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10 YEARS ON, STILL THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

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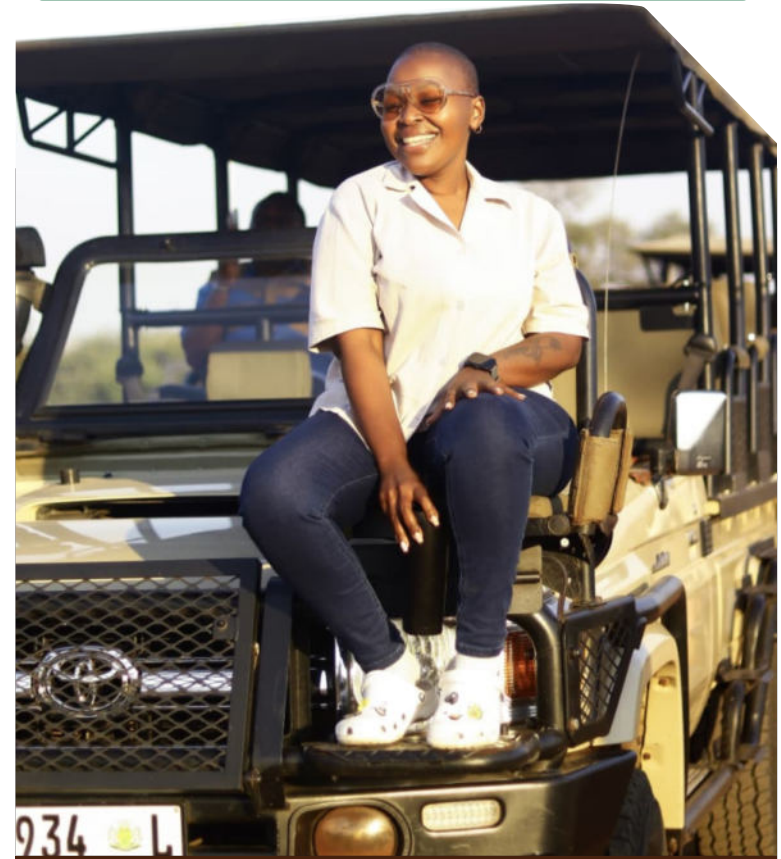
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Thembisile Hani men urged to break silence on mental health and family challenges

● EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

KWAMHLANGA — Men from across Thembisile Hani Local Municipality gathered at the KwaMhlanga Community Hall on Friday, 05 June 2026, for the iScamtho SamaJita Men's Talk workshop, where stakeholders encouraged open discussions on mental health, responsible fatherhood, financial wellbeing and the fight against gender-based violence (GBV).

Hosted by Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, the workshop brought together representatives from the Department of Health, the South African Police Service (SAPS), the National Credit Regulator, the South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU), traditional leaders, church leaders and legal practitioners to address challenges affecting men, families and communities.

Discussions focused on responsible fatherhood, communication within families, men's health and mental wellness, debt management, legal rights, workplace accountability and the role of men in preventing GBV.

Opening the workshop, Municipal Manager Dumisani Mahlangu welcomed the strong turnout from different wards across the municipality.

"We are pleased to see so many men participating in this dialogue. The purpose of this workshop is to break the silence surrounding the challenges men face and to help build better men who can contribute positively to society," said Mahlangu.

He added that support services are available for residents struggling with depression and other social challenges.

"There are relevant support structures available to assist people facing difficulties in life. Residents can approach Social Development offices, where social workers are available to provide assistance," he said.

SAMWU Secretary Ngwatu

Maseremula addressed the issue of mental health and the stigma often associated with seeking help.

"Men should learn to speak out when something is troubling them and move away from the belief that men do not cry. That stigma has contributed to the loss of many good men in society," he said.

Educational Communications Officer Alfred Matsimbi from the National Credit Regulator highlighted the financial pressures faced by many men.

"Many men fall into debt because they are unemployed but still feel pressured to provide for their families. Unemployment is a major factor that affects men's self-esteem and financial stability," said Matsimbi.

Attorney Nyaniso Mzuzu spoke about legal rights and gender-based violence.

"Men also have the right to open cases against partners who fail to contribute to the support of their children. Raising a child is a shared responsibility that requires the participation of both parents," said Mzuzu.

She added that men who experience abuse should not hesitate to seek assistance.

"GBV does not affect women alone. Men can also be victims of abuse and have the right to report such incidents and seek legal assistance," she said.

Clinical Mental Health Psychologist Dr Puleng Benjamin Morena stressed the importance of emotional expression and seeking support when facing challenges.

"When men keep everything inside and never speak about what

hurts them, it can have a serious impact on their mental health. Speaking out is not a weakness; it is the first step towards healing and becoming mentally strong for your family," said Morena.

Pastor Happy Sibanyoni of Latter Rain Community Church encouraged men to remain accountable and present in their children's lives.

"As a man, be accountable and be a father figure to your children regardless of what you are going through. Your children need your presence more than your perfection. Lead them with love, discipline and integrity," he said.

Representatives from the Department of Health and SAPS also engaged participants on men's wellness, free health screenings,

community safety and the importance of taking a stand against domestic violence.

Participants said the workshop provided practical guidance and direct access to support services. Many also welcomed the involvement of traditional leaders, saying their participation would strengthen the message within communities.

The municipality said the iScamtho SamaJita programme would continue as part of its social development and GBV prevention initiatives and encouraged residents to follow municipal notices for future events.

The workshop concluded with a call for men to lead with accountability, respect and service in their homes, workplaces and communities.



