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LIMPOPO GUIDE

Your Ultimate Guide.

ISSUE 03 JULY-SEPT 2021
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HIKING SPOTS
SPRING INTO HEALTH

HIKING TIPS

PLACES TO STAY

TOURISM MONTH LAUNCH

IMAGE COURTESY OF THABO LENS
PICTURED AT BAKONE MALAPA MUSEUM

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I begin this letter on a joyful note, proud to share the news of our team member scooping an award for Limpopo Guide. Miss Kgabo Legodi recently scooped an Unsung Heroes award by Sunday World for the amazing work that she is doing as a journalist. Read more about this award and her journey on page 22.

In this edition, we feature some of the accommodations in the province that you can visit for leisure in the different district municipalities. The spring season is here, which means we can play outdoors! We have shared some great hiking tips for you as well as a few ideas to keep healthy during this warm season.

Happy reading!

Vinolia Mitteldorf

EDITOR

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PLACES TO STAY



BOSVELD LAPA

ADDRESS: N1, TWEEFONTEIN, POLOKWANE, 0699

Bosveld Lapa is ideal for leisure travel and hosting corporate and social events. The property has 50 rooms and a conference hall that accommodates 150 – 200 people.

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- Conference rooms
- Kitchen
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- TV
- Bar fridge

CONTACT DETAILS:

Email: nyathelephyllis@gmail.com

Phone: 082 806 8270 / 072 931 2770



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ADDRESS: 362 SUID STREET, POLOKWANE 0700

GPS COORDINATES: 23°55'04.0"S 29°29'06.8"E

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Website: www.lapologbnb.co.za

Email: admin@lapologaplk.co.za / info@lapologabnb.co.za

Phone: 087 808 0432 / 072 581 4911



LAPOLOGA BED & BREAKFAST - PHALABORWA

ADDRESS:

9 PARK STREET, PHALABORWA, 1390

GPS COORDINATES: 23°57'21.7"S 31°08'45.7"E

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- Air conditioning
- Comfortable couches
- Flat-screen TV with a selection of DStv channels
- The kitchen is fully equipped for self-catering, offering a stove, fridge, microwave oven, toaster, kettle, cutlery and crockery.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Website: www.lapologbnb.co.za

Email: info@lapologabnb.co.za

Phone: 015 781 0455



LAPOLOGA BED & BREAKFAST - TZANEEN

ADDRESS: 27 JOHN SMITH STREET, AQUA PARK, TZANEEN 0850

GPS COORDINATES: 23°48'44.0"S 30°09'27.0"E

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- Air conditioning
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CONTACT DETAILS:

Website: www.lapologbnb.co.za

Email: info@lapologabnb.co.za

Phone: 015 306 0154



VIEWPOINT CABINS

ADDRESS: R71, CABIN 4, 0730 HAENERTSBURG.

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- Microwave
- Shower
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Website: www.viewpointcabins.co.za

Email: admin@inspiredbymoya.co.za

Phone: 083 271 7311



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CONTACT DETAILS:

Website: www.houseofsollys.com

Email: info@houseofsollys.com

Phone: 061 511 8994



MATHENDELE BUSH LODGE

ADDRESS: KORTDRAAI, MOPANE, MUSINA 0900

GPS COORDINATES: 22.6286° S, 29.7201° E

The lodge offers luxury, tranquillity and is ideal for a romantic getaway.

AMENITIES:

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- Free Wi-Fi
- TV
- Free parking
- Braai Facilities
- Recreational activities
- Bush dining options
- Spa Tub
- Travel size complimentary toiletries

CONTACT DETAILS:

Email: enquiries@mathendelebushlodge.com/rendani@mathendelebushlodge.com

Phone: 065 715 0550 Calls /082 647 0561 WhatsApp



JAAGBAAN LODGE

ADDRESS:

R101 JAAGBAAN PLOT 36, MOKOPANE, 0600

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- Restaurant
- Spa
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- Camping facilities
- Photo-shoot facilities
- Braai area
- Fast & Free Wi-Fi
- Top view

CONTACT DETAILS:

Website: www.jaagbaanlodge.co.za

Email: info@jaagbaanlodge.co.za / george@malumash.co.za

Phone: 015 297 1488 / 3676

083 256 4547



MATORI LODGE

ADDRESS: 13 GUINEA FOWL STREET, KORO CREEK GOLF ESTATE, MODIMOLLE, 0510

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- Pool & Jacuzzi
- Games room

