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**Free State records two deaths,
rescues 21 from illegal
initiation school**



MEC Ntombizanele Sifuba

Free State's Macufe Festival Set for Exciting Relaunch

The Free State Province is abuzz with excitement following the recent announcement regarding the return of the Mangaung African Cultural Festival (Macufe). This revelation was made during the state of the province address delivered by the Honourable Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae, alongside the 2025 budget vote injunction presented by MEC Ntombizanele Sifuba from the Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation (SACR). This week, the department issued a statement stating that the festival, which is set to relaunch in September 2025 after navigating through a series of legal challenges, promises to celebrate African arts and culture.

Macufe has a storied history of attracting thousands of visitors to the Free State, making it one of the province's most significant economic boosters. The announcement has ignited enthusiasm across social media, with many community members expressing their anticipation for the festival's revival.

"Guided by the theme 'Back to our African Heart and Soul', the central focus of the recalibrated MACUFE programme will be on arts and culture-related activities. Reverting to its original concept, the festival will therefore elevate the African cultural heritage as a pivot around which our

existence should revolve as Africans, and in line with the mandate of the Department of Nation Building and Social Cohesion," stated MEC Ntombizanele Sifuba, emphasizing the festival's commitment to celebrating African identity and heritage.

The relaunch of Macufe is set to feature a diverse range of events designed to engage and inspire participants. The anticipated programme of the festival includes:

- MACUFE Launch: 01 August
- MACUFE Film Festival: 3 and 4 September
- MACUFE Dance Fiesta: 3 and 4 September
- MACUFE Theatre Festival: 3 to 5 September
- MACUFE Comedy and Poetry Night: 5 September
- MACUFE Visual Arts, Craft and Literature Exhibition: 3 to 6 September
- MACUFE Hiphop vs. Amapiano: 5 September
- MACUFE Main Festival: 6 September
- MACUFE Gospel Festival: 7 September

This revitalized MACUFE programme

is expected to enhance local economic opportunities and foster cultural enrichment within the province. Stakeholders and community members eagerly await further announcements regarding the festival's detailed programme and activities, which the Department of Sports, Arts, Culture,

and Recreation will communicate in due course.

As the province prepares for Macufe's return, the anticipation reflects the excitement for the festival and a collective celebration of African culture and unity.






