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INCORPORATING LIMPOPO, MPUMALANGA AND GAUTENG - FRIDAY 07 JUNE 2024

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"Thought Leaders in Community News"

Boys facing hardship in Nkwinyamahembe
PAGE: 2

Gem in Buffelshoek: France Malatjies
PAGE: 4

Journey to self-discovery Poet Xikombelo
PAGE: 7

World Cup Challenge - JNR Springboks U20
PAGE: 8

WEAKENED ANC ENGAGES IN COALITION TALKS AMID ELECTION DEADLOCK



President of the African National Congress (ANC) and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (C) attend the official announcement of the South African general election results in the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) National Results Center at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, on June 2. Picture Source: Getty Images

By Staff Reporter

Pretoria, South Africa - South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) has initiated discussions with representatives from five other political parties about forming a coalition or reaching another type of agreement to establish a government.

These talks are still in the early stages, with no decisions made yet, according to an announcement from the ANC on Wednesday. The necessity for coalition talks arises from the ANC's significant setback in last week's election, where it lost its 30-year majority but still emerged as the largest party. However, no single party was able to secure an outright

majority, leading to an electoral deadlock. ANC spokesperson Mahlengi Bhengu-Motsiri shared that the ANC has had "exploratory" talks with the main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA), the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), and three other smaller parties. Notably, the ANC has repeatedly reached out to the recently established MK Party, which is led by former president Jacob Zuma, but has not been met with success. Zuma, once a leader of the ANC, has become a staunch critic of the current president, Cyril Ramaphosa. The ANC has portrayed these discussions as an effort to form a government of "national unity," suggesting that a formal coalition is not the only potential outcome. The party could consider various forms of agreements, potentially including a minority government. Bhengu-Motsiri also mentioned that the ANC is open to the possibility of serving as the opposition if that proves to be the best course for the country. "We have been meeting with all parties that are keen to contribute ideas on how we can collectively move our country forward to form a government that ensures national unity and stability," Bhengu-Motsiri said.

The ANC secured 159 of the 400 parliamentary seats, marking its worst electoral performance. The Democratic Alliance followed with 87 seats, the MK Party with 58, the EFF with 39, and the Inkatha Freedom Party with 17 seats. Analysts caution that forming a coalition with the three main opposition parties could alienate the ANC's traditional base. The EFF and the MK Party, established in 2013 and 2023, respectively, were

both founded by former ANC members who broke away from the party. The MK Party's impressive debut, securing 14% of the national vote, indicates a significant shift in traditional ANC voters. The potential coalition with the DA is particularly contentious within the ANC. Cosatu, a key alliance partner, and the South African Communist Party are expected to oppose such a coalition. Cosatu spokesperson Matthew Parks emphasised the need for a coalition led by the ANC and Ramaphosa, focused on progressive policies, workers' rights, economic growth, crime reduction, and national unity. The MK Party has expressed reluctance to negotiate with the ANC under Ramaphosa's leadership. MK Party spokesman told The Associated Press that the party would "not negotiate with the ANC of Cyril Ramaphosa." Senior ANC member and former Defence Minister Siphwe Nyanda warned against a coalition with Zuma's MK Party, accusing Zuma of damaging the ANC and suggesting that bringing him back would further harm the party. "Now that Zuma has inflicted so much damage on the ANC from the outside, there is a rush to bring him back by his accomplices who are still embedded in the leadership of the ANC, so that he can finish his job of destroying the once proud liberation movement of the oppressed people of South Africa," Nyanda stated. As South Africa approaches the deadline for parliament to sit by June 16 to elect a president, the urgency for the ANC to secure an agreement grows. President Ramaphosa, seeking a second term, will need a solidified coalition or some form of agreement to retain his position.

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ANC PROPOSES FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY



Leaders from diverse political parties gather for discussions on potential collaboration in South Africa's political landscape. From left to right: DA leader John Steenhuisen, EFF leader Julius Malema, uMkhonto weSizwe Party leader Jacob Zuma, and ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Source: (Picture credits: Gallo Images/Brenton Geach, Gallo Images/Laird Forbes, Felix Dlangamandla, Gallo Images/Papi Morake)

By Staff Reporter

Plokwane, Limpopo - The African National Congress (ANC) is set to announce its recommendation for the formation of a government of national

unity following a significant loss of its parliamentary majority in the recent elections. The National Working Committee (NWC) of the ANC has suggested this coalition approach to stabilise the political landscape and address the party's weakened position.

The announcement is expected at an ANC press conference on Wednesday. Sources within the NWC have confirmed that the ANC intends to collaborate with major political parties, including the Democratic Alliance (DA), Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), and the Patriotic Alliance (PA), to form this unity government.

In a related effort, a high-level delegation led by ANC Chairperson Gwede Mantashe and Deputy Secretary General Nomvula Mokonyane has been tasked with engaging former president Jacob Zuma and the uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MK Party) regarding their potential involvement in the proposed government. The ANC's move towards a coalition with the DA was initially met with resistance from several NWC members, who expressed concerns about the possible fallout for both parties. This resistance led to the broader proposal for a government of national unity, which seeks to include a wider range of political voices.

Speaking at the press conference on Wednesday, ANC spokesperson Mahlengi Bhengu-Motsiri confirmed that the ANC had been in discussions with the DA, EFF, IFP, and PA. She noted that meaningful engagements with the MK Party had not yet materialized, despite repeated attempts.

