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Est. 2008 Edition Est. 2008 Edition 446 30 July- 03 August 2026 www.sekdispatch.co.za 072 107 3042

Possible GNT retrenchments cast doubt on turnaround



The DA in Limpopo has raised serious concerns on GNT possible retrenchments.

LIMPOPO

The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo has called for urgent clarity from provincial government after Great North Transport (GNT) issued a Section 189 notice, triggering consultations on possible retrenchments at the state-owned bus company.

DA Limpopo Spokesperson for Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), Jacques Smalle, said the party is deeply concerned by the move and wants LEDET MEC Tshitereke Matibe to appear before the Portfolio Committee immediately.

"The DA is deeply concerned by reports that Great North Transport has issued a Section 189 notice initiating consultations on possible retrenchments. MEC Matibe must urgently disclose the full extent of the proposed restructuring and its impact on workers and commuters," said Smalle. According to the DA, the MEC, the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), as GNT's shareholder, and GNT's interim accounting authority must explain the financial and

operational reasons for the proposed job cuts, alternatives considered to avoid losses, how many employees and depots could be affected, and what the impact would be on commuters across the province. Smalle argued the situation contradicts years of assurances from the provincial government.

"For years, the DA has warned that GNT's deteriorating financial position, operational instability and governance failures would ultimately threaten both the sustainability of the company and the livelihoods of its employees," he said.

"Despite these warnings, the ANC-led provincial government has repeatedly assured the public that GNT was being stabilized through bailouts, fleet renewal and turnaround interventions," added Smalle.

The DA is now asking whether the turnaround strategy has failed.

"MEC Matibe must explain this contradiction. He must tell the people of Limpopo what has changed, whether the turnaround strategy has failed, why the Legislature has not yet been informed, and how the

company reached a point where jobs may now be at risk," Smalle said.

The party also wants clarity on whether the restructuring forms part of a properly cost recovery plan or is instead a short-term fix for deeper problems.

"Employees must not be made to bear the consequences of decisions over which they had no control. Retrenchment must be a measure of last resort. The consultation process with organized labour must be conducted with full financial disclosure and genuine consideration of every reasonable and viable alternative that could preserve jobs while restoring the long-term sustainability of the company," said Smalle.

He said Limpopo residents need a transport system that is properly run.

"The people of Limpopo deserve a public transport system that is stable, properly governed and capable of serving communities without placing the burden of the institutional and governance failures on its employees," concluded Smalle.



107 deported as “Operation Retshepeng” targets Jane Furse Precinct



Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba checking compliance at Jane Furse foreign owned shops.

JANE FURSE

Limpopo police have deported 107 undocumented foreign nationals and arrested 23 people following a major multidisciplinary operation in the Jane Furse policing area on Friday 24 July 2026.

The operation, named “Operation Retshepeng” which means “Trust Us”, was led by the Acting Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo, Major General Jan Scheepers. He was joined by Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba and Mukhuduthamaga Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Merah Mahlase.

According to Brigadier Hlulani Mashaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the focus of the operation in the Sekhukhune District was to restore public trust

and improve community safety.

During the operation, the police and government departments carried out crime prevention activities, compliance inspections, road safety checks, verification of undocumented persons, and searches of both business and residential premises.

Members from the Stock Theft Unit, Visible Policing, TRT, POP, Highway Patrol, Hawks, Counterfeit Goods, FLASH and traffic police took part. They were supported by officials from Home Affairs, Labour, Health, Social Development and LEDET.

“During the operation, police searched 55 businesses, 1,218 people, 374 vehicles and 45 residential premises. A total of 107 undocumented foreign nationals were deported. This included 32 Mozambicans, 45 Zimbabweans

and 30 Malawians,” Mashaba informed.

Headed that law enforcement officers also seized R7,500 worth of counterfeit goods, with twenty-three suspects arrested for offences such as bribery, drug possession and trading without a license.

“In addition, 58 summonses were issued, one vehicle was impounded and two shebeens were closed,” he said.

Mashaba said the operation had produced clear results in crime prevention, public safety and regulatory compliance. He added that similar operations would continue to be rolled out across the province.

“The arrested suspects are expected to appear in their local magistrate’s courts soon,” concluded Mashaba.