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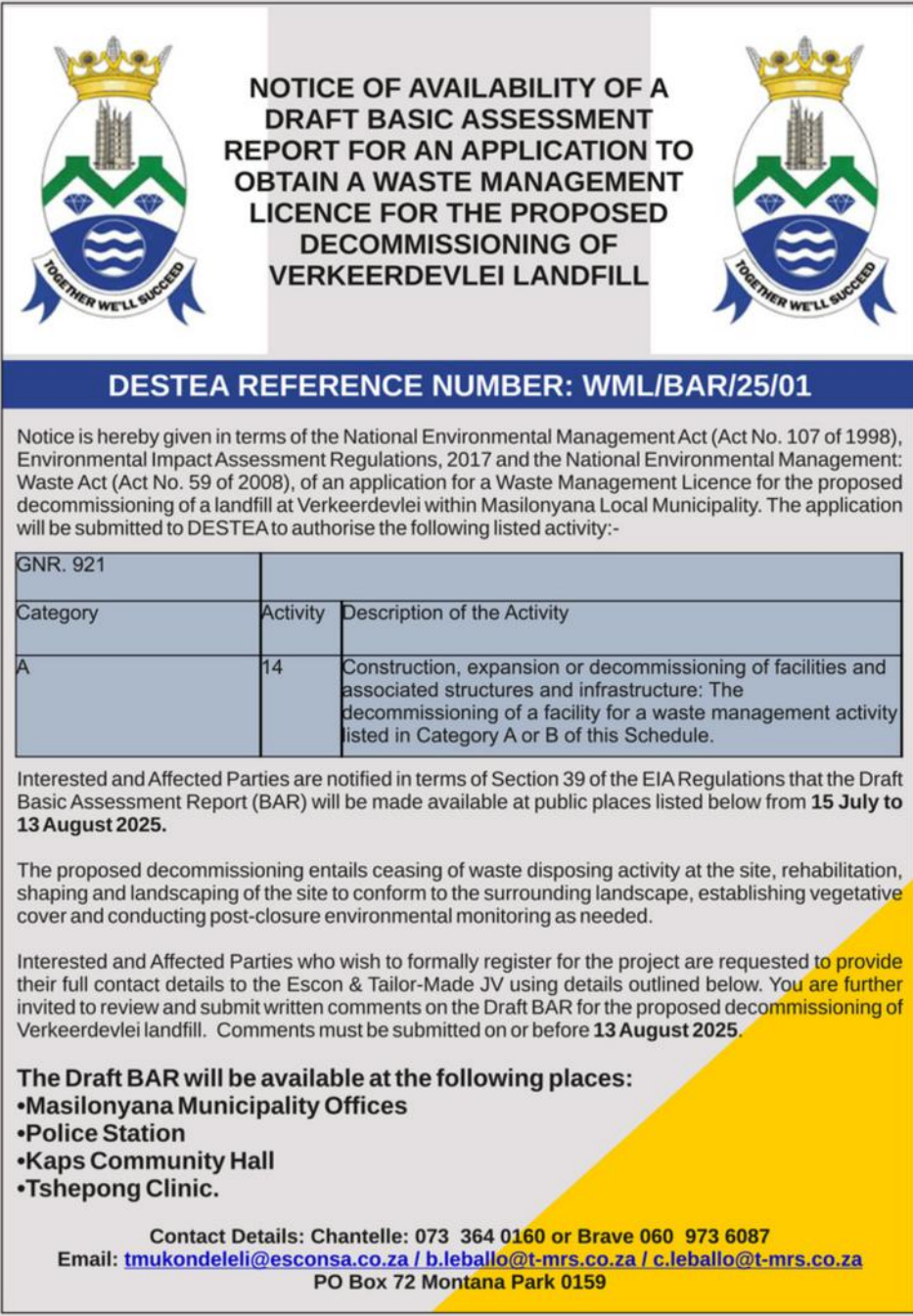
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Tel: 058 713 0222 / 051 403 6683

Richard Mokhele

083 240 2062

Email: alpha@mudzusi.com / admin@mudzusi.com



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR AN APPLICATION TO OBTAIN A WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE FOR THE PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING OF VERKEERDEVLEI LANDFILL

DESTEA REFERENCE NUMBER: WML/BAR/25/01

Notice is hereby given in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2017 and the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008), of an application for a Waste Management Licence for the proposed decommissioning of a landfill at Verkeerdevlei within Masilonyana Local Municipality. The application will be submitted to DESTEA to authorise the following listed activity:-

GNR. 921	Category	Activity	Description of the Activity
A	14	Construction, expansion or decommissioning of facilities and associated structures and infrastructure: The decommissioning of a facility for a waste management activity listed in Category A or B of this Schedule.	

Interested and Affected Parties are notified in terms of Section 39 of the EIA Regulations that the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) will be made available at public places listed below from **15 July to 13 August 2025**.

The proposed decommissioning entails ceasing of waste disposing activity at the site, rehabilitation, shaping and landscaping of the site to conform to the surrounding landscape, establishing vegetative cover and conducting post-closure environmental monitoring as needed.

Interested and Affected Parties who wish to formally register for the project are requested to provide their full contact details to the Escon & Tailor-Made JV using details outlined below. You are further invited to review and submit written comments on the Draft BAR for the proposed decommissioning of Verkeerdevlei landfill. Comments must be submitted on or before **13 August 2025**.

The Draft BAR will be available at the following places:

- Masilonyana Municipality Offices
- Police Station
- Kaps Community Hall
- Tshepong Clinic.

