

TIMELESS

NEWS

INCORPORATING LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA - FRIDAY, 05 APRIL 2024

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"Thought Leaders in Community News"

Ramaphosa and Malema visit ZCC - Page 2



Police Shootings spark protests - Page 4



Illegal Mining Bust - Page 6



Culinary Mission for Change - Page 7



TRAGIC ACCIDENT: EDUCATIONAL DOYEN AND WIFE PERISH IN ACCIDENT



By Montsho Matlala and Thulane Madalane

Maserumule Park, Limpopo - The community of Maserumule Park was shaken to its core as news spread of the tragic demise of Mr. Elias Moribishane Makunyane and his beloved wife, Ngwanankhoele (nee Maphila).

The couple, pillars of education and community activism, met an untimely end in a fateful car accident on their return journey from the Roman Catholic Easter Conference in Glen Cowie.

Their Nissan Tida collided with a VW Polo along the R579 near Motlokwa Tyre Repairs in Nebo, claiming their lives along with two others.

Elias Moribishane Makunyane, born in Mhlaharekoma, had dedicated his life to education.

His journey began in the early '80s, when he earned his teaching diploma from Setotolwane Teaching College.

Fueled by a passion for learning, he pursued further studies, eventually attaining a Master's Degree in Education Management from the University of South Africa (UNISA).

Makunyane's impact stretched across various schools, culminating in his tenure as the principal of Mokoneamabula High School in Mhlahalotwane.

Beyond the classroom, Makunyane was a beacon of community development. He nurtured young leaders, leaving behind a legacy of empowerment.

Papi Matlala, now Council Secretary for Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, and Theto Matlala, a successful civil engineering

consultant, credit Makunyane for their growth.

His successor, Mr. Majatladi Mothogwane, acknowledges Makunyane's influence, honouring him with a scholarship and a dedicated administrative block at the school.

Ngwanankhoele Makunyane, a woman of substance, stood alongside her husband in their endeavours.

A respected businesswoman and advocate against Gender-Based violence (GBV), she was deeply involved in community-building activities.

Her commitment to social justice reverberated throughout Nebo, leaving an indelible mark on those she encountered.

Elias Moribishane Makunyane's life was woven with threads of care, culture, and activism.

His involvement in political and union activities showcased his commitment to societal progress.

From his role in the ANC Machesa Manage Branch to his leadership in SEPTU and SADTU, Makunyane's influence extended far beyond the classroom.

As the community mourns the loss of these esteemed individuals, their legacy lives on through the countless lives they've touched.

With six sisters, two brothers, four children, and grandchildren, Elias Moribishane Makunyane's impact continues to resonate, a testament to a life lived with purpose and dedication.

ROBALA KA KHUTŠO NKETE

Cruising together they perished together Mr and Mrs Moribishane Ngwanankhoele Makunyane. Photo: Supplied.

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ELECTION SEASON: RAMAPHOSA AND MALEMA VISIT ZCC IN MORIA FOR EASTER

By Staff reporter

Moria, Limpopo - President Cyril Ramaphosa and Julius Malema, leaders of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) and the opposition Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), respectively, made significant appearances at St. Engenas ZCC in Moria, Limpopo, for Easter Sunday, marking the beginning of their election campaigns amidst a warm reception from thousands of congregants.

While Ramaphosa emphasised that his visit was in a personal capacity rather than a political one, it was evident that the ANC's election strategy was at play, with the president attending alongside key ANC figures.

Malema's presence, too, underscored the importance of engaging with influential communities during the election season.

Bishop Engenas Lekganyane introduced the leaders, who were greeted with applause and led worshippers in prayer.

Ramaphosa, in his address, commended the church on its centenary and expressed gratitude for the warm reception.

He also echoed Bishop Lekganyane's call to leverage South Africa's resources for poverty alleviation, pledging to prioritise this cause.

Even though Ramaphosa's visit was presented as personal, it was planned by the ANC central office.

He also had post-service conversations with party officials, which suggested that politics and religion are closely related in South Africa.

In his remarks to the media, Ramaphosa articulated his inspiration from the sermon and conveyed confidence in the ANC's electoral success, dismissing talks of coalition governments.

Ramaphosa's presence, accompanied by members of the ANC's National Executive Committee (NEC) and provincial leaders from Limpopo, represented the party's coordinated efforts to win over key areas.

Malema, accompanied by EFF officials, shared a notable moment with Ramaphosa, exemplifying the intersection of political

rivals in communal spaces.

The Easter Sunday visit not only marked a religious occasion but also served as a strategic platform for political leaders to connect with voters, setting the tone for an intense electoral battle ahead of

the national and provincial elections.

As the campaign season unfolds, such engagements are expected to become increasingly frequent as parties vie for support and prominence in the political landscape.



His Grace Bishop Dr Engenas Lekganyane hosting Cyril Ramaphosa. Photo: Facebook.



Members of the ZCC at St. Engenas in Moria, Limpopo during Easter Sunday. Photo: Facebook.



Julius Malema with his wife at St. Engenas ZCC in Moria, Limpopo, for Easter Sunday. Photo: X (Twitter)

POST-EASTER TRAFFIC SURGE EXPECTED AS TRAVELLERS RETURN HOME



Heavy Traffic On Easter Monday On Limpopo Roads Including N1. Photo: Limpopo Chronicle.

By Nothando Makhubela

Mpumalanga - As the Easter holidays come to a close, a surge in traffic is anticipated on the roads as many individuals make their way back to their respective destinations.

