

First with the People, First with the News

Mpumalanga safety department exceeds revenue target by R100 million



Read More on Page 3

KLCBT leads tourism growth conversations at Mpumalanga conference



More on Page 2

Celebrating **10 Years** of telling our communities' stories

ISSUE: 374 • 19 JUNE 2026

FREE 

hconline.co.za

King Makhosonke II given a befitting final farewell after four decades of leadership

10 YEARS ON, STILL THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

Full Story on Page 3

THEY FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM

50 Years later: what's next for today's youth?

Special Youth Day Celebration Edition Read More on Page 4, 5, & 8

NKAMA
Nkangala Arts & Music Awards

"Celebrating the Creative Pulse of Nkangala"

ARE YOU READY?

INTRODUCING THE NKANGALA ARTS & MUSIC AWARDS

Celebrating, Unearthing and Elevating local talent across the Nkangala District

VISIT hconline.co.za for more

SUPPORTED BY

Nkangala District Municipality

HIGHVELD CHRONICLE

FOR NKANGALA PEOPLE - PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN COLLABORATION WITH HIGHVELD CHRONICLE

KLCBT leads tourism growth conversations at Mpumalanga conference

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

MBOMBELA – The Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism (KLCBT) brought together tourism leaders, business stakeholders, government representatives and industry experts for a two-day conference focused on growing Mpumalanga's tourism economy through innovation, collaboration and strategic partnerships. The conference started with a dedicated Tourism Conference at Anew Hotel in White River on 10 June 2026 before moving to a Business Conference at Emnotweni Arena in Nelspruit on 11 June 2026.

Opening the Tourism Conference, KLCBT CEO Linda Grimbeek emphasised the importance of promoting Mpumalanga's rich culture, heritage and authentic African cuisine as key tourism assets.

Through the **Taste The Seven** culinary activation, delegates explored how local food, heritage and cultural experiences can be packaged into unique tourism offerings capable of attracting both domestic and international travellers while creating opportunities for local communities.

The conference programme featured a range of tourism experts who shared insights on cultural tourism, digital marketing, artificial intelligence, inclusive tourism and strategies for attracting international travellers.

One of the key presentations came from the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), where Linda Qutywa outlined investment opportunities linked to tourism products under the agency's management. Delegates were encouraged to explore opportunities that could unlock further growth within the province's

tourism sector.

Another highlight was the presentation of the **Panorama Route Reimagined** initiative led by Graskop Gorge co-director Oupa Pilane. The project was presented as a groundbreaking and innovative initiative aimed at transforming the Panorama Route into a world-class tourism destination through a collective and collaborative approach.

Pilane explained how the initiative seeks to strengthen one of Mpumalanga's most iconic tourism routes, known for its landscapes, waterfalls, hiking trails and natural attractions, by improving visitor experiences, encouraging investment and creating sustainable economic opportunities for surrounding communities.

Discussions throughout the conference reinforced the importance of innovation and adaptation in an increasingly competitive tourism environment. Speakers highlighted the growing role of digital platforms, social media marketing and artificial intelligence in helping tourism businesses reach new markets and improve customer experiences.

Proceedings concluded on a high note with a live interview on the Global and Domestic Political Outlook featuring Solly Moeng and facilitated by renowned media personality Izaak du Plessis of Nuuspod. The discussion focused on South Africa's political landscape, elections and the potential impact of political developments on business

confidence, investment and tourism growth. Delegates described the conference as a valuable platform for networking, knowledge-sharing and exploring practical solutions to challenges facing the tourism sector. A recurring theme throughout the two-day event was the need for stronger partnerships between government, business and

communities to unlock the full potential of tourism as a driver of economic growth and job creation. Stakeholders were challenged to work collectively towards positioning tourism among the leading contributors to Mpumalanga's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with speakers noting that the sector still has significant untapped potential despite the province being home to some of South Africa's most recognised tourism attractions.



Graskop Gorge co-director Oupa Pilane



KLCBT CEO Linda Grimbeek



Accused remains in custody after alleged firearm-pointing incident

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS – Warada Jenna Guye appeared in the Delmas Magistrate's Court on 17 June 2026 following his arrest a day earlier in connection with an alleged firearm-pointing incident.

Guye was arrested following an incident involving Sbonelo Sotebe Sibiya, which allegedly occurred at about 19:00 on Sunday in Mandela Informal Settlement, Delmas.

During the proceedings, the court heard that Guye has no previous convictions and no pending criminal cases.

He was represented by a private attorney, who informed the court that the defence intends to proceed with a formal bail application.

The State opposed bail, and the matter was postponed to 23 June 2026 for a formal bail hearing. The court ordered that Guye remain in custody until his next appearance.

The prosecutor also informed the court that authorities had become aware of an additional charge allegedly linked to Guye. No further details regarding the nature of the charge were disclosed in court.

Speaking to *Highveld Chronicle*



Warada Jenna Guye

after the proceedings, Sibiya said the alleged incident occurred in Mandela Informal Settlement while he and two companions were assisting a friend to secure transport to the N12.

Sibiya alleged that the group was standing at a hitchhiking spot when they noticed a man approaching them. He further alleged that the man produced a firearm, causing two of his companions to flee.

He said there had been no personal dispute between him and the accused and alleged that the incident may have been linked to community activities, including a march held on 12 June 2026.

Sibiya further alleged that the group moved through a nearby passage before later reporting the matter to police and opening a firearm-pointing case at the Delmas Police Station on the same evening.

He told *the publication* that he was satisfied with the court's decision to postpone the matter and keep the accused in custody pending the formal bail application.

Guye remains in custody and is expected to return to the Delmas Magistrate's Court on 23 June 2026 for the formal bail hearing.

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



Make Leisure Part of Your Day

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matthew 6:33-34)

How do you get good at getting the rest God said was good for you? How do you get good at leisure? We can, of course, nod in agreement to all we've discussed in the past couple days about how important it is to rest and get recharged, but our greatest need is not inclination; it's demonstration.

Here are two suggestions that will help.

1. *Deliberately stop being absorbed by the endless details of life.* Our Savior said it straight when He declared that we cannot, at the same time, serve both God and man. But we try so hard! If Jesus's words from Matthew 6 are saying anything, they are saying, "Don't sweat the things only God can handle." Each morning, deliberately decide not to allow worry to steal your time and block your leisure.

2. *Consciously start taking time for leisure.* After God put the world together, He rested. We are commanded to imitate Him.

