



# BAOBAB NEWS

LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER

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October 2022

# Three Members of the Executive Council sworn in



**Mr Rogers Monama,  
Limpopo Economic  
Development, Environment  
and Tourism (LEDET)**



**Ms Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana,  
Department of Sport, Arts  
and Culture (DSAC)**



**Ms Florence Radzilani,  
Department of Transport  
and Community Safety  
(DTCS)**

**T**he three new Limpopo Members of the Executive Council sworn in at the beginning of October 2022 are determined to take their departments to new heights.

The MECs are: Mr Rogers Monama, Ms Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana and Ms Florence Radzilani.

MEC Rodgers Monama has been sworn in to lead the Department of Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

"Monama is a strategist. He served the people of Makhuduthamaga as a councillor and also at district level of the Sekhukhune District Municipality in early 2000s". Monama is not a

stranger to public services, he also served as the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa).

MEC Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana sworn in to lead the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Siyanda-Kekana is the former Mayor of Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality. She served as the Member of Programming Committee as well as Member of both Internal Arrangements and Whippery in the Limpopo Legislature

MEC Florence Radzilani sworn in to lead

Department of Transport and Community Safety.

Radzilani previously served as the Executive Mayor of Vhembe Municipality. She is the former safety, security and liaison MEC and was also the chairperson of the African National Congress Women's League in the Vhembe region.

"I will execute my responsibilities to the best of my ability, implement fully policies of government, maximize services to the communities and respond to challenges" said

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Women's League in the Vhembe region.

MEC Sibanda –Kekana thanked the Premier Mathabatha for the trust he bestowed on her.

"I will execute my responsibilities to the best of my ability, implement fully policies of government, maximize services to the communities and respond to challenges", said Sibanda-Kekana.

MEC for LEDET, Mr Rodgers Monama said he is overwhelmed to be afforded the opportunity to make a contribution to transform the socio-economic landscape of the province and deal with the quagmire of the triple challenges (inequality, poverty and unemployment).

Following further assessment of the performance

of the Executive Council with the view to improve service delivery and enhance corporate governance, "The Premier has made the following changes to the Executive Council:"

- Department of Education:  
MEC Mavhungu Leruli-Ramakhanya
- Department of Transport and Community Safety: MEC Florence Radzilani.
- Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure:  
MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale
- Department of Health:  
MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba
- Provincial Treasury:  
MEC Seaparo Sekoati
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development:  
MEC Thabo Mokone
- Department of Social Development:  
MEC Nandi Ndalane
- Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism:  
MEC Rodgers Monama
- Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs:  
MEC Basikopo Makamu
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture:  
MEC Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana



Premier Mathabatha's message to the

# MATRIC

#MATRICCLASSOF2022

Premier: Chupu Stanley Mathabatha

I am Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, Premier of Limpopo Province. On 31 October 2022, over 145 000 full time and part time matric learners will start with their final Grade 12 examinations. I want to take this moment to wish all of you a great success as you enter one of the defining phases of your young life.

Take courage that you come from a province that prides itself in excellence, thirst for knowledge, a place of legends and great warriors. You too will count among the warriors of our province as you face this task.

As the provincial government we are fully behind you and believe that this year will be the best of the years. Go to the 1 703 examination centres, and make us proud.

Once more, to the Grade 12 Class of 2022, I wish you all the Best in your final examination.

#LetsGrowLimpopoTogether



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Every year during this period, South Africa observes October Transport Month (OTM), which is a campaign that is driven by government to demonstrate service delivery across all modes of transport. At its inception, the OTM Campaign was conceived as a call to action for members of the public to use Public Transport to address the challenges of traffic congestion on South African roads.

It started with what was dubbed "Car Free Day", which was encouraging motorists to make use of public transport instead of using their cars to work. Over the years, the OTM has evolved into campaign that demonstrates service delivery, particularly the investment that government has made on transport infrastructure. This year marks the 17th instalment of the yearly October Transport Month (OTM) Campaign, which is observed under the theme: "S'ya yi shov'ingolovane": together building infrastructure that builds lives and livelihoods. This period presents an opportunity for government to nurture partnerships with our communities and businesses alike, in providing a safer, more affordable, accessible, and reliable transport system.