The Mpumalanga MEC Vusi Shongwe for Community Safety, Security, and Liaison has issued a call to motorists to prioritise rest and adherence to road regulations during this period of increased travel activity.

"Drivers should take regular breaks. They must concentrate and remain on extreme alert. Hence, we want them to rest every two hours or 200 kilometres, of driving.

They should not rely too much on energy drinks but rest and alternate driving with fellow occupants where possible," Shongwe stated.

"We must put the lives of passengers first, not profits or the number of loads. Safety must come first," he added.

This was followed by the tragic and horrifying traffic accident that killed four people on the R23 road between Standerton and Perdekop in Mpumalanga.

They died on Sunday afternoon, March 31, when an articulated truck and a sedan were involved in a head-on collision on R23 Road between Standerton and Perdekop.

All the deceased were occupants of the sedan. The driver of the truck escaped with slight injuries.

MEC Shongwe further encouraged law enforcement officers to continue showing zero tolerance to errant drivers and enforcing the law without fear or favour.

"About 40,000 vehicles have crossed various roads since Thursday. Over 19,000 heavy motor vehicles went through various weighbridges.

5 248 drivers were issued summonses for various offences, 130 vehicles were also discontinued, and 119 vehicles were impounded by the traffic officers," Shongwe explained.

"Traffic officers remain deployed at night to deal with the congestion at Lebombo Border Gate and other identified priority routes.

Eight motorists were arrested for suspected drinking and driving," he said.

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FOOD PROGRAMME, PRIORITIZES COMMUNITY NEEDS IN SEKHUKHUNE

Sekhukhune District Focuses on Alleviating Hunger and Addressing Critical Developmental Concerns



Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District, Cllr Minah Bahula shakes hand of one of the residents of Mogaung village who received the life-saving assistance. Photo: Facebook.

By Duncan Mnisi

Sekhukhune, Limpopo - In an earnest effort to combat hunger and uplift disadvantaged communities, the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District, Cllr Minah Bahula, spearheaded a vital food programme in Mogaung village, Ellias Motswaledi township, ward 22.

The initiative, unveiled during a service meeting on Monday, underscores the district's unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for individuals facing financial hardships, particularly during these challenging times.

Mayor Bahula, leading the charge, emphasised the programme's pivotal role in providing life-saving assistance to over 80 families in Mogaung village.

However, she stressed that their mission extends beyond the current outreach, with aspirations to expand the programme's reach to encompass more families in similar circumstances.

"Our dedication to improving living standards and fostering social development programmes remains resolute," stated Mayor Bahula.

"We envision becoming a beacon of hope in underprivileged communities, continuously striving to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need."

Acknowledging the significance of collective effort, Mayor Bahula extended an appeal to individuals and organisations to join hands in supporting this noble cause.

"Your support holds the power to transform the lives of those struggling to

make ends meet.

Together, let's ensure no one in our community goes hungry or feels marginalised," she urged.

In a parallel endeavour, Mayor Bahula, alongside esteemed community leaders and municipal officials, convened a highly productive service delivery meeting in Moeding village, under the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality.

Kgoshi Kanyane 'a Nape 'a Ngwato and other MMCs attended the meeting, which emphasised important issues impacting the community and provided advancement plans.

Key issues such as water access and road infrastructure dominated discussions, prompting Mayor Bahula to outline immediate actions to address the water crisis.

These measures include interim water supply through tankering, borehole drilling to augment water reserves, and engaging with Lepelle Northern Water to devise a comprehensive strategy for resolving water-related challenges.

Emphasising the importance of community involvement, Mayor Bahula urged the establishment of a dedicated committee to liaise with the municipality in tackling water issues effectively.

Executive Mayor Minah Bahula's initiatives demonstrate her unwavering dedication to promoting inclusivity, advancing sustainable development, and giving community needs top priority throughout Sekhukhune District.

LIMPOPO POLICE WARN AGAINST THREATS OF SHUT-DOWN CIRCULATING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

By Staff Reporter

Polokwane, South Africa - The South African Police Service (SAPS) in Limpopo has issued a stern warning against the dissemination of threats regarding potential shutdowns circulating on social media platforms.

The Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, is assuring the residents of Limpopo, particularly those in the affected areas of Seshego, Mankweng, Lebowaqomo, and Matlala, that the SAPS is closely monitoring these developments and is on high alert for any eventualities that may arise on, before or after the date of Thursday, April 4, 2024.

The Provincial Commissioner and her management further encourage members of the community to continue with their normal duties without fear of being intimidated or attacked.

"Law enforcement agencies are prepared to deal decisively and harshly with any individuals found responsible for instigating or participating in activities aimed at disrupting public order and safety.

The SAPS will utilise all available resources to maintain law and order and ensure the protection of citizens and property," stated Lieutenant General Hadebe.

The public is urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities or threats to the nearest police station or through the SAPS emergency hotline.

This warning comes amidst growing concerns over social media posts threatening disruptions and shutdowns in various parts of Limpopo.

While the origins and motivations behind these threats remain unclear, the SAPS is taking them seriously and is actively working to prevent any potential unrest.

Local residents have expressed a mix of concern and frustration over the circulating threats, with many calling for swift action from law enforcement to ensure their safety and security.

In response to these concerns, the SAPS has increased patrols and visibility in the affected areas and is working closely with community leaders and stakeholders to address any underlying issues that may be fueling the tensions.

