

Thembisile Hani urges municipalities to invest in tourism marketing after Indaba success



Read More on Page 3

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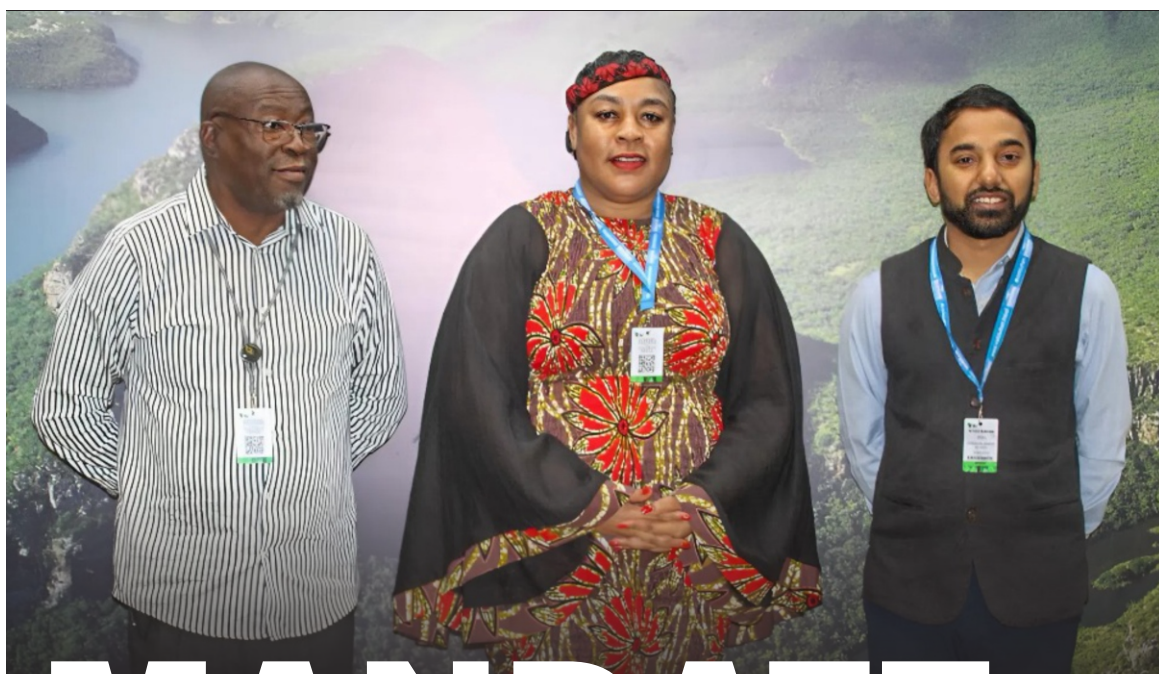


More on Page 7

Local mine workers strike over pay and shift changes in Brakfontein

Full Story on Page 2

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MANDATE FULFILLED: MPUMALANGA UNLOCKS TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES AT INDABA

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MINISTER GWEDE MANTASHE OFFICIALLY OPENS EXXARO'S NEW MATLA MINE 1 IN KRIEL, GA-NALA

Full Story on Page 5

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Police warn against extortion following high-profile arrests

● EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

KWAGGAFONTEIN — Mpumalanga police have warned against extortion following the arrest of high-profile suspects linked to alleged protection fee demands targeting businesses, as taxi boss and businessman Joe “Ferrari” Sibanyoni, alongside his co-accused Mvimbi Masilela and Philemon Msiza, appeared before the Kwaggafontein Magistrate’s Court in Mpumalanga on Wednesday, 13 May, facing alleged extortion charges, while businessman Bafana Sindani, also known as “King of the Sky”, later joined the matter as the fourth accused after initially being sought by police before allegedly handing himself over to authorities. The accused allegedly forcefully demanded money from a businessman operating in the mining industry. According to investigators, the suspects have allegedly been terrorising businesses for personal gain, claiming that companies were required to pay protection fees. Sibanyoni’s lawyer, Shaun Abrahams, a former National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP), criticised the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA),

arguing that there had been a lack of communication regarding the matter.

“These charges faced by my client are unclear, and the NPA’s lack of communication with me about this case is frustrating. This is a high-profile case; therefore, the NPA was supposed to keep communication with me about this matter, as I legally represent the accused suspect.”

“I say someone needs to take accountability because this is not acceptable; we are dealing with a high-profile case here with serious allegations. Therefore, there was no need to confiscate any information; the NPA was supposed to communicate with me about this. I hate surprises,” said Abrahams.

“I can confirm that the trio are facing extortion charges, meaning the charges of forcefully demanding from people. This is the huge horrific issue we are faced with not only in Mpumalanga, but also in the whole country, and we have to deal with it decisively,” said

Mpumalanga police spokesperson Colonel Mavela Masondo during the first court appearance.

Masondo further said the arrest of the prominent suspects should send a strong message to those involved in extortion activities, adding that extortion negatively affects economic development in the province.

