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Makhuduthamaga road construction workers go four months without salaries

“We wish to inform you that, due to current cash-flow constraints, some site activities will be placed on hold with immediate effect. As a result, certain project activities may be temporarily suspended until payment is received from the client or alternative funding arrangements are secured”



Workers at the Glen Cowie to Phokoane Access Road Project are still waiting for their salaries for four months, allegedly after Makhuduthamaga Municipality failed to pay the main contractor.



Residents are concerned about the un-barricaded open pit near the road alignment, which was dug during the construction of the project.

GLEN COWIE/PHOKOANE
 - The Glen Cowie to Phokoane Access Road Project, a flagship infrastructure upgrade for Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM), remains under construction, but a four-month payment backlog from the municipality to the main contractor, Stonefound Engineering Solutions, is beginning to bite.
 While work continues on site, labourers, sub-contractors and nearby residents are feeling the strain of delayed wages and an unsecured excavation that threatens safety and dignity.
 Since November 2025, dozens of workers on the project say they have not received a single salary payment.
 “We’ve been on this site every day, laying sub-base, compacting, and doing earthworks, but our bank accounts stay empty. My children are going to school on an empty stomach, and I can’t afford transport. It’s a daily struggle,” said one of the workers who did not want to be

named.
 He said wage arrears have created a ripple effect and families are cutting back on essentials. “We’re living on borrowed time, we need that money now, not in three months,” said the construction worker.
 In addition, the construction has left a large, open pit near the road alignment, dug during the construction of the project.
 With the current rainy season, residents fear that the pit would be filled with water and, because it remains un-barricaded, it poses a drowning hazard to children and livestock.
 The pit is right next to the Phokoane cemetery and residents claim that if the water keeps rising, it could erode the soil around the graves and disturb them.
 In a statement issued by Stonefound Engineering Solutions Chief Executive Officer, Frans Ledwaba, the company acknowledged the payment delay and its impact on site operations.

Ledwaba added that the company has been awaiting payment from Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality since November 2025 and apologised for both the delayed salaries and the lack of timely communication.
 “We wish to inform you that, due to current cash-flow constraints, some site activities will be placed on hold with immediate effect. As a result, certain project activities may be temporarily suspended until payment is received from the client or alternative funding arrangements are secured,” said Ledwaba.
 He added that during this period, and following direct communication with subcontractors whose services or equipment may be off-hired, subcontractors may, at their discretion, remove their machinery from the site or secure it within the site camp.
 Attempts to obtain comment from MLM were unsuccessful by press time.

Premier Ramathuba reports 14% drop in festive season road crashes

LIMPOPO – Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, said the province has seen a commendable 14% reduction in road crashes and a 10% decline in road fatalities compared to the previous financial year.

Ramathuba said during a media briefing conducted by the Limpopo Provincial Government, held at the EXCO Boardroom in Polokwane on Thursday 5 February 2026, set to address the festive season traffic statistics and state of disaster in the province.

The province documented 125 fatal crashes and 171 fatalities during the festive season, with the N1 corridor emerging as the deadliest route.

Premier Ramathuba attributed the reduction in crashes and fatalities to the province's committed road safety interventions, including intensified law enforcement and road safety education.

"The data analysis further confirms that driver behaviour is the predominant factor leading to these tragic incidents, with reckless driving practices, particularly unsafe overtaking, culpable in 115 of these fatalities," informed Ramathuba.

She added that pedestrian safety represents another significant concern within the province, with the recent statistics revealed that 48

pedestrians lost their lives during this period, while many of these incidents classified as hit-and-runs, which reveals a distressing disregard for human life and the law.

"Behind these numbers lie the stories of lives saved and families preserved from the anguish associated with road fatalities. However, we must also confront the unsettling findings of this report. The N1 corridor emerged as the deadliest route during this time, claiming 25 lives," she said.

Premier Ramathuba emphasized the need for continued effort to enforce road safety education for a fatality and crash-free Limpopo.

"We want to take this moment to express my profound gratitude to our traffic officers, law enforcement agencies, and all partners who have laboured diligently, often under difficult conditions, during the festive season to ensure the safety of our roads,"

she said.

Regarding the state of disaster, Premier Ramathuba reported that recent adverse weather conditions have resulted in significant implications for planned public events.

