

# The Reporter

19-26 September 2025

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## Go hweditšwe go lahlilwe setopo sa ngwana wa Lesea motseng wa Kotsiri



### Ka Lerato Charity Mampa

**B**abudi ba motse wa Schonoord, Kotsiri kgauswi le Jane Furse bare ba tšhošitšwe ke tirago ya go garola matswalo ka letšatši la lesometshela kgwedi ya Lewedi ngwaga wa 2025. Mowe go hweditšwego setopo sa lesea seo go belaelwago gore seka ba le dikgwedi tše tshelago go iša go tše šupa. Go ya ka dipego setopo seo se wetše ke bana ba sekolo mesong geba be ba eya sekolong Ke ge batla kopana le tiragalo yeo ya go tšhabiša dinamana tša mmele. Badudi ba Kotsiri bare tiragalo yeo e tloga e tšhoša kannete ebile e ješa dihlolong kage go ipotšišwa gore motho yowe a dirilego dipšišamare mare tšeo ke mang ebile o ikwa bjang mowe a lego gona. Maphodisa le ba ditirelo tša Forensic ba ile ba bitšwa ka ponyo

ya leihlo gotla go hlatsetša seo ba se bonago le go hwetša thušo gore goka dirwa eng.

Go fihla ga bjale badudi gaba tsebe gore ke mang a dirilego bošula bjowe. Go belaelwa gore motho wa mosadi o ntšhitše mpa gomme a lahla setopo sa lesea leo tseleng. Ga go hlake gabotse ge eba nakong yeo a lahla lesea leo le be le buša moya goba bjang.

Wendy Masha e lego o mongwe wa badudi ba Kotsiri o re o tloga a tšhošitšwe ke tiragalo yeo ya go tšhabiša dinamana tša mmele, o re kage e le mosadi o palelwa ke go kwišiša tiragalo yeo. Wendy o tšwetše pele ka gore ke nako ya gore basadi ba ithate ebile ba rate le bana bona." Sa go nyamiša ke gore gona le basadi ba ba ntši ka montle bao ba nyakago masea efela ka mabaka ao a itšego ba palelwa ke goba le bona. Go ena le

gore motho a lahle ngwana go kaone a fane ka yena, Wendy a realo.

Seboleledi sa kgoro ya tlhabollo ya leago, Joshua Kwapa o re e le ba kgoro ba tshwela mare taba ya go lahlwa ga masea."Re hlohleletša basadi gore ge eba gaba ikemišetša goba le lesea goba gona go godiša ngwana ka morago ga go lemoga gore ba mmeleng, go kaone ba ikopanye le badirela leago gomme bona batla bona gore baka thuša bjang. Gomme ge e le bana bao sekolo bao ba gahlanego le tiragelo yeo o re kgoro ya thuto ena le badirela leago bao baka fago bana bao ba sekolo khanseling ka seo base bonego. A tlaleletša gape ka gore badirela leago ba phela bale komana madula a bapile.

Morwangwato Hlakudi e lego Ngaka ya setšo o re batho bao ba

ntšhago dimpa gaba fapane felo le bao ba bolayago batho, melato ya bona ka sedimong e ya swana. Ka gona motho yeo a ntšhago mpa o aparela ke leswiswi la lehu la goba mmolai. Ka gona o hloka mephaso le dipheko tša go tloša leswiswi la lehu le go bolaya motho. Ngaka Hlakudi o tšwetše pele ka gore ge motho a ntšha mpa a tsebe gore o bea le bana bao a tlogo go ba ima kotsing ka ge ba tla golela ka gare ga popelo yeo e tšhilafetšego tshilafaditshilafadi!" Motho yoo a ntšhitšego mpa o kotsi setšhabeng ka tsela ye: banna bao ba ka robalago le yena ba ka kgoma tšhila yeo gomme ba thoma go babja goba go gwahlafala go ya lehung." Ngaka Hlakudi a ruma ka go realo mokgwa e le ge a efa maele le thutophahlošo.



