

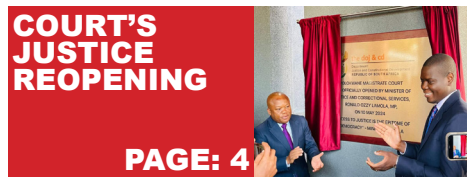
TIMELESS

NEWS

INCORPORATING LIMPOPO, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG - FRIDAY 17 MAY 2024

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"Thought Leaders in Community News"



TRADITIONAL COUNCIL OFFICES UNVEILED



discussions under trees, following traditional practices. However, the unveiling of the new offices signifies a shift towards a more modernised and structured approach to addressing community issues. The newly established offices boast a hall capable of accommodating over 100 residents for meetings pertaining to community challenges, marking a departure from informal gatherings under trees to a more formalised setting. Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane remarked, "Today, we stand at the threshold of a new era in community dispute resolution, bidding farewell to traditional gatherings under tree shades and embracing a modern, formalised, and structured approach. The launch of the traditional office marks the end of an era and the beginning of a new chapter in our community's history." Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena, representing the Mathibela Traditional Council, expressed enthusiasm about the new facility, stating, "We are thrilled to finally have a modern and suitable space to serve our community. This facility will enable us to better serve our people, preserve our cultural heritage, and promote economic development and social cohesion." Residents echoed their excitement and optimism for the new facility's impact on community safety and cohesion. Mina Sibiyi, a resident, praised the facility's role in providing a safe space to report crimes and seek help for gender-based violence. Meanwhile, Themba Mthethwa emphasised the facility's potential to combat crime and restore the community's sense of security and hope. The inauguration of the state-of-the-art offices marks a significant step towards enhancing traditional dispute resolution methods while addressing pressing community challenges. As the Mathibela Traditional Council embraces modernity, they reaffirm their commitment to serving the community and preserving cultural heritage for future generations.

Kgoshi Lameck Mothupi Mokoena, Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane and Dr Norah Fakude. Photo Facebook Mpumalanga Provincial Government - GCIS Supplied

By Nothando Makhubela and Thembekile Mzimba

Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga - On Tuesday, the Mathibela Traditional Council in Oakley, Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, celebrated a milestone as they inaugurated

their new state-of-the-art offices. The occasion, which was witnessed by Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena, the traditional leader of the Mathibela Traditional Council, Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, Acting MEC for COGTA Speedy Mashilo, and a large number of community members, signalled a dramatic shift in

the use of traditional dispute resolution techniques. Situated in the deep rural area of Oakley, Bushbuckridge, where challenges like crime and gender-based violence persist, the Mathibela Traditional Council previously conducted community

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COMMUNITY MOURNS THE BRUTAL MURDER OF PRINCIPAL



By Nothando Makhubela

Emalahleni, Mpumalanga - The Nelson Ngobeni Primary School community is reeling from the devastating loss of their esteemed principal, Sali Mabena, whose life was tragically cut short in a senseless act of violence. At 57 years old, Mabena had devoted decades of his life to shaping the minds and futures of young learners, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of those he touched. His commitment to education and his unwavering dedication to his students made him a beloved figure in the community. However, on Wednesday last week, tragedy struck when Mabena was found brutally murdered in his own home in Ackerville, Emalahleni. The tightly knit community was rocked by the discovery of his lifeless body, covered in blankets and encircled by a pool of blood. Mabena had fallen victim to a vicious stabbing during a house robbery, a heinous act that not only robbed him of his life but also deprived his loved ones of their beloved patriarch. The perpetrators callously made off with valuables, including his black KIA Sportage vehicle with registration number DSM 504 MP, a plasma television, and a sound system. Speaking to *Timeless News*, a devastated family member, Nelly Mabena, struggled to contain her tears

as she reflected on the immense loss. "We are still in shock and overcome with grief at the untimely passing of our beloved Sali," she said. "He was a beacon of light in our lives, a kind-hearted soul who brought joy to everyone he met." "He had contagious laughter and a knack for lifting spirits with his jokes," Nelly continued, her voice trembling with emotion. "The last time we spoke, he mentioned battling the flu and opting to stay indoors. Little did we know it would be the last time we heard his voice." As the community grapples with the devastating loss, calls for justice echo throughout Emalahleni. "All we want is for those responsible to be brought to justice," Nelly pleaded. "Sali did not deserve to meet such a gruesome end. His memory will live on in our hearts, but we cannot rest until his killers are held accountable." Efforts to reach the Department of Education for comment were unsuccessful at the time of publication, but the community remains united in their quest for justice for Sali Mabena. The loss of Sali Mabena leaves a profound void in the hearts of all who knew him, a void that can never be filled. As the community mourns his passing, they are united in their determination to honour his legacy and ensure that his memory endures as a testament to the impact he had on countless lives.

