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Contractor vanishes, Ephraim Mogale sub-contractors left unpaid



The alleged abandoned D4340 Road Project has created a hazardous environment in the Tsimanyane area.

TSIMANYANE

An abandoned road project at Tsimanyane in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPML), has left sub-contractors and workers out of pocket after the main contractor, Sabela Matevha Consulting, vanished without completing a project to re-gravel the D4340 Road, which connects Tsimanyane and Mohlotsi Villages. The project, which started in October 2025, was meant to be completed within three months. However, after they were formally appointed, sub-contractors alleged that they submitted invoices that were never paid.

The sub-contractors, who are part of the Tsimanyane Group and Mohlotsi Consortiums, claim they have made a first set of their invoices submissions in November 2025, while a second set was submitted in December 2025. However, both sets were never paid by the main contractor.

They claim that after they submitted the invoices, the main contractor kept on postponing the payments until he disappeared mid December 2025, leaving behind a trail of unpaid workers and sub-contractors.

The project, which was allocated R3 million by the Limpopo Department of Public

Works, is allegedly left with a remaining balance of R400 000, while sub-contractors are owed in excess of R1.2 million.

"We started working on the project from 5 November and submitted our first invoices on the 28th of the same month, which were never paid. We were told the work was behind schedule as per the department's inspection, which did not allow to pay further funds," said a sub-contractor who did not want to be named.

He added that sub-contractors were then pressured to accelerate progress in order to receive payment.

"We pushed harder in December, hoping to catch up and secure payment, but it was a futile effort as the main contractor vanished without warning, leaving us with unpaid invoices and a mountain of debt," he said.

According to the sub-contractors, the main contractor, Sabela Matevha Consulting, was paid R1,8 million in October 2025 for establishment of road signs and site establishment, with an additional R800 000 paid in November 2025.

However, sub-contractors claim a very few of them were only paid as little as R15 000, while the majority received nothing.

The situation is dire, with

security personnel still on site but unpaid, and the main contractor removing equipment piece by piece, showing signs that he will never return.

The project has left a hazardous environment, with open trenches and deep excavations posing a risk to children and animals.

"We fear for our children, we are worried that the project should have been completed in January. It has been almost three months now and there are no signs of the main contractor," said one of the concerned residents.

She added that they are also concerned about safety of school children as motorists using alternative routes passing nearby local primary schools are speeding, which could put children at risk.

The sub-contractors are now planning to escalate the matter to Limpopo MEC for Public Works, Ernest Rachoene.

"We are seeking to convene a meeting with Rachoene and address the issue. An investigation is needed to uncover the truth behind the corruption and money laundering within the project," said a sub-contractor.

At the time of going to press, the Limpopo Department of Public Works could not respond to the publication's enquiries.



Concerned sub-contractors say they are worried that now the main contractor is removing equipment piece by piece showing signs that he will never return.

Sewerage dumping fee leaves Jane Furse businesses on the brink

JANE FURSE – Small local business owners operating sewerage trucks in Jane Furse say they are struggling to cope with a new R1050 per load dumping fee introduced by Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) for dumping septic waste at the Moripane Waste disposal plant.

The fee, implemented in November 2025, has left business owners with a meager R250 per load, barely covering their costs including truck drivers' wages, truck maintenance, diesel, and other expenses.

The truck owners are operating a sewerage waste collection and dumping business around villages and business sites in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality (MLM).

The business owners claim they're being unfairly targeted and that the fee is unsustainable.

They're threatening to park their trucks, leaving drivers unemployed and impacting the community they serve. Some owners allege that others, possibly connected to senior officials in the municipalities, are disposing of waste for free.

With costs proving unsustainable, the situation has taken a worrying turn, with sewerage truck owners now resorting to dispose waste at open fields around Jane Furse, including grazing fields and near streams used for drinking water, posing a risk to humans and animals.

For years, these entrepreneurs have been using the Moripane Waste Disposal Plant dumping site without paying a cent.

They would collect waste from households and businesses, charge a reasonable fee for their services, and dispose of the waste at the site.

They say it was a system that worked for everyone involved. But all of that changed when the municipality suddenly introduced the new fee.

One of the business owners, Mmetheng Matlala, told the publication that the new introduced fee has left sewerage dump truck owners struggling to stay afloat.

"The new fee is crippling our operations because we charge our customers R1300 per load, while the municipality demands R1050 leaving us with a meager R250. We are not making a

profit, we're just breaking even. The dumping site has been there for years and no one was paying to use it. We suspect the municipality wants to remove us from the business," he said.