Contact Details: Chantelle: 073 364 0160 or Brave 060 973 6087

Email: tmukondeleli@esconsa.co.za / b.leballo@t-mrs.co.za / c.leballo@t-mrs.co.za

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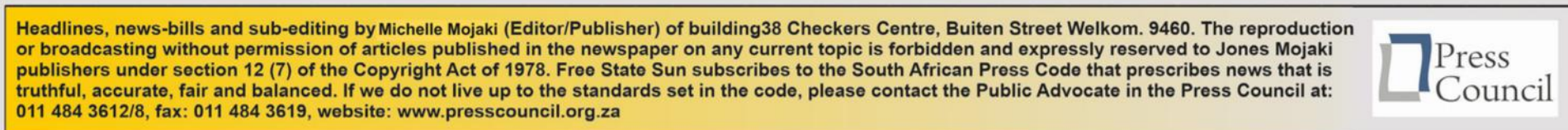


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Press Council

LEGAL CORNER

Fraud and Anti-Corruption: By Advocate Sephiri Moshodi

By Advocate Sephiri Moshodi Executive Director: Justice Equality Foundation

The current level of corruption is deemed as excessive in South Africa, and it remains prevalent in many institutions of the Health Care system (Department of Health), which consequently has a negative outcome on the Department as a whole with regards to the Department's functionality.

As a result of corrupt conduct by public servants in the scope of their duties, public trust has decreased drastically, with constituents which are intended to benefit from full health care services and their resources eventually experience a handicap due to a shortage of health care resources in most provinces thereof.

Corruption in the Health Care System sprouts from vulnerabilities exploited by public servants for their own benefit through means of misuse of resources- to the betterment of public servant's self-interest ahead of the Health care system of the country.

The term Corruption is referred to as a conduct which has already occurred, whereas a Corruption Risk is the potential opportunity for corruption to occur.

The Corruption Risks transpire into an internal weakness which become detrimental to the health-care system with it's desolating effect being apparent in health and sanitary related crises events.

The conduct of Corruption has a lasting impact on the health care system as it squanders resources which correspondingly ensues a shortage of equipment and medicinal products for the general public at large, who in turn feel the severity of corruption the most.

Description of Corruption:

- Dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power;
- Use/abuse of power by government officials for their illegitimate private gain;
- Any conduct performed by government officials which violates their duties entrusted upon them by public members, with the intention of gaining undue gratification either for themselves, or others;
- The act of requesting or receiving a benefit with a purpose to either perform or not to perform an official duty constitutes as Corruption;
- "The misuse of power for personal gratification involving two people or more;

Different forms of Corruption:

- Bribery- includes but not limited to, the giving or offering of a benefit which may have an influence on the actions or decisions of a public official;
- Embezzlement- involves the misappropriation or theft of state resources by the entrusted public officials;
- Illicit enrichment- a notable increase in assets of a public official, which cannot be explained as being the cause of their lawful income;
- Fraud- Involves the conduct by a public servant which serves to mislead/deceive others into believing on benefits that would not normally be attributed to the public servant;
- Extortion- Includes the Act of coercing or persuading A person to provide a benefit to either a public servant, another civilian or as an exchange for acting in a certain

unscrupulous manner;

- Abuse of Power- a public servant misusing their inherent authority to unlawfully benefit a third party;
- Money Laundering- conducted by means of transfers involving either foreign banks or legitimate businesses for the purpose of concealment of the origins of proceeds of crime.
- Conflict of Interest- a legal omission performed by a public servant in a matter where the public servant has an interest, or is in a relationship with a third party who may have an interest and benefit from the omission;
- Insider Trading- The usage of privileged company information, which is accessible to the public servant under their capacity of duty, with the intention of providing that

another individual or third party benefits from the privileged information;

• Concealment- the hiding or retention of property, with prior knowledge that it has resulted from corruption.