MATHUKUTHELA

Deceased brothers, Lehwelere Percy Monakedi (24) and Mahlatse Derick Monakedi (32), Monyewane Boshelo Patrick (30), Mashilo Makatsile Frans (23), brothers Mamakoko Motubatse Abraham (27) and Mamakoko Serame Jacob (17), Thato Mothupi Motsoaledi (23), Abraham Motuku Mahlare (31), Tsimma Terrence Mampuru (23), and Theledi Motshele David (26) have been laid to their final resting place following the tragic road accident that claimed their lives.

The Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) extended its heartfelt condolences to the



Acting Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo, Major General Jan Scheepers leading the operation in Jane Furse.

Ten young men laid to rest following fatal car crash



Ten young men who tragically lost their lives in a devastating road accident were laid to rest in a mass funeral.

families, friends and loved ones of the 10 young men who tragically lost their lives in a devastating road accident last week during koma graduates celebration.

The victims have been laid to rest following a moving funeral service attended by hundreds of mourners at Makwetle Secondary School, in Mathukuthela area of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM).

Speaking during the funeral, SDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Minah Bahula, announced that the municipality, together with government departments, faith-based organisations and other stakeholders, will soon organise an interfaith prayer and spiritual cleansing ceremony at the accident scene.

“The interfaith prayer and cleansing intended to bring comfort, healing and hope to our communities as we pray for the victims, their families, and for safety on our roads following this tragic loss,” said Bahula.

The Executive Mayor also said the municipality commits to continue providing psychosocial

support with sector departments to the bereaved families during this difficult time.

The funeral was attended by the Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Cllr Merah Mahlase, the Mayor of Ephraim Mogale Municipality, Cllr Given Moimana and several councilors, Taxi Associations, which assisted with transport arrangements, and several government leaders, traditional leaders and community stakeholders also provided support.

Meanwhile, two survivors of the accident remain in hospital, with one reportedly still receiving treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The district municipality wishes them a full and speedy recovery.



SDM Executive Mayor, Cllr Minah Bahula, says the district municipality will hold interfaith prayer after a fatal crash claims 10 lives.



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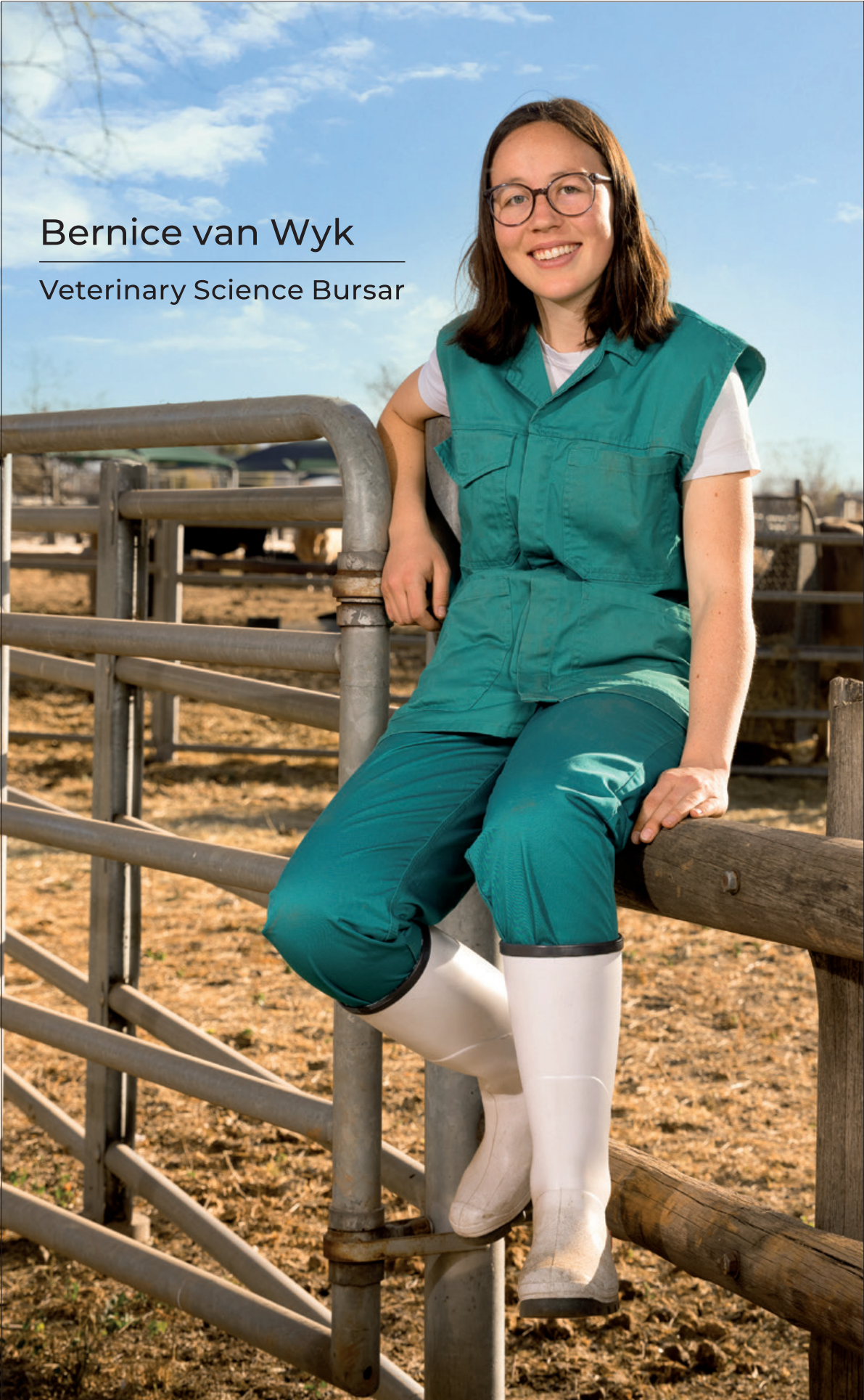
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Bernice van Wyk
Veterinary Science Bursar