Sibanyoni was arrested on Tuesday, 12 May early hours by the Special Investigating Unit (SIU). The court indicated that more time was needed to process the matter due to the seriousness of the allegations following the Wednesday and Friday court appearance. The matter was postponed to Monday, 18 May 2026,

with all accused remaining in police custody.

Meanwhile, the Kwaggafontein Magistrate’s Court has officially banned media coverage of the ongoing alleged extortion case involving Sibanyoni and his co-accused.

Abrahams appealed to the court to halt media coverage, arguing that the allegations had placed his client in the spotlight, negatively affected his business opportunities and placed his family at risk.

The case has attracted significant attention across Mpumalanga due to Sibanyoni’s public profile.

Local mine workers strike over pay and shift changes in Brakfontein

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — Workers at Plantcor in Brakfontein downed tools on Monday, 11 May and Tuesday, 12 May, as members of the PTAWU embarked on a strike over alleged unfair shift changes, reduced earnings and poor working conditions.

Workers gathered outside the premises early in the morning, singing struggle songs and picketing while demanding a review of the current shift system, improved compensation and better working conditions.

The dispute centres on a change from a four-on, four-off shift system to a three days and three nights rotation, which workers say has increased working hours while reducing rest time and take-home pay.

Employees allege that the previous system amounted to about 48 working hours per week, while the current arrangement requires up to 72 hours without corresponding overtime compensation.

“Our salaries are now smaller, yet we are working more hours. It doesn’t make sense to us. We are doing more but getting less,” said one worker.

Workers are also demanding improved weekend pay, calling for Saturdays to be paid at one-and-a-half times the normal rate and Sundays at double pay.

Several employees further raised concerns about alleged discrimination in the workplace, claiming that pregnant workers are removed from duty once their condition becomes known and remain without pay until maternity leave begins.

“Once you get pregnant, or they see that you are pregnant, or find out that

you are pregnant, you are out of work and not getting paid at all till you give birth and come back to work,” workers alleged.

Workers also claimed that December leave is restricted, leaving employees unable to take time off during the festive period, which they say should be formally negotiated with management.

Yandisa Phungu, organiser for PTAWU, said the union had engaged both workers and management over the dispute and had escalated the matter to the CCMA, citing alleged intimidation of striking workers.

He also accused management of sending messages instructing employees to return to work and alleged that pressure tactics were being used against those participating in the strike.

Plantcor management had not publicly responded to the allegations at the time of publication. However, Highveld Chronicle has seen an internal memorandum confirming receipt of the strike notice and outlining CCMA-guided picketing rules, including that the “no work, no pay” principle will apply to striking employees.

The memo also states that striking employees must comply with agreed picketing regulations and that non-striking staff are expected to continue working as normal.

The strike remained ongoing on Tuesday, 12 May, as workers continued their picket outside the facility while discussions between the parties were expected to continue.

Highveld Chronicle had not received an official response from Plantcor management at the time of publication.



Taxi boss and businessman Joe Ferrari Sibanyoni, and two of his three co-accused, Mvimbi Masilela and Philemon Msiza.

“the path of the righteous winds upwards to flee from hell beneath us” Prov 15:24



A Great Outlook on Life

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. (2 Corinthians 4:16)

Let’s consider a couple of alternative responses to aging. First, view life as a challenge not a threat. You’ve been around long enough to know that nobody can predict our tomorrows. So, obviously the answer is that we adopt Caleb’s mentality and refuse all temptations to hibernate, worry, curl up, fold up, and dry up (Joshua 14:6–15). Grab each day (remember, the secret is handling each day) and accept each hour as a challenge.

If viewing life as a challenge were an unachievable goal, it would be mockery for me to hold it out as a carrot. But it is definitely attainable. I see older men and women all the time refusing to sink into the swamp of depression. While we were a part of the church in Fullerton, California, we began an exciting program for our older adults. They called themselves the Forever Young group, and they meant business! They enjoyed a meal together once or twice a week, they traveled to various places of interest together, they did projects together, but most of all they were together. It was thrilling to

see some who were once alone, discouraged, and failing mentally come out of their shells and enjoy life.

The second alternative response to aging is to follow the Lord fully, not halfheartedly. That’s exactly what Caleb did. “Therefore, Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite until this day, because he followed the LORD God of Israel fully” (Joshua 14:14).

I’m certain that was a major factor in his youthful response to life. In fact, a close look at this biography will reveal that on two other occasions the same thing is said of Caleb: he followed the Lord God fully (verses 8–9). In other words, Caleb’s walk of faith was constant, a regular part of his day. The man determined that the Lord his God would be his life’s Partner, regardless.

I encourage you to make the same commitment today. Yes, you can! The only thing standing in your way is that decision to turn your life over to Him. When (and only when) you do that will you begin to realize that no number of clouds will dim the Son from your life. Become a part of the Sons of Caleb. Join the club. As soon as you do, you will be amazed at the difference in your outlook on life.



