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SEKHUKHUNE RESIDENTS PROTEST FOR RELOCATION OF DISTRICT OFFICES



MECs Baiskop Makamu of CoGHIA Ernest Rachoene of Public Works and Infrastructure accepted memorandum on behalf of Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba from SDORM

By Frans Maepa

Lebowakgomo: On Wednesday Hundreds of frustrated residents from Sekhukhune descended Lebowakgomo , to voice their discontentment regarding the government's reluctance to relocate the Sekhukhune District Offices from Capricorn District. The protest began early in the morning, with demonstrators gathering near the Lebowakgomo Government Complex,

armed with placards and a resolute spirit. Leading the march was the Sekhukhune District Office Relocation Movement (SDORM), whose members toyi-toyed as they made their way from the Lebowakgomo streets to the Limpopo Government Legislature's offices. The demonstrators aimed to deliver a memorandum outlining their demands for the relocation of the district offices. Accepting the memorandum on behalf of Limpopo Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba were MECs Ernest Rachoene

of Public Works and Infrastructure and Baiskop Makamu of CoGHIA. During the handover, SDORM Chairperson Mokgapi Wa Phaahla expressed their desire for the offices to be relocated by December 2025. "It has been years since we started engaging the provincial government about the need to relocate the Sekhukhune District Offices to our region, but the government still appears reluctant despite previous promises," said Mokgapi. He emphasized that the people of Sekhukhune should not have to struggle to

access services that are located in Capricorn. "The residents of Sekhukhune are forced to travel long distances to reach our District Offices, which is incredibly unfair. We want the services that rightfully belong to our district," Mokgapi added. Despite the obstacles and delays faced during the engagement with the government, Mokgapi expressed gratitude for the peaceful nature of the protest. "We are here to deliver our memorandum peacefully, and we appreciate everyone who has come out today," he stated. MEC Makamu addressed the marchers following the memorandum handover, commending them for their peaceful demonstration. He assured them that the provincial government was committed to the relocation process. "I communicated to SDORM in our previous meeting that we will start temporarily relocating some offices to unoccupied spaces in various municipalities within Sekhukhune District in the near future. We are prepared to work with you on this relocation, and it will happen under this administration," he affirmed. However, Makamu noted that the complete relocation of the offices would be significant, costing approximately R2 billion and projected for completion by the 2028-2029 financial year, unless private partnerships could expedite the process. "For this financial year, we have allocated R3 million for planning," he explained. Makamu also promised that Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba would lead her executive team to the Bapedi Royal House to update them on the progress made concerning the relocation. The government has been given a period of twenty-one days to respond to the memorandum, as residents remain hopeful for a resolution to their long-standing request for better access to government.

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YOUTH OF LIMPOPO UNITE FOR YOUTH DAY COMOMERATION

By Thulane Madalane

Leeufontein: On Monday during the Youth Day commemoration, Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba delivered a powerful message, asserting, “We are in Sekhukhune, a place full of mines across the Dilokong corridor and other areas. We are finalising the establishment of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone that will become a bastion of activities for economic development. We currently have the mining input supplier park in the area that is super.” quipped Ramathuba. She also encouraged young people to be creative in taking advantage of existing opportunities at the newly opened supplier park, “our mining input supplier park is already operational, providing essential services to the mining sector. I encourage you to think creatively about the businesses you can establish, fostering growth and creating jobs in our communities.” Youth Day not only honors the struggles of the past but also symbolizes the shared journey toward a future where the aspirations of the young can flourish. Participants paid tribute to Ephraim Mogale, an influential leader and the first President of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS), whose dedication to education and community empowerment continues to inspire today's youth. This year's theme, “Skills for a Changing World – Empowering Youth for Meaningful Economic Participation,” emphasizes the urgent need for practical solutions to generate growth and create opportunities. Despite considerable government investments in youth initiatives since 1994, high unemployment rates remain a significant challenge, leading to increasing impatience among young people for real, actionable change. It is essential for the government to move beyond policies and deliver tangible opportunities.