"The NWC met on June 4, 2024, two

days after the announcement of the results by the IEC, to receive a report from the National Officials on the meetings held thus far with various political parties. These include meetings with delegations from the IFP, the EFF, the DA, the NFP, and the PA. The ANC has also had engagements with its Alliance partners, SACP, COSATU, and SANCO as part of the consultation process," Bhengu-Motsiri stated. She added, "The National Officials reported to the NWC that the ANC has repeatedly reached out to the MKP for an engagement meeting, with no positive response. Our door remains open as we continue to reach out to every party that is keen to contribute positively to moving our country forward.

"The ANC is committed to ensuring that we unite the people of South Africa to move our country forward and form a government that reflects the message from the electorate: we must work together."

This proposal for a government of national unity represents the ANC's effort to realign itself with the electorate's call for collaboration and stability. As discussions continue, the ANC aims to build a government that encompasses a broad spectrum of political ideologies and priorities, ensuring a balanced approach to addressing South Africa's pressing challenges.

EMALAHLENI YOUTH UPSET OVER DJ ZINHLE'S EMPLOYABILITY COMMENTS

By Nothando Makhubela

Emalahleeni, Mpumalanga - Frustrated unemployed youth in Emalahleeni, Mpumalanga, have voiced their discontent towards the renowned DJ Zinhle, also known as Zinhle Jiyane. The uproar stems from comments made by DJ Zinhle during a podcast

interview last week, where she sparked controversy by suggesting that young people in South Africa were facing unemployment due to a combination of inadequate skills and poor attitudes. This statement quickly gained traction online as DJ Zinhle disclosed her struggles in recruiting suitable candidates for her retail store located in Emalahleeni's Highveld Mall. Known for her business ventures in hair products, accessories, and watches, DJ Zinhle's remarks have ignited a heated debate in Emalahleeni. "One thing about the South African youth is not that they are unemployed; a lot of them are unemployable. They don't have the skills that are required. It bugs me how long it takes us to fill positions at Era," DJ Zinhle said. "To find the right person for our stores takes longer than it should in a country where there is so much unemployment. We are opening a store in Witbank; we are just looking for three people, and it is impossible."

A 35-year-old resident, Simon Mashego,

expressed his frustration: "DJ Zinhle doesn't take us seriously. To her, our unemployment issues are a joke. How can she say that we are unemployed because we don't have skills? Who needs skills to work in a shop when having a matriculation certificate should be enough? This is disrespectful coming from her."

"We heard her interview where she said she only needs three employees. Is she trying to tell us that out of the whole of Emalahleeni, there are no young people qualified to work in her shop just because she is famous and a celebrity?" Lucky Xulu expressed.

"She should not come and open her shop here in Emalahleeni. She should open it in Sandton since she thinks we don't have skills and we have bad attitudes. Nobody wishes to be born and have to struggle with unemployment."

"She has just lost respect from me, truly speaking. Just because she can afford things in life," he added.



DJ Zinhle. Picture credit: Supplied

COMMUNITY RALLIES BEHIND TWO BOYS FACING HARDSHIP IN NKWINYAMAHEMBE

By Duncan Mnisi

Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga - In the heart of Nkwinyamahembe village, nestled amidst the scenic landscapes of Bushbuckridge, the plight of two young boys has captured the attention of both local residents and compassionate souls across social media platforms. Their struggle, born from the absence of a mother who relocated for employment, paints a stark picture of adversity and resilience in the face of hardship. Living in a modest single-room dwelling, devoid of even the most basic amenities like electricity and proper shelter, the boys navigate their days with an indomitable spirit, despite the challenges that loom over them. Their journey, however, took a poignant turn when footage of their harsh living conditions went viral, stirring emotions and rallying support

from near and far.

"We used to see them around the streets, but we never realised the extent of their struggles until the video surfaced," shared one community member who did not want to be named, reflecting on the newfound awareness of the boys' predicament. "It's heart-wrenching to witness, but it's also heartwarming to see the outpouring of support they're receiving now." Indeed, as the video spread, so too did the collective compassion of individuals eager to extend a helping hand. From donations of school uniforms to food parcels and offers to build a proper shelter, the response has been overwhelming. "I've witnessed their struggles firsthand, but I didn't know where to begin helping them," admitted another resident who wanted to stay anonymous. "Now, with the community rallying together and social workers stepping in, there's hope on the horizon." For the boys, aged

17 and 11, the road ahead is still fraught with challenges, but it's also imbued with newfound hope and solidarity. "It's a relief to know that people care," shared the 17 year old boy, his voice tinged with gratitude while speaking with *Timeless News* in the company of one of their relatives. "We may have faced hardships, but knowing we're not alone makes all the difference." Efforts by *Timeless News* to get comments from the young boys' single mother were futile, as she was mostly out during the publication's visits. The community's generosity flows unabated, and the boys find themselves embraced by a network of compassion and kindness. In this village, amidst the rolling hills and under the vast African sky, a story of resilience and humanity unfolds—a testament to the power of community and the enduring spirit of those who refuse to let adversity define them.