For the rest to occur in our lives, Christ Jesus must be in proper focus. He must be in His rightful place before we can ever expect to get our world to fall into place.

A bone-weary father dragged into his home dog-tired late one evening. It had been one of those unbelievable days of pressure, deadlines, and demands. He looked forward to a time of relaxation and quietness. Exhausted, he picked up the

evening paper and headed for his favorite easy chair by the fireplace. About the time he got his shoes untied, plo! Into his lap dropped his five-year-old son with a big grin.

"Hi, Dad... let's play!"

He loved his boy dearly, but his need for a little time all alone to repair and think was, for the moment, a greater need than time with Junior. But how could he maneuver it?

There had been a recent moon probe, and the newspaper carried a huge picture of earth. With a flash of much-needed insight, the dad asked his boy to bring a pair of scissors and some transparent tape. Quickly, he cut the picture of earth into various shapes and sizes, then handed the homemade jigsaw puzzle over to his son in a pile.

"You tape it all back together, Danny, then come on back and we'll play, okay?"

Off scampered the child to his room as Dad breathed a sigh of relief. But in less than ten minutes the boy bounded back with everything taped in perfect place. Stunned, the father asked, "How'd you do it so fast, son?"

"Aw, it was easy, Daddy. You see, there's this picture of a man on the back of the sheet... and when you put the man together, the world comes together."

So it is in life. When we put the Man in His rightful place, it's amazing what happens to our world. And, more important, what happens to us. I can assure you that in the final analysis of your life—when you stop some day and look back on the way you spent your time—your use of leisure will be far more important than those hours you spent with your nose to the grindstone. Don't wait until it's too late to enjoy life.

Live it up now. Throw yourself into it with abandonment. Get up out of the rut of work long enough to see that there's more to life than a job and a paycheck. You'll never be the same! Your stress fractures will heal.

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

FOR FEEDBACK FOR COMMENTS PLEASE EMAIL THE EDITOR ON

info@highveldchronicle.co.za

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

081 303 7023

www.hconline.co.za

mdda MEDIA DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSITY AGENCY

DISTRIBUTION AREAS

- * Delmas
- * Sunda
- * Eloff
- * Ogies
- * Phola
- * Kriel
- * Emalahleni
- * Machadodorp
- * Belfast
- * Waterval Boven
- * Middelburg
- * Mhluzi
- * Hendrina
- * Kwaggafontein
- * KwaMhlanga
- * Tweefontein

Call 081 303 7023 to find out the exact spots where you can get the paper

AIP ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS

Affiliate with:

Press Council **FAIR**

Mpumalanga safety department exceeds revenue target by R100 million

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – The Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison exceeded its 2025/26 revenue target by R100 million and will use the 2026/27 budget to strengthen safety programmes across the province.

Delivering the department's Budget Vote in the provincial legislature, MEC Jackie Macie reported that the department collected R1.8 billion against a projected R1.7 billion.

"This remarkable overachievement is a clear indication of the Department's commitment to effective revenue management, improved operational

efficiency and the responsible administration of public resources," Macie said in his speech.

The department attributed the surplus to strengthened internal controls and prudent management of public funds.

The 2026/27 budget focuses on four strategic areas, including strengthening administration and governance, improving community participation, enhancing road safety and traffic law enforcement, and protecting government infrastructure and strategic assets.

The department's total budget for the 2026/27 financial year amounts to **R2.35 billion**, allocated across four programmes.

Programme 1: Administration received **R226 million**,

Programme 2: Provincial Civilian Secretariat for Police Service received **R95 million**,

Programme 3: Transport Regulation received **R695 million**, while

Programme 4: Security Management received the largest allocation of **R1.063 billion**.

The department said Programme 1: Administration will focus on achieving a clean audit outcome through improved financial management, compliance and investment in human capital.

Macie also emphasised the importance of civilian oversight and community participation, describing Community Policing Forums, Community Safety Forums, traditional leaders, youth formations, women's organisations, faith-based groups and the private sector as key partners in fighting crime.

"The struggle against crime must become a societal movement," Macie told the legislature.

The department will also prioritise road safety and traffic law

enforcement to reduce accidents and fatalities on provincial roads. It will continue strengthening the protection of government infrastructure and strategic assets through improved access control, surveillance technology and security barriers.

However, Macie acknowledged that upgrades to physical infrastructure, including fencing and electronic security systems, remain constrained by limited financial resources.

On policing oversight, the department monitored all 90 police stations in Mpumalanga and analysed 12 service delivery complaint reports involving the South African Police Service (SAPS). Recommendations were made where shortcomings were identified to improve service delivery and public trust.

In the fight against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), Mpumalanga contributed to the national 90 Days Accelerated

Programme. During 2025/26, the province recorded 2,765 GBVF cases, resulting in 238 arrests. Courts secured 27 life imprisonment sentences and 533 convictions with sentences exceeding 20 years.

Macie credited stable SAPS leadership under Acting Provincial Commissioner Maj-Gen Dr Zeph Mkhwanazi with contributing to crime reductions in some areas.

With the November 2026 Local Government Elections approaching, the department is working with the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster to ensure security preparedness.

Aligned with the National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030 and Premier Mandla Ndlovu's priorities, the department said its vision is to make safety a catalyst for development, investment and social cohesion in Mpumalanga.



MEC Jackie Macie with Acting Provincial Commissioner of Mpumalanga SAPS Major General (Dr) Zeph Mkhwanazi

King Makhosonke II given a befitting final farewell after four decades of leadership

● EMMANUEL N. MTHIMUNYE

KWAMHLANGA – Thousands of mourners gathered in KwaMhlanga on 14 June 2026 to bid farewell to King Enock Makhosonke II Mabhena, who was remembered and honoured during a befitting final farewell following a 40-year reign as leader of the AmaNdebele nation.

The 65-year-old king, who passed away on 09 June 2026 at his home in KwaNdebele, Vaalbank, was honoured with a Category 1 Special Official Memorial Service attended by government officials, traditional leaders and dignitaries from across Southern Africa.

During the memorial service, family spokesperson Mbulawa Mabhena said the royal family would announce the king's successor at an appropriate time.

"We know everyone wants to know who will succeed the late King. However, as a family, we will announce his successor when the time is right. For now, allow us time to mourn," he said.

Deputy President Paul Mashatile delivered the eulogy and handed the South African flag to Queen Sekhothali Mabhena in honour of the late king.

"King Makhosonke II was a transformative monarch who prioritised education and health. Guided by ancestral wisdom, his initiatives secured the physical and spiritual wellbeing of his people," said Mashatile.