Another truck owner, Sephure Bapela, said the business owners weren't properly informed about the new system, adding that Sekhukhune District Municipality just implemented the by-laws without their participation.

"We are not just talking about a small implemented fees. This is a drastic change that will put us out of business. We are able to pay a reasonable price, but this is unsustainable," he said.

Bapela said they are worried that other municipalities in Sekhukhune are not demanding any cent from sewerage truck owners.

"No one is paying in other areas. You can go everywhere around Sekhukhune dumping site there aren't fees implemented. It is only in Jane Furse. Some areas in the province like Polokwane they charge much lower rates of R80 per load. It seems like we are unfairly targeted," he said.

Adding to the frustration, the municipality charges a significantly fee of R500 for mobile toilet dump, despite the truck owners charging their customers the same amount for their services.

"It's ridiculous, we are not making any profit. We can't increase our prices, the communities we serve are struggling and living in poverty," Bapela said.

He said business owners are worried that if the fees aren't revised, they will be forced to park their trucks, leaving their drivers unemployed and communities suffering.

"We've tried to engage with the municipality, but no one seems to be listening. We are not asking for favors, we are just asking for a fair deal," he said.

He said they're providing a vital service to the community, often filling a gap left by the municipality itself and they are calling for the municipality to reconsider the fees and involve them in the decision-making process.

"We are not just business owners, we are community members who are not just concerned about their own



Sewerage truck owners who are dumping septic waste at Moripane Waste Plant are concerned about the new pricing system implemented by Sekhukhune District Municipality.

livelihoods, but also about the impact on the community we serve," said Bapela.

Resident, Cathrine Maepa, said the affected business owners are often the only ones who can help when people need their septic tanks emptied, adding that communities will struggle if they could stop operating.

"These business owners are providing a vital service to our community. If they go out of business, it will be a disaster for us," she said.

According to Lemson Moropjane, SDM Spokesperson, the current dumping tariff is not new and was implemented following a public consultation process through the Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

"The municipality has consistently applied a tariff of R1,049.75 VAT inclusive, per 10,000 litres since 1 July 2025. This tariff is based on the volume of waste disposed and ensures fairness and sustainability in the management of waste infrastructure," explained Moropjane.

Moropjane stated that no formal complaints have been received about this tariff, adding that the municipality charges per volume of waste deposited due to varying vehicle capacities. He also strongly refutes allegations that certain individuals are allowed to dispose of waste without payment.

"All users of municipal waste disposal facilities are required to comply with the same payment processes, without exception," Moropjane said.

Recent "Operation Shanela" yields multiple arrests and seizures

LIMPOPO - The police across Limpopo have made a significant breakthrough in the fight against crime, with 743 suspects arrested and charged with various offences following Operation Shanela, which took place from Monday 16 to Sunday 22 March 2026.

According to Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the operation was conducted across the province and involved coordinated actions such as roadblocks, stop-and-searches, compliance inspections, and visible patrols.

"The operation aimed at combating serious and violent crimes and has led to the arrest of individuals suspected of rape, murder, burglary, robbery, and other offences," he said.

Ledwaba added that among those arrested are suspects for 12 cases of rape, 2 murders, 1 attempted murder, 13 residential burglaries, and 3 business burglaries.

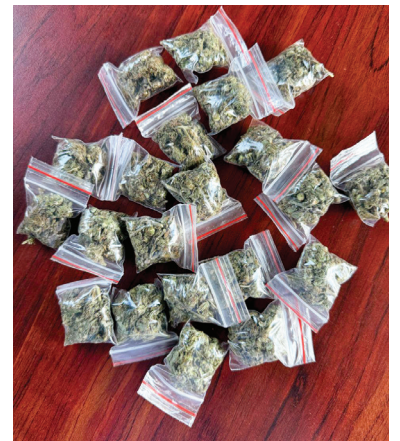
"Additionally, suspects were arrested for carjacking, robbery at residential and business premises, theft of motor vehicles or motorcycles, and malicious damage to property. The operation also targeted contraventions of the Immigration Act, with 198 suspects arrested," informed Ledwaba.

He went on to indicate that other arrests include 61 cases of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, 37 common assaults, 2 cases of illegal possession of firearms, and 1 case of illegal possession of ammunition.