Multiple initiatives are already in place to bolster youth development. The National Youth Service is focused on developing skills in critical areas such as agriculture, health, cybersecurity, and coding. The Presidential Youth Employment Intervention has helped over 1.6 million young people gain essential experience across a range of sectors. Programs targeting small-scale farming, cybersecurity training, and the inclusion of young women in the renewable energy sector are paving the way for increased growth and leadership opportunities. The significance of youth empowerment is also reflected in the legacies of leaders like Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, who emphasized the idea that neglecting young people ultimately leads to national decline. In this spirit, there is a renewed commitment to developing Limpopo with a focus on its youth. Recent efforts have resulted in numerous job creation and skills development initiatives in collaboration with Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs). A new program is set to benefit over 36,845 young people through investments in vital sectors such as agriculture, IT, hospitality, energy, and entrepreneurship. The Premier encouraged the young people from the area to invest agriculture knowledge, “The youth of Leeufontein and Ephraim Mogale Municipality, there is something important I want to emphasise about agriculture in this area: while you may only need a doctor once or a lawyer occasionally, you rely on a farmer multiple times each day. This highlights the significance of agriculture within our Limpopo Development Plan. By embracing farming, we can collectively tackle unemployment and create a thriving future for all.” She added. As Limpopo faces today's economic challenges, focusing on local industry development and reducing dependence



Limpopo Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba addressing young people during Youth Day comomeration

on foreign markets is essential. The Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone in Sekhukhune is poised to serve as a business hub, promoting local enterprises and generating job opportunities. In addition to the Premier's uplifting address, young Information Technology graduate Moshe Boshielo from Phokwane shared his optimism, stating, “I truly believe that if young people can reskill themselves and embrace the knowledge economy, we can

overcome the challenges of unemployment and build a brighter future for ourselves.” The Premier concluded her address by borrowing words from the lyrics of Shandesh one of the Lenkompo famous artists “Ba re beetse melaba, ba nagana re ka se fofe, byale re fofile, modimo o re derile dichoper.” Together let's empower our youth and make Limpopo a land of opportunities.

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LIMPOPO PREMIER EXPRESSES OPTIMISM FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENTS IN CHINA

By Thulane Madalane

Potokwane – Limpopo Premier, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, has expressed her satisfaction with the productive business relationships forged with investors during the recent 116th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF) and Exhibition, which took place in Macao, China, from June 8 to June 15, 2025. The IIICF serves as a prestigious global platform dedicated to fostering international cooperation in infrastructure development. It offers an avenue for cross-border investment opportunities while highlighting cutting-edge innovations and technologies within the construction and infrastructure sectors. This year's forum attracted a diverse group of participants, including senior government officials, business leaders, development financiers, and global investors representing over 70 countries. During this significant event, Limpopo Province seized the opportunity to establish itself as a crucial investment destination in South Africa. The province specifically spotlighted the promising prospects of the Musina-Makhado and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zones (SEZs). These SEZs are strategically positioned amidst abundant mineral and agricultural resources, creating optimal conditions for infrastructure development, beneficiation, and sustainable industrialization. Premier Ramathuba conveyed her

appreciation for the chance to participate in the forum and expressed her encouragement regarding the substantial interest shown in Limpopo's development agenda by global investors. “Attending the IIICF has been a significant milestone for Limpopo. We have engaged in meaningful discussions with investors eager to explore our province's infrastructure and tourism potential,” she stated. She further emphasized the importance of the SEZs as catalytic projects, saying that the partnerships formed at the forum would play a vital role in accelerating economic growth and creating sustainable job opportunities for the local population. “We have left China energized and hopeful for the future. This is just the beginning of a new wave of investment into Limpopo,” Premier Ramathuba asserted. The Limpopo delegation included several key figures, such as MEC for the Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism (LEDET) Mr. Tshitereke Matibe, MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure Mr. Ernest Rachoene, and Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality Mayor Cllr. Edwin Maila. Looking ahead, the province is committed to strengthening the connections established with the investors and institutions met during the forum. Follow-up engagements are currently being scheduled to explore further opportunities in infrastructure development, tourism, energy, the digital economy, and skills development, all aimed at driving Limpopo's economic transformation and



Limpopo Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba (center) alongside MECs and local leaders engaging with global investors at the 116th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum in Macao, China, highlighting the province's potential as a prime investment destination

enhancing job creation efforts. This proactive approach demonstrates Limpopo's commitment to embracing global investment and innovation to

foster economic growth and sustainable development for its residents.

