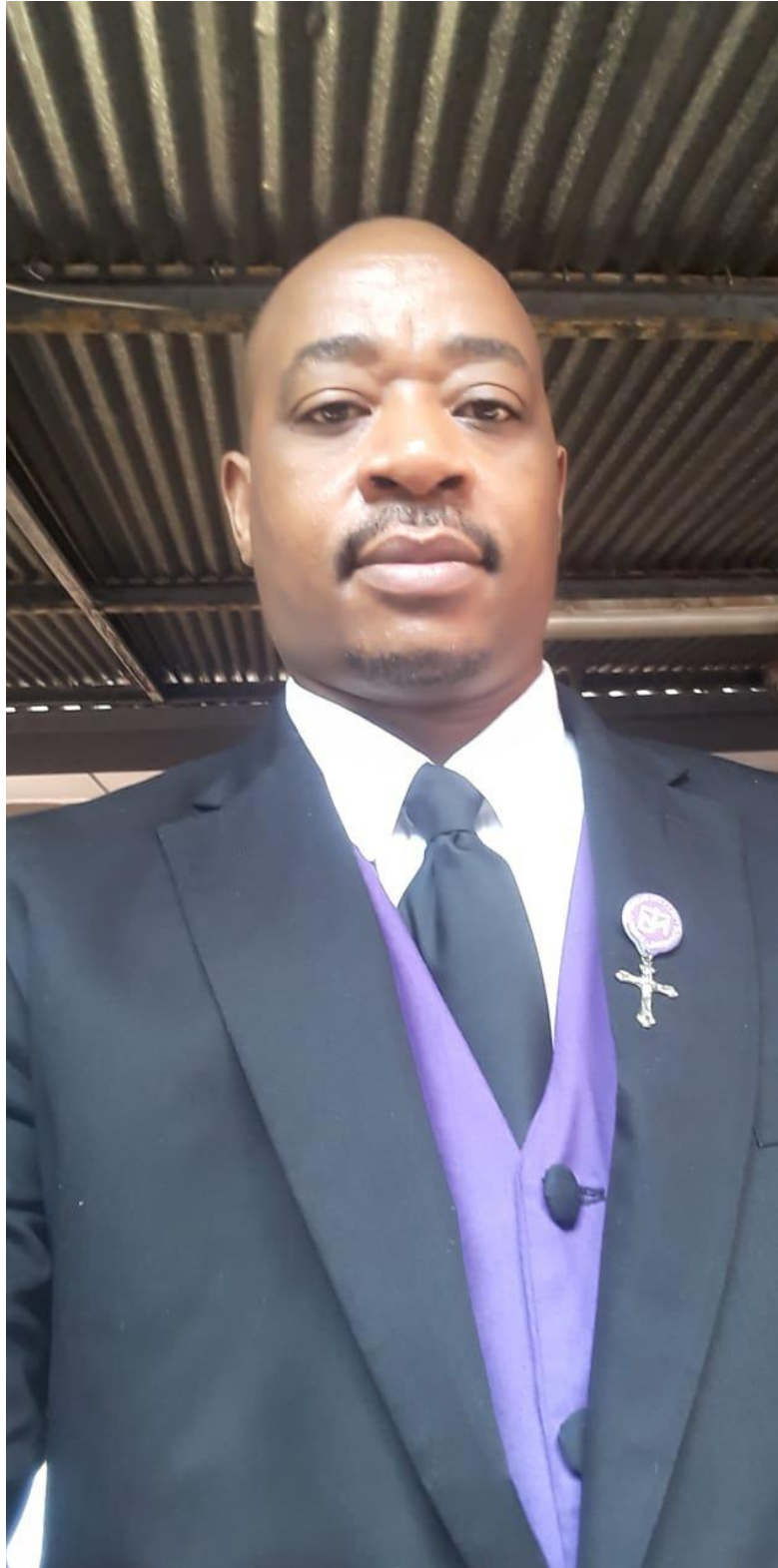




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# BNL BULLETIN

THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES FROM THE BASKETBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE



## FROM THE DESK OF:

### **TUMELO NTHIBOGELANG ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTH WEST EAGLES**

Prior to BNL, players in the North West only participated in the Inter Provincial Tournaments where the focus was on players who were competing at the competitive leagues in big cities, most of the young athletes did not have hope of playing against the best in the country. With the introduction of the Basketball National League, a dream was created for all players, athletes started believing that because teams are based in their provinces then an opportunity to compete against the best has availed itself.

As the North West Eagles, we started the league with a very strong team that consisted of some players who were part of the Provincial and National Teams. In 2016 we decided to do what the league was intending to do, which is to give opportunities to young athletes in the country. We appointed one of our players - Thuso Moilola as the head coach of the team. We believed that it was time to expose young players to a competitive league.

The league created a platform for young players to get exposed to professional coaching which they never got from their own areas. Institutions of higher education recognise the league as one of the highest level competitions in the country and as a result they offer athletic scholarships to our players because of their participation in the league. The club has offered people practical experience as leaders, team managers, physiotherapists and these have created a platform for networking and open doors for athletes to interact and create opportunities amongst themselves.

BNL has made athletes role models in their communities, they have received recognition and they are celebrated.





I started as a player for the NW Eagles and retired to become the coach, you could say that I have seen the evolution of the team. When I was playing, I realised that our team was based on winning yet we had no foundation to fall back on if players leave, and when they left the team had to build from scratch. We introduced a development program within the team that focus on young players. We further facilitate the recruitment of players into Universities to further their studies and gave support through out the year.



BNL brought about a huge change in the thinking and running of things in the province. There is an inter-district league run by the current leadership, I must say that I'm impressed by the way that the league has fed our team with promising young talent within the province. Our team currently consists of about 6 players that play in the local league. A big thank you to Lebogang Molomonyana of the North West Basketball Association for doing a great job in making sure the basketball masses are aware of the progress the province is making

For me personally, BNL has kept hopes alive for young player's and keep them motivated. Yes, it's not all roses but it's worth it for many basketball players especially the youngsters.

**Thuso Moila - Head Coach of the NW Eagles**



*"BNL brought about a huge change in the thinking and running of things in the province."*

**SA's Covid-19 Stats as at 24/07/20**

Confirmed	Recovered	Death
408K	236K	6,093

