



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

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GOVERNMENT DONATES NGUNI BULLS TO FARMERS TO DRIVE LIVESTOCK GROWTH

By Kgalalelo Mashomo

In a move to uplift farmers and enhance the productivity and value of their livestock, the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Madoda Sambatha, recently handed over 24 Nguni bulls to farmers in Potchefstroom.

This underscores the government's commitment to foster sustainable agriculture, drive growth in rural communities, empower farmers, strengthen the livestock sector, and promote sustainable practices for future generations.

This donation comes after female-led farms across the North West were given fertile, productive Nguni bulls and this represents a major effort to boost agricultural productivity and support community-driven farming.

MEC Sambatha spoke of the critical role agriculture plays in driving economic growth and ensuring food security.

"The bulls donated today are of high standard. Bulls play a major role in determining the future performance of the herd, and that is why we encourage our farmers to take good care of these bulls, so they can, in turn, take care of them", MEC Sambatha said.

He explained how the Bulls Sire program will strengthen the red meat commodity in the North West, as well as offer farmers improved livestock genetics, and reduce the need for supplementary feeding and veterinary care while boosting milk



production, growth rates, and overall livestock productivity.

One of the beneficiaries is Agnes Thibelang, a farmer from Ganyesa in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality, who was grateful for the donation.

"The Nguni breed is well-suited to my dry region due to its adaptability and low maintenance. These bulls are of exceptional quality and will enhance the overall value of my herd," she said.

The Nguni bulls, beyond their agricultural benefits, serve as symbols of cultural heritage in African communities.



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HUMAN SETTLEMENTS HANDS OVER HOUSES AT MIDDLETON-B IN TSWAING

By Tebogo Serai and Keorapetse Mospidi

The MEC of Corporate Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi handed over two houses to the Matsane and Tau families from Middleton-B near Atamelang in the Tswaing Local Municipality as part of the North West Provincial Government's Women's Month commemorations.

Handing over the house keys to 44-year-old Dikeledi Matsane, a gender-based violence survivor, MEC Molapisi said that government is restoring people's dignity, especially women.

An overwhelmed Matsane couldn't hold her tears when receiving the keys.

"I would like to thank the Department of Human Settlements for building a house for me and my children, this feels like a dream, and I am grateful", Matsane said.

MEC Molapisi added that counselling will be arranged for Matsane to change her life and that of her children for the better.

Another recipient was 37-year-old Margaret Tau, who received the house on behalf of her late grandmother, Martha Tau.

She said her family comes from Bornou Farms next to Delareyville and later moved to Middleton B.

Tau is unemployed and survives on a child support grant she receives for her three children.

She said that even though her grandmother is no longer with them, she is resting in peace knowing that she has left a legacy for her family as they now have a roof over their heads.

MEC Molapisi said that government will continue providing people with houses but urged beneficiaries to take good care of the houses.

"It is the responsibility of



government to ensure that the women are prioritized, and their dignity is restored as it is stipulated in the Bill of Rights that all human

beings must have shelter and live in decent houses", MEC Molapisi said.

MEC Molapisi was accompanied by the MEC for Education Viola

Motsumi, the MEC for Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation, Collen Maine and the MEC for Finance, Kenetswe Mosenogi.

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MEC MOKUA VISITS MILITARY VETERANS HOUSING PROGRAMME IN GANYESA

By Dineo Lolokwane

The MEC for Public Works and Roads Elizabeth Mokua recently conducted an oversight visit to the Military Veterans Housing Programme in Ganyesa, as part of the ongoing Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (ASDP).

MEC Mokua, who was standing in for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC Gaoage Oageng Molapisi and was accompanied by local ward councilors and Dikgosi, was satisfied with the progress made to ensure that military veterans are provided with adequate housing. MEC Mokua spoke to beneficiaries of the three houses already built and



acknowledged the house's specifications, which include a built-in kitchen, stove, bedroom cupboards, and fitted bathrooms.

The house also provides for an additional third bedroom, replacing the carport, because of a request by beneficiaries.

Tsimane Kamanyane, a beneficiary, thanked the Department of Human Settlement (DHS) for the house.

"I am very emotional because I now see that indeed government is caring I am an owner because I now have a dignified home", Kamanyane said. MEC Mokua added that the DHS needs to complete all outstanding housing projects to redress and restore the dignity of communities.

"We are mindful of different circumstances our beneficiaries are faced with and the department will continue to conduct due diligence in every project they are working on Quality assurance, compliance, and accountability form part of the contract with service providers", MEC Mokua said.



