book Launch represents a pivotal moment in South African literature, symbolising a collaborative effort to empower diverse voices and celebrate the richness of linguistic diversity.

As the nation celebrates 30 years of democracy, this initiative underscores the importance of fostering a vibrant literary ecosystem that reflects the multifaceted identity of South Africa.

LIMPOPO TOURISM AGENCY CONDEMNS TOURIST MURDER, COMMENDS SWIFT POLICE ACTION

Polokwane - The Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) expressed profound shock and sadness following the murder of a 74-year-old German tourist, Westphal Gaunter Herman Friedrich, on Saturday, February 24, 2024, in Northam, Limpopo.

The LTA vehemently denounced this needless violent act. LTA CEO Mr. Moses Ngobeni said, "We are deeply saddened by this negative story of the killing of a tourist in our province."

Limpopo prides itself on its reputation as a safe destination, and the LTA remains committed to working with the South African Police Services (SAPS) to ensure tourist safety.

Mr. Ngobeni extended heartfelt condolences to the victim's family on behalf of the entire Limpopo tourism industry.

He highlighted ongoing efforts to prioritise tourist safety.

"We will continue to work closely with SAPS in the province while also strengthening the rapid response team on tourism safety."

This collaboration extends to the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment,

and Tourism (LEDET) department. Joint initiatives will focus on intensifying tourism safety programmes in partnership with SAPS.

The LTA expressed its gratitude to the police for their swift apprehension of three suspects in connection with the murder.

"We are grateful and appreciative of the good job the police have done by apprehending the three criminals, whom we wish could get the maximum sentence to sound a strong warning to other criminals," Mr. Ngobeni remarked.

Interestingly, the LTA noted that the arrested suspects are foreign nationals. This reinforces the overall safety of Limpopo as a tourist destination.

The LTA urged communities to play a vital role in maintaining safety by reporting any suspicious activity or crimes against tourists to the police.

This tragic incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of vigilance and collaboration in safeguarding the province's tourism industry and ensuring the safety of all visitors.

MASHEGO FAMILY IN JANE FURSE SEEKS HELP FOR DAUGHTER'S MATRIC REWRITE DREAM

Sekhukhune - In the modest confines of an RDP house in Jane Furse, the Mashego family's aspirations for a better future have collided with harsh realities.

Lerato Khutso Mashego, a 28-year-old with a resilient spirit, is determined to rewrite her matriculation exams despite facing formidable challenges.

The Mashego household is no stranger to adversity.

Residing in a house that doesn't lawfully belong to them, the family endures frequent disruptions from the rightful owners, adding to their daily struggles.

Lerato's journey has been particularly fraught since a tragic car accident in 2004, during her first year of school, left her with lifelong injuries.

Despite enduring a spinal cord dislodgement and ongoing health issues, including severe headaches and difficulty walking, Lerato's determination to pursue her dreams remains unwavering.

"I want to fulfil my dream and become a social worker because I love working with people and I love children," she expressed with conviction.

The only thing that can match Lerato's unwavering spirit is her practicality.

With a 7-year-old child to care for and her mother currently unemployed, the family relies solely on social grants for

survival.

However, Lerato refuses to let these circumstances dictate her future.

Her sights are set on rewriting her matriculation exams to pave the way for her dream career.

Despite being registered for the exams, financial constraints threaten to derail Lerato's ambitions.

The R85,000 payout from the Road Accident Fund (RAF) she received was a fraction of what was anticipated, leaving her unable to cover the necessary fees.

Undeterred, Lerato is reaching out to the community for support, determined to overcome this obstacle.

Her story resonates with many who recognise the transformative power of education.

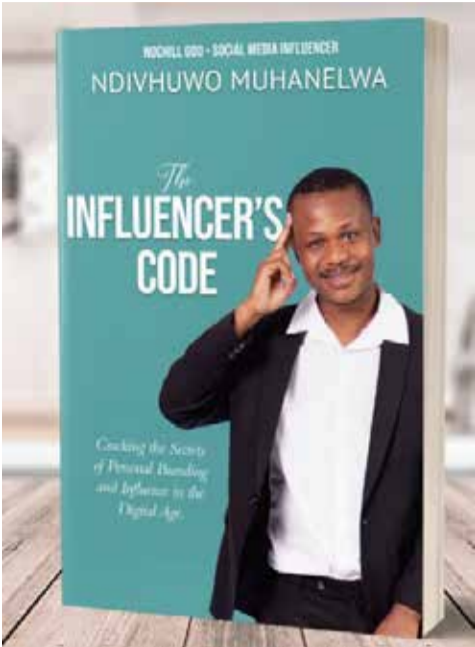
Lerato's resilience in the face of difficulty is a moving reminder that aspirations are driven by willpower rather than limited by circumstances.

