



dcstm

Department:
Community Safety and Transport Management
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MOPALAMI

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TERMINATION OF SCHOLAR TRANSPORT AIMED FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICE



**Community Patrollers
Programme benefits
unemployed youth**

**NW airports to
create more jobs**

**NWPG intervenes on
NTI salaries**



BUILDING A
NORTH WEST PROVINCE
THAT **WORKS** FOR ALL





Mr OA Koonyaditse
Editor in Chief

On the 16th of March 1960, the then PAC President Mangaliso Robert Sobukwe wrote to then Police Commissioner, Major General Corrie Rademeyer informing him about the "sustained, disciplined, non-violent campaign against Pass Laws." In the letter Mr Sobukwe appealed to the Commissioner to instruct, "your men no to give impossible commands ..."

No country's history is straightforward but ours is more checkered and painful. In this episode, you will find a chapter about the Human Rights Commissioner findings on scholar transport. It is in this background that I am thinking how easy it is to forget where we come from and how we may find ourselves no different from the past we want to move away from. History is not just the path from the past but should be consciousness percolator which should more often remind us not to repeat mistakes of the yesteryears.

Ensuring that South Africans are protected is not a responsible of those who had been elected but those like you and I who had been appointed. It is our responsibility to ensure that services such as scholar transport enables learners in far-flung areas to access education unhindered.

We are duty bound to use periods such Human Rights Month to foster social cohesion and combat issues like racism, xenophobia, and gender-based violence. This period we should focus on bridging the gap between constitutional promises and the everyday challenges of poverty and inequality. We are collectively called upon to ensure that everyday a citizen of this Province access promised service delivery.

The Human Rights Commission Report should conscientize us to remember that when we fail to deliver services, we do not fail the Government, we do not fail the MEC, we do not fail the HOD or Chief Director but we fail that young child who had been failed by history by simply determining that he/she will be born in an area that does not have adequate schools. We are failing that hopeful young soul that has so much confidence in ours as civil servants. We dare not fail like we have been failed by our past.

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NDP ROAD SAFETY

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SCHOLAR TRANSPORT CONTRACT TO BE CANCELLED AND REVIEWED



In view of recommendations made by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) in a report released in January 2026, looking into scholar transport challenges in the province, The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management will be halting the current contract. This is part of the department's adherence measures following findings that point to the contract not being feasible in its current form to deal with the nature of scholar transport challenges. The challenges amongst others include budget constraints; non compliance of service providers; infringement of safety protocols as well as a rapid demand for transportation particularly in mushrooming settlements.

The MEC of Community Safety and Transport Management, Wessels Morweng says the contract will be terminated within the provisions of the law and restarted to ensure that it adequately meets the demand for scholar services.

“Consistency with the findings of the commission is in the best interest of our people. The recommendations cannot be implemented with the current contracts in place and one of those recommendations is that scholar transportation contracted by government ought to cater for persons with disability.

“That provision will be practically impossible, given how the contract is currently setup. Therefore, the best way for us to be compliant with that aspect is to restart the contract, so that the recommendations can be tailored in the specification,” said MEC Morweng while briefing the media on the developments.

The department had become an active participant in the inquiry of the commission, through written and verbal submissions. Some of recommendations highlighted emanate from corrective measures already taken by the department.

“Over the period of exactly two years, we have terminated 90 operators provincially for variety of Service Level Agreement (SLA) and contraventions. These contraventions include inconsistent service, abandoning the route, unroadworthy vehicles or any recklessness that may harm or put learner safety at risk.

“So far, per district we have terminated 31 operators in Bojanala, 23 in Ngaka Modiri Molema, 22 in Dr RSM and 14 in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District. We have as at the August 2024, began a process of appointing a panel of operators as part of our trouble shooting measures.



“The panel has since been appointed in April 2025 and comprises of 44 operators. These are operators who are already in the system and can be called at a short notice to transport learners in case an operator abandons the route or for whatever reason that may lead to learners not being transported,” added MEC Morweng.

The department will continue to give effect to the directives of the report through the recommended phases of 60, 90 and 180 days, together with involved stakeholders in order to ensure accountability.

The Department continues to provide subsidized learner transport to disadvantaged learners who walk between 5 and 7 kilometer to reach their nearest appropriate school.



NW AIRPORTS REFURBISHMENT TO CREATE JOBS AND UPLIFT ECONOMY



Almost three years after a disastrous situation at the Pilanesberg International Airport when its terminal building was gutted, a turnaround of measures begins to play towards its refurbishment.