Repercussion of Corruption;

- An individual will be arrested;
- An Individual will obtain a criminal record;
- An individual will be sanctioned from leaving the country;
- Assets may be forfeited as the State attempts to reclaim amount involved.

*The writer is the
Executive Director of
Justice Equality Foundation.*



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NPC Reg No: 2021/860365/08

**Executive Director
Advocate Sephiri Moshodi**

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MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture & Recreation
Ms Ntombizanele Sifuba



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



In terms of section 2 (2)(a) of the South African Geographical Names Council Act no. 118 of 1998, the MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Ms NB Sifuba, hereby invites members of the public to nominate people to serve as members of the Free State Geographical Names Committee (PGNC).

The functions of the PGNC to advise local authorities and work with them in ensuring that they apply the principles of the SAGNC to the names under their jurisdiction; make recommendations to the SAGNC on the names of geographical features that fall within its provincial boundaries; it should do preparatory work for the submission of names to the SAGNC, and is responsible for seeing to it that local communities and other stakeholders are adequately consulted.

NOMINEES ARE TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE OR HAVE SPECIAL COMPETENCIES IN THE FOLLOWING FIELDS:

Geography, Surveys and Mapping, official and recognised Languages and Linguistics in general, Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Community Development.

Members of the PGNC do not receive salaries but are reimbursed for expenses associated with serving on the Committee. Anyone wishing to nominate members for the PGNC should submit:

- A letter containing the full names, address, and cell phone number of the nominee and give reasons for the nomination.*
- A curriculum vitae of the nominee, explaining her or his suitability for appointment.*
- A brief statement signed by the nominee, in which he or she agrees to the nomination.*
- The name of three contactable referees who know the nominee.*

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SUBMISSIONS OPEN ON
3 JULY 2025 AND CLOSE ON 30 JULY 2025**

Witten nominations must be sent to:

Attention: Mr Ml Mphomela

Deputy Director - Heritage Services

E: thuli@sacr.fs.gov.za/mbatha.npz@sacr.fs.gov.za

C: 066 478 9969/066 479 2067



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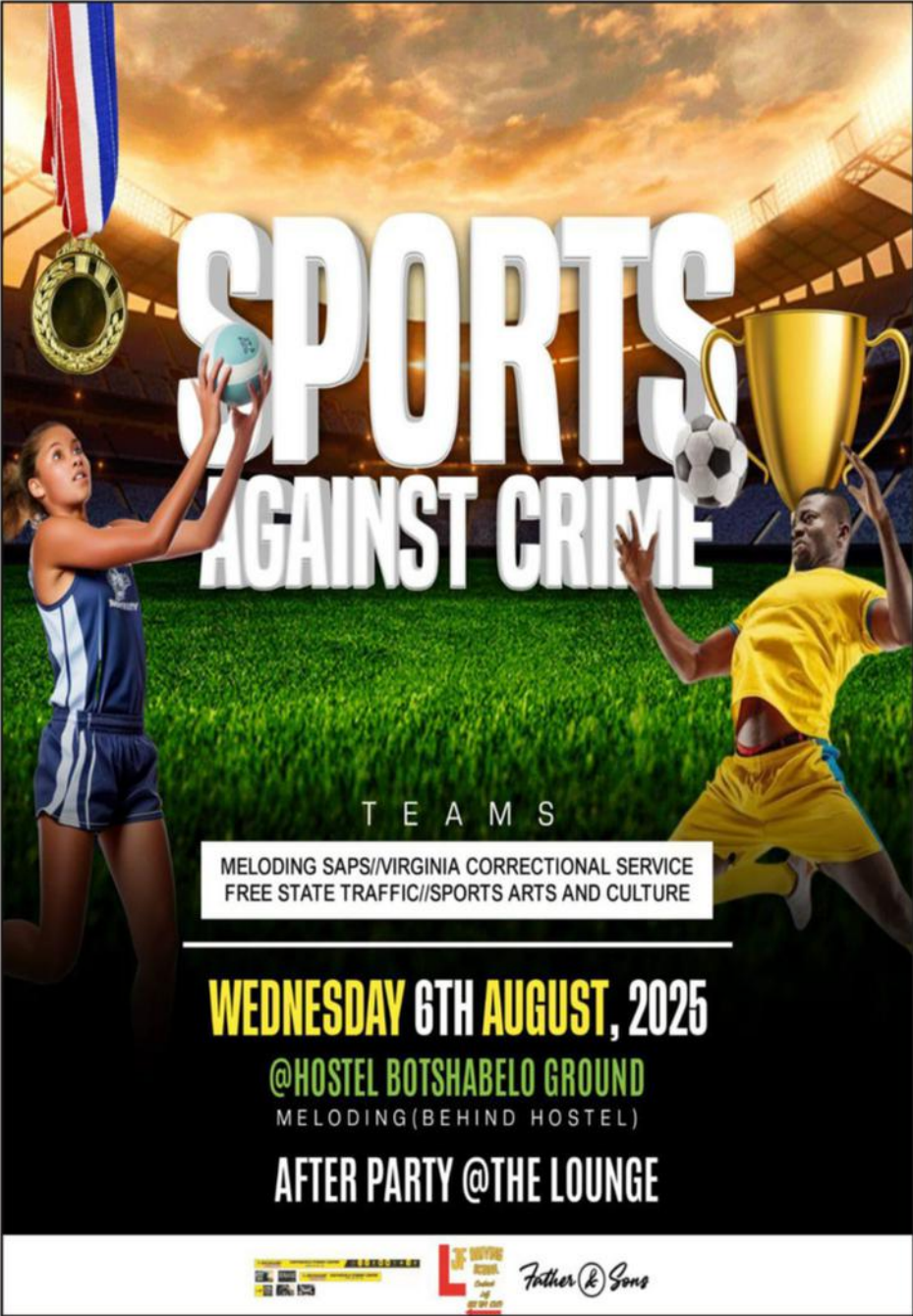
**LEAVE NO
ONE BEHIND**

Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae Rebukes Delays in the Allanridge Emergency Housing Programme

On Tuesday, 08 July 2025, Free State Premier MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae, accompanied by the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements, Saki Mokoena, and the Executive Mayor of Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Councillor Thanduxolo Khalipa, convened a critical meeting regarding the Allanridge Emergency Housing Intervention in Nyakallong, Allanridge. The meeting showcased the Premier's evident frustration with the delays affecting the housing programme designed to assist residents impacted by recent flooding. The meeting was a part of ongoing efforts by a multi-disciplinary task team, which has been engaged in planning sessions that have often been deemed stagnant and unproductive. These sessions follow the catastrophic floods resulting from the overflow of the Harmony Mine Voelpan, which adversely affected over 27 families and numerous other residents in Allanridge. The emergency intervention aims to relocate at least 77 families to

designated sites that offer safer and healthier living conditions. During the meeting, the Premier highlighted the strong political will and commitments from all levels of government. However, she did not hesitate to voice her dissatisfaction regarding the pace of progress being made by some stakeholders involved in the initiative. "We cannot continue," asserted Premier Letsoha-Mathae, "to move at a snail's pace while our people continue to live in health hazardous environments and life-threatening structures. We are talking about the lives of people, not mere statistics. We must move with speed. We have committed to our people, and it will be fulfilled. People must occupy their houses this year, 2025." The meeting concluded with a visit to the designated land for the housing project, where attendees inspected the area earmarked for development. This site visit is followed by a conditional assessment of the bulk infrastructure necessary to support the housing initiative.





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Office of the Secretary

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 10 July 2024

SANCO Lejweleputswa Region Calls for Accountability Following the Tragic Death of a 10-Year-Old Boy in Meloding

The South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO) in the Lejweleputswa Region has learned with deep shock and sorrow of the tragic passing of 10-year-old Lehlohonolo Buthelezi, the son of Lieketseng Buthelezi, who fell into a hole full of sewer and rainwater and drowned on the 4th of July 2024 in Meloding, Virginia.