King Makhosonke II is survived by his three wives, Mma Na-Magane, Mma Na-Mnguni Prisca and Queen Sekhothali Mabhena, as well as his three daughters.

Queen Regent Manyaku Maria Thulare of the Bapedi Nation urged unity and respect during the mourning period.

"For respect and dignity, let us honour the legacy of King Makhosonke II. We will solve internal matters as a family," she said.

Princess Ketumile Ingrid Mabhena reaffirmed her father's vision of a united AmaNdebele nation and defended his legacy.

"My father was determined in his last days to resolve the issue of the

kingship. Premier, correct your statement. He was not king of the amaNdebele akwaManala, but of the AmaNdebele nation as a whole," she said.

She urged the nation to continue pursuing his vision of unity.

"His mission to unite the AmaNdebele must not die with him. We must keep it alive," she said.

Prince Morena Masupha David Seeiso of Lesotho also appealed for dignity and respect during the mourning period.

"Please allow my daughter to mourn her late husband. Then, after that, she will leave in peace," he said.

Traditional leaders from across the region paid tribute to the late monarch. Inkosi Mgendela Gama of Songea, Tanzania, described his passing as a loss to African traditional leadership.

"His passing is a loss to African traditional leadership. Our kingdoms may be separated by borders, but we remain united by shared history and culture," he said.

Princess Dr Nikiwe Bam of Afrikan Indigenous Leaders described King Makhosonke II as a unifier.

"His Majesty was a true leader with integrity. He welcomed young people, valued education and was committed to bringing people together," she said.

The University of Mpumalanga, students and the Motsepe Foundation also paid tribute to King Makhosonke II for his support of education and efforts to uplift the isiNdebele nation.

MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Speedy Mashilo said the late king's contribution to governance and community development would be remembered.

As tributes continued, speakers reflected on King Makhosonke II's four decades of leadership and his efforts to promote unity, education and development among the AmaNdebele people.

Pensioner sentenced to life imprisonment for raping great-grandchild

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

KWAMHLANGA — The KwaMhlanga Regional Court has sentenced a 70-year-old pensioner to life imprisonment for the rape of his nine-year-old great-grandchild, with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) describing the judgment as a significant step in the fight against gender-based violence and crimes against children.

The incident took place in August 2020 at the KwaMhlanga residence where both the accused and the victim lived.

The identity of the victim is being withheld to protect her privacy.

According to court proceedings, on 10 August 2020, the accused dropped the victim off at her paternal family's home while he accompanied his wife to a ceremony in KwaVezubuhle.

Late that evening, he returned to collect the child. Upon arriving back at their shared home, the victim went to sleep on the floor, which was her usual spot in the great-grandfather's

room. While she was asleep, the accused picked her up, placed her on the bed, and assaulted her. Following the attack, he threatened to beat the child if she spoke to anyone about what had occurred.

According to evidence presented in court, the child disclosed the abuse to her mother in September 2020 after watching a television programme about rape.

The matter was subsequently reported to authorities, and the victim received medical treatment and psychosocial support. During the trial, the accused pleaded not guilty and denied the allegations, claiming the victim's grandmother had fabricated the allegations against him.

State Prosecutor Bianca Harmse led evidence from the child, whose testimony was supported by that of her grandmother and medical evidence contained in a J88 report.

The court found the state's evidence credible and rejected the accused's

version of events.

In arguing for the maximum sentence, Prosecutor Harmse told the court that the accused had abused a position of trust and caused lasting harm to the child.

Harmse noted that the trauma would force the young girl to continuously relive the ordeal, underlining the absolute gravity of the offence.

The court found no substantial or compelling circumstances to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentences. In addition to the life sentence, the court: Declared the pensioner unfit to possess a firearm; Declared him unsuitable to work with children; and Ordered his name to be entered into the National Register for Sex Offenders.

In a statement following the sentencing, the NPA reaffirmed its commitment to aggressively prosecuting crimes against vulnerable members of society, stating that it will "continue its fight against the scourge of abuse against women and children in our communities."

Steve Tshwete reduces tariff increases for most services in 2026/27

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – Residents in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality will receive some relief in at least five of the six service categories, as the average tariff increase for the 2026/27 budget has decreased from 5.97% in the previous financial year to 5.23%.

According to the municipality's budget infographic, approved tariff increases for 2026/27 are lower than the previous year in five of the six service categories.

Property rates have decreased to 3.4%, from 4.4% in the previous financial year. Water services and refuse removal have also decreased from 5% to 4%. The municipality's consumer price index assumption has dropped from 4.4% to 3.2%, indicating that the budget is based on lower projected inflation.

Sewerage tariffs remain unchanged at 5%, and although electricity remains the highest among the listed services, it has been reduced slightly from 12% to 11.7%.

The electricity tariff is linked to the annual tariff determination by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA), rather than a decision made solely by the municipality.

The municipality is using **#SPUSH'ISERVICEDELIVERY** as the budget tagline, highlighting its focus on improving service delivery while responding to financial pressures faced by residents.

Some residents view the lower increases as providing relief for households in Middelburg, Mhluzi and surrounding areas serviced by Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

Dimakatso Mahlangu from Aerorand

welcomed the lower increases, saying they could help households manage rising costs.

"I applaud the municipality for trying to ease the burden. Every rand counts when you're budgeting for a family," she said.

However, Thabo Ndlovu from Mhluzi said the increases remained difficult for residents facing economic challenges.

"The 2026/27 budget may have gone down to 5.23%, but it's still high given the unemployment rate in Middelburg. People are struggling, and another increase, even a smaller one, hurts," Ndlovu said.

The budget was approved ahead of the new financial year, which begins on 01 July 2026. Residents will see the new tariffs reflected on municipal accounts from that date.