KwaThando Care Centre promotes inclusion for children with disabilities

● EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

THEMBISILE HANI — Residents, parents and community stakeholders gathered at Sun City AA in KwaMhlanga on Friday, 29 May 2026 for a Child Protection Fun Run Awareness event aimed at promoting disability inclusion and protecting the rights of children living with disabilities.

Hosted by KwaThando Care Centre, the event sought to educate communities about disability inclusion, child protection and the support services available to families caring for children with disabilities.

The awareness campaign was supported by various stakeholders, including the Department of Social Development (DSD), Department of Health, Mpumalanga Mental Health Society, South African Police Service (SAPS), Clicks and the Community Policing Forum. Organisers said the event was intended to encourage communities to treat people living with disabilities with dignity, love and respect.

Department of Social Development representative Selina Bhandu urged communities to support families living with disabilities and participate in awareness programmes.

"Many families struggle in silence because they lack information. We encourage people to attend these events because they help educate communities on how to live and interact with people living with

disabilities," said Bhandu.

She said the department provides counselling, grants and referrals to therapy services for qualifying families.

Mpumalanga Mental Health Society social worker Thubelihle Nkosi said acceptance remains one of the biggest challenges faced by people living with disabilities.

"A lot of people still do not understand disability and there is still stigma in communities. Our duty is to educate communities and promote acceptance," said Nkosi.

Nkosi also raised concerns about the shortage of centres catering for people living with disabilities.

Parents attending the event expressed gratitude for the support provided by KwaThando Care Centre.

Jimmy Mahlangu from Kwaggafontein A said the centre had positively changed his daughter's life.

"Since she started at this centre, I have seen confidence and independence in her. The staff helped her with therapy and taught her skills I never thought she would learn," said Mahlangu.

Organisers said awareness initiatives such as the fun run play an important role in challenging stigma, promoting inclusion and ensuring that children living with disabilities receive the support they need to reach their full potential.

The Department of Social Development also encouraged families to register children living with disabilities for grants and support programmes.



Representatives from SAPS and Clicks joined community members in supporting children at KwaThando Care Centre during the Child Protection Fun Run Awareness event.

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



No money has ever left the Earth

By Maurice Kande

Sometimes, when we watch the media and the various news outlets, you will certainly realize that the world will try to convince you that all economies are doing bad and that there is not enough money to go around.

We hear about the rise in the price of food, energy, housing etc... Those news get to the point where someone might believe that all the money in the world has left the world.

You all have to remember something: 'in the history of the world, no amount of money has ever left the earth. In other words, whenever there is a cash crunch in a society, it simply means (among other things) that money is moving into different places.'

No amount of money has ever left the earth to go to another planet.

However, many media reports will make you believe that money has left the earth.

During the 2020-2021 period, while the entire world was shut down due to global pestilence, many people increased their net worth (even in billions) while many others were losing jobs and businesses.

Here is a story taken from the Bible:

After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?"

"Yes, he does," he replied.

When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own children or from others?"

"From others," Peter answered.

"Then the children are exempt," Jesus said to him. "But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours." (Matthew 17:24-27)

Notice that in the above passage, Peter had to go find money in a fish. That money was somehow found in the mouth of a fish. The money did not go to the moon nor any other planet. Such story shows that money, even if lost, does not leave the earth.

The earth has seen so many billionaires and rich people. Yet, not even one of them has taken money when they died. When they die, they leave everything behind.

If we can't see any finances around, let us ask God to point us where the money can be found. Just like Jesus did with Peter.

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HIGHVELD CHRONICLE

Editor

Magnificent Mndebele

064 785 9746

Advertising

081 303 7023

info@highveldchronicle.co.za

Mulawu Mathye

072 452 9700

Nodicah 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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Victor Khanye reserves 40% of local opportunities for youth-owned businesses

ESTHER MAHLANGU

DELMAS — Victor Khanye Local Municipality (VKLM) will reserve 40% of local economic opportunities for youth-owned businesses and has allocated R5 million towards SMME support programmes, Executive Mayor Vusi Buda announced during a youth business engagement held in Delmas on Wednesday, 04 June 2026.

The announcement was made during the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) Youth Business Breakfast Engagement, held as part of Youth Month under the theme *Phanda Thursdays*.

Buda said the municipality's youth empowerment strategy is aimed at expanding youth participation in the local economy through structured support for small businesses.

"We want to see young people becoming business owners, employers and drivers of development within our communities," said Buda.

He said partnerships between government, development agencies and entrepreneurs remain critical in creating opportunities and growing local businesses.

"Let us use this engagement to strengthen partnerships, inspire innovation and build a local economy that leaves no young person behind," he said.

The event brought together representatives from MEGA, VKLM, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the Small Enterprise

Development and Finance Agency (SE DFA), South African Revenue Services (SARS), Land Bank, the South African Youth Council, the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC), the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Tourism, as well as financial institutions including Absa and Capitec.

MEGA Funding Division General Manager Smangela Nkwinika said the engagement was designed to connect young entrepreneurs directly with funders and business support organisations.

"No one leaves here empty-handed. Talk to at least one funder, one support partner and connect with at least two other youth businesses. Your network is your net worth," said Nkwinika.

Guest speaker and MEGA board member Noxolo Oyiya encouraged young entrepreneurs to embrace leadership, innovation and ethical business practices.

"The young people of 1976 understood that the future was not something to wait for. It was something to fight for, build and shape. That is what we expect from the youth of today," she said.

Oyiya also cautioned entrepreneurs against equating social media visibility with business success.

