



# BAOBAB NEWS

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## President Ramaphosa launches BMA in Musina



Presidents Ramaphosa and Mnangagwa during the walk about just before the official BMA launch

**P**resident Cyril Ramaphosa officially launched the BMA on 05 October 2023 at Musina Show Grounds.

The BMA is established in terms of Section 27 of the Border Management Authority Act to strengthen and manage goods and people movement in all South African Ports of entries to prevent illegal trade activities, illegal immigration and enhancing national security. It was established in 2023 through an act of parliament With Beitbridge border being one of the busiest ports of entry with hundreds of Zimbabweans crossing to Musina for different activities, President Ramaphosa received Zimbabwean head of State, Mr Emerson Mnangagwa to hold official talks about issues relating to illegal migration and inspection of operations on site.

Prior to the establishment of BMA, different departments such as Health, Agriculture, Home Affairs and SARS that operated from the ports of entry used different legislation reporting to various

management of different departments. With the establishment and official launch, all the stakeholders are integrated and coordinated by single command and lead by BMA Commissioner Dr Mike Masiapato who has delegated power's to lead the third national arm Law enforcement Authority after Defense and Police force.

In his response to the walk about to the South African immigration offices, President Mnangagwa said he felt obligated to be part of this important era.

"We had a chat with my brother President Ramaphosa and he told me that he will be inspecting this place and it was an opportunity for us to meet as two neighboring presidents to inspect together", said Mnangagwa.

Presiding over the launch, President Ramaphosa said the establishment of BMA was based on a number of challenges including influx of undocumented illegal migrant to South Africa.

"South Africa belongs to all who live in it including foreigners. All foreigners are subjected to South

African laws and regulations including BMA regulations. When our country and ports of entries are well protected and well managed, we can prevent illegal importation and exit of goods in the country. We are able to facilitate lawful trade on a greater scale in an efficient manner to increase inter- African Trade. Border Management Authority will assist to curb human trafficking and cross boarder crime", said Ramaphosa

More than 500 border guards have been recruited to patrol all border access be it land, sea or air.

MEC Seaparo Sekoati, who represented the Premier, emphasised the importance of the Border Management Authority, stating "Today marks a historic moment for our province and our nation. This authority will play a pivotal role in ensuring the effective management and security of our borders, safeguarding our nation's interests, and facilitating legitimate trade and travel."



Dr Mike Masiapato who has delegated power's to lead BMA



President Ramaphosa during BMA launch

# Improved Convictions in Public Corruption

Government has experienced significant loss due to corruption by public servants. The month of September was set aside for Anti-Corruption Roadshow as part of raising awareness to government and its entities which was held in Polokwane.

The awareness aims at routing out the corruption to realize a free corruption country and government.

To implement this, the province has adopted the Limpopo Anti-Corruption Strategy which is aligned to the 2020-2030 strategy.

The provincial strategy intends to fight against corruption, educate and prevent any acts of corruptions especially by public servants by using state resources for their personal benefit especially that corruption has birthed trust deficiency between citizens and government.

There are several committees established in the province to help curb the ongoing corruption activities. As things stands now, there are officials dedicated to working towards curbing and routing out the corrupting which includes ethic officers, risk management, cluster and anti-corruption coordination committee which was established in line with the Limpopo Anti-Corruption strategy. The established bodies are expected to



Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Thembi Monicca Hadebe, during Anti-corruption Roadshow

the progress picture, Col Mosofo Seabi on behalf of the South African Police Service said 25 cases have been finalized including conviction and sentencing.

Entities implicated in fraudulent activities includes; **Department of Labour** in connection with

and 129 companies signed acknowledgement of debt.

**Mopani Local Municipality** for procurement of borehole and VIP toilets. R19 million has been recovered for the work that was not done and 53 cases referred to NPA with 2 officials being referred for disciplinary actions.

**Mogalakwena Local Municipality** with 29 referral cases and 4 officials being subjected to disciplinary action while 17 more are still investigated with possible prosecution

**Department of Public Works** has 9 officials to be disciplined while 5 criminal cases have been referred to NPA and R191 million to be recovered from two contractors based in Tzaneen

**Road Agency Limpopo (RAL)** there are currently to civil litigations and 61 criminal referrals to the NPA, 45 officials being referred to disciplinary committees.

Amongst those that have been prosecuted includes officials that fraudulently claimed kilometers travelled for a period of 4 years in prison without an option for fine.