"Items confiscated during the operation include 2 firearms, 6 rounds of ammunition, 23 dangerous weapons, and large quantities of alcoholic beverages and illicit substances, including 0.265 kg of dagga, 0.01g of cocaine, 0.10g of crystal meth, 2.6g of nyaope, and 0.491g of heroin," Ledwaba said.

Furthermore, Ledwaba added that the operation involved extensive inspections and searches, with 1,615 liquor outlets inspected and 83 unlicensed premises closed.

"Additionally, 714 second-



Illegal drugs were confiscated during the Limpopo Province-wide Operation Shanela.



Unlicensed firearms were seized by the police during the operations.

hand goods dealers were inspected, 194 scrap yards searched, and 6,906 informal businesses inspected. A total of 15,716 persons were searched, 10,490 vehicles searched, and 4,554 stop-and-search operations conducted," he said.

Ledwaba said some of the arrested suspects have already started to appear before various magistrates' courts across the province.

Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, commended the continued discipline and visibility of police members but emphasized a broader community-focused approach.

"Operation Shanela is not only about arrests, but about restoring a sense of safety and stability in our communities. We are determined to disrupt criminal networks, close illegal operations, and ensure that public spaces are protected. Community cooperation remains vital, and we urge residents to work hand-in-hand with the police to root out crime," said Hadebe.

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Limpopo law enforcements have vowed to 'take zero tolerance' during the 2026 Easter long-weekend.



MMC for Cllr Makaeya Alfred Matlala, Planning and Economic Development in SDM, delivered a keynote address during the Solar PV Green Card Certification Programme.

Sekhukhune District gets boost in green economy

AQUAVILLE - A significant step towards empowering the youth and driving economic growth was taken at Sekhukhune TVET College Skills Development Centre in Aquaville, outside Groblersdal, as 42 young unemployed graduates embarked on a Solar PV Green Card Certification Programme.

The event, held on Wednesday 18 March 2026, was graced by Cllr Makaeya Alfred Matlala, MMC for Planning and Economic Development in Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM), who delivered the keynote address on behalf of SDM Executive Mayor Cllr Minah Bahula.

In his address, Matlala thanked the students from all parts of Sekhukhune District for embracing the opportunity presented through a partnership of SDA, Hulisani Education Resource Centre, Sekhukhune TVET College, and Standard Bank.

"This programme is a beacon of hope for our young people, who face a daunting 52% unemployment rate in our district. Many of our people are living below the poverty line, and

initiatives like this are crucial in addressing poverty and creating economic opportunities," he said.

The Solar PV Green Card Certification Programme is designed to take these young graduates through an entrepreneurial journey, equipping them with skills and accreditation in solar energy, and preparing them for employment opportunities in the green economy.

"This is the beginning of a life-long journey to learn, improve your qualifications, and seize opportunities in the green economy," Matlala advised the cohort.

Lloyd Baloyi, Local Market Head, Business Clients, Mokopane Standard Bank, echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the bank's commitment to driving economic growth in Sekhukhune District.

"As Standard Bank, we act as a catalyst for economic growth, and this is deeply embedded in our group purpose, which says 'Africa is our home, and we drive her growth. Today, we are bringing

it home and saying 'Sekhukhune is our home, and we drive her growth,'" he said.

Baloyi outlined some of the ways Standard Bank is stimulating economic activities in the community, including public-private partnerships, direct employment of locals, and corporate social investment projects.

"Through our CSI projects, we identify underprivileged families and support them to alleviate poverty," he said.

In closing, Baloyi wished the learners well in their journey and encouraged them to finish the programme, get accredited, register their companies, and open a business account with Standard Bank to unlock opportunities for growth and working capital requirements.

"Renewable energy is closer to our heart, and we are deeply invested in ensuring that we assist in reducing the carbon footprint and pressure from the national grid by financing solar projects in personal and business capacity," he said.

Limpopo Easter Safety Campaign launched



MEC for Transport and Public Safety in Limpopo, Violet Mathye, leading the road safety operation during the launching of the Limpopo Provincial 2026 Easter Road Safety Campaign.

LIMPOPO - As the Easter holiday approaches, the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety has launched the provincial 2026 Easter Road Safety Campaign, urging all road users to take personal responsibility for safety on the roads.

The campaign, themed: "It Begins With Me," was launched at Tshamahansi Village in Mogalakwena Local Municipality, Waterberg District on Monday 23 March, with a disciplined joint ceremonial parade by provincial traffic officers and members of the South African Police Service (SAPS).

