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Payment dispute halts R42 million Makhuduthamaga road project



Residents of Brooklyn, Makoshala and neighbouring villages, were left frustrated after the road project in the area was halted in January 2026.



The Brooklyn to Makoshala Road Project has stalled as contractors allegedly abandoned the site over payment dispute with the municipality.



BROOKLYN/MAKOSHALA - Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM) is under pressure to account for the status of the Brooklyn to Makoshala Road Project after allegations emerged that the appointed contractor abandoned the site in January 2026.

Concerned residents allege that the contractor withdrew after Makhuduthamaga Municipality failed to make payments for work done, resulting in subcontractors and employees not receiving their wages.

The construction had begun in July 2025, but activity on the site ceased six months later.

The 6.5km road, which was set to be upgraded from gravel to tar, serves several villages in the Makhuduthamaga Municipality.

The municipality had set aside R42 million for the construction of the

access road, which is meant to improve connectivity and access to services for communities in the area.

Residents say the stalled work has left the community frustrated, as the road remains in poor condition, and affecting their daily lives.

The alleged project abandonment has raised concerns about service delivery and the management of infrastructure projects in the municipality.

"People were working there and suddenly everything stopped. No one is on site anymore and the workers say they haven't been paid," said a concerned resident, Thabo Mogola.

He said residents' frustration is growing as they wait for clarity on when, or if, construction will restart.

"This road is how we get to access services. Now that it is still bad and nothing is moving, we feel forgotten

again," said Mogola.

Another resident, Betty Seroka, said she uses the road to access the clinic in Jane Furse for her monthly medication and to check on elderly neighbours.

"When it rains, we can't use the road at all. I missed my clinic appointment last month because the taxi couldn't pass. This road was supposed to help old people like me, but now we are stuck again. Government must come and finish what they started," she said.

At the time of going to press, MLM had not responded to enquiries sent by the publication.

Community infrastructure projects in Makhuduthamaga have faced challenges before, with a 2023 academic study noting issues including political interference, inexperienced service providers, and inadequate financial management as factors affecting implementation.

DA calls for IPID probe on Groblersdal major dagga bust



The DA in EMLM demands IPID to investigate the arrest of a police member linked to a major dagga bust in Groblersdal.

GROBLERSDAL - The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo has urged the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) to investigate the arrest of a SAPS member linked to a major dagga bust in Groblersdal last week.

On 12 May 2026, an intelligence-driven operation led to the arrest of three people, including a police member based in Carolina, Mpumalanga.

The suspects, Constable Mulondolozzi Khumalo (33), Musa Nkosi (36), and Rakawane Sandisile Xolisole (23), appeared before the Groblersdal Magistrate's Court on Wednesday 13 May 2026 and were remanded in custody for a formal bail application.

The suspects were arrested during an intelligence-driven operation conducted at the Groblersdal Bus Terminal on Monday, 11 May 2026 at approximately 18:00.

Members attached to the Sekhukhune Highway Patrol received information about two vehicles allegedly transporting dagga en route to Musina. The identified vehicles, a red Audi A3 sedan and a black Audi A3, were spotted and instructed to stop. The vehicles allegedly failed to comply, resulting in a pursuit.

Police subsequently managed to stop and search both vehicles. During the search, police discovered 17 compressed dagga bales inside the vehicles. The seized dagga is at an estimated value of R200 000. The DA said the case points to deeper problems within the police service.

"This bust is a huge win for our communities. But it is concerning that we are losing the war against drugs and faith in SAPS following the arrest of one of their own," said Marie Helm, DA Provincial Spokesperson for Transport and Community Safety.

Helm argued that the involvement of a serving officer indicates systemic failure. "The arrest of a police officer points to institutional rot within SAPS and must be investigated by IPID; the war on drugs demands credible and ethical policing," she said.

Helm cited rising drug-related crime in the province as further evidence of the challenge. The latest available annual SAPS crime statistics show 6,833 drug-related arrests due to police action in Limpopo, a 24.1 percentage point increase from the previous year.

In the third quarter of 2025 alone, drug-related crime rose year-on-year by 3.4 percentage points, from 2,566 to 2,654 cases over 12 months.

The DA has formally called on IPID to take over the investigation to ensure independence and accountability.

The police in Limpopo confirmed the case is being handled by the Limpopo Provincial Anti-Corruption Unit.



Large quantities of dagga that were recovered by the police during the arrests.

20 MAY 2026

CLOSURE OF SOLOMON MAHLANGU STADIUM

Thembisile Hani Local Municipality would like to inform community members that the **Solomon Mahlangu Stadium** will be temporarily closed from the **22nd of May 2026** and be reopened on the **03rd of July 2026** for scheduled maintenance of the pitch.

www.thembisilehanilm.gov.za
013 986 9100

ISAZISO NGOKWESIGABA 92 SOMTHETHO WOKUHLELWA KWENDAWO NOKUPHATHWA KOKUSETSHENZISWA KOMHLABA KAMASIPALA WASEKHAYA WASE-ELIAS MOTSOLEDI, 2016, OFUNDWA KANYE NOMTHETHO WE-SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2013 (UMTHETHO 16 KA-2013)

Kuyaziswa ukuthi uMasipala uthole lesi sicelo esilandelayo:

