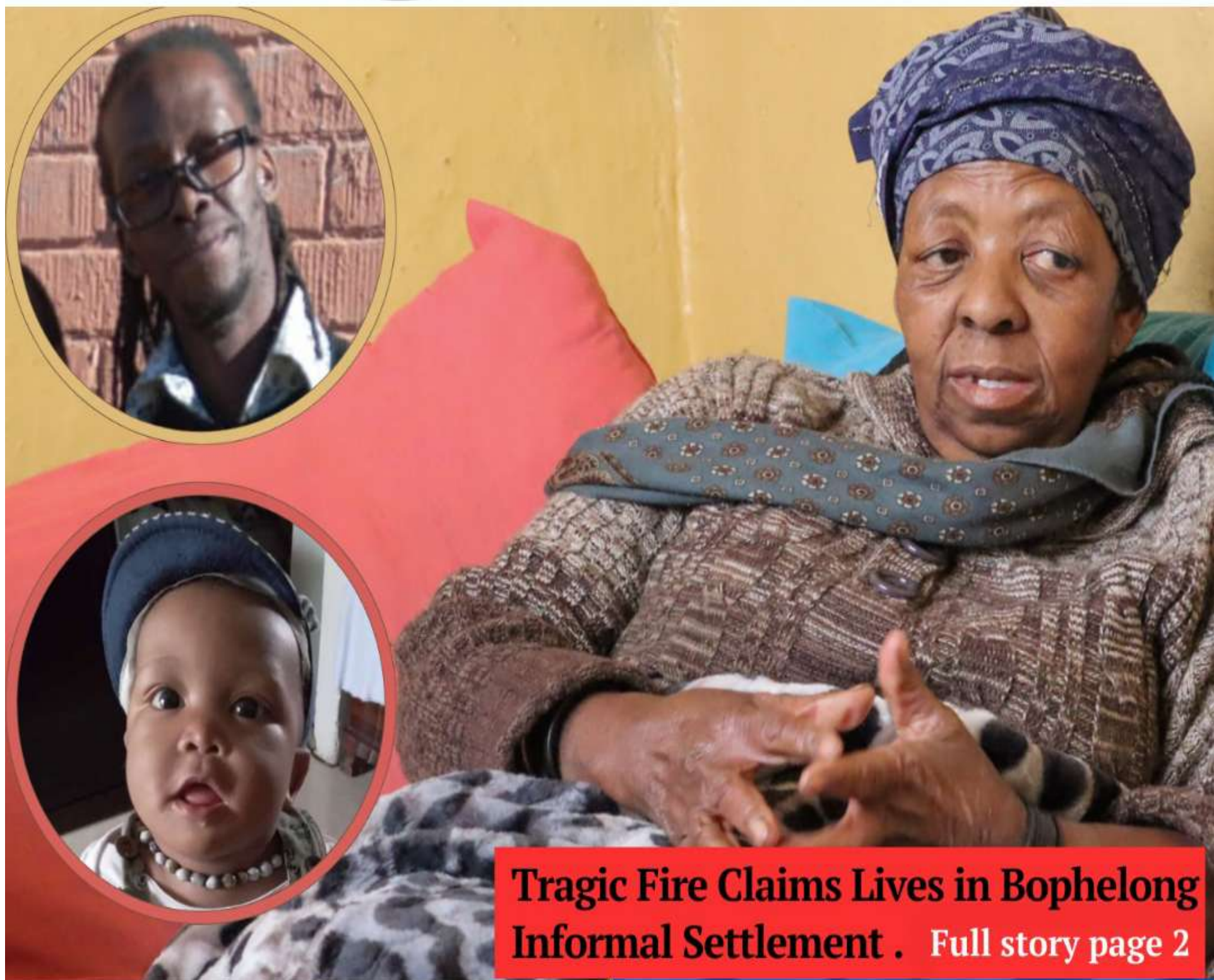


# REA GAZETTE

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The Sedibeng Food Festival is bringing excitement and exclusivity to the Sedibeng region!

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# TRAGIC FIRE CLAIMS LIVES IN BOPHELONG INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

**By REA GAZETTE Reporter**  
Early hours of Sunday morning, July 28th, a devastating fire broke out in the informal settlement on Dube Street, known as Staleng, in Bophelong. The fire tragically claimed the life of Lehlohonolo Joseph (Ntabeni) Litlakanyana, 38, who was reported dead at the scene. His wife and two children were admitted to the hospital with severe injuries. Tragically, one of the children succumbed to their injuries the following day. The mother and the other child remain in critical condition in the hospital.