**Ka: Karabo Makao**

A photograph of the exterior of the High Court of South Africa, Limpopo Division. The building has a blue tiled facade. A red spiral sculpture is mounted on the wall. The South African coat of arms is visible. The text "HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA" and "LIMPOPO DIVISION" is displayed on the wall.

**ME • D<sup>8</sup>** *media*  
Defining Publicity.



# U.S. Withdrawal from Phalaborwa Threatens Africa's Chance of Breaking China's Rare Earth Supply Dominance

By: Jackson Okata

Article originally published in Pan African Visions website.

The South Africa and the US have much to gain From working together, President Ramaphosa has said. When Donald Trump returned to the White House on January 20, 2025, as U.S. President, it was clear that he would live up to his campaign promise of putting America first. He started by issuing and signing executive orders, some of which shocked the world. There was no doubt that most African countries would suffer the consequences of Trump's actions, like aid freezes and increased trade tariffs. South Africa, in particular, has been among the African nations targeted by Trump's actions. On February 7, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order suspending all U.S. assistance to South Africa over alleged land expropriation policies. According to stakeholders, the move may impact capital investment projects, including the Phalaborwa rare earth project. Back in December 2023, the US, through its International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), announced a \$50 million investment in the Phalaborwa project.

**Taming China Control**  
The US investments in the Phalaborwa rare earth venture were meant to diversify supply chains away from China. According to the US Geological Survey, China mines 70% of global rare earth concentrates and controls 91% of refined rare earth minerals output. Joseph Hwata, a consultant geologist, argues that by withdrawing from Phalaborwa, the US has backtracked on its quest to break the Chinese dominance and control of the rare earth supply chains. "The freezing of funding is not just the loss of capital but a reputational hit for Washington because this was a project with international credibility", said Hwata. According to TechMet South Africa, the project encountered delays in permitting, inconsistencies in policy interpretation, and at times overlapping mandates between national and provincial regulators. These challenges affect timelines and project costs. A 2024 interim economic assessment by Rainbow Rare Earths estimated Phalaborwa's annual production capacity at 1,900 tonnes of magnet rare earth oxides. Michael Hart, a Johannesburg-



based mining analyst, describes the Limpopo-based rare earth project as "the single most advanced, internationally credible rare earth venture in Southern Africa". "This is a very strategic project that is staring at death, courtesy of geopolitics. Phalaborwa has the potential of providing the globe with a reliable source of rare earth minerals, but now work has stalled and the equipment is gathering dust in Limpopo," said Hart. **Investor Scare**  
Karen Willis, a London-based resource sector fund manager, said "the abandonment of the project not only causes uncertainty but also destabilises the markets and scares away investors". "We are not only talking about job and investment losses for South Africans but also staring at huge economic setbacks directly and indirectly" said Willis. Stakeholders have warned that with the US's withdrawal as an anchor investor of the project, it will be hard to attract replacement financing owing to the high capital costs and investor insecurities. "The sudden withdrawal of the US from the project is likely to scare potential investors, particularly from Europe and Asia, who might not be keen to inherit any economic baggage being left behind by Washington",

said Andzani Ndhukwani, an exploration geologist, based in Gauteng. Ndhukwani wonders why the US would sabotage a project that would have changed the overreliance on Chinese rare earths, something it has been warning the world against. He regrets that the project "has become a casualty of foreign policy brinkmanship". "The US is missing the point. The Phalaborwa rare earth was to benefit both countries and not just South Africa," he said. On the other hand, Rainbow Rare Earths stated that while South Africa has relatively transparent procurement and permitting processes, delays in licensing and inconsistent local consultation mechanisms can impact investor confidence. But the aid freeze and broader U.S.–South Africa rift inject uncertainty. Future DFC lending or guarantees could slow, while the cuts risk raising South Africa's country-risk profile in financial markets. This could make it harder, or more expensive, for Rainbow Rare Earths and TechMet to raise the additional ~US\$317 million needed for full build-out of the Phalaborwa project.