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HIGHVELD
CHRONICLE

Editor

Magnificent Mndebele

064 785 9746

Advertising

081 303 7023

info@highveldchronicle.co.za

Nodica Fundama

072 817 9329

Esther Mahlangu

082 050 6407

Journalist

Lucas Shongwe

071 499 8950

Rodney Hlatshwayo

076 691 6658

PUBLISHER,

Layout & Design

HIGHVELD CHRONICLE

info@highveldchronicle.co.za

Contact Numbers

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Mpumalanga mandate fulfilled, tourism opportunities unlocked at Indaba

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

DURBAN — Mpumalanga's participation at the 2026 Africa's Travel Indaba has been positioned as a strategic move to attract investment, create opportunities for tourism businesses and strengthen the province's standing as one of Africa's preferred tourism destinations.

The Indaba, hosted from 11 to 14 May 2026 under the theme "Unlimited Africa: Growing Africa's Tourism Economy," attracted nearly 10 000 delegates, over 1 000 hosted and non-hosted buyers from 44 countries, and more than 1 100 exhibitors from 22 African countries. Mpumalanga attended the tourism showcase with 30 tourism businesses supported by the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) representing the province, while many more from the province also participated, led by key tourism stakeholders such as the Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism (KLCBT). The event was officially opened by Cyril Ramaphosa, who highlighted the importance of ensuring tourism benefits local communities, referencing the success of Vilakazi Street as an example of how tourism can create opportunities and economic activity at community level. The Mpumalanga delegation was led by MEC for Economic Development and Tourism Jesta Sidell, while the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation also participated in showcasing the province's rich heritage and cultural diversity.

Reflecting on Mpumalanga's participation at the Indaba, MTPA Interim Board Chairperson Fish Mahlalela said the province has already started seeing positive outcomes from engagements with investors and tourism stakeholders during the exhibition. He revealed that some investors have shown interest in investing in Mpumalanga tourism projects, particularly in areas linked to community-owned tourism assets, as

the province looks to build on successful models such as the Manyeleti Game Reserve, which is now yielding beneficiation for the community, something they greatly appreciate.

"We have had investors who were saying we are ready to even come tomorrow, we are ready to come to Mpumalanga to invest and put money and develop the areas, creating opportunities for the people," said Mahlalela.

Mahlalela said what should follow now is the acceleration and development of investment projects, particularly focusing on greenfield opportunities where development can commence with ease, working with the Communal Property Associations (CPAs), which work closely with the MTPA.

For many tourism businesses and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) attending under the Mpumalanga Village, the Indaba created opportunities to network with buyers, establish partnerships and gain exposure to international tourism markets. Several exhibitors described the event as an important platform for growth, collaboration and learning.

Among the exhibitors from Nkangala District was Ledumo Lodge, a four-star establishment from eMalahleni attending the Indaba for the second time, which described the experience as valuable, citing networking opportunities and helpful business connections made during the exhibition.

Tour operator Tasberry Travel and Tours also reflected positively on the event after engaging with tourism operators and industry stakeholders from different regions.

Mpumalanga Regional Training

Trust (MRTT) Marketing Manager Zanele Khoza highlighted the need for upskilling within the tourism sector, saying many tourism businesses already have teams in place but require empowerment in key hospitality skills to improve customer experience and service delivery. She added that they have seen great interest in their offerings and will be welcoming those businesses.

Also in attendance was Pretty Mhlongo, who had a very hectic week and said her role at the Indaba was to support tourism MSMEs and help market Mpumalanga as a preferred tourism destination. Co-founder of Graskop Gorge Lift Co, Oupa Pilane, who has attended the Indaba since 2006, said one of the major benefits of participating in the exhibition is the ease of connecting with tourism stakeholders from across Africa in one space.

"What is more important is the B2B selling, being here saves you travelling, making calls because everyone who is an important tourism stakeholder is here," said Pilane.

Pilane further encouraged Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to package their offerings together to improve their competitiveness and allow them to better compete with larger tourism establishments.

Meanwhile, cultural businesses also benefited from the exposure received during the exhibition. Sarah Skosana from Thenjiwe Beadwork in Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality said visitors showed strong interest in their handmade products and purchased some of their work during the event.

Nelisiwe Skosana from Itjhuu Projects also reflected on the opportunities gained through networking and skills-sharing engagements, revealing that some visitors even expressed interest in learning beadwork skills from them. Mahlalela further revealed that the MTPA will soon unveil its winter tourism campaign, which will also feature the 100-year commemoration of the Kruger National Park. He invited local and international tourists to explore Mpumalanga's diverse cultures, scenic landscapes and tourism attractions, which continue to position the province as one of South Africa's leading tourism destinations.



FROM LEFT: MEC Jesta Sidell, MTPA Interim Board Chair Fish Mahlalela, HOD Immy Shirakalala and MTPA Marketing Director Ntwanano Mtungwa

Thembisile Hani urges municipalities to invest in tourism marketing after Indaba success

● EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

DURBAN — As nearly 10 000 delegates, over 1 000 hosted and non-hosted buyers from 44 countries and more than 1 100 exhibitors from 22 African countries gathered at the 2026 Africa's Travel Indaba, Thembisile Hani Local Municipality called on other municipalities in Mpumalanga to invest more in tourism marketing and participate in international platforms such as the Indaba, saying the economic benefits linked to tourism continue to positively impact local communities and businesses.