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CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS



DIVISION OF REVENUE BILL, 2025

The Portfolio Committee on Finance and its Chairperson, SM Malepeng , MPL, hereby invite members of the public, interested parties and stakeholders wishing to make comments or inputs, on the above mentioned Bills.

Purpose of the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025

To amend the Division of Revenue Act, 2025, in accordance with the Money Bills and Related Matters Act, 2009; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Public Involvement

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

DATE	VENUES	TIME
Tuesday, 01 July 2025	Gert Sibande District: Dr. Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality – Vezubuhle Community Hall (Volksrust)	14:00 – 17:00
Wednesday, 02 July 2025	Nkangala District: Steve Tshwete Local Municipality – Adelaide Tambo Community Hall, Mhluzi	10:00 – 13:00
Thursday, 03 July 2025	Ehlanzeni District: Thaba Chweu Local Municipality – Leroro Community Hall	10:00 – 13:00

Copies of the Bills can be obtained from the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature website at www.mpuleg.gov.za. For any enquiries, kindly contact the Committee Coordinator, Mr Alex Edwards on **072 435 5456**.

Written submissions on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 can be sent to AlexM@mpuleg.gov.za or on the Legislature WhatsApp number **067 428 3345** on or before **Friday, 04 July 2025**.

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KEEP MURDERS DOWN AND THOU SHALL NOT STEAL

By Montsho Matlala

From now onwards everyone should work hard to ensure no life is lost to crime in Limpopo and the country at large. This is possible provided police and residents work together to combat crime.

These are the impassionate pleas from Limpopo provincial police commissioner Lieutenant General Thembi Radebe along with provincial Community Police Forum Board chairperson Frans Kgasago following the recent release of the fourth quarter (January 2025 to March 2025) crime statistics. "Limpopo has recorded a 26% year-on-year decrease in murder cases in the fourth quarter (January 2025 to March 2025) of the 2024-2025 financial years). Hundred and seventy nine (179) people were murdered in Limpopo from January to March this year as compared to 247 during the same period last year.

"Twenty seven out of the 179 murders were linked to mob justice, predominately in Seshego, Thohoyandou and Westernberg. Vigilantism is a crime and anyone found involved in such criminal act is supposed to face the full might of the law," Radebe warned. Kgasago echoed the concerns of the provincial police boss and stressed police alone could not successfully combat crime."While we are pleased with the decrease in murders and violent crimes we are convinced the strong collaboration between communities and police can make a much more significant dent on crime rate. Mob justice, gender based violence ad murders must end now," he said.

Violet Mathe, MEC for Transport and Community Safety applauded police for a significant drop in murders and most violent crimes.

"The prospects for a brighter and safer future look promising. Limpopo is poised to become a model for effective crime prevention and community safety initiatives,"

Mathe expressed optimism. Timeless News has gone further and requested police to provide information on theft activities at farming ventures during the period under review following an outcry from some livestock owners. According to police 2946 cattle were stolen and 306 recovered during the 4th quarter.

"Four hundred and sixty three sheep were stolen and 112 recovered, while 2078 goats were stolen and 378 recovered. Seventy eight horses/donkeys were stolen and 10 recovered while 104 wild games were stolen and 10 recovered. One pig was stolen and two recovered. Seven poultry were stolen and 17 recovered. Cattle and goats were mostly recovered," police revealed.

Police said thieves mostly took livestock forcibly from owners by threatening them with firearms.

"Farmers should look after their livestock, kraal them every evening, landmark and tattoo them and report cases of theft immediately. Do not hire undocumented people to look after your animals," Radebe advised.

Jerry Sefoloshe, chairperson of the African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA) in Limpopo, told Timeless News farmers were partially satisfied with police patrols around farms tryingng to scare off potential thieves. "But we are faced with undocumented and documented people roaming around jumping fences in and out during the day and night. We experience theft of implements, electric cables, solar panels, transformers, copper material etc. Some thieves harvest parts from tractors, water pumps and other machinery.