# FAMILY LEFT STRANDED AFTER FIRE GUTTED THEIR HOME

By: Staff Reporter

Life has been difficult for the Makgareepse family in Phasha Selatole Village in Malaeneng Section after their house was gutted by fire on June 28. The family of eight comprising of father, Ntlabile Makgareepse, mother Kwena Makgareepse, their two children and four grandchildren are now forced to share a garage which was the only section to be saved from the blaze. They have lost all their belongings when the inferno ravaged the fully furnished eight-roomed house which gave them comfort and restored their dignity. Ntlabile, in his early 50s and his wife, Kwena, in her late 40s, are unemployed and rely on piece jobs to make ends meet. According to residents, attempts were made to put out the raging

fire but less could be saved as it was too strong. The residents said they called Ntlabile when he attended a community matter when the fire started to alert him of the incident. All the family members were not at home when the blaze engulfed the house. The only help the family has received since the ordeal was a small bed from the neighbours and some items they could utilise to go through their daily lives. Phonia Phasha, Ntlabile's cousin, said the family remains in shock after the incident and they need serious intervention. Phasha said the torment has started affecting the parents mentally as they have lost everything that they have worked hard for over the years. "My cousin Ntlabile worked



Caption: Ntlabile Makgareepse showing the remains of his eight-roomed house after it was damaged by a fire in June.

hard at the local mine to ensure a proper roof over the heads of his family members. This calamity has affected him badly. No one in the family is employed and they cannot afford to fix the house and replace the furnisher. We are appealing to members of the public who can help to come forward. At this stage every

contribution will go a long way," expressed Phasha. Anyone willing to help the family out of their misery can contact Phasha on 077 288 3466. She shared that they have made several efforts to get the family help but their attempts bore no fruits.



# Mosamaria wa Kgaugetelo o ile a neela ka dijo.

**Ka: Karabo Makao**

**M**oetapele wa mokgatlo wa SANCO, Morena David Mokoena, o ile a dira letšatši la moswananoši ka go ema le barutwana le barutiši ba sekolo sa St Thomas moo ba abetšego malapa a go lekana a lesomehlano (15) diphuthelwana tša dijo motseng wa Praktiseer.

Diphuthelwana tše di be di akaretša bupi bja 12,5kg, swikiri ya 10kg, dinawa, dihlapu tše di bolokilwego ka gare ga dihlapibolekana gammogo le tše dingwe tše di ka go thuša malapa ao go phela matšatši a mmalwa ntle le tlalelo. Badudi ba be ba tlile ka makatanamane go tla go ikhweletša dijo, gomme seo se bontšhitše gore go na le tlhaelelo ye kgolo mo setšhabeng. Hlogo ya sekolo sa St Thomas, Morena

Matthew, o boletše ka boikgantšho gore sekolo sa gagwe se tla tšwelapele ka go bontšha lerato le boikgafo bja go thuša bao ba hlokago. “Maikemišetšo a rena ke go thuša batho bao ba hlokago ka ge malapa a sa lekane. Re thomile lesolo le mengwaga ye mene ye e fetilego gomme re tla tšwelapele, ka gobane re na le toro ya go fihlelela badudi ba metsemabapi. Go fa dijo ga se fela ga bjale, eupša ke sešupo sa gore setšhaba se swanetše go ema mmogo.” Mokgatlo wa SANCO o itswalantše le sekolo se ka go ikgafa le go bontšha gore mmogo re ka fenywa tlala.” David Mokoena o lebogile ka gore :“Re leboga kudu boetapele bja St Thomas ka ge ba bontšhitše lerato la makgonthe la go thuša setšhaba. Se se re bontšha gore rena

