

Mayor Thomas Ngwenya urges communities to embrace Ubuntu on Mandela Day

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Mpumalanga OTP DG leads Mandela Day service delivery in Thembisile Hani

● EMMANUEL N. MTHIMUNYE

THEMBISILE HANI – Mpumalanga Office of the Premier (OTP) Director-General (DG) Margaret "Maggie" Skosana and Thembisile Hani Local Municipality Executive Mayor Lisetja Dikgale marked Mandela Day by leading road repairs, cleaning illegal dumping sites and donating beds to a local daycare centre in Thembisile Hani on Friday, 17 July 2026, in an effort to improve service delivery and support the community. Skosana, who participated from her wheelchair, operated road maintenance equipment alongside Dikgale and municipal officials to repair potholes on busy roads in the area. The team worked to improve road safety for motorists and pedestrians. The intervention was welcomed by motorists who regularly use the route. "I use this road almost every day, travelling from Phola Mall to Sheldon

and other surrounding areas like K h a y e l i s h a and Emphumelelweni. This road was very difficult to use because of the deep potholes. Today, as motorists, we are very happy that our road is being repaired to make our movement easier. This is where our bread is buttered," said minibus taxi driver Xolani Mthombeni. The programme also included a clean-up campaign at an illegal dumping site that had become a health hazard. Skosana and Dikgale, joined by municipal officials, community members and ward committee members, removed waste using litter pickers and refuse bags while encouraging residents to work with the municipality to keep their communities clean.

Skosana concluded her 67 Minutes of service by visiting Lindokuhle Daycare in Khayelisha, where she led municipal officials in planting trees and donated beds to ensure children had comfortable places to sleep and learn. "We are investing in our children because they are the future. A clean environment and safe infrastructure must go hand in hand with caring for those who need us most," said Skosana. Municipal officials said the clean-up

campaign, road maintenance and support for the daycare centre formed part of Thembisile Hani Local Municipality's broader Mandela Month campaign to restore dignity, improve infrastructure and promote a clean and healthy environment across its communities. Skosana thanked municipal workers for their dedication and urged residents to stop illegal dumping. "Let's work together. Government will do its part, but we also need residents to keep our towns clean and protect our environment for future generations," she said.



Director-General Margaret "Maggie" Skosana and Executive Mayor Lisetja Dikgale participate in a clean-up campaign at an illegal dumping site in Thembisile Hani during 67 Minutes of Mandela Day.



Director-General Margaret "Maggie" Skosana operates road maintenance equipment while helping to repair potholes on a busy route in Thembisile Hani during her 67 Minutes of Mandela Day service.

MTPA reassures tourists of safety across Triland destinations

● LUCAS SHONGWE

M B O M B E L A – The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) says there have been no reported disruptions at tourism sites in the province despite concerns about visitor safety following recent protests against illegal immigration. The agency said safety measures for visitors travelling within the Triland tourism region – comprising Mpumalanga, Eswatini and Mozambique – remain in place. Responding to media enquiries from *Highveld Chronicle* on Tuesday, 21 July 2026, the MTPA said it continues to work closely with the governments of Eswatini and Mozambique, as well as law enforcement agencies and the private sector, to ensure visitors enjoy a safe tourism experience. "Mpumalanga, as one of the Triland partners, works closely with the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Republic of Mozambique to ensure that tourists are safe when visiting these destinations. "We also collaborate closely with law enforcement agencies and the

private sector to ensure that visitors enjoy a safe and memorable tourism experience. As Triland partners, we continue to monitor the situation closely." The agency said no tourism sites in Mpumalanga had been affected by the recent protests. "There are currently no tourism sites in Mpumalanga that have been reported to be affected or disrupted." The MTPA added that it continues to support the tourism sector by creating market access opportunities and ensuring tourism businesses operate without interruption. It also said Triland partners remain in regular contact with stakeholders and use various communication platforms, including the media, to share accurate and relevant information with the public. The Triland partnership promotes Mpumalanga, Eswatini and Mozambique as a single tourism destination, allowing visitors to experience the three neighbouring countries through one travel itinerary.