During the campaign, MEC for Transport and Public Safety in Limpopo, Violet Mathye, emphasized the importance of individual responsibility in ensuring road safety, commending law enforcement officers for their excellent work during last year's Easter period, which saw no major crashes on the N1 and no fatalities.

"The theme for this year, 'It Begins With Me,' is both powerful and timely. It reminds us that road safety starts with individual responsibility," she said.

According to MEC Mathye, last year's Easter period saw a significant reduction in road fatalities, with no pedestrian fatalities on the R71, a route typically prone to such incidents.

"The province recorded three fewer pedestrian fatalities compared to 2024, with 55 crashes reported, including 11 fatal crashes resulting in 12 fatalities," she said.

Mathye indicated that this year's campaign will focus on key routes, including the N1, N11, R81, R71, D4040, R36, R523, and R524, with intensified operations under Operation Malayisha.

"Measures will be taken to address drunk driving, speeding, and pedestrian negligence, with

weighbridges on high alert and 24-hour visible patrols along the N1. We are not complacent. The days of overloading vehicles over long distances from Cape Town to Limpopo, must come to an end. All weighbridges will be on high alert, working closely with our counterparts in neighbouring provinces," warned Mathye.

The MEC also urged passengers to avoid hitchhiking, citing serious risks, including crime and exploitation.

"I strongly encourage everyone to make use of legal and regulated transport options where safety and accountability are assured," she said.

Drivers of buses and taxis were also reminded of their responsibility to ensure vehicles are roadworthy, compliant, and operated safely.

"You have a responsibility to ensure that all vehicles are roadworthy, compliant, and operated safely," MEC Mathye said.

She also urged pedestrians to remain visible at all times when walking along or crossing roads. "The road is a shared space, and safety is everyone's responsibility," MEC Mathye said.

The launch was attended by various stakeholders, including the Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, and representatives from various taxi associations.

Twenty-four law enforcement vehicles were unveiled during the programme, with 16 allocated to the Community Safety Department and 12 to Mogalakwena Municipality.

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Press Council FAIR



The unattended sewage spillage, which has been experienced for the past seven years, is posing risk to people around Marble Hall.

MARBLE HALL – The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality (EPMLM) has called on EPMLM Mayor, Cllr Given Moimane, to intervene in a seven-year-long unattended sewage crisis at Ficus Street in Marble Hall Town.

According to the party, residents are concerned about raw sewage which continues to flow down the street due to a neglected and blocked system.

DA Councillor in EPMLM, Flip Jacobs, said the issue has been reported multiple times to both Ephraim Mogale and Sekhukhune District municipalities, but no assistance or maintenance has been provided.

“The stench and unhygienic conditions compromise the constitutional right to dignity, while raising health concerns for affected community members. This blatant violation of human dignity is the direct result of the collapse of governance at both local and district level in our municipality,” Jacobs said.

Jacobs slammed the ANC, stating: “the stench of ANC hypocrisy is overwhelming, while officials buoyantly celebrate Human Rights Month, Ficus Street residents’ rights are ignored.”

He said the will call for accountability

and service delivery for communities, ensuring that the rights entrenched in the Constitution are enjoyed by everyone, every day.

Lemson Moropjane, SDM Spokesperson, said the district municipality has noted the increasing development of properties and higher household densities, which are placing strain on existing sewer infrastructure beyond planned human settlements standards.

“This has resulted in system overloads, contributing to sewer overflows and spillages. The district municipality is currently engaging with the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality to address these challenges collaboratively,” he said.

Moropjane added that the district municipality is taking proactive steps to address the strain on existing sewer infrastructure by implementing key interventions.

“The refurbishment of the sewer treatment plant is at 90% completion, while the pump station upgrade is at 70% completion. The second phase of the project will focus on upgrading the sewer pipeline network in the next financial year,” he said.

Marble Hall unattended sewerage spillage drags on for 7 years



DA Councillor in EPMLM, Flip Jacobs, along during an oversight visit to check on the sewage spillage in Marble Hall.



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MEGA invites SMMEs, cooperatives, entrepreneurs, business forums, youth - and women-owned businesses, and local stakeholders to attend the MEGA SMME Funding & Business Support Roadshow taking place across Mpumalanga in March 2026.

The roadshow will provide information on MEGA funding instruments, business support programmes, compliance requirements, and business recovery support.