The incident has devastated the Buthelezi family and the wider community. The heartbreak is compounded by the fact that this is the third such incident, resulting in a total of four lives lost within a short space of time.

SANCO visited the family during this difficult time of grief. The family has expressed strong feelings of neglect and failure by both the contractor and the municipality, citing the lack of follow-through in covering hazardous holes after project completion, and the absence of clear safety markings and cordons around these dangerous areas.

SANCO has pledged to support the family should they wish to pursue legal action against those responsible for this gross negligence and dereliction of duty.

SANCO is further calling on Matjhabeng Municipality and all other municipalities in the region to prioritise quality service delivery and enforce safety compliance at all infrastructure projects. It is essential that municipal by-laws be fully enforced to ensure that all unfinished projects are safely secured and do not endanger the lives of residents.

Our deepest condolences go to the Buthelezi family and to the Educators and Learners of Dicketseng Primary School as well as the community at large.

May Lehlohonolo Buthelezi rest in eternal peace.

Issued by:
SANCO Regional Secretary
Cde Master Velembo
079 480 7050
Media Enquiries:
Mamiki Qabathe
SANCO Regional Spokesperson
Cell: 066 069 8400

Remarkable Story of Queen Motsoane Miss Thabong 2024

Queen Motsoane is a 19-year-old girl from the vibrant township of Thabong in Welkom. She began entering pageants at the age of 10, starting in 2015. Fortunately, she became the first Miss Adeline Meje Primary School in Viljoenskroon and the first Miss Lemotso Primary School in Welkom in 2018. In 2019, she suffered a leg injury, but continued participating in pageants despite her challenges. That same year, she won the title of Miss Lebogang Secondary School, even while limping. She then had the incredible opportunity to become the brand ambassador for Stunna Rankz Visuals, a dream come true. She served as an ambassador for two years. She then became a model at Face Of S.H.E Modelling Agency and suffered another leg injury, this time on her right leg. Despite her health struggles, she won the Miss Photogenic category in 2022. While still with the modelling agency, she entered the Miss Thabong 2024 pageant. She proudly states that she is currently the reigning Miss Thabong.



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Contact Information:
Matjhabeng Municipality, Electrical Engineering Services
Mr WE Sephton Manager Electrical Department

TEL: (057) 391 3116
FAX: (057) 391 3427
Email: williamsephton@matjhabeng.co.za

MA Pobe - Senior Manager Services
Cllr. T Khalipha - Executive Mayor - Matjhabeng Local Municipality

MEC Mbalula Leads Social Facilitation Programme in Viljoenskroon

Hon.Jabu Mbalula, the Executive Council (MEC) member for the Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport (DCSR&T), spearheaded the Social Facilitation Programme in Viljoenskroon on July 8, 2025. This programme, managed by the Social Facilitation Unit within the Chief Directorate of Road Infrastructure, employs the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) methodology known as Fuduwa. This methodology is well-regarded within the community for its commitment to transparency, fairness, and inclusivity. The social facilitation process was conducted across four wards in Viljoenskroon, focusing on constructing a bridge and maintaining key roadways, including the P33/2 Salt Pan and access roads A43 and A109. A total of 130 community members were engaged for 12 months, distributed as follows:

- Ward 18: 30 participants
- Ward 19: 30 participants
- Ward 20: 30 participants
- Ward 21: 40 participants

Among the participants was Ms. Macecilia Mokhele (pseudonym), a resident of Ward 21 who had faced unemployment for over five years. Overwhelmed with gratitude, she expressed her excitement, stating, "I will now be able to put bread on the table every month, thanks to the opportunity provided by the department." Her statement underscores the significant impact of the programme on individual lives within the community. MEC Mbalula was joined by the Executive Mayor of Moqhaka Local Municipality, Cllr Motloheoa Elias Mokatsane, along with ward councillors representing the affected areas.