### Public Transport

Government supports the provision of Public Transport through by providing a regulatory framework that governs the issuance of operating licences to the different modes. In the case of contracted busses, government provides operational subsidy to the bus companies for all the trips and kilometres travelled ferrying passengers from place to place for various reasons, social, economic, and otherwise. Government further provides a grant annually to the Taxi industry aimed at financially assisting the industry to better manage their affairs and building requisite capacity within its leadership.

In the previous financial year (2021/2022) the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety spent R 741, 3 million in operational subsidy which was paid to contracted bus companies. The operational subsidy paid to contracted bus companies benefitted 27 million (27 150 077) passengers across the province. The subsidy served to cushion passengers who under normal circumstances would not have afforded the high costs of travelling. Through additional funding provided the Taxi industry was assisted and managed to take all Taxi Associations through an election programme to renew the mandate of the leaders serving at various levels of the industry. Through the Provincial Regulatory Entity (PRE), 2 777 applications for operating licences were processed and adjudicated during the previous financial year. This is done to facilitate entrance to the industry by new players with the aim of ensuring general compliance to regulations by public transport operators.

### Road Safety

Law enforcement officers have embarked on vigorous road safety inspections and will continue to carry out more operations around the province to ensure that non-compliance public transport vehicles are taken off our roads.

The Department of Transport and Community Safety also takes this opportunity to remind all our people of the importance of road safety. Remember, speed kills, do not drink and drive, do not text and drive, buckle-up, please take a rest when you are tired. Pedestrians should always walk and cross where it is safe to do so. **Let us all obey** the rules of the road, to always arrive alive.

# Provincial taxi driver of the year competition

The stage is set for this year's Provincial Taxi Driver of the Competition scheduled to take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, in Polokwane. Participants are the male and female taxi drivers who became successful winners during district competitions held between July and September this year.

- Sekhukhune District: 23 July 2022
- Waterberg District: 30 July 2022
- Vhembe District: 17 Sept 2022
- Capricorn District: 17 Sept 2022
- Mopani District: 24 Sept 2022

The Driver of the Year (DOTY) annual competition is one of the flagship programmes of the Department of Transport and Community Safety, under the Road Safety component. The aim of this competition is to encourage and motivate taxi drivers to comply with the rules of the road whilst improving their driving skills in the process.

The competition also improves knowledge, skills and attitudes of the professional drivers and ultimately improving the standard of vehicle driving. Competing drivers are subjected to pre-trip inspection, theory, track, and road tests.

The focus on the taxi industry is motivated by the fact that the sector is responsible for transporting more people as compared to buses and other forms of public transport.

The reduction of road crashes involving taxi's is therefore imperative considering that when a taxi is involved in an accident, many people suffer injuries, and some even lose their lives. It remains the overall objective of this competition to enhance safety on our roads in line with the National Road Safety Strategy of reducing road traffic fatalities by 50% in 2030.

**Prizes for the winning drivers per male and female categories are as follows:**

First Prize: R10 000.00 + Trophy  
 Second Prize: R5 000.00 + Trophy  
 Third Prize: R3 000.00 + Trophy  
 Fourth Prize: Trophy  
 Fifth Prize: Trophy



Male Taxi Driver Winner



Female Taxi Driver Winner

### Baobab News

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**Report any reckless driving or traffic related Emergency to 080 000 6694**

# CT and Mamogram scans at St Rita's Hospital to cut travelling distance

Minister of health Dr Joe Phaahla together with Limpopo Premier Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha joined by Limpopo MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba launched breast cancer awareness month on September 13 at St Rita's hospital in Sekhukhune district under Makhuduthamaga Municipality.

Members of the community in and surrounding Sekhukhune showed their commitment by attending the event in numbers to witness the handing over of Computerised Technology (CT) scans fitted with Picture Archive and communications systems (PACS) Radiology information systems (RIS) provided to their hospital By department of health.

Phaahla Mosima one of the community members said, "we really appreciate what the Premier of Limpopo Mr Chupu Mathabatha together with Dr Joe Phaahla and MEC of health for bringing us the machine that will help us through the fight of cancer. It sad to see our women losing their life's simply because they had to wait for a long period of time to be treated as equipment are far from us". "From today we are confident that Dr's and nurses in St. Rita's hospital will work extremely hard in ensuring



that the life's of people in the community are saved", Mosima added.