Uhlobo lwesicelo: Ukwandiswa Kwemingcele Yelokishi

Incazelo yesakhiwo: Remaining Extent of the Farm Elandsdoorn 56 JS, esiFundazweni saseLimpopo

Umfakisisicelo: Elmon Consulting

Umnikazi womhlaba: Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality

Isiphakamiso: Isiphakamiso sentuthuko sihlanganisa ukwandiswa komngcele weLokishi lase-Elandsdoorn-C phezu kweRemaining Extent of the Farm Elandsdoorn 56 JS ukuze le ndawo ifakwe ngaphakathi kwelokishi ngenhloso yezindawo zokuhlala njengengxenywe yeLand Tenure Upgrade Project, ehlose ukwenza ngokusemthethweni ukuthuthukiswa kwezindawo zokuhlala esezikhona kanye nokuqinisekisa amalungelo obunikazi bomhlaba kwabahlomulayo.

Iminingwane yesicelo izotholakala ukuze ihlolwe ngezikhathi zomsebenzi ezijwayelekile (ngoMsombuluko kuya kuLwesihlanu, kusukela ngo-08:00 kuya ku-16:00) emahhovisi oMqondisi: Planning and Economic Development, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Civic Centre, 2 Grobler Avenue, Groblersdal, Limpopo, isikhathi esiyizinsuku ezingama-30 kusukela ngosuku lokushicilelwa kwalesi sazis.

Ukuphikisa noma izethulo maqondana nalesi sicelo kufanele zithunyelwe noma zenziwe ngokubhala kuMasipala nge-imeyili ku info@emlm.gov.za phakathi nezinsuku ezingama-30 kusukela mhla ziyi-22 kuNhlaba 2026.

Noma yimuphi umuntu ongakwazi ukubhala angavakashela emahhovisi ashiwo ngenhla ngezikhathi zomsebenzi lapho isisebenzi sikaMasipala sizomsiza ukubhala ukuphikisa noma izethulo zakhe.

Ikheli lomfakisisicelo:

Elmon Consulting (Pty) Ltd

Ikheli: Unit 8, Building 96, 9 Pony Street, Tijgervallei Office Park, Silverlakes, 0084

Ucingo: 012 809 0377

Iselula: 073 619 4911

I-imeyili: infor@elmoncon.com

FTLM entangled in tender awarding favouritism and dodgy contracts payments

BURGERSFORT - Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM) have raised serious concerns over alleged irregular payments to companies attached to senior officials, accusing the municipality of corruption and favouritism in awarding tender contracts.

The local businesses say the matter points to a pattern where connected companies continue to secure lucrative deals while other local businesses are sidelined.

The businesses, which asked not to be named for fear of jeopardizing future contracts, say the matter fits a broader pattern where well-connected companies continue to win multi-million-rand deals while local businesses struggle to get a look-in, while others are getting paid without rendering any services to the municipality.

They allege that in some instances, prices are inflated where the municipality pays millions of rands for small rendered services. The service providers claim one of the benefiting companies, which is known to the paper, was paid approximately R10 million recently without rendering corresponding services.

It is alleged that the company continues to get dodgy contracts that benefit senior officials and councillors within Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality.

"If you are not connected, you are not considered in this municipality," one service provider told this publication.

Local businesses are questioning the municipality's monitoring and verification processes, asking how payments are approved if services have not been delivered.

They also want to know if the

municipality has received any internal or external audit queries, complaints, or investigations related to alleged connected companies and the status of such processes.

Local SMMEs say the allegations reflect broader frustration over procurement practices in the municipality. They argue that a lack of transparency and alleged favouritism undermine legitimate businesses and delay service delivery in communities.

They have called for an independent investigation into the payments and for the municipality to publish contract details and payment records to restore public confidence.

Mahlako Komane, FTLM Spokesperson, said the municipality has reviewed its available financial records and has not been able to trace any payment corresponding to the alleged amount of approximately R10 million made to said company.

"Should any further verifiable information be provided, the municipality will assess it through the appropriate internal processes. All service providers are appointed and managed in line with Supply Chain Management processes, and payments are only made after verification of services rendered," she said.

According to Komane, the municipality does not process payments for services not rendered, and any concerns relating to service providers are dealt with through internal controls and oversight.

"With regard to the allegation concerning the senior officials, no evidence has been presented to support the claim, and the municipality will not engage in speculation," she said.



SMMEs attached to FTLM raised concerns accuse the municipality over corruption and favouritism in awarding tender contracts

Scholar transport accident claims two lives, Premier visits hospitalized victims



Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba with MEC for Transport and Community Safety Violet Mathye during their visit to injured school children at Jane Furse Hospital.

Beer arguments lead to panga attacks at Modimolle tavern

DIPHALE

The Mecklenburg SAPS have opened a murder case and two counts of attempted murder following a brutal panga-attack that claimed the life of a 43-year-old man and left two other victims injured at Modimolle Village, near Diphale during the early hours of Sunday, 17 May 2026. According to preliminary reports, the victims were socialising at local Tavern in the village at about 00:30 when an argument allegedly erupted between them and the suspect after they reportedly refused to drink beer with him.

"The situation allegedly escalated into a quarrel, prompting the suspect to leave the tavern premises. It is further alleged that the suspect later returned armed with a panga and began attacking the victims inside the tavern yard, causing panic as patrons fled for safety,"

said Limpopo SAPS spokesperson Colonel Malesela Ledwaba.