Speaking to *Highveld Chronicle* during the tourism exhibition hosted in Durban from 11 to 14 May 2026 under the theme "Unlimited Africa: Growing Africa's Tourism Economy," Municipal Manager Dumisani Mahlangu said municipalities should view tourism exhibitions as investments that contribute towards local economic growth. Mahlangu, attending the Indaba for the third time, said Thembisile Hani Local Municipality was the only local municipality from Mpumalanga with its own stand at the exhibition and encouraged others to follow in their footsteps.

"Marketing is very powerful, tourism and the informal sector contribute greatly towards the local GDP and when we see an influx of visitors coming our way we know that it is a result of our participation at the Indaba," said Mahlangu.

He said the municipality has already seen the value of tourism promotion through both cultural and sports tourism initiatives, with the goal of seeing tourism become one of the top contributors towards the local GDP. "We have seen great potential, we are all about cultural tourism working with Gogo Nosinky Mahlangu, the Order of Ikhamanga recipient, as our ambassador alongside six Micro, Small and

Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), allowing them to show what they can do," he said.

Mahlangu further highlighted the recent impact of sports tourism following the upgrade of the Solomon Mahlangu Stadium to a standard capable of hosting Premier Soccer League (PSL) matches.

He said the recent Nedbank Cup quarter-final match between TS Galaxy and Mamelodi Sundowns hosted at the stadium attracted large numbers of sport fanatics into the municipality, resulting in accommodation facilities around the area being fully booked while local businesses also benefited from increased trading activity.

Mahlangu added that the municipality remains committed to continuing its participation at the Indaba in future should council approve the investment again next year.

"If council approves, we are definitely coming back next year because we are seeing the value and impact of being part of this platform," he said.

Sophie Nosinky Mahlangu echoed the Municipal Manager's sentiments, saying the exposure received through the Indaba continues to create opportunities for artists and cultural entrepreneurs. "This is great marketing for us, being here we see a great difference, we get a lot of orders and others we must courier requests for special custom products made at the Indaba, with others coming to visit our place," she said. Gogo Nosinky further encouraged upcoming artists to remain patient, assuring them that recognition and opportunities come with time. She also expressed appreciation to Thembisile Hani Local Municipality for believing in and supporting her journey.



Nelisiwe Skosana (left) from Itjhuu Projects demonstrates beadwork alongside Elizabeth Skhosana from Bedford Guesthouse (right).



Mpumalanga Tourism Ambassador Pretty Mhlongo (left) with cultural attire stylist Anna Mahlangu from Middelburg in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.



Dumisani Mahlangu, Municipal Manager of Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, with the legendary Sophie Nosinky Mahlangu at their stand during the Africa's Travel Indaba

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EXXARO MATLA'S NEW MINE 1 EXPANDS OPERATIONS TO SUPPORT SOUTH AFRICA'S BASELOAD AS IT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF IMPACT

As Exxaro Resources celebrates 20 years of powering possibility in South Africa, the New Matla Mine 1 stands as a strategic investment in the country's energy future. Located in Mpumalanga, Kriel, Matla Mine has long played a critical role in supplying coal to Eskom's Matla Power Station and supporting South Africa's baseload energy needs. The project is going to extend the life of mine, secure long-term coal supply, and support economic growth and job creation in the province. The official opening of the operation marks an important step in Exxaro's continued commitment to responsible mining and sustainable development.

With a total investment of R5.236 billion, the project reflects Exxaro's commitment to responsible mining, operational excellence, and economic development.

IMPACT BEYOND THE SURFACE - AT A GLANCE:

Beyond operational performance, the New Mine 1 development has delivered significant socio-economic value in Mpumalanga. Since its inception, the programmes successes are:

1132

Local employment opportunities created

R532 million

Invested in black-owned businesses, advancing economic transformation



Supported local Small Medium Micro Enterprises and prioritised skills development initiatives

The New Mine 1 supports long-term coal supply to the Matla Power Station, helping provide reliable electricity to millions of South Africans. Exxaro continues to invest in projects that create long-term value for our employees, communities, business partners, and the country.

Exxaro Resources, Powering better lives in Africa and beyond.



Minister Gwede Mantashe officially opens Exxaro's new Matla Mine 1 in Kriel, Ga-Nala

NODICAH FUNDAMA AND SHARON CHILOANE

EMALAHLENI — The official opening of Exxaro Resources' new Matla Mine 1 operations in Kriel, Ga-Nala on 15 May 2026 has been hailed as a major boost for South Africa's energy security, job creation and economic growth in Mpumalanga.

Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources Gwede Mantashe led the launch ceremony, describing the project as an important milestone for both the mining industry and the country's electricity supply.