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NORTH WEST COMMEMORATES WOMEN'S DAY

By Maboni Kgabi

The North West Provincial Government recently held a Provincial Women's Day commemoration at the Atamelang Sports Ground in the Tswaing Local Municipality, under the theme, "Celebrating 30 years of Democracy towards women's development".

Acting Premier Gaoage Oageng Molapisi said that the province recognized the selfless and heroic contributions made by women toward achieving democracy and freedom in South Africa.

"This demonstrates an appreciation of the hard-won freedoms of the women of the country and the province", he added.

MEC Molapisi said this year's festivities marked 70 years since the adoption of the Women's Charter by the Federation of South African Women.

The charter was drawn up to unite women against political, social, and economic injustices. Their actions culminated in the 1956 Women's March where women from diverse political formations and racial groups gathered.



"Our Province is a birthplace of women of strong character and high ethical standards who were committed to the cause of the liberation", he said.

"We rest on the shoulders of women such as Mama Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti, Rebecca Kotane, Gertrude Mphakwa, Pricilla Mokone, Josie Palmer, Rita Ndzanga, among others. They were unwavering in their fight for democracy in South Africa", MEC Molapisi continued. MEC Molapisi

assured women that the government was duty-bound to strengthen efforts to create safer communities for women and children. During the commemoration, Miss South Africa's 2nd Runner-up, Potchefstroom's Onalenna Constantin, was handed a R50 000 cheque for her role in putting the North West Province on the map.

In addition, MEC Molapisi handed over books to 20 women authors whose books have just been published with the help of the Department of Arts, Culture, Sport

and Recreation.

Ten women in Arts, Culture, and Heritage received certificates after completing training in a mentorship program. Two choirs, the Atamelang Gospel and the Lesedi Gospel choirs were given uniforms while Palesa Mkhari, a Grade 8 learner from Hoerskool Lichtenburg, received a piano to further her music career.

Mkhari said it has always been her dream to own one and that has become a reality.

She said she had learned to play the piano at the age of six using her father's old model piano.

"I thank the department for the gift and hope this does not end with me but many other kids in the province would benefit from such help to nurture their talent", Mkhari said.

Mmanthebe Violet Motsatsi from, Tlokwen in the Bojanala District and author of the book titled, *Tlholego Ya Batlokwa*, said she could not have asked for more to celebrate Women's Month. "I am grateful for the help I got from the department, and this is a step in the right direction. I am currently writing my second book which is poetry and hope to see the department also stepping in.", Motsatsi said.

HSRC WORKING TO REDUCE HIV INFECTIONS IN THE NORTH WEST

By Lerato Majobe, Kegomoditswe Ratlhagane and Zintle Xaba

Speaking at a recent Provincial Dissemination Dialogue of the Sixth South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence, and Behaviour Survey (SABSSM VI) in Mahikeng, the Human Sciences Research Council's Prof Khangelani Zuma said they have put measures in place to ensure that HIV infections decrease in the North West Province.

Prof Zuma said that the HSRC is making HIV prevention and

treatment facilities more accessible for the communities.

"We are taking proactive steps to reduce the prevalence of HIV in our region, we are expanding access to HIV testing and treatment services, making them available at more healthcare facilities and community centers", Prof Zuma said.

He further said that the council has already launched public awareness campaigns to teach communities how HIV is transmitted, how to prevent it and treat it if they are already infected by the disease.

"Public awareness campaigns are being launched to educate residents

about HIV prevention, transmission, and treatment", Prof Zuma added.

By promoting awareness and understanding, the government hopes to reduce stigma and encourage responsible behavior.

He further said that they are providing support to vulnerable populations, including orphans and vulnerable children, sex workers, and men who have sex with men.

He added that the HSRC is partnering with civic organizations to intensify their efforts to reach communities in large quantities.

"We are collaborating with community organizations to amplify

our efforts and leverage resources effectively, by working together, the government and community partners can reach more people and make a greater impact", Prof Zuma said.

He said that they are using data to inform their HIV response, track progress registered, and adjust their strategies accordingly.

"This data-driven approach ensures that efforts are targeted and effective, making the most of resources. With these measures in place, the Northwest government is poised to make significant strides in the fight against HIV/Aids", he added.

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ENHANCING THE EGG BUSINESS TO ACHIEVE NEW LEVELS OF SUCCESS

By Oratile Kgotle

In a significant move towards Sibongile Gumede, a small-scale farmer from Lindequesdrift in the JB Marks Municipality ventured into poultry farming in 2018 after identifying a gap in the market and she currently houses 1500 points of Amberlinks chicken breed, which are designed to be "egg-laying machines".

The eggs produced on her farm undergo a regular egg grading process conducted by the South African Poultry Association (SAPA).