As Lerato seeks assistance to finance her matriculation rewrite, her story serves as a call to action for those who believe in the potential of individuals to overcome adversity and achieve their dreams.

In supporting Lerato's journey, we not only invest in her future but also in the countless lives she hopes to impact as a future social worker.

-BOOK REVIEW-

"THE INFLUENCER'S CODE" BY NDIVHUWO MUHANELWA (NOCHILLGOD)



The Influencers Code Book.
Photo: Supplied.

"The Influencer's Code" by Ndivhuwo Muhanelwa, better known as NoChillGod, presents an insightful and comprehensive guide to navigating the dynamic world of social media influence and content creation.

Drawing from his success as a prominent influencer and content creator, Muhanelwa shares valuable strategies, tips, and practical advice for individuals aspiring to carve their niche in the digital landscape.

Accessible Guidance:

Muhanelwa's strength lies in his ability to distil complex concepts into easily understandable and actionable steps.

Whether readers aim to expand their follower base, monetize their content, or develop a personal brand, "The Influencer's Code" offers a clear roadmap to success.

Engaging Writing Style:

The book captivated readers with Muhanelwa's engaging and relatable writing style.

His genuine passion for empowering others shines through each chapter, making the reading experience both enjoyable and enriching.

Practical Insights:

Backed by real-world examples and practical insights, "The Influencer's Code" provides a wealth of knowledge essential for both novice and seasoned influencers.

Muhanelwa's first-hand experience in the digital sphere adds credibility and relevance to his advice.

About the author:

Ndivhuwo Muhanelwa, widely recognised by his alias "NoChillGod," is a multifaceted individual who has made significant strides as an author, social media influencer, and content creator.

His book, "The Influencer's Code," stands as a testament to his expertise in digital marketing and social media. As NoChillGod, Muhanelwa has amassed a sizable following, establishing himself as a prominent figure in the digital realm. His innovative content and ability to

resonate with his audience have cemented his position as a respected influencer.

Beyond his online presence, Muhanelwa is a prolific writer, leveraging his platform to share insights and experiences with aspiring influencers.

"The Influencer's Code" exemplifies his commitment to empowering others within the industry.