During the attack, Karabo Mochadi (43) of Ntsoaneng Village sustained multiple panga attack wounds to the head and left foot. He was certified dead at the scene. Two other victims aged 23 and 43 sustained serious injuries during the incident. Both injured victims were transported to the local hospital for medical treatment.

The suspect fled the scene immediately after the attack and is currently being sought by police. Police have appealed to anyone with information that may assist in locating the suspect to contact Detective Captain Ngwanatlana Phasha on 082 414 3070 or the nearest police station, Crime Stop on 08600 10111, or use the MySAPS App.

Police investigations are continuing.

JANE FURSE - Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba visited five learners admitted at Jane Furse Hospital on Friday 15 May 2026, after a scholar transport accident near Masemola claimed lives of two Grade R pupils and left several others with burn injuries.

During the visit, Ramathuba was joined by MEC for Transport and Community Safety Violet Mathye and Jane Furse Hospital CEO Dr Muamba, as they moved through the wards to meet the children and their families.

The visit came hours after the 44-year-old taxi driver, Mogau Mosehla, appeared in the Nebo Magistrate's Court charged in connection with the incident.

According to the police, a Toyota Quantum minibus transporting learners from Mannyetha Primary School lost control after hitting a rock on the D4246 road between Ga-Nkoana and Apel Cross on Wednesday 13

May 2026. The vehicle caught fire immediately.

The police said the incident occurred at about 15:15 along the Apel Cross Road via the Tswaing gravel road towards Nkotwokwane Village. The minibus was carrying approximately 22 school children aged 7 to 10, together with the driver, from school to their homes.

Two Grade R learners died at the scene inside the burning vehicle. Seven other children sustained burn injuries and were first taken to Ga-Nkoana Clinic before being transferred to Jane Furse Hospital for further treatment. Thirteen children escaped unharmed.

Premier Ramathuba extended condolences to the families and school community and requested a full report on the circumstances of the crash.

"On behalf of the provincial government, we send our deepest condolences to the families of the

two learners who lost their lives in this tragic incident. No parent should have to endure such a loss after sending their child to school. We equally wish a speedy recovery to those who sustained injuries," she said.

Ramathuba further issued a stern warning to scholar transport operators. She urged drivers to prioritize safety of children at all times when transporting them.

Mosehla appeared before the Nebo Magistrate's Court on Friday 15 May 2026. He was remanded in custody for a formal bail application.

The police have opened two counts of culpable homicide against him, as well as charges relating to contravention of the National Road Traffic Act, including overloading and failure to produce an operating certificate. Investigations into the exact cause of the fire are ongoing.

MEC Rachoene commits for major R25 Road upgrade



The R25 Road will get a proper facelift in the 2026/2027 financial year, as part of the government's broader plan to strengthen connectivity and support local economic development across Sekhukhune District.

DENNILTON - Limpopo MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Ernest Rachoene, has pledged a significant push to rehabilitate and upgrade key road infrastructure in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM), with the R25 through Dennilton highlighted as a priority for the 2026/2027 financial year.

Speaking during the department's 2026/2027 Budget Vote at the Limpopo Legislature on Friday 15 May 2026, Rachoene confirmed that the D1399 Road and the R25 which stretches from Dennilton to Groblersdal, are slated for upgrading to improve road safety, mobility, and access to essential services.

Rachoene said the projects form part of the department's broader plan to strengthen connectivity and support local economic development across Sekhukhune District.

The R25 has long been a flashpoint for motorists and residents in Dennilton and surrounding areas. The route is a crucial artery linking Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Gauteng, but years of deterioration have raised safety concerns and increased vehicle damage.

In 2025, Rachoene initially announced the R25 for routine maintenance as one of

69 roads earmarked province-wide.

Community leaders and EFF councillors in Sekhukhune pushed back, arguing that patchwork repairs would not resolve underlying structural problems.

EFF Councillor in Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), Ali Maloba, said at the time: "We appreciate the MEC's attention to our plight, but we need more than just a band-aid solution. A full project will not only fix the road but also boost economic growth and improve the quality of life for residents".

The 2026/2027 Budget Vote appears to have shifted the approach from maintenance to full-scale upgrading.

EMLM has seen growing infrastructure focus in recent years. The municipality, based in Groblersdal, has been working with provincial and national agencies to address backlogs in roads and storm-water systems.

For Dennilton, the R25 upgrade is expected to cut travel times, reduce vehicle operating costs, and improve access to markets, schools and clinics.

The upgrade of D1399 alongside the R25 suggests a targeted approach to improve both primary and feeder routes within the municipality.

Limpopo moves decisively to safeguard 2026 Initiation Season



Deputy Minister for Traditional Affairs, Prince Zolile Burns-Ncamashe, urged for enhanced resource mobilization and a change in approach to safeguard the 2026 initiation season in Limpopo.



Director-General of the National Department of Traditional Affairs, Mashwahle Diphofa, addressing the 2026 initiation schools preparedness meeting.

LIMPOPO - Limpopo Provincial Government has adopted a zero-tolerance stance on negligence, abuse, and illegal operations as the 2026 initiation season approaches. The adoption was taken during a high-level meeting convened in Polokwane on Friday 15 May 2026, aimed at strengthening oversight and coordination across the province.

The National Initiation Oversight Committee and the Limpopo Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee convened during the meeting, bringing together senior government officials, traditional authorities, and community stakeholders under a single mission, "to ensure every initiate returns home safely".

