

**VACANCY | PAGE 2** 

# Thaba's heroes just got stronger!



volumes about service, sacrifice, and community, Thaba Fire & Rescue proudly welcomed a donated firefighting truck to their fleet on Wednesday, 30 July 2025 — a game-changing gesture from the Waterberg District Municipality. "This truck will help us carry out our daily work

Thabazimbi - In a heartfelt moment that speaks more effectively — work that we do with passion again — often on their own time and their own behind the team, helping them grow from humble to keep our communities safe," shared Pierre Loots, director at Thaba Fire and Rescue.

And that community is wide-reaching. From Thabazimbi's bustling streets to the remote corners of the surrounding bushveld, the Thaba Their dedication has not gone unnoticed. Local Fire and Rescue team shows up time and

dime — to assist with veld fires, road accidents, emergencies, and rescue operations.

#### The Backbone of the Bushveld

sponsors and the public have consistently rallied hearts — thank you."

beginnings into a force that residents can depend

"If it weren't for the incredible support from the public and our sponsors, we wouldn't have made it this far," added Loots. "From the bottom of our

**CHECK OUT THE** 





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# Out of the Cage, Into the Claws of the State?

## **ROARWORTHY DEBATE**

**SA** – In a highly controversial development, minister Dr Dion George has moved to outlaw new captive lion breeding facilities in South Africa. This latest phase of the lion industry has once again stirred strong reactions, warnings, and sharp public debate.

#### **VACANCY** -**VAKANTE POS**

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#### Requirements:

- · A complete CV including contact numbers of previous employers for reference checks
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- · Basic computer skills
- · Experience in sales or the newspaper industry will be an advantage - training will be provided

This is a fun and challenging position – perfect for a young person who enjoys working with people.

Send your CV via WhatsApp to:

#### Or email it to:

contact@platinumweekly.co.za

Closing date for applications: Wednesday, 13 August 2025

If you do not hear from us within 7 working days. please consider your application unsuccessful.

#### What's New: The Lion Prohibition Notice

- On 15 July 2025, Dr George announced the imminent publication of a Lion Prohibition Notice, aimed at banning the establishment of new captive-breeding facilities.
- This follows recommendations from the Ministerial Task Team and aligns with updated Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations under NEM:BA.
- The Notice has already passed the 30day parliamentary window and is awaiting executive approval.
- Provincial MECs are now being engaged to facilitate implementation, with the minister planning further stakeholder announcements at upcoming forums like the G20 climate meeting in Kruger National Park.

#### **Voices from Both Sides**

Those defending the captivebreeding industry warn the ban will backfire: "If you ban this, lions will become extinct" is a refrain often heard — though widely debunked by others. Critics explain that captive lions bred for tourism

or trophy hunting are separate from wild populations and do not contribute to wildlion conservation.

Economic arguments are also prominent: Hannes Wessels, of the Predator Breeder's Association, asserts the industry supports 8,000 jobs and supplies crucial rural income. He warns that closing the industry with no transition plan could devastate local economies. Meanwhile, animal welfare and conservation groups strongly favour the ban: World Animal Protection points to 8,000–12,000 captive lions across more than 300 facilities, many confined for canned hunts or used in the lionbone trade. posing serious welfare and conservation risks.

#### **Context & Why It Matters**

Earlier pledges dating back to 2021 promised to phase out the captive lion industry, but critics say enforcement has lagged. As of today, South Africa holds the world's largest captive-bred lion population

#### The Bottom Line

South Africa's proposed ban is a watershed moment in its longrunning lionbreeding debate. Conservationists see it as overdue and essential; breeders fear job losses and unintended consequences for wild populations. Earlier fears — like lions going extinct — have been widely refuted... and does seem plausible. But the tension between welfare, economy, and biodiversity remains raw.

A critic wrote: "Lions don't need a new form of captivity — just under a different name. With state-run facilities often underfunded and poorly managed, some believe that lions could suffer more under official care than in private facilities." Trusting government to care for thousands of lions long-term, critics argue, is a gamble South Africa may not be ready to win.

The only certainty? The roaring national conversation is far from over.

## TRAINED TO SAVE



Thabazimbi – In just seven months, Thaba Fire and Rescue has transformed into a stronger, more capable emergency service - thanks to tireless dedication, community support, and a shared commitment to saving lives. "We've grown a lot over the past 6 to 7 months, and I'm very proud," said Pierre Loots, director at Thaba Fire and Rescue. "It wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of our sponsors and the local public." The journey began in April, when six members successfully completed a Basic Grass and Wildland Firefighting course - a crucial step in tackling veld fires that threaten both people and the environment. In March, five team members were sent for the IC Type 5 (Initial Response Accident Commander) course - and all five passed with flying colours. "It's these kinds of qualifications that strengthen our ability to act fast and lead when every second counts," Loots noted. May saw the success of the now well-known "Vuurfees", a community-driven fire festival that raised awareness and rallied support for local firefighting efforts.