In Limpopo province all the regional hospitals have the CT scans including Mankweng hospital and Petersburg hospital. This means that people in the province especially in the rural communities' lives are saved from the cancer pandemic.

Dr Phophi Ramathuba said, "As part of the breast cancer awareness campaign, we felt as a province that it is important for the minister to come to this part of the province in the rural area as we prioritise rural areas".

Women in the rural area takes time to be diagnosed for breast cancer

and some are not even aware about it. So the equipment that we are handing over today, was available in Petersburg hospital, and Mankweng hospital as you can see Sekhukhune is extremely far from these two hospitals and patients used to lose their lives along the way and some along the process of waiting to be scanned. So with this machine's brought to hospital in rural areas we have cut the trip short and people will receive help locally, Ramathuba added.

Minister of health Dr Joe Phaahla in his address mentioned that, "it is important to always insure that service delivery more especially in the public service is been strengthened in a way that it will enable members of the community in rural areas to have equal health services as compared to those in the urban area".

"Let's all ensure that when equipments are provided for us, we take care of them, we keep them clean and ensuring it's safe at all costs. I have noticed that here in St. Rita's hospital there's a lot of improvement compared to the last time I was here and this shows that people are no longer frustrated by service delivered in the hospitals",



commended Phaahla.

Premier, Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha in his address mentioned that he is remanding MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba for championing rural matters campaign. The campaign will contribute significantly to the broader objectives of reducing the backlog of surgeries in the hospitals and it will reduce the burden of communicable disease such as HIV and Tuberculosis.

"I want to urge women across our province to go for check-ups for breast cancer. They should always remember early detection can save their life's," added Mathabatha .**NM**

## Changing face of rural health in Limpopo

The face of rural health in Limpopo is changing for the better, thanks to the Rural Health Matters Campaign, championed by MEC Dr. Phophi Ramathuba. The campaign mobilizes specialist doctors from across the country to offer specialist services in far-flung rural healthcare facilities. Central to the aim of this campaign is to reduce surgical backlogs in health facilities across the Province.

Since its inception, the campaign has seen over 4000 patients benefitting from a variety of surgical procedures ranging from orthopedic, Urogynaecology, pediatric surgery, ophthalmology,



maxillofacial surgery, gynecology, amongst others. So far the campaign has been taken to Helen Franz hospital in Capricorn district, Donald Fraser hospital in Vhembe District, Ellisras hospital in Waterberg District, Philadelphia hospital in Sekhukhune District, Maphutha Malatji hospital in Mopani District

Speaking about the campaign, MEC Ramathuba says that "the campaign has mobilized a team of medical and dental specialists, and that, it is critical that patients in rural areas reap the fruits of democracy and access quality healthcare, just like people living in urban areas" Recently, the campaign attracted the attention of

President Cyril Ramaphosa, who joined a walk-about at the Letaba Regional Hospital. The President gained first-hand experience of life-changing surgical procedures being performed at remote and under-resourced health facilities in the Province. The President was impressed.

Healthcare practitioners in different facilities have commended MEC Ramathuba for leading the initiative, with many expressing that this campaign has helped reduce the surgical backlog and the waiting period in their facilities. Local healthcare practitioners have expressed excitement to have experienced complicated procedures being performed in their facilities for the first time. In addition, the campaign is contributing to the transfer of skills and experience to local healthcare practitioners.

Beneficiaries have hailed the campaign which they say has brought quality healthcare services to their doorstep and has improved their confidence in the public healthcare system.

# Childhood cancer requires societal action

Cancer is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in children globally. Cancer is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in children globally.

An estimated 800 to 1000 children are diagnosed with cancer annually in South Africa.

The most common type of childhood cancers in South Africa are leukemia, lymphoma, brain tumors, nephroblastoma/Wilms tumors – cancer of the kidneys and soft tissue sarcomas, which are tumors that begin in the connective tissue.

Most childhood cancers can be cured with generic medicines and specific forms of treatment, including surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. However, this is reliant on early detection and diagnosis followed by evidence-based therapy.

The road to recovery for cancer patients is very challenging, hence the need for tailored supportive care interventions informed by the patients and caregivers' current reality/social

determinants of health. The social determinants of health include factors such as socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood and physical environment, employment, and social support networks, as well as access to health care.