"Some thieves also harvest our crops at nights. We appeal for better border security so that undocumented people are not able to come back to our farms after been captured and deported," Sefoloshe made a plea to government.

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Limpopo police commissioner Lieutenant General Thembi Radebe warns vigilantism is a drawback in crime fighting. Pictures Credit: Montsho Matlala



Provincial Community Police Forum Board chairperson Frans Kgasago calls for greater collaboration between residents ad police to prevent crime. Picture Credit: Montsho Matlala



Thieves mostly use force to take livestock from owners, according to police. Pictures Credit: Montsho Matlala

MUM ON ALLEGED DOCTOR RAPE OF MOM TO BE AT HOSPITAL

By Montsho Matlala

Following allegations about the alleged attempted rape of a pregnant young woman by a medical doctor at George Masebe Hospital in Lyden outside Mokopane, the Limpopo Department of Health has moved in to put a lid on the chilling revelations going forward. While the doctor has since been suspended about two months ago, the provincial health department stated it would no longer make public comments on the case as charges of misconduct against the suspect were underway.

Health MEC, Dieketseng Mashego said, "While we uphold the principle of innocent until proven guilty we wish to reiterate our zero tolerance stance on any form of abuse or misconduct within our facilities."

Mashego further stated that its decision to keep mum on new developments in the case is to safeguard the disciplinary hearing process's integrity and the privacy of affected individuals.

The alleged bizarre incident which is currently under separate investigations by police and health authorities reportedly occurred in the sonar room of George Masebe Hospital when the doctor was performing an abdominal ultrasound as part of the ongoing observation related to the 22 year old woman's pregnancy during the early hours of April 27.

Mashego visited George Masebe Hospital on April 29 and after receiving briefing from the managers and some staff members proceeded to the victim's family to covey emotional support.

Provincial police spokesperson Brigadier Hlulani Mashaba explained, "The Family Violence Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit is still gathering some relevant information for the Directorate for Public Prosecutions (DPP) to make an informed decision on this matter."



Limpopo Health MEC at George Masebe Hospital following allegations of attempted rape of a pregnant patient. Pictures Credit: Facebook

Rebecca Selomo, Young Urban Women Movement (YUWM) community facilitator in Mokopane said if the allegations proof to be true, then there should be no mercy in dealing with the case especially because gender based and femicide (GBVF) cases dominate court rolls almost every day in the area.

"We definitely stand with the victim because the thought of a medical practitioner sexually assaulting a pregnant young woman in a place we think is safe and human friendly is so horrific to say the least.

"But it must be noted that we are not passing judgement to any one at this stage as we put our trust in the law enforcement agencies and the department of health to do their meticulous investigations."

Repeated attempts by Timeless News to obtain comment from both the South Africa Medical Association Trade Union (SAMATU) and Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) have not yield fruits at the time of going to press.

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SOUTH AFRICA 2025

MANAGER: EMPLOYEE RELATIONS AND PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

Ref: MPL/01/05/2025
Salary: R1 532 984.00

Requirements: An appropriate Bachelor's degree/diploma in Labour Relations or equivalent qualification • 3-5 Years' relevant managerial experience in employment relations environment • Insight into legislation and other prescripts impacting on employee relations • A thorough understanding of policy formulation, analysis and interpretation • Excellent communication skills • Good Conflict Resolution Skills and Negotiation Skills.

Key Performance Areas: Ensure correct interpretation and implementation of employee relations strategies, policies, procedures and practices • Manage Employer-Employee relations by ensuring that appropriate corrective measures are consistently implemented • Co-ordinate collective bargaining processes within the Legislature • Monitor and coordinate collective bargaining processes within the Legislature • Manage and monitor effective health and wellness programme, strategies, policies and procedures within the Legislature • Manage and implement OHS and COVIDA related programmes, strategies, policies and procedures within the Legislature • Manage resources (Human physical and financial)

MANAGER: TABLING AND PROCEDURAL SERVICES

Ref: MPL/02/05/2025
Salary: R1 373 021.00

Requirements: The incumbent must be in possession of a Law degree (LLB)/Social/Economic Sciences and Public Management or Equivalent qualification • 3-5 Years' relevant managerial experience • Knowledge of Legislations & regulations governing direct service delivery • Report writing skills and computer Literacy • Ability to conduct desktop research • Understanding of policies and procedures in relation to general management including people and performance management • Proficiency in English as the fundamental floor language for proceedings of the house.