Despite the heightened state of alertness, authorities are urging residents to remain calm and to refrain from spreading rumours or engaging in any form of vigilantism.

Instead, they are advised to report any suspicious behaviour or threats to the authorities and to cooperate fully with law enforcement efforts to maintain peace and order in their communities.

As the situation continues to unfold, the SAPS is urging members of the public to stay informed through official channels and to refrain from sharing unverified information on social media, which could exacerbate tensions and lead to further unrest.

The SAPS remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of all residents in Limpopo and will continue to take proactive measures to prevent any potential threats to public order and safety.



Members of the public who attended the book donation ceremony in Pudiakgopa village in Limpopo. Photo: GCIS.

BOOKS DONATED TO MMAHLEE LIBRARY FOR PRESIDENT'S READING DRIVE



Deputy Minister Nomasonto Motaung addresses members of the public at Mmahlee Community Library. Photo: GCIS.

By Duncan Mnisi

Pudiakgopa Village, Limpopo - Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Nomasonto Motaung, facilitated the donation of books by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) to the Mmahlee Public Library in Pudiakgopa Village, Limpopo Province.

This event, which took place on Wednesday the week before, marks a significant step in advancing the President's Reading Initiative, aimed at enhancing literacy across South Africa.

The Book Donation programme, spearheaded by GCIS, underscores the

commitment to community empowerment through access to educational resources.

In her address at the handover ceremony, Deputy Minister Nomasonto Motaung highlighted the importance of literacy, echoing President Cyril Ramaphosa's call for improved reading habits in his 2019 State of the Union address.

"Books play a pivotal role in enhancing literacy levels and expanding access to information within our communities," remarked Deputy Minister Motaung.

"The Mmahlee Public Library serves as a beacon of lifelong learning, catering to the educational needs of students and providing valuable resources for post-ma-

trication studies."

Pointing out the role of parents and community members in fostering a culture of reading, Deputy Minister Motaung urged active participation in encouraging children to engage with books.

"Reading from a young age not only aids cognitive development but also keeps children off the streets, reducing their vulnerability to societal challenges," she stressed.

Furthermore, Deputy Minister Motaung stressed the importance of holistic development, advocating for the promotion of both reading and sports among youth.

"In addition to reading, engaging in sports activities fosters social cohesion and nation-building," she explained.

"It is imperative that we provide our children with opportunities to thrive academically and physically."

Addressing the students directly, Deputy Minister Motaung encouraged them to make the most of the donated books and to remain dedicated to their studies.

"As students, you hold the key to shaping a brighter future for yourselves and our nation," she affirmed.

"Through reading and education, you can achieve remarkable success."

The handover of books to the Mmahlee Public Library signifies a collective effort to promote literacy and empower communities, aligning with the broader goals of the President's Reading Initiative.

With continued support and engagement, initiatives like these are poised to make a lasting impact on the educational landscape of South Africa.

TJHIDA NGI TJHIDULE NDEBELE GROUP EMPOWERS YOUTH



Gogo Jwana established the Tjhida Ngi Tjhidule Ndebele Cultural Group. Photo: Supplied.

Nothando Makhubela

Emalahleni, Mpumalanga - In a small community in Klarinet Extension 3, Gogo Jwana Mthimunye, a 66-year-old visionary, established the Tjhida Ngi Tjhidule Ndebele group in 2013.

This organisation has taken on the noble mission of educating and empowering young girls and boys by imparting essential lessons on culture, tradition, and respect.

With over 20 enthusiastic children currently enrolled in the programme,

the group is making significant strides in preserving and passing down the rich heritage of the Ndebele people. Speaking with the Timeless News, Gogo Mthimunye said, "The group was formed in 2013 to give a better future to the young girls."

Tjhida Ngi Tjhidule has more than 20 children under the age of 7. We sing and dance to Ndebele songs.

We have been to Nelspruit to perform, and we have won four trophies so far for the best group ever since the group was formed."

"Tjhida Ngi Tjhidule educates children and young people about their culture, tradition, and respect.

The challenges we have are the issues of transport, funding, and traditional attire. We are pleading with anyone who would love to fund Tjhida Ngi Tjhidule, but above all, this group will grow and continue to educate young children about culture and respect.

I want to invite many more young children to come and join the group," she explained.

She went on to say that she wants to shield children from alcohol, drugs, and teen pregnancy "I saw how much young people engaged themselves with the wrong friends or watched the wrong things on TV that

might influence them to become pregnant, use drugs, or drink alcohol.

With these young girls and boys I'm grooming, I want them to become something better tomorrow; some will be teachers, doctors, nurses, or engineers." She said.

Natasha Thwala, an 18-year-old virgin enrolled in grade 12 at Witbank High School, said, "I am still a virgin, and I'm very proud.

What I love about Tjhida Ngi Tjhidule is that I am learning about culture and respect.

I have learned how to love myself, take care of my body, and respect my elders."

"I also love and enjoy the activities we do when we are touring and visiting other places and provinces.

I joined Tjhida Ngi Tjhidule when I was eight years old, she added.

Hlengiwe Dlamini (22) said, "I joined the Tjhida Ngi Tjhidule when I was 15 years old.

What I love about being part of the group as a young girl is that we are protected, especially from drugs, alcohol abuse, and teenage pregnancy."

"I am doing my second year at UNISA. I have learned to respect my parents, which is something we are being taught about the most," she said.