CONTACT DETAILS:

Website: www.matorilodge.com

Email: booking@matorilodge.com

Phone: 072 376 5217



MOKOPANE HOTEL

ADDRESS: 66 RUITER ROAD, MOKOPANE, 0601

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AMENITIES:

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- Swimming pool
- Rooftop chill area
- V Slot machines
- Spa
- Nail Bar

CONTACT DETAILS:

Website: www.mokopanehotel.co.za

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HIKING TIPS

TIPS ON HOW TO BEST PREPARE FOR A DAY HIKE FOR BEGINNERS

By Bajabulile Shabangu

Hiking is simply taking a walk in nature. It has so many benefits that are physical, but also psychological. It is the best way to get an entire family to keep fit and improve their livelihoods but also just spend the best free therapy time together. Hiking is good for the soul. Often you find yourself wanting to take part in such an adventure but don't know where to start? Here are the best three tips that work amazingly for beginners. They shape your mental expectations and also guarantee you a successful day hiking experience.



TIP 1. HOW TO PACK FOR YOUR DAY HIKE

Water is very critical. Instead of carrying bottles of water and spending extra money buying water, you could always invest in a hydration bladder. It will save you money for the longest time. What is a hydration bladder or hydration bag? It is a drinking bag that can come in a backpack and contains a reservoir made of rubber that contains a mouthpiece. They come in 2litres or 3litres. You can decide how much is good for you. They can also come in a small bag or alone. If it is in a bag, you can use that as a carrying backpack for all your essentials. But I find it very small to be able to carry all the things that I need.

Alternatively, you can get a 40litres hiking backpack that allows a hydration bladder pack to be placed inside. Normally, you'll find a hole on top already designed for the pipe to go through. You have the water situation sorted. No need to be carrying around a lot of bottles taking up your space. It is also best to get a backpack that doesn't hurt your shoulders. The hiking bags usually have this extra cushion cloth to help with comfort and absorb sweat.

So what should be in your backpack?

- Hydration bladder for water: Place it in the refrigerator the night before the hike, especially in summer.
- Energy snacks: What I pack for nutritional snacks and meals are outdoor meals from Forever Fresh. Here's a plug, use this code JABUS10 or a discount.
- First aid kit: Anything can happen while you're out there. diarrhea, headache, insect bites, muscle cramps and so on. Carry a little first aid kit and include sanitary towels. Be ready for anything.
- In summer, you must prepare for rain. A raincoat or windbreaker, nothing heavy. Just roll it and place it in your bag
- A towel or face cloth. Anything you can use for excessive sweating.
- A plastic bag. When it rains, you can place all your belongings and tie them up nicely, place them inside the backpack and keep walking and your phone and items will be protected.

TIP 2. HOW TO DEAL WITH FRUSTRATIONS ALONG THE TRAIL

We've all experienced some frustration along the trail; and we wish we could know how to deal with them so we can go on about our fun adventure, right? Below are a few but obvious frustrations that as a beginner you might have to deal with:

- Running out of water

Well, I hate running out of water especially on trails where you can't drink the water from the water source. I normally just carry those 200ml juice containers just in case I run out

of water, I know I can have something to drink that contains vitamins to help me push through. To avoid this completely, carry more than 2litres or 3litres for a day hike. Get a hydration bladder so you don't have to worry about carrying too many bottles.

- Wearing uncomfortable shoes and socks

It may happen to you that you've got new hiking shoes, great but you've paired them with the wrong type of socks. Too thin and the boots start scratching your foot! Ouch. That will be uncomfortable throughout. If you have first aid and this happens to you, rather take one of the pressure wounds bandages and place it where it hurts. Or you find yourself wearing tight shoes (exact size) and your toes are dying in the front? To avoid this, when you buy shoes, buy one size bigger and ask for the correct socks to go along with the shoes. Comfort is very important in achieving a very exciting hike with fewer frustrations.

- Getting lost

Well, I always say getting lost is when the real adventure begins and the brain starts working but for some people, this can be really frustrating and ruin a good hike. We also tend to blame the farm owners (rightfully so) because they could try harder to mark their trails better. Anyways, when this happens, try to go back to the last visible marking you saw and navigate from there. If it is completely helpless, use google maps and see where you are and how you can navigate back to camp. If there's no network, do not try to continue in the same direction, rather you turn back and use the same route to go back.