Rural residents often encounter barriers to healthcare e.g., financial means, transportation to services etc. which impacts negatively on health outcomes.

In high-income countries, where comprehensive services are accessible, more than 80% of children with cancer are cured. In low-and-middle-income countries such as South Africa, less than 30% are cured.

A 2014 research paper published in Stones, David K., et al. entitled "Childhood cancer survival rates in two South African units", reports an overall survival rate of 52.1% in South African. The World Health Organization (WHO) has set a goal of achieving at least 60% survival for all children with cancer by 2030.

Early diagnosis is paramount to improving the survival rate for many cancers in children. Early diagnosis starts at home, within the community. Public awareness of the early warning signs of childhood cancer becomes critical because it encourages early detection, earlier diagnosis, early treatment initiation, which ultimately leads to improved outcomes.

In South Africa, and more specifically in the Province of Limpopo, the Saint Siluan Early Warning Signs list is used as per below to educate families and primary health care providers on the early warning signs of childhood cancer:

- **S** – Seek medical help early for persistent symptoms
- **I** – White spot in the eye, new squint, sudden blindness or bulging eyeball
- **L** – Lump on the stomach, pelvis, head, arms, legs, testicle, or glands
- **U** – Unexplained fever present for over two weeks, weight loss, fatigue, pale appearance, easy bruising & bleeding
- **A** – Aching bones, joints, back and easy fractures
- **N** – Neurological signs, a change in walk, balance or speech, regression, contiguous headaches with/without vomiting & enlarged head

Limpopo Province has invested significantly in pediatric oncology services over the last few years. It has a Paediatric Oncology Unit at the Tertiary Hospital that is headed by a Paediatric Oncologist, supported by paediatric oncology nurses. All children with the early warning signs of cancer in the province are referred to the Paediatric Oncology Unit, also referred to as Ward L, for a diagnosis and treatment.

Myths and misconceptions about cancer in children, often based on cultural and religious beliefs, continues to hamper efforts to improve the survival of children with cancer in the province. Many families delay in accessing a health care facility, opting for home remedies, traditional and/or spiritual interventions as a first line of response.

Children are then only taken to a health facility when all else has failed, and the cancer has progressed (stage 3 or 4), drastically reducing the child's chances to be cured or survive

similarly, cultural and religious beliefs have also been linked to children defaulting on treatment only to return to the health care system when the disease has advanced. The consequences of delays are dire with negative effects on health outcomes. Losing children to cancer, who could have been saved if diagnosed early and treatment regimen followed, is most heartbreaking to competent and compassionate doctors and nurses who have devoted their lives to saving the lives of children with cancer. It has also created an unpalatable dichotomy for a health system that has consciously invested in the infrastructure, drugs and supplies to provide quality care to children with cancer.

The Limpopo Department of Health has initiated a programme to deliberately and aggressively empower families, communities, traditional health practitioners, faith-based leaders, traditional leaders, local councilors and any other community leaders, on the early warning signs of childhood cancer. The underlying message of the programme is that survival of our children is only achievable if we all hold hands in ensuring early detection of the early warning signs, early diagnosis, treatment initiation and adherence. The Department has developed a "Childhood Cancer Awareness Pack for Community Leaders" which encompasses all the necessary information and guidance for all stakeholders to work synergistically. Everyone in the community has a role to play in children's health and well-being.

## 2022 Matric countdown

**T**hohoyandou - Stakeholders and learners in education held a successful walk in Vhembe East Education District in Sibasa to mark the countdown. The solidarity walk highlighting the readiness of both the department and the learners in the province was led by MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya from Sibasa Circuit office to Mbilwi secondary school with the grade 12 learners from Raluswielo, Phaswana, Nthetsheseni, Mphaphuli and Mbilwi Secondary Schools.

This was the moment to remember as the annual countdown walk resumes after the Covid19 pandemic outbreak. Education stakeholders, learners and the entire community came to support the solidarity walk aimed at stimulating learners to improve their result.

The 2022 walk that signified the culmination of every learner's 12 years schooling journey was meant to ensure that all learners in the province are ready for their examination coming as the last hurdle to a brighter tomorrow.

Commencing on 31 October 2022 with a language paper, Vhembe



Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya addressing learners during 2022 Matric Countdown Launch. Pic: LDoE

District has the highest enrollment in the province, totaling at 19 030 registered candidates and the lowest being Waterberg District at 4 306 compared to other Districts.