Key priorities set at the meeting include preventing deaths and injuries, shutting down illegal initiation schools, and enforcing the Customary Initiation Act. The gathering emphasized stricter compliance and closer collaboration between government departments, traditional leaders, and local communities.

Deputy Minister for Traditional Affairs, Prince Zolile Burns-Ncamashe, delivered the keynote address and urged for enhanced resource mobilization and a change in approach to safeguard the season.

"This is more than a meeting, it is a commitment to action, a renewed social compact, and a call to responsibility across all sectors of society," he stated.

Burns-Ncamashe called on all stakeholders to take collective responsibility, strengthen collaboration, and implement practical measures to safeguard the lives and wellbeing of initiates.

During the meeting Director-General of the National Department of Traditional Affairs, Mashwahle Diphofa, stressed the need to strengthen coordination and address ongoing challenges in the management and monitoring of initiation practices.

Authorities reaffirmed that there would be no space for negligence or unlawful practices. The message to illegal operators was direct, "operations will be shut down and non-compliance will face consequences".

The coordinated effort falls under the Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), with provincial and national structures working in alignment ahead of the season.



MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Ernest Rachoene, announced that the department will upgrade the D1399 Road and the R25 in the 2026/2027 financial year.

FORM 8

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENCE IN TERMS OF SECTION 28(1) (C)

Limpopo Liquor Act, 2009 (Act No. 5 of 2009)

Regulation 8

I, the undersigned applicant hereby give notice in terms of S28(1)(c) that an application for liquor licence will be lodged with the Capricorn District Local Liquor Authority.

In terms of S28(1) (b) of the Act, you may lodge an objection to the application.

The objection form is obtainable from the above -mentioned Liquor Local Authority. Objections must be submitted to the aforesaid Local Liquor Authority within 21 days from the date of lodgement of the application.

1. Full names of Applicant: **Masola Phenias Madimetja**
2. Intended Trading name: **Babinapeba Tavern**
3. Identity number of applicant: **790313 5748 083**
- 4.1. Full address and Location of the premises: **Stand no. 1921 Tsantsabela New Stands, Tsantsabela village, Farm: Van der Merwe's kraal no. 636 KS, Ephraim Mogale.**
- 4.2. Global positioning system(GPS) coordinates of the property where the retail operations are to be carried out.

LATITUDE: degrees, minutes, seconds

_	2	4	.	6	4	1	7	3
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LONGITUDE: degrees, minutes, seconds

2	9	.	4	3	9	2	5	1
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5. Type of licence applied for: **On consumption -Food provision**
6. List of Schools, places of worship etc. within a radius of 500m from the premises listed in paragraph 4.

School: **None**

Place of Worship: **None**

Public Transport Facility: **None**

Buildings where the public have access to public services: **None**

Filling Station: **None**



Modecia Phasha

Magaile Enterprise

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

I am Modecia Phasha, proud owner of Magaile Enterprise, established in 2018. My company specialises in construction, with expertise in trench construction and dust suppression services.

I saw an opportunity from Glencore in our local community newspaper and applied, securing a 6-month contract with Glencore's Lion Smelter for Tailing Storage Facilities trench construction.

Stepping into the male-dominated mining industry was not easy, but Glencore's support has been a game-changer. Through their GIBS programme, I gained invaluable skills in project management and finance. That initiative plus their assistance in procuring a water truck transformed my business, propelling it to new heights.

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To aspiring entrepreneurs, especially women, I say: prepare your mind and seize every opportunity.

Progress. Together.

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GLENCORE

Suspect hands himself after fatally shooting his wife

NEBO - The police in Nebo have arrested a 38-year-old male suspect, following the fatal shooting of a female Correctional Services officer at Modimolle on Tuesday morning, 12 May 2026.

According to the police, the suspect, who is the husband of the deceased, Johannes Moela, allegedly handed himself at Nebo Police Station in the evening of Tuesday 12 May 2026.

Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said it is reported that at approximately 06:30, the victim, Mankopodi Mathilda Moela (38), was walking from her rented room to her workplace at Modimolle Correctional Centre along Nelson Mandela Road when she was approached by the suspect.

"An altercation allegedly ensued, during which the victim was shot twice in the upper body. The victim, whose identity is withheld as part of the ongoing investigation, was allegedly temporarily residing in Modimolle Town. She was certified dead at the scene," informed Ledwaba.

He added that the Provincial Murder and Robbery Unit which has taken over the investigation, managed to confiscate, a licensed firearm believed to have been used in the commission of the heinous act of crime.

"Although the motive for the incident is not known domestic

violence related dispute cannot be ruled out," said Ledwaba.

He said the suspect appeared before the Modimolle District Court on Thursday 14 May 2026, facing a charge of murder and police investigations are ongoing.

"The case was postponed to Monday 25 May 2026 for formal bail application. The suspect remanded in custody," Ledwaba informed.

Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, has condemned the incident, calling upon the families and couples who are experiencing domestic challenges to seek professional help to resolve them amicably.



A 38-year-old man handed himself at the Nebo Police Station after allegedly fatally shooting his wife at Modimolle.