Eunice Litlakanyana, Ntabeni's 60-year-old mother, recounted the harrowing experience: "I received a call around 2 am telling me that my son was burning inside his shack. I was terrified and went to my sister's place for support. Upon arrival, I saw the shack engulfed in fearful flames. I started looking for my son and his family. I saw his wife and my two grandchildren inside an ambulance. When I asked where my son was,

people who were assisting in fighting the fire responded with sad and painful voices, saying he was still inside. After the fire was extinguished, we waited until 6 am for the forensic team. They arrived and confirmed that my son was burned beyond recognition. While still dealing with the loss of my son, we received the news on Monday that my 1-year-old grandson had succumbed to his injuries. This left me and my family in shock. As a mother, losing people I care about in this way is too painful. His wife and 7-year-old daughter are still in the hospital." Eyewitnesses described the scene as unforgettable. "The fire was so huge that we couldn't enter to save Ntabeni; it was like it was chasing us away," one witness said. Ntabeni's mother described him as a good person who had a fondness for alcohol. According to Vanderbijlpark Police Spokesperson Sergeant Sabelo Sigcu, a case docket of inquest has been opened. The cause of the fire is currently unknown, as investigations are still ongoing.



## Multi-Car Crash on Mandela Road, Bophelong Claims Life

**By REA GAZETTE Reporter**  
On the early morning of Saturday, July 6, a severe accident occurred in Ext 15, Mandela Road, near Majie's Place. The crash involved four cars and resulted in one fatality. The vehicles involved were a silver Toyota Tazz,


a silver Chery Tiggo, a red Ford Focus, and a white VW Polo. The deceased was later identified as 33-year-old Pakiso Chobeka, famously known as Tolatola, who was in the back seat of the silver Toyota Tazz. According to eyewitnesses, paramedics had to cut the car to extricate Pakiso, who was unfortunately declared dead at the scene. Nkosana Mofokeng, the driver of the white VW Polo, recounted, "I was coming from Ext 14 to drop off my friend and heading to my place in Ext 15. As I was about to pass Majie's Place, I saw a car coming in my direction at high speed. I tried to flick my lights to warn other motorists, but everything happened so fast. The next thing I saw was a car rolling towards me, hitting my car, and I passed out. I woke up to the sounds of my friend trying to pull me out of the car."

A friend of Nkosana, who preferred to remain anonymous, said, "I was standing next to the fence when I saw Nkosana's car flicking its lights. I thought he was calling me, but just as I was about to approach his car, I heard a loud noise and saw cars flying. One went straight into my friend's car. It all happened in seconds. Once I realized what was happening, I rushed to rescue my friend."

Rea Gazette visited the family of Pakiso "Tolatola" Chobeka and spoke to Charlotte Mjanqeka, 25, Pakiso's partner, with whom he had two children, and Nthabiseng Chobeka, Pakiso's sister. Charlotte recounted, "The last time I saw him was on Friday when he left with his friend to buy a few drinks. Later, "I called him, but his phone was answered by his friend, saying they were coming. I decided to sleep. Around 2 AM, I heard a knock on my door from a neighbor telling me Pakiso was involved in a car accident. I requested to take a jacket and ID so we could take him to the hospital, but they insisted I leave everything and just take a blanket. When we arrived at the scene, they told me Pakiso was no more. I saw him lying on the ground covered. I immediately called his mother. Honestly, this has left a huge void in our lives, especially when our youngest keeps asking when daddy is coming back home."

Nthabiseng Chobeka added, "Pakiso is the only son in our family. My mother is not taking this well. My brother was a people person and a healer, and some of the people he helped are still coming to this day."

According to Vanderbijlpark Police Spokesperson Sergeant Sabelo Sigcu, the driver of the silver Chery Tiggo was suspected to be under the influence of alcohol. He was taken to Kopanong Hospital for blood tests and later detained on charges of drunken driving and culpable homicide. The investigation is ongoing.




## Public Notice

### SMART METERING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETINGS

The Smart Meter program is one of the interventions that Electricity Department is embarking on to reduce electricity distribution losses; safeguard the network against overloading; roll out the TID program as well as to comply with the conditions of Treasury Debt Relief program.

The programme will unfold as follows:

No.	Date	Wards	Venue	Time
1.	11 July 2024	6, 7, 23 & 25	Bophelong Hall	16h00 till late
2.	16 July 2024	15, 21 & 45	Vereeniging City Hall	16h00 till late
3.	18 July 2024	4, 5, 9 & 10	Mayor's Parlour	16h00 till late
4.	23 July 2024	16	Rustervaal Community Hall	16h00 till late
5.	25 July 2024	2 & 17	Sebokeng Community Hall	16h00 till late
6.	30 July 2024	1	NG Church Three Rivers	16h00 till late



**Come One, Come All!!**  
This notice was displayed as required by Legislation

**Cllr Sibongile Soxuza**  
Speaker of Council

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## TOY GUN HEIST AT VAAL MALL: SUSPECTS ARRESTED

By REA GAZETTE Reporter

Vaal Mall – 2024-07-29: A dramatic robbery at Vaal Mall ended with the arrest of five suspects who used a toy gun to commit the crime.

The incident began when the suspects entered the jewelry store posing as ordinary customers. They then pulled out what appeared to be a firearm, pointing it at the shop workers and binding them with cable ties. The suspects took valuable jewelry and fled the scene. One worker managed to free themselves, release the others, and alert mall security.

Security personnel, along with car guards, swiftly closed all exits, and Fidelity ADT Vaal responded to the scene. The suspects were found fleeing towards the parking area. The security team and police officers worked together to apprehend all five suspects near their getaway vehicle, a red Polo. It was then discovered that the gun used in the robbery was a toy.