This came to reality during the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), between the North West Provincial Government, National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and the Infrastructure South Africa (ISA), for the renovation of the airport that is geared to create much needed jobs and lift the economic standards of Bojanala District and the Province as a whole. The agreement also includes the refurbishment of the GD Montshioa Airport, which will ultimately be repurposed as a cargo facility.

The project comes to the airport in a form of Public, Private Partnership (PPP), which will be led by the Infrastructure South Africa, an organization established with a mandate to drive strategic infrastructure development in support of South Africa's economic growth and social development.

During the signing ceremony at the airport, the North West MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management Wessels Morweng said airports are not only buildings serving as facilities that enable air travel but are rapidly evolving into critical economic engines.

Speaking prior to the signing of the MoU, which was signed by the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson and the Premier of the North West Province, Lazarus Mokgosi at Pilanesberg, MEC Morweng said the Pilanesberg International Airport is strategically placed to unlock economic growth not only in the Bojanala Platinum District but also in the Province as a whole.

"Modern airports do not only act as local catalysts for trade, tourism and industrial growth but also as economic arteries for regional corridors.

This therefore means the non-functionality of this airport, not only impeded regional growth but also stunted economic development of the Province. It is for this that to us as a Department that manages airports in the Province, this day is not just a passing date but a historical milestone and resulting from today's MoU, we will add Pilanesberg International Airport to that list of tourist attractions," said Morweng.

The airport is a stone throw from the Pilanesberg National Park, Sun City Resort and the Madikwe Game Reserve, which play a critical role in the economic activities in the Bojanala District and the province at large. A modernised international airport upon its completion, will attract investment, increase visitor numbers, and help create much-needed jobs in the province.



NALEDI AND GREATER TAUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES INSTITUTE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUMS



It is important that we work together to address crime and ensure that our communities feel safe and protected,” she said.

Furthermore, she also raised concerns about the rising levels of crime in Greater Taung, noting that the statistics highlight the urgent need for coordinated action from all sectors of society.

“We cannot fight crime in isolation. The collaboration of stakeholders including different departments, law enforcement, community structures and residents is critical in ensuring that we effectively respond to crime and build safer communities,” she added.

The ultimate goal is to ensure that CSFs are erected in all local municipalities across the province. While ensuring that they are fully supported to function independently and sustainably.

“These structures are presided over by the mayor. They feature prominently in the components of the Integrated Development Plans (IDP). They are strategically organised in such a way that all stakeholders play a role. All government departments are aligned through their mandate to address social ills that cultivate criminal activity,” said the Provincial Secretariat for Police Service, Mpho Rantona speaking at the Naledi launch.

The Naledi Local Municipality, Acting Mayor Freddy Mgidi says the adoption of the CSF is a declaration of war against crime.

“As we launch the CSF, we are saying enough is enough. Young people have fallen victim to drugs that have infiltrated our society, we come together to make their plight our fight and declare our community a crime free zone,” said Cllr Mgidi.

CSFs are established to advance community safety at a municipal level through coordinated and integrated priorities. The implementation thereof is done through the District Development Model (DDM) to optimise resources and improve government's response to crime. In solidifying their commitment to working together to combat crime through the CSF, all stakeholders signed a pledge of commitment.

The 2025/2026 Third Quarter Crime Statistics revealed a concerning rise in crime in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati with most stock theft incidents showing an upward trend, particularly in Taung, Pudimoe, Ganyesa and Vryburg amongst others.

In a response to these developments, Naledi as well as the Greater Taung Local Municipalities have become the first in the district to officially establish Community Safety Forums (CSF) as a structure to plan, coordinate and implement local safety strategies through a collaborative approach between government and civil society. This marks a renewed commitment to intensify efforts to combat crime.

The establishment of the CSFs forms part of broader strategic interventions aimed at strengthening partnerships between government, law enforcement and residents, while encouraging communities to play an active role in crime prevention and the creation of safer neighbourhoods.

The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management as a coordination organ plays a pivotal role in providing support to CSFs in order to ensure that they function independently. Addressing community members at the Greater Taung launch, Director of Crime Prevention Partnership, Ms Florence Nchoe highlighted importance of strengthening safety within communities and intensifying efforts to curb crime across the Greater Taung area. “Community safety remains a shared responsibility.

NW PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENES ON NTI SALARY CHALLENGES



The North West Premier Lazarus Mokgosi says the Provincial Government has intervened in mitigating the challenges of non-payment of salaries in the North West Transport Investment (NTI) as a temporary measure.

Speaking during the State of the Province Address, Premier Mokgosi said plans are underway to recapitalise the entity through an equity partner, to preserve jobs and ensure the business sustainability. "We expect this process to be concluded in the next three months," said Premier Mokgosi. For some time, the NTI employees have not consistently received their salaries due to the financial constraints facing the entity.