The breathtaking Blyde River Canyon, one of Mpumalanga's premier tourist attractions

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



The Potter and the Clay

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

And yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand. (Isaiah 64:8) Several years ago my wife and I visited a local university campus during their art festival. We had the privilege of slipping behind the curtain and watching a potter at work. She was quite skilled in the art—a pleasure to watch. She was finishing the top part of a vase. As the wheel was spinning, her fingers and thumbs were smoothing, shaping, pulling, pushing. She never looked up at those who were watching her. While finishing the process, a part of the top of the vase displeased her. It looked fine to me, but not to her. In the simplest of ways, she reached over and, with a little instrument, peeled off that part and remade it. Still, it wasn't the way she wanted it. Again, it looked excellent to me, but it wasn't what she liked. I was tempted to say, “That looks fine. Leave it alone!” But I'm glad I didn't. She remade it yet again . . . and it was more beautiful than ever. As she pulled out the clay ever so slightly, what finally resulted was this

delicate flare at the top of the vase. She gave a slight nod, as if to say, “There, that's what I wanted it to look like.” Then she left it alone. Finally, she looked at us and smiled as we quietly applauded. When we observed her artistry, we were impressed with the care she had demonstrated. No detail was unimportant. The clay had to be just right. That's what Jeremiah witnessed as he saw the potter at work. Then the Lord drew an analogy for His prophet. Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.” (Jeremiah 18:5–6 NASB 1995) You see change written there without even finding the word. “You're like a lump of clay to me, Israel. And I can shape you and hollow you out and thin your walls and flare the top. I can make you decorative, or I can reshape you and start all over again, because change is My specialty. And you are the object of My attention and affection!”



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Toddler's hospital ordeal under investigation

Mother alleges Bernice Samuel Hospital referred child to clinic without examination

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS – The Mpumalanga Department of Health has launched an investigation into allegations that staff at Bernice Samuel Hospital failed to assist a toddler who was taken to the facility with a foreign object lodged in her nose.

The investigation follows a complaint by Brakfontein Farm resident Puseletso Lebenya, who shared her experience on social media before speaking to *Highveld Chronicle*.

According to Lebenya, the incident occurred at about 15:55 on Saturday, 18 July 2026, when she rushed her one-year-and-11-month-old daughter to the hospital after discovering the child had inserted a small round object into her nose.

Lebenya said she registered her daughter at reception before proceeding to the casualty unit, where she allegedly found no nurses on duty.

"I asked a security guard where the nurses were, and he told me he didn't know where they were and that I should go and check their rooms," she told the publication.

She said that, after seeking assistance from other security personnel, nurses from another department were contacted.

Lebenya alleged that a nurse informed her the hospital could not assist because of ongoing renovations and that

patients were being referred to nearby clinics.

"No one examined my daughter, and I wasn't given a referral letter. I left the hospital and went straight to Botleng Clinic," she said.

According to Lebenya, staff at Botleng Clinic immediately attended to her daughter.

"While I was still opening a file, they took my child into the treatment room. Before I had even finished, the nurse came back and told me the object had been removed."

The toddler was treated, discharged with medication and has since made a full recovery.

The incident sparked widespread discussion on social media, where several community members shared their experiences and opinions about services at Bernice Samuel Hospital. While *Highveld Chronicle* has not independently verified these claims, some commenters alleged they had experienced poor service at the hospital, while others called for improved management and greater accountability.

Responding to media enquiries from Highveld Chronicle, Mpumalanga Department of Health spokesperson Chris Nobela said:

"The department will conduct a full investigation into the allegations."

At the time of publication, Lebenya's

allegations and the claims made by social media users had not been independently verified. *Highveld Chronicle* will continue to follow the matter and report on the outcome of the Department of Health's investigation.