Eyewitnesses said, "We saw James Bond moves from Vaal Mall security and Fidelity ADT. They moved too quickly; these thieves were arrested in seconds and no one got injured."

The suspects, two males and three females, were detained and will appear in court today. According to Vanderbijlpark Police Spokesperson Sergeant Sabelo Sigcu, a business robbery case has been registered with Vanderbijlpark SAPS, and the investigation is ongoing.

All stolen jewelry and money were recovered during the arrest. Allegedly, the suspects are not from the Vaal region.



## Body of Infant found Inside Sewage Trench in Boipatong

By REA GAZETTE Reporter

BOIPATONG - The body of an infant, with the umbilical cord still attached, was discovered inside a sewage trench near Lebohang High School in Boipatong on Wednesday.

A resident, who wished to remain anonymous, described the scene: "I saw what looked like a small infant inside the trench. It appeared to have come from a broken sewage pipe. It pains me to see such things happening in our community. What if this baby was going to be our next president?"

The police were alerted by a concerned citizen who noticed a suspicious object in the trench near the Lebohang open veld. According to Sergeant Thembeke Maxambela, upon arrival, officers found evidence suggesting a recent birth had been concealed. The scene was immediately secured, and a thorough investigation was initiated. Evidence was collected, and witnesses in the vicinity were interviewed.

The police are investigating a case of concealment of Birth following the discovery. They urge anyone with information related to this incident to come forward or contact the Branch Commander, Captain Mokhotho, at 082 778 7937. Confidentiality will be maintained for informants.





### STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY ADDRESS 2024

Theme: "Mastering the art of implementation, through consolidating cooperative local government, service delivery and fiscal discipline"



Cllr Sipho Radebe, Executive Mayor

City Hall. For the complete elm soma speech please visit our website: [www.emfuleni.gov.za](http://www.emfuleni.gov.za)

We embark on a new journey, guided by a citizen-driven manifesto that prioritizes improved service delivery, economic growth, and job creation. This manifesto is our collective call to action, and we must respond with ultimate unity, determination, and a commitment to serving the people of Emfuleni better. This determination is inspired and informed by our theme for this financial year which says "Mastering the art of implementation, through consolidating cooperative local government, service delivery and fiscal discipline." The theme recognizes the 30 years of relentless government activities that has matured through lessons drawn from service delivery and refinement of policy. We no longer have time for discussions.

### OUR SOCIO-POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

Our baseline is a critical consideration for what we are dealing with. Our Integrated Development

socio-political environment in the Vaal which reflects situation in the country which is complex and is influenced by various factors. The economic and social impact on the local community of the Vaal is influenced by factors that include electricity supply shortages which is largely responsible for constrained economic activity and increased operating costs for many businesses. This limitation has an impact on business development and the introduction of more industries and new human settlements to accommodate new families. New urban design and expansion is a critical factor to accommodate the assimilation of the youth into an active economic members of a productive economy and to harness the natural growth of young families. The renewal and social stability can only be secured through adequate planning for the new generation to enter social fabric with ease under a sustainable social and economic environment.

### THE ECONOMIC REVIVAL OF THE VAAL

City Bank has invested R1.4b to kick-start the

combined SEZ anchor catalytic projects. The first phase of the Aerotropolis will inject R22b with 12 000 direct jobs created. The infrastructure Master Plans have been completed. This Vaal airport will have the capacity to carry 45 million passengers per year and 159 000 tons of cargo for the same period.

The safety features of this airport will help to secure the high value cargo of jewelry, cell phones and computers. This security system is important to avoid the estimated 40% loss of high value goods at OR Tambo airport cargo terminals. Our Aerotropolis with 6000 hectares of land space will also house an agrizone that will handle the specialized and rare global perishables and livestock facilities. True to our adopted theme, we are executing the Vaal 21 vision with less talk, but showing physical structures and job creation in real terms.

### FINANCE, THE NERVE CENTRE OF THE INSTITUTION

We adopted our budget on the 24th May 2023, five days before the general elections. Our budget is a staggering R8,6bn for the 2024-2025 financial year. The resources of the

municipality are limited, so the budget prioritizes spending on the most critical needs identified by the community. There are other regulatory assumptions and compliance issues to be considered. The National Treasury encourages municipalities to maintain tariff increases at levels that reflect an appropriate balance between the affordability to poorer households and customers while ensuring the financial sustainability of the municipality. This is an important consideration in the context of our rate of unemployment that stands at 57%.

The breakdown of tariff increase in some of our key trading services is as follows. The electricity bulk costs are projected to increase with 12.74% which is the tariff adjustment which was approved by NERSA in 2023. On Friday 28th June 2024, the North Gauteng High Court ordered that only those municipalities that have done the cost of supply studies will be entitled to a tariff increase on 01 July 2024. Emfuleni has obtained advice from NERSA about this judgment. We are comfortable that NERSA has undertaken the process that qualifies us to proceed with the implementation of the

tariff adjustment based on the studies that were conducted by NERSA on behalf of the affected municipalities.

### WATER AND SANITATION

Just to provide some highlights of some of the specific work that we have undertaken. The Three Rivers East Maribou Main was upgraded with the new sewer line with New PVC pipes were installed and refurbished pump station equipment.

