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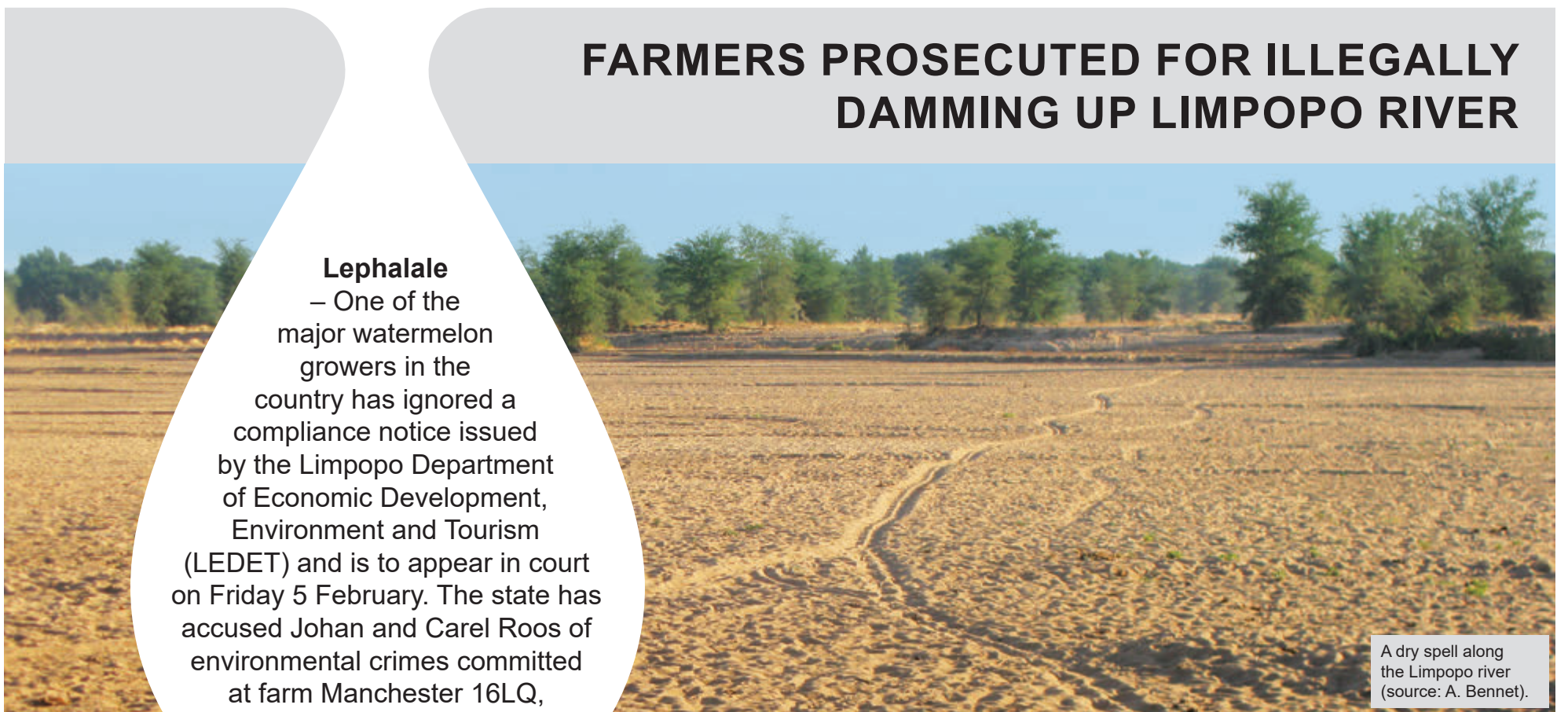
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# TROUBLED WATERS

## FARMERS PROSECUTED FOR ILLEGALLY DAMMING UP LIMPOPO RIVER



A dry spell along  
the Limpopo river  
(source: A. Bennet).

**Lephalale**  
– One of the major watermelon growers in the country has ignored a compliance notice issued by the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) and is to appear in court on Friday 5 February. The state has accused Johan and Carel Roos of environmental crimes committed at farm Manchester 16LQ, Stockpoort, Limpopo [close to the Botswana border].