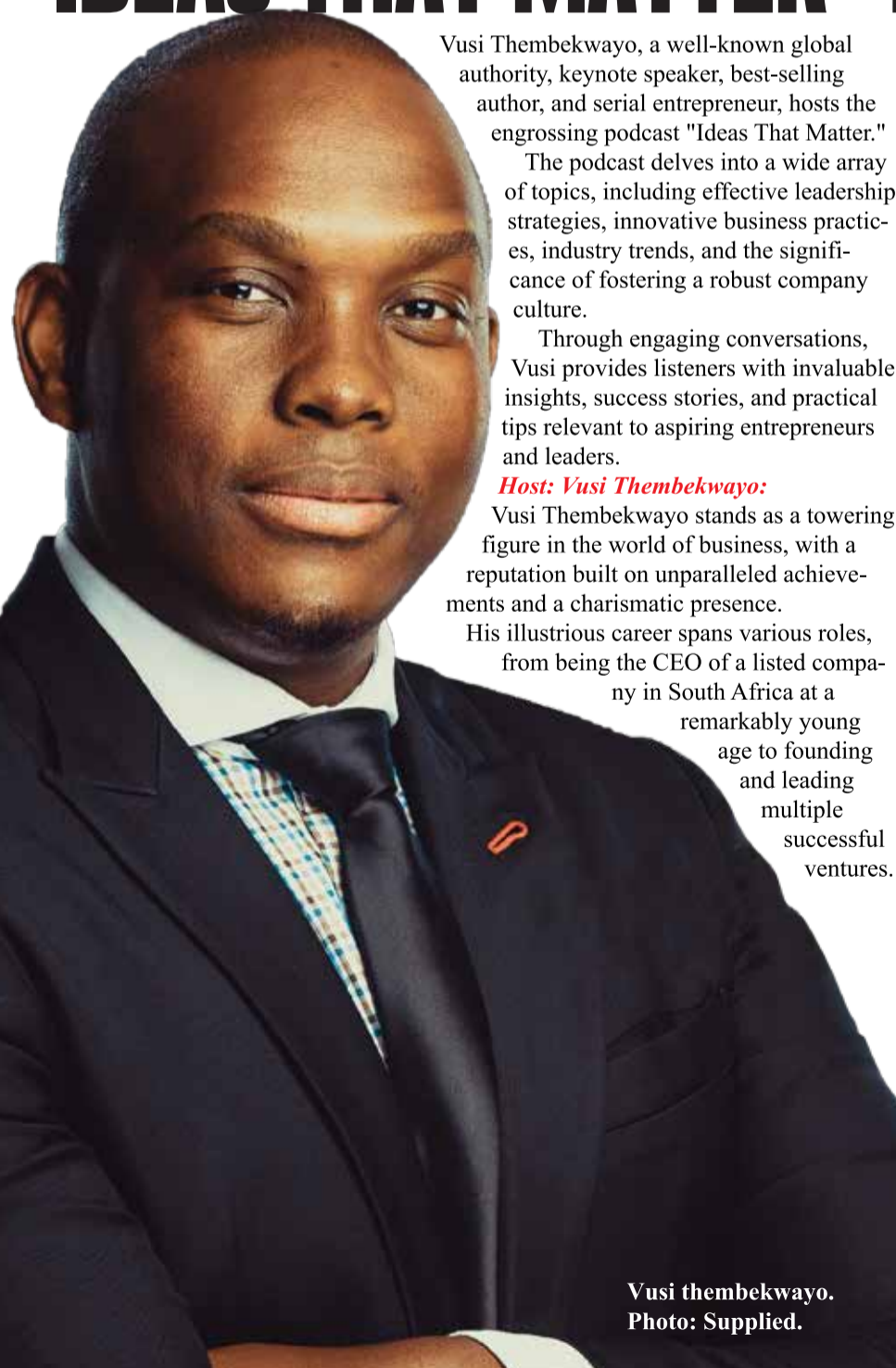
In "The Influencer's Code," Ndivhuwo Muhanelwa delivers a valuable resource for individuals seeking success in the competitive arena of social media influence.

Through accessible guidance, engaging writing, and practical insights, Muhanelwa equips readers with the tools necessary to unlock their full potential in the digital age.

Whether a novice or seasoned influencer, this book serves as an indispensable companion on the journey to digital success.

-PODCAST REVIEW-

"IDEAS THAT MATTER" BY VUSI THEMBEKWAYO



Vusi thembekwayo.
Photo: Supplied.

Vusi Thembekwayo, a well-known global authority, keynote speaker, best-selling author, and serial entrepreneur, hosts the engrossing podcast "Ideas That Matter."

The podcast delves into a wide array of topics, including effective leadership strategies, innovative business practices, industry trends, and the significance of fostering a robust company culture.

Through engaging conversations, Vusi provides listeners with invaluable insights, success stories, and practical tips relevant to aspiring entrepreneurs and leaders.

Host: Vusi Thembekwayo:

Vusi Thembekwayo stands as a towering figure in the world of business, with a reputation built on unparalleled achievements and a charismatic presence.

His illustrious career spans various roles, from being the CEO of a listed company in South Africa at a remarkably young age to founding and leading multiple successful ventures.



Vusi thembekwayo. Photo: Supplied.

Vusi's expertise extends to venture capitalism, entrepreneurship, and impact investing, where he focuses on promoting financial inclusion and leveraging technology for positive societal impact. Beyond his business acumen, Vusi is widely recognised for his philanthropic efforts, particularly through the VUKA Leadership Foundation. This non-profit organisation aims to nurture and develop the next generation of African leaders, reflecting Vusi's commitment to empowering communities and shaping Africa's future.

"Ideas That Matter" offers a platform for Vusi to share his wealth of knowledge and experience, providing listeners with actionable insights and thought-provoking ideas.

Audiences are moved by Vusi's open and relatable dedication, which is shaped by his own experience of overcoming

obstacles, and as a result, the podcast is both educational and motivational.

The podcast's focus on practical wisdom and impactful ideas aligns with Vusi's overarching mission of driving positive change in the business world and beyond. Whether discussing leadership principles, entrepreneurial strategies, or societal impact, each episode of "Ideas That Matter" leaves listeners equipped with valuable takeaways and a renewed sense of purpose.