Most recently, in July, Thaba Fire and Rescue sent 11 members, along with one WildMed colleague, to complete a Trauma and Crime Scene Cleanup course - and once again, all participants passed. These skills are vital for handling sensitive incidents with professionalism and care. And then, on Wednesday, 30 July, the team received a truly game-changing gift: a firefighting truck

# The group of Thaba Fire & Rescue and WildMed members who received their Trauma and Crime Scene Cleanup certifications — ready to serve with compassion and skill.

## Placing an obituary

Announcing the death of a family member is a time-honoured tradition as life should be celebrated and never forgotten. To help you to celebrate the life of your loved one and share details about the upcoming funeral, place an obituary in our newspaper, free of charge. You can include the date of death, details about their life and surviving family members. You can also write a special message, a poem or a prayer. Please include a photo and the date, time and place of the memorial service.

If you would like to place an obituary in Platinum Weekly / Platinum Bushvelder. send the information via WhatsApp to 072 482 6871 or email

news@platinumweekly.co.za/ news@platinumbushvelder.co.za

#### **LIMPOPO DIVISION, POLOKWANE**

Case No: 11633/2023 | In the matter between: NEDBANK LIMITED PLAINTIFF and ELIAS THULARE DEFENDANT (Identity number: 9605225426086) SHORTENED SUMMONS AND RULE 41A NOTICE OF OPPOSITION TO MEDIATION TO: FLIAS THULARE Identity Number 9605225426086, an adult male with full legal capacity whose full and further particulars are unknown

- 1. Confirmation of the cancellation of the credit agreement attached to the particulars of claim as ANNEXURE "A".
- 2. Forfeiture of all moneys paid by the Defendant to the Plaintiff in terms of the agreement annexed to Plaintiff's particulars of claim as ANNEXURE "A".
- 3. Payment in the amount of R143 330.27.
- Cost of suit.
- 5. Further and/or alternative relief.

A complete copy of the Combined Summons and Notice in Terms of Rule 41A can be obtained from VHI Attorneys - jade@vhilaw.co.za / 012 430 6600. The Defendant shall have one month to defend this action from date of publication. The Plaintiff will apply for Judgment against you without any further notice should no appearance to defend be delivered within one month hereof.

VHI ATTORNEYS | ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF | UNIT D4. THE WILLOWS OFFICE PARK, DIE WILGERS, PRETORIA REF.: W O'REILLY/RX4778 | TEL.: 012 - 430 6600

C/O SM PATEL ATTORNEYS INC | 122 MARSHALL STREET POLOKWANE | 0699 | TEL: 015 880 2277 | REF: S DAVIDS

# Three-vehicle collision, only minor injuries



Thabazimbi - At approximately 19:40 on Sunday evening, 3 August 2025, a serious collision involving two cars and a truck occurred on the R511 (Brits road), roughly 30 kilometres outside Thabazimbi.

The cause of the accident remains unknown at this stage. Emergency services were quick to respond, with Thaba Fire & Rescue arriving on scene alongside the Northam Platinum Fire Team, Provincial Ambulance Services,



and the Traffic Department. Only three people sustained very light injuries - a relief considering the severity such multi-vehicle collisions often carry. "We're grateful that everyone walked away with minor injuries," said Pierre Loots, director of Thaba Fire and Rescue. "As always, we thank our team and all supporting services who worked efficiently under pressure."

Thaba Fire & Rescue press release

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"Courts should only allow postponements when truly necessary. Clear, strict guidelines would help prevent abuse and keep cases moving forward.'

If you could change the legal system, would you limit the

time and number of times cases are postponed?

Court case delays can stretch for years, leaving victims, accused, and families in limbo. Some argue that stricter limits on postponements could speed up justice, while others say flexibility is vital for fair trials

What do you think — should the system be stricter with delays?

Kingsley Maboko, Thabazimbi



"Limiting postponements would reduce trauma for those involved. If the evidence is clear, justice shouldn't be delayed many delays just waste time without changing the outcome.

Amorien Rich, Thabazimbi

#### **POLL**

#### Do you know what it means when someone says: 'It's my time to eat'?

In South Africa, this saying often refers to corruption — when officials or insiders justify looting or bribery by claiming it's their "turn" to benefit from public resources. What do you think?

Here's how you can participate. Email us at news@platinumweekly.co.za | news@ platinumbushvelder.co.za or WhatsApp your response to 081 579 7000.

#### Include the following:

- Your answer: Yes or No
- Why? We want to hear from you!
- A recent photo We'd love to publish your pic alongside your answer!
- Your town/city
- **Deadline** Be sure to send your response before 12:00 on Monday, 11 August 2025.

