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CALLS FOR ABILITY

TO PURCHASE ELECTRICITY DIRECTLY FROM ESKOM

ROOSENEKAL - The current situation of being forced to buy electricity only from the municipality is notably a serious burden on the residents of Roosenekal outside Groblersdal within the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality (EMLM).

The residents complain that several of their attempts to engage the local municipality on the matter with the hope that they would be able to purchase electricity directly from Eskom were unsuccessful.

They say their concerns emanate from the current setup which forces them not to be able to purchase electricity after 4pm and over the weekends when the municipality's offices in the area are closed.

According to residents the municipality's server is problematic in that it loses network most of the time and

they can't buy electricity elsewhere.

Residents said the municipality informed them during engagements on the matter that they cannot withdraw their license to allow Eskom to sell to them.

Furthermore, the residents raised concerns that the electricity tariff of the local municipality was high and hit hard on their pockets.

They told the paper that their problems dated back to 2013 when the community used electricity free of charge, as per instruction of the local municipality, when there were problems of meter boxes in the area.

The residents said that the municipality later switched off electricity in some parts of the area, which caused a lot of disagreements between the local community and the municipality.

"Initially, the entire Roosenekal area had access to electricity. We want to be supplied directly from Eskom like other areas within the local municipality. We are forced to buy from Roosenekal and not anywhere else. We need to be able to buy using any system of buying electricity and not this current situation we are subjected to," said Moleke Mampana, Deputy Secretary of Roosenekal Residents Committee.

Mampana concluded that as residents they were calling on the local mu-

nicipality to withdraw their electricity license and allow Eskom to take over.

Simon Makua, EMLM Spokesperson, said the concern from ward 30 has been brought to their attention regarding electricity licensing and informed that the local municipality was licensed to provide Groblersdal and Roosenekal with electricity.

Makua added that electricity tariffs were regulated by NERSA in 2016/2017 financial year and that the municipality then implemented a smart metering project in Roosenekal town.

"This project was performed in collaboration with Invorohub and a total of 465 smart meters have been installed and later, the community vandalized the meters. The main objective of the project was to reduce illegal connections. For those who can't afford to pay electricity, they must register for free basic electricity," concluded Makua.



The residents of Roosenekal outside Groblersdal within Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality call for the local municipality to enable them to buy electricity directly from Eskom.










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MOHLALETSE

The Bapedi Royal House said it is deeply saddened by the untimely passing of his Royal Highness, iKosi Siphohle Mahlangu, of the Ndebele Nation.

The Late iKosi Mahlangu died on July 16 from Covid-19 related complications.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has honored the late iKosi Mahlangu by declaring his funeral as a special official funeral category 1.

"As chairperson of the (NHTKL), he supported the development of traditional communities through the Developmental Monarch Approach to rural development. He also championed the invest Rural strategy to drive inclusive economic growth in rural areas," president said.

According to Bapedi royal house his departure leaves a major void on issues of traditional leadership and the advancement of rural development in the country, for which he was a champion.

Ntoampe Mampuru, family spokesperson, said, iKosi Mahlangu, as chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders (NHTL)

and chairperson of the United Royal Kingships Holdings (URKH) worked closely with the late his Royal Majesty King ThulareThulare III, on many of his royal projects, including the unfolding grand vision of turning 'Dubai into Sekhukhune'.

"In our liaisons with iKosi Mahlangu, the royal family received wonderful counsel and experienced his exceptional leadership skills and grand vision for rural development. Perhaps his greatest leadership attribute, was his friendly and humble nature that enabled him to connect with people from all walks of life, particularly those in rural areas to which he deemed himself a servant," said Mampuru.

Mampuru said iKosi Mahlangu's death is indeed a great loss not only for the Ndebele people, but for traditional leadership and the country as a whole. His presence will sorely be missed and to that we pass our deepest condolences to his family, the Ndebele Royal House and the Ndebele Nation as a whole.

"May his royal soul rest in peace," said family spokesperson.

His funeral will be held at the Ndzundza Mabusa Royal Residence.



Bapedi Royal house pay tribute to the passing of iKosi Siphohle Mahlangu

The late iKosi Siphohle Mahlangu.

DCC concerned over large numbers at funerals

SEKHUKHUNE - The Sekhukhune COVID-19 District Command Council (DCC) has expressed concerns about residents continuing to attend funerals in large numbers during its virtual meeting last Friday to reflect on the impact of the ongoing pandemic.

The DCC extended its wishes to remind the residents of Sekhukhune district that social gatherings were prohibited while attendance at funerals was limited to 50 persons.

Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) Executive Mayor, Stanley Ramaila, who chairs the council, said that the coronavirus continued to ravage the country and encouraged people to avoid gatherings because by doing so, they increased their chances of infections.

Ramaila added that people ought to avoid a situation wherein they overwhelmed the healthcare system to a breaking point.

The DCC meetings are attended by the Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Thembi Siweya and Limpopo Education MEC, Polly Boshie, in their capacities as political champions of the District Development Model to the Sekhukhune District as well as Limpopo Co-operative Government, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) MEC, Basikoko Makamu, who champions cooperative governance.

The council meetings are also attended by the district's



Sekhukhune District Municipality (SDM) Executive Mayor, Stanley Ramaila, who chairs the Sekhukhune COVID-19 Command Council (DCC).

four local municipalities' mayors and sector departments such as health.

The DCC has resolved to lobby for the personnel who work in the all-important industry to be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination following deliberations on the challenges that the funeral services industry faces.

"The personnel in the funeral services are at the coalface of the work that makes them extremely vulnerable to COVID-19," said Ramaila.

The government's vaccination rollout efforts were noted and welcomed and the DCC encouraged persons between the ages of 35 and 49 to seize the opportunity and register for vaccination. Persons over the age of 50 years were also encouraged to still get vaccinated.

The DCC extended a word of gratitude to the people of Sekhukhune district for refusing to get involved in the looting and destruction of property that were recently seen in other parts of the country.

Premier Mathabatha monitors peace and stability in Moutse



Sekhukhune District Municipality Executive Mayor, Stanley Ramaila (left), Limpopo Premier Chupu Mathabatha (middle) and Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality Mayor, Julia Mathebe during premier Mathabatha's visit to Moutse last Wednesday following attempts of looting and destruction of property in the area earlier last week.