Key Performance Areas: Liaise with departmental staff and state enterprises to coordinate the tabling of departmental papers • Monitor and perform preliminary assessment on content compliance as per the set parliamentary procedures and standards for tabled documents prior referral to committees • Liaise with Committees Managers and Legal Services on NCOP mandates processing • Render support during sittings of the house • Be responsible for performance management and development of staff in the unit • Plan, direct, co-ordinate and oversee the operations of Procedural Services Unit.

ERP SUPPORT ADMINISTRATOR

REF: MPL/05/05/2025
Salary: R 827 150.00 (excluding benefits)

Requirements: National Diploma in Information Communication Technology or related field • Certificate in SAP or at least 4 years working experience • Knowledge of Microsoft office, SCM, HR and finance • Ability to work under Pressure and have a great sense of responsibility • Extensive technical knowledge and ability to explain technical information to non-technical people • Must be able to work effectively with external vendor/service providers • Must have good communication skills.

Key Performance Areas: Provide SAP first-line support and submit quarterly report on modules-maintained according to approved maintenance plan • Assist in managing configuration for new or amended SAP requirements and products • Assist in managing module related backups • Maintain application knowledge base by creating and maintaining appropriate documentation for SAP support and change requests • Update Training Plans, schedules and attendance registers • Develop and Update SAP modules' procedure manuals • Assist in implementation and support SAP Authorisation and/or Finance modules, improvement or automation of SAP Processes • Monthly report on User account updates, Change Request Forms and Authorisations review report • Incident Management on SAP Authorization.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

REF: MPL/03/02/2025
Salary: R 583 163.00 (excluding benefits)

Requirements: a Bachelor's Degree/ Diploma in Communications/ Marketing/ Public Relations/ Journalism/ Media Studies • at least three years' experience in communications • ability to work under pressure and irregular hours • computer literacy and a valid driver's license • sound knowledge of photography • Good writing skills.

Key Performance Areas: Update and upload information on the Legislature activities to the plasma screens, notice boards and snapper frames • Coordinate branding and marketing of all Legislature events • Provide communication support to Legislature Committees • Attend Legislature Committee meetings • Write newsletter articles and social media updates, create a distribution list for Legislature promotional material and coordinate distribution.

S&T OFFICER

REF: MPL/04/02/2025
Salary: R 515 249.00 (excluding benefits)

Requirements: Grade 12 • national Diploma/Degree in Finance or Relevant qualification • experience in the finance field of work • SAP system experience will be an added advantage • knowledge of document management and mathematical accuracy • computer literacy.

Key Performance Areas: Capture all subsistence and travelling claims received, effectively and efficiently • Ensure compliance with appropriate procedures and processes within the financial accounting unit • Assist the Record Keeping Officer with sorting payment vouchers • Create, maintain and update vendors, once off vendors and other third-party master data on SAP • Reconcile transactions between payroll and FI prior to processing of third-party payment.

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NOTE: Applications must be submitted on form Z.83, obtainable from any Public Service department and must be accompanied by a comprehensive CV and certified copies of ID and qualifications. Please forward your application quoting the relevant reference number, to: The Secretary to the Legislature, Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Private Bag X11289, Mbombela, 1200 or e-mailed to recruitment@mpuleg.gov.za; or hand delivered to Boabab Building No.1, Government Boulevard, Legislature and Government Complex, Riverside Park Ext. 2, Mbombela, 1200

Successful candidate will be required to sign a performance agreement, annually disclose his/her financial interests to the Secretary/Speaker of the Legislature and will be subjected to security clearance. All successful management candidates would be subjected to competency assessments. Correspondence is limited to shortlisted applicants. Late or faxed applications will not be considered.