This isn't a story, **it's a journey.**

I'm Bernice, and I am a third-year veterinary science student from Lydenburg.

Growing up, I was surrounded by animals, nurturing a deep passion for their well-being. So, when it came time to choose a career path, becoming a vet was a natural choice.

When I didn't get into vet school on my first try, I didn't let it deter me, I found new hope with Glencore's support, which enabled me to secure my spot the next year.

University life and the workload in veterinary science have been intense, but I've embraced the challenge. I've shadowed veterinarians in Lydenburg, learning about various animal diseases firsthand that has been invaluable to my studies.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the prospect of entering my clinical year. I see myself running my own vet practice one day, catering to both pets and production animals in my hometown. With Glencore by my side, I'm confident in achieving this dream.

My advice to anyone pursuing their dreams is simple: stay passionate and determined.

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GLENCORE

ActionSA Welcomes New Members from Mayibuye iAfrika Movement and EFF in Sekhukhune



ActionSA in FTLM has officially unveiled new members ahead of the 2026 Local Government Elections.

FETAKGOMO-TUBATSE
ActionSA officially welcomed the former Mayibuye iAfrika Movement leader Ashley Masweneng, several supporters, and former EFF member Fenya Mmabane at Ga-Radingwane Village over the weekend. The gathering also included key provincial and regional heads, Provincial Treasurer Tonic Manchidi, Provincial Elections Manager Simon Mangena, Sekhukhune Regional Chairperson Johannes Radingwane, and Regional Secretary Abram, who showcased ActionSA's growing presence in the region as local communities strive for credible and accountable governance. ActionSA Mayoral Candidate in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM), Tonic Manchidi, has appealed to attendees, highlighting the ruling party's poor governance in Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM) Ward 38 and its inability to provide adequate basic shelter locally.

Manchidi has called on the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHTA) to repair the incomplete, substandard RDP house given to a local family.

Echoing service delivery concerns, Manchidi has called out the current water emergency, saying "it is disappointing that, 32 years after democracy, residents of Fetakgomo Tubatse must still purchase water because the municipalities' local resources are not used adequately to provide services to residents".

The official welcome of the newcomers was followed by a call for the community to entrust ActionSA with running FTLM Ward 38 and delivering tangible change across Limpopo.

To make this commitment concrete, ActionSA has announced a service delivery march on 5 August 2026, inviting all local supporters to walk from the SABC building to the Office of the Premier in Limpopo. ActionSA's foundation remains strong, with principled leadership and trusted infrastructure in place to bring it to the people of Limpopo.

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CSDA celebrates Mandela Day with school shoes donation



CSDA commemorated Mandela Day by donating school shoes to underprivileged children in Tafelkop Village.