The esteemed principal Sali Mabena was found brutally murdered in his own home in Ackerville, Emalahleni - GCIS Supplied

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DR. CLAUDE MASHEGO EMPOWERS YOUNG WOMEN IN BUSHBUCKRIDGE

By Nothando Makhubela and Thembekile Mzimba

Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga - A beacon of inspiration hailing from the tranquil rural village of Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, Dr. Claude Mashego is on a mission to empower young women for leadership. Despite her remarkable journey from the dusty paths of her hometown to the prestigious title of Miss World South Africa, Dr. Mashego remains deeply rooted in her community's pride. In a transformative initiative, Dr. Mashego, accompanied by six distinguished continental beauty queens, is championing projects aimed at empowering and preparing young women for leadership roles through "Beauty with a Purpose." The purpose-driven projects commenced on May 10 and continued until the 14th, marking a significant milestone in uplifting aspiring young women. Accompanying her on an enlightening journey through the picturesque landscapes and cultural sites of Mpumalanga were notable personalities like Miss World Asia Yasmina Zaytoun, Miss World Africa Lesego Chombo, Miss World Oceania Kristen Wright, Miss World Caribbean Aché Abrahams, Miss World Europe Jessica Ashley Gagen, and Miss World Americas Leticia Frota. Their itinerary included visits to iconic tourism sites like Blyde River Canyon and Bourke's Luck, as well as heartwarming interactions at Acornhoek and Orhovelani High School in Thulamahashe. Amidst warm welcomes and shared aspirations for female empowerment, Dr. Claude Mashego's dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders shines brightly in the heart of Bushbuckridge.

"I was thrilled to reunite with my Miss World sisters and show them the people and places that shaped me into the woman I am today," Dr. Mashego explained. "Beauty with a Purpose is a Miss World responsibility programme that focuses on preparing young women for leadership." "We must continue to support and empower our young women, helping them unlock their full potential and become the leaders of tomorrow," urged Dr. Mashego, her voice filled with conviction. "Together, we can create a brighter future for our communities and make a lasting impact on the world," she added. Businesswoman Carol Bower, representing the Miss World South Africa organisation, expressed excitement about the visit. "We're delighted that Dr. Mashego and the other beauty queens supported our Beauty with a Purpose projects, which celebrate the traditions and culture of indigenous people in Mpumalanga, alongside the area's stunning natural beauty and excellent game viewing." The visit was a resounding success, with the beauty queens immersing themselves in local culture and lending their support to worthy causes. As Dr. Mashego aptly put it, "It was a wonderful opportunity to share my heritage with my Miss World sisters and make a positive impact in my community." Dr. Mashego, not only a beauty but also possessing brains, is a medical doctor by profession. She graduated from the University of Pretoria in 2002. This classy, beautiful, and ambitious beauty was crowned Miss World South Africa in 2023, after being first crowned Miss Mpumalanga in 2021.



Miss World South Africa Dr. Claude Mashego Photo credit Supplied

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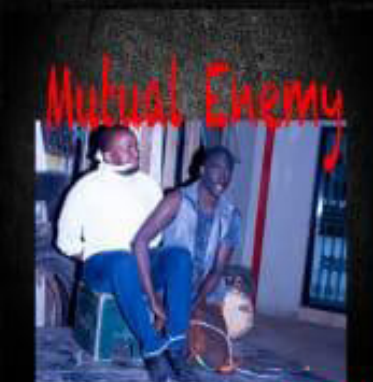
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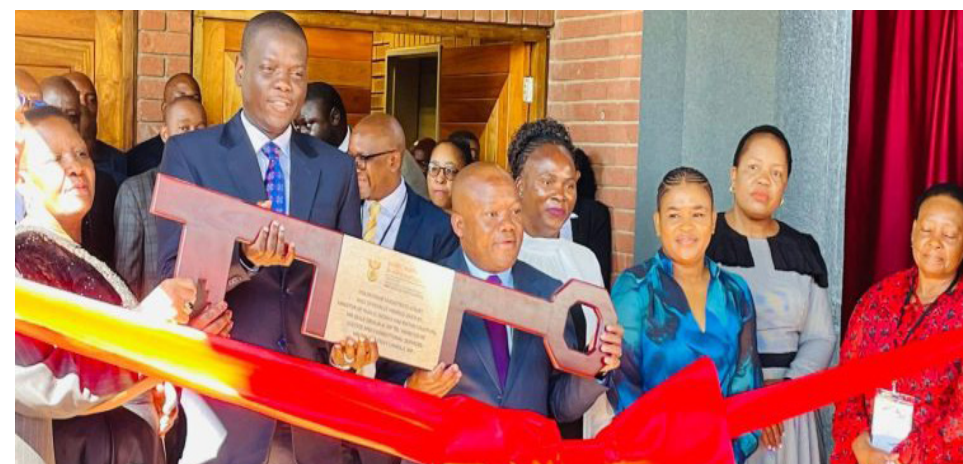
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BOTHO KE YA BATHO KA MOKA