"Social media can make someone visible overnight, but visibility

does not equal value. We need young entrepreneurs, innovators and ethical business leaders," she said.

MEGA officials and partner institutions used the platform to present available funding, training and business support programmes while outlining eligibility requirements and application processes.

Adding to Oyiya's message, MEGA board member Zwelo Masilela called on young entrepreneurs to demonstrate resilience and adaptability while embracing new ways of doing business, including the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Masilela encouraged entrepreneurs to take full advantage of government procurement opportunities, noting that government remains the biggest buyer of goods and services.

"Worldwide, government remains the biggest procurer of goods and services," said Masilela.

He also stressed the importance of measuring the impact of business support programmes and engagements, calling for formal follow-up processes to assess how entrepreneurs benefit from such initiatives and identify areas requiring further support.

Representatives from various institutions also engaged directly with attendees on funding opportunities, compliance requirements and business development support services.

A highlight of the event was a testimony from MEGA funding beneficiary Sizwe Mtshali, director of Bonutrax, a Waste Management business based in Kriel, who shared how funding transformed his business.

Mtshali said his company received R3.5 million in funding from MEGA in 2024 to purchase an excavator after starting operations in 2016.

The investment enabled the business to secure contracts with Seriti Mines, expand its operations and grow its workforce to 20 full-time employees, with workshops now operating in Ogies and Kendal.

"I am proud to say that MEGA changed my life and the lives of my employees, my family and the people around me," said Mtshali.

He encouraged entrepreneurs to take advantage of government support programmes and stressed the importance of compliance.

"Young entrepreneurs must take programmes like this seriously

because they can change your life. Compliance is one of the biggest things in business. Let's not give up, let's keep pushing," he said.

The programme also featured a business pitch competition involving Xaba Media, Umasesane Projects, Ndeleleni Projects, Yolok Folks, Zijwela and Zamagatsheni Projects.

Finalists received goodie bags, while MEGA sponsored a tablet for the overall winner.

Thulisile Mokoena of Zamagatsheni Projects from Ext 7 was named the winner.

"Winning this competition will help me grow my catering business and manage orders more effectively. It has motivated me to keep pushing forward and make the most of the opportunities available to young entrepreneurs," said Mokoena.

The event concluded with a networking session where entrepreneurs engaged directly with funders, government agencies and business support organisations to explore partnerships and future opportunities.



Representatives from Land Bank, NYDA, ABSA and SEDFA lead an insightful panel discussion on funding opportunities and how businesses can position themselves to access funding.

The Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Ms Makhosazane Christine Masilela has the pleasure of inviting the people of Mpumalanga to the 2026 Youth Parliament scheduled as follows;

Date: 09 June 2026

Time: 10h00 (09h00 for guests' arrival, registration and coffee)

Venue: SASOL Recreation Center, Embalenhle

The objectives of the Youth Parliament are to:

- intensify oversight on youth matters
- share information with youth.
- facilitate a direct oversight exercise involving all the role players i.e. the legislature, executive and the targeted beneficiaries in one sitting.

The theme for this year is: "Making follow up on government commitments".

The session will be streamed live on the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature's Facebook and YouTube platforms. Ensure to follow it live.

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MTPA, Limpopo launch joint winter tourism campaign

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

HOEDSPRUIT — The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) and Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA) officially launched their joint Winter Campaign at the Radisson Safari Hotel in Hoedspruit, Limpopo, on 29 May 2026, marking a significant step towards strengthening tourism cooperation between the two neighbouring provinces.

Hosted under the themes “Wild Warm Winter” and “Two Provinces, One Destination,” the launch brought together tourism stakeholders, media representatives, tourism youth formations and industry partners in a collaborative effort to promote regional tourism and increase visitor numbers across both provinces.

The campaign forms part of ongoing efforts by the two agencies to strengthen tourism marketing, increase tourism arrivals and position Mpumalanga and Limpopo as preferred winter travel destinations. The collaboration follows engagements held during World Travel Market and Africa's Travel Indaba 2026 and builds on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two agencies to promote regional tourism integration and destination marketing.

During the launch, the two provinces showcased some of their most sought-

after tourism attractions and experiences, highlighting the scenic beauty, cultural heritage, adventure activities and hospitality offerings available to visitors throughout the winter season.

A key objective of the campaign is to encourage travellers to view and explore the two provinces as a single destination, taking advantage of the diverse experiences available across both regions.

Speaking on behalf of the Limpopo Tourism Agency, Deputy Chairperson Grace Sibara described the launch as a historic milestone for the tourism sectors of both provinces.

“We have made history today. This collaboration demonstrates our commitment to working together as neighbouring provinces to grow tourism and create opportunities for our people. We are excited about the future of this partnership and the many initiatives that will follow,” said Sibara.

She added that Limpopo would continue supporting Mpumalanga's tourism initiatives in the spirit of partnership and for the advancement of the tourism sector.

Representing MTPA, Interim Chairperson of the Finance and Investment Committee Sizile Ndlovu called on media houses to continue telling positive stories about tourism and showcasing the attractions available across Mpumalanga and Limpopo. He encouraged the media to use their platforms to inspire travellers to spend more time exploring the two provinces, particularly during winter when both destinations offer favourable weather conditions and unique tourism experiences.

Ndlovu said the partnership presents an opportunity for both provinces to leverage their respective strengths. He noted that Mpumalanga remains one of South Africa's leading provinces for international tourist arrivals, while Limpopo continues to perform strongly in the domestic tourism market.