The newly developed operation forms part of Exxaro's long-term Matla Life of Mine Project (MLOMP), aimed at extending the lifespan of the colliery while ensuring continued coal supply to Eskom's Matla Power Station. The original Mine 1 operations were halted in 2016 following underground safety concerns linked to deteriorating safety pillars near the shaft infrastructure. Backed by a R5.236 billion investment, the new operation is expected to contribute approximately 4.2 million tonnes of coal annually, strengthening Eskom's generation capacity and supporting South Africa's energy needs.

Delivering the keynote address at the event, Mantashe reflected on his personal history with the mine, where he once worked as a mineworker and labour organiser.

"This is a journey back home for me," Mantashe said.

"I spent six years at this mine, working here and organising here, and during that same period we achieved production records. I was here as a worker, and today I return as a Minister."

The minister added that the coal sector continues to play a critical role in South Africa's economy despite increasing global pressure on fossil fuels. "People have often said that coal is a dying industry because of concerns around pollution. However, the industry continues to evolve, particularly through improvements in mining safety and ongoing investment in innovation and research. Coal miners should never be ashamed of the work they do," he said.

Mantashe further emphasised that the investment in Matla Mine 1 would not only benefit Mpumalanga, but would also contribute significantly towards the country's broader economic growth, energy stability and industrial development.

National Union of Mineworkers representative Commy Booysen welcomed

the investment, saying the project represents more than the reopening of a mining operation.

"Today is not only about opening a mine. It is about creating opportunities, sustaining jobs, growing communities and securing the future of workers and their families," said Booysen.

He added that organised labour supports investments that prioritise worker safety, skills development and community upliftment. "As the union, we remain committed to building a mining industry that is safe, transformed and beneficial to workers and communities," he said.

Caroline Shirindza, Executive Head of Coal at Exxaro Resources, said the project reflects the interconnected role mining plays in the country's broader economy and energy sector.

"As miners, we do not simply extract coal. We contribute towards keeping homes, industries and hospitals powered across South Africa," Shirindza said. She described the opening of Mine 1 as the beginning of a new chapter built on resilience, collaboration and long-term planning.

"This milestone demonstrates our commitment to South Africa's energy security and our belief in the future of this programme," she said. Ben Magara, Chief Executive Officer of Exxaro Resources, said the development reflects the company's long-term vision and commitment to economic growth through mining investment.

Beyond energy production, the project has delivered significant economic benefits in Mpumalanga, including the creation of approximately 1 132 local employment opportunities and more than R532 million invested in black-owned businesses.

The project has also supported local Small Medium Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and prioritised skills development initiatives within surrounding communities.

Dan Marokane, Group Chief Executive of Eskom, said the expansion of Matla Mine 1 demonstrates how

collaboration between Eskom and Exxaro can support stable electricity supply while the country transitions towards a diversified energy future.

Marokane also highlighted that the milestone comes as Eskom marks 365 consecutive days without load-shedding.

The media statement further revealed that

Eskom and Exxaro signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2025 focusing on emissions reduction, carbon capture and initiatives aimed at supporting a responsible just energy transition. For communities surrounding eMalahleni, Kriel and Ga-Nala, the project is expected to bring renewed economic activity and long-term employment opportunities, reinforcing Mpumalanga's role at the centre of South Africa's energy economy.



Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources Gwede Mantashe and Ben Magara, Chief Executive Officer of Exxaro Resources



NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

CONTRACT SANRAL N.011-090-2016/1 THE IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL ROUTE N11 SECTION 9 BETWEEN HENDRINA POWER STATION (KM 18.5) AND N4 INTERCHANGE (KM 41.97) CLOSING DATE: 10 JUNE 2026

Concor Construction (Pty) Ltd, hereby invites suitably qualified and experienced local Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) within the **Steve Tshwete Local Municipality** to submit tenders. Service Providers and subcontractors are required for the following subcontract work packages:

WORK PACKAGE NUMBER	WORK PACKAGE DESCRIPTION	PREFERRED DESIGNATED GROUPS	REQUIREMENTS	BRIEFING SESSION DATE & TIME	LOCATION OF THE BRIEFING
N.011-090-2016/1-17-DR	SUBSOIL DRAINS	51% Black Owned	1CE/2CE	22 MAY 2026, 8H00-9H00	Hlalamnandi Community Hall
N.011-090-2016/1-30SHWT	SUPPLY AND HIRE OF WATER TRUCKS	51% Black Owned	N/A	22 MAY 2026, 9H30-10H30	Hlalamnandi Community Hall
N.011-090-2016/1-SC 2-TA	ACCOMMODATION OF TRAFFIC (RE-TENDER)	51% Black Owned	N/A	22 MAY 2026, 11H30-13H30	Hlalamnandi Community Hall
N.011-090-2016/1-28SHMSB	SUPPLY, HIRE AND MAINTAINANCE OF SKIP BINS	51% Black Owned	Institute Of Waste Management South Africa or Similar	22 MAY 2026, 13H30-15H00	Hlalamnandi Community Hall
N.011-090-2016/1-29-CSDG	PROCUREMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER FOR DRIVER LICENCES	51% Black Owned	TETA or SAIDI or Similar	25 MAY 2026, 8H00-9H00	PROCUREMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER FOR DRIVER LICENCES(BRIEFING SESSION) Meeting-Join Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 344 413 077 756 241 Passcode: Xu2ze9y4

Only tenderers who are registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database at the closing date for tender submissions and who comply with the definition of a Targeted Enterprise under clause C.2.1.1 and are at least 51% Black owned and who is an EME or QSE or cooperative, are eligible to tender.