POLOKWANE MAGISTRATES COURT REOPENS FOR ENHANCED JUSTICE ACCESS



Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Ronald Ozy Lamola accompanied by his counterpart in the Ministry of Public Works Sihle Zikalala and stakeholders during the reopening of Polokwane Megistrate Court. Photos Supplied



By Thembekile Mzimba

Polokwane, Limpopo - After a devastating fire in 2012, the Polokwane Magistrates Court reopens its doors, ushering in a new era of access to justice for the community. Officially opened on May 10, 2024, by Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Ronald Lamola and Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Sihle Zikalala, the state-of-the-art facility vows to provide a victim-friendly environment and improved facilities for staff. The reopening of the Polokwane Magistrates Court represents not just the restoration of a building but also the restoration of hope and justice for the people of Polokwane and its surrounding areas.

The fire in 2012 left a void in the community, disrupting legal proceedings and leaving many without recourse for justice. Now, after years of planning and construction, the court stands once again, a symbol of resilience and determination.

Minister Lamola emphasised the significance of the reopening, stating, "Communities around Polokwane will now have access to justice, and victims will be attending a victim-friendly court. The staff that was cramped in one building now has enough facilities." The sentiment was echoed by Minister Zikalala, who stressed the importance of equitable infrastructure investment across provinces, ensuring that state-of-the-art facilities are not limited to urban centres but reach even the most rural

communities.

The refurbished court is not just a cosmetic upgrade; it represents a fundamental shift in the delivery of justice services. With 10 courtrooms, including specialised spaces for minors and victims of gender-based violence, and 18 holding cells, the court is equipped to handle a wide range of cases efficiently and effectively.

Modern security measures ensure the safety of all, including persons with disabilities, who were considered in the inclusive design of the facility. In his address, Minister Lamola stressed the importance of timely justice delivery, stating, "The legal system will be more responsive and accessible to every citizen, thus courts must operate without any limitation or delaying of justice to victims." This sentiment resonated deeply with those in attendance, many of whom had experienced the frustration of lengthy legal proceedings.

The reopening not only brings justice closer to the Polokwane community but also creates employment opportunities and restores dignity for public servants. With the court set to service multiple communities, including Seshego, Lebogakgomo, and Westenburg, it aims to address the backlog of cases and provide equitable solutions to the justice system.

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the reopening, urging the Department to ensure proper maintenance of the facility to uphold the dignity of public servants and sustain access to justice.

SAPS LEADS PROACTIVE MARCH TO COMBAT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Concerted effort to combat gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide spearheaded by the SAPS alongside various stakeholders. Photo credits - SAPS Supplied

By Thembekile Mzimba

Polokwane, Limpopo - In a concerted effort to combat gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide, the South African Police Service (SAPS) spearheaded a proactive action march alongside various stakeholders in Polokwane, Limpopo. The march, which convened at the Polokwane SABC Parking area and culminated at the Polokwane SAPS Parking area, served as a poignant demonstration of solidarity and commitment to eradicating this pervasive scourge.

Leading the charge were notable personalities such as Ms. Nandi Ndalani, the MEC for Social Development, and Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, the Provincial Commissioner of Police. Stakeholders reaffirmed their shared commitment to ending Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in all of its forms at the event.

Key players endorsed the pledge, which outlined specific actions to address and prevent GBVF. These included campaigns for education and awareness, promoting gender equity, and advocating for laws and policies that protect the rights of survivors.