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MARITE'S R200 MILLION MALL BREAKS GROUND, PROMISING JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

By Duncan Mnisi

Marite, Mpumalanga - After a 17-year wait, the construction of a long-awaited R200 million shopping mall is finally underway in Marite, bringing hope and opportunity to residents of this rural area. The 22,500 square meter shopping centre, funded by local business mogul Dr. Norah Fakude, is set to create 300 temporary jobs during construction and 400 permanent positions upon completion, with 54 shops planned for the complex.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, notable figures including Kgosi Lameck Mokoena, Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders, and Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms. Thokozile Didiza, shared their support for the project. Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtshweni Tsipane also praised Dr. Fakude for her investment in the development of Marite. Premier Tsipane emphasised the significance of rural development, stating, "This shopping mall will change all our lives as it will create employment for our people." She highlighted Dr. Fakude's commitment to uplifting communities facing poverty and unemployment.

Speaking at the event, a community

member expressed anticipation for the economic boost the mall will bring, saying, "Development is very important for Marite. This shopping mall will change all our lives as it will create employment for our people."

However, concerns about crime in the area were also raised, prompting calls for increased security measures to accompany the development. Another community member added, "Crime is the leading concern in our area, but we hope our municipality can also invest in police forums and strengthen security services." Kgosi Mokoena echoed these sentiments, stressing the need for collaboration to ensure the success and protection of the shopping centre. He stated, "We welcome the project and must jointly vow to protect and ensure we achieve the goal of minimal employment for a fraction of the young people of Marite, as this shopping centre will contribute towards economic growth." The development of the Marite shopping centre is expected to not only create employment opportunities but also support local businesses and contribute to economic growth in the region. As construction progresses, the community eagerly awaits the positive impact this milestone will have on their lives and the future of Marite.



Premier Refilwe Mtshweni Tsipane, Kgosi L.M. Mokoena, and Dr. Norah Fakude showing their support for the upcoming shopping centre in Marite. Picture Credits: Facebook Premier's Office

BALFOUR CAMPUS EXPANSION BOOSTS SKILLS IN RURAL MPUMALANGA

By Nothando Makhubela & Duncan Mnisi

Dipaleseng, Mpumalanga - The recent expansion and development of Gert Sibande TVET College's Balfour Campus in Dipaleseng, Mpumalanga, stand as a testament to the Department of Higher Education and Training's commitment to enhancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges. This initiative, part of the Department's infrastructure expansion programme within the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) system, highlights the transformative impact on rural communities like Dipaleseng. The opening of the Balfour Campus, under the direction of Dr. Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education and Training, represents a calculated reaction to the growing need for qualified workers in the TVET industry.

With student enrollments surging from 170 in 2014 to 571 presently, this development underscores a pivotal shift towards empowering local communities through education and skills training. The official opening of the Balfour Campus marks a significant role for the Department of Higher Education and Training, representing a crucial step forward in providing accessible and quality education to the youth and communities in Balfour, promoting skill development, and fostering economic growth.

The Department's commitment to TVET education and infrastructure development

demonstrates its dedication to making TVET colleges institutions of first choice, providing students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the workforce and drive economic development. This new campus will offer a diverse range of programmes designed to meet the demands of our evolving economy, from engineering and information technology to healthcare and hospitality. "We intend on leaving R11.8 million that will cover the launch, bursaries and learnerships, upgrade of lecture skills, and furniture making of the Balfour Campus," expressed Nzimande. He further highlighted their aim to improve and upgrade lecture skills to provide learners with relevant, up-to-date information and education. By doing so, local municipalities will also create employment for TVET College students, as they will be equipped with the necessary skills required in different fields.

NSFAS beneficiary and WorldSkills South Africa Bricklaying National Champion, Mncedisi Mkhali, a former student of Gert Sibande TVET College and current employee at the Gert Sibande College Skills Academy, shared his inspiring journey with learners. He encouraged them to consider TVET colleges as a viable option for their future. As a national champion for WorldSkills ZA, Mncedisi credits the skills he gained at Gert Sibande TVET College for his success and urges learners to explore the opportunities offered by TVET colleges to gain the skills they need to thrive in their chosen careers.



Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr. Blade Nzimande, giving a speech at the official opening of Balfour Campus. Picture Source: Extracted from the official Facebook page of Gert Sibande TVET College

NOTICE

Notice in respect of a license application in terms of the Petroleum Products Act, 1977 (Act No 120 of 1977)

This notice serves to inform parties that may be interested or affected that TEST AND GO CC, hereinafter referred to as "the applicant", has submitted an application for a **SITE license**, application number **G/2024/06/05/0001**.

ERF 282 DELMAS EXT 85
85 HYSER STR
DELMAS

The purpose of the application is for the applicant to be granted a license to undertake petroleum retailing activities as detailed in the application. Arrangements for viewing the application documentation can be made by contacting the Controller of

Petroleum Products by:

- Telephone: (013) 658 1400; or

- Fax: (013) 656 4898; or

- Email: Letshego.Mabena@dmre.gov.za

Any objections to the issuing of a license in respect of this application, which must clearly quote the application number above, must be lodged with Controller of Petroleum Products within a period of twenty (20) working days from the date of publication of this notice. Such objection must be lodged at the following physical or postal address:

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Department Mineral Resources & Energy
Cnr OR Tambo & Mandela Drive, 1st Floor,
Saveways Crescent Centre, Witbank

Postal address:

The Controller of Petroleum Products
Department Mineral Resources & Energy
PO Box 17851, Witbank, 1035

YOUNG MANDENI MMA FIGHTER: A DIAMOND IN THE MAKING



Zama and coach Tollie Enslin proudly display the medals and trophies she has won in the sport so far. Picture supplied

By Staff Reporter

Former world kickboxing champion and coach Tollie Enslin believes Zama Ntinga has what it takes to reach the top in mixed martial arts (MMA). Mandeni's Zama Ntinga, fresh off a win in her first organised fight, is now setting her sights on a professional future in the sport.