Through the partnership, the two agencies hope to attract more visitors, increase tourism spending and create economic opportunities for local communities and tourism businesses. Tourism stakeholders and members of the media were also afforded an opportunity to engage directly with the leadership of both agencies, sharing ideas and discussing opportunities to strengthen regional

tourism development.

The agencies said the launch represents the beginning of a broader partnership that will see Mpumalanga and Limpopo working together on various tourism initiatives aimed at growing the regional tourism economy. A key focus of the collaboration will be ensuring that visitors enjoy safe and memorable experiences through coordinated efforts involving government, the

private sector and law enforcement agencies. The two agencies are currently planning additional joint initiatives for the 2026/27 financial year, which will be announced in due course. While the Joint Winter Campaign Launch marks an important milestone, both agencies said it is only the beginning of a long-term partnership aimed at unlocking greater tourism opportunities and economic benefits for both provinces.



MTPA and Limpopo Tourism Agency officials pose for a photograph following the successful launch of the joint winter tourism campaign

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March and March draws over 1 500 in eMalahleni, calls for state of emergency on migration

'President to address the nation on South Africa's approach to managing migration' – Minister Ntshavheni

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

EMALAHLENI — An estimated 1 500 people took to the streets of eMalahleni on Thursday, 04 June 2026, as the March and March movement marched from Vosman to the Witbank Central Business District (CBD), commonly known as Downtown, to hand over a memorandum demanding stronger action against illegal immigration and greater protection of the township economy.

The march culminated in the handing over of a memorandum to eMalahleni Executive Mayor Vusi Nhlapho, with organisers giving the municipality seven days to respond to their demands.

Addressing supporters, Sandile Dube from the movement's national office outlined several demands contained in the memorandum and stressed that the campaign would continue beyond the march.

Among the demands, the movement is calling for the immediate suspension of

the granting and processing of refugee applications, the mass deportation of undocumented foreign nationals and amendments to the Border Management Authority (BMA) Act to allow the authority to operate inland. The movement also wants immigration officers and border policing functions currently under SAPS to be transferred to the BMA.

Another key demand is for government to allocate more resources towards border security, including the construction of border fencing, and for President Cyril Ramaphosa to declare illegal immigration a state of emergency to unlock additional financial and operational resources.

The memorandum further calls for legislation and municipal by-laws that would reserve township

businesses for South African citizens. “We call upon the government to stop the granting and processing of all refugees' applications with immediate effect,” said Dube.

“The march is over, but the struggle continues. March and March is still coming to eMalahleni until these concerns are addressed,” he said.

Receiving the memorandum, Nhlapho committed the municipality to working alongside local communities in addressing challenges related to undocumented foreign nationals and strengthening the township economy.

“We started this fight two years ago. We will not allow the selling of our land, and those who are in eMalahleni illegally must leave us,” said Nhlapho.

He reassured organisers that seven days was more than enough time to provide a response, saying the municipality's efforts were already evident on the ground.

“We are going to stop at nothing in making sure that the township economy is returned to the residents of eMalahleni,” he said.

Meanwhile, SAPS confirmed that the march proceeded peacefully under the monitoring of police and other law enforcement agencies.

According to police, members of SAPS, the Department of Home Affairs and other law enforcement agencies conducted operations linked to the march, during which 14 undocumented foreign nationals were arrested after being found without valid documentation to be in South Africa.

Acting Mpumalanga Provincial Commissioner Major General (Dr)

Zeph Mkhwanazi said police would remain vigilant while encouraging communities to work through lawful channels.

“While communities have the right to raise their concerns through lawful and peaceful means, we strongly discourage any form of vigilantism. We encourage people to work together with law enforcement agencies and report criminal activities through the proper legal channels,” said Mkhwanazi.

According to reports from eMalahleni FM, eMalahleni Local Municipality law enforcement officers and SAPS also conducted raids a day after the march in areas believed to be housing undocumented foreign nationals and suspected drug dealers, including parts of Jellico and French streets. Several arrests were reportedly made

during the operations as authorities intensified efforts to enforce immigration and other laws.

The concerns raised by the marchers come as government is reviewing its broader approach to migration. Addressing the media on 05 June 2026, Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni said Cabinet had received and approved a comprehensive approach to migration in South Africa developed by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Migration, as well as the National Action Plan (NAP) Country Report on Migration in South Africa.

Ntshavheni said President Cyril Ramaphosa will address the nation and provide further details on the committee's report and government's proposed interventions, although no date for the address was announced.



Scores of residents took to the streets in a protest led by eMalahleni locals, supported by March and March national executive IMAGE: Nkosana M Mavuso

Family questions justice after murder case struck off roll over missing docket

Case returns to court after missing docket surfaces hours after matter struck off roll

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG — The family of Sibusiso Magagula says it has lost confidence in the criminal justice system after the murder case against Mbali Sindane (31) was struck off the roll in the Middelburg Magistrate's Court on Wednesday, 03 June 2026, when the State failed to produce the case docket.

“To add salt to the wound, there is no explanation,” said Thokozani Magagula, the deceased's brother.

Magagula said the family arrived at court expecting the matter to proceed but were shocked when it was removed from the roll.

“We are not told why the docket was not brought to court. We went to seek answers from the investigating officer, only to discover he is on sick leave,” said Magagula.

“While I understand officers may be indisposed, it is standard practice for a detective commander to reassign dockets to ensure continuity. It boggles the mind why this was not done with this case. The failure to do so has denied my family justice and undermined confidence in the criminal justice system.”

Responding to questions from *Highveld Chronicle*, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in Mpumalanga said the matter was re-rolled after the docket was brought to court later the same day.