"Ideas That Matter" stands as a testament to Vusi Thembekwayo's remarkable influence and dedication to sharing valuable insights with aspiring leaders and entrepreneurs. Through engaging conversations and practical wisdom, Vusi inspires listeners to pursue excellence, embrace challenges, and make a meaningful impact in their respective spheres. As a beacon of leadership and innovation, Vusi continues to leave an indelible mark on the world of business and beyond through his podcast and philanthropic endeavours.

TIMELESS SPORT

SEKHUKHUNE UNITED CONCLUDES CAF CONFEDERATION CUP CAMPAIGN WITH GOALLESS DRAW



Limpopo - Sekhukhune United brought their CAF Confederation Cup campaign to a close on Sunday afternoon, drawing 0-0 against Diabes Noirs in their final group stage match.

The South African side, having already been eliminated in the penultimate round, opted to rotate their squad, giving opportunities to fringe players like Kgomotso Mosadi, Pogiso Mahlangu, and Michael Sarpong.

The early stages saw Diabes Noirs take control, creating numerous chances but failing to convert.

Yann Ngatse's header went narrowly wide, and Hardy Binguila forced a save from Sekhukhune goalkeeper Ntokozo Mtshweni just before halftime.

Sekhukhune absorbed the pressure and had their opportunities after the break.

Katlego Mkhabela had a header over the bar, and substitute Cameron Carnell, making his debut, provided some attacking impetus in the closing stages.

However, clear-cut chances remained elusive for both sides, and the match ended scoreless.

With six points from six games, Sekhukhune finished third in Group D. Diabes Noirs finished at the bottom without a win.

This result signifies the end of Sekhukhune's continental adventure for the season.

They can now shift their focus entirely to domestic competitions, aiming to maintain their strong form in the DStv Premiership league.

Sekhukhune United FC failed to qualify for confed cup knockout stage. Picture: Supplied.

EMPOWERING LIMPOPO GIRLS: REDEFINING RUGBY STEREOTYPES



Girls playing competitive rugby. Photo: Supplied.

Limpopo - In the heart of Limpopo, South Africa, Tebello Makola, the Youth Training Centre Administrator for the Limpopo Blue Bulls Rugby Union, is spearheading a movement aimed at shattering stereotypes and empowering young girls through the sport of rugby.

Makola, a passionate advocate for rugby, sees the sport as more than just a

game. "We're not simply forming a rugby team," she declares.

"We're creating a nurturing environment where young women can thrive and grow through their participation in a sport that has the power to uplift and empower them."

Their progress is remarkable. Employing a targeted recruitment strategy, they have successfully enlisted hundreds

of players from all corners of the province's five districts.

"We start identifying talent at a young age," Makola explains.

"Our round-robin matches for fourteen-year-olds serve as a platform to nurture and develop future rugby stars."

This initiative is part of the broader Get into Rugby (GiR) programme by the South African Rugby Union, which unites eight provincial unions in a collaborative effort.

Exceptional players between the ages of 14 and 18 are allowed to showcase their skills and compete at a higher level.

"Early involvement is crucial," Makola stresses.

"Rugby not only promotes physical fitness but also instills valuable life skills and provides a positive alternative to negative influences.

"She acknowledges the prevalent stereotypes surrounding rugby, especially in rural communities.

"Increasing participation on a large scale is vital to bridging the gap between urban and rural areas," she adds.

As a Master's student researching societal perceptions of rugby, Makola delivers a poignant message to young girls:

"There is a world of opportunity awaiting you on the rugby field. Do not hesitate to step forward and seize it!"

Makola's efforts are already yielding

tangible results, as more girls in Limpopo are embracing rugby and defying societal norms. Through dedication, passion, and perseverance, Makola and her team are not only changing perceptions but also shaping the future of rugby in the region, one empowered girl at a time.

Peter Mokaba Stadium. The sight of many empty seats served as a reminder of the challenges facing local football in attracting spectators to matches.

As Sekhukhune United prepares for their final group stage fixture against Diabes Noirs away from home on Sunday, March 3, 2024, they will be hoping to salvage some pride and end their campaign on a positive note. Despite the disappointment of their early exit from the competition, Sekhukhune remains determined to bounce back stronger in future competitions.



Girls Rugby Practice. Photo: Supplied.