Two men remanded in custody after R1.2m dagga bust on N4

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

MIDDELBURG – Two men arrested after police allegedly seized 204kg of dagga with an estimated street value of R1.2 million on the N4 near Middelburg have been remanded in custody following their appearance in the Middelburg Magistrate's Court.

Ntethelelo Hlatshwayo (42) and Dumisani Langwenya (47) appeared in court on 22 July 2026 on a charge of possession of dagga. The case was postponed to 27 July 2026 for further investigation, and the pair remain in custody after bail was not granted.

According to the South African Police Service (SAPS), members of the Ermelo K9 Unit acted on intelligence received on 21 July 2026 about a bakkie allegedly transporting dagga along the N4 near Middelburg.

Police said officers located the vehicle, stopped and searched it, and allegedly found approximately 204kg of dagga wrapped in sellotape.

The bakkie allegedly used to transport the drugs was confiscated as part of the investigation.

The suspects were arrested at the scene and charged with possession of dagga.

The matter was postponed to 27 July 2026, when Hlatshwayo and Langwenya are expected to return to the Middelburg Magistrate's Court as investigations continue.



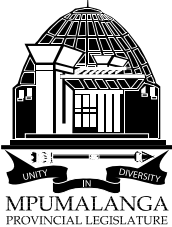
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BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	NON-COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION	CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS	CONTACT PERSONS
RFQ: MPL/5/1/33/2026	Provision of framed marques, for the taking legislature to the people	31 July 2026 10H00	13 August 2026 14H00	Mr J Mayenjane at 013 766 1133 for technical OR Mr D. Madonsela-Khanyi at 013 766 1111 for SCM
RFQ: MPL/5/1/34/2026	Provision of sound system for the taking legislature to the people	31 July 2026 10H00	13 August 2026 14H00	Mr J Mayenjane at 013 766 1133 for technical OR Mr D. Madonsela-Khanyi at 013 766 1111 for SCM
RFQ: MPL/5/1/35/2026	Air Conditioning for TLP	31 July 2026 10H00	13 August 2026 14H00	Mr J Mayenjane at 013 766 1133 for technical OR Mr D. Madonsela-Khanyi at 013 766 1111 for SCM
RFQ: MPL/5/1/36/2026	Catering for TLP	31 July 2026 10H00	13 August 2026 14H00	Mr J Mayenjane at 013 766 1133 for technical OR Mr D. Madonsela-Khanyi at 013 766 1111 for SCM
RFQ: MPL/5/1/37/2026	Mobile Toilets	31 July 2026 10H00	13 August 2026 14H00	Mr J Mayenjane at 013 766 1133 for technical OR Mr D. Madonsela-Khanyi at 013 766 1111 for SCM
RFQ: MPL/5/1/38/2026	Decoration for TLP(décor, carpets, tables and chairs)	31 July 2026 10H00	13 August 2026 14H00	Mr J Mayenjane at 013 766 1133 for technical OR Mr D. Madonsela-Khanyi at 013 766 1111 for SCM
RFQ: MPL/5/1/39/2026	Crowd Barriers	31 July 2026 10H00	13 August 2026 14H00	Mr J Mayenjane at 013 766 1133 for technical OR Mr D. Madonsela-Khanyi at 013 766 1111 for SCM
RFQ: MPL/5/1/40/2026	Cleaning Services	31 July 2026 10H00	13 August 2026 14H00	Mr J Mayenjane at 013 766 1133 for technical OR Mr D. Madonsela-Khanyi at 013 766 1111 for SCM
RFQ: MPL/5/1/41/2026	Mobile Freezer and Ice	31 July 2026 10H00	13 August 2026 14H00	Mr J Mayenjane at 013 766 1133 for technical OR Mr D. Madonsela-Khanyi at 013 766 1111 for SCM
RFQ: MPL/5/1/42/2026	Water	31 July 2026 10H00	13 August 2026 14H00	Mr J Mayenjane at 013 766 1133 for technical OR Mr D. Madonsela-Khanyi at 013 766 1111 for SCM
RFQ: MPL/5/1/43/2026	Plastic Flooring framed marques, for the taking legislature to the people	31 July 2026 10H00	13 August 2026 14H00	Mr J Mayenjane at 013 766 1133 for technical OR Mr D. Madonsela-Khanyi at 013 766 1111 for SCM