The province has experienced 27 fatalities, with approximately 3 194 houses severely damaged, and 439 roads rendered unusable.

"The provincial government, in partnership with the disaster management team in the province and relevant stakeholders, is working tirelessly, day and night, to actively assess and respond to the needs of affected communities," she said.

Ramathuba disclosed that the provincial government has allocated R800 million towards recovery efforts, with preliminary assessments indicating a need for close to R10 billion for comprehensive recovery initiatives.

Ramathuba assured that the provincial government will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its residents, and provide updates on the disaster response through official channels.



Despite having seen reduction of fatal crashes in the previous festive season, Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, says a lot still needs to be done to enforce road safety education for a fatality and crash-free Limpopo.

ActionSA demands State of Emergency on Sekhukhune drinking water crisis



Some of the villagers in Sekhukhune are subjected to sharing drinking water with animals. ActionSA demand President Cyril Ramaphosa to place the region under a State of Emergency.

SEKHUKHUNE - ActionSA political party in Limpopo, has called on President Cyril Ramaphosa to urgently declare a State of Emergency on the water crisis in Sekhukhune, citing it as a humanitarian emergency rather than a mere service delivery challenge.

According to the party, Sekhukhune Region is currently facing a catastrophic water crisis, with communities left without reliable access to water for years.

The party demands immediate action to address the crisis, citing water as a constitutional right.

Tonic Manchidi, ActionSA Treasurer in Limpopo, has accused Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) for consistently failed to provide sustainable water solutions to its residents.

"The Water Tankering Programme, intended as a temporary relief measure, has collapsed due to corruption and abuse. Municipal officials have allegedly colluded with

Two arrested in connection with Makhuthuthela headman murder case



Two suspects arrested in connection with the murder and robbery of an elderly headman in Makhuthuthela Village, are set to appear before the Nebo Magistrate's Court soon.

MAKHUTHUTHELA - The police in Nebo achieved a significant breakthrough in the murder and robbery case of 74-year-old Headman, Ntshweng Joseph Ramphisa, with two suspects arrested and facing multiple charges.

The murder and robbery incident occurred on Monday 2 February 2026, at Makhuthuthela Village in Nebo.

Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said according to reports, the victim was found tied up inside his house, lying in a pool of blood with multiple open wounds, and was certified dead at the scene.

"The suspects, driving a white bakkie, had stolen various items from the house. A relative of the victim had discovered the suspects in the act and was also tied up by the perpetrators," said Ledwaba.

He said following intelligence-driven operations conducted between on Thursday 5 February 2026 at 22:00 and Friday 6 February 2026 at 09:30, a joint operation comprising the Sekhukhune District Tracking and Investigation Team, Provincial

Investigation Unit, and Marble Hall Detectives led to the arrest of a 54-year-old suspect at Makhuthuthela Village.

"A second suspect, aged 45, was traced and arrested in Marble Hall. He was found in possession of a Chevrolet Utility bakkie reported hijacked in November 2018 at Moroka SAPS, Gauteng, and was additionally charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle," explained Ledwaba.

He said both suspects are expected to appear before the Nebo Magistrate's Court soon.

"Investigations are ongoing, and more arrests are expected. Members of the public with information are urged to contact Crime Stop on 08600 10111, the nearest police station, or use the MySAPS App. Information may be provided anonymously," concluded Ledwaba.

Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, commended the teams involved in the arrests.

"This breakthrough reflects the dedication of our members in ensuring that violent criminals are traced and brought to book without delay," said Hadebe.

service providers to steal public funds, resulting in water trucks arriving irregularly or not at all. This has forced residents to fend for themselves in unsafe and degrading conditions," Manchidi said.

He added that during the party's door-to-door engagements in Ga-Masemola and Mphane Villages, ActionSA witnessed first-hand the daily struggles of residents.

"Children walk long distances to rivers to fetch water, exposing themselves to danger and missing school. In Phokwane, residents collect water from dangerous areas near Lefakong Mountain. Tragically, the crisis has already claimed a life, Mr Jerry Matlala, a resident living with a disability, who lost his life after falling into a river while trying to access water," informed Manchidi.

He said water crisis in the region has taken a significant economic and emotional toll on the community.

