

Publication: MahikengMail - Main

Title: Phase 5 of Thuntsha Lerole kicks off

Publish date: 22 Aug 2025

Page: 5

Reach: 14500

AVE: R 25193.53

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Phase 5 of Thuntsha Lerole kicks off

MAHIKENG MAIL - MAHIKENG: Premier of the North West Province, Kagiso Lazarus Mokgosi will reaffirm the provincial government's commitment to accelerating service delivery by leading the rollout of Phase 5 of Accelerated Service Delivery Programme - Thuntsha Lerole Reloaded on Friday, 22 August, at Ditsobotla Local Municipality, Ngaka Modiri Molema District.

This phase marks a strategic continuation of the provincial government's efforts to bring integrated services closer to the people, address long-standing service delivery challenges, and strengthen public participation in governance issues.

During Phase 5, the provision of water and sanitation infrastructure, sewer network upgrades, roads maintenance, clearing of illegal dumping sites, fighting crime and job creation will be reinforced at targeted and prioritised local municipalities which

include Ditsobotla, JB Marks, City of Matlosana, Tswaing, Madibeng, Kagisano-Molopo, Ramotshere Moiloa, Moses Kotane, Rustenburg and Mahikeng.

On Friday, 22 August, government departments, state-owned entities and the private sector will converge at Itsoseng Community Hall at Itsoseng Township where on-the-spot services will be provided and a community feedback session held.

Central to this service delivery-oriented

programme will be the handing over of community facilities including a Community Hall at Springbokpan village, a sports facility at Itsekeng Township in Biesiesvlei, a Community Hall at Tlhabologang in Coligny and a new cemetery site at Itsoseng.

Included in the day's activities is a planned oversight visit and inspection of a brick-making plant and facility in Itsoseng.

This flagship facility which was established by the department of Public Works and Roads (DPWR) during the 2014/15 financial year, offered job opportunities to Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) beneficiaries then, before operations were stopped more than three years ago due to several challenges.

As an intervention strategy, the department has plans to resuscitate all brick making plants across the province to make them sustainable and to create job opportunities and skills.

Furthermore, more than 4 000 paving bricks which are on-site, produced by EPWP beneficiaries, will be donated to the Ditsobotla Local Municipality for use in any of their paving projects planned on access roads to service delivery points and streets. An inspection of a special maintenance project on road D40 from Thusong to Itsoseng will also be conducted on the day.

Some of the standard Thuntsha Lerole features which will be performed during the day will include the fixing of high-mast lights, mass registration of indigents for free basic services, clearing of illegal dumping sites, law enforcement, distribution of agricultural packages to a community agricultural project and a local school, provision of integrated primary health care services as well as distribution of sanitary towels to identified local schools.

Awareness to curb the emergence of illegal initiation schools

MAHIKENG MAIL - MAHIKENG: The National Oversight Coordinating Committee and the Provincial Initiation Coordinating Committee (PICC) will today (Thursday) roll out an awareness campaign on the provision of the Customary Initiation Act (CIA) at the Bahurutshe ba ga Moiloa Traditional Council in Dinokana.

The campaign is aimed at raising awareness about the importance of safe, lawful cultural practices, including the right of initiates, the role of traditional leaders, parents and initiation schools' principals.

The campaign follows the mushrooming of illegal initiation schools during the past winter initiation season which led to over 100 initiates being rescued and tragic death of six initiates. The campaign is also targeted at attaining zero deaths during initiation seasons as well as eradicating unnecessary fatalities through strict enforcement of the CIA and by fostering collaboration between government, traditional leaders and communities.

Kgosi Gasebone said the emergence of illegal initiation schools especially by chance takers who are chasing money, will never be tolerated.

"We call upon on all traditional school principals to work with local traditional authorities, the department and the PICC to ensure compliance and approval of initiation schools. If we all comply, this will go a long way in safeguarding the lives of our young people," remarked Kgosi Gasebone.

The Customary Initiation Act aims to protect, promote and regulate initiation. It provides for acceptable norms and standards, initiation oversight and coordinating structures, protection of

life, prevention of injuries and all forms of abuse against initiates, addressing the governance aspects of initiation, protecting the customary practice of initiation and ensuring that it is practiced within the constitutional and other legal prescripts.

As per the Act, no person must be forced or coerced into attending the initiation school, no person under the age of 16 may attend the initiation, a person between 16 and 18 years of age may only attend after obtaining a written consent letter from parents.

Meanwhile, initiation school principals have until 3 October to apply to operate schools during summer initiation season.

The traditional surgeon must also be 40 years and above, must have undergone initiation over 10 years ago and must have been mentored as a surgeon for a period of five years.