To avoid this, make sure you have a map with you. If there's no map, make sure you have someone who can easily navigate and find markings when they have disappeared. Also, make sure you understand what markings you are meant to follow for the trail that you want to trek. Lastly, always ask the farmer for possible escapes and ask them "Is your trail well marked?" Don't be scared to ask.

- Muscle cramps

This is not fun and very painful during a hike. I have experienced this through people, once at Zongororo in Mpumalanga and again at Kings Kloof in Gauteng. Always have deep heat with you, it works wonders. It can happen to anybody. I am not completely sure if you can totally avoid this, but do stretches to warm up your body before a trail. Don't forget to cool down also.

TIP 3. HOW TO RECOVER QUICKER FROM A HIKE

I know you've had the best fun but those muscles are screaming at you. So here is the secret: to recover quicker from the hike, you have to start preparing for the hike beforehand! Seriously, you have to stretch and warm up your body before the hike. It is very important. If you don't exercise regularly, a week before the set date of the day hike, start walking around 3km to 5km. Start stretching and do a little cardio for your lungs. Wear proper gear: proper hiking shoes with good socks.



What you can do after a hectic hike is the following:

- Do some stretches and cool down, then later on (could be the same evening or the next day), go for a swim, go cycling, or take a walk. The point is to get the blood circulating.
- Soak in a bathtub with some recovery bath salts. Get the ones that actually work.
- Get someone to give you a nice massage or foot rub. If there's nobody; well then do it yourself. Use muscle recovery ointments.
- Rehydrate, rehydrate, rehydrate. Normally after the hike when I get home, I drink another 2litres of water and I feel so much better.
- Someone told me about 'compression socks' and that they work really well for them. The socks help you with blood circulation.
- Recovery food! If you eat food that helps with muscle recovery, you are not going to have any big problems. Food must be rich in protein and carbohydrates such as eggs, nuts, bananas, sweet potatoes, salmon, watermelon, spinach (I blend it), and drink some good green tea. I am sure the list goes on.

HIKING SPOTS



LEKGALAMEETSE NATURE RESERVE

BY KGABO LEGODI

Bounding the Wolkberg Wilderness, Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve is an attractive mountain reserve sporting sparkling clear rivers and waterfalls and natural pools.

FUN FACT: Although you will need a 4x4 to drive around this reserve, as there are no predators, you can also explore Lekgalameetse on foot. The most colourful of butterflies, natural beauty, lush kloofs, indigenous forests and the plentiful birdlife make it a much-loved spot for both hiking and bird-watching. During late summers and early Autumn, visitors to Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve are often enthralled by the variety and number of butterflies that they encounter here, and if you are particularly lucky you might get to see a Narina Trogon.

DIRECTIONS: From Tzaneen, take the R36 to Lydenberg. Some 60kms from the town turn right onto the road signposted Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve. After 4kms turn right again onto the dirt road signposted Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve. The entrance is at the end of this road.

THINGS TO DO: Nearby is the Wolkberg Wilderness Mountain Reserve, also excellent for birding and hiking. You will need a 4x4 to drive around this mountain nature reserve. You can, however, also explore the reserve on foot. Visit Timbavati and the largest palm nursery in the country in nearby Trichardsdal.

DOORNDRAAI DAM NATURE RESERVE

The reserve is a popular fishing destination with crystal clear dam water which offers largemouth bass, kurper, carp and barbel. For birders, there are over 300 species of birds and twenty-three species of raptor that have been recorded in the reserve. Look out for Osprey, the resident African fish eagle, Martial eagle, Verreauxs' eagle and Tawny eagle. Many waders, herons, ducks and Common whimbrel can be seen on the open shoreline.

Water activities on the dam include boating, skiing, parasailing, windsurfing and canoeing. Beautiful wild olive trees are scattered throughout the reserve and popular hiking trails weave their way through the grassland, bushveld and woodlands. Visitors are accommodated in four camping sites.

FUN FACT: The 7,000-ha Doorndraai Dam Nature reserve lies on the Sterk River in the scenic foothills of the Waterberg Range in Limpopo. Found between Mokopane (formerly Potgietersrus) in the north and Mookgophong (formerly Naboomspruit) in the south, Doorndraai boasts a wide variety of woodland habitats such as acacia, hillside broad-leaved woodland and riverine woodland.