This led to the disgruntled worker's protests with burning of tyres, closing of the entity depots, the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management Head Office and North West Provincial Legislature.

In order to optimise service delivery and ensure stability at the North West Transport Investment (NTI), the Provincial Government has had a number of court battles for the removal of the entity's Business Rescue Practitioner (BRP), whom his court appeals derailed every process of turning the situation around at the entity.

The NTI is a state-owned entity that renders passenger transport services in the eastern part of Bojanala and also operates subsidised routes in Gauteng Province.



Community Patroller programme boosts young people's eligibility to secure employment



In the North West Province, socio-economic development remains a key priority as communities, government, and other stakeholders work together to restore livelihoods, create opportunities, and improve community safety. Positive signs of unemployment recovery, attributing progress to coordinated government initiatives and strong community partnerships continue to be highlighted. Though persistent challenges, these collaborative efforts are beginning to yield tangible results.

A major contributor to this recovery is the partnership between the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure through their Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management. Through integrated funding the community patroller's programme, promotes community participation, creates short-term employment opportunities, and empowers citizens with practical and transferable skills. The Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) accredited programme offers general security training, equivalent to Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) Level 4.

On 19 February 2026, the two departments visited Makwassie and Leeudoringstad in the Maquassi Hills Local Municipality, to profile gains made by Community Police Forum (CPF) patrollers in the skills programme. The CPF remains a vital structure for strengthening cooperation between communities and law enforcement agencies, enhancing visible policing, and fostering shared responsibility for safety.

As part of this initiative, six and ten participants from a total of 120 recruited patrollers in Makwassie and Leeudoringstad respectively, were awarded one-year contracts with Singobile Equestrian Security Services. This initiative not only improves crime prevention initiatives and visibility but also provides participants with valuable work experience and a sense of purpose.

One of the patrollers, 20-year-old Mr Justin Mere from Makwassie, is an inspiring example of the programme's impact. Aspiring to become a police officer, Mere joined the CPF after experiencing bullying during his childhood and developing a strong desire to protect others. During his first patrol, he witnessed cable theft and responsibly reported the incident, demonstrating vigilance and courage. For him, the CPF is more than a safety initiative; it is a platform to build discipline, leadership, and a safer environment for future generations.

"I want to make sure that I protect this community. My main goal is to encourage the youth to also be part of this. As someone who wants to be a police officer one day, I know that it starts here with this opportunity, and I have to show my diligence now. We all have to live here as better citizens," he said.



The programme ensures that participants gain transferable skills that will enhance their employability and enable them to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities beyond the duration of their contracts. According to EPWP Social Sector Programme Deputy Director Mr Johnny Moloto, the programme's focus extends beyond temporary employment.

"Our patrollers' exit plan is to ensure that they become employable and learn different skills, such as nail technology and other vocational abilities," he said. Makwassie Police Station Commander Captain Bereng Hlase commended the CPF patrollers for their dedication and valuable contribution to crime prevention. He praised their role in providing intelligence and information that supports effective policing, while also urging them to prioritise their own safety when encountering criminal activity.

"Think about your safety first and secretly notify the police; we will make sure that every perpetrator is arrested," he stated, highlighting the importance of cooperation rather than confrontation.

Makwassie and Leeudoringstad are poverty-stricken communities, and this initiative has significantly improved livelihoods for many families. It represents a much-needed intervention that restores hope and dignity while promoting economic participation.

CPF Chairperson Mr Tebogo Monewang from Leeudoringstad expressed appreciation for the programme and encouraged its continuation.

In a community with limited employment opportunities and a heavy reliance on social grants, the CPF initiative has been transformative.

"For young people who might otherwise struggle to access opportunities, it provides income, restores dignity, and gives them hope," he concluded.

From the Directorate of Crime Prevention Partnerships within the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, Mr Tebogo Serage emphasised the benefits of the temporary employment programme. He welcomed the positive impact of the department's collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

"Through the Integrated Fund received from Public Works and Infrastructure, we are able to finance programmes that address both unemployment and crime. As government, it is encouraging to witness such a positive impact in our communities," he said.

The CPF patroller programme demonstrates how community policing, youth empowerment, and integrated funding can collectively address crime and unemployment. As more citizens actively participate in safeguarding their neighbourhoods and unemployment continues to decline, the North West Province moves closer to a future that is safer, more inclusive, and economically resilient for all.