MOUTSE - Limpopo Premier Chupu Mathabatha embarked on a peace and stability monitoring mission at Moutse Mall last Wednesday to encourage communities to remain calm following the looting of businesses and destruction of property incidents that hit parts of the country recently.

Premier Mathabatha's visit to the area followed a Special Executive Committee (EXCO) meeting's resolution earlier last week to encourage the people of Limpopo to continue with their daily lives without fear.

In addition, the EXCO directed that all political, traditional leaders, faith-based organizations, civil society movements in the province ought to vigorously spread the message of peace amidst the violence that were experienced in some parts of the country.

Mathabatha said they were pleased as government to notice that after the developments, there were men and women on the ground who stood together and said not in their name.

"As government we thought of coming here to look you in the eyes and tell you to continue in this way and ensure that no one destroys property. We are calling on you to stick together and continue this way in standing against violence. We need to also consider that COVID-19 Delta is with us and continue to observe all the regulations by government," said Mathabatha.

Premier Mathabatha also called on the people of Moutse to take advantage of the COVID-19 vaccination programme roll-out and ensure that they were registered to vaccinate.

Dennilton Taxi Associa-

tion's Samuel Mabuyane said that they were saddened by the violence and that they did not allow it to happen in their area.

Mabuyane said as Dennilton Taxi Association they were there to make sure that on one participated in the violence and the destruction property and looting of businesses in the area.

Ally Ramoshaba, Dennilton Community Policing Forum Board member, thanked members of the community and police in working together to fight against the violence that almost engulfed the area.

Thembi Hadebe, Provincial Commissioner, said they deployed police across the province and boundaries to make sure that nothing that is not supposed to happen took place and that they were supported by the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

Earlier during last week, a group of would-be looters gathered near Moutse Mall in an attempt to join other parts of the country in looting and destruction of property acts. A bus and a truck were torched in the area.

"We are calling on you to stick together and continue this way in standing against violence. We need to also consider that COVID-19 Delta is with us and continue to observe all the regulations by government."

Small political parties raise fears on possible elections' postponement



The Bolsheviks Party of South Africa leader, Seun Mogotji, who raised concerns on the possible postponement of the local government elections scheduled for 27 October 2021 due to COVID-19 rising infections.

MOUTSE - The Bolsheviks Party of South Africa (BPSA) has on Tuesday announced its concerns amid the possibility of the postponement of the local government elections scheduled for 27 October this year due to increasing COVID-19 infections.

The BPSA said it was against the proposed postponement as it would negatively affect the smaller emerging political parties such as them as they did not have a financial muscle and only dependant on party members' donations.

Seun Mogotji, BPSA leader, said they have already exhausted a significant chunk of the little funds they had in their disposal to print flyers,

posters and printing of T-shirts.

Mogotji further said that moving the local government elections to next year in February would only harm them as it meant that the printed flyers with a new election date would need to be printed.

"For a small party, this will really cripple us financially and it might again give an unfair advantage to bigger parties with deeper pockets and stronger flexible financial prowess," added Mogotji.

He further said that countries like the USA held successful elections during the earlier stages of the pandemic when little was known about it and that surely, now with all the available

information at disposal on how to protect against the virus and the steady but consistent vaccination programme, the elections would be safe for all South Africans.

"The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) with the help of our government and all political parties will have to ensure that all COVID-19 safety precautions and protocols are observed and adhered to at all times during the elections," said Mogotji.

The leader added that the postponement of the elections would further put into question the legitimacy of the serving councilors in municipalities countrywide as their time in office would have lapsed as per provision of the electoral commission guidelines and the constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which clearly stipulates that elections be held within three months after the end of the term of the outgoing sitting council.

"If this period passes, then on whose mandate will those councilors be acting on? This will be tantamount to having illegitimate councilors running our municipalities and this will be a grave infringement of the rights of our people to elect their preferred councilors. It will also be a violation of our country's constitution. We hope the former Deputy Justice Dikgang Moseneke and his commission will take all these into consideration when making their submissions," concluded Mogotji.

Local author nominated for more awards

DENNILTON - Moutse's award winning actor, author and poet, Vusi Mabena, has been nominated for the National African Printers Author's and Poetry Awards for 2021.

The 29 year-old Mabena has been nominated for his Volume 3 book, titled "Tears of Pain", which he published last year during July month.

His nomination for the awards came just after he last year during December, won in the South African Poetry Awards, the Best Author, with his first book titled "Tears of Life".

The actor, author and poet as well as motivational speaker is nominated in two categories of the awards, Best International Author and Best Book of the Year.

"I am shocked and speechless indeed. I am short for words to pass my gratitude to my readers and people I work with. I will be happier if I win in these two nomina-

tions. I am pleading with supporters from home, in Sekhukhune district to please vote for me as many times as possible from 01 August when the voting lines open. They can SMS APAPA 04 VM43 to 33903," said Mabena.

Mabena ventured into writing in 2008 while he was still at secondary school and started being serious about the craft in 2013.

He is currently working on another project which he expects to release for his followers before year-end and is also working on a new album to be let loose next year during the Easters.

"I am busy with examinations since I am doing my final year in acting at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg. I am also volunteering my spare time in various schools doing motivational talks with learners to encourage them not to give up on their dreams. Most importantly, I want



The 29 year-old award winning author, poet and actor, Vusi Mabena from Dennilton in Moutse has been nominated for APAPA.

to let them know that education is a key which surely can open many doors for them and a weapon through which they can conquer all,"

Schools to reopen from 26 July

By: Palesa Makanya-ne

Beginning from 26 July to 02 August, all primary and high school pupils, as well as those in special education schools, will be required to attend classes every day. The department of basic education has announced on the gazette published a week ago that Principals, the school management team and non-teaching staff will return to school on 22 July 2021 to

prepare for the return of learners.

Furthermore, the usual winter vacation learner support or catch-up programs for Grades 11 and 12, as organized and implemented by the Provincial Departments of Education, districts, and schools, will continue on Covid-19 and are extended by a week until July 23, 2021, under strict compliance with the minimum health, safety, and social distancing measures.

While pupils in special schools will return to school from 02 August for a traditional daily attendance.

However, this might change the reason being South Africa moved to level 4 weeks ago. The President is yet to announce if the country is still under strict measures of the lockdown or not. Should the President ease the lockdown, pupils will attend classes without any interruption.

Moseneke's inquiry recommend upcoming election to be postponed

SEKHUKHUNE Former Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke has recommended that the upcoming Local Government Election's (LGE) be postponed to February 2022.