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SPORT

Ghana faces defeat against Banyana Banyana in the opening match of the Wafcon tournament

Despite not delivering their best performance, Banyana Banyana secured a 2-0 victory over Ghana in their Wafcon opener at Honneur Stadium in Oudja on Monday night. The win came courtesy of a penalty converted by Linda Motlhalo and a well-executed finish from Jermaine Seoposenwe. More importantly, the defending champions showcased discipline and experience, even though they were lacking their usual flair and fluidity.

Only two players in the starting XI, Fikile Magama and Tiisetso Makhubela, were not part of the Wafcon-winning squad in 2022, when South Africa lifted the trophy on the same Moroccan soil. Banyana adopted a cautious approach, beginning the match with a flat back three consisting of Bambanani Mbane, Makhubela, and Magama. Additionally, Andile Dlamini unexpectedly reclaimed her No. 1 jersey from Kaylan Swart, who had been the first-choice goalkeeper in recent matches.

The game's opening minutes were scrappy and physical as both teams struggled to find their rhythm. South Africa found their groove first, with Amogelang Motau orchestrating play in the midfield and successfully connecting with her teammates in tight spaces. In the 28th minute, Motlhalo converted a penalty awarded after Ghana's

midfielder, Grace Asantewaa, fouled Sinxolo Cesane, who was celebrating her 50th appearance for Banyana. Moroccan referee Bouchra Karboubi reviewed the situation using the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) before awarding the penalty. Banyana quickly extended their lead four minutes later when Seoposenwe scored a brilliant first-time finish, taking advantage of a clever pass and slipping behind the Ghana defense thanks to full-back Lebogang Ramalepe. Toward the end of the first half, Banyana's performance dipped, but Dlamini made several crucial saves to maintain the 2-0 lead at halftime.

Seoposenwe nearly added a second goal in the 63rd minute after being set up by Motlhalo, mirroring the build-up for the first goal. However, the 31-year-old striker missed a one-on-one chance against Ghana's goalkeeper Cynthia Konlan. Ghana's winger Alice Kusi posed a significant threat to the Banyana defense in the second half, but several of the Black Queens' best attempts hit the crossbar, and Dlamini continued to make solid stops. Banyana Banyana will face Tanzania in their second Group C fixture of this Wafcon tournament at the same venue on Friday at 9 PM SA time.



KICK OFF08:30 AM

JOHN TLAESOCCESSOCCERTOURNAMENT

GUESTS

LUCKY GACHA

JERRY PHELE

BAZCADA

TEBOHO MOLOI

SEPUTLA SEBOGODI

THABO KOFA

FORMER PLAYER FROM HAMELODI SUNDOWS

JOHN TLAE, THABO KOFAS, ERNEST CHEKALL, HAMBURGH MUDZALI, ROGER FEUTLUMBA, HAMBURGH MUDZALI, MATTHEW BOOTH, BENNETT BONGERS, CHARLES MOTLOHE, THABO KOFAS, FINE MADLELA, ISAK SHAI, SIMA MARIMO, SHARPS CHOLO, KATLEGO MPHILA, LINDANI MAZIBAZO, MIKE NTOMBELA, MKEE HANZINI, LOVERS MOHLALA, DAN SHABE

FORMER PLAYER FROM OBLANDO PIRATES

MAGENTS MOTALE, JERRY SEHOSANA, SERUSO ZUMA, STEVE LEKOROLA

FORMER PLAYER FROM BLOEMFONTEIN CELIK

KLEINBOOS DAIBOX, DANIEL MATHALE, BLAUCLERX TLALE, ZICO, JHILAN HETTO, BENJAMIN REED

FORMER BOXER: PHILLIP NDOU

FORMER PLAYER FROM KALZER CHIEFS

LUCAS BADEBE, BRIAN SAGOLU, FRANK MAKUJA, LINDI POLE, DOCTOR KHUMALO

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