COMMUNITY ENDURES WATER CRISIS OVER EASTER HOLIDAYS

By Nothando Makhubela

Emalahleni, Mpumalanga - The residents of Emalahleni faced a stark reality during the recent Easter holidays as they grappled with a severe water crisis despite the Witbank dam's water levels being well above 95% capacity.

Since March 20th, the community has been enduring a prolonged period without access to running tap water, relying instead on a communal JoJo tank supply for their basic water needs.

This dire situation has persisted for weeks, highlighting the ongoing challenges faced by residents in Emalahleni due to the lack of consistent and reliable water supply.

This is after the Emalahleni Local Municipality confirmed that water pumping at the plant will only resume on Saturday, March 30, but there is still no water.

Areas affected are Ezinambeni All Extension, Thubelihle in Kriel, Hlalanikahle, Vosman, Voortrekker Street downtown, Tasbet, and Duvha Park.

Municipality spokesperson Lebohlang Mofokeng said, "However, it must be noted that it will take some time before the water levels are normal.

The water that is available is from the Thungela Plant, which is distributed through the Point B reservoir."

A furious resident from Ezinambeni Extension 14, Mandla Fakude, said, "I am not happy about this because my family and I do suffer since we don't have water."

"We can't even use a toilet because we don't have water to flush. The water supplied by JoJo tankers is not enough and they only supply once in a week.

We can't ignore the fact that the water is also dirty from the JoJo tankers and it is not drinkable," he added.

Lihle Sithole said, "We are paying for water bills here in Voortrekker Street, but we still suffer from a water shortage. I have to buy water in order to clean and cook."

"It is costly because I am currently unemployed.

My children still need to go to school, their school uniforms must be washed, we are not coping well, she said.

"They lied to us that the water would be back by Saturday, but still nothing," she added.

RESIDENTS DEMAND JUSTICE AS POLICE SHOOTINGS SPARK PROTESTS

By Nothando Makhubela

Emalahleni, Mpumalanga - Emalahleni is reeling from a series of police shootings and killings during protests, igniting outrage and demands for justice from residents.

The community is weary of police shootings during protests.

Residents say they've gotten nowhere with complaints about pending murder cases against Emalahleni police officers.

Their attempts to follow up are met with claims that the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) is handling the cases but with no updates provided.

A police officer fired live ammunition at 13-year-old Philasande Yende, killing her in the head during a four-day protest in Vosman last May over power outages.

He was one of three people killed in the protests.

A similar tragedy struck again in November. In Vosman, during another demonstration against power outages, police shot and killed 50-year-old Leah Lubisi.

The most recent incident involved the death of 25-year-old Thabelo Mbau on March 9 at Witbank General Hospital, following his alleged assault by four police officers for drinking in public.

This brutality sparked outrage at the Tshwane University of Technology's (TUT) Witbank Campus.

Students marched to the Witbank Police Station on March 12 to demand justice for Mbau.

The young electrical engineering student, in his second year, died a horrific death, allegedly at the hands of police.

Phaladi Shuping, IPID spokesperson for Mpumalanga, told Timeless News that "if the court finds a police officer guilty of a criminal offence, the court will impose a sentence."

Shuping further explained that responding to suspensions is an internal SAPS procedure.

"Once they are found guilty, it's the court that decides on the appropriate sanction; some get wholly suspended sentences, others get fines, and others get direct imprisonment," he elaborated.

Shuping concluded by stating, "There is no such thing as justice failing because



Police dispersing community during protests. Photo: Nothando Makhubela.



Police dispersing community during protests. Photo: Nothando Makhubela.

those who are found guilty are sentenced."

However, residents remain unconvinced. Bongive Masheo, daughter of the late Lubisi, expressed her despair: "There's nothing from the police.

All I hear about is that they are still investigating the case. I have even lost hope in the police to find justice for my mother."

Felicia Radebe summed up the community's sentiment: "The justice system is failing us."

Abel Shekwa echoed this frustration: "At the police station, they will keep telling you that they are still investigating the case until you lose interest, then they lose the docket."



PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: 27 March 2024

Ref: 1/8/2/2

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT IDP AND BUDGET 2024/25

Consistent with Section 25 (4) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000) and Section 22(a) (i)(ii) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003) the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Mayor Her Worship Cllr Mahlase M.M hereby notifies the communities and interested stakeholders that **Draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget for financial year 2024/2025** was adopted by the Municipal Council on Monday 25th March 2024 for stakeholders consultation. The Draft IDP and Budget document can be viewed on the Municipal Website (www.makhuduthamaga.gov.za) and Municipal Libraries (Jane Furse, Phaahla, Phatsantswane and Phokwane).