The interior of the eggs is graded using a method called candling, which involves the use of an egg candler to examine the air cell, the egg white, known as an albumen, and the yolk.

Candling also enables the detection of spots and cracks on the eggshell.

To assess the egg quality, SAPA uses a random sampling method for grading, providing clear insight into the quality of eggs produced by a specific batch of chickens.

"After the grading process, SAPA provides a detailed report and recommendations on how to improve the egg quality if there are any issues. For an egg to be considered Grade A, the egg white should not be lumpy or stuck to the shell, and the yolk should be perfectly golden. The blood clots found inside eggs are normal, and eggs should not encounter water as this depletes their calcium", Gumede said. The goal is to achieve Grade A, which can only be attained through consistent and nutritious feed. In the initial cycle, chickens usually produce small eggs called "quail," and farmers should not be discouraged as it is normal.

Regular health and growth checks are vital for chickens to produce the right quality and quantity. Additionally, recycling eggshells and mixing them with the feed provide a



good source of calcium for the chickens' bones.

Once the grading process is complete, the batch of eggs is given a

barcode for tracking during that cycle. This enables consumers and stores to contact the supplier in case of any complaints.

Gumede has received support from the department through extension and advisory services, as well as funding for water reticulation and the construction of a borehole.

A contractor is currently on site to erect a 5000-point layer house, which will allow the farmer to expand her business and market.

"I am grateful for the assistance that I am receiving from the Department. Currently, I'm meeting the demand for eggs by partnering with other local farmers, but the new house will reduce the need to source from other businesses and will allow my profits to grow", she said.

She is currently supplying eggs to various supermarkets and outlets in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District as well as operating an online storefront, Bongi G, where she offers customers a convenient avenue to place orders with doorstep delivery services.



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COGTA TACKLES GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN MUNICIPALITIES

By Thebeetsile Keameditse and
Boitumelo Seleka

MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), Gaoage Oageng Molapisi recently announced decisive measures to improve governance and financial management across all municipalities in the North West.

Delivering the 2024/2025 departmental budget speech in the North West Provincial Legislature, MEC Molapisi highlighted several key initiatives aimed at enhancing municipal administration, integrity, and financial health. To strengthen municipal governance, MEC Molapisi announced that the

department issued a directive last year to all municipalities to fill all senior management and critical vacant posts.

“Out of the 22 municipalities in the province, only Madibeng and Lekwa-Teemane are yet to appoint Municipal Managers. This process is receiving the highest priority to ensure effective municipal administration”, MEC Molapisi said.

In pursuit of a clean administration, a training program on the Municipal Integrity Management Framework (MIMF) will be rolled out for councilors, officials, and community members.

“The MIMF sets high standards of integrity and ethical behavior, guiding municipalities in conducting their services. This initiative aims to restore public confidence in local

government, ensuring no one is left behind”, MEC Molapisi said.

He indicated that municipalities have significantly contributed to Eskom's financial challenges, currently owing the power utility R5.4 billion.

“To tackle this issue, the department, in partnership with the Provincial Treasury, has facilitated a programme on Debt Relief for municipalities. This initiative has assisted municipalities in meeting their contractual obligations with Eskom. The municipalities involved in this program include Madibeng, Kgetlengrivier, Maquassi Hills, Ramotshere Moiloa, Ditsobotla, Naledi, Tswaing, Mamusa, Lekwa-Teemane and Matlosana”, MEC Molapisi added.

He announced that the

department has implemented a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism and introduced revenue enhancement policy interventions to help municipalities improve revenue collection and meet their credit obligations.

“These interventions will be closely monitored to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability. The department will continue to provide capacity support to municipalities, ensuring they prepare Annual Financial Statements per the Municipal Financial Management Act (MFMA). The department will also continue to empower committees such as the Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPAC) through various interventions, to strengthen and enhance their effectiveness”, he said.

EMERGING BUSINESSES DISPLAY SERVICES AT MOMPATI MALL

By Lerato Majobe

So as to ensure that emerging entrepreneurs succeed, the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti (RSM) District Municipality and the Office of the Premier recently held a pop-up market at Mompoti Mall in Vryburg aimed at creating an enabling environment for these businesses to exhibit their products and services.

It was the second pop-up market of this nature to be held in Vryburg in recent months, Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) were exposed to existing opportunities, enabling them to have access to local markets using the mall activation platforms.

Linda Mothibedi of Semphete Pottery, a co-operative that produces tea and dinner sets as well as flower pots, among others, and



manufactured by persons with disabilities said that she was grateful to government for affording them an opportunity to exhibit their products to lure new and more customers and the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) for providing them with marketing material.