“After the case was removed from the roll during the morning court session, Masemola brought the docket to court

at around 11:00,” said NPA Mpumalanga spokesperson Monica Nyuswa.

“The docket was immediately booked out to a prosecutor and the case has been re-summonsed to appear in the Regional Court on 27 July 2026.”

Nyuswa added that the NPA is investigating “the actions of the detective who did not ensure the docket was brought to court on 27 May 2026 and who brought it late on 03 June 2026”.

Sibusiso Magagula (32), an employee in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality's Solid Waste Department, was allegedly stabbed during an argument over a bank card on 27 April 2025. He died at the scene.

Sindane was arrested and made her first court appearance on 29 April 2025. She initially abandoned her bail application. A month later, on 29 May 2025, she indicated that she would apply for bail.

The matter was postponed to 29 July 2025, when she was granted bail of R1 000. However, she was unable to raise the amount. On 06 August 2025, her family paid the reduced bail amount and she was released.

The matter was postponed on several occasions this year. Despite Sindane appearing in court on 04 February, 27 March and 27 May 2026, the absence of the docket on 27 May and again on 03 June resulted in the matter being struck off the roll.

The family said the missing docket had deepened their frustration and delayed the closure they hoped to achieve through the court process.

Sibusiso left behind a family still searching for answers.

“We are so disappointed and have lost faith in the system that was supposed to speak for Sibusiso,” said Magagula. “We will be seeking answers from both the NPA and the Provincial Detective Services.”



The late Sibusiso Magagula

Employees block stock removal at Roots Delmas over salary dispute

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — Employees at Roots Delmas blocked the removal of stock from the store on Wednesday, 03 June 2026, amid a dispute over unpaid salaries, severance packages and other outstanding benefits following the closure of the business.

Workers said they were shocked when they arrived at work about two weeks ago and found the store closed without prior notice.

According to shop steward Nkosinate Maphangele, employees later learned through the company's human resources department that the business was in the process of being placed under liquidation.

A letter seen by *Highveld Chronicle* indicates that the company had been experiencing financial difficulties for the past 18 months. The letter further states that on 14 May 2026, the landlord locked the store due to unpaid rent. According to the document, attempts to resolve the matter with the landlord were unsuccessful, leaving the company with “no alternative but to place the company under liquidation”.

Employees were informed that they would receive UIF documentation and letters of service and would be notified once a liquidator had been appointed.

The situation escalated on Wednesday when individuals believed to be acting on behalf of the company arrived at the complex to remove stock from the premises.

Employees objected, arguing that no stock should be removed until they received clarity regarding their outstanding payments.

“We want answers, and we want our money,” said Maphangele.

Employee Xoli Maseko said the sudden closure had left workers in financial distress.

“The sudden closure of the store has left employees struggling to survive. Many of us cannot afford transport, groceries or rent,” she said.

“We were never informed about the reasons behind the closure, and management has failed to communicate with us.”

Maseko further alleged that while a company representative identified only as John claimed he was unaware of the liquidation process, employees had seen correspondence from the human resources department referring to liquidation.

Community representatives Sam Mabena and MJ joined employees at

the complex during the standoff. Mabena said stock should not be removed until workers received clarity regarding their payments.

“We cannot stand by and watch everything being taken away while workers are left without salaries and answers,” he said.

When approached for comment, store general manager Eddie Pera said he was not in a position to respond in detail as he had not yet been fully briefed on the matter.

Pera said he had been instructed to remove rotten and perishable stock, including meat, vegetables and fruit, from the premises.

Employees remained at the complex throughout the day, maintaining their position that no stock should be removed until their concerns and claims had been addressed.

The status of the liquidation process and the workers' claims remains unclear. The publication will continue to follow developments.



Roots Delmas employees protest outside the now-closed store

ISIKO LETHU

Our Story

WITH SIPHO MAHAMBA

ILIZWI

Ukutekateka komnotho

I-pilo yanamhlanje sele ikhuphukela ngendlela erarako. Sibabantu esiphila kileli phasi labobamkhulu, yoke into esiyenzako ifuna (isithengo) imali, noma ngabe unawo umberego owufundeleko uberega kuhle kodwa Imali yakhona iyathlayela. Nasingatjheja ngetjhejo elidephe kuhle sithola bona banengi abantu abanawo amaberego begodu abanye ababeregi amatorho kodwana mberego onebizelo, lapho uthole bona nabo balila nabanganawo amatorho ngokuthayelelwa yimali. Ukuvuka epilweni nokunonisa umnotho kufuna kwangathi abantu bangaba nomcabango ozula koke, khulukhulu bacabange ngokuthoma amarhwebo bangenelele kiwo. Ukuqalana nemali eyodwa yomrholo engena iphume ngikho okuletha umraro emahilweni wethu sibabantu. Sele uberega akutjho bona uvalelekile bona ungazithomela irhwebo ekungelakho elizokufakela imali mihle malanga. Umberego wanheqadi uyarhelebha njengoba kuba mberego oletha Imali ngaphandle

