



REVIEWED: Labour laws are being enforced. PICTURE: GETTY IMAGES

Inspectors blitz Limpopo hospitality

LUYOLO MKENTANE

THE Department of Labour's national blitz inspections in the hospitality sector got under way in Limpopo yesterday.

The provinces which will be visited after Limpopo by the department's Inspection and Enforcement Services branch are Mpumalanga, North West and KwaZulu-Natal.

Among other things, the objective of the programme, to end on Friday, is to improve compliance in industries with a high rate of occupational health and safety incidents, departmental spokesperson Page Boikanyo said.

"The hospitality sector is one of the sectors that has been identified by the Department of Labour as high-risk sectors and is often problematic when it comes to non-compliance with the country's labour laws," he said.

Areas of focus for inspectors included compliance with overall conditions of employment, existence of payslips, lunch-times, contracts of employment and payment of overtime for workers as well as adherence to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the department said.

Caswell Chiloane, owner of Master's Guesthouse in Leb-owakgomo, said: "We appreciate the educative role being played by the labour inspectors with these inspections."

The minimum wage for the sector stands at R2 415 a month for employers with less than 10 employees, while those with more than 10 workers should pay a monthly minimum wage of R2 695, the department said.

luyolom@thenewage.co.za

Motshekga applauds Zille

DA leader receives rare praise for defending Education Minister amid criticism of her performance

MICHAEL APPEL

THE Basic Education Department has applauded DA leader Helen Zille after she defended Minister Angie Motshekga.

Zille was lauded over what Motshekga's department said was her "rising above political point scoring" after Zille's comments defending the minister's performance.

Zille set tongues wagging over the weekend when she defended Motshekga, more notably on the school norms and standards issue, which had made news headlines for months.

Zille believed that power resided in the provinces and not at a national level.

"The national department has a smaller budget and far fewer powers than any of the provinces when it comes to education. But Minister Motshekga recognised that the idealistic norms and standards for 'state-of-the-art' infrastructure could not possibly be achieved in the real world. Furthermore, the Treasury would not fund this proposal," Zille wrote in an opinion article.

"It makes more sense to give her another six months to put something realistic on the table than waste another six years and hundreds of millions of rands on an infrastructure plan, when most



UNDER FIRE: Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga welcomes the DA leader's backing.

provinces cannot even spend their existing budgets," Zille wrote.

Motshekga's spokesperson, Hope Mokgatle yesterday said Zille's comments were appreciated.



ALLY: DA leader Helen Zille rallies to the defence of the Basic Education minister in a rare move.

Mokgatle said: "She (Zille) is smart and understands the issues. The Education MEC in the Western Cape (Donald Grant) is one of the best allies and is always supportive of the minister. It is

never about politics with him but about getting the work done. He is a good MEC so I am not surprised that his boss (Zille) would know what is going on."

Zille is in touch and informed

on education matters, having been an education MEC herself, Mokgatle said.

"We accept that, even if it's the opposition, that they understand the issues. Zille understands that it is not about publishing norms and standards, it's about the process leading up to it," Mokgatle said.

However, Brad Brockman, general secretary of lobby group, Equal Education, that took the minister to court over norms and standards said: "Instead of supporting the campaign for minimum norms and standards, Zille dismisses these as idealistic, and defends Motshekga."

"The reason Motshekga missed the deadline of May 15 was because her own draft was so weak. Zille doesn't acknowledge this. While 2703 schools have no fencing Zille suggest norms and standards are only about 'state of the art' infrastructure. (This is) Incorrect."

"Despite our criticisms of Zille's article, we agree that the media tendency to blame the minister for everything is simplistic."

Zille also took a swipe at the South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sattu), partly laying the blame for the non-delivery of textbooks in Limpopo at their doorstep.

michaela@thenewage.co.za

Gifts for poor Diepsloot school

SHANICE NAIDOO AND IRVINE MAKUYANA

STUDENT'S at a school in the impoverished Diepsloot township yesterday received donations from foreign missions in South Africa as part of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation's (Dirco) Mandela Day commemoration.

Ambassadors and diplomats drove through the densely populated informal settlements and converged at the Diepsloot Combined School with gifts ranging from paint and computers to television sets.

Norwegian Embassy representative Siri Andersen said: "We are here to do what Nelson Mandela would have done for poor children. We donated school uniforms."