THINGS TO DO: Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve offers game, birding, fishing, hiking and water sports – all the better for the cool breezes that offset the summer heat.

DIRECTIONS: From the R101 between Mokopane and Mookgophong turn towards Sterkrivier/Doorndraai. After 17km, turn left onto a gravel road towards Doorndraai, after 5km on the left is the first gate. The main gate/office is another kilometre into the reserve.

Pictures supplied by Golden Age Adventures: "We use Adventure activities to work on intra- and interpersonal skills to unlock the potential, to enhance growth within individuals and to promote teamwork.

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97 Thabo Mbeki Street, Fauna Park,
Polokwane, Limpopo Province



Captured at Bakone Malapa Museum.

Photo courtesy of Thabo Lens

SPRING INTO HEALTH

It's springtime! As the weather warms up people usually feel better and have more energy. It is a great time to get up and go outside to enjoy what spring has to offer. Flowers and trees are in bloom, birds are singing, and kids are outside playing. Join in the fun. Here are a few ideas for you to enjoy during the coming spring and summer while keeping health in mind:

- Try a new vegetable
- Track the miles you have walked
- Walk on a trail
- Plant a garden
- Spend less time in front of a TV and other electronic screens
- Try yoga
- Drink more water and less sweetened beverages
- Try a new healthy recipe
- Be physically active for 30 minutes most days of the week
- Try a new fruit
- Do yard work
- Eat breakfast
- Walk with family

PLACES TO EAT



PROVIAND

ADDRESS: 80 COMPENSATIE STREET, POLOKWANE

A quaint, old-worldly restaurant serving flavour-packed, rustic meals in a beautiful garden setting. They have a big selection of craft drinks and host monthly special events, paint & wine sessions, and pottery & gin nights. Always something exciting going on!

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WED, FRI: 7H30-21H00 (OR LATER)

SAT: 8H00-14H00

CONTACT NUMBER:

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SERVICE:

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THE COOK KING

ADDRESS: 31 GROBLER STREET, POLOKWANE

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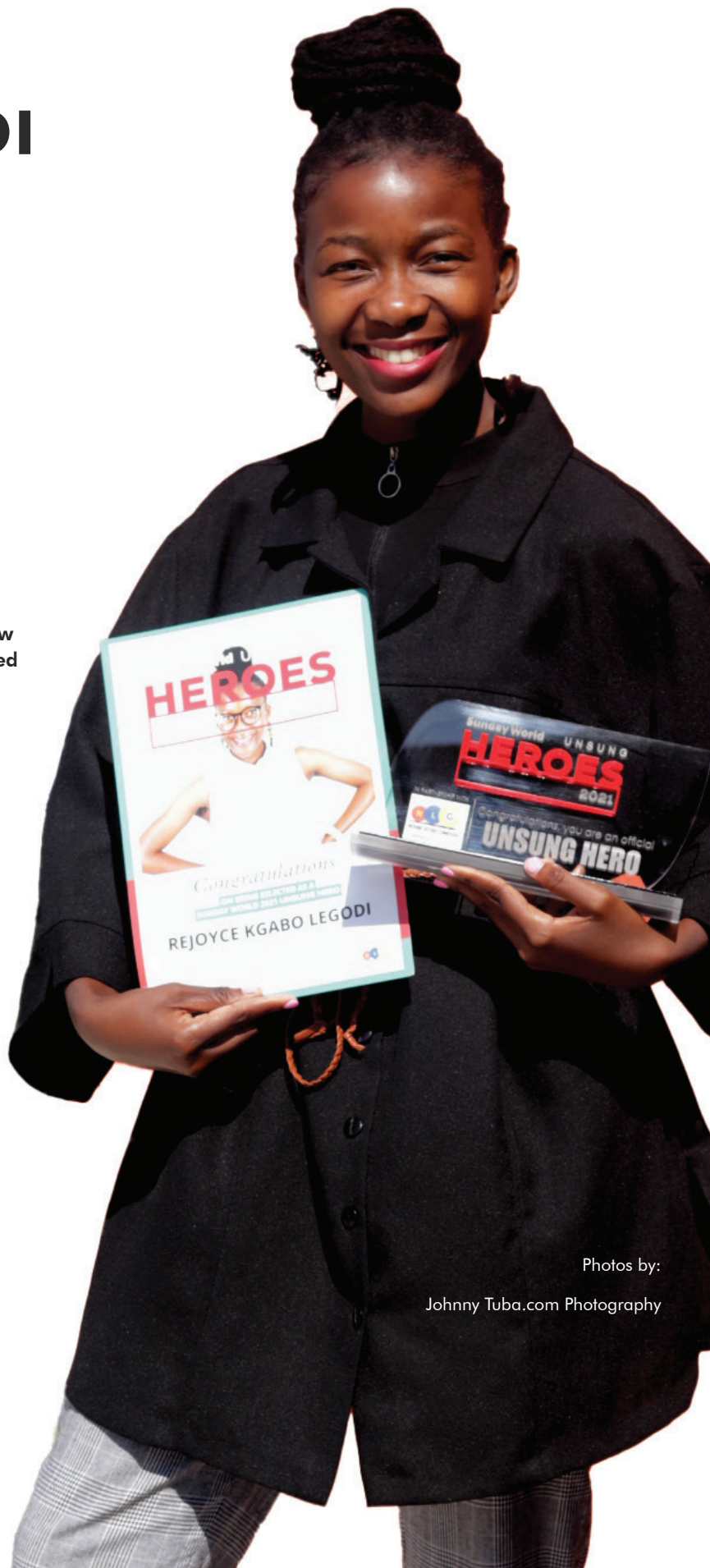
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Q&A WITH KGABO LEGODI