Lieutenant General Hadebe emphasised the crucial role of community involvement as a step forward in the fight against GBVF. Photo credits - SAPS Supplied

In her impassioned address, Lieutenant General Hadebe emphasised the crucial role of community involvement, stating, "We have a high volume of GBVF cases in the province. Let's adopt the slogan of the Eyes of the Nation and say, 'Not in our name.'" MEC Ndalani echoed this sentiment, underscoring the imperative of collective action and stating, "As the government, we support initiatives like this because they address GBVF. We need men to come forward and lead these programmes and help us." The event culminated with a significant gesture as Metropolitan donated gazebos

to the Limpopo SAPS, aiming to facilitate community mobilisation and bolster awareness-raising endeavours. Plans for further GBVF awareness programmes are already underway. The community has hailed the march and pledge as a pivotal step forward in the fight against GBVF, expressing optimism that this signals the dawn of a new era in the province's response to this pressing issue. With sustained support and unwavering commitment from all stakeholders, the community stands resolute in its determination to forge a safer and more equitable society for all.

RESIDENTS OF PHOLA THREATEN ELECTION BOYCOTT OVER POOR SERVICE DELIVERY

By Nothando Makhubela

Phola/Ogies, Mpumalanga - As South Africa's crucial election day on May 29 approaches, tensions surge in Phola/Ogies, where residents express profound frustration over persisting poor service delivery. With just 12 days remaining, many in the community are contemplating boycotting the polls, signalling a significant challenge for the ruling party, the ANC. At the heart of the discontent lies the dismal state of the roads, particularly the long-awaited new road that residents have campaigned for tirelessly, to no avail. The Emalahleni Local Municipality and local ward councillors face mounting criticism for their inaction, leaving residents feeling marginalised and disenchanted with the current leadership. The tipping point came when a resident had to be physically carried from their vehicle due to impassable road conditions, underscoring the urgent need for change.

In an interview with Timeless News, a resident of wards 28 and 30 lamented, "The condition of the roads is appalling. Recently, during a funeral procession, the vehicle carrying the coffin couldn't navigate the road. The community had to carry the coffin to the cemetery, a heartbreaking sight for all. We feel abandoned by our councillor and the

ANC."

Another resident, Nomsa Thwala, highlighted broader issues of neglect: "We are not recognised as residents of Phola/Ogies. Some sections lack basic amenities like water and toilets, yet nothing is being done to address these fundamental needs."

Expressing a deep desire for change, Thwala added, "We are tired of suffering under the ANC's leadership. It's no secret that they have failed us. It's time for residents to vote wisely and demand accountability."

However, the response from the municipality's mayor, Cllr. Leah Mabuza, failed to address the road issue directly. Instead, she cited challenges such as unpaid municipal services, placing a strain on the municipality's resources. "We can only work within our budget constraints. The reality is that there's a lack of funds, and part of the problem lies with the community's non-payment of services. We need cooperation from residents to address these issues effectively," Mayor Mabuza stated. As election day draws near, the threat of a significant voter boycott looms large, posing a formidable challenge to the ANC's electoral prospects in Phola/Ogies. With residents demanding tangible improvements in service delivery, the outcome of the elections remains uncertain.

BOLT DRIVERS THREATEN STREET PROTESTS AMID LICENCING DISPUTE WITH TAXI DRIVERS

By Nothando Makhubela

Emalahleni, Mpumalanga - Tensions between Bolt drivers and traditional taxi operators have reached a boiling point, with Bolt drivers now considering street protests to voice their grievances over a licencing dispute.

The conflict escalated following a disturbing incident on April 20, 2024, at the Saveways Witbank shopping centre. There have been reports that five Bolt drivers had their licences seized and that taxi drivers forced them to pay an R500 fee each.

Central to the dispute are new regulations dictating that Bolt drivers are barred from picking up passengers within the mall premises. Instead, they are directed to specific areas such as McDonald's and Spur stops. This directive aims to curb what taxi drivers perceive as a loss of clientele to ride-hailing services like Bolt.

In an exclusive interview with Timeless News, Mduduzi Sithole, a Bolt driver, expressed frustration: "There was no prior agreement regarding the R500 fee for picking up passengers within malls or shopping centres. We are not in the business of stealing clients; passengers have the right to choose their mode of transportation. This situation not only threatens our livelihoods but also paints

us in a negative light if we choose to retaliate."

Another Bolt driver, who requested anonymity, echoed similar sentiments: "The treatment of Bolt drivers is unfair. We face constant threats and even hijackings on the streets of Emalahleni. Our safety is compromised, and we cannot continue like this."