The spokesperson for the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) Albi Modise said that a site inspection by officials from LEDET and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) found an unauthorised dam on the farm restricting the flow of the Limpopo river on 3 April 2019. The officials noted a water pump station and associated equipment on the riverbanks. Subsequent inspections

by the DEFF found several illegal large dams that were constructed on the farm and filled with water from the Limpopo river. Even though a compliance notice provided an opportunity for them to rectify the situation they [according to the LEDET] continued in blatant disregard of the law. A criminal investigation was initiated by the *Green Scorpions* from the DEFF and the director of

public prosecutions instituted a prosecution against them on 30 September 2020. Johan and Carel Roos were scheduled to appear in the Lephalale Magistrates' Court on Monday 11 January but the proceedings could not go ahead as only Carel showed up. The court issued a warrant of arrest for Johan to secure the attendance of both men on 5 February. Carel Roos is well-known for growing the *All Sweet* cultivar watermelon and has been successful in reducing the 12-year rotation

cycle for planting watermelons in the same ground to five years running using soil anti-fungal fumigation. A local ecologist explained to *Platinum Bushvelder* that unauthorised dams ignore the needs of downstream water users which include other farmers and communities that rely on river water for their daily needs. The Limpopo river also supplies water to neighbouring Botswana and Zimbabwe. Environmental laws have been put in place to ensure the fair distribution of water.

MANHUNT  
FOR RHINO  
POACHERS

PAGE 3

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# All eyes on Limpopo's most precious resource: Water

**Makhado** - The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has raised serious concerns on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ). They state that 98% of all available water supplies in South Africa have already been allocated making water a critical element to consider in all developments. The MMSEZ aims to use 110 million cubic metres of

water per annum which is not currently available in the Limpopo province. In terms of the National Water Act and international obligations there must be provision made for a water reserve now and for the projected future water needs of the region which cannot be done with the huge water requirements of the MMSEZ.

WWF cites the *Limpopo Water Management Area North Reconciliation Strategy* which states that groundwater abstraction in the area is already too high and provides sound reasoning why the MMSEZ is not in the public interest.



Sustainable and equitable water use will be put to the test when the public participation submissions on the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone close at the end of January.

Any groundwater abstraction would come from a transboundary aquifer and the proposed water abstraction rate would be more than the calculated groundwater recharge rate. A groundwater deficit would affect domestic use and agriculture in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique who share the aquifer with South Africa.

The draft EIA recognises that there is a high likelihood that river flows will be much less in the future due to global warming but the impacts on downstream users and the ecological reserve are swept under the carpet. Downstream water users in Mozambique are already concerned about reductions in river flows and water quality. WWF concludes that the MMSEZ is not practical until a sustainable water supply can be assured.

Submissions to the environmental consultant close on Sunday 31 January 2021. After this date, the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism will review whether the consultant has addressed the objections and concerns raised by the interested and affected parties in a manner that ensures sustainable and equitable development in the province.

# ELEPHANT TUSK DEALERS IN THE DOCK

**Limpopo** – Three men found in possession of elephant tusks are expected to apply for bail on Tuesday 2 February when they appear before the Polokwane Magistrates' Court. David Mathonsi (31), Raymond Move (33), and Ben Shiburi (36) were all arrested at Savannah Mall on Friday 21 January after they were found in possession of four elephant tusks worth an estimated R168,000. "The suspects, who were travelling in a grey BMW, were arrested by police members of the endangered species, K9 and crime intelligence units during a joint undercover operation," police spokesperson colonel Moatshe Ngoepe said. A trap was set for the suspects, who were immediately arrested after attempting to sell the tusks to undercover police officers.



The elephant tusks are worth an estimated R168,000.



The suspects were found in possession of four elephant tusks.

# 37 CUFFED IN 1 WEEK

**Thabazimbi** – The Thabazimbi Police arrested 37 perpetrators since Friday 22 January. According to police spokesperson constable Titus Khumalo, 32 were arrested for contravening the Disaster Management Act, two for assault with the intent of causing grievous bodily harm, and three for common assault.



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## WEATHER REPORT LIMPOPO THABAZIMBI

|                      | Friday      | Saturday    | Sunday      | Monday      | Tuesday     |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Date                 | 29 Jan 2020 | 30 Jan 2020 | 31 Jan 2020 | 01 Feb 2020 | 02 Feb 2020 |
| Temp                 | 24°C - 19°C | 25°C - 28°C | 24°C - 18°C | 26°C - 17°C | 24°C - 17°C |
| Rainfall probability | 31 %        |             |             |             |             |
| Sunrise              | 06:12       |             |             |             |             |
| Sunset               | 18:02       |             |             |             |             |

At time of print

## FINANCIAL INDICATORS

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| ZAR/USD         | 15.37    |
| Rand/Pound      | 20.98    |
| Rand/Euro       | 18.60    |
| Rand/Aus Dollar | 11.70    |
| Dollar/Pound    | 1.36     |
| Pound/Euro      | 1.13     |
| Gold            | 1 835.09 |
| Platinum        | 1 059.00 |
| Palladium       | 2 302.00 |

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Two rhino carcasses were discovered.