“I thank government for affording us this opportunity to exhibit our

products, as this is part of marketing, people will know about our products and that will enable us to have more customers and SEDA for giving us marketing material”, Mothibedi said.

Onkabetse Matsiong who owns Onka Collections (Perfumes), said that the platform has assisted her business immensely as she was able to exchange business ideas with her

fellow entrepreneurs for future possible collaborations.

She further said that she was able to sell over 10 perfumes to new clients on the day at the mall.

“I was able to sell 12 perfumes in less an hour to new customers who were going to do shopping at the shops in the mall and decided to pass by my stand”, Matsiong said.

Dr RSM MMC for Economic Development, Tourism and Agriculture, Cllr Solly Matobo said that the market serves as a platform to introduce these SMMEs to mainstream economy.

“We believe that the products that these SMMEs sell, will one day occupy the shelves of the shops that are in this mall so that they can form part in the mainstream economy”, Cllr Matobo said. Cllr Matobo thanked the Mompoti Mall management for letting these emerging entrepreneurs to use their premises to market and sell their products and services.

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CDW'S EFFORTS GETS NEW WHEELCHAIR FOR PERSON WITH DISABILITY

By Masego Tiro

Smiles were all over the faces of Frederick Kerekolotswe Boshwang and his family when he was recently gifted with a new wheelchair through the efforts of Community Development Worker (CDW) Koketso Baiponi, and other local officials at Matloding village in the Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality.

It is envisaged that the wheelchair will play a far-reaching role in improving the beneficiary's well-being.

"Boshwang was born with a disability, which required that he use a wheelchair to be mobile and perform daily activities. The wheelchair that he has been using had deteriorated over the years and became less effective", Baiponi said.

"With the help of other local officials, we embarked on a process to acquire another wheelchair for the said beneficiary, and finally the wheelchair was delivered to his place of residence", Baiponi added.

Upon receiving the wheelchair, Boshwang and his family appreciated the efforts taken by all those involved in the process and challenged them to extend their help to others.

"Wheelchairs are not a luxury but a need to make sure that people with disabilities can move around. I am delighted and grateful to receive this wheelchair finally. It will allow me to become less reliant on other people in performing my daily activities", he said.

Former Kagisano Molopo CDW supervisor, Kgomotso Makabanyane, and the current supervisor, Tumelo Motlhanke supported the beneficiary by providing guidance and linking them with relevant officials throughout the entire process of the acquisition of the wheelchair.

Other stakeholders included the



Department of Social Development which assisted

Boshwang with transport during the process, the Department of Health assisted with examining and providing medical insight for Boshwang, SASSA assisted him in applying for a disability grant, and

ward councillors assisted him with food parcels and blankets. In contrast, Ward 11 committee members assisted with the identification and group of data and furnishing for intervention.

"As a Community Development Worker of Ward 11, I am delighted

and grateful that I was able to bring about a positive change not only for the beneficiary but the entire family. Furthermore, I would like to also extend gratitude towards all those who were involved in ensuring that the beneficiary received the wheelchair", Baiponi said.

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THREE MEMBER STATES TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH ALONG THE CORRIDOR

By Rebaone Moeng

A clarification call has been made for the Trans Kalahari Corridor (TKC) three Member States to strengthen initiatives on supporting the economic growth of the three countries by supporting spatial development initiatives along the corridor.

The Executive Director for the TKC Secretariat, Leslie Mlungisi Mpofu said a lot has been achieved since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2003, however, more strategic issues still need to be attended to.

He said that the 14th Joint Law Enforcement Operation (JLEO) is critical and strategic proof that the MoU objectives have been given attention and it is now important to advance measures so that communities along the corridor can benefit.

Mpofu said the corridor connects intra and inter-regional economic areas in a defined geographical sphere.

He further said there are perceived socio-economic development opportunities and benefits promoted by corridor development and these include, but are not limited to, diversification of the region's industrial base, regional approach in mobilizing for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), corridors are direct ways to bring about regional integration, corridors promote regional integration, and this is key in promoting growth prospects to developing countries.

He added that corridors help to prioritize the development of infrastructure to plug out the missing links in developing regions.

"Corridors provide an important connection between economic nodes or hubs; therefore, it is high time the three member states support



the regional economic growth, increase the rate of economic growth, and create employment, both formal and informal", Mpofu said.

On behalf of the Republic of South Africa, co-chair Segodi Mogotsi said "We remain committed as a country to the vision of our forebears to connect and integrate the region. Trans Kalahari Corridor remains one of our torchbearers in the continent with its success seen in the growth of traffic volumes, and infrastructure investment along the corridor in the three member states".