THROUGH LIMPOPO GUIDE I HAVE
FOUND MY TRUE NORTH!

BY VINOLIA MITTELDORF

“Limpopo Guide found me when I needed to be found, it has been a few months of adventure and it has been nothing short of amazing”, says Kgabo Legodi, a multi-award-winning journalist and a new addition to the Limpopo Guide team. We interviewed her for a Q&A and this is what she had to say.



Photos by:
Johnny Tuba.com Photography

- **How did your love for journalism begin and why did you choose this career path?**

“My love for journalism grew fonder when I got an opportunity from ACTIVATE change drivers’ network to attend the Writers Master class together with a few activators from South Africa which took place in Johannesburg in 2019. I have always jotted a few opinion pieces but always felt I’m blabbering and going in circles, but that masterclass proved to me that I am capable and if I want this writing career wholeheartedly, I should go for it. At the time Limpopo Guide approached me, I was enrolled with Sinelizwi Citizen Journalism (under food for Mzansi), this online learning platform was a great learning curve and it was insightful and much engaging! I have a great passion for writing and more than anything, I have always wanted to improve my writing skills and impact lives through storytelling.

- **How has Limpopo Guide impacted your life over the months/ after joining the publication?**

“Honestly speaking I have grown, I have found my true North, I remember so vividly, my first gig was to interview the hitmaker (Jerusalem) Master KG, tell you what (giggles), It was an online interview but I felt I had made it to the top already, immediately after that interview I knew I was a writer and I knew I needed no validation! And for that I will forever be grateful to the publication editor Mrs. Vinolia Mitteldorf, she gave me a chance and me being me, I ran with it.”

- **Scooping prestigious awards within months, what does this mean for you?**

“These WINS mean so much, I am super excited for our Media House, and more other wins that are coming our way, because I know they are coming (Wink). When my name was called out and I was announced top performer in Limpopo during the Sinelizwi Citizen Journalism graduation, I became teary and was in disbelief but confidently tapped myself on the shoulder and said (Rockstar, you work so hard and this is well deserved)! Weeks later when I received a mail stating I was nominated as one of the Sunday World Unsung Heroes, I jumped with lots of excitement and to top it all, during the Sunday World Unsung Heroes inaugural event when my name was mentioned as one of the award recipients, I felt butterflies in my stomach; deep down I whispered to myself: these accolades are for Limpopo Guide Media House. For me it means as a publication, we are young, growing and constantly impacting lives, introducing young people to hidden spots in Limpopo and making Travel and Leisure fun also acknowledging and making business owners appreciated and vouching for their beautiful work daily, It is more than keeping people in the loop of things to do, but also introducing people to beautiful destinations and impacting lives.