The 80/20 Preferential Point System will be used as Evaluation Criteria:

- 80 points for price.
- 20 points for Specific Goals. (15 Points for HDI, 10 Points Non HDI, 5 Locality within Steve Tshwete Local Municipality)

Detailed specifications will be available from 31 July 2026 during the briefing session.

NON-COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION WILL BE HELD AT MUNICIPALITY HALL AT 10H00 AM.

CLOSING OF SUBMISSIONS IS ON THE 13 AUGUST 2026 AT 14H00 PM.

Quotations are to be deposited in a tender box at the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Building Number 1, Lower Ground Floor, Mpumalanga Government Complex, Building 1, Riverside Park, Government Boulevard, Mbombela/Nelspruit or Steve Tshwete Local Municipality offices.

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Mayor Thomas Ngwenya urges communities to embrace Ubuntu on Mandela Day

NODICAH FUNDAMA & SHARON CHILOANE

EMALAHLENI – Nkangala District Municipality celebrated Mandela Day at Ezinambeni Extension 10 on 18 July 2026, bringing together government, local businesses and community members for a day dedicated to restoring dignity, promoting Ubuntu and giving hope to vulnerable residents.

The celebration, held in the spirit of Nelson Mandela's birthday, honoured Madiba's legacy through practical acts of kindness rather than words alone. Elderly residents were among those celebrated on the day, receiving warm blankets and birthday cake as part of the municipality's commitment to caring for senior citizens while commemorating the life and legacy of the late statesman.

The highlight of the programme was the official handover of a fully renovated home to the Khoza family. The house, which had previously been in poor condition with a leaking roof, was completely restored through a partnership between Nkangala District Municipality and local businesses. The family also received brand-new furniture, groceries and other household essentials, restoring not only their home but also their dignity.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Bisiwe Molapo said the renovation had brought hope and relief after years of enduring difficult living conditions. "We used to suffer a lot whenever it

rained because the roof leaked badly. It was very difficult. We had to place pots and buckets all over the house to catch the water so that our furniture and other belongings would not get wet. I would like to thank Nkangala District Municipality for bringing hope back to our family. We can now sleep peacefully without living in fear every time it rains."

Addressing residents, Nkangala District Executive Mayor Thomas Ngwenya said Mandela's legacy calls on every South African to become an active participant in building stronger and more caring communities. "Stand up. Take action," the mayor urged. "When things are going wrong in the community while you are there, then we are not living according to the principles that Nelson Mandela stood for."

Ngwenya said communities should never allow children, orphans or vulnerable families to suffer while neighbours, businesses and leaders have the ability to help. "We are called to transform people's lives for the better. Mandela taught us that no child should suffer while a community is present, and no family should be left behind when we have the

means to make a difference."

He further called on residents to rebuild society through positive values, saying South Africa's future depends on restoring respect, responsibility and compassion within communities.

The mayor also spoke out against gender-based violence and femicide, urging communities to protect women and children while continuing the fight against HIV and AIDS through education and responsible behaviour.

Throughout his address, Ngwenya repeatedly emphasised the importance of Ubuntu, encouraging residents to care for one another beyond Mandela Day. "We are here today to build Ubuntu," he said. "Love your neighbour as you love yourself. If you have something, share it. If someone is struggling, extend a helping hand. That is how we build a caring community."

Using the Khoza family's renovated home as an example, Ngwenya encouraged businesses and community leaders to work together whenever vulnerable families need assistance. "If there is a house that is leaking, let us not wait. Let us approach businesses and fix it together. That is how we build sustainable communities," he said.