In her speech representing Botswana, Masego Gertz said the 14th JLEO presents a platform for reaffirmation and recommitment to

the enhancement of trade and deepening socio-economic integration.

She said the three-member states have committed and pledged to eradicate poverty and place their countries on a path of sustainable growth.

"We have not done enough in the past 20 years as our communities are still not benefiting economically, particularly SMMEs", Gertz added.

She called on the member states to ensure that communities along the TKC are the first to enjoy the benefits through business opportunities and employment.

She said people should be able to make a living through the corridor.

From Namibia, Dr Cedric Limbo

said the MoU is an important initiative as it is a step towards eliminating non-tariff barriers.

"Although tariff barriers erected at the borders and within countries have been reduced considerably in the course of successive trade negotiations following the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules; there is an increase in the relative importance of non-tariff measures both as an instrument of protection and a means of regulatory trade," he said.

Different key stakeholders from the three member states delivered presentations and country reports during the two-day information-sharing session in Rustenburg.

This year's JLEO is held under the theme "United in Deepening Regional Integration and Growing Economies."

The Trans Kalahari Corridor is a road network spanning approximately 1900 kilometers across the territories of Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.

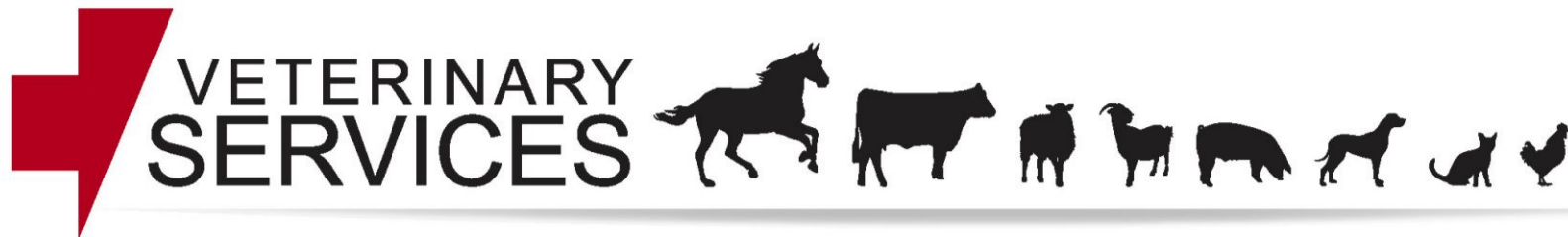
The corridor is a conduit for economic growth and development for the entire region in fulfilling the objective of the SADC Protocol and African Union Vision 2063.

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WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a zoonotic disease, which means that people can become infected by an infected animal.

The virus is shed in saliva and spread mainly by an infected animal's bite. Rabies affects the brain and is fatal once a person or animal shows clinical signs.

Pet owners must watch their pets closely for any signs of unusual behaviour, such as:

- Aggression
- Excessive drooling
- Paralysis or difficulty swallowing

Pet owners also need to ensure that their pets' rabies vaccinations are up to date, as vaccination is the most effective way to prevent the spread of rabies and protect both pets and families, as required by law.

Communities are urged to avoid contact with stray or wild animals and to not approach or attempt to handle any animal showing signs of aggression or illness.

If you suspect any animal in the community may be infected with rabies, please immediately report it to your Local State Veterinarian Clinic.

If you have been bitten or scratched by an animal that you think may have rabies, seek medical attention immediately.

Report any suspected rabid animal immediately to your state or private Veterinarian, Animal Health Technician, or the police.

Vaccinate your dogs and cats by visiting your private or state veterinarian today!

#RabiesEndsHere

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LIUGONG GREEN ALLIANCE DONATES SOLAR-POWERED WATER BOREHOLE IN MABESKRAAL

By Berlina Lekgethwane

LiuGong Machinery, a global leader in construction machinery, recently donated a solar-powered borehole to the Moses Kotane Local Municipality, following the completion of their latest water well project in Mabeskraal.

This initiative, part of the broader LiuGong Green Alliance, is a significant step forward in addressing the scarcity of water challenges across the country.

The General Manager of LiuGong Africa, Li Yi, said that they are thrilled to see the project bearing fruits.

“The installation of a solar-powered pump is a testament to our commitment to green technology and sustainable development”, he added.

The 150-meter-deep borehole is already operational and equipped with a solar-powered water pump.

This technology was chosen to align with the LiuGong Green Alliance's commitment to



environmental sustainability to ensure that the well operates efficiently while minimizing its carbon footprint.