Fezeka Ntuli, a regular Bolt user, shared her perspective: "Bolt offers convenience and safety. Unlike taxis, Bolt drops me off exactly where I need to be, even when I have heavy bags. Taxis often leave passengers stranded, especially if it's late or raining, and they overcrowd with little regard for passenger comfort."

Taffiny Makgolo, another commuter, highlighted the challenges of using taxis: "Taxis wait until they are full, regardless of the time or urgency. For short or emergency trips, Bolt is my preferred choice for its reliability and efficiency." Despite attempts to obtain a comment from the Local Taxi Association (LOTA) regarding the R500 fee, no response was received.

The brewing conflict underscores deeper tensions between traditional taxi operators and emerging ride-hailing services. With Bolt drivers considering street protests, the situation remains tense, raising concerns about the future of transportation in Emalahleni.

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MEC MANZINI URGES KINDNESS AMONG NURSES ON INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY



Nurses Day this year was organized by the Democratic Nursing Organization of South Africa (DENOSA) in collaboration with the Mpumalanga Department of Health. Photo Supplied

By Nothando Makhubela

Kwamhlanga, Mpumalanga - The Mpumalanga Department of Health's MEC, Sasekani Manzini, delivered a heartfelt plea to all professional nurses, emphasising the importance of compassion and embodying the spirit of Ubuntu in their daily practice. "May all nurses continue to work with kindness and embrace the spirit of Ubuntu," urged MEC Manzini during the commemoration of International Nurses Day at the Hope of Africa Christian Church in Siyabuswa, KwaMhlanga, Dr. JS Moroka Municipality last Friday. Organised by the Democratic Nursing Organisation of South

Africa (DENOSA) in collaboration with the Mpumalanga Department of Health, this year's celebration holds particular significance, marking over 50 years since the inception of International Nurses Day. The day is dedicated to honouring and expressing gratitude for the unwavering dedication of nurses worldwide. The theme for this year's celebration is "Our Nurses. Our Future. The Economic Power of Care" highlights the pivotal role nurses play in shaping healthcare systems and promoting well-being within communities. MEC Manzini also paid tribute to the fallen heroes who dedicated their lives to providing health services to the people. "Let us remember those who came before



Nurses during MEC Sasekani Manzini's address. Photo Supplied

us, especially the pioneering women in nursing like Mama Albertina Sisulu. May we appreciate the tireless work of nurses and their commitment to service delivery? Thank you to all nurses for improving the health of your patients and for your unwavering dedication, even in the face of limited resources." Addressing the safety concerns of nurses, Manzini assured that measures were being taken to tighten security, particularly in response to attacks on health facilities. DENOSA President Simon Hlungwani expressed his appreciation for nursing professionals, acknowledging their tireless efforts and commitment to delivering quality patient care. Speaking with Timeless

News, Lindokuhle Mokoena, a professional nurse, expressed her joy at seeing nurses being celebrated and appreciated. "Truly speaking, we are doing a very challenging job that requires patience and love. Being a nurse means being entrusted with a person's life, and it is a responsibility we hold dear." "I love being a nurse and saving people's lives," Mokoena added, reflecting on her ten years of service in the profession. As a token of appreciation, some nurses received awards recognising their outstanding contributions to nursing. The commemoration also included a candlelight vigil to honour lost heroes and show appreciation for their dedication to the nursing profession.

13-YEAR-OLD IMBONGI POET ADVOCATES CULTURAL RESPECT AND EMBRACING VIRGINITY



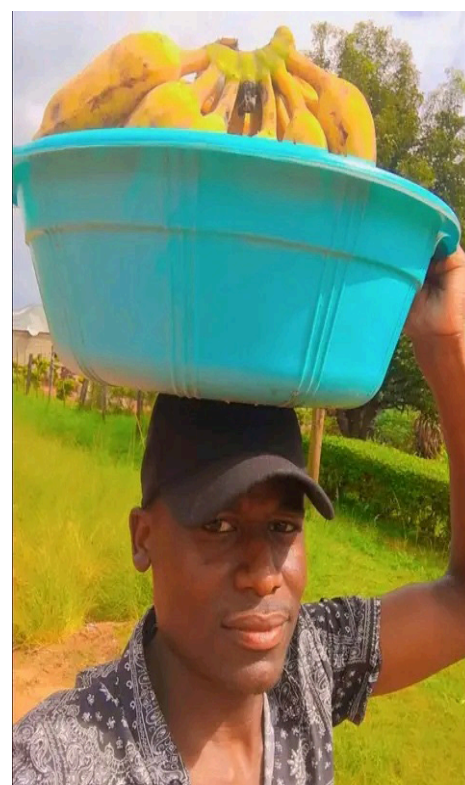
The 13 year old Imbongi; Alwande Ncube. Photo credit: Nothando Makhubela