batho re swanetše go ema mmogo ka mehla, gomme re se le bale bao ba sa kgonego go ikhola. Go ema gotee ke sona se se tlogo aga bokamoso bjo bobotse sa go lwantšha le go fetša tlala.” Badudi ba bangwe ba ile ba bolela ba thabile gore dijo tše di tla thuša kudu malapeng le magaeng a bona. Ba bangwe ba boletše gore ditiragalo tše bjalo di fa setšhaba tshepo ya gore go sa na le batho ba ba nago le pelo ya go thuša. Tiragalo ye e bontšhitše setšhaba sa Praktiseer gore ditiro tša go fa dijo ga se fela ka lebaka la go nyaka seriti, eupša ke karolo ya go aga setšhaba se se nago le tekatekano, khutšo le lerato. Segagabomotho se re :” Go fa ke go fega.” Seatla go segofatšwa seo se fago.



Mongwadi ke Klaas Ntobeng

## Reporter

## Poetry

# Bohwa ke lehumo

Afrika Borwa, naga ya khutšo le lehumo  
Dithokgwa, melala le melapo di ikadile  
Dinoka, methopo le diphôrôrô meetse ke letloputlopu,  
Magologolo ‘a dithaba, a neetšana bokoloti ka sebopego  
Dithaba di kgabile ka kgaretshehla ya mogodi ntlohlong  
Bohwa bja rena, lehumo la rena.  
Diphoofolo re ikgantšha ka tše hlano ditšhihlankgasebata  
Tshitlhankga tlou sejamereyohle pogontekeleke  
Tau ya mariri sebata sa lešoka, serobadingwemelala  
Thamaga ya mebalabala,

lepogo katsekgolo ya lešoka  
Tšhukudu nakatsotsobedi phatleng pudududu ya legola  
Nare modimo wa nkomeetse, kgomo ya lešoka  
Mmogo di iphepa ka go hlagatša tlhago sepala go hlagala.  
Naga ya gešu, lefa laka, boikgantšho bjaka  
Nagatalana e re fepago ka dijo tša moko go raka bokulana  
Ke nako ya rena go e tšhireletša  
Ke kgetho ya rena go e babalela  
Lehumo sefepa se fepela go fepiša dirathana  
Bokamoso bja rena, bohwa bja rena, boikgantšho bja rena  
Gopola ka Mapungubje motsemogolo wa borare,

Bokgabotaki bja bagologolo marakong mawengmagolo  
Merako ya Kaditshwene ka Lebowa-Bohlabela  
Thabantlholhlolewa Koloni gabo Mathanzima Thoseng  
Magagamasomagolo a boroto le bomadibekwane Leolo dithabeng  
Mphathong wa Makwa le Matuba Robben Island madibeng.  
Afrika Borwa, lefelo la ditšo dipôpô ka dipôpô  
Maleme re khwetenketša ka go fapanafapana  
Bodumeding ke phangphang kgethi re a ikgethela  
Diphôrôrôkeledi di rora le go phorometša magageng  
Meloditswiri ya dinonyana e kgwagala e neetšana melapong

Batho ba mmala molalatladi re kopanetše matlafatšano.  
Mêre re ja ka go kgetha melapong ra lapologa molapo  
Dienywa le digwere ra ikabela ra gwelemetša  
Lehlabula re gohla mpa lebotong go tšhaba pipelo  
Tsela ra latela lebila sebudušwa ke dikgato tša bagologolo  
Leleme laka, setšo saka, medu yaka, ke boikgantšho bjaka  
Ke ikgantšha ka bohwa bjaka segagešu ga gešu le magagešu.  
Ke nthekege ke go thekge re thekgeletšane ka mathekgo re thekgane.



# Stock theft remains an eyesore

By Cynthia Nkgudi

**A**larming stock theft figures were revealed during the Sekhukhune East Agro-Ecological Zone gathering in Ga-Nkoana Village.

According to the statistics shared at the meeting, over 49 000 livestock have been reported stolen in the 2023/2024 financial period.