Date: 01st April 2026
Venue: Nkangala District Municipality
Time: 09:00

RSVP: Ms Miriam Magolego 071 866 5383 / Mr Quinton Mhlongo 076 933 0072

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DR JS MOROKA MUNICIPALITY

TENDERERS ARE HEREBY INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT

Tenderer who are in good standing with the South African Revenue Services (SARS), have necessary experience and are compliant are hereby invited for the implementation of the projects below. Tender documents will only be available during dates prescribed on the table below and may be obtained on the E-tender portal and also at Dr JS Moroka Local Municipal Head Quarters. Payments of hardcopy tender documents can be made at the Municipal cashier's office in DR JS Moroka Local Municipality Head Quarters at 2601/3 Bongimfundo Street, Siyabuswa Unit Office during working hours 09h00 to 15h00 (Monday to Friday). Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted, and cheques are to be made payable to Dr. JS Moroka Municipality. It must be noted that no tender documents will be sold beyond these times. Bidders are encouraged to forward enquiries electronically at least two weeks before the closing of tenders to allow correspondence in time. A tender document and supporting documents shall be submitted in separate sealed envelopes or packages clearly marked with the relevant project numbers and project descriptions.

Item No.	Project description	Compulsory Briefing	Amount	Availability of Tender Documents	Closing date and time	Technical Enquiries
1	RE-ADVERT PROVISION OF TRAVEL AGENCY SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF 3 (THREE) YEARS/ 36 MONTHS ON AS AN WHEN REQUIRED. CONTRACT NO: JSM/FIN – 01/2026	26 March 2026 @ Erf no142 Ga-Phaahla Community Hall at Siyabuswa. Time 10H00 am to 10H30	R3 516.32	25 March 2026	21 April 2026 Time 11H00 am	Ms. DB KLAAS Tel: 013 973 1101/0139739126 Email: Klaasb@moroka.gov.za
2	APPOINTMENT OF SERVICES PROVIDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS FOR DR JS MOROKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY FOR THE PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS ON AS AN WHEN REQUIRED CONTRACT NO: JSM-ELEC/25-26/W00	26 March 2026 @ Erf no142 Ga-Phaahla Community Hall at Siyabuswa. Time 10H30 am to 11H00	R3 516.32	25 March 2026	21 April 2026 Time 10H00 am	Mr. SJ MPELA Tel: 013 973 1101/0139739126 Email: Mpelas@moroka.gov.za
3	APPOINTMENT FOR A PANEL OF SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND OFFLOADING OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS AS AND WHEN REQUIRED FOR A PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS. CONTRACT NO: JSM-O&M-PH1/25-26	26 March 2026 @ Erf no142 Ga-Phaahla Community Hall at Siyabuswa. Time 11H00 am to 11H30	R3 516.32	25 March 2026	22 April 2026 Time 11H00 am	Mr. SJ MPELA Tel: 013 973 1101/0139739126 Email: Mpelas@moroka.gov.za
4	APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICER PROVIDER TO SUPPLY LABORATORY EQUIPMENTS AND PROVIDE LABORATORY SERVICES FOR THE WATER AND WATER TREATMENT FOR THE DR JS MOROKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AS AND WHEN REQUIRED FOR A PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS. CONTRACT NO: JSM LABSERVE01- /07W00-25-26	26 March 2026 @ Erf no142 Ga-Phaahla Community Hall at Siyabuswa. Time 11H30 am to 12H00	R3 516.32	25 March 2026	22 April 2026 Time 11H00 am	Mr. SJ MPELA Tel: 013 973 1101/0139739126 Email: Mpelas@moroka.gov.za

Duly completed tenders shall be placed in the tender box situated at the main entrance of Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipality Head office building at 2601/3 Bongimfundo Street, Siyabuswa. No Fax or Late tenders will be accepted. Tenders will be evaluated on an 80/20-point system in terms of Dr JS Moroka Municipality's Supply Chain Management Policy in line with the Preferential Procurement Framework of 2022. Tenders shall be deemed to have acquainted themselves with tender rules included in tender documents. Tender offers shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the closing dates.

Document procurement availability enquiries must be directed to Mr. A Masilela on Tel: (013) 973 1101, Email: masilelaa@moroka.gov.za.

**Ms. M M MATHEBELA
MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

Stabbing incidents claim lives in Sekhukhune taverns

KUTUPU/PRAKTISEER – The police around Sekhukhune are investigating two separate murder cases after two men were stabbed to death at taverns in the district over the past weekend.