Deputy President Paul Mashatile delivers the eulogy during the memorial service of His Majesty Ingwenyama Makhosonke II Mabhena

Delmas Youth Day prayer rally highlights unemployment and service delivery concerns

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS – Unemployment, poor service delivery and the need for community unity were among the key issues raised during a Youth Day prayer rally held in Delmas at the Simon Gondwe Sports Centre on 16 June 2026. The event, organised by the Service Delivery Party (SDP) ahead of the 2026 Local Government Elections, brought together residents, church leaders, youth groups, community activists and political supporters from across Mpumalanga. Organisers said the gathering was aimed at promoting social cohesion while creating a platform for communities to reflect on challenges affecting residents. Speaking to *Highveld Chronicle*, SDP National Convener Mandla Msibi said the prayer rally was organised in response to the social and economic difficulties facing communities. “People are facing many challenges in this town. We have tried many things, and we felt that we now need divine intervention. We need God’s intervention in the many challenges our communities are facing,” said Msibi. He said the party chose prayer as a way to bring people from different backgrounds together. “We wanted a different and unifying way of bringing people together. Had we organised a jazz festival or a similar event, we would not have attracted the diversity of people we saw here today. We wanted pastors, young people and community members from all walks of life to come together,” he said. Pastors from various churches led prayers focusing on youth unemployment, substance abuse, crime, teenage pregnancy, poor service delivery and the need for stronger

family and community values. Special prayers were also offered for peace, unity and development in Delmas and the broader Victor Khanye Local Municipality. During the programme, SDP leaders requested prayers as the organisation prepares for the upcoming Local Government Elections. Church leaders and congregants prayed for wisdom, integrity and guidance. SDP founder and National Coordinator Thabo Motau identified unemployment as one of the biggest challenges facing Delmas, Mpumalanga and South Africa. “The most pressing challenge in Delmas, in Mpumalanga and in South Africa, is unemployment,” said Motau. He said the party had engaged residents from different communities and political backgrounds to gather ideas on addressing local challenges. “I have spent time engaging young people, ordinary residents and people from different political parties because we want to hear directly from the community about how we address the challenges facing Victor Khanye,” he said. Motau said reviving local manufacturing and strengthening the township economy could help create employment opportunities. “There is no logical explanation why school uniforms cannot be manufactured locally when we have mothers who can sew and young people who possess those skills. The products we consume

here are often manufactured elsewhere, creating jobs and opportunities outside our community,” he said. The event also featured cultural performances commemorating the legacy of the 1976 youth uprising. Youth groups, church choirs and community performers entertained attendees, including a Sarafina-inspired performance. Speaking on behalf of local youth, Precious Mahlangu said the gathering gave young people hope and encouraged discussions about solutions to challenges affecting their future. “As young people, we are confronted by many challenges, including unemployment, substance abuse and a lack of opportunities. What we witnessed today gave us hope because it showed that people from different backgrounds can come together and work towards a common purpose,” she said. Representing local churches, Pastor Kevin Mahlangu described the event as a demonstration of faith and unity. Quoting John 3:27, he said: “No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. What we experienced today was surely the work of the Lord. The support, the turnout and the smooth running of the programme were all evidence of God’s hand.” Motau also addressed concerns around businesses operated by undocumented foreign nationals, saying municipal by-laws should be enforced fairly and consistently. “Our position is that municipal by-laws must be implemented lawfully and without favour. People have a right to raise concerns, but they must do so in an orderly manner. We cannot allow illegality simply because people are unhappy,” he said. Organisers said the Youth Day Prayer Rally marked the beginning of a broader programme of ward-based engagements focused on youth development, economic empowerment and service delivery. The party said the engagements would provide residents with opportunities to discuss local challenges and contribute ideas aimed at improving service delivery, creating jobs and strengthening community development in Victor Khanye Local Municipality.



Mokoena defends stance on illegal immigration in social media video

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – Hope of Residents leader Ben Mokoena has defended calls for stricter action against illegal immigration and drug trafficking, saying South Africans “must not apologise” for demanding law enforcement. In a video released on social media this week, Mokoena said he believed drug trafficking in South Africa was largely linked to foreign nationals, alleging that Nigerians were mainly involved, with some Bangladeshis and others also implicated. “Let us be clear: as South Africans, we have said no. We are correct to say no to this category of people because we do not want our country to become a haven for criminals,” he said. Mokoena linked the issue to illegal border crossings, which he said mainly involved Zimbabweans because of the proximity between the two countries. “Border jumping is a criminal offence anywhere in the world. You cannot enter any country without documents. As South Africans, we have taken the correct stance. We will not allow our country to be used for illegal activities

by undocumented immigrants,” Mokoena said. To support his position, Mokoena referred to the experiences of South African exiles during apartheid in countries such as Tanzania, Zambia and Angola. He said exiles were confined to camps and had their movements controlled by authorities in those countries. “None of us ran salons, spaza shops or businesses in Angola. Our people were confined to camps. And we respected the laws of those countries,” he said. Mokoena argued that because South Africans living in exile were expected to follow the laws of host countries, residents today are justified in expecting foreign nationals to comply with South African laws. “The residents of South Africa are therefore fully supported in saying, ‘we will not allow our country to be used as a haven for drugs and illegal activities’. That will not be allowed,” he said. The video comes amid ongoing

monitoring activities by residents’ groups in Middelburg and Mhluzi. Earlier this week, the Acting Residents of Greater Middelburg called on the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Department of Home Affairs to join operations after two individuals suspected of being in the country illegally were identified at Middelburg Mall on 17 June 2026.



Ben Mokoena, leader of Hope of Residents, says South African exiles were confined to camps during apartheid and that today’s residents are justified in expecting compliance with South African laws from foreign nationals. Photo: Supplied

Youth urged to pursue economic empowerment through mining initiative

● NODICAH FUNDAMA & SHARON CHILOANE

EMALAHLENI – The Greater eMalahleni Mining Revolution says it plans to assist more than 250 young people to access opportunities in the coal value chain as part of efforts to increase youth participation in the local mining economy. The announcement was made during a Youth Day commemoration event held on 16 June 2026 at Lilly Villa Lodge. Speaking at the event, the organisation’s president, Mandla Bothman, said the youth of eMalahleni should honour the sacrifices of 1976 by striving for economic freedom and meaningful participation in the region’s mining industry. “We are continuing with what they left for us. eMalahleni is built on coal, and we want young people to be part of this economy. We are tired of being spectators while others benefit from the resources around us,” said Bothman. Bothman said the challenges confronting young people today differ from those faced by the youth of 1976. “While previous generations fought against political oppression, today’s youth must focus on economic inclusion and self-sufficiency,” he said. According to Bothman, young people should position themselves to benefit from the natural resources available in their communities and play a greater role in shaping the local economy. The Greater eMalahleni Mining Revolution has outlined plans aimed at integrating young people into the mining economy through practical initiatives and economic participation. Bothman said the organisation aims to assist more than 250 young people in accessing opportunities within the

coal value chain. He added that the movement’s long-term vision is to help create between 50 and 100 successful entrepreneurs through direct involvement in mining-related economic activities. “We are focused on practical solutions. Our goal is to ensure that young people benefit from the resources that exist in their own communities and become active participants in economic development,” he said. “They need to stand up and determine their future. It is in their hands,” he said. Bothman encouraged young people to develop skills, seek opportunities and work collectively to build sustainable livelihoods rather than relying solely on government assistance. The organisation’s spokesperson, Thabiso Mabena, described Youth Day as an important reminder of the courage and determination displayed by the youth of 1976. “This day is very important, and young people should take it seriously. It should motivate them not to relax but to strive for greater achievements. This movement is here to help young people pursue success and create better opportunities for themselves,” said Mabena. Mabena said the organisation remains committed to empowering local youth and ensuring that they are not left behind in the economic development of eMalahleni. The event formed part of Youth Day commemorations across the country, with organisers using the occasion to encourage young people to take advantage of opportunities within industries that drive the local economy.