kweyomrholo, kwabanye kubabudisi nanyana babone kwanga umberego omkhulu ofuna ube neezumbulu zemali kuze irhwebo lijame linzinze, kodwa akusi njalo. Umuntu kuthoma kancani kancani abenokubekezela nokuzimisela kuze lokho kufezuke. Zinengi iindlela umuntu angazilandela ngokuzenzela Imali ngaphandle kwale oyiberegela emberegweni wakho owufundeleko namkha one lwazi langaphambili kuwo, kunala ongaberegisana nakhona ukubuyekeza iingubhu, amaphapha amabhok'si begodu ngokwenza njalo zobe sewurhelebha ngokuhlwendisa inarha yangekhethu. Ukuthengisa nokuvula ivikili uthengise okudliwako nokungaphekwa, ukuthengisela amarhwebo esele akhona insetjenziswa ezahlukeneko, njengeempoto neenkotlelo kuyayifaka Imali begodu imiberego le ngeze yaphazamisa umberego wakho owuberegako. Zinengi indlela umuntu angazenzela ngayo imali

ngaphandle lwale ayirholako ukuze sanelise iindingo zethu ngombana nazo iindingwezi zinengi begodu zifuna imali. Nasingabuya sitjheje godu Imali esiyiberegela, esiyitholako ayaneli ifuna ngathi singazula kuze ikwazi ukusanelisa kodwana sizule ngendlela ekungiyi nengeze yathikameza amaphilo wabanye abantu. Ukukhulisa umnotho kusezandleni zethu soke, asingazigedli silinde amathuba eze kithi kodwana asithatheni amagadango wokuthi sakhe wethu amathuba.

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Established in 2010, eMalahleeni FM is a trusted community radio station broadcasting 24/7 on 98.7 MHz across Mpumalanga's key economic hubs. With over 96,000 listeners and a strong digital presence, we connect brands directly to an engaged and loyal audience. Our dynamic mix of 60% talk and 40% music — including local news, current affairs, and diverse genres — caters to all age groups and LSM 0-8 markets. Broadcasting in four languages, we ensure inclusive, relevant communication.

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VISION & MISSION

VISION
To have a continuous interaction with our listeners and clients.

MISSION
Deliver a professional, community-centred and financially sustainable broadcasting service that informs, educates and entertains the community.

KEY STATISTICS

Frequency 98.7 MHz	Listenership 96,000+	Broadcast 24/7
LSM Profile 0-8	Social Media 110 000+	Reach 50km Radius

Languages:
English 20% | Sepedi 30% | IsiZulu 30% | IsiNdebele 20%

Content mix: 60% Talk | 40% Music

OUR REACH & FOOTPRINT

Primary Areas: Emalahleeni, Middleburg, Ogies, Kriel

Extended Reach: Arnot, Rietspruit, Thubelihle, Bronkhorstpruit, Belfast, Machadodorp

PROGRAMMING EXCELLENCE

Diverse Music
We play a diverse mix of music, including House, Kwaito, Hip Hop, traditional wedding songs, Afro-pop, R&B, Gospel, Bubblegum, Reggae, and Jazz.

Trusted News - 60% Local
One hour of unpacking top trending stories live on air with relevant officials in our current affairs show.

Best Content for ALL
We broadcast 24/7 with 20 shows catering to all age groups — from children and teenagers to adults, students, professionals, businesses, and the unemployed.

OUR FACILITIES

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Studio B - Production

DIGITAL PRESENCE

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eMalahleni Career Expo inspires learners to pursue their dreams

● NODICAH FUNDAMA AND SHARON CHILOANE

EMALAHLENI — Learners from schools across eMalahleni gathered at eMalahleni Resort on Wednesday, 03 June 2026, for a Career Expo hosted by eMalahleni Local Municipality, aimed at exposing young people to educational and career opportunities available to them.

Led by Executive Mayor Vusi Nhlapho, the expo formed part of the municipality's commitment to youth empowerment and development by providing learners with career guidance as they prepare to make important subject choices and decisions about their future professions.

The event brought together institutions of higher learning, government departments, private sector organisations and youth development stakeholders, who shared information on tertiary education opportunities, bursaries, entrepreneurship, skills development programmes, career paths and workplace expectations.

Addressing learners, Nhlapho delivered a heartfelt message drawn from his own life experiences. Reflecting on his

upbringing in an informal settlement by a single parent, he spoke about the challenges he faced growing up, including poverty, bullying and social comparison.

“No matter how different or challenging your background may be, it does not define your final destination,” said Nhlapho.

He encouraged learners to remain focused on their goals, work hard and never allow their circumstances to determine their future success.

As part of the programme, the Executive Mayor selected Lungile Lusenga, a Grade 9 learner from Lehlaka Combined School, to serve as Mayor for a Day.

The initiative aims to groom future leaders, build confidence among young people and encourage academic excellence and active participation in community development.

Speaking during the event, Lusenga encouraged fellow learners to make the most of the opportunities presented to them.

“Today is not just another school event. It is an opportunity to broaden your horizons, discover possibilities and begin shaping the future you want for yourself. The decisions you make during these school years will have a significant impact on the opportunities available to you in the future,” he said.

In an interview with Highveld Chronicle, Lusenga expressed gratitude for being selected as Mayor for a Day.

“I am delighted to have been given this opportunity. It will help me grow, focus on my studies and become a better learner. It has motivated me to work harder and become a responsible leader in the future,” he said.

Siyabonga Mahlangu, a medical doctor from Hlanikahle in Ezinambeni who studied medicine in Russia, inspired learners with a message of perseverance and determination.

He encouraged learners not to allow their backgrounds to limit their ambitions.

“You're somewhere in the future and you look much better than you look right now,” he told learners.

“Don't allow your background to put your back on the ground. Your background does not define who you are. The school you attend does not determine your future. It is the decisions you make every day that will grant you the success you need in life.”

Pastor Thabo Mabogoane also delivered a motivational message, emphasising the importance of

investing in future generations and creating opportunities for young people to succeed.