The Embassy of Gabon donated paint, the Italian foreign mission made provisions of sports kits while the Embassy of Algeria offloaded computers from the back of a bakkie and delivered them to an elated group of pupils neatly dressed in yellow and blue uniforms.

Foreign Affairs Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane arrived accompanied by the newly appointed Transport Minister Dipuo Peters.

After a tour of the school and brief closed door discussions with principal Noel Maringa, Nkoana-Mashabane told the pupils to get their act together as the country needs "future Nelson Mandelas" to emerge and stand as pillars of humble backgrounds.

"With the support of the Diplomatic Corps, we have brought you supplies and essential materials that will help mould you into future leaders of the country," Nkoana-Mashabane said.

Cuban Ambassador to South Africa Elio Savon said his embassy's paint donation would assist to rejuvenate the school's outlook.

"It's the best way to honour a person like Nelson Mandela," Savon said.

"It is important for us to intervene whenever we see an impending need for basic materials. We support Dirco in this initiative."

Savon lauded Tata Madiba for sowing the seeds of solidarity, cooperation and the values of sharing.

irvinem@thenewage.co.za

Marikana tense after latest attack

OMPHEMOTSE MOLOPYANE

MARIKANA remained a ticking time bomb at the weekend after the attack of a man who wore what appeared to be a National Union of Mineworkers' T-shirt.

The man was attacked during the weekend rally of the union's rally at the Wonderkop stadium on Sunday.

Media reports yesterday speculated that Andrew Nkomo, 54, who suffered serious head and throat injuries after being stoned and attacked with a sharp object, had died. His relatives denied the man had died.

Nkomo was attacked while he was walking with two friends. He is not a Lonmin employee or a NUM member.

NUM's regional coordinator

Mxhasi Sithethi said Nkomo had been discharged from the hospital.

"He has been discharged from hospital, but cannot speak properly due to throat injuries. As a region we will give him all the necessary support," Sithethi said.

He said though Nkomo was not a union member, he was a member of the ANC and was at the rally to offer support.

NUM spokesperson Lesiba Seshoka condemned the attack: "The region has visited the police station to try to find out what can be done to stop the violence. We need to catch the criminals who are roaming Marikana."

A group of union members told The New Age that the community was living in fear.

"These people must stop being cowards and face us," a resident

said. Another resident who identified himself as Aubrey said: "People people who are committing these crimes are not South African enough. If they don't respect us, they should give respect to Nelson Mandela, the man who fought for our freedom."

North West police spokesperson Colonel Makgobane said: "No arrests have been made. The matter is being investigated."

Ancu spokesperson Jimmy Gama said allegations that Ancu could be behind the attack "are absurd".

"We do not understand the rationale for the allegations. How can they be so sure our members were involved? They must provide us with evidence; it could have been an act of crime," Gama said.

provinces@thenewage.co.za



OUTRAGE: Paramedics help Andrew Nkomo who was attacked by unknown people in Marikana on Sunday. PICTURE: THAPULO MOKGEBU

Zim's Nare plans to capitalise on sex tape exposure

ZWELAKHE SHANGASE

FOLLOWING the negative publicity as the result of her leaked sex tape, Pokello Nare said she's going to use the exposure she gained while in the house to promote a more positive image of herself.

The 27-year-old shoe shop owner from Zimbabwe was evicted last night alongside Sierra Leone's Michael Bassey after eight weeks in the competition.

This means that only Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and Zambia

still have their teams intact while Botswana, Ethiopia, Namibia and South Africa still have one contestant each will be in the running for the \$300 000 (R2.9m) cash prize.

Nare became a sensation on the social networks throughout Africa after her sex tape with musician-boyfriend, Desmond Chimede hit the net a few days after the first live broadcast of the show.

"I entered the competition because I wanted to change people's perceptions about my life and what I actually stand for," she said.

"I also entered because I wanted to advocate against women abuse and I spoke about that from my own experiences and wanted to motivate women to speak out."

There's clearly no denying that the exposure that comes with the show and its impact on their career is every contestant's biggest catch, and so is Bassey's.

"The competition has really helped me in that it has exposed me to so many people and nothing could get better than this."

zwelakhes@thenewage.co.za



EVICTED: Sierra Leone's Michael Bassey and Pokello Nare from Zimbabwe are no longer on BBA. PICTURE: COBURG BODENSTEIN

Fashion Week – for unsung women

ZWELAKHE SHANGASE

AFRICAN Fashion International (AFI) will be hosting the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Cape Town next month and this year the focus is on the impact the fashion industry has on the lives of women.