This comes after the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) appointed Moseneke to determine whether it will be possible for the people to head to the polls during this pandemic.

Political parties, unions, religious group and the public had submitted their oral submission before Moseneke's inquiry.

Giving recommen-

dation Moseneke said: "Having considered all these submissions of stakeholders, applicable law, research on electoral practice during the covid-19 pandemic and related science, we conclude that it is not reasonable or likely that the local government elections scheduled for the month of October will be held in a fair manner,"

"We further find that the elections would be free and fair if they were held not later than the month of February 2022," he concluded.

Meanwhile the IEC chairperson, Glen Mash-

inini, confirmed the commission received the final report of the inquiry into ensuring free and fair election during Covid-19.

Mashinini said the commission will urgently study Moseneke's report and its recommendation before making a final decision on the implications of the report for the LGE scheduled for October 27.

"As part of this process, the commission will also consult with key stakeholders including political parties via Political Party Liason Committee system as well as various state role-players," said Mashinini.

While the recommen-



Moseneke's inquiry recommend upcoming election to be postponed.

dations are not binding, the independent commission emphasised the need to prioritise people's lives and health

He further said despite pressure in just 61 days Moseneke and his

team managed to conduct a thorough, comprehensive, transparent and highly inclusive investigation into whether free and fair elections can be conducted under current covid-19 conditions.

"What is clear is that the Moseneke inquiry has significantly contributed to the national conversation about what constitute freeness and fairness of elections," said IEC chairperson.

CDM hosted career expo at Ga-Seloane



Mampotjane, Mamagogo and Phasoane Secondary Schools within Lepelle-Nkumpi 2 Circuit.

ZEBEDIELA
Ga-Seloane Traditional Authority in partnership with Capricorn District Municipality hosted a career information sharing session at Ga-Seloane recently.

The session is aimed at sharing information with learners to assist them in making best career choices of their lives.

Attended grade 12 learners were from Mampotjane, Mamagogo and Phasoane Secondary Schools within Lepelle-Nkumpi 2 Circuit respectively.

A proud Mamagogo grade 12 learner, Thankiso Manku who wish to study medicine at Stellenbosch University said it was a privilege to attend the hosted career expo.

The CDM is hoping that the occasion has taught attended learners about career opportunities and will help them to choose their careers wisely.

Services SETA, Nkangala TVET College and Capricorn TVET College were amongst stakeholders which presented their presentation to inspire and encourage learners.

Two organisations donates to the elderly



The elderly were handed gifts on Mandela Day.

PRAKTISEER
Two local organisations brought smiles to the elderly in Praktiseer on Mandela Day. Yehla Ngelosi, a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) in partnership with Nkwana Foundation handed the gogos and madas snacks, sweets and water bottles and other basic needs. They also shared a cake with them in celebrating the life of the fallen icon. Helen Ndimisa from Yehla Ngelosi, said her NPO caters for the elderly and also pro-

vides meals for needy children in the surrounding region. The foundation has been donating food parcels and other basic needs to needy locals around Tubatse. "It pained me to see the homeless, the elderly and the disabled suffering and eating from the bins. I started saving my pocket money and buying the needy foods with the money I saved." The teenager has previously donated to more than 100 families in Tubatse.

WOKE organization to contest local election

GA-MADISENG
By: Palesa Makanyane

A non-profit group that addresses societal issues, particularly gender inequality and extreme poverty, is battling for the rights of a black child once more. In March, Sekhukhune Times published an article about this organization in Ga-Madiseeng, London section outside Burgersfort, regarding the maltreatment of patients at Dilokong Hospital. They lodged a complaint letter to the MEC of Health's office.

Moses Makgoga, founder of WOKE said lately young people have been coming to them with some of the challenges they encounter, from lack of employment, community electricity, water and several social problems.

"The decision for the move-



Young people were invited to officially announce the plans to contest elections

they say current political party do not show their interest," said Moses.

Meanwhile, some also

politics.

"We saw that we are not represented as young people in our municipality and de-

"We saw that we are not represented as young people in our municipality and development is very slow so we want to register a movement that will speak for the youth and fight for them."

ment to contest election under the IEC portion of section 15A which allows independent movement, church, organizations or groups to contest local elections came after a short survey done by the movement on why young people are not interested in elections. The results of the survey were that most young people are not interested in voting because

highlighted that politicians are not honest and only want votes so that they can loot. The movement wants to reach all young people in Fetakgomo tubatse in solidarity to vote to challenge their aspirations politically.

Furthermore, Ally Shiburi, one of the NPO team said they aim to change the narrative young people have towards

velopment is very slow so we want to register a movement that will speak for the youth and fight for them. We will contest for local municipality Feta-Kgomo Tubatse. It is high time the youth take control of their communities, political parties aside," said Ally.

WOKE is appealing for financial assistance to help the movement achieve its course.

Public hospital struggling to cope with COVID-19 patients - DA

SEKHUKHUNE - The Democratic Alliance (DA) in Limpopo has informed that it was alarmed that public hospitals in the province were struggling to cope with the flood of COVID-19 patients.

The DA expressed concerns on reports that other patients were being discharged from hospitals to make room for COVID-19 patients.

In a recent statement, the party said that the large influx of patients into the province's under-resourced public health facilities was further compounded by the presence of the highly transmissible Delta variant, poor hospital conditions and a massive hospital staff shortage.

It added that threatened to further endanger the lives of citizens of the province as COVID-19 cases surged.

According to the DA between 25 August and 23 September 2020, the Limpopo Legislature Portfolio Committee on Health carried out site visits to 20 health facilities in the province.

It said in almost all the facilities, the committee

raised concerns over poor infrastructure, conditions, cleanliness as well as insufficient equipment and large numbers of vacant posts.

Risham Maharaj, DA Limpopo Spokesperson on health, said the committee's site visits report and recent reports of lack of capacity to deal with Limpopo's COVID-19 cases have exposed the failure of Limpopo Department of Health to prepare adequately since the last surge of the virus.

Maharaj added that while they acknowledged the efforts of the department, especially the hard work of healthcare workers during the period, it was clear that poor planning and financial mismanagement have affected the province's response to COVID-19.

He further encouraged all eligible citizens to vaccinate against COVID-19 and said that as the party they believed that the citizens needed to continue to play their part by always wearing masks in public, ensuring social distancing at all times and regularly sanitise or wash hands.