By Nothando Makhubela

Emalahleni, Mpumalanga - Alwande Ncube, a 13-year-old grade 7 learner at Mogalithwa Primary School in Klarinet, Emalahleni, is emerging as a beacon of cultural advocacy and empowerment. As an Imbongi Poet, she is captivating audiences with her profound message of embracing cultural heritage and cherishing the value of virginity. At the young age of twelve, Alwande embarked on her journey as an Imbongi poet, motivated by her love of upholding traditional values and empowering young girls. Through her poetry and public speaking engagements, she implores

her peers to honour their culture and prioritise their purity. "In my role as an Imbongi, I strive to instill in my peers the significance of cultural heritage and education. Respect for our culture begins at home, by honouring our elders and embracing our traditions," expressed Alwande. Her message extends beyond cultural preservation, as she advocates for self-care and responsibility among young girls. "I emphasise the importance of self-care to avoid the pitfalls of teenage pregnancy, diseases, and substance abuse prevalent in our society. Education and cultural respect are the cornerstones of a bright future," she added. Alwande's dedication to academic excellence is equally commendable, as she serves as the head girl of her school. Her aspirations transcend borders, aiming for international recognition as a performer while nurturing her dream of establishing a centre to educate young girls on cultural values and respect. "I envision myself performing on international stages and establishing a centre dedicated to educating young girls on cultural heritage and respect. Education is paramount to success, and I urge young girls to prioritise their studies and steer clear of negative influences," remarked Alwande. In her closing advice to young girls, Alwande underscores the importance of cultural respect, education, and surrounding oneself with positive influences. Her unwavering commitment to uplifting her peers and preserving cultural identity serves as an inspiration to all. As Alwande continues to pave the way for cultural advocacy and empowerment, her voice echoes with a resounding call for unity, respect, and self-empowerment among the youth of Emalahleni and beyond.

MENZI BANTWANA: SETTING RECORD STRAIGHT AMID MEDIA UPROAR



Trending picture of the award-winning amapiano artist, Menzi Bantwana selling banana's in the dusty streets of Bushbuckridge. Photo Supplied

By Duncan Mnisi & Nothando Makhubela

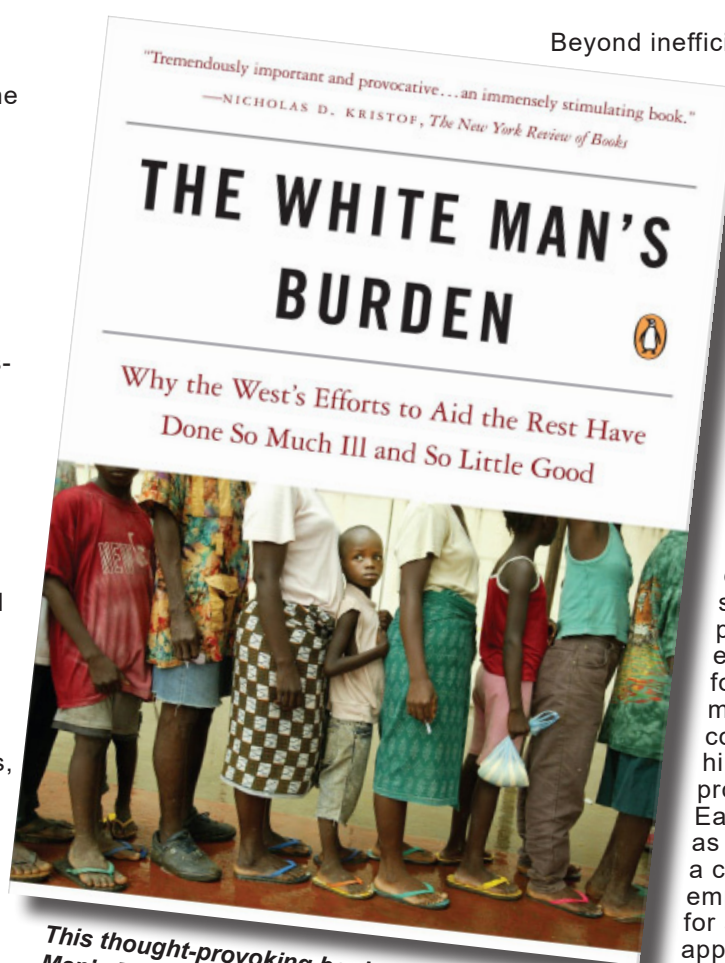
Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga - The vibrant Amapiano artist Kgosi Menzi Bantwana, renowned for his chart-topping track "Akulaleki," recently found himself entangled in a media frenzy. Over the past fortnight, he's been besieged by rumours suggesting his downfall and