Police condemn mob justice after fatal assault in Hlogotlou, two arrested for murder

HLOGOTLOU - The Limpopo Provincial Police have condemned acts of mob justice and confirmed the arrest of two men in connection with the killing of a suspected burglar in Hlogotlou Unit B, warning that taking the law into one's own hands "undermines the criminal justice system and often leads to loss of life."

According to Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the incident occurred on Friday 15 May 2026, when the police Community Service Centre (CSC) members responded to a report of a man lying on the ground with multiple injuries in Hlogotlou Unit B.

"The victim was transported to the nearest hospital for medical treatment. Police later received information from EMS personnel that the victim had succumbed to his injuries while being transported to the hospital," informed Ledwaba.

He said preliminary police investigations revealed that the deceased was suspected of committing housebreaking and theft in the area, and was allegedly found in possession of suspected stolen items, including groceries, when he was assaulted by members of the community.

"Following intensive investigations, a joint operation comprising Sekhukhune Tracking Team, Sekhukhune Highway Patrol

and Hlogotlou Detectives, led to the arrest of the two suspects during the early hours of Friday 15 May 2026," said Ledwaba.

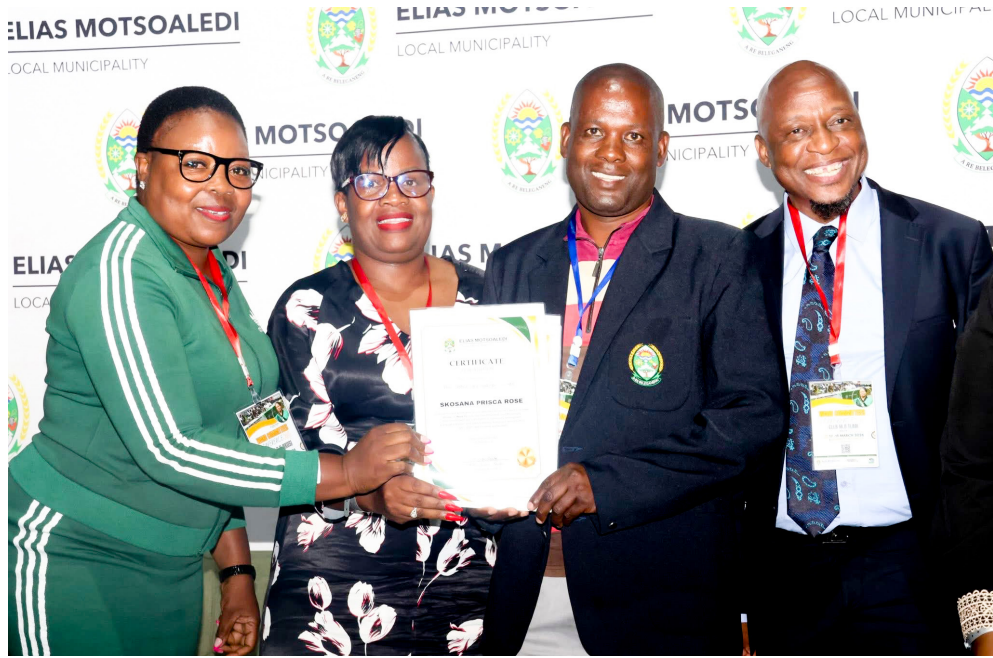
He said the suspects are expected to appear before the Nebo Magistrate's Court on Monday on charges of murder.

The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, has condemned the incident, warning community members against taking the law into their own hands.

"Mob justice is criminal and cannot be tolerated. Community members are urged to report suspected criminal activities to the police and allow the law to take its course. Taking the law into your own hands undermines the criminal justice system and often leads to loss of life," said Hadebe.



The police in Hlogotlou have arrested two suspects in connection with a mob justice incident that occurred at in Hlogotlou Unit B on Friday 15 May 2026.



The DA in EMLM demanded answers on the staggering R2 alleged Ward Committee Conference expenditure.

DA demands answers over staggering R2 million ward conference expenditure

GROBLERSDAL – The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM) has written to Municipal Manager, Reginah Mahlakwane, demanding clarity on what it calls wasteful expenditure and the disclosure of all costs linked to a recent ward committee conference held at Forever Resort in Bela Bela from 17 to 19 March 2026.

DA Councillor in EMLM, Sipho Mmaboko, said the decision to host the conference outside the municipality came at a great cost, and many of these costs could have been avoided. The DA has raised concerns over alleged inflated numbers and costs, including hiring of fifteen 22-seater taxis for 330 ward

committee members while there are only 310 committee members.

"The cost of hiring taxis to the same destination doubled from R142 011 in 2025 to R302 904 in 2026," informed Mmaboko.

He said the municipality had also made questionable payment for 330 ward committee members while there are only 310 members. The municipality paid R1.389 million in 2026.

"330 gift bags bought for ward committee members instead of 310, costing R106 260-00, plus a further R149 730-00 for debussing the municipal logo. The conference package R448 057," Mmaboko said.

Mmaboko said it was "particularly concerning that the 15 taxis transported the ward committee members to Bela Bela on 17 March 2026 without the municipality making an order for the service, the order was only done on the 18th of March".

"These anomalies and inflated prices also raise suspicion whether the conference held out of the municipality is an attempt by the ANC led municipality to fund an election campaign using the municipality's funds," he said.

Mmaboko stressed that such events should be held at a municipal building at no cost or at more cost-effective locations within municipal boundaries to contain costs, support local businesses and grow the local economy. Alternatively, ward councillors could attend a workshop and transfer knowledge to ward committees.