Democratic Alliance (DA) Limpopo Spokesperson on Health, Risham Maharaj, says his party is concerned about public hospitals struggling to cope with COVID-19 patients.

Candidates denied certificates due to allege examination fraud

SCHOONOORD

Part time matric re-write candidate did not receive their matric certificate due to alleged examinations fraud that occurred back in 2019.

Implicated pupils were enrolled under Nkhumvinde Educational Science and Commerce matric rewrite programme.

Learners wrote the following examination, amended senior certificate, MEO and internal part time grade 12 repeaters.

The project was operating at Kgalatlou Technical high school within Schoonoord circuit in the Sekhukhune region before it was moved to Mahlasedi building.

But the director of the programme, Romeo Nkhumishe, disassociated himself from the saga putting blame at the new school management.

He distanced himself claiming that the matter occurred after he was verbally evicted and banned unceremoniously at the school premises.

Nkhumishe wrote a proposal letter to the former school management requesting to use dilapidated building for his matric re-write project.

"We would like to request your office to utilise your old premises in order to assist learners around Schoonoord and surrounding areas regarding Science and Commerce matric re write learning programme," written proposal seen by Sekhukhune Times.

Kgalatlou accepted his proposal and gave him a right to occupy the space of the building.

"Our school would like to accept your request for the usage of the old school premises," written school response.

Before utilising the prem-

ises Nkhumishe renovated the building to make it elegant.

He has since committed himself to hiring qualified un-employed educators with three years grade 12 teaching experience in surrounding areas.

Nkhumishe further provided all Kgalatlou grade 11 and 12 learners with his company English paper 2 study guides for free on a yearly basis.

Nkhumvinde educational director said the programme operated well until Kgalatlou appointed headmaster.

He said appointed school principal interrogated how his project was allowed to operate within the school premises.

Nkhumishe said the worst part was when the principal wanted to change his initial agreement he had with the former manager.

"It was in the middle of examination when the problem escalates. I was invited to un-

constitutional meeting by School Governing Body (SGB) and the principal

He said he was suspicious and invited observers in a meeting, but they were kicked out before the meeting could start.

"We were intimidated on 12th June 2018 by the new principal and School Governing Body (SGB) of Kgalatlou to sign a contract which is outside our 2017 initial agreement regarding our matric re write programme or to face immediate eviction," said Nkhumishe.

"We succumbed to their threat by signing on the 14th June 2018 to protect learners registered with our programme as they were in the middle of the examinations," he said.

He confirmed he signed the contract for the sake of peace and stability but later filed an appeal as he deemed the contract to be not free and fair.

Nkhumishe took the matter to the circuit manager who could not help him stating that he has already signed the contract.

The last step he tried was to engage district senior manager who has not responded to his emails.

He claimed he was intimidated and on 8 August 2018 verbally expelled from entering the school.

"I attempted to open a case at nearby police station, but police said they cannot assist me because no one was killed," he alleged.

Following his expulsion he said he decided to save his own life and leave the project and open another programme.

"Registered learners discovered that I was no longer part of the programme and wanted to deregister to enrol with my current project, but they were forced to stay and continue with their studies," he briefed.

Regarding alleged exam fraud he claims a hearing was instituted some of the accused learners appeared before the established hearing committee while others did not bother to attend.

As it stands, Nkhumishe said people were not informed about the findings of the hearing.

Nkhumishe said he had suspicious that the outcomes of the hearing might be tempered, or else affected learners should be informed about its findings.

In response a reliable source with authority confirmed few learners doing part time were caught cheating and



penalised after the outcomes of the hearing.

Source said Nkhumishe owes Kgalatlou over R40 000 as it was stated in the contract he signed.

"Nkhumishe is on business only and he doesn't care about the future of the learners he's registering because he started doing this in Seshego, but he was kicked out," source said.

"This guy took advantage of our quietness. He wasn't paying hired educators. I resisted to be counted as one of the people who was used by Nkhumishe," explained source.

Source said they will never allow anarchy to come in Sekhukhune and use their resources for free, adding that Nkhumishe was not paying electricity but making money.

Tidimallo Chuene, provincial spokesperson for the education department said there are regulations that her department use to address any form of examination irregularities.

Chuene said there was no candidates who is not informed about the outcomes of any hearing, even those who decided not to appear are followed up and sanctioned.


"As Limpopo Department of Education we do not have leakage of papers. This is a national challenge and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) has instituted investigations," she explained.

Every cycle of examination has irregularities and we have hearings and sanctions are given and letter are written to the individual candidates involved, said Chuene.

She said the challenge could be that sometimes candidates do not go back to their school and collect their results.

Chuene added that they treat case by case as affected candidates go to the department.

"Every irregularity is treated according to the policy prescripts. Sanctions are communicated formally to candidates through districts," she said.



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NORTHAM

BOOYSEENDAL

COMMUNITY APPLAUDS BOOYSEENDAL FOR MASSIVE DONATIONS

LYDENBURG

As part of its annual Mandela Day celebrations, Northam Booyseendal Platinum mine donated food parcels to struggling families in and around Thaba Chweu Municipality. The donations were made to more than 100 families on July 16 and 17. At some of the villages, recipients were also handed face masks. The beneficiaries were chosen by the Mpumalanga Department of Social Development's social workers.

On Friday, the management of the mine descended to the Kiwi Farm Community, BBR, Shaga and Bokhapane villages to donate food parcels to the needy community members.

The parcels included maize meal, sugar, rice, cooking oil, juice, tinned fish, beans, washing powder, soups, soaps, nik naks and other basic food items that can help families survive during these trying times.

The handing over of the groceries was completed on July 17 at Rooikrans, Choma Tribal Office, Protea Farm, Boshhoek and Draaikraal.

Jack Selowa, Northam Booyseendal's Stakeholder Engagement said the food they were donating for the residents was to help poor community members to have something to eat during the lockdown period. He said this was also part of



Jack Selowa, Northam Booyseendal's Stakeholder Engagement during the handover of food.



Rachel Phetla and Jack Selowa during the handover of groceries.



Merriam Mmapuru.

“We believe in the importance of making a difference in the communities which we operate in and this initiative also gives us an opportunity to strengthen the relationship with our key stakeholders.”



Rebecca Ratau showing a pack of milk during the handover of Food parcels.



Management handing over of the groceries to Masello Mohlala



Kgototso Maile



NORTHAM

BOOYSEENDAL



Koko Elizabeth Mankge receiving food from Booyesendal's Jack Selowa.

the mine 67 minutes of doing good to local communities.