The Sunday World editor Wally Mbhele describes the awards as “a fitting tribute to the many young men and women across the country who are not afraid to dream and act – even when the odds are stacked against them.”

“Here are young men and women who consider it an honour and privilege to be truly tested by the grinding challenges of their generation. Like a defiant and triumphant generation of June 16, 1976, these Unsung Heroes constantly provoke and stir our conscience with their determination and fortitude to overcome our problems.”- Wally Mbhele

The inaugural Sunday World Unsung Heroes Awards have drawn nominations from across South Africa. From those who lead inspirational projects and forward-thinking organisations to those who go about their work tirelessly to brighten each day for others. Young people between 18 and 35 who are championing a better tomorrow.

They innovate for change. They are leaders in sport, arts & culture, education, business, community, and government. All of them have one thing in common: an inspiring vision to make South Africa a better place for all.

"It has been an absolute honour and I feel immensely blessed to be recognised and celebrated for the work I put out there and it is now evident that when I feel nobody is really watching, that's when the universe recognises and there are masses and masses that are watching, and hard work really pays," says Kgabo Legodi.

The Award Ceremony was held at the Houghton Hotel In Johannesburg.

The Sunday World talks about Kgabo Legodi as a Journalist and Community Activist, a young selfless leader empowering new talent so they could find their way in the STEM Education, Leadership, Farming and business. Kgabo represented South Africa at the 5th Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp held in Bangkok Thailand in 2019, and was one of the organisers of the 6th edition of the Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp that was held in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia also in 2019. She was honoured with Token of love accolades from the GEB Initiative and the Massachusetts Institute of technology. She innovates for change and she is a leader, this nomination under the category COMMUNITY HEROES best defines her, she is fearless and advocates for change.

"Communication and Education have always been my form of empowerment, Journalism has always been my goal, I love being in the forefront and as a journalist, I am always available to jump in on occasions and pen down inspirational stories and meaningful content to keep societies informed and in the know. I have found beauty in writing and empowering men and women through stories. I believe there is a lot of difference we are making out there, especially for those who use other people's stories to navigate their ways in life.", concluded Kgabo Legodi.





Captured at The Irish House Museum.

Photo courtesy of Thabo Lens



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LIMPOPO TOURISM LEKGOTLA 2021: ADVANCING TOURISM GROWTH THROUGH INVESTMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

BY KGABO LEGODI

Limpopo government hosted the Limpopo Tourism Lekgotla with prestigious organisations and industries such as LEDET, LTA, Treasury Premier's office, SA Tourism and many others.

MEC of Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Thabo Andrew Mokone (pictured below), graced us with his presence and in his opening, he said "every year in August we celebrate women's month, we are pleased to celebrate and launch Lekgotla in this month wherein we commemorate this important day and month under the theme 'The year of Charlotte Maxeke: Realising Women's Rights', in celebration of the 150th birthday anniversary of Mme Charlotte Makgomo Manna Maxeke." his address on the first day of the Limpopo Tourism Lekgotla, MEC said the aim of hosting the Provincial Tourism Lekgotla is to re-evaluate the value of our tourism sector and put in place effective measures to strategically reposition our tourism sector to remain fully operational within the Covid19 era and as part of our recovery plan.

MEC Thabo Mokone added: "We further aim to facilitate easy access through effective and efficient infrastructure, airlift, connectivity, as well as increase domestic tourism trips for the benefit of domestic travellers. In these two days of the conference, we bring together investors and delegates from local, national and international business communities on the same platform paving the way for nurturing and supporting industrialization in Limpopo and making a substantial contribution to our plans." MEC of LEDET added that the Limpopo Investment Conference will allow stakeholders to reflect on the province's key economic sectors namely: mining, agriculture, and tourism.

On behalf of the Office of the Premier of Limpopo Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, MEC of Treasury Seaparo Sekwati did the honours of sharing the Premier's opening and he said: "It is an African tradition that when we are summoned for Lekgotla, which is usually attended by society and community delegates where significant issues are discussed, in this regard we are

overjoyed to step into Limpopo Tourism Lekgotla, that will develop our province and we believe this Lekgotla will address issues/ challenges the Limpopo tourism is facing, premier of Limpopo added; we ought to come up with solutions to propel our tourism sector to greater heights. It is without a doubt that the break of Covid 19 has affected the tourism sector greatly and the Premier also advised that "We must all go out there and get our jobs; by so doing, we also need to be honest and robust in addressing these challenges we are currently facing, the results and honesty in addressing these issues must come from all of us.