In Leeuhof, we upgraded gravity sewer lines and replaced a dilapidated pumping main with a new HDPE pipe.

At the Rietspruit Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW), we upgraded chlorine dosing system, the inlet screens, the centrifugal pumps, and discharge pipeline.

### ELECTRICITY

We have recorded the following key accomplishments:

The municipality has upgraded power transformers and substations across the areas served by Emfuleni. We have also installed and replaced prepaid meters even though our targets were not achieved.

One of the most crucial task was the installation of AMR (Automated Meter Reading) for some Large Power Users (LPUs) and this remain an ongoing task. We will cover all of the LPUs working together with Eskom.

We have completed electrification projects in Tshepong and the Sebokeng (Thabong area) electrification is ongoing. The troublesome Town Sub-

Station is receiving attention. We have procured a new 30MVA transformer for the town substation and we completed its installation.

### ROADS AND STORMWATER

There are a number of accomplishments that we have registered within the existing constraints working together with the Gauteng department of Transport.

We increased road resealing and improved on maintenance of gravel roads throughout the period.

We have maintained high quality roads that famously known as the 40 refurbished roads with the help of Gauteng government, Areas within Sebokeng, Evaton, Palm Springs, Vereeniging, Three Rivers, Vanderbijlpark and many parts of Emfuleni enjoyed these interventions.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

Our waste collection will receive greater focus. The investment from GDARD which includes modern fleet must be productively utilized to improve our waste collection. We have seen countless disputes of accounts due to laxity and vandalism of tools of trade. Theft of motor vehicle parts must be an offence that result in dismissal. We must clean our area and enjoy an environment of tranquil and prosperity that is geared towards a real smart city.

We will begin the process of Waste-to-energy conversion. Instead of landfills, smart cities are exploring ways to convert waste into usable energy sources like electricity or fuel. This reduces dependence on fossil fuels

and creates a more circular economy. We will eradicate all the illegal waste sites that are mushrooming in different parts of Emfuleni. The municipality will be deploying by-law and traffic officers to monitor the illegal land fill sites.

### MAYORAL BURSARY SCHEME

I am pleased to indicate that our Mayoral Bursary Scheme continues to play pivotal role in contributing towards the education of our youth albeit in small numbers. We have sponsored a total of 24 students who are currently studying in different institutions of higher learning. We have students at at TVET colleges and Universities who are all doing well. We wish to appeal to the private sector to support this municipal initiative. We are always at pains to witness the numbers of applicants who can not be sponsored due to our budget constraints. The denial of one student is one too many for these deserving souls who are yearning to study and to contribute to the well being of our society.

### SRAC LIS

The Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture Department (SRAC Department) in Emfuleni plays a multifaceted role in enriching the lives of citizens and fostering a vibrant community.

Among the key functions that our SRALIC Division has been the promotion of the well being of the youth and the communities of Emfuleni broadly.

Sports and Recreation

programs have been largely to organize sports activities, and recreational activities for all ages and abilities.

It is impressive that the department has embarked on programs to nurture talent and potential. The Puisano Auditions & Puisano Jazz Festival were well organized. The Vaal River Carnival Programs were revived successfully in the last financial year.

### CONCLUSION

It is important to give a full account of the national and provincial government interventions in assisting Emfuleni to provide quality and sustainable services and to work towards increasing investor confidence in order to attract more investments and build economic growth that is inclusive. We wish to take this opportunity to thank COGTA and SALGA for their unwavering commitment to help Emfuleni to navigate the difficult terrain of rebuilding the institution. It has been through the careful and considered support of these institutions that we navigated through Section 139 and other specialized interventions.

The councillors of Emfuleni are forever grateful of your efforts especially to the dedicated COGTA Deputy Minister Hon Parks Tau and the officials who were allowed to spend time with us rebuilding Emfuleni.

We are consciously building a capable state with our staff members pledging to create an effective, capable, ethical and developmental municipality free of corruption, fraud and maladministration.



# PATROLLERS SECURES EXT 13 WITH EYE OF GOD CAMERAS

**By REA GAZETTE Reporter**  
Bophelong/Muvhango Ext 13 - Patroller General Tefo Mohanwe shared that the Ext 13 patrollers have decided to highlight their work and accomplishments. Mohanwe explained that all 15 patrollers are equipped with walkie-talkies, and they have installed five CCTV cameras, with a sixth one on the way. He expressed gratitude to the community of Ext 13, where each household contributes R50 monthly. From this amount, R20 goes to the patrollers and R30 funds the CCTV cameras.

Mohanwe mentioned that the cameras have significantly improved their patrolling efforts. Instead of chasing criminals around, they now use the cameras to monitor the streets.

Since the installation, there was one attempted break-in, but thanks to the cameras, they managed to respond quickly and prevent the crime. He added that the area has been very quiet for the past four months since the cameras were installed. The patrollers have been active for the past two years and six months. The initiative started with Mohanwe, who used to wake up at 3 AM to patrol the area alone. Eventually, he recruited other men, growing the group to 40 before it stabilized at 15 dedicated patrollers.