"We want our communities not to starve, we saw people looting and doing illegal deeds recently but these communities need not resort to crime to get the basic needs. The foods can last the families for a month or even two months".

He indicated that the past two years had been difficult due to Covid-19.

"We are all affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown regulations but we find it befitting to help our communities to ensure that our most vulnerable are provided for and protected during these difficult times.

"We believe in the importance of making a difference in the communities which we operate in and this initiative also gives us an opportunity to strengthen the relationship

with our key stakeholders."

He added, "We urge locals to keep safe, adhere to the lockdown regulations implemented by the government and to always maintain a good personal hygiene as advised by public health experts. "Booyesendal indeed cares about the needs of our communities."

Patrick Phetla, a community leader at BBR said they were grateful for what the mine has done to local communities.

" We have the neediest people in our area and we believe the food parcels donated today will assist our families in the upcoming months. These are proper groceries, they have all items we need in our households. There is nothing missing from what they gave us, we are indeed thankful."

In concluding, Selowa

said that Booyesendal took the needs of their surroundings communities seriously and the mine was determined to continue giving back to the people.

"As we all know that Madi-ba dedicated his life to the kids, the elderly and disabled, we saw it fitting that Booyesendal makes a difference in the lives of these families . Our aim was to put smiles on their faces, and I believe we have achieved that. We will continue to give back to our people," he said.

According to some of the locals, it was a bonus for them to have a mine of Booyesendal's calibre which is mindful of the needs of the community. William Makua thanked the mine for its eagerness and endeavor to upgrade the lives of local people in local communities and surrounding areas.



Some of groceries.



Jacob Maile.



Sebongile Masinga.



Psyfo Mashegoane receives food parcel from Booyesendal Platinum Mine.




Mme Mahlahlo Paulinah.



NORTHAM
BOOYSENDAL

The Market Place



MARULA PLATINUM (PTY) LIMITED
INTERNAL/EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

JOB TITLE:
MINE OVERSEER – D2 (BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT)

DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 19 July 2021 **CLOSING DATE:** 28 July 2021

- PURPOSE OF THE JOB:** Ensure shortcomings of a specific mining section performance is identified, and turn around initiatives are drafted and implemented.
- DEPARTMENT AND LOCATION:** Strategy and Business Development
- MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:**
 - Grade 12 (NQF Level 4) certificate and a Mine Overseer Certificate of competency is essential
 - Blasting Certificate for Scheduled Mines is essential
 - Minimum of 5 years' experience as a Production Mine Overseer is essential
 - Computer literacy (MS Office Package) is essential
 - Must have good verbal and written communication skills
 - Sound leadership skills are essential
 - A valid medical certificate or be medically fit in order to obtain such a certificate
- DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The successful candidate is responsible to:

 - Identify, Analyse and develop production improvement action plans
 - Coach Operational Line Supervisors on basic mining: planning, delegation, job allocations
 - Develop and implement turnaround strategies
 - Plan short term and long term strategic objectives.
 - Supervising and directing people at work to ensure compliance with laws/ regulations and mining standards and procedures.
 - Management of ICU crews.
 - Evaluating the work of others on completion
 - Ensuring effective co-ordination of activities.
 - Checking work completion to a set standard.
 - To comprise written monthly progress reports including reports on trials and tests of new equipment performances.
 - To coach mine overseers in the planning, leading, organisation and efficient running of the sections.
 - To organise and direct the shift Supervisors, miners and Panel leaders in all best practice disciplines.
- Applications can be emailed to: marula.recruitment-D@implats.co.za

6. IMPORTANT: Your manager must indicate, in writing, that he/she is aware of your application (This applies to Implats employees and contractors)

7. SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO PSYCHOMETRIC ASSESSMENTS - MARULA PLATINUM LTD RESERVES THE RIGHT NOT TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

8. IN THE EVENT THAT YOU DO NOT HEAR FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATIONS, YOUR APPLICATION CAN BE VIEWED AS UNSUCCESSFUL.

9. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO EMPLOYEES FROM THE DESIGNATED GROUPS IN LINE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ACT, THE COMPANY'S RECRUITMENT POLICY AND EMPLOYMENT EQUITY PLAN.

10. MARULA PLATINUM LIMITED COMPLIES WITH THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ACT 4 OF 2013. YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WILL BE PROCESSED IN A LAWFUL, LEGITIMATE AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER. BY SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION, YOU GIVE YOUR EXPRESS & INFORMED CONSENT TO PROCESS YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR RECRUITMENT PURPOSES

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Community members plant trees on Mandela day

MABOTSHA

As part of their 67 Minutes for Mandela Day, members from SANCO Kgwerere branch, ANC members in Tubatse, and CPF members planted trees at Nkota Secondary School on Sunday. The team was also joined by the School Management Team (SMT) led by school Principal B.I Mohlala.

Edward Mafane from the ANC said Mandela advocated for better environmental protection.

"The commitment is being passed on to the next generation. We want

our kids to learn the importance of trees." Lazarus Maphuti Magale, one of the volunteers said this was in a bid to make local schools greener.

"This July, we will visit local schools in our village. Not only Nkota has received the trees. Mokobola Primary has also benefited from these donations. Our pre-schools namely Bogotswadi and Maletle also received the trees." According to the community members, they have lined up appointments with other local schools for either tree planting

or cleaning the school premises.

Nelson Mandela Day is an annual celebration of Mandela's life and a global call to action for people to recognise their ability to do something to change the world around them. On this day, people around the world are asked to devote 67 minutes of their time, changing the world for the better in a small gesture of solidarity with humanity. It celebrates the 67 years of his life that Mandela gave in the struggle for justice.



The locals hard at work planting trees.