"The tourism sector is of great significance and potential to South Africa and is one of the key sectors of economic growth. The outbreak of coronavirus was also unfriendly to SA Tourism, said the acting CEO of SA Tourism, Sthembile Dlamini. She further went on to say: "SA Tourism will continue to expand digital transactions and tourism in its resilience and has the ability to rebound quickly, because it is people-based and its pick up is dependent on all of us as citizens, we need to do more to obtain top space again".



Under the covid 19 recovery Initiatives to support Tourism Growth, Mr. Tshifhiwa Tshivengwa of Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA) reported as one of the panelists live at the Lekgotla: "There has been devastation in the tourism industry, livelihoods have changed and people have lost jobs", to add on the effects the covid19 had on the tourism sector, since this Lekgotla is bound to formulate solutions and recovery initiatives to uplift and develop the tourism industry in Limpopo, he mentioned the compliance saga between the Polokwane Airport and Interlink airways." The fact that we have an inoperative airport building, just an erected building is embarrassing, we should come up with strategies to improve and make it operational again, also think of business ideas that can be implemented to keep the place afloat".

We are still in women's month and the Lekgotla panel was graced enough with the presence of Mme Grace Sibara of Women In Tourism Limpopo and also Mrs. Bestina Rakgoale of SAVITA (South African Township and Village Tourism Association), under the state of the community and rural tourism development initiatives both Women In Tourism Limpopo and SATAVITO both shared the challenges they face within the tourism industry.

Mme Grace Sibara " We believe this Lekgotla will address and come up with solutions onboard for challenges we are facing within the tourism industry" Mme Grace added ' We also believe that through Tourism, the rural tourism community development will be accelerated. Women in the tourism industry are mostly looked down on and deemed incompetent, we are faced with challenges with access to funding and market, capacity building, coaching and mentorship", she concluded.

Mrs. Bestina Rakgoale from SATAVITO (South African Township and Village Tourism Association) said: "Covid 19 caught us by surprise, there is literally no business, township and rural business is not moving" she further added that "we cannot wait to get back at your feet, we need to develop our villages into smart cities through tourism", she concluded.

While driving the Lekgotla panel, unpacking the tourism infrastructure funding and Investment support initiatives, Mr. Kenneth Hlela of NDT in his virtual insightful presentation, said "tourism creates jobs: In tourism and related businesses, in the primary sector e.g Agriculture, in the secondary sector e.g manufacturing as well as the service sector outside the tourism industry", he concluded.

In wrapping up Lekgotla, MEC Thabo Andrew Mokone added the following remarks: "more work will be done, we are looking at SADC countries and Limpopo Tourism to explore capabilities and he also made a mention that government has money for the people and doors are always open to those who know".

We got an opportunity to interview the chairperson of Limpopo Tourism Agency, Mr. Andrew Dipela (pictured above) when asked about his takings from this year's Lekgotla, this is what he has to say: "Out of all Lekgotla conferences we have had in the country, this was a different one, we were able to practically make decisions, we were able to put deadlines on when decisions will be achieved, but also what was beautiful was



the presence of industries both in person and also on digital platforms, we are still going to work harder to make sure that we implement most of these programmes, also the decisions that have been taken here at Lekgotla will be shared with the industry so that they can track us on the decisions that have been made, he further gave thanks to members of the industry who have made it in person and those that showed up online, "This Lekgotla wouldn't have been a success without your presence and efforts", he concluded.



TOURISM MONTH LAUNCH

BY KGABO LEGODI



Tourism Month is celebrated annually in September to highlight South Africa's diverse tourism offerings as well as the sector's significant contribution to the country's economy. Inspired by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), World Tourism Day celebrations on 27 September, tourism month provides a platform for the South African sector to celebrate, reflect and commemorate its milestones in relation to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Limpopo Tourism Agency launched the tourism month coupled with a tour-themed (Tourism for Inclusive Growth). The Limpopo Guide team was honoured to be invited to the four-day tour which consisted of visits to tribal councils in Ga-Sekhukhune. Sekhukhune is one of the 5 districts of Limpopo province. The majority of its 1,076,840 inhabitants speak Sepedi. This district is named after the natural region of Sekhukhuniland.