The enterprising 18-year-old has lived at the Blessed Gérard Care Centre in Mandeni since she was 14, and her unshakeable spirit to compete has been evident throughout her journey. Zama experimented with a variety of sports during her school years, but it was a visit to Wolverine's Warriors Gym—run by three-time world kickboxing champion Tollie Enslin—that really sparked her passion.

"There were seven or eight kids that joined at that time, but they slowly dropped away. Zama just had that will to keep going and get better," said Enslin, who now serves as her coach.

That first session at the start of 2021 has since transformed Zama into a national age group champion. She recently claimed victory in her first organised fight in Durban, showcasing her determination and skill. Competing in the 55-57kg category, Zama faced Linda Brazza and emerged victorious after three intense rounds, winning on points.

This triumph is the culmination of years of dedication in the well-hidden but perfectly appointed fighting gym located in an otherwise unused Mandeni Sports Club building. "When I first came to the gym, I didn't really know what to expect, but the more I trained, the more I

enjoyed it," Zama reflected. "Since then, I've trained Monday to Thursday every week to try and become the best fighter possible."

Zama was modest when asked about her fighting strengths, but Enslin seized the opportunity to praise her. "She really has taken to the different disciplines," Enslin noted. "She is good at standing up with her boxing and kickboxing and was a quick learner when it came to wrestling and groundwork."

Zama's fight in Durban last weekend demonstrated her versatility and comfort with various fighting styles. It marks the first step in her journey towards a career in MMA, a sport that has seen exponential growth over the past decade but still lacks proper funding locally. "From here, she will start to grow her name and will hopefully be invited to compete in the Versus MMA in Johannesburg, which is a pathway to becoming professional," Enslin explained. Success there could lead to a call-up to the Extreme Fighting Championship (EFC), a significant milestone in any fighter's career.

Enslin is confident in Zama's potential to go the distance. "Whatever her level of fighting has been, Zama has always had more than enough heart. She has taken on bigger and older girls and never shied away from competition," he said.

As Zama Ntinga continues to train and compete, her journey from the Blessed Gérard Care Centre to the MMA arena serves as an inspiring testament to her resilience and passion. With the support of her coach and her community, Zama is poised to make a significant impact in the world of mixed martial arts.



Zama and coach Tollie Enslin spar in preparation for her first organised fight. Picture supplied

BUFFELSHOEK'S ARTISTIC GEM: FRANCE MALATJIE'S INSPIRING JOURNEY



Embracing the Palette France Malatjie Unveils the Vivid Spectrum of his Artistic Journey with one of his paintings standing with a client. Picture credits: Supplied By Thembekile Mzimba

Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga—France Malatjie, a 28-year-old drawing artist and painter from the picturesque village of Buffelshoek, nestled in the heart of Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, recently opened up about his inspiring journey into the captivating world of art. In an exclusive interview with Timeless News on Tuesday, Malatjie shared his remarkable story of passion, perseverance, and profound creativity. Born and raised in the vibrant community of Buffelshoek, Malatjie's artistic journey began at a young age, as he found solace and inspiration in the natural beauty that surrounded him. From the lush landscapes to the vibrant culture of his homeland, Malatjie's environment served as a wellspring of creativity, fueling his desire to express himself through art.

"I've always been drawn to art," Malatjie explained, his eyes lighting up with enthusiasm as he recounted his early fascination with colours, shapes, and textures. "For me, art is more than just a form of expression—it's a way of life, a journey of self-discovery and exploration." Despite facing challenges and obstacles along the way, Malatjie remained steadfast in his pursuit of artistic excellence. His family, friends, and mentors provided him with unwavering support as he honed his craft with dedication and determination, constantly honing his techniques and expanding his creative horizons.

"I've always believed that art has the power to transcend boundaries and connect people on a deeper level," Malatjie mused, reflecting on the transformative impact of his work. "Through my art, I strive to capture

the essence of life—the beauty, the complexity, the raw emotion—and share it with the world."

With a unique style that seamlessly blends traditional and contemporary elements, Malatjie's artwork has garnered widespread acclaim and recognition both locally and internationally. From vibrant acrylic paintings to intricate pencil sketches, each piece is a testament to his boundless imagination and artistic vision.

Yet, for Malatjie, art is not merely a means of self-expression; it is a profound source of joy, inspiration, and healing. "Art has always been my refuge, my sanctuary," he confessed, a smile gracing his lips. "In times of joy and sorrow, triumph and tribulation, it has been my constant companion, guiding me through life's ups and downs."

As he continues to chart his artistic journey, Malatjie remains committed to pushing the boundaries of his creativity, exploring new mediums, and sharing his passion with others. "My ultimate goal is to inspire and uplift people through my art," he declared, his eyes sparkling with determination. "To touch hearts, ignite imaginations, and spark a sense of wonder and awe." As the interview drew to a close, Malatjie expressed his profound gratitude to his family, friends, and community for their unwavering support and encouragement. "I am truly blessed to have such incredible people in my life," he said, his voice filled with emotion. "Their love and encouragement have fueled my passion and propelled me forward on this incredible journey." As France Malatjie's story unfolds, it serves as a powerful reminder of the transformative power of art and the boundless potential that lies within each of us to create, inspire, and make a meaningful impact on the world.