exit from the music scene. The turmoil commenced with a social media post depicting Bantwana vending bananas on Bushbuckridge's dusty streets, painting a grim picture of a star's supposed descent. However, breaking his silence in an exclusive interview with Timeless News, Bantwana refuted the falsities and shed light on his actions. Addressing the concocted news of his demise following a car accident and the deliberate portrayal of a career decline, Bantwana revealed a poignant truth. He shared a resounding message of resilience, underscoring that irrespective of life's trials, there's always room to flourish. "Regardless of life's twists, there are always avenues to make a living. It's not the end of the road; you can always find ways to thrive," Bantwana asserted. Transitioning from two distinct genres, Bantwana remains committed to delivering captivating music to his audience. Originating as a hip-hop artist in the Kwaito-house genre from 2014 to 2016, he later pivoted to Amapiano during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Collaborating with renowned DJ Call Me, he released Amapiano tracks, earning him the coveted title of Best Male Artist at the RC Jozi Awards in 2023. Pledging to continue crafting music that resonates with his fans and soothes souls, Bantwana expressed, "I sing for the people. If they request songs of any genre, I'll deliver, for this music speaks and heals. Their unwavering support fuels my pursuit of this career. It's their love that propels me forward, nourishing them with melodies they cherish and relish." In the face of adversity, Menzi Bantwana emerges as a beacon of resilience and musical prowess, unwavering in his commitment to his craft and his fans.

RETHINKING AID: A CRITICAL LOOK AT EASTERLY'S "THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN"

Book Review by Duncan Mnisi

In his thought-provoking book, "The White Man's Burden," renowned economist William Easterly challenges the conventional wisdom surrounding Western aid to developing nations. Easterly argues that these well-intentioned efforts, often rooted in a sense of paternalism, frequently fall short and can even be detrimental. He exposes the flaws of a "one-size-fits-all" approach, urging a shift towards a more collaborative and context-specific model of international development. Easterly's central critique hinges on the concept of "planners vs. searchers." Planners, in his view, represent the traditional model of development aid. They devise grand plans and pre-packaged solutions, imposed from afar with little regard for the unique challenges faced by individual countries. Searchers, on the other hand, prioritise working hand-in-hand with local communities, actively seeking solutions that address specific needs and realities on the ground. Easterly argues that the aid sector has deviated from the searcher mentality, creating a gap between interventions and real results. The sector is dominated by planners who are concerned with top-down solutions and quantifiable results.



This thought-provoking book, The White Man's Burden, renowned economist William Easterly challenges the conventional wisdom surrounding Western aid to developing nations

Beyond inefficiency, Easterly delves into the unintended consequences of the planner-driven model. He argues that the focus on short-term results and meeting donor demands incentivizes quick fixes over long-term solutions. This fosters a cycle of dependency and inefficiency in recipient countries, where governments become reliant on aid rather than developing their own sustainable economic policies. He further explores the potential for aid to distort local markets and incentivize corruption, ultimately hindering rather than promoting growth. Easterly's book serves as both a critique and a call to action. He emphasises the need for a more nuanced approach that empowers local actors and fosters self-reliance. This involves promoting local institutions, encouraging

entrepreneurship, and creating an environment conducive to private investment. He cites the example of the successful distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets in Malawi, where the programme was designed and implemented by a local non-profit, prioritising affordability and local participation, leading to a far greater impact than simply giving away free nets. While Easterly's "planners vs. searchers" framework is powerful, it's worth considering a more complex reality. Perhaps there's room for a hybrid approach, one that acknowledges the expertise that international organisations can offer while prioritising local ownership and context-specific solutions. Ultimately, Easterly aligns with a growing consensus: successful development relies on self-reliance and solutions tailored to the specific needs of each country. This may involve drawing inspiration from successful models in other nations, but the key lies in fostering local capacity and encouraging countries to forge their own path to prosperity. "The White Man's Burden" serves as a wake-up call, urging international actors to move beyond the outdated model of paternalistic aid and embrace a more collaborative and empowering approach to international development.

