



MATLABAS CUSTODIANS

PROTECT | DEFEND | IMPROVE

NEWSLETTER 2023 Year 4



MATLABAS
PROTECTION CONNECTION
THE SAFEST POINT OF VIEW



MATLABAS
IMPROVEMENT MOVEMENT
for our people...



MATLABAS
CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

TERUGBLIK OP 2023

Like every other year, 2023 was not without its challenges, but we can gratefully testify to progress, prosperity and a positive upsurge in the community becoming more involved. Thank you to everyone who is part of the Matlabas community. With your support and forces that we join together, we make a BIG difference.

Matlabas Plaaswag: 2023 was a year of unprecedented fires; farmers suffered huge losses, and we think in particular of the people who were hurt or lost their lives. About 90 farms were affected, and 70,000 hectares burned in the area. Matlabas Plaaswag sponsored 22 community members to do Crewleader firefighting training. It aims to fight fires more effectively.

Crime and corruption remain a problem, but we have achieved great successes in certain areas. We as a community strive to keep the Matlabas area as safe as possible. There was a serious farm attack where our community showed again that we can stand together and support in such difficult times. We were able to offer self-defence and shooting training for 60 ladies and a very successful patrol day was also held with a total of 3699km covered.

Protection Connection: We experienced a year of progress. Last year ended with 174 cameras on the Limpopo server and 72 cameras on the North West server. Currently we stand at 343 cameras on the Limpopo server and 136 cameras on the North West server. Matlabas JIS moved to new bigger servers and the system was upgraded. The cameras play a critical role in fighting crime in our area.

Matlabas Improvement Movement: The need remains great among our community and we help where we can. Matlabas Improvement Movement is grateful to everyone who helps us with our food parcel projects, so that we can distribute food parcels to 10 families monthly. We were also privileged to distribute 140 parcels to the children and the elderly with our Parcels-with-Passion Project and also to sponsor a Christmas dinner for them. We also kick off the new year with the Stationery Project where we help less fortunate children with their stationery for the year.

Matlabas Conservation Initiative: This year we were actively involved in opposing the applications to construct mines in our area. We believe there is a place for everything, mines in industrial areas, but also for the protection of pristine nature. Partly because of this, we are still in the process of registering our area as part of the Waterberg Biosphere, which will also benefit our marketability as a tourist destination as a whole.

Thank you for everyone's contributions, whether you supported our auctions, drove patrols, provided assistance in emergency situations, helped with food parcels to be delivered, donated vegetables, or gave any other form of support. Everyone within this community matters and even if your contribution is small, in the end it contributes to the safety and progress of our area. TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER.

Matlabas greetings

INCIDENTS AND SUCCESSES DECEMBER

Incidents December:

- Copper theft
- Vehicle theft
- Rhino poaching
- Truck hijacking

Successes December:

- Theft of vehicles in the Northam area. Possible suspect vehicles have been identified and all information has been passed on to SAPS.
- Rhino poaching in the Rooiberg area. Possible suspect vehicles were identified and all information was passed on to SAPS.
- Truck hijacking at Hwibi (Stelloop) area. Possible suspect vehicles were identified and all information was passed on to SAPS.
- Several stolen/wanted vehicles were recovered across the greater area. Several suspects were also arrested.