Comments and inputs should be in the form of writing, sending Emails and Facebook comments, WhatsApp; Email should be directed to Ntobeng KS at kgetjepem@makhuduthamaga.gov.za or Matlala SM at mooikem@makhuduthamaga.gov.za or **WhatsApp Number: 0799390164** or Municipality **Facebook Page: @Makhuduthamaga.gov**

SCHEDULE				
	DATE	TARGET	VENUE	TIME
1	03 April 2024	Magoši and Business People	Municipal Chamber, Jane Furse	11h00
2	04 April 2024	Schoonoord and Jane Furse Clusters	Peter Nchabeleng Sports Complex, Schoonoord	10h00
3	05 April 2024	Masemola and Phokoane Clusters	Mogaladi Community Hall	10h00
4	05 April 2024	Special Focus Groups	Kgaola Mafiri Municipal Building, Jane Furse	10h00
5	06 April 2024	Municipal Staff	Municipal Chamber	10h00
6	18 April 2024	Makhuduthamaga LM Joint with Sekhukhune DM	Patantshwane Community Hall	11h00

Written comments should be submitted at the reception / IDP Office at Jane Furse Main Office on or before 19 April 2024 at the close of business at 16h30. Enquiries: Ntobeng Mohube 0725295541 or 013 265 3415 or Mashabela Thomas 0609321054

Issued by **Communications, Marketing and Events Unit**

Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality



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SUSPECTS APPREHENDED IN ILLEGAL MINING BUST

By Thembekile Mzimba

Schoemanskloof, Nelspruit - Law enforcement agencies achieved a significant breakthrough in their ongoing efforts to combat illegal mining activities with the arrest of nine suspects and the seizure of illegal mining equipment during Operation Vala Umgodi.

The operation, conducted last Friday, targeted a farm in Schoemanskloof, just outside Nelspruit.

Acting on intelligence-driven information, a multi-disciplinary team comprising various units within the South African Police Service (SAPS) and officials from the Department of Home Affairs mobilised to address the illegal mining operations on the farm's mountainous terrain.

Upon arrival, the team encountered a group of alleged illegal miners who attempted to evade arrest by fleeing into nearby bushes.

However, law enforcement personnel swiftly apprehended all nine suspects, aged between 24 and 63.

Seven of the suspects were arrested for contravening the Immigration Act due to their lack of valid documentation, while two others face charges related to the possession of gold-bearing materials and suspected illegal mining equipment.

A subsequent search of the area led to the seizure of a significant quantity of mining equipment, including 30 generators, 8 jackhammers, 3 phendukas, 2 electric motors, 2 gas cylinders, 13 shovels, 11 spades, 16 pickaxes, 45 chisels, and 19 hammers.

Commenting on the operation, Lieutenant General Daphney Semakaleng Manamela, the Provincial Commissioner of the SAPS in Mpumalanga, praised the efforts of law enforcement personnel and welcomed the arrest of the suspects.

She commended their unwavering commitment to combating illegal mining activities across the country, emphasising the importance of such operations in safeguarding the integrity of South Africa's natural resources and upholding the rule of law.

Operation Vala Umgodi represents a concerted effort by law enforcement agencies to disrupt and dismantle illegal mining operations, which pose significant environmental, economic, and social risks.

The successful outcome of this operation underscores the determination of authorities to root out criminal activities that threaten the well-being of communities and the sustainability of natural resources.

INVESTIGATIONS LAUNCHED AFTER FATAL MOLETLANE SHOOTING

By Thembekile Mzimba

Polokwane, South Africa - Under the direction of Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, the South African Police Service in Limpopo has launched a comprehensive investigation into a tragic shooting incident that left four people dead and seven injured.

The incident, which took place last Wednesday at approximately 05:00 am at Moletlane crossroads near the local taxi rank, has reverberated throughout the community, eliciting shock and concern.

Preliminary reports indicate that the perpetrators, reportedly driving a white BMW and a black Mercedes Benz, indiscriminately opened fire on taxis in the area before fleeing the scene.

Upon the arrival of law enforcement and Emergency Medical Services, the grim aftermath revealed two taxi drivers, one passenger, and another motorist dead, while four others sustained multiple gunshot wounds and were rushed to the hospital.

In a distressing development, three additional victims with gunshot injuries presented themselves, bringing the total number of injured individuals to seven.

The scene depicted extensive damage, with five taxis and one bakkie rendered beyond repair due to gunfire.

Law enforcement officials recovered numerous rifle and pistol cartridges, crucial evidence for the ongoing investigation.

As the investigation progresses, four

counts of murder and seven counts of attempted murder have been officially filed.

The Provincial Taxi Violence Investigation Unit has taken the lead in the inquiry, underscoring the severity of the incident.

Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe has strongly condemned the heinous act, emphasising the urgency of apprehending the perpetrators.

"The safety and security of our communities are paramount," stated Lieutenant General Hadebe.

"We will not rest until those responsible for this senseless violence are brought to justice."

The Provincial Commissioner has urged the public to come forward with any information that could assist in the investigation.

Individuals with relevant details are encouraged to contact Colonel Kgadiswana Mnisi directly at 082 565 8501 or use the Crime Stop number at 08600 10111.

Community members are also urged to visit their nearest police station to assist.

Following this catastrophe, the Limpopo NTA Coordinator, Frans Kgasago, on behalf of the local taxi community, has called for justice.

Kgasago expressed deep concern over the recurring violence that has plagued their industry, indicating the need for immediate action to arrest the perpetrators.

The Zebediela Taxi Association, an affiliate of the NTA, mourns the loss of its members and stands in solidarity with the affected families.

As investigations intensify and stakeholders unite in their call for justice, there is a renewed determination to combat violence and uphold the rule of law.

The tragic events in Moletlane serve as a poignant reminder of the urgent need for lasting solutions to prevent such incidents from recurring and safeguard the well-being of all citizens.

MIRACLE AND RECOVERY: 8-YEAR-OLD SURVIVOR OF LIMPOPO BUS CRASH INSPIRES HOPE



The vehicle with 46 passengers plunged off a bridge into a ravine some 50-metres under a bridge and burst into flames. Photo: Limpopo Department of Transport.