The incidents, which occurred at taverns in Kutupu outside Hlogotlou and Bothashoek outside Praktiseer respectively, have sparked an urgent investigation and a manhunt for the suspects.

Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, said the first incident occurred in the early hours of Saturday 21 March 2026, at a tavern in Kutupu Village, under the Hlogotlou policing area.

"According to information, a 21-year-old man was stabbed to death during an altercation at the tavern. The victim, whose name has not been released, sustained visible injuries to the upper body and was declared dead upon arrival at a local

hospital," informed Ledwaba.

He added that the victim was assaulted by two individuals at the tavern, with one suspect allegedly stabbing him with an unknown object while the other suspect assaulted him.

"A 21-year-old suspect has been arrested and is expected to appear before the Nebo Magistrate's Court on a charge of murder," Ledwaba said.

Ledwaba appealed for anyone with information that may assist in locating the second suspect to come forward.

"The police investigations are continuing, and we appeal to anyone with information that may assist in locating the second suspect to contact investigating officer Sergeant Siphon Nkgudi on 082 414 3244, or nearest police station or Crime Stop number on 08600 10111 or MySAPS App," he said.

In a separate incident, a 23-year-old man, Koketso Ndimande from Praktiseer, Shushumela Extension 2, was

stabbed to death at a local tavern in Bothashoek, Tubatse policing area. The incident occurred on Saturday 21 March 2026.

According to Colonel Ledwaba, the police were alerted about the incident at about 04:13 and found Ndimande's lifeless body at the local hospital, with a stab wound to the upper body.

"The suspect fled the scene after the incident, and efforts are underway to locate and arrest him. The police have opened a case of murder, and anyone with information that can assist in the arrest of the suspect is urged to come forward," Colonel Ledwaba said.

Ledwaba said the police appeal to the public for assistance in tracking down the suspect and those with information may contact investigating officer, Sergeant Mpho Mogale on 076 814 6522, their nearest police station, call the Crime Stop number on 08600 10111 or make use of MySAPS App.



The police in various police stations around Sekhukhune have activated a massive manhunt for suspects involved in murders of two people at taverns around the district.

EMLM concludes Ward Committee Conference



EMLM Council Speaker, Cllr Junior Thethe, addressing the closing ceremony during the EMLM Ward Committee Conference held at Forever Resort in Bela-Bela.

BELA BELA- Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Ward Committee Conference came to a successful close on 19 March 2026, with the EMLM Council Speaker, Cllr Junior Thethe, praising participants for their dedication to community development.

The three-day conference, held at the Forever Resort in Bela-Bela, brought together ward committee members, councillors, stakeholders, and municipal officials, and provided a platform for sharing experiences and strengthening collaboration in local governance.

In her closing remarks, Thethe expressed her appreciation to all participants for their active engagement, valuable contributions, and unwavering

commitment throughout the three days.

Thethe commended ward committee members for their role as a bridge between the municipality and communities, emphasising that their work remains critical in promoting public participation, accountability, and responsive service delivery, the municipality's communication unit stated.

The conference highlighted the importance of cooperation among stakeholders, with Cllr Thethe urging ward committees to remain dedicated and people-centred in executing their responsibilities.

Participants were encouraged to return to their wards with renewed energy, focusing on addressing



Certificates and awards were presented to the best-performing wards during the EMLM Ward Committee Conference.

community needs and supporting municipal programmes.

She commended ward committee members for their important role as a bridge between the municipality and communities, emphasising that their work remains critical in promoting public participation, accountability, and responsive service delivery.

She further highlighted the need for continued cooperation among all stakeholders, encouraging ward committees to remain dedicated, disciplined,

and people-centred in executing their responsibilities.

The speakers urged participants to return to their respective wards with renewed energy and a clear focus on addressing community needs, strengthening communication with residents, and supporting municipal programmes aimed at improving livelihoods.

As part of the closing programme, the Speaker, Chief Whip Cllr Elias Nduli, and Mayor Cllr David Tladi, presented certificates and awards to the best-

performing wards, recognising their outstanding performance, dedication, and commitment to serving their communities.

The awards served as both a celebration of excellence and a motivation for all wards to strive for improved performance and impactful service delivery.

The conference concluded with a shared sense of purpose, with participants committed to building stronger, more responsive, and development-oriented communities across the municipality.