It was also made public that over 13 400 cattle, over 22 800 sheep and over 13 000 goats were stolen during that period.

“The farmers in Red Meat Industry Service suffered an estimated R1 billion in loss,” Read a statement of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on its Facebook page.

The Livestock Theft Awareness campaign, which sought to employ preventative measures and mechanisms to combat the skyrocketing stock

theft, was held at the local Moses Mabotha Hall on 11 September.

Red Meat Industry’s Douw Pulser highlighted that brand marking of livestock is key in the fight against stock theft.

“It is the first line of defence,” Pulser stressed. He further encouraged the use of other methods such as the implementation of technological equipment including microchips, GPS, sensors and surveillance.

Pulser further advised that the measures will complement the existing property security, proper record keeping of animals and building partnerships as farmers and police.

Stock theft also took the centre stage during a SAPS event which was held to welcome newly recruited constables in Sekhukhune District recently.





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- ENGINEERING STUDIES N4 : Grade 12 Certificate with Mathematics and, or NCV Level 4 Certificate



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# MPAC PUBLIC HEARING

## 4TH QUARTER PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2024-2025 F.Y

Chairperson of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC), **Cllr Diketane Selege Paul**, will host the **Public Hearing** on the fourth Quarter Performance and Financial Reports for 2024-2025 financial year.

The Municipality extends an **invitation to the general public** and all stakeholders in accordance with Section 17(2)(c) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000. The public hearing is schedule as follows:

**Tuesday, 23 September 2025**

**Stocking Village, SASSA Pay-point  
Ward 14**

**10:00**

General Inquiries: **Paseka Maripane**, MPAC Researcher (**0640920312**), Media Inquiries: **Thomas J. Mashabela**, Communications Officer (**0609321054**)





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**REPORTER**  
LERATO MAMPA  
**EDITORS NOTE**



# Corruption is not confined to the ANC

**With its clumsiness and perceptions of being a cover up, the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Criminality, Political Interference and Corruption in the Criminal Justice System otherwise known as the Madlanga Commission ( because is chaired by retired Judge Mbuyiseli Madlanga) has awoken renewed interest among South Africans into the affairs of the country.**

Aired on major television and social media platforms with tens of thousands tuning in to watch, it has led to many armchair critics airing their views unrestrained.

Beyond the inquiry as South Africans we need to ensure that the momentum is maintained and that we must never neglect our individual as well as collective responsibility to hold accountable those who hold public office.

However the most concerning about running commentary on the inquiry along with the general attitude of South Africans towards crime and corruption, is the wrong perception that graft is an ANC problem, that it is only members of the African National Congress who are corrupt. This is not just a lie but a dangerous narrative that has been used to blackmail the black majority into abandoning their economic aspirations. It is this same perception that is used to stigmatise many black entrepreneurs who are working hard building their enterprises. They're being called corrupt tenderpreneurs and many other negative names.

However a basic desktop search would reveal that white owned companies remain dominant in terms of state procurement. Simply put white people, both local and foreign, have continued to benefit under democracy as they did during apartheid when they had preferential procurement.

The ANC like any other political party must be held accountable for what it does when in government but such accountability should not, and sadly it does currently, extend to stigmatisation of an entire race as inherently corrupt and or incompetent. Other than condemning the black majority to being and remaining second class citizens, the wrong perceptions about South Africa's crime problem is destructing the country from confronting a general culture of lawlessness because of the obsession with the ANC.

Naturally cases of corruption would have the corruptor and corruptee but often we only get to hear about the latter as they're often black while the former tend to be white.

There was shock in the country when Kwazulu-natal Police Commissioner Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi implicated DA MP Dianne Kohler Barnard as being among those who were involved in interfering with police work and in the alleged capture of the criminal justice system.

Many were not just surprised but disappointed that it was not an ANC member that is implicated in such serious wrongdoing. It is this kind of backwardness that should be confronted so that those engaging in wrongdoing are held accountable regardless of their race or choice of political party.