By Duncan Mnisi

Limpopo, South Africa - In the aftermath of the tragic bus crash that claimed the lives of 45 passengers en route to Easter service, the remarkable story of an 8-year-old girl's survival has captured the hearts of many.

As she continues her recovery journey in a Limpopo hospital, the community remains united in offering support and prayers for her swift healing.

The young survivor, whose name *Timeless News* has not disclosed out of respect for her privacy, has become a symbol of resilience and hope amidst the grief-stricken aftermath of the accident.

Despite the unimaginable trauma she endured, medical professionals report that she is progressing well and showing remarkable strength in her recovery.

Limpopo Health MEC Phophi Ramathuba's appeal for privacy and space for the girl's healing process has been met with widespread respect and understanding from the public.

Messages of encouragement and well-wishes have poured in from across the country, offering comfort and solace to the young survivor and her family during this challenging time.

As the girl continues to receive medical care and support, her journey serves as a poignant reminder of the fragility of life and the resilience of the human spirit.

Her miraculous survival against all odds serves as a beacon of hope for the community, inspiring faith and optimism in the face of adversity.

In addition to the physical injuries sustained in the crash, the emotional toll on the young survivor and her family is significant.

Limpopo Health Department officials have emphasised the importance of providing holistic care and support to address the psychological impact of the traumatic experience.

Counsellors and mental health professionals have been deployed to offer support to the girl and her family as they navigate the road to recovery.

Religious institutions and community leaders have also banded together to offer aid and emotional support to everyone impacted by the tragedy.

As the healing process continues, the community remains steadfast in its commitment to standing by the young survivor and her family every step of the way.

While the scars of the accident may linger, the unwavering support and solidarity of the community serve as a source of strength and comfort during this difficult time.

The miraculous survival of the 8-year-old girl serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the capacity for hope and healing even in the darkest of times.

As she continues her journey to recovery, her story inspires us all to embrace hope, compassion, and unity in the face of adversity.

CONGREGATION ROBBED AT GUNPOINT DURING RAMADAN PRAYER

By Thembekile Mzimba

Kabokweni, Mpumalanga - Worshippers observing the sacred month of Ramadan were subjected to a terrifying ordeal when a group of armed assailants stormed a mosque in Mpumalanga, South Africa, during a prayer session.

The incident, which occurred on Thursday night, has left the congregation shaken and authorities scrambling to ensure the safety of the community.

According to eyewitness reports, approximately 15 heavily armed suspects invaded the mosque around 13:20, brandishing firearms and firing shots into the air to intimidate the worshippers.

The assailants then proceeded to hold around 20 worshippers at gunpoint, robbing them of their personal belongings, including cell phones.

In a brazen act, the suspects also made off with a Toyota Corolla bearing the licence plate JRH 078 MP, which belonged to one of the worshippers present during the robbery.

Jumuah Sign Bwazi, the leader of the mosque, recounted the harrowing experience, stating, "They said they wanted all of us down and we did likewise."

And they started searching our pockets and taking our cell phones.

Meanwhile, the main objective of the armed robbers was to rob our hard-earned money; unfortunately, their objective was not achieved as we did not have money in our pockets."

This incident is the second within a week targeting mosques in the region, raising concerns among the worshippers about possible internal collaboration.

Mohammed Phiri expressed suspicion, suggesting, "It is clear that there are some people in our congregation that are giving information to outsiders about the church funds."

Following the robbery, worshippers swiftly reported the incident to the Kabokweni police station, resulting in the opening of a case of business robbery.

Despite prompt reporting, frustration mounts over the perceived sluggish police response, with cartridge cases from the gunfire still littering the mosque floor even eight hours after the robbery.

Authorities, however, have urged members of the community to remain vigilant and assist in apprehending the suspects.

Mpumalanga provincial commissioner, Lieutenant-General Semakaleng Daphney Manamela, emphasised the importance of community cooperation, stating, "The only way to shut down the market for criminals is to stop buying stolen goods."

Therefore, the public should come on board on this one."

In a bid to aid the apprehension of the suspects, the police have appealed to anyone with information to come forward.

Detective Lt-Col Zenzo Banda provided contact details for those willing to assist in the investigation, emphasising that all information received would be treated confidentially, which are 0823739062 or call the Crime Stop number on 086001011.

As the community grapples with the aftermath of this brazen attack, there is a pressing need for enhanced security measures to safeguard places of worship and ensure the safety of worshippers during religious gatherings.

The incident emphasises how vulnerable congregations are and how important it is to work together to fight crime and protect the sacredness of places of worship.

DON'T EXPECT RELIEF AT THE GROCERY STORE YET

By Staff Reporter

Johannesburg, South Africa - Anchor Capital, a South African wealth and asset management firm, warned today that food price inflation remains a major concern for consumers despite a global decline in food prices.

The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation's (FAO) Food Price Index (FFPI) has fallen for seven consecutive months, but South Africa faces unique challenges.

A weaker rand and concerns about the current maize harvest, potentially impacted by dry weather conditions, are putting upward pressure on domestic food prices.

The El Niño weather pattern adds another layer of complexity, with the potential for crop failures in neighbouring countries.

This could lead to regional shortages and exacerbate price increases, particularly for white maize.

Anchor analysts are especially worried about maize prices.

Domestic white maize prices surged in February due to the weakened rand and harvest apprehension.

The Crop Estimates Committee's (CEC) latest forecast predicts a significant decrease in the total domestic maize yield.