The mayor also encouraged residents to support local

entrepreneurs, revive community savings initiatives such as stokvels and create opportunities for young people to establish businesses that can strengthen local economies and reduce unemployment.

Speaking on civic responsibility, Ngwenya urged South Africans to participate in democratic processes, describing active citizenship as an important part of nation-building and community development. He also encouraged residents to support one another by uplifting local businesses and creating opportunities that would keep wealth circulating within their own communities. The Mandela Day programme demonstrated how

partnerships between government, business and communities can make a tangible difference in people's lives. Beyond the celebrations, the renovated home, donations to the Khoza family, blankets presented to elderly residents and the sharing of birthday cake reflected the true spirit of Mandela Day – one of compassion, service and humanity.

As residents gathered to honour the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, the day's message was clear: the greatest tribute to Madiba is not found in speeches, but in acts of kindness that restore dignity, strengthen communities and leave no one behind.



RTIA rolls out AARTO services in Delmas

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS – Motorists in Delmas were encouraged to check their outstanding traffic fines and familiarise themselves with the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) process during an awareness campaign held at Shoprite Willow Corner parking on Wednesday, 22 July 2026.

The campaign was organised by the Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA) in partnership with the Victor Khanye Local Municipality and the Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison's Road Safety Education Unit.

RTIA Media Liaison Officer Emmanuel Tshehla said the outreach programme was aimed at bringing AARTO services closer to communities while helping motorists understand their rights and responsibilities.

"We are offering AARTO services where motorists can check their traffic fines and determine their infringement status. If they are still within the 32-day period, they may qualify for a 50% discount on the infringement notice. They can also nominate the driver, arrange to pay in instalments or submit a representation if they dispute the infringement," he said.

Tshehla encouraged motorists to use the official AARTO website and mobile application to check their infringement status and access services online.

He also warned motorists against the misconception that traffic fines automatically expire after two years. "An infringement notice does not simply disappear after two years. It remains on your record until the matter progresses to an enforcement order. Motorists should contact RTIA for assistance instead of assuming the fine has been cancelled."

He said Mpumalanga forms part of the second phase of the national AARTO rollout, covering 62 municipalities, including Steve Tshwete, eMalahleni, Thembisile Hani, the City of Mbombela, Lekwa, Thaba Chweu and Nkomazi.

Victor Khanye Local Municipality Assistant Manager for Public Safety Moses Thabo Mahlangu said the campaign forms part of ongoing efforts

to improve road safety and encourage compliance with traffic legislation.

He said speeding and driving without registration number plates remain among the most common traffic offences in the municipality and urged motorists to obey speed limits, road signs and never drive under the influence of alcohol.

Mahlangu added that the campaign also gave residents an opportunity to resolve outstanding traffic infringements before enforcement action was taken.

Delmas Taxi Association chairperson Bheki Shumba welcomed the initiative, saying it would help taxi operators identify outstanding fines before renewing vehicle licence discs and roadworthy certificates.

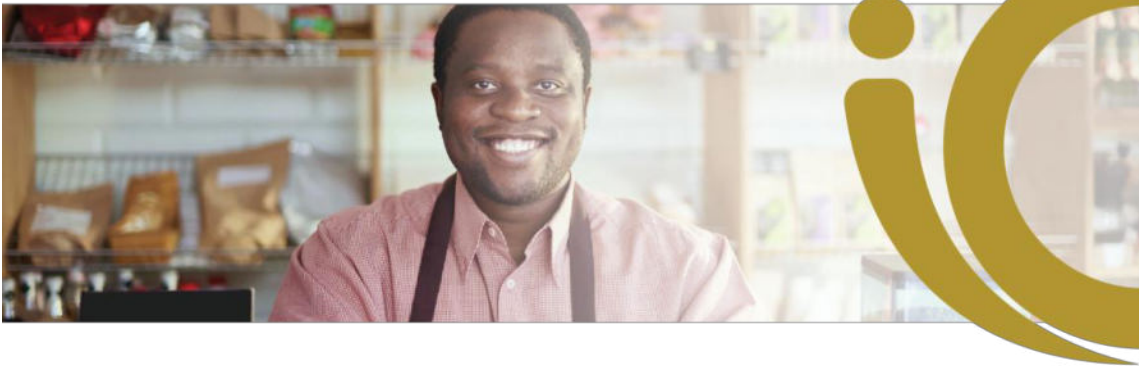
He also appealed to the municipality to improve local roads, saying potholes and poor road conditions often forced taxi drivers to stop unexpectedly, creating the impression that they were disregarding traffic rules.