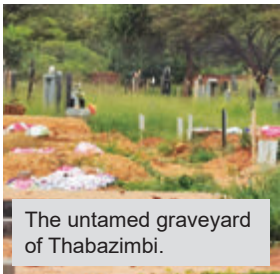
# MANHUNT FOR RHINO POACHERS

**Limpopo** – Police in Limpopo have launched a manhunt to track down rhino poachers responsible for killing three of the endangered animals in two separate incidents. The owner of a game reserve in Lephalale discovered the carcass of one of his rhinos on Friday 22 January while he was on a routine patrol. He then alerted the South African Police Services (SAPS) endangered species unit in Limpopo. “It seems the suspects never had time to remove the horns from the carcass. The carcass was spotted by the owner of the game reserve as he was flying over the area in a helicopter,” police spokesperson colonel Moatshe Ngoepe explained.

Two more dehorned rhino carcasses were also discovered the following day at another game reserve in Gravelotte, outside Phalaborwa. “Rangers were patrolling when they spotted the dead rhinos and immediately informed the police. The suspects linked to both incidents are yet to be apprehended and we are appealing to anyone with information regarding their whereabouts to come forward.” **Anyone with information that can lead to the arrest of the suspects should please contact colonel Alpheus Mokale on 082 565 6524, captain Meyer on 082 319 9460, or the SAPS Crime Stop Number 0860010111.**

## Graveyard a jungle [Letter to the editor]

**Thabazimbi** – Could Northam residents please share with us how they managed to get the Thabazimbi Local Municipality to clean up their graveyard? The Thabazimbi graveyard is turning into a jungle and families fear for their safety when they visit the graves of their loved ones. **Respectful Relative**



The untamed graveyard of Thabazimbi.

The Thabazimbi Local Municipality should clear the grass around the trees and graves to create a place for the community to pay respects to their deceased.



## LOCAL RESEARCH COMPANY CONDUCTING VACCINE TRIALS

**Thabazimbi** – The Limpopo Clinical Research Initiative is involved in COVID-19 vaccine trials on community members of Thabazimbi and surrounds. These trials are essential for the effective development of a vaccine against the COVID-19 pandemic and approved by both the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority and ethics committees. All their clinical research is conducted according to Good Clinical Practice and other international guidelines. A small community could make a big change and on Facebook they invited community members to participate in these vaccine trials to contribute to the future health of our nation. Businesstech reported that the trials received regulatory approval from the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) on 22 September 2020.

**For more information contact the study team on 014 777 1939 or send a WhatsApp to 064 737 4091 or an email to covidvaccine.lcri@gmail.com.**



Dr Leon Fouche is involved in research for the development of a COVID-19 vaccine.

## LOCAL AUTHORITY NOTICE 25 OF 2020 THABAZIMBI LAND USE SCHEME, 2014 AMENDMENT SCHEME 047

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 16 (1) OF THE THABAZIMBI LAND USE MANAGEMENT BY -LAW, 2015 READ WITH THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2013 (ACT 16 OF 2013) (SPLUMA) AND REGULATIONS AS PROMULGATED

The Owner of erf 514 Mojuteng hereby gives notice in terms of Section 16 (1) of the Thabazimbi Land Use Management By-Law, 2015 read with the relevant provision of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act 16 of 2013) (Spluma) and Regulations as promulgated, that she has applied to the Thabazimbi Municipality for the Amendment of the Thabazimbi Land Use Scheme, 2014 by the rezoning of erf 514 Mojuteng from “Residential 1” with a density of “1 dwelling per erf” to “Residential 4” with no density restriction as applicable in terms of the Thabazimbi Land Use Scheme, 2014 for “Residential 4” zoned erven.

Particulars of the application will lie for inspection during normal office hours at the office of the Director: Planning and Economic Development, Thabazimbi Municipality, 7 Rietbok Street, Thabazimbi for a period of 30 days from 22 January 2021

Objections to or representation in respect of the application must be lodged with or made in writing to the Director: Planning and Economic Development, Thabazimbi Municipality, at below mentioned address or at Private bag x 530, Thabazimbi, 0380 within a period of 30 Days from 22 January 2021

Contact details: Sipho Manne, P O Box 2005, Thabazimbi, 0380. Cell: 062 630 2542

## PLAASLIKE OWERHEID KENNISGEWING 25 VAN 2020 THABAZIMBI GRONDGEBRUIKSKEMA, 2014 WYSIGINGSKEMA 047

### KENNISGEWING VAN AANSOEK INGEVOLGE ARTIKEL 16 (1) VAN DIE THABAZIMBI GRONDGEBRUIKBESTUUR VERORDENING, 2015 SAAMGELEES MET DIE BETROKKE BEPALINGS VAN DIE WET OP RUIMTELIKE BEPLANNING EN GRONDGEBRUIKBESTUUR, 2013 (WET 16 VAN 2013) (SPLUMA) EN REGULASIES SOOS GEPROKLAAMEER.