While South Africa might have enough maize to meet its own needs, El Niño's threat to crops in neighbouring countries could create regional shortages and push white maize prices even higher.

The picture for meat prices is mixed. Globally, meat prices rebounded in February, with poultry leading the rise.

However, domestically, livestock prices faced pressure due to softened demand.

Pig meat prices fell the most as chicken supply improved following the Avian Influenza outbreak.

Global dairy prices also edged higher in February, with butter prices experiencing the most significant increase.

Domestically, raw milk prices have increased as well, indicating challenges for producers in maintaining supply despite potentially lower demand for dairy products.

Anchor views food prices as a significant upside risk to inflation given ongoing supply disruptions, the El Niño forecast, and volatile commodity prices.

The deteriorating performance at South Africa's ports adds further uncertainty to the future inflation path.

DOLLEN MZIMBA: A RISING STAR IN THE ART WORLD



27-year-old Visual Artist and Sketcher Dollen Mzimba's Artwork.

Photo: Dollen Mzimba

By Staff Reporter

Mbumba Village, Mpumalanga - With a mantra of "Don't be afraid to shine," 27-year-old visual art sketcher Dollen Mzimba, hailing from Mbumba Village just outside Thulamahashe under Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, is poised to ascend to great heights in the art industry.

Reflecting on his journey, Mzimba shared, "Do not be afraid to shine and always believe in your dreams, because no one will if you don't."

Despite hailing from a small village with limited opportunities, Mzimba remains steadfast in his pursuit of artistic excellence.

He yearns for sponsors and supporters who can assist him in acquiring materials to fully realise his artistic potential.

His passion lies in sketching people and anything that ignites his imagination.

"I am from a little village outside Thulamahashe where there is no market for my crafts, but I believe one day I will finally make it with the help of the sponsors I am currently in need of," expressed Mzimba, drawing inspiration from Tshepo Art Sketcher, whose successful art gallery (Tshepo Projects) serves as a beacon of hope.

Mzimba's preferred time for sketching is from 10 am to 5 pm, enveloped by the tranquil sounds of chirping birds.

He finds solace in this peaceful environment, allowing his creativity to flow unhindered.

For him, art is a vital medium for expression, transcending verbal communication.

"Art brings happiness, and people love and enjoy watching me draw my portraits live," shared Mzimba, whose daily creations grace social media platforms, captivating audiences and eliciting requests for personalised portraits.

For Mzimba, success as an artist manifests in the appreciation and admiration of his work by society.

"Success is when society falls in love with the portraits, which builds my confidence and drives me to engage in more drawings every day," he affirmed.

Offering sage advice to today's youth,

Mzimba emphasised the importance of fearlessness, hard work, passion, and self-belief.

"Never be afraid to take risks, always work hard; do what you love; believe in yourself," he concluded.

As Mzimba continues to hone his craft and share his artistic vision with the world, his unwavering determination and commitment serve as an inspiration to aspiring artists everywhere.

With the support of sponsors and a steadfast belief in his abilities, he is poised to soar to greater heights in the dynamic world of art.