STRUGGLING WITH SALES?

WANT MORE VISIBILITY?

IF YOUR ANSWER IS YES, REACH OUT TO US, LET US GIVE YOU A PACKAGE WITH TRACEABLE RETURNS

CONTACT US TO FIND OUT MORE!

081 303 7023

Youth Day hike encourages eMalahleni youth to pursue education and positive choices

● NODICAH FUNDAMA & SHARON CHILOANE

EMALAHLENI – Young people gathered at eMalahleni Resort on Youth Day for a faith-based hiking event aimed at encouraging them to prioritise education, avoid substance abuse and crime, and make positive life choices. The hike, organised by the Ambassadors of Christ Apostolic Church on 16 June 2026, formed part of the church's youth empowerment efforts through spiritual guidance, mentorship and fellowship. During the event, church leaders held prayer sessions for young people affected by challenges such as drug abuse, alcohol abuse and involvement in criminal activities, while encouraging them to embrace faith and purpose. Addressing participants, youth leader Trevor Gore urged young people to remain committed to their faith while focusing on their education. "Stay in God and focus on your studies because education is a pathway to a better life. The youth of 1976 fought for quality education and equal opportunities. Today, young people must continue that fight by working hard in school and preparing themselves for a successful future," said Gore. Gore encouraged the youth to honour the legacy of the 1976 generation by taking responsibility for their future and striving for excellence despite challenges. Youth president Sabelo Nkabinde used

the hiking experience as a reflection of life's journey, encouraging young people to remain determined and focused on their goals. "Let this hike be a reminder that nothing is impossible to achieve. Every step you take today represents another step towards a better future. Being young is not easy because there are many challenges along the way, but do not allow peer pressure to lead you in the wrong direction," said Nkabinde. He urged participants to trust in God, remain focused and persevere through difficulties. Youth member Nelisiwe Nkabinde also encouraged her peers to choose positive

environments and surround themselves with people who support their growth. "It is better to be in church than to destroy your future in taverns. As a young person, surround yourself with good leaders who will uplift you, guide you and show you the right path in life," she said. The event concluded with prayers and messages of encouragement, leaving participants motivated to pursue lives built on faith, education and personal growth. As South Africa marked Youth Day, the Ambassadors of Christ Apostolic Church used the occasion to highlight the importance of youth mentorship and community support in helping young people overcome challenges and build a better future.



Youth challenged to define their mission 50 years after Soweto Uprising

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – Young people attending a Youth Day commemoration in Mhluzi were challenged to define their purpose and consider whether the promises of the liberation struggle have been fulfilled, as the Roma Detachment marked 50 years since the 1976 Soweto Uprising on 16 June 2026.

Addressing the gathering at Eric Jiyane Community Hall, Mandla Seleokane, an anti-apartheid activist who helped organise the 16 June 1976 uprising in Middelburg, said young people must understand history before deciding how they can contribute to addressing challenges facing society today.

"Before the youth can take their place in what defines their struggle, they need to realise their mission. But before that, it is important that they look back because looking back is going to help you see the mistakes that we made before you," said Seleokane. He said reflecting on history would allow young people to understand the decisions made by previous generations and learn from past shortcomings.

"Looking back is going to enable you to see the promises that we made when we were involved in the liberation struggle and to inquire whether we have lived up to the promises that we made," he said. Seleokane challenged young people to take responsibility for shaping the country's future and to identify their own role in society.

"You are going to have to discover your own mission in life. What is your mission in life? You are going to have to make a decision whether you fulfil the mission or whether you betray it. You are not going to find a neutral world in which to discover your mission. You are going to discover your mission in a world that is already moving in a particular direction," he said.

Seleokane highlighted historical documents that shaped his generation's mission, including the 1921 CPSA Manifesto, the 1943 10-Point Programme of the Non-European Unity Movement, the ANC's 1949 Programme of Action, the 1955 Freedom Charter, the Congress of the People, the PAC's 1959 Positive Action Campaign, the 1975 Mafikeng Manifesto of the Black People's Convention and the 1983 Manifesto of AZAPO.

He said these documents carried demands for equality, democratic governance, education, economic justice, land redistribution and access to opportunities.

"These demands framed the mission of my generation. We had to choose whether we would fulfil it or betray it. Now you know what we promised. How did we perform relative to the promises that remain? That's the next question you must interrogate," he said.

Grade 11 learner Sibusiso Maseko from Sozama Secondary School said the discussion encouraged him to reflect on his own role in improving his community.

"I didn't know much about the promises made in the Freedom Charter before today. Hearing Mr Seleokane made me think about my own mission. For me, it's about making sure young people in Mhluzi get proper study spaces and opportunities. The freedom they fought for means nothing if we are still struggling with the same things," he said.

Roma Detachment chairperson Jomo Segage said the event was aimed at reminding young people why 16 June remains significant. "The significance is that young people must understand their history, speak up on issues affecting them and take action for their future," he said.

Segage said young people should understand the history of the struggle, from the formation of the ANC in 1912 to the role of the PAC and the armed struggle.

He also shared the history of the Roma Detachment, describing it as a collective of activists who operated in Middelburg during the anti-apartheid struggle.

According to Segage, the group took its name from the Roman Catholic Church, where activists from organisations such as COSAS and the Mhluzi Youth Congress held meetings and found refuge from apartheid security forces.

"We called ourselves the Roma Detachment because we used to meet at the Roman Catholic Church. It was COSAS, Mhluzi Youth Congress and other activists. We took refuge at the Roman Catholic Church because apartheid police could not enter churches to arrest activists," he said.

Segage said members of the group later assisted in establishing Self-Defence Units to help protect communities during periods of political conflict.

"We are that Detachment, and that is why we still have pride. We still want to make sure that this part of our history is well captured and understood," he said.