Enquiries: Mr JB Siilinda Tel: (013) 766 1147
Closing Date: 27 June 2025

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SERMON BY GIVEN APHANE: THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM FROM GOD AND TRUSTING IN HIM



Dearly Beloved,
Today, we gather to reflect on the profound benefits of wisdom that comes from God and the importance of trusting in Him. In our Christian journey, wisdom is not merely an accumulation of knowledge; it is a divine gift that requires our obedience and submission to God's will. To truly gain wisdom from God, we must be willing to heed His guidance. Proverbs 2:6 reminds us, "For the Lord grants wisdom. From His mouth come knowledge and understanding." This divine wisdom brings discipline, knowledge, and discernment into our lives. It transforms how we perceive the world, guiding us away from relying solely on our limited understanding. When we seek God's wisdom, we no longer act according to our

own ways but look to Him for direction. The book of Proverbs begins by stating, "The fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline" (Proverbs 1:7). Dear friends, let us examine our hearts and ensure we are not among the fools who reject the counsel of our Lord. Wisdom from God is a treasure that will help us not only in our personal lives but also in teaching and understanding His Word. In Proverbs 1:23, the Lord gently calls us: "Come and listen to my counsel. I'll share my heart with you and make you wise." What a beautiful invitation! God stands ready to share His wisdom with each of us, but too often, we are the ones who turn away. We must change our stubborn ways when He calls and corrects us. There is power in tuning our ears to wisdom and

concentrating on understanding (Proverbs 2:2). When we do this, we open ourselves to receive His knowledge joyfully. Beloved, it is crucial that we learn to rely not on our own understanding but wholly on God's wisdom. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." This is an assurance that when we trust in God and seek His will, He will guide us along the right path. In a world filled with conflicting advice and human wisdom, it is easy to become impressed with our own understanding. But Proverbs 3:7 warns us: "Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil." We must remember that the wisdom of God far surpasses our own. As stated in

1 Corinthians 1:25, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." So, dear friends, let us always seek guidance from our Heavenly Father. When blessed with wisdom, let us remain humble. The knowledge we receive is not a result of our own power but a gift from the Lord. In embracing this gift, let us embody loyalty, kindness, and humility, for these traits find favor in God's eyes. As we depart today, may we remember that wisdom from God enhances our lives and leads us closer to His heart. Let us trust Him wholeheartedly and invite His wisdom into our daily lives. May we surrender our will to His and walk in the path He has set for us. Amen.
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MPUMALANGA PREMIER SIGNS MOU WITH LONGNAN MUNICIPALITY IN CHINA

By Staff Reporter

Longnan: Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu has signed a significant five-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Longnan Municipality in China, aimed at fostering collaboration across various sectors. The agreement, which took place during Premier Ndlovu's official visit to China, is expected to enhance economic ties and cultural exchange between the two regions. Leading the delegation was Premier Ndlovu, accompanied by MEC for Agriculture Ms. Nompumelelo Hlophe, Director General Ms. Maggie Skhosana, Head of the Department for Agriculture Mr. Cain Chunda, and other senior government officials from the Department of Agriculture and Treasury. The MOU focuses on multiple areas of cooperation, including industrial collaboration, agricultural development, infrastructure improvements, cultural exchange, and talent development. This partnership aligns with the outcomes of the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit and the bilateral discussions held between South Africa and China in Beijing in September. A key component of the agreement involves facilitating bilateral trade and market access, aiming to expand and diversify trade between South Africa and China. This includes promoting South African agricultural products within the Chinese market, reducing non-tariff barriers, and enhancing agri-processing and logistics partnerships. "As Mpumalanga, we are responding



Mpumalanga Premier Mandala Ndlovu exchanging pleasantries with Longnan Municipality's Executive Vice Mayor Li Rong MOU signing ceremony in China

to the vision of our President, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa. Through this MOU, we are defining a series of action plans and interventions to accelerate trade access between Mpumalanga and Longnan Municipality," said Premier Ndlovu. He emphasized that the operationalization of the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market would particularly benefit farmers from previously disadvantaged communities. The visit also aims to address other

economic activities that could bolster the provincial economy and reduce unemployment rates in Mpumalanga. Longnan City Executive Vice Mayor Li Rong expressed optimism about the newly signed MOU, stating that it symbolizes the start of a deeper and more solid development in bilateral cooperation. "Longnan will henceforth be your home in China. The relationship between China and South Africa is not just a win-win situation, but one of complementary advantages to

create shared value together. It is hoped that this will be the beginning of a 'family + partner' relationship between the two sides," Vice Mayor Rong added. The MOU marks a promising step forward in fostering collaboration between Mpumalanga and Longnan Municipality, paving the way for future economic growth and enhanced relations between South Africa and China.