By utilizing solar energy, the project not only provides a reliable source of clean water to the local community but also contributes to

reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on non-renewable energy sources. Li Yi said that this initiative underscores LiuGong's dedication to integrating environmentally friendly solutions into their projects, further enhancing the sustainability of their operations

in Africa.

The Mayor of the Moses Kotane Local Municipality Cllr Nketu Nkotswe added that water is essential to life and must be treasured.

“Many homes in the Mabeskraal area will have access to water thanks to this borehole, and the four creative taps that have been installed will give the villagers a reliable supply of water and increase the area's resistance to the effects of climate change in South Africa”, Cllr Nkotswe added.

Kgosi Moshe Mabe expressed deep gratitude during the launch ceremony, stating that the water borehole is more than just a source of clean water; it is a beacon of hope for our community. “Thanks to the partnership between LiuGong Green Alliance and Moses Kotane local municipality, our people will now have access to water that is both vital and sustainable. It is a reminder that even in the face of adversity, we can build a brighter future together”, Kgosi Mabe said.



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GOVERNMENT HANDS OVER BOREHOLE TO FARMERS IN MOROKWENG

By Kgalalelo Mashomo

The North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) recently handed over a fully equipped borehole to the farming community of Maheng village near Morokweng, as part of the Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (ASDP).

The borehole, complete with a windmill and drinking troughs, is expected to address water scarcity in the drought-prone area, providing a sustainable water supply for livestock farming.

This project, aimed at improving water access in rural farming communities, is set to strengthen local economic resilience by reducing the need for long-distance



water collection.

It also eases the strain on livestock farmers who have struggled to maintain productivity amid

recurring droughts and inconsistent rainfall. Speaking at the handover ceremony, MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management,

Wessels Morweng, on behalf of MEC Madoda Sambatha, emphasized the significance of improved water access.

"Agriculture is the backbone of rural communities. Improved water access will empower livestock farmers to grow their herds, improve animal health, and boost local agricultural output. Furthermore, water availability promotes sustainable grazing practices that preserve the land for future generations", MEC Morweng said.

Local farmers and project beneficiaries said that the borehole will increase livestock production and help them through dry seasons.

Nearby villages, including Setabeng, Tseng, and Matlhabatlhabe, will also benefit from similar projects aimed at enhancing water security and agricultural sustainability.



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COGTA RESTORES CONSISTENT WATER SUPPLY IN SETABENG



By Thebeetsile Keameditse

The North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) recently handed over a refurbished and redrilled borehole which will

ensure consistent water supply to residents of Setabeng village near Tseoge, in the Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality, as part of the ongoing Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (ASDP).

During the yielding process, funded by the Provincial Treasury, it

was established that the borehole could still provide enough water for the community once operational and as a result, a new pump and safety features were installed.

The MEC for Finance, Kenetswe Mosenogi, accompanied by ward councillor, Gloria Ogaseng, and the local Kgosi, Kgotlayame Setlhabetsi, led the handover of the project to mark the end of water shortage in the area. "We will continue to intervene

as government to ensure the provision of basic services such as water to our people. Water remains one of the basic needs, and people here depend on it for their livelihood", MEC Mosenogi said.

"They use water for farming and many other daily activities. We hope this facility will be protected by residents to ensure an uninterrupted supply of water", MEC Mosenogi added.

NEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTS NPOs TO THRIVE

By Lerato Majobe

In ensuring that Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) thrive in providing key services to ordinary people, the Department of Social Development (DSD) gifted the Ipopeng Disability Centre with funding to the tune of R556 500,44 price during the recent Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (ASDP) held in Morokweng in the Kagisano Molopo

Local Municipality,

The ASDP also coincided with the launch of the Integrated Provincial Public Service Month.

The Ipopeng Disability Centre provides shelter and food to people with disabilities from the ages two to eighteen.

Masego Rantlha, who received a cheque on behalf of the organization, said that this gesture will enable them to run their affairs, enabling them to reach their objectives.

"This money will help us to be able to pay our workers their monthly

stipends so that they can carry out their duties to help our organization execute its obligations, buy enough food to provide for our children so that they can be able to eat daily as they have different types of disabilities that require special diets", Rantlha said.

As the Thuntsha Lerole ASDP runs concurrently in all four districts, the DSD handed over a R202 560,00 cheque to the Retsweletse Service Club for administrative functions and further food parcels to two needy families as well as sanitary towels to

learners at the Ragogang Primary School, all in Wolmaranstad.

Acting Premier, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi said the government is hard at work to professionalize the public service by equipping public servants with the necessary skills to perform exceptionally so that service delivery can occur.

Kgosi Taolo Heilane thanked the government for the continued efforts to change the lives of the people of Morokweng and pleaded with the residents to take care of the services they receive from the government.