We can make this an ANC problem and mobilise each other to remove the party and when the children of Oliver Tambo are gone South Africa would still be corrupt if not worse.

South Africans must confront crime in all its manifestations and in doing so be weary of falling for propaganda that is aimed at preserving colonial and apartheid wealth patterns. As the commission of inquiry unfolds let's be open-minded about things and not think everything is going to be about the ANC because that's far from the truth.better place if not the best.



# Setšhaba sa Dihlabaneng se lla ka bohodu



**Ka Cynthia Nkgudi**

**K**a morago ga go tlaišwa ke bohodu bja go utswiwa ga dithapo tša mohlagaase nako e telele badudi ba Dihlabaneng B ka tlase ga Mmasepala wa Makhudumathaga ward 16 ba ile ba ipopa ngatana e tee go lwantšhana le tlhobaboroko yeo ba ikhwetšago ka gare ga yona. Badudi ba ile ba kopana ka labobedi la Lesometshela kgwedi ya Septemere le maphodisa a Sekhukhune fao ba ilego ba tswetletša dillo tša bona. Mmogo setshaba le maphodisa ba ile ba hloma Community Policing Forum (CPF) gomme badudi ba e ka bago ba seswai ba kgethilwe go ithaopa go eta pele lesolo leo.

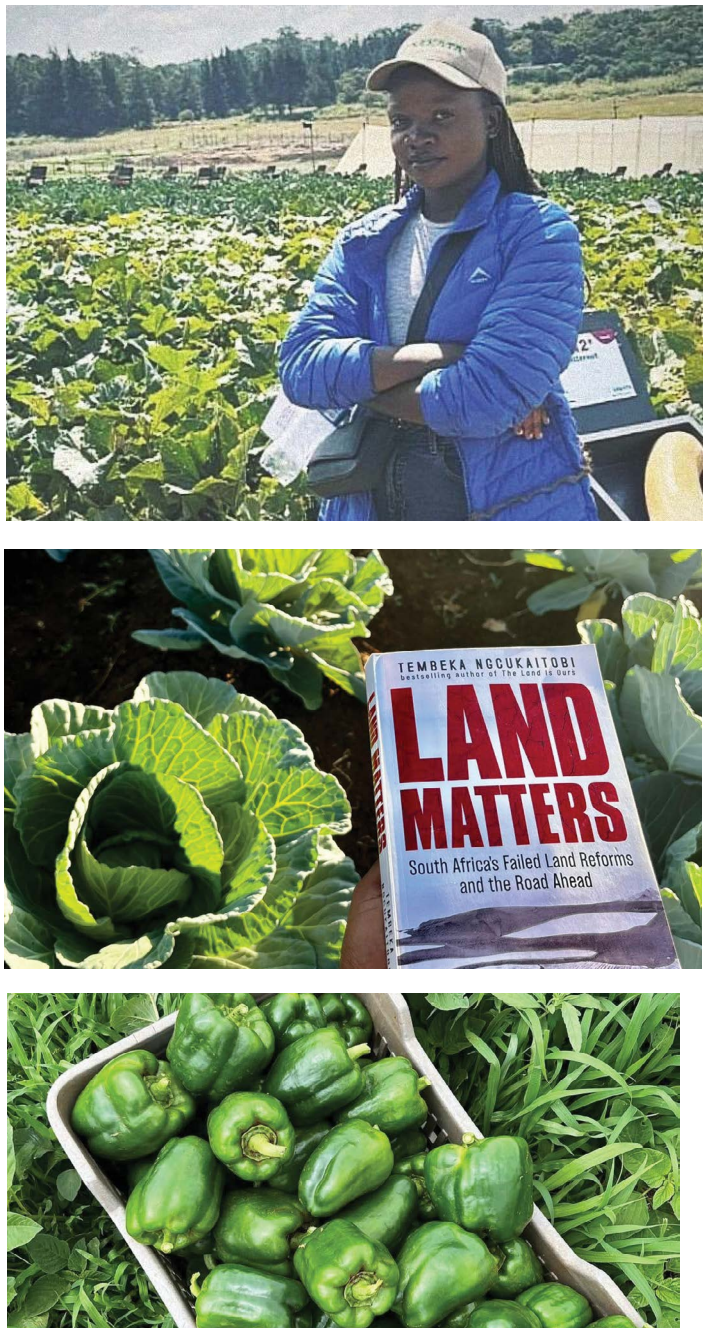
Modulasetulo wa CPF Morena Sam Mashanya o re ba holofela gore badudi ba tla somišana le