TAFELKOP

The Community Sports Development Agency (CSDA) marked Mandela Day on Saturday 25 July 2026 by giving back to the community during an event held at the Lutheran Church in Majakaneng, Tafelkop Village.

The non-profit organization, founded by Karabo Mokgabudi and Hloniphile Khumalo, handed out 30 pairs of school shoes to children from the local community.

The outreach is part of CSDA's ongoing work to use sport as a tool for personal growth, discipline, leadership and community development across Tafelkop and the wider Sekhukhune District. The donation was made possible with support from Lesaka EasyPay.

Speaking at the event, CSDA Co-Founder Hloniphile Khumalo said the gesture was about more than shoes.

"Together, we continue to demonstrate that by working hand in hand, we can build stronger, healthier, and more hopeful communities," Khumalo said.

She said the partnership with Lesaka EasyPay helped ensure learners start the school term better equipped. The organization also thanked the company for aligning with its mission to create opportunities for children and young people through sport.

Established in Tafelkop, CSDA runs community programmes aimed at keeping youth engaged, building leadership skills, and strengthening local development through athletics and outreach.

The agency closed the Mandela Day event by reiterating its commitment to further collaborations that address basic needs while promoting active, healthy lifestyles in the district.

Residents march to Nebo Home Affairs over illegal immigration concerns



Scores of residents from various villages of Elias Motsoaledi and Makhuduthamaga Municipalities marching to hand-over memorandum of demands at the Home Affairs Department.

NEBO

Hundreds of residents from villages across Elias Motsoaledi and Makhuduthamaga Local Municipalities took to the streets on Friday 24 July 2026 as part of the nationwide "March and March" programme, demanding government action against undocumented foreign nationals in their communities. The demonstration began early in the morning at Maserumule Park Fourways, just a few kilometers from the Department of Home Affairs office in Nebo. From Maserumule Park, the crowd moved together along the road toward the Nebo Home Affairs office, singing, carrying placards, and chanting against what they called "uncontrolled illegal immigration".

According to protest leader, Simon Kgagara, the protest was driven by growing frustration over what residents describe as an influx of undocumented foreign nationals settling in the area.

"We are not against anyone trying to make a living. But our communities are being overwhelmed, and our people are being left behind," he said.

He said key concerns raised by residents include foreign nationals allegedly operating

spaza shops, salons, and building material shops in the villages without proper documentation.

"The purpose of this march is to tell government that we are tired. Our villages are flooded with undocumented foreign nationals who are taking over spaza shops, salons, and building material shops. Our own people are struggling to feed their families."

He added that residents are not against foreigners in general, but want the law to be enforced equally. "We respect people who come here legally. But we cannot continue like this while our children are unemployed and our businesses are closing," Kgagara said. Other issues listed in the memorandum include pressure on clinics, schools, and municipal services. Community members argue this is affecting local businesses and straining municipal services.

At the Nebo Department of Home Affairs office, demonstrators submitted their memorandum outlining their demands.

Friday's action forms part of a broader series of March and March demonstrations being staged across South Africa since 30 June 2026, focused on immigration, service delivery, and economic participation.



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Illegal initiation schools closed in Hlogotlou



Coghsta in Limpopo has shut-down illegal initiation school in Hlogotlou.

HLOGOTLOU

MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (Coghsta), Basikopo Makamu, welcomes the closure of seven initiation schools which were operating illegally in the Sekhukhune District. Four female initiation schools with 127 initiates, and three male initiation schools with 115 initiates continued to operate beyond the official closing date.

All customary initiation schools in Limpopo had until the 19th July 2026 to close. Acting on a tip off, officials from COGHSTA, in collaboration with the police, pounced on these schools on Wednesday 22 July 2026, around Nebo, in the Hlogotlou Policing Area. "Continuing to run initiation schools beyond the stipulated period is a violation of the law. We commend the swift action by SAPS and our monitors," said MEC Makamu. The July 19th deadline was reached in consultation with the Department of Education, to accommodate

the commencement of the third quarter of the 2026 academic year.

"It is clear that the owners of these schools have no regard for the education of initiates who are still attending school. This is totally unacceptable and government has to act in the best interest of these learners," added Makamu. Some of the initiates were reunited with their parents, while those staying far were taken to traditional surgeons and were expected to be reunited with their families.

Meanwhile, the department said the monitoring teams will continue investigating non-compliant initiation schools around the Sekhukhune District and the rest of Limpopo Province.