The department is banking on Vhembe District to maintain their standard to ensure that the province does better compared to the previous years.

Parental involvement increases results. Learners should work hard and prioritize their time on their schoolwork as the best weapon to

succeed in examinations.

Examinations' preparation and determination can lead to the ultimate goal of passes and not just a pass but an admission to higher learning institutions level of exemptions

When motivating the learners, the Head of Department, Onica Dederen said don't start studying when you are about to write but begin your journey now so that anxiety and other factors are ignored. Study earnestly during this remaining time

before the sitting; smartly and not hard, take breaks to avoid mental blocks. Protect the integrity and credibility of examinations. Take these examinations as a push step for yourself, families and the community around you.

"As you prepare, put more effort because only hard work will help you bring out the best in you. Comply with the examinations code of conduct and avoid temptations. We believe in you and urge you to believe in yourselves" said Dederen

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya shared the same sentiment. She urged learners to take their studies seriously and make sure that they don't let the opportunity go to waste. "The door to independence and a new phase of life is near, a path to make responsible and sound decisions. Don't overwork yourselves, hard work and perseverance will see you through" added MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.

The MEC will lead a pledge by learners, a week ahead of the final examinations. **TM**



Jim Tshivhelo Primary School drum majorettes at 2022 Matric Countdown Walk. Pic: LDoE



The stakeholders begin their 2022 Matric Countdown Walk from Sibasa Circuit to Mbilwi Secondary School. Pic: LDoE



Head of the Department, Onica Dederen; Radio personality, Ashifa Shabba; District Director, Dr Gerson Rambiyana and MEC Mavhangu Lerule-Ramakhanya joined the 2022 Matric Countdown Walk. Pic: LDoE



Learners from various secondary schools gathered at Mbilwi Secondary School during the 2022 Matric Countdown Launch. Pic: LDoE

# Non-profit organisation introduces rural schools to 4th industrial revolution



Learners from various Secondary Schools after receiving donated tablets and cellphones. Pic: LDoE

**G**iyani - Active Revision NPC, a non-profit organization donated tablets and cellphones to learners of George Sonto and Dlamani Secondary school under Collins Chabane Local Municipality in Vhembe East District on 12 September 2022.

The donation is very vital and will assist to prepare learners to actively participate in the 4th Industrial Revolution through the use of technology and digital age aligned lessons for both school level and online platforms.

MTN Foundation as an official partner of Active Revision NPC will provide curriculum aligned content through MTN online school portal to address the 21st century learning needs of learners and to narrow the gap in access to quality education

to all the grades.

The donation may also come handy in equipping young people with skills and tools necessary to navigate the ever-changing world driven by the 4th Industrial Revolution. It will constantly look for better and more effective ways to deliver, inspire and assist learners to get into technological careers by driving a tech-based economy through Mathematics and Physical Sciences revision lessons at schools.

The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Nomvula Ndebele, a Director in the HoD's office responsible for IGR, Donor Funding and Education Trust. Dr. Ndebele said the Limpopo Department of Education fully supports and

appreciates the donation. She is of the view that every learner's educational abilities will be improved and enhanced to actively participate in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

Expressing his gratitude to the Education Department, Goodman Chauke, and Director at Active Revision NPC said he believes the MTN Online Schools should make it natural fit and perfect to align with their organization. Chauke indicated that this will kick start the blending learning approach and encourage learning through the feel and touch experience approach to help learners become familiar with computers and digital systems. This will be achieved through curriculum based extra classes, teaching animation, game development, programming and coding that will

be introduced with industry level software to create and groom technopreneurs to lead tech driven businesses by providing online lessons. **TM**

**‘**  
*This will kick start the blending learning approach and encourage learning through the feel and touch experience approach to help learners become familiar with computers and digital systems*  
**’**



Executive Director of Phakwe Group, Thabiso Tenyane (middle) officially opened the school after cutting the ribbon. Pic: LDoE

## Department partners with donors to improve school infrastructure

**Mankweng** - The Limpopo Education Department is committed to ensure that schools remain a safe space for learning and teaching. The department welcomed and appreciated with gratitude a donation of a block of four classrooms by Phakwe Group to Mtholo Primary school at Mamotintane village in Capricorn North Education District on 15 September 2022.