The Roma Detachment plans to register as a legal entity to preserve its history and coordinate future programmes focused on civic participation and youth development.

As the commemoration concluded, organisers said the event was not only about honouring the legacy of the 1976 generation but also encouraging young people to reflect on their own responsibilities in building a better society.





INFO SHARING WORKSHOPS

Calling all artists, musicians, groups, creatives, Soccer or Netball teams, and stakeholders across Nkangala District Municipality.



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE		
23 Jun 2026	Dr JS Moroka LM	10h00
24 Jun 2026	Thembsile Hani LM	10h00
25 Jun 2026	Victor Khanye LM	10h00
26 Jun 2026	eMalahleni LM	10h00
29 Jun 2026	Steve Tshwete LM	10h00
30 Jun 2026	eMakhazeni LM	10h00

Venues: Respective Local Municipality Offices

- TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

 - NkAMA 2026 Programme Overview
 - Special Awards (Legend, Posthumous & Tourism)
 - Artists' Exhibiting Participation
 - Prizes & Awards Information
 - Q&A Session
 - Categories & Voting Process
 - Sports & Community Activations
 - Performances & Exhibitions
 - Main Event Logistics & Access

IMPORTANT - ATTENDANCE

Each team must be represented by at least two people Artists and group representatives are encouraged to attend

RSVP WhatsApp Nodicah: 072 817 9329

Please provide: • Municipality • Name / Group Name • Team Name

ISIKO LETHU

Our Story

WITH SIPHO MAHAMBWA

ILIZWI

INKONDLO

Licimile ilanga lekhethu
Licimile ilanga lestjhaba SamaNdebele
Uthwabile umlambo ebesisela kiwo
Lilele ihlehle ithebe likaSomnungwani
eladla ngesitja SakwaboMagodongo
lathi lingasutha
Lothela ilanga Lijamele ukuwa
kweNgwe
Estlhorini Somtholo KwaMnyamana.
Ikhothome INgwenyama YamaNdebele
NguMakhosoke NgokuKhoselisa
aMakhosi
NguMakhosoke isizukulwani
sikamabelethwa mhlana aMakhosi
ahlangene
Lizibulo lomhlalo nomkhombandlela
Iwundlu lika naMahlangu
unaNdimande
Kandzundza.
Isithele indlalifa yemnene yempande
Zamandebele
Umabizwasabele wakoDojiwe intethe
eyabulawa yimbeleko yathi nanyana
kukhuphukela, yathi ayibulali

ngazombe maNdebele nakuyi ntethe iyabafela
abantwabayo.
uMakhosoke yiNgwe Ngobu Ngwenyama
NguMasineka ahlunguphazwa uMazithulela kaMbhongo
kaMbhedlengani KaSilamba
Umathumba isiba Mhlana kudabuka imbeleko
kaSoMbulawa.
Yindlulamithi kamasokasokile, nguMazumazumani
owazuma kwaze kwasa, angazumi iinyoni nemandana,
azuma ipengu yokubuthelela amaNdebele, azuma intatha
yokubuyisa inarha nehlabathi
ezadliwa bondlebele zikhanyi'langa.
yiKunzi eyabodla esbayeni seLesotho yaphuma
nendlovukazi uSekhothali Kamasupa Ngomgogodlha,
kwaduma izulu, lidumiswa Ziinkomo Zobukhazi buka
Makhosoke kumhlana kugubuka ikapho emhlophe, ikapho
eyabumbanisa istjhaba SamaNdebele nabeSotho, imilambo
yathelelana amanzi amakhosi asela mlambo munyee.
Uguqile uSomngetjani uMabhena uSomlokothwa, Ndlela
emhlophe Mbuduma kamasokasokile Sgwegwe
SakoBingweni, Komo kaMusu Kamhlanga, umlambo uzele
amanzi bathi zulu musa ukuna, uyokuna enzasi
kosoSkghobha
Uyokubulala iinkomo nabantu!
Lacima ilanga lekhethu
itlolwe ngu :Andile Nabingweni



Andile Nabingweni



NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION GRANT FOR GRAVEL, AGGREGATE, AND SAND MINING RIGHT ON ALL PORTIONS OF THE FARM KWAGGAFONTEIN 216 JR AND THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM MATHYS ZYN 671 JR LOCATED WITHIN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF THEMBSILE HANI (MKOBOLA), MPUMALANGA PROVINCE WITH A DMPR REF: MP 30/5/1/2/3/1/10381 EM

Notice is hereby given in terms of EIA regulations 2014, published under Government Notice No. 982 in Gazette No. 3822 of 4 December 2014, amended on 7 April 2017 and by GN 517 on 11 June 2021, promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), Section 22 of the Mineral

and Petroleum Resources Act (Act No.28 of 2002) (as amended). The authorisation was received by the applicant (**Golden Rewards 1129 (Pty) Ltd**) on the 10th of June 2026.

Description of Project

The proposed project situated approximately 1 km East of Vlaklaagte Bb, approximately 8 km East of Tweefontein and falls within the Thembsile Hani Local Municipality area, under the Nkangala District Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province. Golden Rewards 1129 (Pty) Ltd's mining methodology to be used

will be quarry mining. The application is on all portions of the Farm Kwaggafontein 216 JR and the Remaining Extent of the Farm Mathys Zyn 671 JR covering approximately 6 027,327 hectares (ha) in extent with Surveyor

General Code **TOJR00000000021600010, TOJR00000000021600018 TOJR00000000021600021 TOJR00000000021600023 TOJR00000000021600000 TOJR00000000021600025 TOJR00000000021600027 TOJR00000000021600004 TOJR00000000067100000.**

Applicable Activities

Listing Notice 1	Activities 9, 10, 12, 13, 19, 24, 31, and 56
Listing Notice 2	Activities 6, 15, 17, 19, and 24
Listing Notice 3	Activities 4, 10, 12, and 14

Invitation to Register and Participate

In terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and the EA, any person wishing to appeal against the decision must submit an appeal to the Appeal Administrator (see contact details below) and forward a copy of the appeal to the Project EAP, all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), any Organ of State interested in the matter, and the decision-maker within 20 days (**19 June 2026 – 08 July 2026**) calendar from the date I&APs were notified of the decision.