"With high unemployment and deep poverty in Sekhukhune, many families cannot afford to buy water. The lack of water deepens poverty and inequality, forces children to miss school, undermines health and dignity, and strangles small businesses and local livelihoods," explained Manchidi.

He called for the municipality to prioritize urgency of the situation and supply people with drinkable water.

"The people of Sekhukhune cannot continue to live like this. The time for intervention is now. We call on President Cyril Ramaphosa to declare a State of Emergency on the water crisis in Sekhukhune, deploy national resources to ensure transparent and reliable emergency water supply, investigate and prosecute corruption linked to water tankering and infrastructure sabotage, and fast-track long-term water infrastructure solutions for the region," Manchidi said.

Limpopo Health Department embarks on Hospital Board Induction



The newly appointed hospital board members in attendance during the two-day welcoming and induction workshop at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane.



MEC for Health in Limpopo, Dieketseng Mashego, addressing the newly appointed hospital board members.

MEC for Health in Limpopo, Dieketseng Mashego, has stressed the importance of unity, accountability, and compassion in delivering quality healthcare services to the people of Limpopo. Mashego was speaking at the two-day welcoming and induction workshop for newly appointed hospital board members, held on Monday 9 February 2025 at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders, including District Executive Managers, Senior Clinical Managers, Nursing Managers, CEOs, Communicators, Community Liaison Officers, and Board Members.

The event aimed to empower boards with knowledge and clarity on their oversight role, ultimately improving healthcare service delivery across Limpopo.

During the event, Mashego emphasized that the department has embarked on a crucial initiative to strengthen governance and accountability in public health institutions, adding that governance in healthcare is not just administrative, but a moral and social responsibility to safeguard the lives of the people.

"Hospital boards are the custodians of accountability and transparency in our healthcare system. Your role is not ceremonial but pivotal in ensuring that our facilities deliver quality, dignified, and accessible healthcare services," she stated.

The MEC reminded board members that "strong governance structures are the backbone of a responsive and people-centred health system."

Mashego highlighted the ANC's policy framework, which aims to build a unified, equitable, and accessible health system anchored on social justice and universal health coverage.

She also emphasized the importance of community

participation, accountability, and ethical leadership in healthcare institutions.

"The Bophelo Pele Programme, a people-centred initiative, is being prioritized to take healthcare services directly to communities, particularly rural and remote areas. The programme aims to expand surgical outreach, provide specialist services, strengthen preventative healthcare, and improve patient waiting times," she said.

Mashego urged hospital board members to work together, stating, "Monwana o tee ga o tope kgobe" (One finger cannot pick up a grain alone) and "Tau tša hloka seboka di sitwa ke nare e hlotsa" (Lions that fail to unite can be defeated by a limping buffalo)".

She indicated that the Limpopo Department of Health is committed to ensuring that hospital boards play a pivotal role in advancing good governance, ethical leadership, and community participation in the management of public health institutions.

"The role of hospital boards is crucial in promoting transparency, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and serving as a vital link between communities and health facilities," MEC Mashego noted.

The workshop featured four commissions focusing on critical thematic areas, including roles and responsibilities of hospital boards, functionality and challenges of hospital boards, roles and functions of stakeholders in health governance, and health governance paradigms.

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60M	R 2 500,00	R 18 000,00	R 8 400,00	R 13 000,00	R 41 900,00
70M	R 2 500,00	R 21 000,00	R 9 800,00	R 14 000,00	R 47 300,00
80M	R 2 500,00	R 24 000,00	R 11 200,00	R 15 000,00	R 52 700,00
90M	R 2 500,00	R 27 000,00	R 12 600,00	R 16 000,00	R 58 100,00
100M	R 2 500,00	R 30 000,00	R 14 000,00	R 18 000,00	R 64 500,00
110M	R 2 500,00	R 33 000,00	R 15 400,00	R 18 500,00	R 69 900,00
120M	R 2 500,00	R 36 000,00	R 16 800,00	R 19 000,00	R 74 900,00
130M	R 2 500,00	R 39 000,00	R 18 200,00	R 20 000,00	R 80 600,00
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Maepa residents thankful after access road handover

GA MAEPA

The Mayor of Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Cllr Eddie Mailahas on February 11 officially opened the newly completed 4.5-kilometre Ga Maepa Access Road in Ward 1, marking a major milestone in improving access, mobility, and quality of life for residents.