The patrollers are now seeking assistance from companies or individuals who can help provide jackets, uniforms, or any other necessary equipment to support their efforts. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated.



## Disposal of Confiscated Liquor Event

**By REA GAZETTE Reporter**  
On Friday morning, 26 July, the South African Police Services (SAPS) disposed of confiscated liquor at the Leeukuil Water Treatment in Sharpeville.

According to the Deputy District Commissioner of Sedibeng District SAPS, Brigadier Mbangwa Nkhwashu, they came to Sharpeville to destroy confiscated liquor from all 14 South African Police Stations in the district. The operational objective is to prevent and combat crime. The liquor was confiscated from liquor outlets operating illegally, some of which purchased the liquor from

unrecognized institutions that do not comply with the law. This liquor was seized in accordance with the Liquor Act of Gauteng, taken through the court process, and, once the case was finalized, the SAPS was able to dispose of it.

Brigadier Nkhwashu stated that the quantity of liquor disposed of amounted to 17,248,718 milliliters. This represents only the liquor from cases that have been finalized in court.

"We are urging the communities to work with us to enforce compliance with the Liquor Act. Let us not sell liquor without the required licenses and permits, because liquor is destroying the future of our children and, consequently, the future of our government. By confiscating and disposing of this liquor, we are promoting compliance with the law in selling liquor legally to the community," said Brigadier Nkhwashu.

The MMC of Community Safety in Sedibeng, Busang Tsotetsi, noted that the number of people trading liquor illegally far exceeds those trading legally in the district, which is unacceptable. The district is striving to ensure compliance."

We cannot have a situation where, in Evaton alone, we have over 627 liquor outlets; it is very uncalled for."

The district's role is to provide oversight and moral support to the SAPS in their efforts to fight crime. According to Tsotetsi, the main crime focus for the MMC is gender-based violence (GBV), to which alcohol is a contributing factor. School children are excessively involved with liquor, and premises allowing underage children to enter must be stopped. Underage children should not be allowed in places where alcohol is sold.



## Young Man Falls from Truck and Dies at Boipatong

**By REA GAZETTE Reporter**  
BOIPATONG - On Wednesday, July 10, 2024, a tragic incident occurred between 10:30 and 11:30 Am near Cape Gate, when a young man fell from a moving truck offloading scrap, sustaining severe injuries that led to his untimely death. The victim, identified as 34-year-old Teboho Setshedi, tragically lost his life in the accident. Witnesses in the community promptly alerted his family about the incident. Teboho's brother, Thabo Setshedi, shared insights into Teboho's life, revealing that he had been working as a steel scavenger for about a year,

despite not enjoying the work. Teboho felt compelled to find a way to feed himself amid the challenging unemployment situation. Before the COVID-19 lockdown, he had been employed by a contracted company at Cape Gate for two years, demonstrating a strong work ethic and a desire for stable employment. Thabo fondly remembered Teboho as a talkative, bubbly individual, always full of jokes. The family is deeply hurt and heartbroken by his sudden death. "We will bury my brother respectfully," Thabo added, expressing the family's grief and commitment to honoring Teboho's memory.

Boipatong police spokesperson Sergeant Thembeke Maxambela reported that police arrived promptly at the scene and initiated an investigation. Preliminary findings indicate potential negligence, leading to an investigation into culpable homicide.





2024

OUTRAGE OVER MOME'S BRUTAL MURDER CONTINUES

**By REA GAZETTE Reporter**  
Beverly Hills - Relebohile 'Mome' Mofokeng, a 19-year-old, was tragically found dead on March 2, 2024, after being brutally assaulted and tubed with a plastic bag. This horrific incident has left her family devastated and the community demanding justice.

Mpho Mofokeng, Mome's 24-year-old sister, provided a detailed account of the events leading up to Mome's untimely death. Mpho recounted that Mome had allegedly gone out for a night of fun the previous evening with other 5 pupils, 3 girls and 3 boys. They went to an outlet and had drinks, then went to one of the pupil's home afterwards. Her mom had gone to her brother's ceremony the previous day and Mpho was working night shift, so Mome was left alone with the house keys.

After a night of socializing, Mome returned home early the next morning. However, within half an hour of her return, three individuals arrived at her home, allegedly looking for R2000 that they claimed Mome had stolen.

Mpho's neighbour, who had seen Mome return home and later witnessed the arrival of the three individuals, grew suspicious when they insisted on searching the house without Mome present. He followed them to the house where Mome was found dead. According to one of the pupils, Mome had been tubed with a plastic bag. Despite the arrests of the five suspects, they were released on bail, causing significant distress to Mome's family.

Mpho expressed frustration over the ongoing investigation, particularly the delay in obtaining crucial CCTV footage from the house where Mome died.

She also raised concerns about the fairness of the bail conditions given the severity of the crime.

The pupils claim that she stole R2000 but it was not found anywhere in my house.

The family attended a court session on Friday, July 12, 2024, only to have the case postponed to August 22, as the docket was still in Pretoria.

The postponement has added to their anguish as they await a decision on whether the case will be moved to the high court. Mpho shared the profound impact this tragedy has had on their family, particularly on their mother, who is struggling to cope with the loss.