In addition, only tenders who are at least 51% black owned by Youth / Women / Disabled persons/ military veterans, are eligible to tender.

Only tenderers that meet all the eligibility criteria under clause C.2.1.1 of the Tender Data will be considered. Only tenderers who meet the minimum functionality score as stated in clause C.3.11 of the Tender Data will be evaluated further on price and preference.

Doors at the venue will be closed as per time stimulated in the advert, and no tenderer will be allowed to enter the briefing session/s when doors are closed.

Only one sub-contract package shall be awarded to an entity at any one time for this project.

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At no cost in electronic format via share drive

Prospective tenderers may send a request for a link to the document to the following address:

n11.tenders@concor.co.za

Tenderers must have access to Microsoft Office © 2013 and Acrobat Adobe © 9.0, or similar compatible software.

TENDERER BRIEFING SESSION

A compulsory tender clarification briefing session with representatives of the Contractor and Engineer will take place on Friday 22 MAY 2026 at Hlalamnandi Community Hall and Monday 25 MAY 2026 on Teams (Virtually online)

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COMPLETION AND DELIVERY OF TENDERS

The closing time for receipt of tenders is **11h00 on 10 JUNE 2026**

Only tender offers submitted in Hardcopy format and delivered to the address specified in the Tender Data will be accepted. Requirements for sealing, addressing, delivery, opening and assessment of tenders are stated in the Tender Data. Tenders may only be submitted in the format as stated in the Tender Data.

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nezikulingisa, amadamu lapha bafundiswa khona ukududa kanye nezinye iinkghonakaliso ezizokurhelebha ilutjha bona likghone ukubona amakghono abanawo. Iindawo ezifana nalezi zingaqinisekisa bona ilutjha elinengi liyasuka eendleleni nakwezinye izinto ezingasizihle, zibanikele indawo ephephileko lapha bazoku qeda khona isikhathi sabo. Banengi khulu abantu abatjha besifunda seMpumalanga abanamakghono, ebebangerhelebheka nange bekukhona iindawo ezifana nalezi. Nanjalo, abanye abazi bona nabo baphiwe amakghono lawa, kodwana bazokubona mhla sele bazibandakanya ingathana bezikhona iindawo ezifana nalezi eduze. Urhulumende ,abadosi phambili besifunda kanye nemiphakathi kufanele bona basebenzisane ukwakha iindawo ezifana nalezi zibezenengi komunye nomunye umphakathi. Lokhu kuzokurhelebha ilutjha elinengi begodu lizokuvula namathuba wemisebenzi.

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NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A WATER USE LICENSE IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT NO. 36 OF 1998

Daybreak Foods Sundra Abattoir and Broilers Site 2 are existing poultry production facilities comprising of a poultry abattoir and broiler operation for the rearing of broiler chickens, as well as the slaughter, processing, and packaging of poultry products. The sites are situated close to the town of Delmas, within the Victor Khanye Local Municipality and the Nkangala District Municipality under the Mpumalanga Provincial Government. The sites are applying for a water use license for water use activities currently undertaken on the sites. This advertisement serves as a notice of the Public Participation Process to be undertaken regarding the water use license application.

Location of the activities:
Remaining Extent of Portion 8 of the farm Modderfontein 236, Nkangala District Municipality, Victor Khanye Local Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province

- Nature of proposed activity, applicable legislation, and listed activity applied for:**
The following water uses will be applied for:
- Section 21(a): Abstraction of water
 - Abstraction of water from a surface or groundwater source
 - Section 21(c): Impeding or diverting the flow of a watercourse
 - Impeding or diverting of waterflow
 - Section 21(e): Engaging in a controlled activity
 - Engaging in a controlled activity
 - Section 21 (f): Discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource
 - Discharging of treated wastewater
 - Section 21(g): Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource
 - Storing or disposing of waste
 - Section 21(i): Altering the bed, banks, courses or characteristics of a watercourse
 - Altering the bed, banks, courses or characteristics of a watercourse.

Competent authority and relevant reference number:
Department of Water and Sanitation: Olifants Water Management Area
Reference number: WU47978

Additional information
Letters are sent to all I&APs and stakeholders on the 15th of May 2026. A site notice will be placed at the site on the 15th of May 2026.

Register as an interested and affected party (I&AP):
To register as an I&AP of this project, to obtain more information, or submit comments, please request a Registration Form from BECS and return it to the details provided below, on or before the 20th of July 2026.