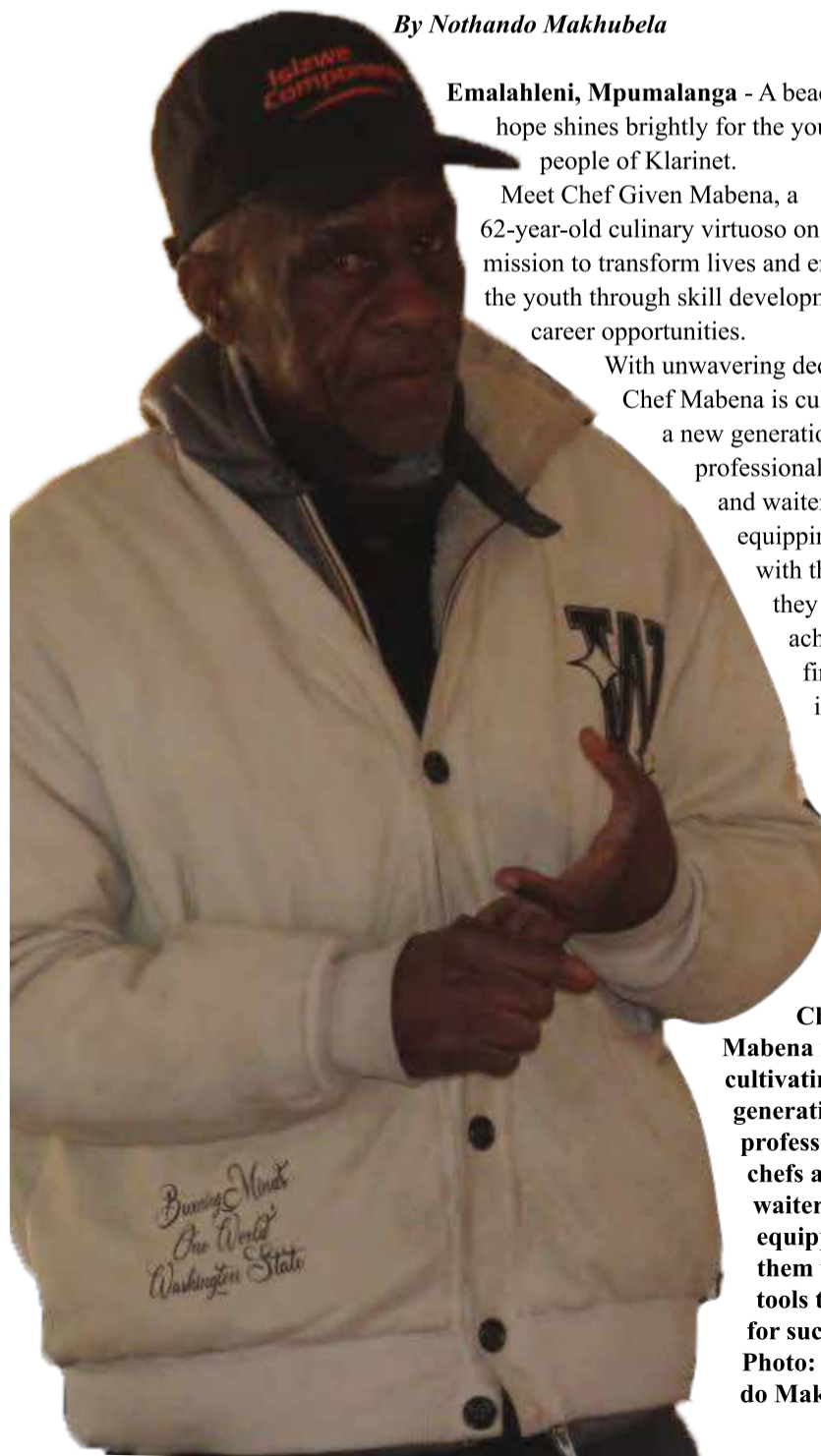


27-year-old Visual Artist and Sketcher Dollen Mzimba's Artwork.

Photo: Dollen Mzimba

CHEF GIVEN MABENA'S CULINARY MISSION FOR CHANGE

By Nothando Makhubela



Emalaheni, Mpumalanga - A beacon of hope shines brightly for the young people of Klarinet.

Meet Chef Given Mabena, a 62-year-old culinary virtuoso on a mission to transform lives and empower the youth through skill development and career opportunities.

With unwavering dedication, Chef Mabena is cultivating a new generation of professional chefs and waiters, equipping them with the tools they need to achieve financial independence and success.

Chef Given Mabena is cultivating a new generation of professional chefs and waiters, equipping them with the tools they need for success.
Photo: Nothando Makhubela

Let's delve into the inspiring story of how Chef Mabena is making a difference in his community by nurturing talent and fostering growth among the youth of Klarinet.

He is also the founder of the Given Hope Foundation.

"I love food.

I have a passion for cooking, and it has always been my dream.

My love for cooking started growing when I was still a young boy because every Sunday, my grandparents would go to church and I would stay at home and cook."

He has more than 13 years of experience in different hotels.

"I have worked for Holiday Inn hotels for more than 13 years.

I have also worked for Protea Hotel. I am good at cooking chicken a la king and traditional food.

On eating healthy food, I will encourage people to always make sure that in their food, they must always have vegetables and must have starchy food."

"I have noticed that many people believe that it's only women who can cook, but that is not true because most of the best cooks are male chefs," he explained.

"This training will be free, and I saw a need for it; we are lacking in chefs, and many young people are unemployed.

The training will open doors for them even better; someday they will open their restaurants," he said.

]"Young people are welcome to come to the Given Hope Foundation, which is based at Klarinet, where all the trains will be held," he added.

TIMELESS SPORT

LIMPOPO SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION HOSTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

By Staff Reporter

Polokwane - In a thrilling display of athleticism and camaraderie, the Limpopo Softball Association recently played host to the Softball South Africa (SSA) 2024 National Provincial Championship.

The event, held at the prestigious Polokwane Cricket Club from March 20-23, saw men's and women's teams from across the nation vying for top honours in the sport.

Teams representing Limpopo, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape, North West, Eastern Cape, and USSA (University Sport South Africa) converged on the fields of Polokwane, each determined to leave their mark on the tournament.

The opening day set the tone for the competition, with the Limpopo women's team dominating their USSA counterparts with a commanding 11-1 victory.

Not to be outdone, the Limpopo men's team showcased their prowess, securing a resounding 21-0 win over North West.

The significance of the occasion was not lost on the organisers and dignitaries present.

Deputy chairperson of the association, Benny Boshomane, highlighted the milestone of SSA celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

Chairperson Mokgadi Mswazi expressed her delight at hosting the NPC in Limpopo once again, marking the fifth time the region has welcomed the prestigious event.

As the championship reached its pinnacle, spectators were treated to an electrifying showdown between Gauteng and Limpopo in the men's finals.

Amidst the intense competition, MEC Nakedi Kekana took a moment to acknowledge the collaborative efforts of the government, sports fraternity, businesses, and tourism sectors in making the event a success.

Beyond the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat, the championship served as a unifying force, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds and social contexts.

Regardless of differences, participants and spectators alike found common ground in their shared passion for softball, underscoring the profound impact of sports on fostering community and belonging.

The conclusion of the Softball South Africa 2024 National Provincial Championship not only crowned deserving champions but also celebrated the spirit of sportsmanship and unity that define the essence of softball in South Africa.

Players bring memories of intense competition, enduring friendships, and the enduring legacy of another triumphant tournament organised by the Limpopo Softball Association with them when they return to their home regions.



Limpopo men's team showcased their prowess, securing a resounding 21-0 win over North West. Photo: Facebook



Limpopo women's team dominating their USSA counterparts with a commanding 11-1 victory. Photo: Facebook