“Blessed is the man who plants a tree whose shadow he will never sit under. Somebody has to plant a seed, and that seed has to grow into a tree. That tree becomes the shade that you are enjoying,” he said.



Executive Mayor Vusi Nhlapho addresses learners during the event



Man sentenced to life imprisonment for raping former partner

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG — The Middelburg Regional Court has sentenced a 59-year-old man to life imprisonment for raping his former partner in a case that the court said reflects the ongoing scourge of gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence in society.

Monti Dibakwane was also sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment for malicious injury to property and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. He was further declared unfit to possess a firearm.

The court heard that Dibakwane and the complainant were previously in a domestic relationship. After the relationship ended, the woman relocated to eMalahleni in an effort to escape him.

On 01 December 2022, Dibakwane allegedly tracked her down to a relative's home in Blinkpan, where he became violent, assaulted her and raped her.

The front door of the house was damaged during the attack.

Police were called to the scene and the victim was taken for medical treatment.

Dibakwane denied the allegations and claimed that the sexual encounter was consensual. However, the court rejected his version after hearing evidence from the complainant, her sister-in-law and the responding police officer. A J88 medical report corroborated the complainant's testimony.

In a Victim Impact Statement, the woman said she continues to live in fear and has since relocated in an effort to rebuild her life. The court said strong sentences are necessary to send a clear message that gender-based violence will not be tolerated.

National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) Mpumalanga spokesperson Monica Nyuswa welcomed the sentence and reaffirmed the NPA's commitment to

ensuring that perpetrators of GBV are held accountable.

Mpumalanga recorded 9 776 sexual offences during the 2023/2024 financial year, according to the South African Police Service's annual crime statistics. This translates to an average of 26 reported sexual offences per day across the province.

The figure includes rape, sexual assault, attempted sexual offences and contact sexual offences.

To support survivors, the province has three Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs) located in Mbombela, Tonga and eMalahleni, providing medical, psychosocial and legal support services under one roof.

According to data presented by the NPA to Parliament, the three centres assisted more than 1 800 GBV survivors during 2024.

The eMalahleni Thuthuzela Care Centre, which services the Middelburg area, recorded a 14% increase in new cases compared to the previous year.

Courts in the region have increasingly highlighted the prevalence of domestic and gender-based violence in recent judgments. In May 2026, the Middelburg Regional Court sentenced a 42-year-old man to 25 years' direct imprisonment for raping his partner's 13-year-old daughter, noting the growing number of domestic violence matters appearing before the courts.

Nationally, SAPS statistics show that 42 780 rapes were reported during the 2023/2024 financial year, with Mpumalanga accounting for approximately 7.3% of the national total.

Mother opens assault case after 8-year-old allegedly slapped at Delmas shop

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — A Delmas mother has opened a common assault case after her eight-year-old daughter was allegedly slapped by an employee at a local shop following a dispute over a packet of Disprin that reportedly had an unusual smell.

According to Thandeka Masuku, the incident occurred on Sunday, 31 May 2026, after she sent one of her children to buy Disprin from a shop in Mandela.

Masuku said she became concerned after noticing a strong and unusual smell coming from the medication.

“When the child brought the Disprin home, I put it in my mouth and immediately noticed that it smelled of paraffin, soap and Staysoft. I told the children to take it back because something was not right,” she said.

The children returned to the shop to exchange the Disprin but did not return home for some time.

“When I went to look for them, I found my younger daughter crying. She told me they were beating her brother at the shop,” alleged Masuku. She said she rushed to the shop, where she found a confrontation underway. It was only after returning home that she learned her daughter had allegedly been assaulted during the incident.

“The little child was still crying when I got home. When I asked her what happened, she told me, ‘Mom, the Indian man slapped me.’ We went back to the shop and I could already see swelling where she had been hit,” she said.

Masuku questioned why a young child had allegedly been assaulted.

“I asked them, ‘How did it get to the point where you beat a small child?’ The older child could at least defend himself, but this little one could not,” she said.

Community members reportedly intervened and attempted to mediate the situation. They also contacted the shop owner, who was allegedly out of town at the time.

The child was initially taken to the N12 Clinic before being referred to

hospital for further medical examination.

“At the hospital, they examined her and took her for X-rays. The doctor confirmed that she was badly swollen. Her ear was swollen inside and her cheek was also swollen,” said Masuku.

Following the incident, Masuku reported the matter to police and a common assault case was opened. She said her daughter is recovering following the incident.

The alleged assault occurred during National Child Protection Week, observed from 29 May to 05 June, which focuses on preventing violence against children and promoting their safety and wellbeing.

When approached for comment regarding allegations that one of his employees assaulted the eight-year-old girl, shop owner Woreda Jenna Guye confirmed that discussions were taking place with the child's family.

“We are still talking with the family on how we can resolve this issue,” Guye told *Highveld Chronicle*.



Women from different political parties hold hands outside the Middelburg Magistrate's Court in a show of unity against gender-based violence.



The closed shop allegedly operated by the perpetrator, situated in the Mandela Informal Settlement in Delmas.



From audition stage to arts director: Blacq Child builds platform for Middelburg creatives

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG — What started as an audition at the Middelburg Youth Art Development Centre (MIYADEC) in 2012 has grown into a thriving arts platform that is creating opportunities, paying local artists and showcasing talent across poetry, music, film, theatre, fashion and visual arts.

Given Boleu, better known by his stage name Blacq Child, is the founder and director of 1050-State, a multidisciplinary arts organisation based in Middelburg that focuses on unearthing youth talent and celebrating black excellence.