FETAKGOMO TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE AND INVITATION TO BID (TENDER)

Bid Name	Bid Number	Functionality (qualifying score)	Briefing	Bid Closure	Enquiries
Provision of security services: Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality for: Cluster 1: Burgersfort, Steelpoort and Ga-Mapodile	FTM/T01/21/22	120 points of functionality	N/A	24 August 2021 @ 12H00 1 Kastania Street, Burgersfort 1150, or Stand No. 1 Mashung Ga- nkoana	Mr.MP Thobejane Tel: 013 231 1299 Email:mpthobejane@tubatse.gov.za
Provision of security services: Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality for: Cluster 2: Praktiseer, Motodi sports complex, Penge and Kgopaneng	FTM/T02/21/22	75% of functionality	N/A	24 August 2021 @ 12H00 1 Kastania Street, Burgersfort 1150, or Stand No. 1 Mashung Ga- nkoana	Mr.MP Thobejane Tel: 013 231 1299 Email:mpthobejane@tubatse.gov.za
Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality for: Cluster 3: Ohrigstad and Leboeng				1 Kastania Street, Burgersfort 1150, or Stand No. 1 Mashung Ga- nkoana	Tel: 013 231 1299 Email:mpthobejane@tubatse.gov.z a
Provision of security services: Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality for: Cluster 4: Malogeng Landfill site, Atock Thusong Centre, Seokodibeng, Tjate and Moeng Community Halls	FTM/T04/21/22	75% of functionality	N/A	24 August 2021 @ 12H00 1 Kastania Street, Burgersfort 1150, or Stand No. 1 Mashung Ga- nkoana	Mr.MP Thobejane Tel: 013 231 1299 Email:mpthobejane@tubatse.gov.z a
Provision of security services: Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality for: Cluster 6: Apel Testing Station, Sport Complex, Recreational Park, Radignwana and Mphanama Community Halls.	FTM/T05/21/22	75% of functionality	N/A	24 August 2021 @ 12H00 1 Kastania Street, Burgersfort 1150, or Stand No. 1 Mashung Ga- nkoana No. 1 Mashung Ga- nkoana	Mr.MP Thobejane Tel: 013 231 1299 Email:mpthobejane@tubatse.gov.z a
Re-advertisement Appointment of service provider for cleaning services and maintenance of open spaces at Burgersfort town for a period of 36 months	FTM/T09/20/21	70% functionality	N/A	24 August 2021 @ 12H00 1 Kastania Street, Burgersfort 1150, or Stand No. 1 Mashung Ga- nkoana	Mr. LA Rachidi Tel: 015 6228000 Email:ngoatorachidi@tubatse.gov. za
Re-advertisement Disposal of the remainder of portion 140 of the farm ohrigstad 443 kt	FTM/T31/20/21	N/A	N/A	24 August 2021 @ 12H00 1 Kastania Street, Burgersfort 1150, or Stand No. 1 Mashung Ga- nkoana	Mr. MA Mathebula Tel: 013 2311000 Email:mamathebula@tubatse.gov. za

EVALUATION AND ADJUDICATION CRITERIA

Bids shall be evaluated and adjudicated in accordance with the Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality's Supply Chain Management Policy, Revised Preferential Procurement Regulations of 2017 and responsiveness to the bid documents, 80 points will be for price and 20 points will be for B-BBEE Level Contribution or 90 points for price and 10 points for B-BBEE Level Contribution were applicable.

CONDITIONS OF THE BID

- Bid documents will be on sale for a non-refundable fee of R500.00 **from the 27TH of July 2021**, at the Cashier's Office, Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality, Lower Ground, 1st Kastania Street, Burgersfort, from 08H30 to 15H00 during week-days or can be **downloaded for free from the e-tender portal or Municipal website**.
- All bids will be closed and opened in public on the date of closing at **12H00** and must be fully priced, signed and sealed in an envelope appropriately marked the name of the bid proposing-for and must be deposited into the Municipal Tender Box at the Reception of the **Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality, 1 Kastania Street, Burgersfort or stand no 1 Ga-Nkwana Mashung**. No late, faxed, e-mailed, telephonic or electronically submitted bids will be accepted for consideration.
- The municipality has no obligation to appoint the lowest bidder or any bidder and reserves the right to appoint bidders individually and /or collectively to execute the contract and negotiate further conditions and requirements with the successful bidder.
- In terms of the National Treasury's Regulation, no bid will be accepted from the persons in the service of the state** and bidders failing to comply with the requirements of the bid document shall be submitting non-responsive bids. The bid validity period from the closing date remains 90 working days.
- Due to Covid-19 pandemics there will be no briefing session in line with the measures set in place by the employer to fight against the pandemic.
- Enquiries relating to the Bidding Procedure should be directed to Mr. L Makgopa at 013 231 1000/1222 or email to lmakgopa@tubatse.gov.za and technical enquiries should be directed to the relevant officials as indicated above.

NB: PLEASE NOTE THAT A BIDDER WILL ONLY BE LIMITED TO BEING AWARDED ONE TENDER (ONE CLUSTER PER BIDDER) FOR PROVISION OF SECURITY.



Limpopo MEC for education Polly Boshielo.

Covid jobs for teachers

LIMPOPO- More than 30 000 Limpopo teachers were vaccinated during the past weekend. The Limpopo Department of Education has been allocated doses of the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 single dose vaccine for the current vaccination phase for staff in the education sector as announced by the Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga.

The Provincial Department of Health targeted the past weekend for vaccination of the first batch of 38 400 doses. The total number of those who were vaccinated over the weekend is 30 314.

All employees in the basic education sector were eligible to get a vaccine of the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

Those who were vaccinated included staff at schools, as well as circuit, district, and provincial levels.

"We had teachers appointed by the Department, teachers appointed by School Governing Bodies, teachers in the independent school sector, administrative and support staff, non-teaching staff appointed by the Department (drivers, cleaners, janitors, security guards, etc.) and all hostel staff appointed by the Departmental," revealed departmental spokesperson Tidimalo Chuene.

Scheduling of where and when staff members presented themselves for vaccination was done through district and circuit offices of the Department of Education.

"The current vaccination drive excluded any person that contracted Covid-19 in the past 30 days, was vaccinated for Covid-19 using another vaccine or vaccinated for flu in the past 14 days. All persons not covered in the current batch, will be catered for in the next phase," added Tidimalo

Chuene.

Limpopo MEC for Education, Polly Boshielo expressed satisfaction on the roll out plans for the province.

"It must ring true to all of us that until all of us are safe; nobody is safe from the Covid-19 virus. The third wave is upon us. These are difficult and unsettling times and Covid-19 pandemic is clearly impacting negatively on our personal and professional lives and on those that we love so dearly"

She added, "Vaccination is voluntary; however, all staff are encouraged to take the vaccine to ensure normalisation of the sector. Together we can beat the third wave and ultimately the Covid-19 pandemic. Please, let us continue to adhere to all the health and safety protocols," said MEC Polly Boshielo.

Boshielo received her vaccination on Friday at Polokwane Hospital.