MPUMALANGA CPF EQUIPPED WITH VEHICLES TO STRENGTHEN CRIME-FIGHTING EFFORTS

By Thembekile Mzimba

Ehlanzeni, Mpumalanga - In a concerted effort to bolster community safety initiatives, Mpumalanga Police Commissioner Semakaleng Manamela has facilitated the provision of vehicles and essential resources to Community Policing Forums (CPF) across the province. The initiative aims to enhance crime-fighting capabilities and foster collaboration between law enforcement and local communities. Addressing the challenges faced by many CPFs in terms of resources, Commissioner Manamela emphasised the crucial role of community involvement in combating crime. "The CPFs are becoming our ears and eyes in the community to give us information," she stated. "Without the CPFs, we are not going to make it." Mduzuzi Mnisi, Chairperson of the

Ehlanzeni CPF, highlighted the difficulties encountered due to resource limitations. "Sometimes we are mistaken for criminals, especially at night, because we don't have uniforms or at least reflector jackets," he lamented. Mnisi further emphasised the critical need for adequate transport and resources to effectively address community safety concerns. "The areas we have are very vast; it's very big," he added. Gabriel Sekome, another CPF member, underscored the urgency of tackling prevalent crimes such as car hijackings, housebreakings, and business robberies. "Around Mpumalanga, we are facing the challenge of car hijacking," he noted. "Many people around our area are killed because of this crime." Commissioner Manamela handed over three minibuses, sedans, reflector jackets, and other essential resources to CPF members, emphasising the importance of

collaboration between law enforcement agencies and CPFs. "If the CPF does not have the resources, it's becoming more difficult for everyone to ensure that the community is safe," she stated. The commissioner also urged the private sector to contribute to community safety efforts, highlighting the collective responsibility of safeguarding communities. "The CPFs are the ones that are also trying to mobilise the communities in terms of the awareness campaigns that we are having," she emphasised. "So far, as the province, you will take note that we are confronted with crimes such as rape and murder." The provision of vehicles and resources to CPFs underscores the commitment to enhancing community safety and combating crime effectively through collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies, CPFs, and the private sector.



CPF Banner. Picture credits: Youtube video screen-shot

MULTI-AGENCY OPERATION SEIZES MILLIONS IN CONTRABAND

By Thembekile Mzimba

Sekhukhune, Limpopo - The SAPS Tactical Response Team, National Intervention Unit, Public Order Police, Organised Crime Investigation, K9 Unit, Border Police Team, SANDF, and Department of Home Affairs have worked together to conduct a comprehensive joint operation that targets criminal syndicates. The operation has resulted in significant seizures of illicit goods and arrests across multiple districts. On Monday, the operational team intercepted five tipper trucks and a Toyota Hilux double cab along the R555

road outside Burgersfort. Loaded with suspected stolen chrome, the vehicles led to the arrest of five male drivers, aged between 36 and 66, for possession of suspected stolen precious minerals. An additional suspect managed to flee the scene on foot. Simultaneously, in a separate incident, two foreign nationals, aged 26 and 44, were apprehended on Sunday, May 26, 2024, for illegal mining and contravention of the Immigration Act at Mulati village outside Tzaneen. Further intensifying their efforts, the Border Police Team seized millions of rands worth of illicit cigarettes near the Beitbridge Port of Entry in Musina,

Vhembe District, also on Monday, May 27, 2024. Despite the driver of the Quantum minibus fleeing the scene, law enforcement recovered 109 boxes of illicit cigarettes valued at approximately R2.2 million. Additionally, twelve foreign nationals were arrested across five districts, including the Beitbridge Port of Entry, in contravention of the Immigration Act.

These suspects are scheduled to appear before various magistrate's courts this week. Operation Vala Umgodi underscores the efficacy of collaborative law enforcement efforts in combating illegal activities, showcasing the resolve of multi-agency operations in safeguarding communities and disrupting criminal networks.



Police and soldiers conduct a thorough search of seized contraband boxes during Operation Vala Umgodi. Picture credits: SAPS



Millions of rands worth of illicit cigarettes and five tipper trucks recovered through high-density Operation Vala Umgodi 1. Picture credits: SAPS

NOTICE

Notice in respect of a license application in terms of the Petroleum Products Act, 1977 (Act No 120 of 1977)

This notice serves to inform parties that may be interested or affected that TEST AND GO CC, hereinafter referred to as "the applicant", has submitted an application for a **Retail license**, application number **G/2024/06/05/0002**.

ERF 282 DELMAS EXT 85
85 HYSER STR
DELMAS

The purpose of the application is for the applicant to be granted a license to undertake petroleum retailing activities as detailed in the application. Arrangements for viewing the application documentation can be made by contacting the Controller of Petroleum Products by:

- Telephone: (013) 658 1400; or
- Fax: (013) 656 4898; or
- Email: Letshego.Mabena@dmre.gov.za

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Department Mineral Resources & Energy
Cnr OR Tambo & Mandela Drive, 1st Floor,
Saveways Crescent Centre, Witbank

Postal address:
The Controller of Petroleum Products
Department Mineral Resources & Energy
PO Box 17851, Witbank, 1035

LIMPOPO GAMBLING BOARD'S ACHIEVES CLEAN AUDIT, REVENUE SURGE

By Thembekile Mzimba

Polokwane, Limpopo - The Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB) has recently achieved a remarkable feat, securing a clean audit opinion for the fourth consecutive year. This significant accomplishment underscores the board's unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and prudent management of public funds. Alongside this achievement, the board has witnessed a substantial increase in revenue collection, positioning the gambling industry as a vital contributor to Limpopo's economic prosperity. Rodgers Monama, the MEC for Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism in

Limpopo, lauded the LGB for its exemplary performance, highlighting the board's adherence to clean corporate governance practices and robust internal controls. Monama expressed satisfaction with the province's socio-economic recovery plan, particularly praising the gambling industry's pivotal role in driving positive outcomes. The revenue generated by the gambling industry has surged from R130 million in 2021/22 to an impressive R260 million in 2023/24, indicating a strong rebound following the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. This resurgence has translated into the creation of over 2,900 permanent job opportunities, significantly contributing to poverty alleviation and the reduction of inequality in the province.