Contact details for more information:
To obtain additional information, please contact the EAP at the details provided below.
BECS Services (Pty) Ltd,
Hussain Kaka:072 605 5294 eap1@becsenv.co.za

Salome Beeslaar (Responsible EAP)
(EAPASA Reg. No. 2020/846)
Cell: 072 191 6074, salome@becsenv.co.za

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Blame placed on healthcare failures after teen dies outside clinic, calls made for improved emergency response

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO AND NODICAH FUNDAMA

EMALAHLENI — Hlelokuhle Fakude (15), a Grade 10 learner from Zacheus Malaza Secondary School, died outside a clinic in Empumelweni on Sunday, 09 May 2026, after residents allegedly struggled to access emergency medical assistance.

According to community members, the learner was taken to the local clinic in need of urgent medical attention. However, residents claim there were delays in securing assistance and efforts to get timely intervention were unsuccessful.

An eyewitness said she found Fakude at around 08:00 while on her way to buy bread and noticed that she was struggling to stand.

"I saw her early in the morning when I was going to buy bread. She was shaking and falling. I ran home to call my mother and tell her what I had seen," said the witness.

Residents reportedly attempted to transport her to Empumelweni Community Health Centre using a wheelbarrow due to a lack of transport. However, upon arrival, they allegedly found the clinic closed and were reportedly directed to Siphosensimbi Clinic instead.

Community activist Abongile Mcoki said residents struggled to access emergency services and were unaware that the clinic was no longer operating on a 24-hour basis.

Attempts to contact emergency services were reportedly unsuccessful, with calls allegedly

going unanswered or being disconnected. Mcoki said she later contacted police for assistance.

"I called someone at the police station and asked them to help us. The police said they would use a van to fetch the ambulance. While they were waiting outside the clinic, the child died," she said.

The family said they are still seeking answers about what happened. "We do not have full details of what happened. The child did not get help because the clinic was closed, and the ambulance arrived very late," said the deceased's uncle, Themba Fakude. The family only became aware of the incident after videos circulated on social media.

Responding to questions from *Highveld Chronicle*, Chris Nobela from the Mpumalanga Department of Health Communication Directorate said the clinic had not operated on a 24-hour basis for more than two years due to security concerns following robberies. He said patients are redirected to Siphosensimbi Clinic, which is situated within 2km of the area. "Crime in Emalahleni is affecting the provision of healthcare services," Nobela said.

The incident has sparked anger among residents, who are calling for improved emergency response systems, clearer communication regarding clinic operating hours and better access to healthcare services in the area.



Paramedics stand next to the lifeless body of Hlelokuhle Fakude (15).

Taxi fare confusion as NDTA denies second increase

LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG — Commuters in Nasaret, Rockdale, Extension 24 and surrounding areas in Middelburg were left confused after a notice circulated on Tuesday, 12 May 2026, claiming taxi fares to the CBD had increased. This comes a week after the Nasaret and District Taxi Association (NDTA) confirmed an official fare of R18.

The conflicting information sparked frustration among taxi users, with residents questioning whether fares had been increased twice within less than a month.

"I got confused because I had believed that it's now R20 from Extension 24 to town," said Nelisiwe Sibande, a commuter from Extension 24, who said she only realised there

was no increase when a driver returned R20 change.

"I don't understand why there's been another increase in less than a month. It really doesn't make sense," said Stanley Masilela, a commuter from Rockdale.

Speaking to *Highveld Chronicle*, NDTA chairperson Themba Mncina said the official fare from Rockdale to the CBD remains R18, dismissing the circulating notice.

"This notice does not represent the association's official position and should be disregarded," said Mncina. He explained that the confusion stems from disagreements among some taxi owners and drivers who are pushing for higher fares ahead of expected fuel increases.

"Some feel that the taxi price should

have increased to R20 to accommodate the coming fuel increases," he said.

Mncina stressed that the association does not implement more than one fare increase in a year.

"However, if circumstances push us to an increase, we will do so after we have consulted the communities, which are our customers," he added.

He further advised commuters to report cases of overcharging to the NDTA office.

The clarification follows a fare adjustment on 1 May 2026, when the Nasaret and District Taxi Association increased taxi fares from R15 to R18 for trips to the CBD and mall, while routes to Dennessig, Aerorand and Kanonkop increased to R20.

Highveld Chronicle will continue to monitor the situation and report any official updates from the NDTA.

New eMakhazeni speaker pledges to uphold standards set by predecessor

LUCAS SHONGWE

BELFAST — The newly appointed Speaker of eMakhazeni Local Municipality, Cllr Seun Mthimunye, has pledged to build on the work of his predecessor, Lucky Ndinisa, saying he "raised the bar" for ethical conduct and stability in council.

Mthimunye was appointed on Thursday, 14 May 2026, following Ndinisa's resignation on 30 April. Ndinisa left the municipality to take up the role of African National Congress (ANC) Elections Manager in Mpumalanga.