Municipalities have blacklisted all tender defaulters and have already embarked on ethical conduct campaigns for all councilors.



Department of Transport HOD During Anti-corruption roadshow

improve governance in all government spheres and entities.

Speaking to the statistics in the province and painting

Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) where 61 cases were referred to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and secured 4 prosecution for Covid 19 grant

# NCOP Concludes Oversight visit in Limpopo



MEC Sekwati and DG Nape Nchabeleng

Members of National Council of Provinces (NCOP) and the provincial leadership convened at the Parliamentary Village in Polokwane after a week of oversight water projects inspection in the Vhembe District. The session was attended by administrators and chairpersons of relevant portfolio committees to map a way forward in ensuring that projects are implemented within the set time frame.

Despite challenges with primary

source of water to Giyani and surrounding areas, there is commitment from various stakeholders that ensure the communities are provided with water from the Nandoni Dam which costed R284 million but is halted by the court of appeal.

With service delivery being the core, the overall projects that is being taken by Lepelle Northern Water as an implementing Agent to supply water in the area, there has been great progress with the overall progress of

95,7%, 40 km pipeline is completed, temporary connections on river crossings are done to functionalize the system- functionality achieved on the 05th April 2023.

Installation of raw water pumps and construction of permanent steel river crossings finalized at the end of August 2023. The contractor is currently filling the pipeline and attending to snags for final completion of the project.

Progress on Middle Letaba Canal System includes 60 km from Middle Letaba to Nsami Dambush clearing on

the sides of 13 km of the canal from Xikukwani to Nsami WTW is complete, bush clearance for 60km.

The cleaning of 15 km inside of the canal from Nsami WTW is complete and the anticipated date to complete the remaining 45 km is end of November 2023, the progress is delayed by water running in the canal. The fencing of the 13 km on both sides of the canal will start on 18 September 2023 and anticipated to be completed in December 2023.



NCOP representatives on the last day of the oversight visit

# Minister Didiza Engages Women in Agriculture Sector in a Symposium



Minister Thoko Didiza and Limpopo MEC of DALRRD Thabo Mokone take a look at the exhibit of Moringa products by Limpopo farmer Nomsa Ngwenya of NTL Baraka eco farming based in Ba- Phalaborwa Local Municipality, Mopani District

Approximately 300 women in agriculture sector from all nine provinces positively responded to a call by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) Thoko Didiza to a symposium in commemoration of 2023 Women's Day. Around thirty of them were coming from Limpopo. The event took place in the department's new Tsitsikama building auditorium in Pretoria on 25 August 2023.

This number included internal government participants like DALRRD and its provincial departments representatives and Entities (NAMC, ARC, FRUITSA, OBP) and external government participants like: Small Business Development; DTIC - Agro-Processing Directorate; Tourism; Innovation Hub; CSIR; Municipalities; Women in Agriculture, Agribusiness and Agro-processing; Women Farmers Organizations, International Organizations (EDSE, FAO, etc.); Traditional Leaders; Financial Institutions; and exhibitors.

The theme for International Women's Day, 8 March 2023 (IWD 2023) is, "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality". This theme is aligned with the priority theme of the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-67), "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for



Women in Agriculture Sector attending a symposium in Pretoria

achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

This year Women's Month was celebrated under the theme: "Improving food security, increasing production and employment and ensuring decency and inclusivity". The symposium consisted of discussion panels focusing on the four thematic areas namely: Innovation and Technology (Smart farming), Upscaling Agro-processing for women in the sector, Upscaling Agro-processing for women in the sector and lastly the role of women in food and nutrition security.

It was a great honour and privilege to be invited for such a beautiful

symposium. The cherry on top, was having the Minister looking at my product and gave herself time to hear me out. At this exhibition, I was showing off some of the products that this one special tree that we grow in addition with vegetables, can do. The tree is called Moringa....it has so much health benefits and also can be used as a tree to save us as it is able to assimilate a lot of Carbon free the atmosphere, better than any agro forestry tree.... which make is good for climate change adaptations.

"We currently have an agreement with three countries, France, Netherlands and Dubai.

In France we have to supply 15 tons

per month of Moringa dried leaves.

In Netherlands, we have to supply all Moringa waste a company that makes animal feed. That is 1000 tons of dried twigs, seed cake and pods that is left after taking the food grade.

In Dubai, we are yet to complete the agreement to supply both Moringa GIN and Moringa Kombucha.