It would be unjust to visit Ga-Sekhukhune and not learn about the history of Kgoshi Mampuru (11) and Kgoshi Sekhukhune (1). The headman of Mamone (Kingdom of Thulare Mampuru) welcomed us warmly and introduced us to the late King Mampuru's statue and the origin.

The late King Mampuru II (died 22 November 1883) was a king of the Pedi people in Southern Africa. Mampuru was the son of the elder brother of Sekwati and claimed he had been designated as his successor. (Pictured below)



Tšate Heritage site holds one of the historical stories of Sekhukhune. The provincial heritage site portrays the natural and cultural history of the region, the rise and fall of the Pedi Empire, living culture and the fascinating natural and geological environment in the surroundings of the site. King Sekwati and his son King Sekhukhune had the vision and leadership skills to unite a large number of vulnerable communities into the formidable Pedi Empire of the eighteenth century. Tšate Provincial Heritage site tells an amazing history of the king. "The valley provided safety and was backed by the Leolo Mountains to the south, the hills of Mosega and Modimolle guarding the entrance to the north, with Ntswaneng as a bastion in the centre", explained Daniel Maepa, Guide of Tšate Provincial Heritage site.

Few kilometres away from the provincial heritage site lies the Museum Of Man, in addition to opening Echo Caves to the public in 1924, AJ Claasen, owner of the land on which the caves are situated, started the nearby Museum of Man, an open-air display of archaeological and palaeontological exhibits.

The museum is situated in a cave that dates way back when it was first inhabited by the bushmen and then by the Bapedi group and then in the mid 1800's by the Voortrekkers.

The Voortrekkers evidently hid their wives and children in the cave from marauding tribes in the area. Excavations carried out in the cave which started in the early 1960s clearly indicate the various times that the cave was inhabited by the three groups. We interviewed the former museum guide, Jeffery Nkuna, who is now passing the knowledge down to the next generation. This is what he had to say: "The Museum has been operating for decades, there are developments every year.

He further went on to say, "for each and every object in the museum there is research underway that is being conducted by universities, once and when results are made or submitted, they take out old objects and put in arising ones to attract more tourists and this aids us a lot on how their origin came about (that is the most interesting thing about museums). In conclusion, we must have in mind that history consists of a whole lot of research, findings help to avoid presenting false content", he concluded.



We also got to meet the Setšong tea founders during the tour. Setšong (Promised Land) is the place to visit this tourism month. Setšong is made up of indigenous tea products, harvested within the rural areas of Limpopo. Through tea harvesting, Setšong aims to develop the economy, establish and create jobs within the rural areas of South Africa. The tea has been consumed for over five decades by generations, which results in a great deal of heritage and history being associated with this tea. Setšong takes immense pride in their quality as each leaf is lovingly hand-picked and processed with care. With each brew, you are contributing towards socio-economic sustainability. Co-founder of Setšong tea says “Tia tree originates from Tia Indigenous trees of Sekhukhune, they grow under the ground and this tea is derived from medicinal plants which helps with abdominal cavity, male performance also other related illnesses, Setšong is referred to as the promised land, and has adopted a nearby creche, many people’s lives are getting impacted daily and more jobs were created” says Retang Phaahla.

We also caught up with the MEC of LEDET, Honourable Thabo Mokone who shared the following sentiments: “Sekhukhune has a lot of culture and history, looking at fighters in history, this keeps taking Limpopo to greater heights and development initiatives, this is an effort to make sure that we grow local tourism, and when asked if the tourism industry is bouncing back since the covid19 outbreak, this is what he had to say; “This is an effort to make sure indeed we have local tourism, South Africans must start touring and knowing their own places, remember Africans, in general, were never tourists because most of the time they were coming here to work and now is the time, and when the time has arrived no-one can stop it, we have so much to offer, cultural activities involved and many more”. He further added, “these beautiful destinations must work for us, that is why we aim to work tirelessly in exposing the hidden gems of Limpopo and promote more to enjoy in Limpopo.

In conclusion of the launch Cllr. Stanley Ramaila - Sekhukhune thanked the MEC for awarding the district a sum of R35M, he says Sekhukhune district’s infrastructure will improve and more projects will be implemented to create jobs and alleviate unemployment.



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