Prior to the construction of the road, residents were dropped off by public transport along the R555 and were forced to walk more than 3 kilometres to reach the village, creating significant challenges, particularly for the elderly, school learners, and workers commuting daily.

The contractor, Tseamiso Trading Contractor was formally introduced to the community in September 2024, and the project was successfully completed in September 2025.

The completed road now provides direct access to the village, improving safety, convenience, and connectivity for the Ga Maepa community in Ward 1.

The official opening ceremony was attended by the Speaker of Council, Cllr Makgalema Shoba, Council Whip Cllr Dorah Mpheti, Members of the Executive Committee, councillors, and members of the community who gathered to witness

the official opening of the important infrastructure milestone.

Addressing the community, Mayor Maila congratulated residents for their cooperation and emphasised the importance of protecting public infrastructure.

“Previously, residents of Ga Maepa were forced to walk long distances after being dropped off along the R555. Today, we are proud to officially open this road, which restores dignity and improves access for our people. We commend the community of Ward 1 for their cooperation throughout the project and encourage all communities to emulate this spirit and safeguard public infrastructure, as these developments are meant to benefit both present and future generations,” said Mayor Maila.

The community was satisfied with the project. “We are relieved that FTLM has finally heeded our pleas for a proper road. The new road will make it easier for everyone to access essential facilities,” said one community member and Paulinah Coetzer.

The completion of the Ga Maepa Access Road forms part of the Municipality’s ongoing infrastructure development programme aimed at improving connectivity, enhancing service delivery, and supporting social and economic development across Fetakgomo Tubatse.

The municipality remains committed to delivering infrastructure that responds to the needs of communities and contributes to inclusive and sustainable development.



Mayor Eddie Maila during the handover of the road



Dorah Mpheti, Mayor Eddie Maila, Makhalema Shoba, Paulinah Coetzer and Representative of the contractor during the ribbon cutting at Maepa Village.



The newly completed 4.5-kilometre Ga Maepa Access Road



Community members



Nkgetheng Maabane

Re-Kaofela Consortium

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GLENCORE

Operation Shanela nets 966 suspects



Some of the firearms and ammunition recovered in possession of the suspects during Operation Shanela.



The police confiscated liquor from unlicensed outlets during the operations.

LIMPOPO – The intensified Operation Shanela, conducted across Limpopo Province from Monday 2 until Sunday 8 February 2026, continues to make an impact across the Province, has resulted in the arrest of 966 suspects.

The coordinated, high-density operations aimed at curbing crime, were conducted in all five districts of Limpopo, with suspects nabbed for various offences, according to Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson.

"During the operation, the police also recovered eight firearms, along with five rounds of ammunition, underscoring the ongoing drive to remove illegal weapons from communities and restore safety across the province," said Ledwaba.

He added that the arrests include suspects linked to serious crimes such as murder, attempted murder, robbery, rape, and human trafficking.

"Some of the items confiscated during the operations include 216 rounds of ammunition, 15 dangerous weapons, 2,571

kg of dagga, and various other illicit substances. Police also inspected 1,039 liquor outlets, 349 second-hand goods dealers, and 211 scrap yards, among other operational actions," informed Ledwaba.

He said the arrested suspects have already appeared before various magistrate courts in the province, and police investigations continue.

Ledwaba assured that the operation is ongoing, with police committed to maintaining a visible presence in communities and ensuring that those responsible for crime face the full force of the law.

Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, the Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, praised the proactive policing efforts of members and underscored the importance of accountability.

"Operation Shanela reflects our resolve to bring policing closer to the people we serve. Through sustained roadblocks, stop-and-search operations, and compliance inspections, we are actively preventing crime and upholding the rule of law," she said.

Home Affairs Portfolio Committee engages Tafelkop community



The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, joined by dignitaries from EMLM, conducted an oversight visit at the Groblersdal Home Affairs offices.



EMLM Mayor, Cllr David Tladi, addressing the public during the Marriage Bill public consultation conducted at Bakwena ba Matsepe Traditional Authority in Tafelkop Village.