The emotional toll is exacerbated by the presence of the alleged perpetrators in their community, a constant reminder of the injustice they fee



28-YEAR-OLD MAN BRUTALLY ATTACKED IN BOPHELONG



**By REA GAZETTE Reporter**  
Bophelong -In the early hours of Monday, July 1st, 28-year-old Tsietse Sout was brutally attacked by a group of people armed with bricks and pangas in Bophelong.

Tsietse recalled the events leading up to the attack, stating,

"I went to Mzwandile's tavern in Extension 10, Bophelong, with my friends. That day, I had too much to drink, so I don't really remember what happened besides what I saw in the video and what my friends told me."

The video footage showed Tsietse being attacked while sitting down inside the tavern. Moments later, he passed out and, after regaining consciousness, attempted to leave the tavern. According to his friends, he was disoriented and took the wrong street on his way home, where he encountered the same group who attacked him again.

Tsietse's family later visited the scene and discovered bricks and pangas stained with his blood. "I recall waking up in the hospital with stitches

in lots of pain," Tsietse shared.

"My scars show that these people were trying to kill me. I have a permanent plate in my head because my skull was crushed. I have a two-year-old baby girl who nearly lost her father because of this senseless attack."

The Vanderbijlpark Police Spokesperson, Sergeant Sabelo Sigcu, confirmed that a case docket for assault with grievous bodily harm has been opened. The police are actively investigating the incident.

Zimbabwean King Marries A Lady from Vaal.

**By REA GAZETTE Reporter**  
His Majesty King Mike Mambo of Zimbabwe married Zandile Mhlambi from Sebokeng Zone 3, Vaal, this past weekend. The couple met a while ago, King Mambo's company was sponsoring musicians and Zandile was organizing. Their first meeting took place in King Mambo's offices in Orange Grove, Johannesburg. At the time, King Mambo was still a prince. King Mambo expressed that he chose Zandile because "love is love and it can be found anywhere in the world. We don't marry to impress people, but for love."

Queen Zandile, founder of KOTI Social Services, reflected on their meeting as a sign of God's grace. Initially connecting through her philanthropic work, King Mambo offered to sponsor her organization and eventually fell in love with her.

Zandile shared her surprise at the turn of events, never imagining that her efforts to provide sanitary pads to girls would lead her to royalty. She now plans to extend her mentoring work to all of Africa.

Apostle Vusimuzi Qwabe, Zandile's brother-in-law, recounted their journey, from the lobola negotiations last year to their recent white wedding. The celebrations will continue with a traditional wedding in Bulawayo on July 27th. Qwabe expressed pride in having royalty in the family and noted the significance of this event for the Emfuleni Local Municipality.

Qwabe described Queen Zandile as a prayerful and humble woman, urging the youth to avoid peer pressure and wait for the right person in God's time.

Chief Talaunda Moyo, spokesperson for the King, highlighted the historic nature of this union. He emphasized Queen Zandile's future role in Zimbabwe, particularly in peace and development, and extended an invitation to South Africans to join the upcoming celebration in Bulawayo.



Bophelong: 9-Year-Old Boy Hit by Car

**By REA GAZETTE Reporter**  
Bophelong, Saturday, 13 July — A 9-year-old boy was hit by a car while playing in Extension 12, Bophelong.

According to witnesses, the boy (name withheld by Rea Gazette to protect his identity) was sitting near a fence where his friends were playing soccer when a driver, appearing to lose control, drove straight into him.

The incident allegedly began when a woman took the car keys from her boyfriend, who was visiting her and had too much to drink. He was sleeping at a house near where the accident occurred. The girlfriend took the car keys and asked people sitting outside to help her start the car, as it seemed like the battery was dead.

Some people asked if she knew how to drive, as they hadn't seen her drive before. She insisted that she did.

After starting the car, the woman drove around with her mother and another man (boyfriend of the mother) inside before losing control and hitting the 9-year-old boy. He was initially transported to Johan Heyns Hospital and later transferred to Sebokeng Hospital due to severe head injuries.

The boy's parents, visibly distressed, said they nearly lost their son because of this incident. They demand justice, stating that his head was severely injured. Vanderbijlpark police spokesperson Sergeant Sabelo Sigcu confirmed that a case of reckless and negligent driving has been opened and that the investigation is still ongoing.

Rea Gazette will continue to follow this story and provide updates as more information becomes available.



# Launch of the Ward Committee Bi-Elections



By REA GAZETTE Reporter

Speaker of Council, Cllr Sibongile Soxuza, led the media briefing on Thursday, 01 August at Emfuleni Local Municipality in Vanderbijlpark. Soxuza shared that ward committee members' election and term of office align with the ward councillors elected in the 2021 local government elections, lasting until 2026.

The Emfuleni Local Municipality has noticed several vacant ward committee positions due to reasons such as permanent employment, relocation etc.

The purpose of this launch was to inform the Emfuleni community about these vacancies and the process to fill them. The speaker's office, responsible for community education and engagement, will oversee these bi-elections. The office is authorized by the ward committee policy adopted by the municipal council.