The department indicated that it continues to call on communities to remain vigilant against initiation schools which are not operating within the regulations and also to report them to authorities, including the SAPS as well as traditional leadership.

BPSA taps Martha Lebo Makua as EMLM Ward 22 candidate, ahead of November polls

SEPHAKU

The Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA) has confirmed Martha Lebogang Makua as its councillor candidate for Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM) Ward 22 in the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM), setting the stage for a contest focused squarely on service delivery. In a statement released recently, the party said Makua has accepted the call to serve residents of EMLM Ward 22 in the upcoming municipal elections scheduled for 4 November 2026.

Launching her campaign, Makua took aim at what she called years of symbolic gestures replacing real infrastructure.

"For too long, our communities have been offered political T-shirts instead of meaningful service delivery. You cannot drive on a T-shirt. You cannot drink a T-shirt when there is no water. You cannot switch on a T-shirt when there is no electricity," Makua said.

She listed the community's priorities as tarred roads, clean running water, reliable electricity, job opportunities, and leadership that is held accountable.

"Our people deserve roads, clean water, reliable electricity, jobs, and accountable leadership, not empty promises every election season," she added.

The BPSA says the November vote is a chance for Ward 22 to choose a new direction. According to the party, the goal is to elect representatives committed to working for residents every day, not only

during campaigns.

"I call upon every resident of Ward 22 to stand together, support Martha Lebogang 'Lebo' Makua, and vote for honest, accountable, and community-centred leadership," the statement reads.

Ward 22 forms part of various villages. Like many municipalities across Limpopo, EMLM has faced ongoing challenges with water interruptions, road maintenance, and youth unemployment, issues expected to dominate door-to-door campaigning in the months ahead.

The BPSA says it will focus its Ward 22 campaign on tangible delivery targets and regular community reporting from the councillor's office.



Martha Lebogang Makua was unveiled as councillor candidate for EMLM Ward 22.

MEC Rachoene leads Mandela Day clean-up at Leratong Disability Centre



Leratong Disability Centre beneficiaries were happy for the upgrades during the 67 minutes for Mandela Day activities organized by the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure.

ELANDSKRAAL

MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure in Limpopo, Ernest Rachoene, spent his 67 minutes for Mandela Day at Leratong Disability Centre in Elandskraal outside Marble Hall, Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM), where together with officials and residents, worked together to improve facilities for persons living with disabilities.

Rachoene was joined by Ephraim Mogale Municipality Mayor, Cllr Given Moimana, departmental staff, municipal officials and other stakeholders for the commemoration on held on Friday 17 July 2026. The team dedicated the day to hands-on service at the centre.

Work carried out during the programme included painting buildings, repairing windows, fixing electrical faults, general cleaning, trimming overgrown trees and installing sporting equipment for beneficiaries.

Speaking during the initiative, Rachoene said the outreach reflected government's commitment to inclusion and to ensuring that vulnerable groups are not forgotten.

"Mandela Day reminds us that changing the world begins with changing the lives of those around us. Today, we have shown that through partnership, compassion and commitment, we can restore hope and dignity to our communities," Rachoene said.

He reaffirmed that protecting the rights, dignity and well-being of persons with disabilities remains a key priority of the democratic government.

"Government remains committed to ensuring that no one is left behind," he added.

In a gesture of unity, Rachoene cut and shared a Mandela Day birthday cake with beneficiaries at the centre.

He also called on residents to live out the spirit of Ubuntu beyond the annual commemoration.

"Let us embrace Ubuntu and make every day a Mandela Day through acts of kindness and service," he urged.

Mayor Moimana expressed appreciation to all participants, adding that the partnership between the department and the municipality would continue to target vulnerable communities in Ephraim Mogale.

The department and the municipality further stated that they remain committed to collaborative initiatives aimed at improving living conditions for vulnerable groups across Ephraim Mogale.

Beneficiaries of Leratong Disability Centre expressed appreciation for the upgrades and for the support shown during the celebration.



MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure in Limpopo, Ernest Rachoene, committed his 67 minutes for Mandela Day at Leratong Disability Centre in Elandskraal.

29-year-old man arrested for unlicensed firearm

ZAAIPLAAS

A 29-year-old man was arrested in Sekhukhune this week after police found him in possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition during a tactical operation.