Vote results: The outcome of the poll will be featured in our next issue. Be a part of our community's story!

P.S.: Don't forget, you can also voice your opinion on our Facebook post about this topic.



# **PLATINUM**

#### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Northam SAPS: 014 784 4106 | 079 890 0664 Thabazimbi Saps: 014 777 3500 /04 /06 | 079 890 8759

#### **HOSPITALS AND CLINICS**

Provincial Hospital: 014 777 7000 Thabazimbi Clinic: 014 777 1336 Regorogile Clinic: 014 772 3178 Amandelbult Hospital: 014 784 2828 Medi Clinic Thabazimbi: 014 777 2097

#### CRISIS

Wildmed Emergency Services: 082 426 3280 | 083 698 3401

Trauma Rescue: 086 178 9911

Pierre Loots: Thaba Fire and Rescue / Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association (TFPA): 083 603 5678

Thaba Fire and Rescue (Angelique Loots): 073 687 2017

Thabazimbi Fire And Rescue Beheerkamer:

063 512 4633

PPS - Petrus: 079 897 5611 PPS - Christopher: 083 897 8431

PPS - Chandre: 071 874 1114

Thabazimbi Disaster Management: 082 079 9335

Dinare Security: 073 102 1597

Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association (TFPA) -Monique: 060 518 8516

Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association (TFPA) Northam -Corrie Prinsloo: 071 535 4046

Waterberg District Fire Protection Officer (Henk Havenga): 083 698 3401

Thabazimbi Traffic Department: 083 687 1883

TLM Water Services: 083 703 2805

TLM Electrical Services: 083 703 2804 TLM Rooiberg Satelite: 082 658 3593

TLM Northam Satelite: 082 658 4607

TLM Leeupoort Satelite: 082 658 2477

#### SNAKES

Hennie Van Dyk: 083 453 1016 Morne Carstens: 083 291 4946 Alban Young: 071 362 3708

#### **BEE REMOVAL**

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#### **VETS**

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Medivet Dierekliniek: 014 772 3323 | 073 500 4818

#### **PHARMACIES (THABAZIMBI)**

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**WILDLIFE AND ENDANGERED** ANIMALS

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**PUBLIC POLL:** THE RESULTS ARE IN!

#### **Apiesdoring Karnaval**

If you could change the legal system, would you limit the time and number of

Karnaval vir oud en jonk, maak gereed vir 'n onvergeetlike ervaring met niemand anders as Juanita Du Plessis en Ruhan Du Toit | Gratis ingang

Thabazimbi 09 August 063 930 3696 2025 Skougronde Warmbad Wed

Northam

| Timbila

Climate - 134

**Women Appreciation** Join us for an unforgettable night of fun and entertainment at Women

Appreciation All White on August 30, 2025! We're excited to celebrate the 4th edition of this amazing event, representing Completeness, Stability, and Solidity. Stay tuned for more details and don't forget to mark your calendars! - Tickets available at Khanimamba Cheers Pharmacy Shop no 6 Northam and Computicket, Checkers, Usave and Shoprite | 10:00 - 23:00 | R250 General, R300 Gate, R200 Cooler, Early bird until 30 June R200

Train Like a Bok Challenge

Think you've got Bok strength and spirit? Prove it over 5 days of rugbyinspired workouts designed to push your limits! Who Can Join: ShapeUp Members: Free | Non-members: R150 entry (all 5 days), Prizes (Male & Female): 1st: R500 Spur Voucher, 2nd: R400 D. Vogel Slimming Voucher, 3rd: R250 Panarottis Voucher | Scoring: 1 point/day for completing the challenge, +1 for top 3 (reps or time), +1 for wearing green/gold or rugby gear | How to Join: Sign up at reception or send us a WhatsApp. Floor managers/trainers will log your scores daily. Bring the intensity, wear your Bok colours, and let's go! Shape up Members: Free | Non-Members R150 entry (all 5 days)

Wildebeeslaagte

30 August

1 - 5

September

2025

Thabazimbi | Shape up Gym

Warmbad Road

079 509 5501

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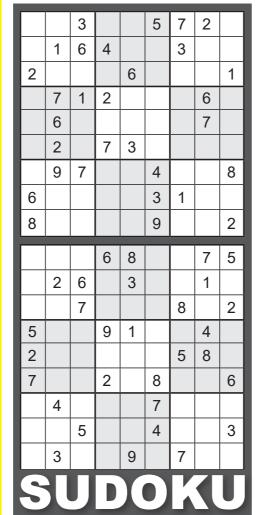
# 0 **FUN FACT**

#### Did you know?

On 29 July 2025, Russia's Far East was rocked by a massive 8.8-magnitude earthquake — one of the top 10 strongest quakes on record worldwide! Centred off the Kamchatka Peninsula, it triggered Pacific-wide tsunami warnings, though thankfully no

major destruction followed. Surprisingly, it wasn't Russia's biggest — a 9.0 quake in 1952 still holds that title. Even wilder? Just days later. the Krasheninnikov volcano erupted for the first time in 600 years - possibly linked to the quake's tectonic rumble. Earth sure knows how to make an entrance!