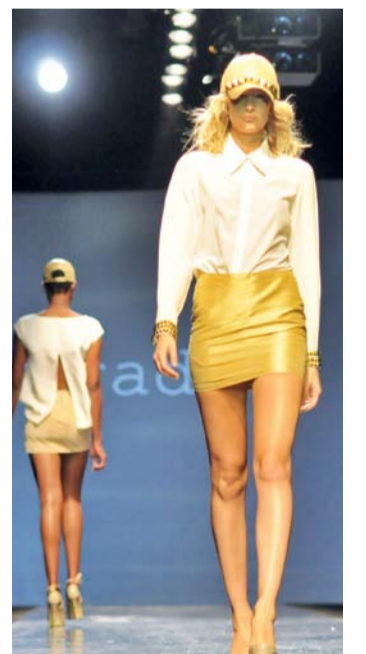
About 30 designers will showcase their exclusive spring/summer 2013-2014 collections at the city's convention centre. Also celebrating the strength of fashion, art and design, the annual fashion showcase will kick off on Wednesday, August 7, where two emerging designers, Ernest Mahomane and Kelly Davids will present their designs at a gala dinner.

AFI's business development manager, Bella Cebekhulu said: "Mentoring young up-and-coming designers and providing them with access to top industry experts and opportunities has been integral to AFI's way of developing the industry."

"We are grateful to the many designers and fashion insiders who remain open to welcoming new talent and sharing their skills with them."

AFI has also curated a strong showing of successful women-led design businesses including Jenny le Roux at Habits, Gabi Rosenwerth at Rosenwerth with Stefania Morland and Cheryl Arthur. Media liaison Kyle Boshoff said: "We are especially excited that in keeping with our company's culture of empowering women we can honour the pillars of our fashion industry."

"Those include female entrepreneurs and design leaders, the consumers who drive the success of clothing in this country and



the unsung heroines behind-the-scenes." In valuing these heroines, she said AFI will also be presenting an exhibition entitled, Women behind the Seams.

Staged in the form of an art gallery display, the exhibition is the brainchild of fashion week's creative director, Gavin Rajah and will celebrate the women behind the designers. Men's apparel will be represented by Fabiani, Ruald Rheeeder, Adriann Kuiters and Kim Gush with Dax Martin and Craig Port catering for both sexes.

The last day of the event, on August 10, will open with a celebration of Johannesburg-based designers, David Tlale, Thula Sindi, Loin Cloth & Ashes and Morphe.

Other notable designers include Lalesso, Lara Klawikowski and Goat Clothing and Leigh Schubert. Tickets range between R100 and R250 at Webtickets.

zwelakhes@thenewage.co.za

Film tells of Rastafarians' oppression

JAMIL KHAN

TWO professors from the University of Pennsylvania have teamed up with local filmmaker Kurt Orderson on a tour through South Africa screening their latest documentary, Bad Friday – a unique story about the often unrecognised state violence against marginalised communities.

The film particularly focuses on a community of Rastafarians in western Jamaica who annually commemorate the 1963 Coral Gardens incident; a moment just after independence when the Jamaican government jailed and tortured hundreds of Rastafarians.

The tour through South Africa has given local Rastafarians a

chance to speak about their own struggles with discrimination and abuse under the state.

Prof John Jackson, director and producer, says that the movie is aimed at bringing people from different backgrounds to the realisation that they share the same trials.

"One thing we found when we screened it in South Africa is that the Rastas who come out can regale us with very similar stories."

"I also want people to realise how important it is to tell these stories. It's not always the stories that make the headlines that we need to know about," he said.

According to music director for the film, Junior Wedderburn, dialogue is the main thing lacking on such issues. Many people don't



RASTAMAN VIBRATIONS: Filmmaker Kurt Orderson tells how Rastafarians were persecuted in Jamaica after independence, a story local Rastas resonate strongly with.

know about the incident because it is not communicated properly.

"What is important to show is how marginalised people are subjugated by the state, which is actually the biggest group of

gangsters," says Orderson.

The documentary was born out of research Professor Thomas was doing in Jamaica on state violence against Rastafarians and a book she wrote called Exceptional

Violence: Embodied citizenship in transnational Jamaica.

It is hoped that the message from the movie will inspire people to tell their own stories.

jamilk@thenewage.co.za

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