bona go leka go fediša bothatata bjo. “Bjale ka moleloko wa boetapele, re kgopetše setšhaba go swaragana gomme re boele mola go leanophethagatšo la rena la maloba mola re be re se na le mohlagaase. Re kwane go re lapa le lengwe le le lengwe le be le nakana gore ge ba itemogela go hulwa goba go na le ka mokgwa wo ba gakanegago ka gona, ba e letše gomme re lebe fao nakana e lla go gona.

Leano le le ile la re šomela kua morago ra ba ra hwetša mohlagaase. Re ile ra iketla ra ipotša gore bohodu bo tla fokotšega bjale re itemogela

go hulwa ga dithapo tša mohlagaase.” A realo Mashaya a bontšha gape ka fao ba kwanego gore maleloko a maswa a tle a hwetše tshedimošo goba yona thuto mabapi le maikarabelo ao ba a rwelego. Mongwaledi wa CPF e lego Emma Tau yena o hlalositše ka fao taba ye e sa ba jesego di wela e bile ba duma go bona go le diphetogo tikologong ya bona. “Ga se ra swarega gabotse re le badudi ba Dihlabaneng ka go hulwa ga dithapo tša mohlagaase ka ge re ikhwetša nako ye ntši re e ba swiswing. Re ipotšiša gore ge ba fetša go hula dithapo go tla latela eng. Re dirile boipiletšo go setšhaba gore lapa ka lapa

ba tšhume mabone kudu a ka ntle gore ge mahodu ao a leka mediro ya bona go bonagale ka bjako, ba paogele kua. Baswa ka ge e le batho ba go lala ba sasanka mašego, ba ka re tšwela mohola go hlwaya tsebe le bo bea leihlo. Re hlomile gape le lesolo la street committee fao baagišani ba swanetšego go swarišana ka go diriša mokgwa wa ‘please call me’ ge go na le se se ka bago se belaetša ka malapeng. Re kwane gape le gore re sware kopano kgwedi ka kgwedi fao re tla go fa kgatelopele goba taba efe le efe yeo e amago motse wa bo rena”. Mashanya a ruma ka go realo.



## Future looks bright for young farmer

**Ka Cynthia Nkgudi**

**A**s part of The Reporter’s inspirational coverage we bring you the story of a young farmer with high prospects for success.

Antoinette Molopo attributes her love for farming to her childhood in Sekhukhune where she says she grew up in the most beautiful landscapes.

Growing up surrounded by rural landscapes, the 24 year old said she developed a passion for farming at an early age. Inspired by her father’s love for vegetable garden and herding cattle and sheep, she decided to take where her father left off in 2015 .

“My father’s passing while I was 14 was quite traumatic, I’ve decided to take that pain and channel it into something positive. While I was in Grade 9 I wanted to take over the farm and continued his legacy but I was still young then and lacked some of the resources. However my siblings did try to take over but left as they wanted to pursue their own careers” Said

Antoinette reminiscing about her late father.

She said in the intervening period she read a lot of business books she got from her brother which made her to understand cultivation as more than just a passion but a viable business.

While she was in Grade 10 she started her photography business and made a lot of money

“My sister had a camera and I used the opportunity to capture different moments. This was when I knew I wanted to venture into a profitable farming enterprise” She said giggling.