Furthermore, the LGB has allocated R12.9 million towards various corporate social investment initiatives, including support for small businesses, educational bursaries, and community development projects. These investments underscore the board's commitment to fostering sustainable socio-economic development and empowering local communities. In addition to its financial achievements, the LGB has prioritised responsible gambling practices, undertaking initiatives to combat illegal gambling activities. Over 1,000 illegal gambling machines have been confiscated, and 66 suspects have been apprehended as part of the board's efforts to uphold regulatory compliance and protect consumers.

MEC Monama emphasised the importance of continued collaboration between the LGB, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders to promote responsible gambling and safeguard the interests of the public. He expressed confidence in the LGB's ability to sustain its positive trajectory and further contribute to Limpopo's economic growth and development. The Limpopo Gambling Board's success story serves as a shining example of effective governance and economic resilience, demonstrating the transformative impact of strategic leadership and collaborative efforts in driving progress and prosperity.

THUNGELA AND ABSA JOIN FORCES TO EMPOWER SMMES THROUGH R200 MILLION CO-FUNDING AGREEMENT

By Staff Reporter

Thuthukani - Thungela's Enterprise and Supplier Development (ESD) programme, announces the signing of a co-funding agreement with Absa, one of South Africa's leading financial services providers. Absa will reserve R200 million, reviewable annually, for Thuthukani beneficiaries using their new or existing contracts with Thungela as collateral. Thuthukani, derives its name from the Zulu word translated "uplift." The programme focuses on cultivating local businesses through the provision of business skills training and coaching, access to funding and technical enablement. This co-funding agreement further empowers them to seize opportunities within Thungela's value chain. Mpumi Sithole, Executive Head for Corporate Affairs at Thungela says, "I am pleased that our partnership with Absa will make funding more accessible for local SMMEs with new and existing contracts with us. In 2023, Thuthukani disbursed R21.6 million in loans, leading to the creation of 114 jobs. To this end, we couldn't support businesses requiring loan funding beyond this threshold, as larger contracts require substantial funding that Thuthukani alone could not provide. This partnership with Absa will close this funding gap for SMMEs, opening opportunities for them to pursue larger projects." Absa will manage the loan application process on their ESD portal, subject to a recommendation from Thuthukani. The portal is critical in ensuring funds are accessible to the approved beneficiaries, offering loans at



Mpumi Sithole Executive Head for Corporate Affairs at Thungela, Kgalaletso Tlhoale, Executive for Enterprise Development at Absa Relationship Banking, Dumisani Mkhonza Chief Operating Officer- Funding Management ABSA-CIB and Sandile Mkono ESD Fund Senior Manager at Thungela. Picture Credit Hulisini Rasivhaga.

a prime-linked interest rate. Kgalaletso Tlhoale, Executive for Enterprise Development at Absa Relationship Banking says, "This agreement highlights Absa's dedication to enabling financial inclusion for SMMEs while also fostering sustainable economic growth across

various sectors. The allocation aims to provide substantial financial support that empowers SMMEs to expand, innovate and achieve long-term sustainability. It also underscores our commitment to being an active force for good in society – enabling us to achieve our

goal to support mining communities and create a robust environment where small and medium enterprises can thrive." This partnership targets SMMEs in municipalities hosting Thungela's operations such as eMalahleni, Steve Tshwete and Govan Mbeki.

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JOURNEY INTO THE DEPTHS: EXPLORING REALITY WITH THE LEX FRIDMAN PODCAST

Podcast Review by Duncan Mnisi

In the vast expanse of podcasts, few dare to plunge into the profound mysteries of existence quite like the "Lex Fridman Podcast." With each episode, host Lex Fridman takes listeners on an immersive journey through time, space, and beyond, delving deep into the realms of philosophy, science, history, and everything in between. What sets the "Lex Fridman Podcast" apart is its fearless commitment to questioning reality. Lex fearlessly tackles controversial topics and explores unconventional ideas, challenging listeners to expand their understanding of what is possible. From the origins of the universe to the nature of consciousness, each episode offers a meticulously researched and expertly presented exploration of complex concepts, accessible to listeners of all backgrounds.