"This is an unacceptable waste of limited financial resources, especially when the residents of Elias Motsoaledi Municipality are deprived of basic services such as roads, reliable water supply, adequate sanitation services, cemetery fencing and high mast lights for security," Mmaboko said.

DA ward councillors did not attend the conference in protest against what they called unnecessary and wasteful spending.

This is not the first time the DA has flagged spending on ward committee conferences in Elias Motsoaledi.

In October 2024, the party wrote to the Public Protector over R3 million spent on a conference at Forever Resorts Bela Bela. That conference included R1 030 773-75 on accommodation, R893 550 on the conference package, R513 532 on golf t-shirts, R142 011 for 15 taxis, and R864 432 on 400 soft shell jackets.

The DA also reported the municipality to the Public Protector in 2025 over R864 432 spent on 400 soft shell jackets for 310 ward committee members, 61 councillors and 29 officials. Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality recorded a qualified audit outcome for 2023/2024 and had a surplus of R1.628 million in 2024/25 after a R52.339 million deficit the prior year.

The municipality's cost containment policy, approved 31 March 2025 and effective 1 July 2025, defines cost containment as measures to curtail spending and applies to councillors and municipal employees.

"The DA is committed to ensuring responsible spending of municipal resources in Elias Motsoaledi in order for residents to receive adequate municipal services," Mmaboko said.

At the time of going to press, Elias Motsoaledi Municipality could not respond to the publication's enquiries.



GEPF DAY INVITING ACTIVE MEMBERS, SPOUSES AND BENEFICIARIES IN JANE FURSE

The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) invites members residing in Jane Furse and surrounding areas to attend a **GEPF Information Day**.

This event gives you an opportunity to:

- Learn more about your GEPF pension and benefits
- Get help with pension or benefits queries
- Speak directly to GEPF officials

DATE: Saturday, 23 May 2026
VENUE: Jane Furse Comprehensive School,
Mamogodi Street, Vergelegen, Jane Furse
TIME: 08h00 to 16h00

AGENDA

8am - 9am
Registration
9am - 12pm
Information session
with presentations
12pm - 4pm
One-on-one assistance

For more information on the GEPF please visit our social media platforms or go to www.gepf.co.za

Please bring your ID document when attending.



Partners



TSEBIŠO GO YA KA KAROLO YA 92 YA MOLAWANA WA PEAKANYO YA SEBAKA LE TAOLO YA TŠHOMIŠO YA NAGA WA MMASEPALA WA SELEGAE WA ELIAS MOTSOLEDI, 2016, GAMMOGO LE MOLAO WA SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2013 (MOLAO WA 16 WA 2013)

Go tsebišwa gore Mmasepala o amogetše kgopelo ye e latelago:

Mohuta wa kgopelo: Katološo ya Mellwane ya Toropokgolo

Tlhalošo ya setša: Remaining Extent of the Farm Elandsdoorn 56 JS, Profense ya Limpopo

Mokgopedi: Elmon Consulting

Mong wa setša: Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality

Tšhišinyo: Tšhišinyo ya tlhabollo e akaretša katološo ya mollwane wa Toropokgolo ya Elandsdoorn-C godimo ga Remaining Extent of the Farm Elandsdoorn 56 JS go akaretša lefelo leo ka gare ga toropokgolo bakeng sa madulo bjalo ka karolo ya Projeke ya Kaonafatšo ya Tokelo ya Naga, yeo e ikemišeditšego go dira semmušo tlhabollo ya madulo ye e lego gona le go netefatša ditokelo tša bong bja naga go bajalefa.

Dintlha tša kgopelo di tla ba gona bakeng sa tlhahlobo nakong ya diiri tša mošomo tša tlwaelo (Mošupologo go fihla Labohlano, 08:00 go fihla ka 16:00) diofising tša Molaodi: Peakanyo le Tlhabollo ya Ekonomi, Mmasepala wa Selegae wa Elias Motsoaledi, Civic Centre, 2 Grobler Avenue, Groblersdal, Limpopo, lebaka la matšatši a 30 go tloga letšatšing la phatlalatšo ya tsebišo ye.

Dikganetšo goba ditlhabišo mabapi le kgopelo di swanetše go romelwa goba go dirwa ka lengwalo go Mmasepala ka imeile go info@emlm.gov.za nakong ya matšatši a 30 go tloga ka la 22 May 2026.

Motho ofe goba ofe yo a sa kgonego go ngwala a ka etela diofisi tše di boletšwego ka godimo nakong ya diiri tša mošomo moo modiredi wa Mmasepala a tla mo thušago go ngwala kganyetšo goba tlhabišo ya gagwe.

Aterese ya mokgopedi:

Elmon Consulting (Pty) Ltd

Aterese: Unit 8, Building 96, 9 Pony Street, Tjigervallei Office Park, Silverlakes, 0084

Mogala: 012 809 0377

Sellathekeng: 073 619 4911

Imeile: infor@elmoncon.com

Hartbeespoort Dam must rise again through science, accountability and collective action

By Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Sello Seitholo

Over the past few months, I have been inundated with calls, emails, public engagements and social media messages from South Africans deeply concerned about the condition of Hartbeespoort Dam. Some messages come from residents frustrated by the visible spread of hyacinth and pollution. Others come from business owners, environmental activists, scientists and ordinary citizens who simply want to see one of South Africa's most iconic water bodies restored to health. In many instances, people do not only raise concerns, but they also offer solutions.