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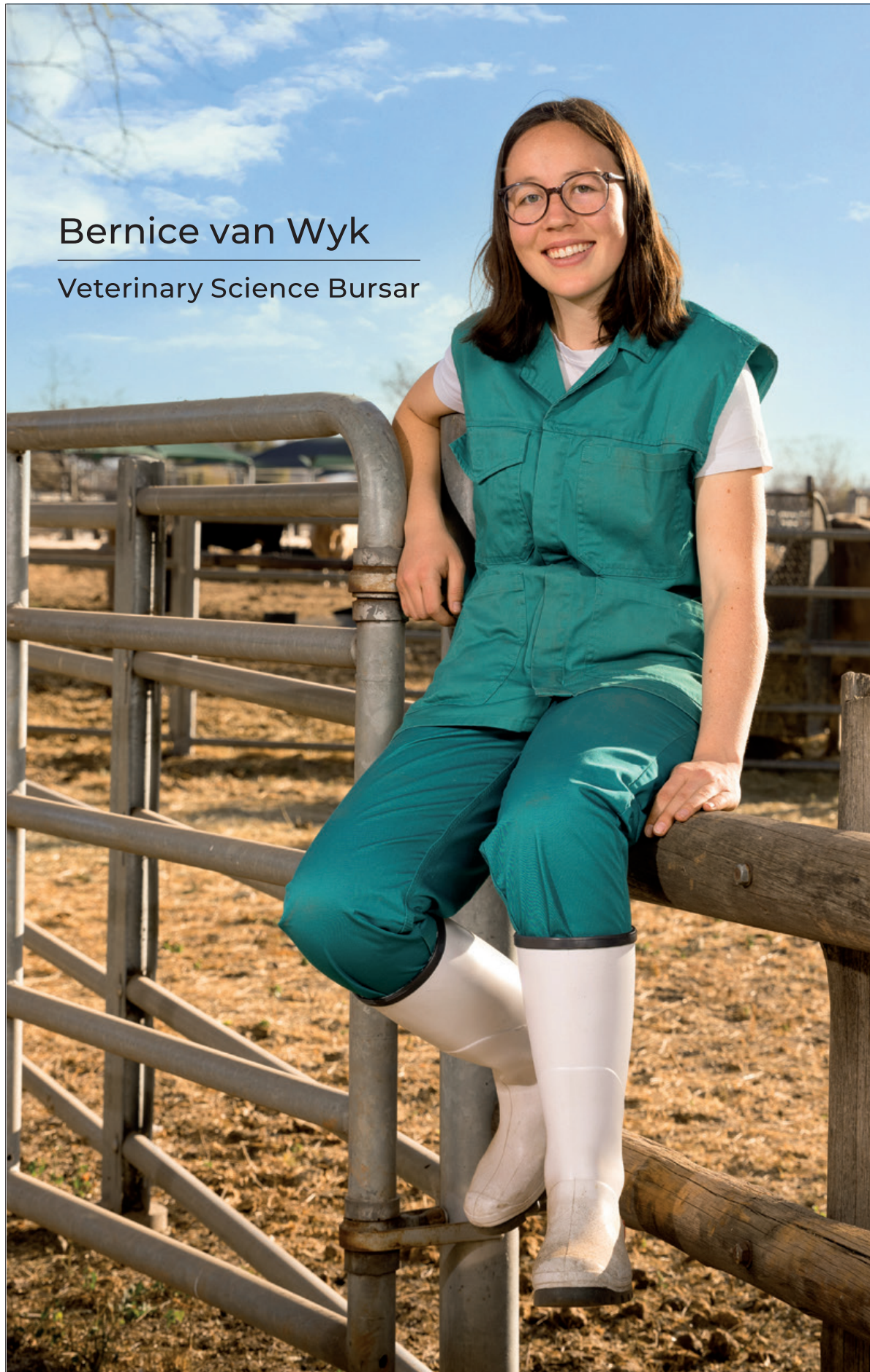
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<p>Blouberg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📶 Inveraan Community Hall 📶 Langlagte Community Hall 📶 Eldorado Stadium 📶 Ga-Kibi Tribal Office 📶 Maleboho Tribal Office 📶 Taaibosch Mmamadi Tribal Office 📶 Ga-Machaba 📶 Seakamela Traditional Council 📶 Ga-Raweshe 	<p>Lepelle-Nkumpi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📶 Mafefe Fahloshanang – Mobile network 📶 Lepelle Youth Centre – Civic 📶 Zebediela (Mogoto-Gadraai) 📶 Ga-Mathabatha Tribal Office – Mobile network 📶 Ga-Ledwaba Traditional Council 📶 Ga-Seloane Tribal Office – Mobile network 📶 Mafefe Tribal Office – Mobile network 📶 Ga-Mphahlele Traditional Office
<p>Molemole</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📶 Ramokgopa Tribal Office 📶 Ga-Phaudi Satellite Office – Mobile network 📶 Machaka Tribal Office 📶 Schoonveld 📶 Moshate wa Makgato 📶 Soekmekaar 📶 Festus Thusong Centre 	<p>Polokwane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📶 Aganang Cluster Office 📶 Molepo Maja Cluster 📶 Moletji Tribal Office 📶 Mothapo Traditional Council 📶 Ga-Dikgale Tribal Office – Mobile network 📶 Ga-Matlala Traditional Offices 📶 Ga-Mamabolo Tribal Office