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TIMELESSSPORT

SOUTH AFRICA TRIUMPHS IN WTC25 FINAL: A HISTORIC VICTORY



By Thulane Madalane

O R Tambo:In a thrilling conclusion to the World Test Championship 2023 final, South Africa emerged victorious over Australia, securing their first men's senior ICC trophy since 1998. Set with a target of 282 runs on the fourth morning at Lord's, the Proteas made light work of the chase, needing just 69 runs to claim the prestigious mace. The defining moment came when Kyle Verreynne struck the winning shot, sealing a historic victory for the South African cricket team. One of the standout performances of the match came from Aiden Markram, who was named Player of the Match for his remarkable innings of 136 runs. His performance proved pivotal, ultimately separating the two sides in a contest where the ball dominated for the majority of the match. As the Proteas inched closer to their target, Markram's departure with just six runs remaining raised tensions; he was dismissed late in the proceedings, showcasing the nail-biting nature of the final moments of the Test. The fourth morning began with two exciting yet nerve-wracking events for South Africa. Captain Temba Bavuma contributed a solid 66 runs before being dismissed by Australian skipper Pat Cummins, raising hopes of a potential Australian comeback. Shortly after, left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc showcased his skills by breaking through the defenses of Tristan Stubbs, who scored 8 runs, when only 41 runs were still required to seal South Africa's win. Throughout the match, contributions from the entire South African XI were notable. While Markram's performance was unquestionably commendable, it was the collective effort of the team that secured the victory. Pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada played a crucial role, collecting nine wickets across both innings and

serving as a lynchpin in the bowling attack. This triumph is particularly significant for Markram and Rabada, who were part of the South African squad that lifted the ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup in 2014. Their success in the 2023 final is the culmination of resilience and determination after a series of near misses in ICC events in recent years. Just last year, South Africa fell agonizingly short in the T20 World Cup final against India, and memories of that defeat likely lingered as they approached this critical clash at Lord's. The Australian team, known for their experienced and strong bowling attack, gave a formidable challenge throughout the match. However, it was ultimately Markram's historic innings that quelled their threat, allowing South Africa to break their lengthy trophy drought in what is often termed the Ultimate Test. Adding to the celebrations, South African Sports Minister McKenzie proclaimed the nation's sporting prowess with fervor. "We are the best sports nation in the world, nobody can argue that. We have the best cricket team, the best rugby team, and Bafana Bafana have gone 20 games without defeat," McKenzie asserted. His pride didn't stop there; he celebrated the nation's achievements in various sports, citing, "We have the world's strongest man, the world's strongest woman. We have the fastest runners, the best surfers in the world. We are a bunch of winners!" McKenzie extended his praise to Proteas coach Shukri Conrad and captain Temba Bavuma for their instrumental roles in guiding the team to the title. He emphasized their contribution in instilling a strong sense of confidence within the squad over the years leading up to the WTC final. "You know the difference with this team ... Shukri Conrad is the best coach in the world, but one thing he did with this team is make them believe," he stated.

"They don't need motivation. We believed they were going to win. Conrad believed they were going to win and they believed they were going to win. It's the recipe for where we are today," he continued, underscoring the unity and belief within the team. "Temba Bavuma, he rose at the right time. Temba means hope, and he brought hope to the nation," McKenzie concluded, capturing the essence of what this victory

symbolizes for South Africa. As the Proteas celebrated their impressive victory, the cricketing world shifted its attention to the future, eager to witness how this triumph will influence South African cricket in the years to come. With their first senior ICC trophy in over two decades, the South African team has set a strong foundation for future success.

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South Africa beats Australia to clinch World Test Championship | Day 4 Highlights | WTC25 Final