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NORTH WEST PROVINCE BOOSTS WOMEN-LED FARMS WITH QUALITY BULLS



By Thebe Itumeleng

In a quest to promote gender equality in agriculture, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) recently donated quality bulls to 23 female-led farms across the province, empowering women to enhance their productivity and economic resilience.

This initiative enhances agricultural growth, productivity, and economic empowerment for women in the sector.

Speaking at the handover ceremony held in Maquassi during

Women's Month, the Head of Department, Thupi Mokhatla, underscored the importance of empowering women in agriculture.

"We are proud of the progress we have made in empowering women and improving their lives within this sector. We have opened doors to economic activities for women and youth in agriculture. These are just the initial steps in our department's ongoing efforts to combat poverty, which disproportionately affects women", Mokhatla said.

The beneficiaries, drawn from all four districts of the province, represent a diverse and inclusive impact of the program.

One of the recipients, Tidikwe Dikgagamatso from Taung, said she was happy to have been chosen.

"For long, I did not have a quality bull, but after today, things will change for the better. I thank the Department for assisting us, particularly as women farmers", she said.

In addition to the bull donation, the DARD awarded certificates of competence to a group of female farmers from Maquassi who recently completed training in crop production, animal nutrition, and horticulture. The training, facilitated by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) last year, benefited 1,492

farmers.

One of the trained farmers, Nongase Rebecca Mohapi from Kgakala, said she had learned a lot from the training.

"I can now spot a sick animal early and know how to address it. The training on animal nutrition was particularly valuable, and I want to thank the Department for giving me this opportunity." Nongase, an emerging goat farmer, said.

Farmers interested in the bull subsidy program or in receiving training should contact their local Extension Officers or visit the nearest agricultural office for more information on participation.

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COMMUNITY POLICING INDABA COMMITS TO FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

By Lemogang Pule

The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management recently held a Community Policing Indaba in Mahikeng to improve on the implementation of the Community Policing Strategy in the fight against crime.

Speaking at the Indaba, MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Wessels Morweng, said the police and community-based structure needs everyone's support to fight crime.

"Crime is a societal matter and requires all role players to do their part in creating a functional society with low levels of crime", MEC Morweng said.

"We shall not, and we will never defeat crime unless and until we



begin to work together and report any kind of wrongdoing to law enforcement. This country has laws and all of us are subjected to obeying those laws, he added.

"The Indaba follows a directive from the President that CPFs must be strengthened as an added arm to fight crime. I have recently indicated that we have implemented

campaigns in the past to address issues related to the prevention of gender-based violence", he said.

Deputy Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service in the North West, Major General Patrick Asaneng said that communities need to have an understanding of the work police do.

"This indaba has provided a platform for that. It also provides us

with an opportunity to assess their perceptions of whether we are meeting the expectations of those we serve. We develop plans and strategies, including identifying areas of priority and we need to mobilize our people and sensitize them to community policing. We take things a step further and say the inputs by commissions should form part of our annual performance plans", Major General Asaneng said.

The Provincial Community Policing Forum (CPF) chairperson, Robert Malungane spoke of the importance of supporting CPFs in their work.

"With the many challenges encountered in our line of duty, the unwavering commitment to uphold community safety is solidified. Our position is that while we need support, especially resources, we must not be deterred in our active citizenry", Malungane said.

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FUNDING SET ASIDE FOR FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES

By Thebe Itumeleng

To address the North West's food security challenges, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has earmarked R12 million for the current financial year to fortify food security initiatives and support subsistence farmers.

This funding will benefit 2,600 subsistence farmers through targeted agricultural programs. An additional 2,400 farmers will be considered for the Presidential Economic Stimulus, bringing the total support this year for the Food and Nutrition Security Programme to 5,000 farmers.

Last year, the DARD assisted 3,770 households with agricultural food production initiatives, providing vital resources and training, helping subsistence farmers sustain themselves, and contributing to the food security landscape.

This was achieved with the support of key institutions such as the Kgora Farmer Training Centre and the Potchefstroom College of Agriculture.

To bolster its fight against food insecurity, the DARD is finalizing a partnership with the Mineworkers Development Agency. Known for its impactful work, managing nearly 11,000 backyard gardens across the province, this collaboration promises to amplify efforts and extend benefits to even more households. The collaboration is also aimed at pulling resources to ensure that community interventions are well-supported, emphasizing the importance of coordinated investment and impactful outcomes.

"We cannot afford business as usual when people in our province go to bed hungry. We are committed to utilizing all available resources to establish food security projects and



ensure that families living below the poverty line have access to nutritious food," MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Madoda Sambatha

said.