The eradication of old and dilapidated infrastructure and the provision of basic services such as water, electricity and sanitation remain one of the fundamental approaches to fight inequalities in the schooling system. Schools with

decaying and dilapidated buildings are being replaced with proper structures to meet the standards of basic functionality and basic level of sanitation.

During her address to parents, community members and stakeholders at the handover ceremony, Capricorn North District Director, Tinyiko Nkuzana indicated that the provision and access to quality education cannot be spoken about without proper infrastructure. She further said that the intervention of stakeholders does not only help the learners, but it also restores the dignity of the entire community.

"High quality and safe education infrastructure are crucial elements

of the learning environment in schools. The availability of high-quality infrastructure facilitates better instruction, improves learner outcomes and reduces dropout rates among other benefits in the country. The increased availability of good infrastructure with adequate spaces makes it a desirable place for learners to study and makes it a favourable environment for them. It makes learning interesting and motivates them to come to school, which improves attendance and engagement with educators" said District Director Nkuzana.

The Limpopo Education Department will continue to focus on mobilizing stakeholders and

companies to work towards improving school infrastructure and learner performance.

High quality and safe education infrastructure are crucial elements of the learning environment in schools.

The donors say giving back to the needy communities is fulfilling and they have vowed to continue with the good work. "We strive to leave a lasting legacy in communities that we work with. Knowing that we have contributed to the change of the landscape of learners, education gives us hope for the future," said Executive chairman of Phakwe Group, Thabiso Tenyane. **CN**



Newly built Block of Mtholo Primary School in Mamotintane village. Pic: LDoE





*Nonhlanhla Mashigo, DBE Deputy Director for Monitoring, Research and Knowledge Management. Pic: LDoE*

## Education Celebrates World School Milk Day

**S**ekgopo - The Recognition of the value of milk in daily nourishment is important. This is the reason for Sekgopo Primary school in the Mopani West Education District to commemorate the 2022 World Milk Day, with the community and stakeholders on 28 September.

The day is aimed at increasing awareness and to highlight the impact of milk in a balanced diet as people rely on milk whether by sipping a glass or consuming a variety of its products practically every day. The learners delightedly emphasized the nutritional value of

milk over poetry, drama and composed traditional songs and dances (dinaka & sekgapa) to encourage their peers to embrace the benefits of milk.

The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) provides nutritious meals to learners daily consisting of fish, fruits, beans, soya, lentils and milk to enhance their learning capacity as well as school attendance. Milk is a staple in the diets of many people around the world providing the body with several minerals and nutrients such as calcium, Vitamin D, Protein and Potassium. The minerals and

nutrients keep bones strong, give energy and boosts the immune system of the learners.

"It is important that the schools only accept the Ultra High Temperature (UHT) milk cartons because they have a longer shelf life since most schools do not have the refrigeration services to keep the milk to safeguard the roles of NSNP in the school. I hope the learners will now change their mindset about milk being disgusting with all messages shared through the learners' activities executed today" said Nonhlanhla Mashigo, Deputy Director for Monitoring,

Research and Knowledge Management NSNP.

The day was not only meant to engage in the nutrition of learners, but also to improve on the waste management to make the dairy sector more sustainable because some learners previously got rid of milk when they were served in the school once a week. Many schools in the province do not offer the breakfast programme which includes milk therefore learners are currently being given a milk carton to consume at home in some schools. **CN**



*Learners performing traditional dance as they celebrate World School Milk Day. Pic: LDoE*

# Learners excel in the provincial spelling BEE Competition

**Polokwane** - The learners from intermediate phase were vying for the Spelling Bee top spot at the Limpopo Provincial Spelling BEE Competition Finals. The two-day occasion was held on the 22 and 23 September at The Ranch Hotel. The categories included English, Tshivenda, Sepedi, Setswana and Xitsonga.

The Spelling Bee Championship is aimed at improving learners' performance in Languages and serves as a solid foundation for improved reading and writing by strengthening vocabulary development. They further learn the ability to endure pressure and building a competitive spirit. The finalists took part in the Circuit

Spelling Bees and the top performers proceeded to the District and Provincial Championships respectively.