After matriculating in 2019 at Sengange high school, she took a gap year and later enrolled for pursued her a BCom in Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship which she completed in 2023.

“I initially wanted to study Cinematography with my photographic experience but as I look closely into the prospectus I came across the BCom in Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship, it

seemed interesting and I dived right into it as I also wanted to have a business. The practical part of it was very helpful as I already had land, water and resources in Limpopo. I had to transfer to Johannesburg to ease my movements. After transferring, I completed my degree” Antoinette said outlining her educational journey.

She now owns a successful crop business called KAGOYAMA Farms which was named after her son.

It now supplies big clients including large retailers such as PicknPay and restaurants.

Antoinette said her innovative methods such as climate-smart farming techniques and sustainable irrigation systems have earned her recognition from agricultural forums and local projects.

She said the challenges in the business industry includes the lack of capital, lack of information around the farming business one ventures into.



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## Dinoko FC boys show their class at Polokwane youth tournament



**By Karabo Makao**

**Y**oung footballers from Dinoko FC in Mhlaletse, Ga-Sekhukhune have been making waves in local tournaments, showing that our youth have what it takes to compete at higher levels. The club recently took their under-13, under-15, and under-17 teams to participate in a tournament in Polokwane, and the experience was more than just about winning matches.

Coach Phillip Oskido Tebeila knows that these tournaments are not just about the game itself. They are about giving young players the chance to be seen, to be motivated, and to understand what it means to play under pressure. When scouts come to watch these matches, it opens doors for talented youngsters who might never have had such opportunities otherwise. The exposure these children get is invaluable for their development, both as players and as young people.

The under-13 team did particularly well, showing great determination throughout the tournament that featured nine teams. They started strongly in the group stage, beating Black Leopards 3-0 in their opening

match. The boys continued their good form with a solid 2-0 victory over Polokwane Youth Academy before drawing 0-0 against Prado 1. These results were enough to secure their place in the semifinals, where they faced Europa Academy. Despite their best efforts, they lost a tight match 1-0, but the team showed character by bouncing back to beat Prado 2 by 1-0 in the third-place playoff. Although they finished in third place overall, the experience they gained was worth more than any trophy.

The under-15 boys also had reason to celebrate after winning their match 2-0, while the under-17 team, despite losing 4-1, learned important lessons about resilience and teamwork. Each age group faced different challenges, but all the players gained valuable experience competing against teams from across the region.

This is not something new for Dinoko FC. Last year, they participated in a similar tournament in Mokopane, continuing their commitment to giving young players regular competitive experience. These tournaments have become an

important part of the club's strategy to develop talent and keep children engaged in positive activities.

What makes this work so important is that it goes beyond just football. In many communities, young people face challenges with drugs and alcohol, and sport provides a healthy alternative. When children are busy training, playing matches, and working towards goals, they are less likely to get involved in activities that could harm their future. Football becomes a tool for building discipline, teaching respect, and creating structure in young lives.

The coach emphasizes that youth participation in football is about more than developing skills with the ball. It is about creating opportunities, building character, and showing young people that they have value and potential. When a child puts on their team jersey and runs onto the field, they are not just playing a game - they are learning life lessons that will serve them well beyond their sporting careers.

These tournaments also bring communities together

with supporters travelling to watch their young players compete, creating a sense of pride and unity. The children represent not just their club, but their entire community, and this responsibility helps them understand the importance of commitment and hard work.

The success of programs like those run by Dinoko FC shows what is possible when communities invest in their youth. By providing regular training, entering tournaments, and creating opportunities for exposure, clubs like this are changing lives and building a stronger future for South African football. The young players who benefit from these programs today could become the professional players and community leaders of tomorrow.

Football has always been more than just a sport in South Africa. It brings people together, creates hope, and provides a pathway for young people to achieve their dreams. When clubs like Dinoko FC continue to invest in youth development and tournament participation, they are investing in the future of our communities and our country.