A standout episode is number 26,

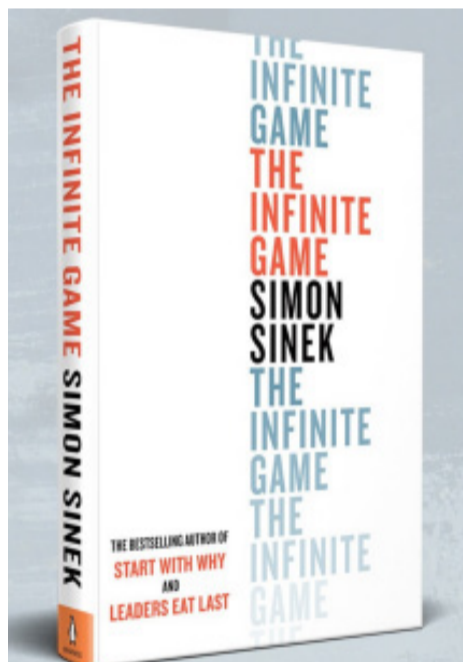
where Lex engages with guest Charan Ranganath, a psychologist, author, and neuroscientist specialising in human memory. Their conversation sparks deep insights and reflections from listeners, who praise Ranganath's wisdom and scientific explanations of memory and life.

Yet, the "Lex Fridman Podcast" is more than just a source of information—it's a vibrant community of like-minded individuals united by a passion for exploration. Listeners are encouraged to engage through social media, forums, and live events, fostering meaningful discussions and connections beyond the podcast. In conclusion, the "Lex Fridman Podcast" offers a unique and enriching experience for those eager to expand their knowledge and explore the mysteries of the universe. So, if you're ready to embark on an intellectual journey of discovery, tune in and prepare to have your mind expanded in ways you never thought possible.



Lex Fridman, an American computer scientist and the host of "Lex Fridman podcast". Picture Credits: Supplied

LEADING WITH PURPOSE: EMBRACING THE INFINITE GAME WITH SIMON SINEK



Simon Sinek, an inspirational speaker and English-American author of *The Infinite Game* book. Find the courage to lead with Simon Sinek's *The Infinite Game* Source: Brandeis University

Book Review by Duncan Mnisi

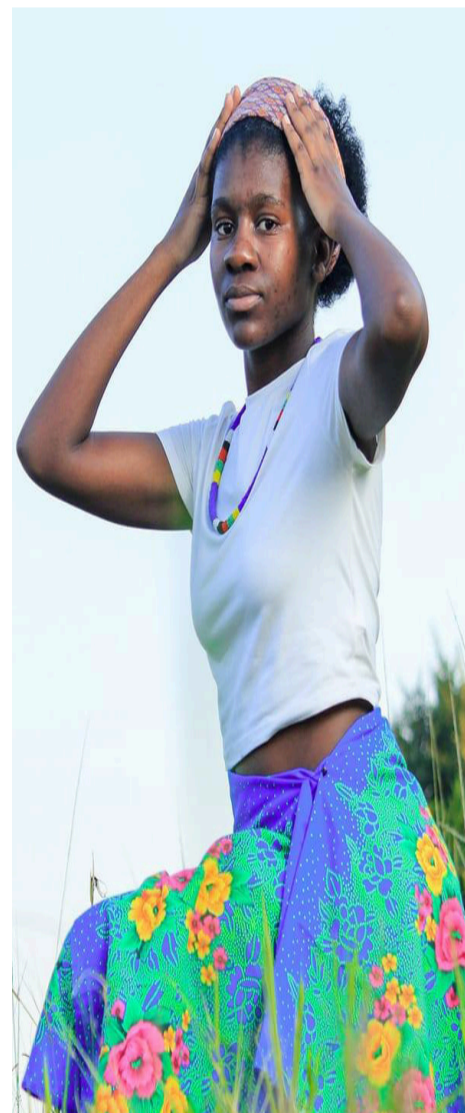
Simon Sinek's "The Infinite Game" is not just a book; it's a manifesto for a new era of leadership. Sinek urges readers to reconsider their strategy and adopt the infinite game's tenets in a world where avarice and quick wins rule the day.

At its core, "The Infinite Game" is about courage—the courage to lead with integrity, empathy, and a long-term vision. Sinek argues that true leaders are not concerned with beating the competition or achieving fleeting victories. Instead, they are focused on playing the infinite game, where the goal is to keep playing and advance the greater cause.

Through a series of compelling anecdotes and insightful analysis, Sinek illustrates how leaders can cultivate an infinite mindset and apply it to their everyday lives. He emphasises the importance of building trust, fostering collaboration, and creating a sense of purpose that transcends individual ambition. One of the key takeaways from "The Infinite Game" is the idea that leadership is not about having all

the answers; it's about asking the right questions and empowering others to find solutions. Sinek encourages leaders to embrace uncertainty, take calculated risks, and learn from failure. Moreover, Sinek highlights the role of empathy in effective leadership, emphasising the importance of understanding and connecting with the people we lead. By putting ourselves in others' shoes and genuinely caring about their well-being, we can build stronger, more resilient organisations. Throughout the book, Sinek provides practical strategies for implementing the principles of the infinite game in both personal and professional contexts. From setting ambitious yet realistic goals to fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement, he offers a roadmap for leading with purpose and resilience. In conclusion, "The Infinite Game" is a call to action for leaders everywhere to rise to the challenges of our time with courage and conviction. By embracing the infinite mindset and committing to play the long game, we can create a better, more sustainable future for ourselves and generations to come.

FROM BULLYING TO BRILLIANCE: POET XIKOMBELO'S JOURNEY TO SELF-DISCOVERY



Radiant and resilient: Poetess Xikombelo shines with passion and purpose as she embraces her journey of self-discovery through poetry. Picture credits: Supplied

By Thembekile Mzimba

Thulamahashe, Rolle B, Mpumalanga - Meet Xikombelo Naomi Ndlovu, an 18-year-old student teacher currently studying at the University of Limpopo, pursuing a

Bachelor of Education degree. Despite overcoming a childhood of bullying and self-doubt, she has emerged as a rising star in the poetry world.