The nerve-wracking battle began with English on the first day where contestants were eliminated as they wrote down the spelling words to remain victorious. The concluding session was held on the 23

September in the category of indigenous languages; Sepedi, Xitsonga, and Tshivenda.

The winners were bestowed with trophies, medals and backpacks. All the runner up learners did not go home empty handed as they were given backpacks for their participation. **TM & CM**



Mokaba Rosinah from Leshoana Primary School in Capricorn South Education District won Spelling Bee Champion title in English Category. Pic: LDoE

**H**a-Mashamba - MEC for Limpopo Department of Education Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Department of Basic Education (DBE), Dr Reginah Mhaule graced the occasion where the Deputy Minister was addressing and motivating over one thousand one hundred learners from ten (10) Secondary schools in the Vhembe West Education District under Hlanganani North Circuit ahead of the 2022 NSC Examinations at Vhembe TVET College, Mashamba Campus on 28 September 2022.

Amongst those who graced the event was Professor Stanley Mukhola who indicated that the matric results in the area is very poor, therefore the Traditional Leader, Thovhele Khosi Vho-Mashamba requested the presence of the Deputy Minister of Basic Education to come and encourage, motivate and give hope to the grade 12 learners and also plead with parents to support their learners with their studies. "We believe together with our learners; we are going to cross the bridge. It is possible and doable" said Prof. Mukhola.

In her address, the Deputy Minister of Basic Education urged the learners to use the remaining 32 days for preparations and nothing else. "The motivation that we are going to give you today, is not a motivation that is going to make any magic, there shall be no magic, you need to study. Coming from a humble beginning, the poorest of the poor, take Mr Mukwevho Carlton for instance, the whole world is in his hands, he is the South African National Commission for UNESCO, there was no magic, he studied hard.

A commitment and dedication, looking at yourselves, not comparing yourself with any other person, not following your friends, because not all friends are good for you, other friends are detrimental to your life, they are a silent killer in the name of a friend and love. any person who starts to compete with you, is a person next to you. As of today, you are only left with less than thirty days to sit for the English Paper I examination on the 31st of October 2022, think about the situation at home, to say, I want to change the situation at home to be better than it is. Be an individual within the group, your success is not in the group but with you. Out of you, we are expecting future leaders, loadshedding or no load-shedding, you are going to make it and pass. You cannot accompany anyone; you are responsible to lead South Africa to where it is supposed to be. Do not just study hard but also study smart. Be respectful to your parents and teachers and continue to go to school every day" said Deputy Minister Mhaule.

MEC Lerule - Ramakhanya added that learners cannot throw their future while looking away. She emphasized that they come from different backgrounds and cannot be judged equally and there is a serious need to change the narratives of who they are.

The MEC assured matriculants that their backgrounds can change only if they put an extra effort in their studies. **NM**

## Deputy Minister motivates Grade 12 learners



*MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya (far left) and Deputy Minister of Department of Basic Education (DBE), Dr Reginah Mhaule (centre). Pic: LDoE*



*Learners, parents and education stakeholders listening attentively to both Deputy Minister and MEC. Pic: LDoE*

***We believe together with our learners;  
we are going to cross the bridge***

# New University Branch to uplift Giyani



Hosi Nwamitwa handing over a token of appreciation to Higher Education and Training Minister, Dr Blade Nzimande. Pic: LDoE

Science and Innovation Minister Dr Blade Nzimande engaged stakeholders on the plan to re-establish Giyani College to be converted to Tshwane University of Technology Campus.

Following the feasibility studies, the facilities of the former Giyani College of Education have been confirmed for renovations and will be attached to the Tshwane University of Technology for the establishment of a University

Campus. The facilities have not been used for educational purposes since the College's closure in 2003.

In his address, the Minister indicated that plans are at an advanced stage, he besought for harmonious stakeholder cooperation to ensure the success of the project.

He also put emphasis on an inclusive project steering committee that will work with the department and TUT in driving this big project.

"We will ensure that the Steering Committee in implementing this project, they always adhere to good corporate governance principles including how we use the financial resources allocated to this project. Our plan is to start offering the first university programmes at the beginning of 2024," said Minister Nzimande

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya expressed her gratitude to the Ministry of Higher Education and

Training, Science and Innovation and indicated that the project will completely change the face and look of the province, both economically and socially.