Bi-elections will be held in Wards 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 21, 22, 31, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 45. There will be public meetings held in the same wards. The nomination process is going to run on the following dates:

Opening on 02 August 2024 and closing on 30 August 2024. To be eligible for Ward Committee elections, candidates and voters must be registered in the ward where the election is held, present IDs and sign an attendance register, nominees be at least 18 years old or own property/business in the ward, not be employed by the municipality or other government spheres, and should not be a Community Development Worker, not be in arrears with the municipality for more than 90 days and must settle any debt with proof of arrangement, not have been convicted of a crime punishable by 12 months or more in prison and elected members can serve up to two terms only.

Public meeting venues and dates are as follows: Ward 1 - AGS Church on 12 Aug at 18h00 • Ward 2 - Community Hall on 12 Aug at 16h00 • Ward 4 - Sun Crest High School on 12 Aug at 16h00 • Ward 5 - Stonehaven on the Vaal on 14 Aug at 18h00 • Ward 8 - George Shops on 12 Aug at 16h00 • Ward 10 - Mayor's Poulor on 19 Aug at 17h00 • Ward 16 - Ruster Vaal Community Hall on 19 Aug at 17h00 • Ward 21 - BOB Ground on 12 Aug at 16h00 • Ward 22 - Bona Lesedi Creche Tshepiso on 14 Aug at 16h00 • Ward 31 - Saul Tsotetsi on 12 Aug at 16h00 • Ward 39 - Ground next to Setlabocha on 14 Aug at 16h00

• Ward 40 - Itsebeng Primary School on 14 Aug at 16h00 • Ward 41 - Zone three stadium on 19 Aug at 16h00 • Ward 42 - Mafatsane Thusong Hall on 14 Aug at 16h00 • Ward 45 - Sonlanpark Primary School on 14 Aug at 16h00

Election venues and dates are as follows:

• Ward 1 - AGS Church on 16 Sept from 18h00-19h00 • Ward 2 - Community Hall on 16 Sept from 16h00 - 19h00 • Ward 4 - Sun Crest High School on 16 Sept from 16h00 - 19h00 • Ward 5 - Stonehaven on the Vaal on 18 Sept from 18h00 - 19h00 • Ward 8 - Noorthook Primary on 18 Sept from 16h00 - 19h00 • Ward 10 - Mayor's Poulor on 18 Sept from 16h00 - 19h00 • Ward 16 - Ruster Vaal Community Hall on 22 Sept from 08h00 - 11h00 • Ward 21 - Tshepong Primary on 22 Sept from 08h00 - 11h00 • Ward 22 - Bona Lesedi Crèche Tshepiso on 22 Sept from 08h00 - 11h00 • Ward 31 - Saul Tsotetsi on 25 Sept from 16h00 - 19h00 • Ward 39 - Setlabocha Primary School on 25 Sept from 16h00 - 19h00 • Ward 40 - Itsebeng Primary School on 30 Sept from 16h00 - 19h00 • Ward 41 - Emanzini Primary School on 30 Sept from 16h00 - 19h00 • Ward 42 - Mafatsane Thusong Hall on 30 Sept from 16h00 - 19h00 • Ward 45 - Sonlanpark Primary on 01 Oct from 16h00 - 19h00

## High Density Operation Leads to Over 1,000 Arrests in Gauteng

By REA GAZETTE Reporter

EVATON –The Gauteng Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Tommy Mthombeni, spearheaded a successful High Density Operation across all districts in Gauteng, culminating in the arrest of 1,032 suspects involved in a range of serious crimes. These crimes include murder, attempted murder, rape, business robbery, drug dealing, possession of suspected stolen vehicles, assault, harboring illegal immigrants, and possession of unlicensed firearms.

The multi-disciplinary operation began on the evening of Saturday, 20 July 2024, featuring strategic roadblocks and targeted raids aimed at capturing wanted suspects. Detectives arrested 127 individuals for crimes committed against women and children. Through exceptional coordination, law enforcement officers located and arrested suspects across various parts of Gauteng, thwarting any attempts to evade justice. Lieutenant General Mthombeni personally oversaw the operation in Evaton,

District, a region plagued by violent crimes such as murder, assault, truck hijackings, and robbery.

Joining him in Evaton was Sedibeng District Commissioner Major General Nkhensani Lemba. At a roadblock, 26 suspects were apprehended for driving under the influence of alcohol, 11 were detained for being illegal immigrants, two were arrested for possession of illicit cigarettes, and seven liquor outlets operating without licenses were closed.



Gauteng Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General Tommy Mthombeni, Sedibeng District Commissioner Major General Nkhensani Lemba.



## Hashtag Rekaofela Kasie NPO Closes Mandela Month in a Heartwarming Way.

By REA GAZETTE Reporter

Bophelong, 1 August – Hashtag Rekaofela Kasie NPO concluded Mandela Month in a heartwarming way by visiting Bophelong Clinic and Khutsong Pre-School in Bophelong. Coordinated by Reabetsoe Senyolo Mkwane, along with dedicated tutors Tshepang Radebe, Florence Mtambo, and Nokuthula Longwe, the team donated crocheted hats, scarves, socks, and jerseys to approximately 150 children. This generous donation, made possible by The Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark, brought smiles to both the children and their parents. The gesture not only provided essential winter clothing but also uplifted spirits within the community. Reabetsoe Senyolo Mkwane shared, "As we close Mandela Month, we are reminded of the joy that comes from giving and supporting our community."