Home Affairs Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Mosa Chabane, at the Marriage Bill Bakwena ba Matsepe Traditional Authority in Tafelkop.

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD / TSEBIŠO KA GA LEBAKANAKO LA GO FA DITSHWAOTSHWAO KA SETŠHABA

Project Name: Oasis Ba-Mashabela Battery Energy Storage (BESS) Registration Process and Associated Infrastructure

Applicant: Oasis Ba Mashabela (Pty) Ltd

Proposed Activity: The Applicant intends to establish and operate a BESS facility and associated infrastructure in the Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Sekhukhune District Municipality, Limpopo Province. The BESS and its associated infrastructure will have a total assessment area of approximately 15 hectares, with an energy capacity of up to 600 MWh, with augmentation up to 800MWh. The overall objective of the proposed BESS is to enable energy to be "stored" and released during periods of high electricity demand, ensuring a steady and safe electricity supply and enabling the connection of additional renewable energy generation facilities to the national and/or regional grid.

Legal Framework: The proposed Activity requires the BESS to be registered with the Competent Authority, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). This is in terms of Government Notice (GN) 4557 – Norm for the Exclusion of Identified Activities Associated with the Development and Expansion of Battery Storage Facilities in Areas of Low or Medium Sensitivity. GN 4557 has been prepared to provide rules for activities associated with the development and expansion of battery storage facilities. These activities are identified under section 24(2)(a) and (b) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA). They are also contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA) Listing Notice 1, 2, or 3 of 2014, promulgated under section 24(5) of NEMA.

A Water Use License application will be undertaken in terms of Government Notice (GN) No. 267 of 2017, under the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) as amended (NWA) - if applicable. An application for Heritage approval (HIA) will be undertaken in terms of section 38(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA)

Registration as an Interested and / affected party (I&AP): Please submit your name, contact details (telephone number, postal address and email address) and the interest which you have in the application to Ecologia (ppp@ecologia.co.za) and please reference 'Oasis Ba-Mashabela BESS' in your correspondence.

In terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act 4 of 2013) as amended, you hereby declare and confirm that you, as an I&AP providing information, consent to your information to be gathered, stored and distributed for the purpose of this project.

Oasis Ba-Mashabela (Option B Preferred) Coordinates
24° 26'12.46"S; 30° 1'45.68"E

Leina la Protšeke: Tshepedišo ya Ngwadišo ya Polokelo ya Enetši ya Peteri ya Oasis Ba-Mashabela (BESS) le Mananeokgoparara a go Amana le yona

Mokgopedi: Oasis Ba Mashabela (Pty) Ltd

Mošomo wo o šišinywago: Mokgopedi o nyaka go hloma le go sepediša lefelo la BESS le mananeokgoparara a go amana le lona ka Masepaleng wa Selegae wa Fetakgomo Tubatse, ka Masepaleng wa Selete wa Sekhukhune, ka Phrobentsheng ya Limpopo. BESS le mananeokgoparara ao a amanago le yona e tla ba le palomoka ya lefelo la tekolo la dihekthara tše di ka bago tše 15, le go ba le mothamo wa tšweletšo ya enetši ya go filha go 600 MWh, fao go nago le tšweletšo ya go filha go 800MWh. Maikemišetšomagalo a BESS ye e šišintšwego ke go kgontšha gore enetši e "bolokwe" le go lokollwa ka dinako tša ge go na le nyakego ya godimo ya mohlagaše, ka go netefatša gore go ba le kabo ya mohlagaše ye e sa tekatekego le ye e bolokegilego le go kgontšha kgokaganyo mafelo a tšweletšo ya enetši ya tšweletšo ya go šomišwa leswa go keriti ya bosetšhaba le/goba ya ka dileteng.