The programmes that will be offered will mostly be diploma programmes. Community members have expressed their gratitude about the new university campus and that the institution will provide a space for their children closer to home. **TM**



Higher Education and Training Minister, Dr Blade Nzimande and MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya representing the Limpopo provincial government at the Ministerial Stakeholder Meeting on the establishment of a University Campus in Giyani at the Mopani District Municipality Council Chambers. Pic: LDoE

# Limpopo Celebrates Heritage Day

Mokwakwaila- Heritage Day on September 24<sup>th</sup> is a day that celebrates South Africa's roots, their rich, vibrant, and diverse cultures. South Africa is called the "Rainbow Nation" due to its color and diversity, and it is consisting of 11 official languages therefore Heritage Day exists. Its goal is to nurture and embrace South African culture for what it truly is, accepting all races and genders.

September 24 was previously known in South Africa as Shaka Day, a day commemorating the former Zulu King. Shaka was known for uniting the Zulu clan together and forming the Zulu nation back in the 18 centuries. Every year, South Africans would gather at his grave to honor him.

In 1995 a request for the day to be confirmed as an official holiday was initially rejected, however following some pushback from the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), a majority Zulu party at the time, it was decided that the day was needed and would be known as Heritage Day.

Since then, South Africans have celebrated Heritage Day by remembering the cultural heritage and different ethnic groups that make up their nation. Events are held across the country with some people choosing to dress up in traditional



*Sekoati delivering keynote address during Heritage Celebration*

attires.

Despite government commemorating this day as Heritage, there was a media campaign back in 2005 that sought to have the day recognized as National Braai Day, to acknowledge the backyard barbeque tradition, but the campaign objective did not materialize, and the holiday is still officially recognized as Heritage Day.

The Limpopo Provincial Government, led by Treasury MEC Seaparo Sekoati who was representing Premier Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, has joined the rest of the country in commemorating this day.

This year's commemorations were held at the Mokwakwaila Stadium in the Greater Letaba Municipality under the theme:

## **"Celebrating The Legacy Of Solomon Linda And South Africa's Indigenous Music"**

Notably, the Limpopo Province is one of the richest provinces when it comes to the diversity of cultural heritage.

It is the home of great Mapungubwe which is South Africa's first City of Gold that flourished back in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The best way to preserve your culture is to keep it alive. For obvious reasons, it is vital to preserve our cultures, history, and traditions. Cultures and languages are vanishing due to a lack of awareness and that is a significant loss for mankind.

Conserving culture encourages people to learn and appreciate it. And it is through this experience that mankind can realize what makes us all human and MEC Sekoati has urged the youth of Limpopo to

embrace their rich heritage.

"Young people are the future, and the future belongs to our young people. It is therefore important that our young people are well familiar with their own history so that they can have a proper claim to the future. Please Young people, let us preserve and protect this Heritage with all we can"

generation is concerned at a manner in which today's generation of young people is distancing themselves from heritage matters.

He said it is extremely dangerous for the youth to want to define themselves in terms of where they want to be without seeking relationships with who they are.

"I always say that no matter how many degrees one may have, you remain illiterate if you don't know your own history. Without this knowledge of history, one is just like a tree with dead roots. The future for such a tree is bleak.

The MEC also urged parents to promote their native languages at homes instead of permitting their children to speak their "own" languages with a twang accent. He has called on parents to not take part in tendencies to extinct the native languages.

"It is more painful to hear our children despising our own African languages. The Truth is that our languages are facing a real possibility of extinctions; very soon if we don't act swiftly, we will have no young people speaking Tshivenda, Xitsonga or Sepedi. **MN**

## Faces of Provincial Government 2022



**Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha**

**PREMIER**



**Mr Seaparo Sekoati**  
MEC: Provincial Treasury



**Mr Thabo Mokone**  
MEC: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



**Ms Nandi Ndalane**  
MEC: Department of Social Development



**Dr Phophi Ramathuba**  
MEC: Department of Health



**Ms Nkakareng Rakgoale**  
MEC: Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure



**Mr Basikopo Makamu**  
MEC: Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs



**Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya**  
MEC: Department of Education



**Mr Rodgers Monama**  
MEC: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism



**Ms Nakedi Sibanda-Kekana**  
MEC: Department of Sport, Arts and Culture



**Ms Florence Radzilani**  
MEC: Department of Transport and Community Safety