THE APPEAL MUST BE SUBMITTED IN THE PRESCRIBED FORM TO APPEALS AND LEGAL REVIEW:

Email: appeals@environment.gov.za

Postal Address: Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001

Physical Address: Environment House, Corner Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083

THE COPY OF APPEAL SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DEPARTMENT MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY:

Regional Manager: Mpumalanga Region
Lydia Maphopha
lydia.maphopha@dmre.gov.za

Postal: Private Bag 7279, Witbank, 1035

Physical: Saveways Centre, Nelson Mandela Drive, eMalahleni, 1035

NOTICE FOR A WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR WATER USES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 21 (F), (G) & (I) OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 36 OF 1998) (NWA) FOR THE SIYABUSWA WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS (WWTW), DR JS MOROKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA. REFERENCE NUMBER: WU34419

Notice is hereby given for a Water Use Licence Application (WULA) process in terms of Section 21 of NWA for water use activities associated with the Siyabuswa WWTW. The relevant licensing authority for the WULA process is the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

Description Of the Activity

The Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality operates the Siyabuswa WWTW, including the associated effluent discharge infrastructure to provide waterborne sanitation services to Siyabuswa and surrounding areas. The facility has a design capacity of 1 0 megalitres per day (ML/d) and is currently operating within this approved capacity.

A **Water Use Licence Application** is required and currently being undertaken, as the following water uses, defined in terms of Section 21 of the NWA, are applicable and are triggered by the WWTW and associated activities:

- 21 (c) - Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.
- 21 (f): Discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource through a pipe, canal, sewer, sea outfall or other conduit.
- 21 (g): Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource. 0 21 (i) - Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

Location of the Activity

Siyabuswa WWTW is located on Portion 48 of Valschfontein, 33, Reg Div: JS, Province: Mpumalanga. The effluent discharge pipeline and channel extend from the wastewater treatment works to the Elands River in the same property.

Name of Proponent: Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality

Date of Advertisement: 19 June 2026

Closing Date: sixty days from date of issue of this notice: 18 August 2026

To be registered as an Interested and/or Affected Party and review and comment on the application, I&APs are invited to submit comments and/or register on the stakeholder database by contacting the Public Participation officer below. Alternatively, the following link can be used to download the forms:

<https://booking.drivenot.com/en/company/lime-time-shuttle-services?tmpl=component>

Submissions must be made on or before the closing date.

Public participation officer

Tshilidzi Mathedimosa
Liafetha Projects (Pty) Ltd
Cell: +27073 706 3073

Email: tshilidzi@liafethaprojects.co.za



SEMITAH ELECTRICAL

Expert Electrical Solutions for Your
Home and Business!

OUR SERVICES:

- Fault diagnosis
- Appliance fixes
- Home inspections (COC)
- House wiring
- Air Conditioner Installation and repairs
- Solar Installation
- and many more

CONTACT US

0760361640/0832560533

info@semitahelectrical.co.za



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

Rehabilitation Services

RFI Number: RFI/2026/002
Issue Date: 19 June 2026
Closing Date: 03 July 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

Ritluka Resources hereby invites interested local suppliers/service providers from the Victor Khanye Local Municipality to submit information regarding their company.

2. REQUIRED INFORMATION

Interested companies are requested to submit the following:

- Company Name
- Company Email Address
- Contact Details
- CIPC Registration Certificate
- Valid Tax Clearance Certificate
- COIDA Letter of Good Standing (if applicable)
- Valid B-BBEE Certificate or Sworn Affidavit
- Proof of Residence (Victor Khanye Local Municipality)
- Name of Company Representative (Who will be attending the clarification-Only one person from the company will be allowed)
- ID Number of Company Representative (Who will be attending the clarification)
- Contact Details of Company Representative (Who will be attending the clarification)

3. SUBMISSION METHOD

SCAN QR CODE TO SUBMIT YOUR RFI RESPONSE FOLLOW BELOW LINK <https://bit.ly/4uOJDrE>



Timeline Process

- Project:**
1. LP006/Exxaro Leeuwpan Coal Mine / 2026 – Rehabilitation Services

Updated Procurement Timeline

2. To ensure a seamless selection process the following schedule will be maintained. No late submissions or unscheduled site visits will be permitted.

Milestone	Date	Time
Publication of Request for Information (RFI)	19 June 2026	14: 00
Submission of Expressions of Interest	19 June – 03 July 2026	N/A
Compulsory Site Clarification/Briefing Meeting	Friday, 10 July 2026	10:00
RFQ Submission Deadline	Friday, 31 July 2026	16:00
Internal Evaluation & Review Period	03 August – 06 August 2026	N/A
Announcement of Successful / Unsuccessful Bidder	Monday, 10 August 2026	12:00

Notes:

- Bidders should note that the mine only requires your ID number, which most have provided in the QR form.
- Bidders are encouraged to submit all questions on the QR form to allow the team enough time to go through the questions.

DATE:	19/06/2026
TENDER CLARIFICATION SUBJECT:	Time and Place to Be Confirmed RFQ's Requested-Re-Advertisement
RFX REFERENCE	LPN006/ Exxaro Leeuwpan Coal Mine / 2026 – Rehabilitation Services

1. TYPE OF RFQ

Please mark (X) in the appropriate block

RFQ	An RFQ (Request for Quote) is a process used to request quotations from potential service providers for specified commodities and/or services. The RFQ outlines the required goods or services and may lead to an agreement, such as a purchase order or contract, with the selected service provider.	
-----	--	--

2. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Date issued	19/06/2026
Closing date for the submission of tenders	31/07/2026 @ 16:00
Venue for tender delivery	tender@ritluka.co.za

3. DETAILS OF RFQ:

Ritluka Resources (Pty) Ltd invites all Local suppliers from the Victor Khanye Municipality to submit quotations. We are looking for a business partner that would assist in optimizing operations and building a strong delivery model for the following services: Rehabilitation for our Exxaro Leeuwpan Coal Mine Operation:

SCOPE FOR THE PROJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

- Minimum Monthly Volume: 150 000 BCM
- Recommended fleet:
 - 8 X Articulated Dump Trucks (40/ 45 Ton ADTs) or equivalent
 - 2 X Excavators (70 Ton or similar)
 - 2 X D8 Dozer
 - 1 Grader
 - 1 Water Bowser
 - 4 x 4 Shift Cycle
- Contract Period: 36 Months
- Machine hours (Less than 10,000 hours will be advantageous)
- Should be able to deliver within 2 weeks after an appointment / Award

4. RESPONSE TO RFQ TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOLLOWING:

- Company Registration (CIPC)
- Tax Certificate
- Letter of good standing (COIDA) if applicable
- Valid BEE Certificate
- ID Copy of owner/owners
- Victor Khanye Municipality: Proof of Residence