I have received proposals ranging from mechanical interventions and chemical applications to unconventional experimental approaches from individuals convinced that they have discovered the breakthrough needed to solve the emergency at Hartbeespoort Dam. I genuinely value this level of public interest because it reflects a society that still cares deeply about environmental protection and the future of our water resources.

As much as innovation and bold thinking must be encouraged, government cannot implement every proposed intervention without rigorous scientific assessment, environmental oversight and consideration of long-term ecological consequences. Some solutions may appear attractive in the short term while carrying significant environmental risks in the future. Others may unintentionally worsen the ecological imbalance we are trying to correct. Responsible governance therefore requires us to distinguish between interventions driven by evidence and those driven primarily by desperation or risk-taking.

Hartbeespoort Dam's recovery matters to me not only as Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, but also as someone who believes deeply in protecting spaces that bring communities, recreation and nature together. Beyond my responsibilities, I am someone who strongly values the role that dams and water bodies play in recreation, tourism, community life and social wellbeing.

I have visited Hartbeespoort Dam on numerous occasions over recent months. Each visit has reinforced both the urgency of the crisis and the importance of ensuring that our interventions are credible, sustainable and guided by science. This is precisely why government has adopted a comprehensive, evidence-based approach grounded in collaboration with water experts, implementing agencies and the academic sector.

This piece is therefore intended not only to update the public on the progress being made, but also to explain why the rehabilitation of Hartbeespoort Dam requires disciplined, science-based and long-term intervention rather than short-term reactions.

For too long, Hartbeespoort Dam stood as a visible reminder of environmental decline, weak enforcement and institutional failure. Invasive hyacinth spread aggressively across the water surface, pollution continued to flow into the system from upstream catchments and many South Africans began to accept deterioration as inevitable. And as Government, we cannot afford to normalise environmental collapse.

The progress now being achieved at Hartbeespoort Dam demonstrates

CONTINUES ON PAGE 8



that when government institutions act decisively, apply science-based interventions and enforce accountability, environmental recovery is possible.

Since April 2023, the Department of Water and Sanitation appointed Magalies Water as the implementing agent responsible for water resource planning and management in the upper Crocodile West River Catchment and Hartbeespoort Dam. This intervention was deliberately designed as a comprehensive turnaround programme aimed not only at cleaning the dam, but at restoring ecological stability, improving water quality, strengthening governance and rebuilding public confidence in government's ability to protect strategic water systems.

Importantly, this work forms part of a broader government commitment to rebuilding state capacity in the water sector through implementation, innovation, scientific collaboration and stronger enforcement.

One of the most important lessons from Hartbeespoort Dam is that environmental rehabilitation cannot succeed through fragmented responses. Removing visible hyacinth without addressing upstream pollution would simply recycle the same crisis year after year. Sustainable recovery requires us to confront the root causes of ecological degradation directly and without compromise.

This is why the current programme integrates physical removal operations, biological control, advanced monitoring systems, pollution tracking, nutrient reduction strategies and long-term water resource management planning.

A defining feature of this work has been the strong partnership between government and the academic and scientific sectors. Complex environmental challenges require evidence-based governance informed by research, innovation and scientific expertise. Government alone cannot solve these problems in isolation.

Our collaboration with specialists from Rhodes University has played a critical role in advancing biological control interventions through the release of *Megamelus scutellaris* agents to suppress water hyacinth growth sustainably over time. Academic expertise has also supported scientific monitoring, ecological modelling and the evaluation of intervention effectiveness.

Equally important has been the introduction of innovative technologies such as nanobubble systems designed to improve oxygenation levels and reduce nutrient concentrations contributing to eutrophication and excessive biomass growth. This partnership between government institutions, water entities and academia reflects the type of

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Sports



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Blackpool and Sweepers promoted to Makhuduthamaga LFA League

JANE FURSE - Jane Furse Blackpool FC and Madibong Sweepers FC secured promotion to Makhuduthamaga Local Football Association LFA League for 2025/2026 season, after they successfully obtained the first and second positions during the Makhuduthamaga Local Football Association Zonal League Playoffs, held at Maredi Sports Grounds in Jane Furse on Saturday 16 May 2026.

The teams emerged as standouts sides of the day, with Jane Furse Blackpool FC scooped the first position and Madibong Sweepers came second.

After weeks of competition across three streams, the zonal winners, Madibong Sweepers from Stream A, Jane Furse Blackpool from Stream B, and Mindollar from Stream C, converged for a final round-robin to decide promotion to the Makhuduthamaga LFA League.

By the end of the afternoon, it was Blackpool's composure and defensive grit that carried them to the top while Sweepers came second.

The matches opened at 10:00 with Madibong Sweepers taking on hosts, Jane Furse Blackpool. Both sides came in unbeaten in their respective streams, and the opening encounter lived up to the billing.

Blackpool defence, marshalled

by Pholoshlo and Thapelo "Matrass" Mohlala, held firm under early pressure. Goalkeeper Gift Riba set the tone for what would become a defining performance, pulling off crucial saves to keep a clean sheet.

Madibong Sweepers, known for their fluid passing game, found no way through. The match ended goalless, giving both teams a point and leaving the group wide open heading into the afternoon fixtures.