PUBLIC NOTICE ERRANTUM

A Public Notice is hereby published in terms of Section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (No 25 of 1999) for the proposed construction of a bulk water supply pipes at Ga-Mogashoa Village, Makhudumataga, Sekhukhune District Municipality in Limpopo Province (Lat: 24°48'17.50"S Long: 29°59'24.60"E)

This erratum seeks to correct the project scope and the jurisdiction was misrepresented in the Sekhukhune times of 15 July 2021. Therefore, this version must be ready together with the outpost of the 15th of July 2021

NOTICE OF 2021 NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SUBDIVIDE LAND

Nna, Phathutshedzo Mashamba, wa compani PM Land Development Consultants, ke dumeletswe ke mong wa lebala gore ke tsebese ka Section 65 of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Land Use Management By-Law, 2018, e balwa mmogo le Seripa sa Bobedi sa karolwana ya bobedi le dikgwetho tše dingwe tše bohlokwa tsa "Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013" gore application yago divide lebala kage le amogetswe ke ba Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality.

Ditokomane tša malebana le kgopelo dika lekolwa ka nako ya maleba ya mošomo dikantorong tša Hlogo ya Kgoro ya Tšhomišano ya Mmušo, Magoši le Mengwako, Executive Manager Planning and LED Department, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, Mashung, Stand Number 1 Ga-Nkwana, go lekana nako e ekabago matšatši a masome pedi seswai go tloga ka la di 23 July 2021

Dikganešho goba ditaešho tše dingwe le tše dingwe mabapi le kgopelo ye di ka dirwa ka go ngwalwa go Hlogo ya Kgoro go aterese yaka godimo goba tša romelwa atereseng ya Executive Manager: Town Planning at the above address or at P.O Box 206, Burgersfort, 1150, go lekana nako e ekabago matšatši a masome pedi seswai go tloga ka la di 23 July 2021

ANNEXURE

Description of land:	A Part of the Remainder of the Farm Waterkop 113-KT
Subdivision and size:	Proposed Portion 1 ± 10, 0000ha Remainder ± 2061,3085ha Total 2071, 3085ha
Location of the land:	The application site is located at the intersection of the R37 (to Polokwane) and D4134 road (to Penge).
Address of authorised agent:	PM Land Development Consultants, 5 Winterberg Estate, 51 Vlothenburg Street, Equestria, 0184, Tel: (067) 146 9832, Electronic Mail: phathumashamba@gmail.com
Dates of publication:	23 July 2021 and 30 July 2021.



FETAKGOMO TUBATSE
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: Scam Job advertisement

Please be aware that there is a fake advert in the social media about recruitment of personnel by the Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality. That advert is a scam as the Municipality is not currently recruiting for such mentioned positions. We use our website, local and national newspapers for recruitment. Please take note of this scam and do not be a victim as those scammers are extorting money as form of securing a job.

If you come across such an advert please ignore it or if someone calls you pretending to be a Municipal official report the incident at the nearest Police station.

Be vigilant at all times and do not fall to such a scam

Issued by

Communications Unit

013 231 1000/1187/1143

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Phala NW

Municipal Manager



B Dee Roots hopes to work with top djs.

Schoonord musical producer's future brightens

The "Roots" in his stage name is an inspiration of where Katlego was born and bred.

This solo multi-artist was always intrigued by the entertainment industry from a younger age. He was a dancer at the age of 10, only to get an interest in music in his teenage stage.

"In late 2012, I had an opportunity to sit one-on-one with one of the Middleburg successful musical natives, Nicholas Mboweni known as Cuebur. He taught me the ins and outs of the digital production software "FL studio", he said.

Although B.Deer Roots has released a satisfying number of extended plays (EP), he says marketing has always been his greatest challenge within the music industry. However, he is amazed by the things he has achieved so far.

"Rejection is redirection. This quote inspires me to never give up on whatever may seem like a failed attempt at something I believe in. It simply means to me that every time I meet what looks like a failure, I should keep the faith up and change my direction," said B.Deer Roots.

He is also a founder of a company called BeTheRoots services and Agency. They specialise in Transportation, logistics, Property, Mobile cleaning as well as Entertainment. Furthermore, he also launched a YouTube channel by SLR TV LIVE where he hosts talent shows along with conducting interviews with local artists.

D.Bee Roots seems himself working with the likes of Da Capo, Simmy, Chymamusi, Judy Jay, Cuebur and Cubique Dj.

SCHOONORD

By: Palesa Makanyane
A 26-year-old producer reaches the sky by following his dreams with a guide of his roots. Katlego Makau who is best known as B.Deer Roots is making waves with the pure sounds he produces himself.

SASSA beneficiaries resumed getting money at pay points



SASSA resumed to make payments at pay point.



SEKHUKHUNE
The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) in Limpopo said payment at pay points resumed on July 20th. This comes after the agency had issued a statement last week informing its clients that they will be no payment at pay points due to ongoing unrests that happened last week.

As a result, provincial SASSA spokesperson, Zwanda Kutama advised beneficiaries to use alternatives means to access their money such as Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) and Merchant stores within their areas. Kutama said beneficiaries can now get their SASSA payments at all pay points until July 27th.

MARULA PLATINUM (PTY) LIMITED
INTERNAL/EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT
JOB TITLE: FIXED TERM CONTRACT
TECHNICAL TRAINER – C5 (MINING)

DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 20 July 2021

CLOSING DATE: 29 July 2021

1. **PURPOSE OF THE JOB:** To provide Skills Development initiatives and continuously improve competency of our workforce in order to satisfy business needs and meet safety & legal requirements
2. **DEPARTMENT AND LOCATION:** HRD
3. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:**
 - Grade 12 / Standard 10 (NQF Level 4) / N3 is essential
 - ETD/ HRD Qualification / Certificate relevant to role on NQF level 4 an added advantage
 - Blasting Certificate is essential
 - Minimum of 5 years' experience as a Production Supervisor is essential
 - Minimum of 5 years' experience in the HRD field is essential
 - Mine Overseer certificate of competency will be an added advantage.
 - Assessor and Moderator 's qualification will be an added advantage
 - Computer literacy (MS Office Package) is essential
 - A valid medical Certificate or be medically fit in order to obtain such a certificate
4. **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**
The successful candidate will be responsible for:
 - Managing the daily workings of a underground training centre
 - Managing the assessment and moderation processes
 - Managing of Mining Shift Supervisors training programme
 - Planning, budgeting and managing of underground training section
 - Maintaining quality of training and quality management systems.
 - Record keeping and document control.
 - To interpret, record and report minerals processing data obtained from visual inspections and complete reports and log sheets.
 - To monitor operational data and proactively take action to prevent process deviations.
 - To contribute to team goals, achievements and efficiencies by adhering to agreed working methods.
5. **APPLICATIONS (CV, COPIES OF QUALIFICATIONS AND ID) CAN BE EMAILED TO**
marula.recruitment-C@implats.co.za