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DEPARTMENT SOUNDS ALARM OVER SCAMMER IMPERSONATING SENIOR OFFICIALS

IMPERSONATING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SCAM OTHERS IS A CRIMAL OFFENCE



SCAM



The North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management (DCSTM) has issued a strong warning to business owners, transport operators and school principals across the province regarding a growing tender related scam in which individuals impersonate senior departmental officials in an attempt to extort money. The department has expressed serious concern about fraudulent WhatsApp messages being circulated to members of the business community that falsely claims to provide updates on tender applications that were allegedly submitted to the department.

According to information brought to the attention of the department, the alleged scammer initiates WhatsApp conversations with business people, including some who are already registered service providers and others who have previously expressed interest in government opportunities. The scammer typically present themselves as senior officials and create the impression that they are providing inside information about the status of a tender. Some of the messages reported to the department include statements such as:

"Is regarding the tender that you submitted to us."

"The company is shortlisted."

"The company has 90 percent chances to get job."

"I will call you after 10 minutes."

The above messages are deliberately structured to create urgency, excitement and a sense of privilege by making the recipient believe they are being offered an opportunity that requires immediate attention.

In many cases, such communication is later followed by requests for money under various pretexts including so-called administrative costs, compliance fees or facilitation payments. Victims are led to believe that these payments will secure the contract or improve their chances of being awarded the tender.

The Head of Department, Dr Hans Kekana, warned that these tactics are calculated and deceptive. "These criminals are deliberately targeting business people by creating false hope and sense of urgency. At no point does the department communicate tender outcomes through Whatsapp messages or private cellphone numbers. We want to make it categorically clear that there is currently no advertised tender corresponding with the claims being made in these fraudulent messages. As the department, we follow formal, transparent and regulated communication processes when dealing with clients and service providers," He said.

Official tender processes are governed by strict procurement prescripts and outcomes are never communicated through informal WhatsApp messages from private cellphone numbers.





In addition to the tender scam, the department has also received reports of individuals targeting operators and school principals in the Bojanala District with promises to resolve or assist with school transport overloading issues. These individuals allegedly introduce themselves as one of the officials from the National Department of Transport.

The department wishes to make it perfectly clear that only the North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management is authorised to address overloading matters within the province and any intervention is subject to budget availability and official departmental processes. Members of the public are cautioned not to engage with individuals who claim they can resolve regulatory or compliance matters in exchange for payment.

Furthermore, the department has identified instances of private scholar transport operators utilising seven seater vehicles that are none compliant with scholar transport regulations to transport learners. These vehicles do not meet the prescribed safety and operational standards. The department is intensifying compliance inspections and urges operators to ensure that all vehicles used for transporting scholars are properly registered, roadworthy and authorised in terms of applicable transport legislation. Parents and school authorities are also encouraged to verify the compliance status of scholar transport providers to safeguard the safety of learners.

The rise in impersonation scams not only places financial strain on businesses but also threatens to destroy public trust in government institutions. When scammers misuse the names of departments and officials, they damage the credibility of legitimate public administration systems.

"We plead with any business people to report to their nearest police stations whenever they come across who will try to scam them," HoD stated. Any request for money in exchange for securing a tender award should be treated as a red flag. Through collective vigilance and prompt reporting of suspicious activity, the business community and the public can help curb this growing trend and protect the integrity of public procurement processes in the province.

The department further notes that this type of scam exploits the broader socio-economic challenges facing South Africa. With persistently high unemployment rates and many small businesses struggling to remain operational, government tenders represent a critical source of hope and opportunity for entrepreneurs. For many emerging businesses especially youth owned and small enterprises, securing a government contract can mean financial stability, job creation and long term sustainability. Scammers deliberately prey on this reality.

They understand that business owners are often anxiously waiting for feedback after submitting tender documents and may be eager for positive news. By promising a "90 percent chance" of success or implying that a company has already been shortlisted, scammers manipulate both desperation and optimism. The beginning of the year is particularly vulnerable as businesses attempt to recover from the December slowdown and look forward to new budgets, fresh procurement cycles and renewed economic activity. During this period expectations are high and scammers take advantage of the assumption that new contracts are being processed or finalised.

BOGODU JWA LERUO KE TLHOBA BOROKO KWA METSE MAGAENG



Bogodu jwa leruo bo tlhagelela e le tlhoba boroko bogolo segolo kwa metse magaeng ka na kwa merakeng go ralala Porofense.

Go latela seno, Lefapha la Tsamaiso ya Dipalangwa le Tshireletsego ya Baagi le bo ne go tshwanela go rulaganya metseletsele ya dipuisano le barui go ralala Porofense bogolo thata kwa metseng le metsana e kailweng dipalopalo di ile kwa godimo thata.