In the second match, Madibong Sweepers returned to face Mindollar FC in a match that carried heavy implications for promotion. The Sweepers responded to the earlier stalemate with purpose, controlling midfield and converting their chances to claim a 1-0 win. The result put Madibong in a strong position but left the final outcome dependent on the last game.

The final fixture, Jane Furse Blackpool vs Mindollar FC, drew the largest crowd of the day. Supporters arrived from across the municipality, filling the banks around Maredi Ground. The contrast on the pitch was immediate, Blackpool in their traditional red and black, Mindollar in bright lemon.

The first half ended 0-0, but not for lack of effort. Mindollar pressed high and created openings, only to be repeatedly

denied by Gift Riba, who was in inspired form. The Blackpool shot-stopper's command of his area and quick reflexes in one-on-one situations kept his side level.

The breakthrough came when Mogau "Messi" Mokgoadi, wearing jersey number 10, began to torment the Mindollar defence with close control and sharp turns. His runs drew repeated fouls, and one particularly rash challenge inside the box left the referee with no choice but to point to the spot. Thapelo "Matrass" Mohlala stepped up and converted coolly to give Blackpool the lead.

Mindollar pushed for an equalizer and nearly found it late on, but again Gift Riba stood tall, smothering a clear one-on-one chance that would have changed the complexion of the match.

With Mindollar stretched forward, Blackpool capitalized in the 80th minute when Kgantso Evidence Mafoko finished a well-worked move to make it 2-0.

That scoreline held to full time, sealing 2-0 victory for Jane Furse Blackpool and confirming their status as the playoffs dominant side.

With results in, Jane Furse Blackpool and Madibong Sweepers finish as the top two sides and earn promotion to the Makhuduthamaga LFA League for the 2025/2026 season. Both clubs will now step up to face tougher



Jane Furse Blackpool FC secured a promotion to the Makhuduthamaga LFA League for the 2025/2026.



Mindollar FC was eliminated during the Makhuduthamaga Local Football Association Zonal League Playoffs played at Maredi Sports Grounds in Jane Furse on Saturday 16 May 2026.

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 7

collaborative governance South Africa must continue strengthening if we are serious about protecting long-term water security. This is why the results achieved thus far are encouraging and measurable.

During the peak growth season between September 2025 and January 2026, intensified operations removed more than 1,292 hectares of water hyacinth from the dam system through a combination of excavators, barges, manual teams and containment infrastructure deployed at critical hotspots. Approximately 350,000 *Megamelus scutellaris* biological control agents have also been released into the system since September 2025 to reduce future hyacinth regeneration naturally and sustainably. Monitoring linked to nanobubble technology interventions is also indicating notable reductions in ammonia, nitrite and orthophosphate concentrations within treatment zones, while dissolved oxygen levels remain within healthy aerobic

conditions. These developments are important because they reflect gradual progress in stabilising the nutrient imbalances driving eutrophication.

Beyond the environmental gains, the rehabilitation of Hartbeespoort Dam carries significant economic importance. A healthy and functioning dam system supports tourism, protects surrounding livelihoods, strengthens local economic activity and contributes to the sustainability of businesses and communities dependent on the water resource.

But while progress is evident, it must be clear that the full ecological recovery of Hartbeespoort Dam remains a long-term undertaking that will require sustained implementation, continued investment and unwavering political commitment.

As a Ministry of Department of Water and Sanitation, we remain fully committed to continuing this work comprehensively and without

interruption. We will intensify monitoring capacity, strengthen scientific partnerships, expand biological interventions and increase compliance inspections throughout the catchment. There will be no retreat from this responsibility. At the same time, municipalities, industries, upstream water users and surrounding communities must recognise that rehabilitation is a shared national responsibility.

Municipal failure to prevent untreated effluent from entering river systems can no longer be accepted as routine administrative dysfunction. Industries and authorised water users must comply fully with discharge regulations and environmental obligations.

The Department has already intensified enforcement and compliance actions because upstream pollution remains one of the greatest threats to the long-term recovery of Hartbeespoort Dam. More than 35 water quality

monitoring points remain active throughout the catchment to strengthen pollution tracking and regulatory oversight. As part of this project, 27 authorised water users have been audited, while 25 facilities have been investigated for possible non-compliance. Furthermore, 20 compliance notices and two directives have been issued against offending users. The Department has also opened six criminal cases against municipalities and one against an individual linked to pollution-related violations, although some of these cases were initiated prior to the commencement of the current rehabilitation project.

Our message is therefore unequivocal: Polluting South Africa's water resources is not a minor offence, but an attack on public health, environmental sustainability and the future security of our country. Those responsible for environmental violations will increasingly face enforcement action and legal

consequences.

The rehabilitation of Hartbeespoort Dam must serve as a national demonstration of what becomes possible when scientific innovation, decisive governance, rigorous enforcement and active public participation converge around a shared purpose. While meaningful progress has been made in reversing years of ecological decline, sustaining and expanding these gains demands unwavering vigilance, greater accountability and collective commitment from all sectors of society.

Future generations will judge us not by the scale of the environmental problems we inherited, but by the seriousness and determination with which we responded to them. The restoration of Hartbeespoort Dam is therefore no longer simply an environmental project, but a test of South Africa's collective ability to protect and rebuild the natural resources upon which our future depends.