Die Eienaar van erf 514 Mojuteng gee hiermee ingevolge Artikel 16 (1) van die Thabazimbi Grondgebruikbestuur Verordening, 2015 saamgelees met die betrokke bepalings van die Wet op Ruimtelike Beplanning en Grondgebruikbestuur, 2013 (Wet 16 van 2013) (Spluma) en regulasies soos geproklameer, kennis dat hulle aansoek gedoen het by die Thabazimbi Munisipaliteit vir die wysiging van die Thabazimbi Grongebruikskema, 2014, deur die hersonering van erf 514 Mojuteng van “Residensieel 1” met ‘n digtheid van “1 woonhuis per erf” na “Residensieel 4” met geen digtheid beperking soos van toepassing is op “Residensieel 4” gesoneerde erwe in die Thabazimbi Grondgebruikskema, 2014.

Besonderhede van die aansoek lê ter insae gedurende gewone kantoorure by die kantoor van die Direkteur: Beplanning en Ekonomiese Ontwikkeling, Thabazimbi Munisipaliteit, Rietbokstraat 7, Thabazimbi vir ‘n tydperk van 30 dae vanaf 22 Januarie 2021

Besware teen of verhoë ten opsigte van die aansoek, moet binne ‘n tydperk van 30 dae vanaf 22 Januarie 2021 skriftelik by of tot die Direkteur: Beplanning en Ekonomiese Ontwikkeling, Thabazimbi Munisipaliteit, by onderstaande adres of by Privaatsak X 530, Thabazimbi, 0380 ingedien of gerig word.

Kontak besonderhede: Sipho Manne, Posbus 2005, Thabazimbi, 0380. Cell: 062 630 2542



## Reënvalsyfers en stand van damme

### Maandag 25 Januarie

- Thabazimbi dorp - 60mm
- Leeupoort dorp - 45mm
- Oom Jan Plaas - 60mm
- Kromdraai - 30mm
- Swartklip (Kameelpoort) - 35mm
- Koedoeskop - 28mm
- Rooiberg plase - 50-61mm
- Sentrum - 65mm
- Leeupoort plase - 50-70mm
- Makoppa - 52mm

### Dinsdag 26 Januarie

- Makoppa - 19mm
- Oom Jan Plaas - 10mm
- Swartklip (Kameelpoort) - 15mm
- Koedoeskop - 10mm
- Cumberland sedert Sondag - 90 tot 120mm

### Stand van damme

#### Krokodilbrug 26 Januarie

- Hartbeespoort - 94% een en ‘n half sluis oop (21 kumek)
- Roodekopjes - 80% maak halwe sluis oop (22 kumek)
- Klipvoor - 93%
- Vaalkop - 81%
- Roodepoort - 100%
- Bospoort - 101%
- Buffelspoort - 101%

**Inligting verskaf deur Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association**

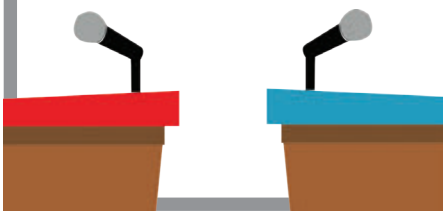
# PLATINUM BUSHVELDER



# sports

## POLL: Is it important to have a matric certificate (national senior certificate)? YES/ NO?

We have all heard the term 'be cool - stay in school'... Do you think it is important? We want your opinion.



Make yourself heard by sending an email to [news@platinumbushvelder.co.za](mailto:news@platinumbushvelder.co.za) with the following information before 17:00 on Wednesday 4 February:

- Yes, it is important to get a matric certificate or no, it is not important to get a matric certificate.
- The reason for your answer.
- A recent photo of yourself (optional) – that we can publish with your answer.
- Your contact details.

If you do not want your answers to be printed, just reply to the question: YES/ NO.

The results of the votes will be published in our next issue.

You can also give your opinion by commenting on our Facebook post.

## CURRIEBEKER 20/21 SEMI-FINALE

### Bulle vs Leeus

Op Loftus het die kwik tot 36°C gestyg en die gemoedere seker tot 46°C ou grote. Dit was helwarm en gelukkig was daar na 20 minute 'n waterbreek tot lafenis van stomende bulle en leeus. Die Bulle het met halftyd 11-0 voorgeloop.