DEEP DIVE INTO 'OWN NARRATIVE' PODCAST WITH PROMISE MAKUNYANE

Reviewed by Duncan Mnisi

The "Own Narrative Podcast," which is hosted by the charming and multi-talented Promise Makunyane, gives listeners a platform for introspection and reflection on personal narratives while offering a profound exploration of marriage, family dynamics, and life's complexities. At its core, "Own Narrative" embodies Promise Makunyane's genuine passion for storytelling and connection, creating a welcoming environment for guests to share their experiences, challenges, and triumphs in navigating relationships and life's journey. With her warm demeanour, Promise facilitates conversations that delve deep into the human experience, drawing out the essence of each guest's story with empathy and understanding. What sets "Own Narrative" apart is its courage to address sensitive and taboo topics with grace and authenticity. From cultural influences on modern relationships to the challenges of balancing career aspirations with family responsibilities, Promise navigates these discussions with nuance, fostering a dialogue that is both enlightening and empowering. A recent episode featuring Gogo Westhembu sparked significant audience engagement and reflection. Despite some judgmental comments, the episode provided valuable insights into the complexities of polygamous relationships, prompting listeners to reflect on their own experiences and beliefs about marriage. Through storytelling and shared experiences, "Own Narrative" serves as a mirror to the diverse tapestry of human relationships, inviting listeners to explore themes of love, commitment, and personal growth. Promise Makunyane's skill as a host lies in her ability to cultivate intimacy and connection, turning listeners into active participants in the conversations. As "Own Narrative" continues to resonate



Talking all things marriage and family dynamics with Promise Makunyane. Photo Supplied

with a growing audience, it emerges as a source of inspiration and empowerment for those navigating life's journey. In a world filled with noise and distractions,

Promise Makunyane's podcast stands as a testament to the enduring power of authentic storytelling and human connection, inviting listeners to embrace

their own narratives and find meaning in the stories that shape their lives.

TIMELESS SPORT

SPRINGBOKS

WOMEN QUALIFY FOR 2025 RUGBY WORLD CUP



Springbok Women book their place at 2025 Rugby World Cup with African title

By Duncan Mnisi

Antananarivo, Madagascar - In a display of sheer dominance, South Africa's national women's rugby team, the Springbok Women, delivered a masterclass performance against Madagascar, securing a resounding 46-17 victory. This emphatic win not only saw them retain their Rugby Africa Women's Cup title but also ensured their place at the highly anticipated 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup. The legendary Stade Makis in Antananarivo served as the venue for this historic match, where the Springbok Women displayed their skill in a match that will go down in rugby history. Under the wise leadership of coach Louis Koen, the team's outstanding performance astounded

onlookers and shocked opponents. From the opening whistle, the Springbok Women asserted their dominance, capitalising on every opportunity with precision and flair. Veroeshka Grain's early try set the tone for the match, signalling South Africa's intent to stamp their authority. Lusanda Dumke's brace of tries further solidified their lead, showcasing the team's versatility and attacking prowess. Despite Madagascar's spirited resistance, the Springbok Women remained relentless, showcasing their formidable scrummaging and clinical finishing. Sikholiwe Mdletshe's brace, coupled with Jakkie Cilliers' precision kicking, extended South Africa's lead, leaving the home crowd stunned. As the match progressed, Madagascar fought valiantly, refusing to concede defeat easily. Nomenjanahary Aina Rakotozafy's

try provided a glimmer of hope for the home team, injecting a sense of urgency into the contest. However, the Springbok women's resilience proved insurmountable, with Cilliers' try on the stroke of halftime further cementing their dominance. The second half saw no let-up in South Africa's intensity, as Dumke's second try and Rumandi Potgieter's well-taken effort added to Madagascar's woes. Despite moments of brilliance from the home side, including Marie Sophie Razafiarisoa's dazzling try, the Springbok Women maintained their composure, sealing their victory with Asithandile Ntoyanto's powerful finish. As the final whistle blew, signalling South Africa's triumph, the elation among players and fans was palpable. Captain Nolusindiso Boo's words encapsulated the

team's sentiment, emphasising their role as trailblazers in women's rugby and their commitment to inspiring future generations. Coach Louis Koen echoed Boo's sentiments, acknowledging the significance of qualifying for the Women's Rugby World Cup and expressing gratitude to all involved in the journey. In the midst of the festivities, two relay teams' qualification for the Olympics further highlighted South Africa's sporting prowess and cemented the nation's place as a major force in international sports. With their place secured at the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup, the Springbok Women now set their sights on etching their name in rugby folklore, ready to showcase their talent and determination on the world stage.