Boleu's journey began when he attended an audition at MIYADEC as an aspiring performer.

The name Blacq Child was inspired by a poem titled *Black Child*, which he wrote and performed to motivate African youth to compete and excel.

"The audience never forgot the poem. Since those auditions, everybody started calling me Blacq Child," he said.

He later changed the spelling intentionally.

"Blacq with a Q was a positioning strategy to make my stage name unique and stand out," he said.

Twelve years later, Boleu has transitioned from performer to arts director.

In 2022, he founded 1050-State with a vision of creating opportunities for young creatives while establishing a permanent platform for the arts in Middelburg and surrounding areas.

The organisation focuses on poetry,

music, fashion, visual art, film and theatre. "We also want to establish a permanent platform for the arts in Middelburg and surrounding areas," said Boleu.

For him, that vision includes creating a dedicated space where young people from townships and surrounding communities can showcase their work, build creative brands and earn an income.

"We're looking to build an art centre with a music studio, film studio and theatre, and run festivals almost every month to keep paying artists for their creativity," he said.

After registering the organisation, 1050-State secured funding from the National Arts Council for the Black Excellence One-Day Poetry Festival in Suits in 2022.

A year later, the organisation received further support for the 1050 Strictly Art Fest, which featured poetry and music performances, fashion showcases, visual art exhibitions and theatre productions.

"That allowed us to pay about 20 artists," said Boleu. "We were the first organisation to pay local artists. This continued in every project that we had."

The funding also helped establish the organisation's foundation.

"It helped build my backroom office, buy our first equipment and keep 1050-State running before we received further support with

newer gear. It also gave hope to artists around Middelburg that you can live through the arts, even in a town surrounded by mines and industrial zones," he said.

In 2024, 1050-State received funding to produce the documentary *Shattered Dreams*, which went on to win Best Documentary at the Mpumalanga International Film Festival.

The documentary explores the lives of talented individuals who abandoned the arts due to economic pressures, limited opportunities and a lack of support.

"We conducted the documentary through interviews, finding those individuals and giving them an opportunity to express themselves, while also getting expertise from the generation that came before us on what we needed to do to change the whole *Shattered Dreams* situation," said Boleu.

"It was touching, inspiring and exposing. That's why it won. Winning meant a lot to us. It motivated us to keep going, gave us hope that anything is possible and changed how we see the arts in Mpumalanga."

Additional support came through equipment provided by the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDA).

The equipment is now being used to produce *Mtoni Chronicles*, an unscripted series currently in production that focuses on the lives and experiences of local artists in Middelburg.

"It tells real stories of artists in and



Given Boleu, known by his stage name Blacq Child

around Middelburg. It wouldn't make sense to shoot it anywhere else because it speaks directly to the challenges in our community," he said.

Despite the progress, Boleu believes the performing arts sector in Middelburg remains underfunded.

"That includes poetry, music, visual art, fashion, theatre and film. Other regions are ahead because municipalities and organisations prioritise the arts," he said.

He believes the lack of funding continues to drive talented young creatives to larger cities.

"Many young creatives leave Middelburg for Johannesburg because of the lack of opportunities. I was tempted many times too," he said. However, he chose to remain in Middelburg and invest in building opportunities locally.

"I realised that there is a gap here and opportunities exist here. If people from Johannesburg are coming to Mpumalanga to participate, then it

shows we can build something here ourselves," he said.

Looking ahead, Boleu hopes to grow 1050-State into a nationally recognised arts organisation within the next three years.

"I want us to be a leading arts and entertainment organisation in the coming three years, not just in Middelburg or Nkangala District, but competing nationally," he said.

He said success would be measured by producing award-winning work, hosting major festivals and helping young creatives build sustainable careers.

"For me, success will be producing talent and making sure young creatives can live off their given talents, and that they themselves go on to find and nurture the next hidden talent. Passing the baton, that will be an immense success for 1050-State," he said.

From Vezubuhle to the Mbombela stage: Samukelo Tala finishes second runner-up

● EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

MBOMBELA — Samukelo Tala (26) from Vezubuhle in KwaMhlanga under Thembisile Hani Local Municipality has been crowned second runner-up at the Mr Mpumalanga 2026 pageant held at the Mbombela Civic Centre on Saturday, 23 May 2026.

The event, hosted by the Admire Billy Malubana Foundation (ABM), brought



Mr Mpumalanga 2nd Runner-Up
Samukelo Tala

together contestants from across Mpumalanga competing for the provincial title.

Tala's achievement has been welcomed as a proud moment for his community, with supporters describing it as a reflection of discipline, confidence and youth empowerment.

Speaking after the competition, Tala said his participation was about more than winning a title, but also about representing young men

from his community and encouraging them to pursue their ambitions.

"This is for every young man in Thembisile Hani who thinks opportunities are far away. We can make our municipality and communities proud right from here," he said.

He added that the experience taught him confidence, discipline and the importance of staying grounded. Tala

said he plans to continue developing his modelling career while balancing his work as a dental practitioner. He also hopes to use his platform to promote self-belief, education and youth involvement in community projects.

Family and friends described his achievement as inspiring, saying it reflects hard work and dedication.

His friend, Siboniso Malaza, said Tala's success would motivate other

young people from rural communities.

"We started modelling together in high school, hoping to put our hometown on the map. Seeing him become second runner-up is very special. He worked hard and represented us with discipline," said Malaza. The Mr Mpumalanga 2026 title was won by Nkosikhona Roro, while Joy Maphanga was named first runner-up.



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