Tlhako ya Semolao: Mošomo wo o šišinywago o nyaka gore BESS e ngwadišwe le Bolaodi bja Maswanedi, e lego Kgoro ya Kagodithokgwa, Boreahlapi le Tikologo (DFFE). Se ke go latela Tsebišo ya Mmušo (GN) 4557 – Molawana wa go se Akaretše ga Mešomo ye e Hlathilwego ye e Amanago le Tlhabollo le Katolološo ya Mafelo a Polokelo ya Peteri ka Mafelong ao a nago le Kamego ya Fasana goba ya Magareng. GN 4557 e beakantšwe ka nepo ya go fana ka melawana ya mešomo ye e amanago le tlhabollo le katolološo ya mafelo a polokelo ya peteri. Mešomo ye e hlathilwe ka fase ga karolo ya 24(2)(a) le (b) tša Molao wa Bosetšhaba wa Taolo ya Tikologo, wa 1998 (NEMA). E gona gape ka gare ga Melawana ya Tekolo ya Seabe go Tikologo (EIA) Tsebišo ya Tlhagišo ya 1, 2, goba 3 ya 2014, yeo e tsebišitšwego ka fase ga karolo ya 24(5) ya NEMA.

Kgopelo ya Laesentshe ya Tšhomišo ya meetse e tla dirwa go latela Tsebišo ya Mmušo (GN) ya Nomoro ya 267 ya 2017, ka fase ga Molao wa Bosetšhaba wa Meetse, wa 1998 (Molao wa 36 wa 1998) ka ge o fetošitšwe (NWA) – ge o le gona. Kgopelo ya tumelelo ya tša Bohwa (HIA) e tla dirwa go latela karolo ya 38(1) ya Molao wa Bosetšhaba wa Methopo ya Bohwa, Molao wa 25 wa 1999 (NHRA)

Boingwadišo bjalo ka motho yo a nago le Kgahlego / yo a Amegilego (I&AP): O kgopelwa go romela leina la gago, dintlha tša boikgokaganyo (nomoro ya mogala, aterese ya oposo le aterese ya emeile) le kgahlego ye o nago le yona ka kgopelong ya gago go Ecologia (ppp@ecologia.co.za) gome o kgopelwa go ngwala tšhupetšo ya 'Oasis Ba-Mashabela BESS' ka lengwalong la gago.

Oasis Ba-Mashabela (Option C Alternative) Coordinates
24° 25'15.63"S; 30° 1'14.72"E

Ecologia invites you to register as an I&AP for the project and to submit any comments/Ecologia e go laletša go ingwadiša bjalo ka I&AP go protšeke ye le go romela ditshwaotshwao dife goba dife.

Contact/Ikgokaganye le/ Michelle Guy
Email/Emeile: ppp@ecologia.co.za / michelle@ecologia.co.za
Website/Wepsaete: www.ecologia.co.za

A copy of the Site Sensitivity Verification report and EMPr is available for viewing via wetransfer or emailed on request. The report will be available for a 30-day comment period from **13 February to 16 March 2026**.

Khopi ya pego ya Tekolo ya Go Amega ga Lefelo le EMPr e hwetšagala go ka lebelelwa ka wetransfer goba ya romelwa ka emeile ge e kgopelwa. Pego e tla hwetšagala mo go lebakanako la go fa ditshwaotshwao la matšatši a 30 go thoma ka la **13 February go filha ka la 16 March 2026**.



TAFELKOP/GROBLERSDAL - The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, chaired by Mosa Chabane, recently conducted public hearings on the Marriage Bill in Tafelkop Village, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM) Ward 25. The event, which unfolded at Bakwena ba Matsepe Traditional Authority in Tafelkop on Thursday 5 February 2026, was attended by dignitaries, including the Mayor of EMLM, Cllr David Tladi, and Kgošigadi Matsepe of the Bakwena ba Matsepe Traditional Council.

The public hearings are part of the nationwide consultations on the Marriage Bill, which seeks to establish a single, unified marriage statute for South Africa. The Bill aims to replace the current fragmented legal framework governing civil marriages, customary marriages, and same-sex unions, ensuring constitutional compliance, promoting equality, and providing legal certainty for all marriages. During the proceedings, Kgošigadi Matsepe emphasized the importance of community participation and traditional leadership in legislative processes affecting family and social relations.