Die *Jo'burgers* het hard geveg in die tweede helfte en met twee puik drieë teruggeslaan. Met die telling op veertien elk was die vet in die vuur! Twee geelkaarte deur Rasta aan die Leeus het hulle laat knak en natuurlik oortollige strafskepe was die begin van die einde... Vir die Bulle het die yster Duane Vermeulen van vooraf gelei en met verwoestende stormlope die Leeus gekarnuffel. Die Bulle wen 26-21 en dring dan deur tot die finaal wat op Saterdag 31 Januarie 2021 om 15:00 teen die Haaie op Loftus gespeel sal word.



### WP vs Haaie

Hartseer verhaal, treurmare in die Kaap, vlase hang halfmas en nou is die wyn regtig klaar. Op die geliefde Nuweland verloor die WP die laaste *rugga game* wat op dié grond gespeel is. Die Haaie was op die dag die beste span en honger vir die wen. Die speler van die reeks tot dusver, Curwin Bosch, het weer nie teleur gestel nie en het die Kapenaars dronk geskop en gespeel. Hierdie jong losskakel was briljant en gaan met baie selfvertroue Loftus toe ou grote. Die Haaie wen 19-9 en dring dan deur tot die finaal waar hulle teen die Bulle in Pretoria sal uitdraf.

Die Durbaniete het hulle man gestaan

teen die hoogaangeskrewe WP agtstal en daar is die *game* gewen. Die Haaie het gewys hulle laat hulle nie boelie nie en word nie bang gepraat nie. Die Bulle op Loftus moet seker as die gunsteling beskou word, maar die Haaie het nog altyd daarvan gehou om die Bulle daar te verras. Nat en reënerige weer word voorspel en dit gaan die losskakel wat die omstandighede die vinnigste opsom die een hand op die Beker gee. Baie, en somer baie goeie nuus is dat die *ref* vir die finaal Jaco Peyper gaan wees. Kom ons hoop en vertrou die TMO se visie gaan deur die mistigheid belemmer word nie en dat geregtigheid sal koning kraai. 'n Riller gaan dit gewis wees, die tafel is gedek vir 'n geskiedkundige Januarie Curriebeker Finaal. Mag rugby en sportmanskap die wenners wees!

Nag ou grote...

## Have your say / Sê jou sê

### Will you be taking the COVID-19 vaccine?

According to minister of health Dr Zweli Mkhize, the first 1 million vaccine dosages are scheduled to arrive in South Africa on Monday 1 February. Readers shared their opinion on whether or not they will be taking the vaccine.

Nee, daar is nog nie genoeg inligting oor die gevare wat die entstof dalk mag inhou nie. Hulle sal beslis eers meer mense moet toets om seker te maak dit sal meer goed doen as skade aanrig.

Johannes Fisher



Nee, ek word oor die algemeen gereeld siek en waag nie eers my kanse met die griep inspuiting nie. Daar is beslis nog nie genoeg navorsing gedoen oor die nuwe-effekte nie.

Mari Meintjies



Yes, if they know for certain that it can protect me from getting COVID-19, I will be taking the vaccine.

Annamari Oosthuizen



No, I will never take the vaccine. This vaccine is still not accepted by many scientists, so I don't have confidence in the vaccine.

Muola Abraha

### PUBLIC POLL: THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Will you take the COVID-19 vaccine?

NO  
62%

YES  
38%

## SOULFOOD JOHN 4

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John

<sup>2</sup>(though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples),

<sup>3</sup>He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.

<sup>4</sup>But He needed to go through Samaria.

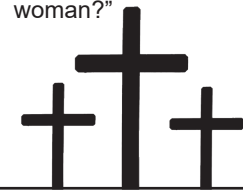
<sup>5</sup>So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

<sup>6</sup>Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

<sup>7</sup>A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

<sup>8</sup>For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

<sup>9</sup>Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?"



NEW KING JAMES  
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Posbus/ PO Box 107 | Thabazimbi 0380



Marina van der Wateren

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2 SLPK, OOPPLAN LEEFAREA, BADKAMER, AFDAK - R4 800.00  
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### TE KOOP | THABAZIMBI



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- R 1 190 000.00



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LEEFAREA, INGEBOUDE BRAAI,  
WENDYHUIS - R 950 000.00



3 SLPK, 2 BADK, SITK,  
EETK, LAPA, SWEMBAD,  
BRAAI AREA, 2 M/HUISE,  
LOFT, WASK - R 950 000.00

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