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Department:  
Economic Development, Environment,  
Conservation and Tourism  
North West Provincial Government  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



NWDC Building, Cnr. University  
& Provident Street, Mmabatho  
Private Bag X15  
MMABATHO 2735  
[www.nwpg.gov.za](http://www.nwpg.gov.za)

## COMMUNICATIONS & IT

Enquiries: Zia Cassim  
Tel: 083 274 1073  
Email: [cassimz@nwpg.gov.za](mailto:cassimz@nwpg.gov.za)

### Thuntsha Lerole: MEC Lenkopane Oversees Destruction of 278 Illegal Gambling Machines

The Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Phase 4 Service Delivery Programme made significant strides in the Kgetleng Local Municipality on 9 May 2025, with a successful rollout at Reagile Stadium. This initiative, led by MEC Bitsa Lenkopane, focused on tackling illegal gambling operations while promoting business compliance and economic development.

In a decisive move to curb unlicensed gambling, MEC Lenkopane led an operation that resulted in the confiscation and destruction of 278 illegal gambling machines across Rustenburg and Koster. The operation, carried out in collaboration with the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) NW Gambling Board, South African Police Services (SAPS), Hawks, and other stakeholders, targeted informal businesses and unlicensed liquor outlets.

With 169 machines seized in Rustenburg and 109 in Koster, the initiative underscored the government's commitment to enforcing liquor licensing regulations and eliminating illegal gambling activities. Offenders now face legal penalties and fines as part of efforts to ensure compliance and maintain a lawful business environment.

MEC Lenkopane emphasized the importance of regulation and expressed her commitment to working with the Gambling Board Unit and other stakeholders to implement a provincial programme. This programme will provide corrective measures and support to individuals seeking to transition into lawful business operations, fostering economic development in the process.

Alongside efforts to regulate gambling, the Tourism Unit also took proactive steps to enhance road safety. Through an inspection and a roadblock awareness campaign in Koster, officials engaged with motorists to promote responsible road usage.

Moreover, the service delivery programme extended beyond enforcement actions to include economic empowerment initiatives. Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) were given a platform to showcase their market initiatives through a flea market and exhibition area. The event featured a food court, an exhibition site, and an information session where the public could learn about various departmental services and programmes.

The Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Phase 4 Service Delivery Programme continues to make an impact, not only by reinforcing compliance and regulatory standards but also by fostering business development and



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economic growth. As new initiatives unfold, the collaborative efforts of multiple government units and stakeholders promise a stronger, more structured approach to service delivery in local municipalities.