"The role of traditional leadership is crucial in ensuring that our communities are involved in the decision-making process," she said. Community members and stakeholders actively participated in the hearings, sharing their views, recommendations, and concerns. The engagement provided residents with the opportunity to voice their opinions on civil, customary, and same-sex marriages, contributing to a transparent and democratic law-making process. The Portfolio Committee encouraged all interested stakeholders to participate in the public hearings and contribute to the law-making process. "Public participation remains a cornerstone of South Africa's democratic system, and we value the inputs received, which will inform our deliberations on the Marriage Bill," said Chabane. The committee also conducted an oversight visit to the Groblersdal Home Affairs offices, assessing service delivery and conditions at the facility. During the oversight visit, the Committee engaged with members of the community, with particular focus on Grade 12 learners who had visited the office to apply for their identity documents (IDs), as these documents are critical for their further education, examinations, and access to opportunities. The final provincial hearings on the Marriage Bill took place in Limpopo from Monday 2 to Thursday 5 February 2026.



Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School pupils paying attention during a motivational visit conducted by SDM, Department of Social Development, Motetema SAPS, Impact for Change Organization and MatricMentors Foundation.



MMC for Youth, Women and People Living with Disabilities in SEM, Cllr Kanana Leokana, addressing the pupils during the support visit at Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School in Dikgalaopeng Village.

SDM and stakeholder rally behind Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School

DIKGALAOPENG - Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), led by MMC for Youth, Women and People Living with Disabilities, Cllr Kanana Leokana, paid homage to Naledi Ya Meso Secondary School in Dikgalaopeng Village outside Groblersdal to motivate learners ahead of the 2026 academic year.

Naledi Ya Meso Secondary is bouncing back from a tough year. The school recorded a 0% pass rate in the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) exams, with none of its 15 learners passing.

This is a shocking drop from previous years, where the school achieved 40% in 2023 and 41% in 2024.

The school's struggles have been attributed to various factors, including allegations of witchcraft, the principal's illness, and poor discipline.

During the motivational visit, the SDM team, joined by partners from the Department of Social Development, Motetema SAPS, Impact for Change Organization and MatricMentors Foundation, encouraged learners to stay focused and disciplined to achieve a 100% matric pass rate in 2026.

Learners were encouraged to remain focused, disciplined, and committed to achieving a 100% matric pass rate.

Recently, Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has pledged support for the school, emphasizing the need for urgent intervention and accountability.

In a surprise visit to the school last month, Ramathuba, brought a message of hope to Naledi Ya Meso Secondary.

Contrary to expectations of condemnation, Ramathuba showered the school with love and encouragement, pledging support for its revival.

"We won't close this school. It has better infrastructure, and we will adopt it to turn things around," Ramathuba assured learners and staff.

She vowed to support remaining students, particularly those unable to afford transport to other schools, alongside MEC for Education Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya.

The Limpopo Department of Education has also previously rolled out intervention programmes, including supplementary classes and targeted assessments, to support struggling schools.

Husband shoots wife, then turns gun on himself

BURGERSFORT - A 54-year-old man allegedly shot and killed his 27-year-old wife and then took his own life during a suspected domestic dispute incident, occurred in Burgersfort near Twin City Mall on Sunday 8 February 2026.

According to Brigadier Hlulani Mashaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the police responded to a shooting incident at approximately 13:54 along Dirk Winterbach Street, next to Twin City Mall and upon arrival, the officers found a husband and wife lying on the passageway with gunshot wounds.

"Preliminary investigations revealed that the woman was standing on the passageway next to Dirk Winterbach Street when a blue Audi sedan with Gauteng registration allegedly stopped next to her. The driver reportedly exited the vehicle, approached the woman, shot her, and thereafter shot himself. Both victims were transported to a local hospital, where they later succumbed to their injuries. The motive for the incident is unknown at this stage; however, domestic-related issues cannot be ruled out," said Mashaba.

He added that during the processing of the crime scene, the police recovered a pistol that was used during the incident and empty cartridges.

"A subsequent search of the suspect's vehicle led to the discovery of one rifle, twenty-one live 9mm rounds, and 18 live rifle rounds. Further preliminary investigations revealed that the recovered



Shocked members of the public gathered at the scene after a 54-year-old man allegedly shot and killed his 27-year-old wife in Burgersfort.

firearms and ammunition belonged to the suspect. Investigations are underway to establish the circumstances under which the suspect came to possess the firearms," informed Mashaba.

He said the blue Audi sedan used in the incident was confiscated and will form part of the ongoing investigation. Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, expressed deep sadness over the incident.

"This tragic loss of life highlights the devastating impact of gender-based violence and the dangers associated with the misuse of firearms. Firearm owners are urged to handle their weapons responsibly and to seek assistance before domestic disputes escalate into fatal violence," said Hadebe.