Expanding beyond this, the community food garden initiative "Mphe Ke Go Fepe," which began in

Ditsobotla Local Municipality, is now set to spread its impact across additional municipalities, enhancing food security and supporting vulnerable communities throughout the province.

Acknowledging the critical need for farmer education, the DARD is also teaming up with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and the AgriSETA-accredited Kgora Farmer Training Centre. This partnership will see 2,380 farmers receiving training in animal, plant, and horticulture production, which are key areas for boosting productivity and ensuring sustainable agricultural practices.

With these ambitious initiatives, the Department is reaffirming its dedication to tackling food insecurity and supporting subsistence farmers, ensuring that all residents of North West Province have access to essential food resources.



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NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA INTRODUCES CONTRACT FOR WATER PROJECT IN MAHIKENG

By Merafe Molemoeng and Nkosana Mziwakhe

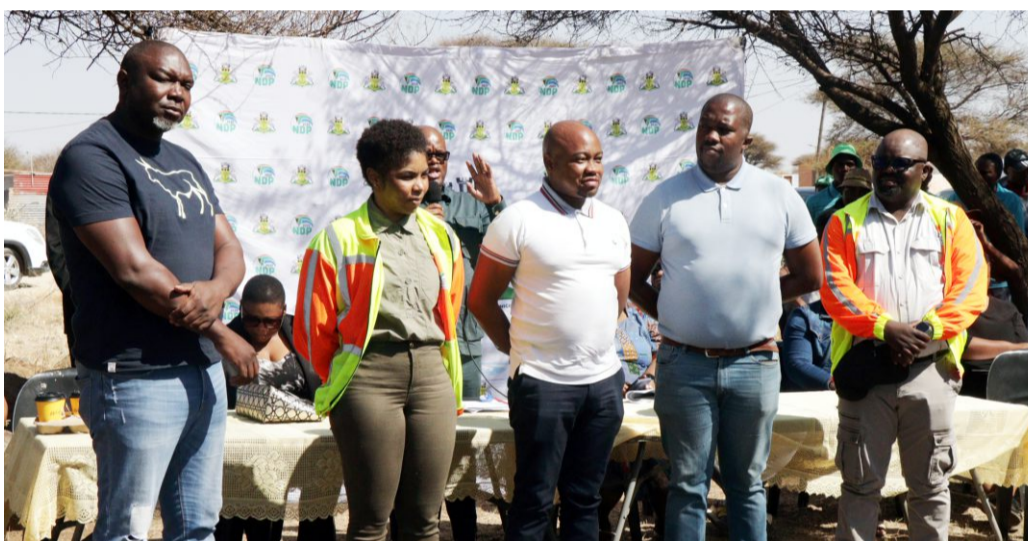
The Executive Mayor of Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, Cllr Khumalo Molefe recently introduced a contractor for a R136.7 million water project aimed at improving access to clean water for communities of Wards 29 and 32 in the Mahikeng Local Municipality.

This project, which is scheduled to be completed in the next 24 months, will benefit an estimated 21 115 residents of Lonely Park, Leopard Park, parts of Signal Hill and Setumo Park, Units 3 and 6 as well as Molelwane and Sonderwater.

This initiative is part of the Operation Bulela Metsi, a district-wide effort to ensure consistent and adequate water supply to local communities.

Currently, some of the villages receive water from Mmabatho Water Treatment Plant and this project will extend and augment the demand of the growing population.

The project specifications include but not limited to the refurbishment of existing five boreholes, equipping



and electrification of four new and seven existing boreholes, laying 10 632m of a uPVC bulk pipeline from

boreholes, installation of 10 044-yard connections and supply and installation of four elevated steel

tanks with sizes ranging from 588 kilolitres to 1634 kilolitres.

The project is expected to employ 60 temporary workers, including Community Liaison Officers and benefit six SMMEs. "I personally urge and plea with the community to ensure that the project commences and runs smoothly until completion without any disruptions; and not to extort money from the contractor. It is our plea as government that this infrastructure must be protected from vandalism by yourselves and circumvent the delay of the project. A re tlogeleng selo sa letsogo, se se diegisang tswelelo pele mo setshabeng. Ke kopa re emeng mmogo mo go tlhokomeleng, mafaratlhatlha a rona", Mayor Molefe said. The project will create around 63 job opportunities for men, women, unemployed.

The Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality is committed to ensuring that the communities under its jurisdiction are always provided with clean drinkable water and urges communities to refrain from vandalising water infrastructure but to report leaking pipes to the Customer Care Services Toll Free number: 08000 66636.



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