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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

Limpopo drug crackdown yields four arrests



Some of the confiscated drugs have an estimated street value of R110,760 which were seized by the police in Sekhukhune and Capricorn Districts.



SEKHUKHUNE/CAPRICORN

- In a coordinated operation, the police in Sekhukhune and Capricorn Districts have arrested four suspects, aged between 26 and 57, for allegedly dealing in and possessing illicit drugs.

According to Colonel Malesela Ledwaba, Limpopo Provincial Police Spokesperson, the arrests were made on Thursday 19 March 2026, in the Sekhukhune and Capricorn Districts respectively, through operations executed by members of the Provincial Organised Crime Unit, Visible Policing and other operational teams.

"In Mogaladi Village outside Jane Furse under the Nebo policing area, a 32-year-old suspect was arrested in possession of heroin and rock worth R50,000. A 26-year-old foreign national was also apprehended in Groblersdal along Hereford Street with suspected heroin and crystal meth valued at R60,000," Ledwaba informed.

He added that a 57-year-old woman was arrested in Ribacross Village outside Burgersfort with daga and cash believed to be proceeds of crime, while another suspect, 35, was arrested in Moletlane Village outside Lebowakgomo with 76 sachets of daga worth R760-00.

"The total estimated street value of the confiscated drugs is R110,760. All four suspects have been charged with dealing in and possession of drugs and are expected to appear before their respective magistrates' courts," Ledwaba said.

The Provincial Commissioner of the Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, commended the operational teams for their decisive action and reaffirmed the police's commitment to intensifying efforts against drug-related crimes.

"Community members are urged to continue working with the police by reporting suspicious activities," she said.

Sports



INSIDE

Contractor vanishes, Ephraim Mogale sub-contractors left unpaid

Mapungubwe Rugby Cup set to bring Limpopo residents together



The highly anticipated Mapungubwe Rugby Cup will be taking place at the Old Peter Mokaba Stadium on Friday 27 March 2026.

LIMPOPO

Limpopo Province is gearing up for a sporting extravaganza as the Annual Mapungubwe Rugby Cup descends on the Old Peter Mokaba Stadium on Friday 27 March 2026.

This year's event promises to be a thrilling encounter between rugby giants, the Bulls and the Lions, and is expected to draw crowds from across the province.

According to organisers, the event is more than just a game, but a province-wide celebration aimed at promoting rugby among black communities.

MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Jerry Maseko, has called on residents across Limpopo Province to come out in numbers to support this highly-

anticipated sporting event.

"Mapungubwe Rugby is a celebration of our people, our talent, and our shared passion for sport," Maseko said.

People from all corners of Limpopo are expected to converge in Polokwane for the event, which will see the University of Limpopo take on the University of Limpopo Women at 13:00, followed by the Noordelikes facing off against the University of Limpopo at 15:00, and culminating in the highly anticipated Vodacom Bulls Under-23 vs Lions Under-23 showdown starting at 18:00.

The event is part of the province's ongoing efforts to promote sport development, foster unity, and create platforms

for local talent to shine.

"The Department is confident that the event will draw large crowds and further position Limpopo as a hub for major sporting events," said Maseko.

The event is expected to stimulate local economic activity and bring communities together.

Maseko said the Sport, Arts and Culture Department extends an invitation to all Limpopo residents to come and be part of this memorable experience.

According to Dr. Themba Ndaba, a sports analyst: "Events like the Mapungubwe Rugby Cup are crucial in promoting rugby in the province and providing a platform for young talent to emerge."