Gun violence claimed two lives in Burgersfort after a 54-year-old man shot and killed his 27-year-old wife then turned a gun on himself.

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION BY: LUMIERE DEVELOPMENTS (PTY) LTD

Notice is hereby given in terms of EIA Regulation 41(2) (c) of the Regulations, under the Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)

Lumiere Developments (Pty) Ltd applied for a Mining Permit for minerals **Aggregate, Gravel and Sand (General)** in terms of Section 27 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002. The project will be following the Basic Assessment Report procedures in terms of regulation 41(3) (b) (i) of the NEMA: EIA Regulation, 2014. The project will trigger Activity 21 of Listing Notice (LN) 1 of the EIA Regulations "Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a mining permit in terms of section 27 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the mining permit.". The applications cover farms:

**SHEIDING 407 KS (PART OF PORTION 1)
ZEEKOEGAT 421 KS (PART OF THE REMAINING EXTENT)
DMPR REF: LP 30/5/1/3/2/13360MP.**

Located in the magisterial district of **Greater Tubatse/Fetakgomo**. You can be involved in the Public Participation Process by:

- sending a fax, email or mail with your name, contact details and concerns/questions relating to the project.
- Providing us with the names of additional people that can be contacted.

All correspondence be received within **30 days from receipt of these notice** will be submitted to the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR). All issues raised during the public participation process will responded to in writing to the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). I&AP include all parties concerned, who will be affected by the project and interested in the prospecting/exploration project. The Basic Assessment Report & Environmental Management Plan (EMP & BAR) and Background Information Document (BID) can be requested via email.

CORRESPONDANCE MAY BE DIRECTED TO: VM Mafanele
EMAIL: info@mafanelegeo-enviro.co.za or michaelmafanele@mafanelegeo-enviro.co.za or mafanelevm@gmail.com or Postnet Suite 210 Private Bag x 5981 Polokwane North 0750

OFFICE: 26 Thabo Street (AL Smit Building), Polokwane, Limpopo
FAX: 0865 444 911
CEL: 072 395 9511/066 389 1021/078 174 4835
DATE OF NOTICE: 20 February 2026

Sports



INSIDE

Premier Ramathuba reports 14% drop in festive season road crashes

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Sekhukhune volleyball teams partake in Limpopo Opening Tournament



SEKHUKHUNE - Two volleyball teams from Sekhukhune, Marula Mine Volleyball Team and Tompi Seleka Volleyball Team, represented the district with pride at the Limpopo Volleyball Association's Opening Tournament, held at Peter Mokaba Outdoor Courts in Polokwane on Saturday 8 February 2026.

Tompi Seleka Volleyball Team, from Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM), made their provincial debut after excelling in the regional games in Sekhukhune.

Marula Mine Volleyball Team, from Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM), also put up a strong showing, further solidifying Sekhukhune's reputation as a volleyball hub.

Katlego Mthombeni, President of Sekhukhune District Volleyball Association, expressed his satisfaction with the teams' performance.

"Provincial games are high level and professional, our teams have gained a lot in the competition," Mthombeni said.

He commended the teams for their dedication and commitment to the sport, which has earned them a spot among the best in Limpopo.

Mthombeni also used the opportunity to encourage Sekhukhune based schools to participate in volleyball, aiming to expose the sport to a wider audience.

He praised Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) for conducting coaches and umpires' workshops, which have equipped the association with professional coaches and umpires.

"The workshops have been a game-changer for us, and we hope that they will also be conducted in schools to nurture young talent," Mthombeni added.

The Sekhukhune Volleyball Association is gearing up for its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and election of new executives, scheduled to take place at Molapong Lifestyle in Jerusalem outside Monsterlus on Saturday 28 February 2026.

Mthombeni said the event promises to be a milestone in the association's calendar, and stakeholders are eagerly looking forward to it.

Tompi Seleka Volleyball Team (Wearing green), was among two teams representing Sekhukhune in the provincial games after excelling in the regional games.



Marula Mine Volleyball Team participating during the Limpopo Volleyball Association Opening Tournament, organized at Peter Mokaba Outdoor Courts in Polokwane.



Jacob Thamaga