Xikombelo grew up in Rolle B, a small village outside Thulamahashe in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Mpumalanga. Despite facing bullying for her skin tone and facial features, she found inspiration in Xitsonga newsreaders and teachers, who instilled in her a love for words and confidence. During the lockdown in 2020, Xikombelo discovered her passion for poetry. "I began journaling my emotions and feelings and realised my self-care journal was poetic. With encouragement from a friend, I started writing every day and haven't looked back since," said Xikombelo during her interview with Timeless News on Monday, May 27, 2024. In January 2023, Xikombelo had her first radio interview on a local station, which was a turning point for her as she realised she was doing what she loved and was good at. She began to believe in herself and her talent, regardless of what others said.

Xikombelo's big break came when she won a national poetry competition, leading to her performing live at a festival in the Western Cape, Plettenberg Bay. Despite an 18-hour journey from Limpopo to the Western Cape, she received payment for her performance. This experience was surreal and filled her with ecstasy. "Today, I am a proud poetess who has overcome adversity to find her voice. I will continue to write and perform, inspiring others with my powerful words and courageous spirit," she added. She hopes to leave a legacy of fearless female poets and dominate the poetry industry.

In addition to multiple awards from different contests, Xikombelo won the 2023 UYMF (Unlocking Your Mind Foundation) Poetry Award. As Xikombelo's star continues to rise, she remains humble and true to her roots. Her journey is a testament to the power of resilience and determination and a reminder that even in the darkest moments, there is always hope for a brighter future.

TIMELESS SPORT

COLLEN MAHLALELA WINS SILVER AT 2024 PARA ATHLETICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Collen Mahlalela proudly holds the South African flag, He won silver medal at the 2024 Para Athletics World Championships in Japan Picture: Supplied

Collen Mahlalela from Nkomazi Bags a Silver at 2024 Para Athletics World Championships in Japan Picture: Supplied

By Nothando Makhubela

Nkomazi, Mpumalanga - Collen Mahlalela, a remarkable athlete born with a disability in one hand, has once again brought pride to South Africa and the Nkomazi region by clinching a silver medal in the men's 400m T47 event at his debut appearance at the 2024 Para Athletics World Championships held in Kobe, Japan, from May 17 to May 25. T47 is a disability sport classification for athletes with a below-elbow or wrist amputation or impairment.

"For me, going to Japan is indeed a blessing. I am happy that I got a call from the national team. I feel honoured and happy that I have won a silver medal even though I was aiming for the gold medal," Mahlalela said. "My first heat was 49.32 seconds for 400 metres. The second heat was 48.66 seconds. All this takes dedication and hard work. I would love to thank my province, Mpumalanga, and my hometown, Masibekela in Nkomazi, for the support they offered me," he added. This achievement adds to his earlier successes this year, where he secured

two gold medals—one in the 400m race and another in the long jump—while also setting a new African record in the 400m category during the SASAPD National Championships. Hailing from Masibekela in the Nkomazi subregion of Mpumalanga, the 28-year-old athlete had previously showcased his talent at the Dubai 2024 World Para Athletics Grand Prix, where he claimed silver in the men's 400m and bronze in the men's long jump T47. The World Championships are a crucial qualifier for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. He is among the six South African para-

athletes who brought home six medals and set world and African records at the World Championships. "We are very proud that a 28-year-old from Ehlanzeni, Masibekela in Nkomazi, Mpumalanga, has won a silver medal in such a prestigious competition. We are proud of him, and we want the whole world to know that we are grateful to Collen for achieving such a feat, which once again puts our province and the country on the podium of sporting success!" said Sibongile Nkosi, spokesperson for the Department of Culture, Sport, and Recreation in Mpumalanga.

JUNIOR SPRINGBOKS SET FOR UNDER-20 RUGBY WORLD CUP CHALLENGE

By Duncan Mnisi

Cape Town, South Africa - The Junior Springboks are gearing up to face off against England, Argentina, and Fiji in their pool matches at the upcoming Under-20 Rugby World Cup, set to take place in South Africa from June 29 to July 19. As the top 12 under-20 teams vie for global supremacy, defending champion France will be aiming to retain their title, while the Junior Boks are eager to build on their bronze medal performance from 2023. The tournament kicks off on June 29 at Cape Town Stadium and Athlone Stadium, with subsequent pool games scheduled for July 4 and 9. The final matches, including the semi-finals for the top four teams, will be held on July 14, followed by the finals and place games on July 19. These games will take place at Danie Craven Stadium in Stellenbosch, as well as at the stadiums in Athlone and Cape Town. Rian Oberholzer, South Africa's Rugby CEO, expressed excitement about hosting the tournament, highlighting its importance in promoting and growing the game globally. He emphasised the privilege of welcoming the next generation of rugby superstars and their supporters to South Africa. The 2024 U20 Championship will introduce



The Junior Springboks to face pool matches at the Under 20 Rugby World Cup. Picture supplied

three new law changes aimed at enhancing ball flow and attacking options while prioritising player welfare. These changes include adjustments to the treatment of players contesting kicks, scrums no longer

being an alternative to free kicks, and the banning of the crocodile roll. Additionally, a simplified red card penalty process has been introduced and approved by the World Rugby Board.

With anticipation building for the Under-20 Rugby World Cup, rugby enthusiasts worldwide eagerly await the thrilling matches and the emergence of future stars in the sport.