According to Brigadier Hlulani Mashaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the suspect was nabbed on Friday 24 July 2026, by members of the Sekhukhune District Tactical Unit, the Investigation Team, and Zaaiplaas police who acted on information linked to an ongoing robbery with aggravating circumstances case.

"The police received a tip-off about a man allegedly in possession of an unlicensed firearm at Madala Stands. Officers proceeded to the area, identified themselves, and searched the suspect's room. During the search, a 9mm pistol and 10 rounds of live ammunition were recovered. The man was unable to produce a firearm license and was immediately arrested for possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition," explained Mashaba.

He said the suspect is expected to appear before the local magistrate's court soon. Mashaba said investigations into the matter are continuing.



The unlicensed firearm that was recovered by the police in possession of the suspect during his arrest.

678 suspects arrested during Operation Shanela II



The police getting ready to execute the latest Operation Shanela II that resulted in the arrest of 678 suspects across Limpopo.

LIMPOPO

The Acting Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Major General Jan Scheepers, has commended the relentless efforts of law enforcement teams after 678 suspects were arrested during a week-long high-density operation across the province.

The multidisciplinary operation, known as "Operation Shanela II", ran from Monday 20 July 2026 until Sunday 26 July 2026.

According to Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the arrests were made for a wide range of offenses. "During the operation, the police and partner agencies executed extensive compliance and crime prevention duties," he said. Ledwaba added that a total of 1 330 premises were inspected and the same number of licensed liquor premises were checked.

"Law enforcement visited 985 farms, inspected 4 524 informal businesses such as spaza shops to ensure labour law compliance, and examined 364 second-hand dealers. A further 388 premises were searched, 51 unlicensed liquor premises were searched, and 132 scrapyards were inspected. In total, 17 239 persons were searched," informed Ledwaba.

He indicated that the operation yielded significant results in the fight against both violent and contact crime.

Police recorded one case of contravening the Firearms Control Act of 2000 and two cases of illegal possession of firearms. Four suspects were arrested for dealing in drugs. Other arrests included 17 for possession of illegal cigarettes, 67 for illegal dealing in liquor, one for contravening the Second-Hand Goods Act, and one for car-hijacking.

Ledwaba said violent crimes accounted for a large portion of the arrests, with the police arrested 10 suspects for business robbery, four for residential robbery, nine for murder, and four for attempted murder.

"Twenty suspects were arrested for rape, 108 for assault with intent to cause

grievous bodily harm, and 70 for common assault. Property-related crimes included nine business burglaries, 15 residential burglaries, six cases of theft from or of a motor vehicle, and 43 cases of malicious damage to property," Ledwaba said.

He said traffic and compliance offenses also featured prominently, with thirty-one suspects arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The police arrested 125 illegal immigrants and 44 people for illicit mining activities.

Ledwaba said several items were confiscated during the raids. These included 417 73 liters of alcoholic beverages, R7 210 in cash, three cellphones, four copper rolls, and 27 dangerous weapons.

"The police also seized 0.0425kg of dagga, 26 rounds of ammunition, three dagga plants, 0.005 grams of crystal meth, 0.004 grams of heroin, 277 packets of tobacco products, two firearms, and three vehicles which included trailers, motorcycles, trucks, sedans and SUVs," Ledwaba said. He said the arrested suspects have already started appearing before their respective Magistrate courts and police investigations are continuing.

Major General Scheepers applauded the collaborative work of various SAPS units and other law enforcement agencies. Participating departments included the South African National Defence Force, Traffic Police, the Department of Home Affairs, Department of Health, Department of Social Development, Department of Employment and Labour, Department of Economic Development, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Fisheries, as well as the Department of Small Businesses and Enterprises and private entities.

Scheepers praised the men and women in blue for their work in close collaboration with the Justice Cluster and external stakeholders in crime prevention across the province.



Some of the drugs that were recovered by the police during the ongoing Operation Shanela II.