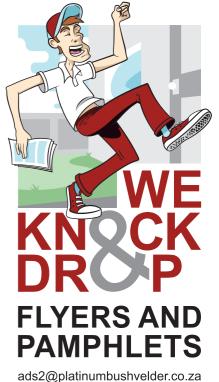


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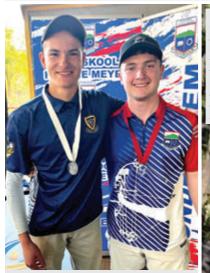


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# **Bulls-Eyes, Bushveld & Big Dreams!**



Marco Janse van Rensburg (Waterkloof) narrowly clinched gold over local favourite Mardus Ras in an intense Freestyle Unlimited showdown. Just 2 points separated these two top archers

Thabazimbi — The usually quiet archery range at Hoërskool Frikkie Meyer echoed with cheers, focus, and flying arrows as 45 young archers from across the country converged for the 2025 SANIFAA (South African National & International Field Archery Association) Interschools Championship. Held in conjunction with the Thabazimbi Agricultural Show, this competition was more than a battle for medals — it was a celebration of talent. friendship, and true Bushveld hospitality.

#### A SHOT ABOVE THE REST

In a thrilling multi-discipline competition including Indoor, 3-D, and Field archery, learners from Waterkloof (Pretoria), Merensky (Tzaneen), and Frikkie Meyer (Thabazimbi) showcased their precision and perseverance

#### **Top Performers:**

- · Marco Janse van Rensburg (Waterkloof) edged out local star Mardus Ras in the Young Adult Male Freestyle Unlimited category — by just two points!
- Amori Weatherall-Thomas (Frikkie Meyer) clinched gold in Junior Female Bowhunter.
- Suzaan Bekker, also from Frikkie Meyer, proudly took home bronze in her debut competition.
- · Reinhart Labuschagne and Dewald Bekker secured silver, showing the school's depth of talent.



#### **Cubs Climb the Ranks**

The under-13 "Cubs" left a lasting impression with outstanding scores:

- Pieter Steenkamp (Laerskool Thabazimbi) won gold in Cub Male Bowhunter Unlimited.
- Jordan Naudé (Laerskool van Wykskraal) followed with silver.
- Mienke Snyman and Cara-May Els brought home gold in their respective female Cub categories.

#### Mountain Ranges & Mental Focus

The competition kicked off with practice rounds on Friday, 1 August 2025, culminating in a day of full-on competition on Saturday. Archers faced tough challenges — a hyena target up a steep climb, a 45° uphill leopard shot, and a nerve-wracking decline towards a nyala. These unique courses were designed by Chris Welgemoed, chairperson of the Thabazimbi Archery Club.

#### Friends, Rivals, and Bushveld Vibes

Competition aside, camaraderie and sportsmanship shone through. Learners from different provinces bonded over bushveld fires, music, and great food many experiencing an agricultural show for the first time. Teachers and parents played a vital support role, ensuring the archers were well-fed and encouraged every step of the way.

#### **FINAL RANKINGS**

- 1st Place Waterkloof
- 2nd Place Frikkie Meyer
- 3rd Place Merensky







our young archers proved they've got

both heart and aim!

Proud moments shared: assistant coach Flip de Kock (left) and chairman Jannie Cronjé with the Waterberg League trophy

Setaria - The Northam Platinum Rhinos Rugby turf. This performance secured the Waterberg Club is riding a wave of victories after a thrilling weekend of hard-hitting action and well-earned triumphs.

On Friday, 1 August 2025, the Rhinos' Waterberg Waterberg League final, played on Loskop's home

League trophy for Northam - a proud moment for players, coaches, and supporters.

Not done vet, the Rhinos carried their momentum into Saturday, 2 August, where both their 1st and team stormed to a 36-13 win over Loskop in the 2nd teams faced Letaba Rugby Club in Tzaneen. The 2nd team claimed a 35-21 victory, while the

spectacular show of skill and teamwork.

'This weekend's performance reflects the hard work and commitment of our players across all our divisions." said assistant coach Flip de Kock.

No rugby is scheduled this weekend, as the team hosts their much-anticipated annual Golf Day on

1st team crushed their opponents 85-14 in a Friday, 8 August. But fans won't have to wait long - the Rhinos are back in action on Saturday, 16 August, with a home game against Potgietersrus Rugby Club.

> For more info, contact assistant coach Flip de Kock at 076 791 4659.

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