Speaking to *Highveld Chronicle* after his installation, Mthimunye said he would rely on the ANC, the municipality, council and the broader community for support in carrying out his duties.

"My predecessor did wonderful and excellent work in this office," he said. "He brought stability and order, and ensured that ethics were followed in council. He raised the bar so high, and I will need support to carry out my duties with the same standard."

Mthimunye thanked his party and the municipality for having faith and trust in him. He said his immediate focus would be improving communication and strengthening relationships with municipal stakeholders.

He committed to ensuring councillors act responsibly and comply with the Municipal Structures Act. Building partnerships with the private sector was also among his priorities, he added.

"They need to come on board to assist in the service delivery mandate of the municipality," he said. "The main goal is to build relationships with various sectors of society and make sure they come on board."

A Sakhelwe resident from Dullstroom, Mthimunye has served the municipality for nearly two decades. He joined as a process controller in the Water and Electrical Department in 2008 before being elected as Ward 4 councillor in 2016. He was later deployed to the mayoral committee as MMC for Financial Services and also served as MMC for



Technical Services. He returned as MMC for Financial Services in 2021 and held the position until his recent appointment as Speaker.

Mthimunye called on Emakhazeni residents to support his office and engage with it openly. He promised to create a platform for transparent engagement and timely resolution of issues.

"Our interest is to deliver services," he said. "The office of the Speaker makes it easier for council to communicate with stakeholders and work together for the benefit of eMakhazeni residents."



RE-NOTIFICATION OF UPDATE OF THE EXISTING MAJOR HAZARD INSTALLATION RISK ASSESSMENT OF OMNIA SITE, DRYDEN

Site Address: Omnia Fertilizers, Portion of Farm, Weltevreden Dryden Delmas Mpumalanga Province

In terms of the promulgated new regulation relating to Major Hazard Installations; in terms of section 43 (1) (c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 1993 (Act no. 85 of 1993) issued on the 31 January 2023. Omnia wishes to notify the public of the existence of a major hazardous installation with a quantity of substance which may pose a risk that could affect the health and safety of the public.

The risk assessment of the hazardous chemical installation for this site, as of **03 February 2026** has been updated and reviewed by an approved inspection authority which should be made available as contemplated in sub regulations (1) and (3) for any affected or interested party.

Representations, in writing, to the relevant local government and the chief inspector, within 60 days after the publication of this advertisement referred to in sub regulation (4), if the establishment is not acceptable and poses a risk to that party for their consideration.

Friedrich Koltzow
Production Manager: Fert - Highveld Production
Friedrich.Koltzow@omnia.co.za
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'They're gonna love you': King Wanda's journey from rejection to recognition

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — After years of rejection, failed auditions and self-doubt, entertainer King Wanda Gumede says the dream he carried as a teenager is finally becoming a reality.

The KwaZulu-Natal-born singer, songwriter, actor and reality television personality has steadily built his profile through music, television appearances and live entertainment, but says the journey was far from easy. Born in Stanger in 1994, King Wanda discovered his passion for music at the age of 14 and began writing songs while imagining himself becoming a star one day.

"I had this picture when I was 14 of me being a superstar," he said. "Whenever there were setbacks, that picture remained."

Although many people see him as an overnight success, King Wanda said years of rejection came before his breakthrough.

"I count nine years in the industry because the first years were me knocking on doors, going to auditions and trying to get in," he explained.

One of his biggest setbacks came when he auditioned for Idols South Africa 10 times before finally receiving a golden ticket on his 11th attempt.

"I never gave up. Every 'no' was just part of the journey," he said.

King Wanda later secured television roles on Uzalo, eHostela and Imbewu: The Seed, experiences he says helped build his confidence and visibility in the entertainment industry.

His biggest breakthrough, however, came in 2026 when he entered Big Brother Mzansi. Hoping to gain exposure for his music career, King Wanda spent eight weeks in the house and finished in the top 10 out of 23 contestants.

The experience significantly increased

his social media following and introduced him to audiences across the country. Still, he says fame has not completely changed his daily life.

"I'm still living off my salary from my nine-to-five job," he said the municipal employee.

What changed most, according to him, was his self-esteem.

"When I walked into that house, my self-esteem was not great. I honestly believed I wasn't a very likeable person," he admitted.

King Wanda revealed that he struggled with bullying and depression while growing up and often felt rejected by others.

"I thought if I became a celebrity, people would finally love me," he said.

Asked what he would say to his 14-year-old self today, the entertainer paused before answering emotionally.

"I'd tell him: 'They're gonna love you.'"

Away from entertainment, King Wanda is also a father and still works while continuing to build his career. He is currently preparing to release a new seven-track EP inspired by relationships, heartbreak, fatherhood and personal growth.

Above all, he says he wants people to remember him for his resilience.

"I want people to remember me as the kid who never gave up," he said.

For King Wanda, the journey has become about more than fame or recognition. It is a story of perseverance, survival and finally learning to believe in himself.



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