We also are developing the local market of Moringa Pesto, oil, baby food and teas.

We would be so happy to share these with fellow farmers" said a farmer from Limpopo, Ms Nomsa Ngwenya.

# Deaf community claim their space through silent walk



Messages through the plugs

Since the proclamation of the sign language bill in July 2023 to make sign language the 12<sup>th</sup> official language in South Africa, there has been numerous platforms to raise awareness.

The deaf community have been marginalized and found it difficult for them to get equal treatment and privacy as stipulated in the constitution.

The deaf community used the 28<sup>th</sup> of September which is the deaf month to raise awareness in the province by marching silently from the SABC park in Polokwane to the Peter Mokaba stadium demanding that they be equally treated.

The march was joined by senior government officials, deaf representative members across the province and civil societies.

Amongst their demands was that the language must be improved by allowing more able people to learn and communicate using sign language, be included in sports participation especially that there is improved technology, and that government, municipalities and other government entities employ two sign language practitioners.

Speaking on behalf of the Premier, Councilor Makgato Mashaba said since September 1951 when the first World Congress of World Federation of Deaf took place, there has been slow implementation in recognizing and



The silent March from SABC to Peter Mokaba stadium

protecting the rights of deaf people but making it official language is a huge

equality.

Mr Kwena Mamabolo who is also deaf



Representative of deaf community signing national anthem

development by breaking the barrier of

says one of the greatest challenges is the

right of privacy when seeking medical assistance.

“Whenever we have to consult in both private and public facilities, we encounter challenges from reception to consultation with the health profession because of language barrier. We always must get someone to translate and, in the process, we lose our right to privacy”.

Being accommodated in public transport and joining in conversation that affects them remains a challenge as most people are not equipped with sign language. The provincial government committed itself with employing qualified and trained interpreters by making extensive background check and not employ those that will take chances which will affect accurate dissemination of information to intended stakeholders.

There are currently different deaf structures in place that reports to DEAFSA nationally about activities and progress made in each sector. This allows the engagements and recognition by all stakeholders that the adoption of the sign language bill is not just a symbolic gesture but recognition of the death communities abilities to take South Africa forward in improving the language and promoting their rights.

# Government pleads for safety of Older persons in rural areas



MEC Nandi Ndalane addressing older people

The first day of October is set aside to celebrate older persons for their indigenous knowledge and tradition that continue to be passed from generation to generation and forms part of the teachings in communities.

This year's celebration was held at Mahlatjane Community hall in Mafefe within the Lepelle Nkumpi municipality.

It has been a tradition that older people are more preferred care givers to their grandchildren when their parents become migrants in other provinces in pursuit for employment. While all that happens, grandparents are left with the responsibility of ensuring that their grandchildren are fed, clothed and taken to school.

Even though most of the children receive the child support grants from government, it is not enough added together with the R2 000 that the older people get to survive.

They too feel the inflation that the country



Chairperson of Older Person's forum Dr Solomon Nchabeleng

experience.

A 70 year old Boshiale Mola who cares for 4 grandchildren said that they are grateful that the government can come and celebrate their existence as older people, because they are accused of witchcraft because they suffer from dementia which results in them going to other households at any time of the day including night without properly being dressed believing that they are in their homes. She

requested that more awareness must be raised in villages about their medical conditions instead of being accused of evil things and being killed.

Recently older persons have been victims of abuse and murder by their close families for their social grants money. Speaking on behalf of the Premier, MEC for Social Development Ms Nandi Ndalane said government will not allow such abuse and murders to continue under their

watch.

"Every elder is our treasure, they have wisdom and are most important members of the communities we live in, We are working very close with police and community policing forums to ensure their safety, and these murders will not do as they please" said the MEC

There has been recognition in government institutions to cater for older persons, they are not allowed to queue but instead receive preferred treatment because of their age. This has been evident in sectors such as Health and Home Affairs.

## Boabab News

The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people

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# Public Service Commission

## Service Delivery Matters

The Public Service Commission will visit the community of Tshitale

Date : 27 October 2023

Venue : Tshitale Sports ground, Ha-Muila ( Makhado )

Time : 10:00



Date : 18-19 October 2023

venue : The Ranch Conference Center

Time : 10h00



Date : 26 October 2023

Venue : Ga-Mmankgodi

(Blouberg Municipality Satelite Office –  
Langlaagte) Capricorn District Municipality

Time : 10h00