Mo mosong o no, lefapha ka tshwaraganelo le Seteishene sa Mapodisi sa Jericho mo Mmasepaleng wa Selegae wa Madibeng, ba rulagantse dipuisano le barui mo motseng wa Jonathan, mo karolong ya Jericho.

Ba tsaya karolo mo poisanong ya gompiono, e akareditse mafapha a a farologaneng a puso, a dikemedi tsa o ne di buisaneng le barui le go ba fatlhosa ka melao le melawana e farologaneng.

Mengwe ya melao le melangwana ke e barui ba tshwanelwang ke go e dirisa go ka leka go isa tlase bogodu jwa leruo.

Nngwe ya di ntlha kgolo e nnile go tshwaiwa ga leruo (Animal Identification Mark), go ya ka Animal Identification Act, 2002 (Act No 6 of 2002) le wa Meat Safety Act.

E ngwe ya dikgang kgolo e nnile bolwetse jo bo oleng jwa molomo le tlhakwana, jo bo kailweng bo tlisitse leroborobo mo di nageng tsa Kontinente ya Afrika. Barui ba fatlhositswe ka mokgwa o bolwetse bo bo anamang bonolo ka gone, le ditlhare ka na melemo e ba tshwanelwang ke go e dirisa go thibela bolwetse jo. Barui ba ikuetse thata mo mafapheng a puso go bathusa go lwantsha bogodu jwa leruo ja ka fa bo ba utlwiswa botlhoko e bile bo fetola seemo sa bo ne sa botshelo. Mme Lesedi Mokoma go tswa mo Lefapheng la Tshireletsego ya Baagi le Tsamaiso ya Dipalangwa o rotlweeditse barui le baagi ka kakaretso go bega dikgetsi tsa bogodu le go dirisana mmogo le ba sepodisigo akaretsa le Foramo ya Tshireletsego ya Baagi, (Community Safety Forum - CPF).

Kopano e, e ne e rulagantswe ka mokgwa wa District Development Model (DDM), e sa leng e tlhomiwa ke Moporesidente Cyril Ramaphosa, e le fa a ne a rotloetsa mafapha a farologaneng a puso go lomagana le go dirisana mmogo go isa ditirelo kwa baaging.

Mafapha a nnileng go ne le mekgatlho ya barui a akaretsa: North West Parks Board, South African Police Services, National Prosecuting Authority, Agriculture and Rural Development, Correctional Services, State Vet, Farmers Forum, Jericho SETS le Spiritual Crime Prevention.

Barui ba rotloeditswe go tlhatlhela kana go tswalela leruo la bone ka nako tsothle.

MINISTER CREECY MONITORS SCHOLAR TRANSPORT BUSES IN BOJANALA.



In an effort to ensure that the start to the 2026 academic year runs smoothly, Transport Minister, Barbara Creecy led the North West Back to School Scholar Transport Inspection operation in the Bojanala District.

The operation is an initiative by the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management as the final phase of the Road Safety Festive Season Campaign, to assess the roadworthiness of buses contracted to ferry learners in identified schools in January each year. A central aspect of the campaign is to ensure that the scholar transport fleet is roadworthy. As a result, vehicle defects are proactively identified and dealt with to avoid road incidents, particularly those involving learners.

Minister Creecy says law enforcement has adopted a zero tolerance approach regarding halting of non-compliant learner transportation. This ties in with efforts to reduce the number of fatal incidents due to speeding and overloading and unroadworthy vehicles.



“The North West Province inspections are underway in all four districts. The province has procured about 786 buses from about 300 companies. In Bojanala there are 60 buses called in for inspection at the Bapong Weighbridge. They go through a series of tests so that we satisfy ourselves that they are indeed in good condition.

“In the past we experienced many challenges on the scholar services contracts in the North West but what I am pleased about is that the province has now developed a dedicated unit that is actively policing and enforcing regulations.

“If a bus company brings a roadworthy vehicle to do inspections and then substitutes it with an unroadworthy one, they will be caught by law enforcement who are now patrolling villages and schools in farm areas, where we have experienced a lot of those underhanded incidents,” said Minister Creecy.

Minister Creecy further called for strict compliance by private scholar transport and efficient policing of drivers.

“We have recently met with the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO), the marking of vehicles is non-negotiable, all vehicles must undergo the road safety testing for roadworthiness as well and ultimately we want to ensure that taxi associations and bus operators are self-policing. This will go a long way in guaranteeing that drivers behave in a responsible manner while they transport pupils to and from school”, added Minister Creecy.

Buses that failed the fitness test were discontinued for operators to immediately deal with the faults in order to meet the academic calendar deadline.

GALLERY



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