Reabetsoe Senyolo Mkwane shared, "As we close Mandela Month, we are reminded of the joy that comes from giving and supporting our community."



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**Mandela Day  
Celebration: Mrs SA  
Finalist Mandisa  
Phuncu Gives Back at  
Vaal Mall**

**By REA GAZETTE Reporter**  
Mandisa Phuncu, a Mrs. SA 2024 finalist originally from the Vaal and currently residing in Johannesburg, spent Mandela Day at Vaal Mall, where she helped feed approximately 6 000 people, far surpassing the initial projection of 1 000. The community received soup and bread, marking a significant act of kindness. Phuncu shared her joy in giving back to her hometown, collaborating with Vaal Mall to make a positive impact. She emphasized her desire to do something meaningful in her community, stating that it felt fulfilling to help others in her home area.



Expressing her excitement about being a Mrs. SA finalist, Phuncu revealed that she has been aspiring to enter the competition for five years.

She decided to participate this year to challenge herself and gain visibility for her brand, Amari Woman, which aims to empower women by boosting their confidence and helping them find their inner strength. Throughout the Mrs. SA journey,

finalists are encouraged to collaborate with brands through a sponsorship model.

Phuncu explained that an R35,000 sponsorship can be divided into four parts, with each part costing R8,625. Sponsors benefit from visibility and marketing through the Mrs. SA platform, including logo displays and mentions at events. Phuncu has already secured one sponsor and is seeking more collaborations to support her journey.

She invites potential sponsors to join her cause and become part of the Mrs. SA initiative. The Mrs. SA finals will take place in November. During this period, Phuncu and other finalists will engage in various events and seek votes to advance in the competition. To vote for Mandisa Phuncu, SMS "Mandisa Phuncu" to 47587 and follow her journey on social media.

**The Sedibeng Food Festival is bringing excitement and exclusivity to the Sedibeng region!**

**By REA GAZETTE Reporter**  
They've kicked off with Harvest Table and a Spitbraai in Boipatong and will be showcasing the 9EightEight Marquee at George Thabe Stadium in Sharpeville on Saturday, 10 August from 10AM - 10PM.

The activation event, which included a dynamic media launch held at 9EightEight Carwash & Shisanyama on Saturday, July 27th was buzzing with energy. Attendees were thrilled, the host chef was ready to dazzle, the team was geared up, and partners were enthusiastic. With just two weeks until the big day, the anticipation is building.

Have you purchased your ticket yet? If not, there's still time to join in the fun.

Tickets are available at Checkers, Pick n Pay, Shoprite, Boxer, Computicket and President Hyper.

Don't miss out on this vibrant  
culinary celebration!





3RD ANNUAL DUKU DUKU SUPER 16 SOCCER TOURNAMENT  
KASI DISKI MAKOYA



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTIONS 21 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS ACT, ACT NO. 32 OF 2000, AS AMENDED AND OTHER RELEVANT LEGISLATIONS

APPROVAL OF THE FINAL 2024/2025 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP) INCLUDING THE FINAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET, FINAL TARIFFS, LEVIES, POLICIES, BY-LAWS,

NOTICE is hereby given that the Emfuleni Local Municipality, during a Council Meeting held on Friday 24 May 2024 under Item A5033,5034 and 5035 approved the final IDP, the final operating and capital budget, final tariffs and levies, and policies and by-Laws to come into effect on 01 July 2024. In terms of the provisions of the Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003 and the Municipal Systems Act, Act No 32 of 2000, the proposed tariffs and levies adjustments are as follows:

1.

Assessment Rates – 4.9%;
2.

Water – 5.9%;
3.

Sewer – 4.9%;
4.

Electricity Tariffs – 10.74%; (Tariffs are subject to approval by NERSA);
5.

Refuse Removal – 4.9; and
6.

All other tariffs – 4.9%.

Further information on the Final IDP, Final operating and capital budget, Final tariffs, levies, policies and by-laws can be obtained from the Chief Financial Officer (Budget Office) On this emails [aluwani@emfuleni.gov.za](mailto:aluwani@emfuleni.gov.za) (Aluwani Makwarela), [shmokgethi@emfuleni.gov.za](mailto:shmokgethi@emfuleni.gov.za) (Sekgodhi Hendrick Mckgethi) and the Integrated Development Plan from the IDP office at [sibongile@emfuleni.gov.za](mailto:sibongile@emfuleni.gov.za) (Sibongile Mnguni).The information is available at the main office (Cnr. Frikkie Meyer Boulevard and Klasie Havenga Street, Vanderbijlpark during normal working hours, 08h00 to 16h15) and on the website of the municipality ([www.emfuleni.gov.za](http://www.emfuleni.gov.za)).

The Office of the Municipal Manager  
P O Box 3  
Vanderbijlpark  
1900

APRIL NTULI  
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

This notice was displayed as required by Legislation



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