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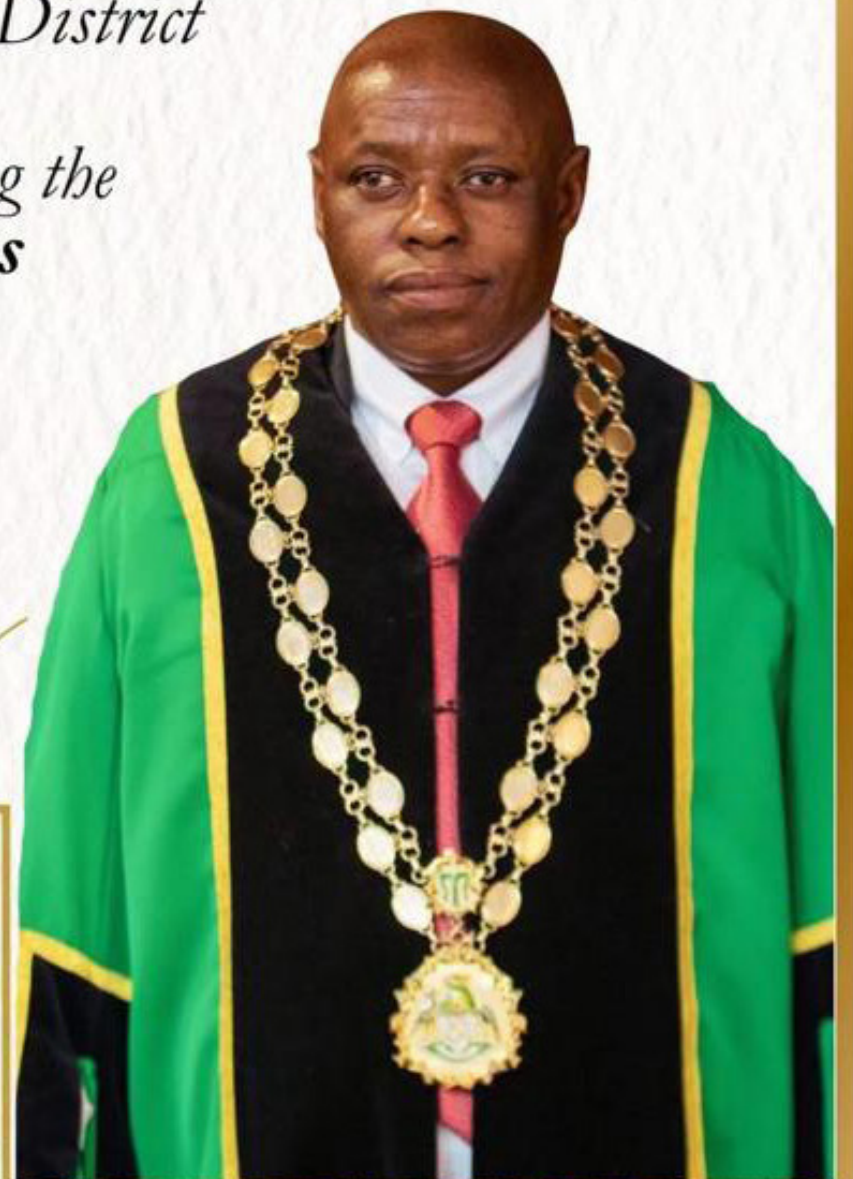
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Sports



INSIDE

Ten young men laid to rest following fatal car crash

Babina Noko edge Magesi to win Mafori Cup in Seshego thriller

SESHEGO

Sekhukhune United FC, fondly known as Babina Noko, were crowned Mafori Cup Champions on Saturday 25 July 2026, after a gritty 1-0 victory over Limpopo rivals Magesi FC at a packed Seshego Stadium.

The decisive moment came in a tense final where both sides battled for provincial bragging rights, but it was Babina Noko found the breakthrough and held firm through five minutes of stoppage time.

When the referee blew for full time at 90+5, scenes of celebration erupted as Sekhukhune players collapsed to the turf, then rose to lift their first Mafori Cup trophy.

This was a performance defined by heart, determination, and teamwork. From the first whistle to the last, Sekhukhune pressed, defended as a unit, and refused to give Magesi any space in front of goal.

Speaking after the match, the club's head coach, Cedrick Kaze, dedicated the win to their supporters.

"A performance full of heart, determination, and teamwork. This trophy belongs to every player, every supporter and everyone who stood with us every step of the way," he said.

For Magesi, it was a hard-fought final that ended in disappointment, but their run to the showpiece earned respect from the home crowd.

With the Mafori Cup now in Babina Noko's cabinet, Sekhukhune United will look to carry this momentum into the new season, with their fans already dreaming of more silverware.



Sekhukhune United celebrating after winning the Mafori Cup after a gritty 1-0 victory over Limpopo rivals Magesi FC at a packed Seshego Stadium.



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