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Set – Aside for local companies (based in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality) and majority Black -Owned Companies with 51% or more, according to the BBBEE Act
- All employees must be locally sourced and subject to verification





Mokoena's late penalty keeps Bafana Bafana's World Cup hopes alive

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

South Africa kept their FIFA World Cup hopes alive after Tebogo Mokoena's late penalty secured a 1-1 draw against the Czech Republic in their second Group A match on 18 June 2026. Bafana Bafana showed determination and resilience after falling behind, with midfielder Mokoena converting from the spot in the 83rd minute to secure a valuable point. The goal marked South Africa's first FIFA World Cup goal in 16 years and sparked celebrations among supporters at

the stadium and back home. The Czech Republic took the lead earlier in the match and appeared on course to collect all three points. However, South Africa continued to push forward and were awarded a penalty after Thapelo Maseko's shot struck the hand of Pavel Sulc. "I think that we played a very good game today, except for the one moment in the beginning of the first half where we did not concentrate or maintain focus. We knew that number five (Vladimír Coufal) had a

long throw-in, but we let him surprise us. You know that at this level, you pay for such a mistake. But apart from that, I think that Bafana Bafana had a very good game," Coach Hugo Broos said after the match. Mokoena stepped up and calmly converted the penalty to level the score, ensuring South Africa remained in contention for a place in the knockout stages. The draw leaves South Africa with one point from two matches following their opening defeat to Mexico. Despite

facing a difficult path to qualification, the improved performance against the Czech Republic has provided renewed belief ahead of their final group-stage encounter. Bafana Bafana will now turn their attention to a crucial clash against South Korea on 24 June 2026, knowing that a victory could improve their chances of progressing to the next round. While qualification remains a challenge, South Africa can take confidence from their fighting spirit, defensive discipline and the historic goal that ended a 16-year FIFA World Cup scoring drought. The result ensures that their hopes of advancing remain alive heading into the final round of Group A fixtures.



Tebogo Mokoena celebrates after scoring the crucial goal for Bafana Bafana

Youth Day sporting festival empowers Tweefontein K youth

● EMMANUEL N. MTHIMUNYE

TWEEFONTEIN K – Asibakhuliseni Sports Academy, in partnership with the Shakes Rotating Tournament and Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, hosted a three-day Youth Day sporting festival from 13 to 16 June 2026 to promote youth development through football, netball and community activities.

The event honoured the legacy of 16 June 1976 while encouraging young people to participate in positive activities and addressing challenges such as drug abuse, unemployment and youth idleness.

Kwagga City Football Club won both the Under-15 and Under-17 Top 4 tournaments held on 13 and 14 June.

Technical Team Manager Lesedi Mahlre said the tournament showed that talent exists across different communities.

"We came from Kwaggafontein as visitors, but Tweefontein K welcomed us like family. This double win proves talent isn't only in one section. Kwaggafontein and Tweefontein K youth can stand together and win together," he said.

The festival featured football, netball, a colour fun run and an aerobics marathon. Eight football teams competed across three divisions, six teams participated in netball, and about 70 children, youth and adults joined the fun run.

Mdledle 11 won the open tournament, while RDP Khulisile Masters played Thembisile Hani Local Municipality Masters in a curtain-raiser featuring former football players Bharhu Mthombeni and Timothy Nkosi.

Mahlre said the tournament was inspired by the role young people played in shaping South Africa's history.

"The 1976 youth stood up for their future. We're doing the same with our feet by taking them across townships to compete, not to destroy," he said.

Thembisile Hani Local Municipality councillor Bongani Jiyane said developing and exposing talent could create opportunities for young people.

"Developing and exposing talent can be a way out of the struggles of poverty, drugs and demotivation," Jiyane said.

Shakes Kabini, founder of the Shakes Rotating Tournament, said the initiative aimed to encourage young people to participate in sport.

"For me, it was to encourage the youth to involve themselves in sporting activities and fight against this nyaope that is killing our youth. We have also exposed players to professional teams, like Elias Mokwana and Ntokozo Mtsweni," Kabini said.

Residents welcomed the impact of the tournament, with Jabulani Sibusiso Masango saying the event helped restore

dignity among young people. "This tournament restores the dignity of our youth," he said. Nelisiwe Sibanyoni thanked organisers for keeping young people active and away from drugs. Mahlre said transport and equipment remained challenges for developing players and called for support from sponsors and the municipality.

"The biggest challenge is transport and equipment. If Thembisile Hani Local Municipality and sponsors help with one bus and proper kits, imagine what these boys can do for Thembisile Hani," he said.

He encouraged coaches to continue working with available resources.

"Don't wait for perfect conditions. Start with what you have. Your address doesn't decide your future, your discipline does," Mahlre said.

Now in its fourth year, the event was organised without a budget. Organisers said the programme has helped produce players who progressed to teams such as Kaizer Chiefs, TUKS and TS Galaxy, while one Kwagga City player was selected for the SAFA Under-15 Interprovincial Squad in 2026.


The Under-13 team will defend its Build It Cup title, while the Under-17 team continues to seek further exposure.



Community members participate in a Colour Fest fun run held to honour the legacy of the 16 June 1976 youth.



Kwagga City Football Club celebrates after winning both the Under-15 and Under-17 Top 4 tournaments during the Youth Day sporting festival.




NKANGALA
Nkangala Arts & Music Awards

NKANGALA
NETBALL & SOCCER
ACTIVATION EVENT


NO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
WILL BE LEFT BEHIND
Coming to you in:

JULY & AUGUST 2026
PRIZES TO BE WON
LOTS OF ENTERTAINMENT

BROUGHT TO YOU BY




Nkangala District Municipality
IN COLLABORATION WITH



HIGHVELD
CHRONICLE

SUPPORTED BY



culture, sport & recreation
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

For more info or registration contact: Nodcah on 072 817 9329 or 081 303 7023



YOUR ONE-STOP SOLUTION FOR DIGITAL EXCELLENCE

Let us strengthen your digital presence and accelerate your business/brand growth and impact.

OUR SERVICES

- Interactive Website Design
- Professional Corporate Branding
- Custom Software Solutions
- Promotional Video Clips
- Social Media & Online Marketing

UP TO 30% OFF FOR MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS

CONNECT WITH US FOR A FREE TECH OR BRANDING GUIDE

myabamediatech.com OR m-mediatech.co.za

Ready to grow your business?

Call or WhatsApp
081 410 9337