6. **IMPORTANT:** Your manager must indicate, in writing, that he/she is aware of your application (This applies to Implats employees and contractors)
7. SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES MAY BE SUBJECTED TO PSYCHOMETRIC ASSESSMENTS - MARULA PLATINUM LTD RESERVES THE RIGHT NOT TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.
8. IN THE EVENT THAT YOU DO NOT HEAR FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATIONS, YOUR APPLICATION CAN BE VIEWED AS UNSUCCESSFUL.
9. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO EMPLOYEES FROM THE DESIGNATED GROUPS IN LINE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ACT, THE COMPANY'S RECRUITMENT POLICY AND EMPLOYMENT EQUITY PLAN.
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SEKHUKHUNE UNITED SIGNS TWO EXPERIENCED DEFENDERS



Ryan De Jongh.



Nicholus Lukhubeni has signed for Babina noko.

BURGERSFORT

With preparations for the new season in full swing, Sekhukhune United FC have announced the latest additions to strengthen the squad.

Babina Noko have announced the signings of Ryan De Jongh and Nicholus Lukhubeni.

De Jongh (31) from Westbury joins the Club from Bloemfontein Celtic FC. A model professional who plays both central midfield and right back had been with FC AK, Platinum Stars and Maritzburg United. Right-back lukhubeni (25) whose is the second professional footballer from Kraaipan in the North West

joins the team from Mamelodi Sundowns.

The defender was promoted to the Sundowns senior team from the club's feeder side M Tigers, which campaigned in the third tier in 2019

Before joining M Tigers in 2016, Lukhubeni had a brief spell with Highlands Park Old Eds, Balfour Alexandra FC and Godis-anang FC, among others at amateur level.

De Jongh joins Sekhukhune on a permanent deal while Lukhubeni, who spent last season on loan at Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila (now known as Marumo Gallants after changing their name), is on a season-long loan deal from Sundowns.

We need to investing in the water solutions of today and tomorrow

OPINION PIECE

BY KHULEKANI NGCOBO

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves and the vaccination campaigns ramp up, strengthening water security is essential for preventing and combatting future pandemics. Measures to suppress the Covid-19 pandemic, including hand-washing, self-isolating and lockdowns assume that societies, communities and households have sustainable access to acceptable amounts of adequate quality water. However, across provinces in our country, water insecurity is increasing, with the poorest and most vulnerable particularly at risk.

COVID-19 has profoundly changed our lives, causing tremendous human suffering and challenging the most basic foundations of societal well-being. Beyond the immediate impacts on health, jobs and incomes, the epidemic is increasing people's anxiety and worry, affecting their social relations, their trust in other people and in institutions, their personal security and sense of belonging.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has not only disrupted the social and economic realities of our communities, but also undermined some of the basic needs we depend on. Our

water infrastructure has been at the heart of this realization; its importance to health, hygiene, and safety has never been more obvious, yet millions of disadvantaged and vulnerable households still lack reliable and affordable access to water. Meanwhile, climate change has fueled extreme droughts, fires, and floods that have disrupted or destroyed this essential infrastructure. COVID-19 has exposed the continued neglect of our water infrastructure, magnifying long-standing social and environmental stressors as well as economic inequities.

Meanwhile, we know that our government is responsible for our water needs, and we recognise the gravity of its challenges, despite facing massive fiscal constraints due to COVID-19. But government leaders have not shown the same urgency. As they debates recovery strategies and stimulus efforts, water should be a bigger part of the conversation. Water can serve as a lever to achieve greater economic equity and access, environmental resilience, and technological innovation, among other benefits. Now is the time for government to elevate water as a core issue to drive a lasting recovery.

We need to investing in the water solutions of today and

tomorrow. Our 21st century water infrastructure must address our 21st century environmental, economic, and health challenges.

Firstly, there needs to be a transition to a hybrid infrastructure model that promotes a combination of gray/green and centralized/decentralized infrastructure improvements. Rather than supporting large, centralized treatment facilities and other traditional "gray" infrastructure (which can be costly to maintain and susceptible to climate risks), Our leaders need to look toward nature, floodplains, and other "green" infrastructure for more flexibility and environmental resilience. Doing so can help us recover and reuse every drop of water in our system, create operational redundancies through more distributed systems, and lead to many other environmental and community benefits. We can promote these new designs through new financial incentives and pathways—including loans, grants, and tax credits—that encourage local experimentation.

Secondly, we need to embrace the digital transition in our water systems. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our standard operating procedures and highlighted the importance of digital solutions, including "advanced

metering infrastructure" and leak-detection analytics that help utilities prevent resource loss and maintain affordable, dependable service.

According to UN estimates, nearly two billion people will struggle to make a living in countries or regions affected by water scarcity by 2025. Little wonder then that water management and access to water resources have become an enormous issue, affecting social and political relations across the world. The challenge will only grow, which could lead to global conflicts and instability.

Hence, the right of access to clean water has a specific impact on the right to health. It is, therefore, crucial that access to water should come with responsibilities for those who enjoy it. For instance, an obligation should be placed on everyone to refrain from using water without thinking about those who do not have access to the life-giving resource. A feeling of repugnance should be engendered against those that are demanding the right to access water while failing to take responsibility for using water with care and continuing to pollute a vast number of water sources.

In a semi-arid country where some communities go without water, the extent to which we value it should serve

as a barometer to gauge not only the government's commitment to provide water, but also the public's obligation to use it with the utmost respect. So dire is the impact of the lack of access to water on communities that it not only impairs the dignity of their people, but also leaves them exposed to all sorts of hardships associated with the lack of the resource. Communities that do not enjoy the right to a proper water supply stand little or no chance of being protected from diseases such as Covid-19.

Water is vital for growth and development. Therefore, access to water should come with responsibilities for those who enjoy it.



Khulekani Ngcobo is a Senior Communicator at the Department of Water and Sanitation.