Motorist Paulus Lazarus Ndalo said the campaign gave residents a convenient opportunity to check their traffic fine status and better understand the AARTO process. "The officials explained the AARTO process clearly and helped me understand my status. I encourage all motorists to take advantage of these outreach programmes because they save time and help us stay on the right side of the law."



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ISI KO LETHU

Our Story

ILIZWI

WITH SIPHO MAHAMBA

Ukuqakatheka kweS'baya

Umtloli: Emmmanuel N Mthimunya

I rhubhululo liveza bona ikhaya elinye nelinye kufuzeke libe nes'baya esijamele amarharha wakhona. Yeke lokhu kuhlathula bona ukwakhiwa kwesibaya akusi ngekwe kosini namkha ngengwenyameni kwaphela. Kodwana ngekwekhaya elinye nelinye, ngombana isibaya iyindawo ehloniphekileko begodu ekwazi ukudlanganisa amarharha woke womuzi. Ekadeni lokha umntwana nakabelethwako ubegade athathwa ayokufakwa ngesibayeni bona iinkomo zimnuke bezikhothe, kuthi nakungewekhayapha uzazi bona zijabajaba, bese kuthi naku ngasi ngewalapha ziyatuna beziphongolozelokho khabe kungeezinye zeendlela ebezi sebenziswa babantu abadala ukuhlola nokuhlaziya isotja lekhaya nokuthola ikaba yekhaya. Isintu sithi ikaba namkha iningwana yomuntu isala ekhabomkhulu, ngombana kulapho abezimu abamhlangeleko balelekhona. Yeke ikaba namakha inongwana le ibigade yenjelwa ngesibayeni itjalwa khona ukuze abezimu bayamukele begodu bakwazi ukuvikela nomntwana loyo. Besekuthi lokha umuntu naka lalako namkha akunjulwa bezimu ubegade abekwa khona ekhaya ngesi bayeni, manje ngoba izinto sezatjhuguluka nepilo nayo yatjhuguluka. Nje abantu sele sesi bulunga namkha sibeka eerabhini zombuso, yeke ubungozi balokho kukuthi kulula bona abantu balelese emalibeni bebathebule nomufi, okhunye kukuthi kulula bona umuntu alahlekelwe liliba lekhabo ngoba eenrabbhini zombuso kubulunga woke umuntu. Kanti esibayeni kubulunga umndeni walapho kwaphela.

Isibaya siqakatheke khulu ngoba lokha abobaba nabahlangeneko babonisanako bebahlala ngesibayeni namkha ngebandla beseke bakhulume koke ebabonisana ngakho. Bese kuthi amakhosi namkha iingwenyama nazo zibanaso isibaya, naso sisebenza ngokufana nalezi zabantu, umehluko kukuthi amakhosi neengwenyama zabo iimbaya zibuye zihluke ngoba zibuye zibe neembaya zokukhipha ingoma ekukula kuzokubuthelelwa khona abentwana lokha nabayokuwela. Nalokha ingoma nayigodukako. Ukunaba kabanzi ngendaba yokuqakatheka kwesibaya, uNdabezitha u, His Royal Highness iKosi Magodongo Moses Sipho Mahlangu ngaphasi kobukhosi bakwa Ndzundza Mtshabi ihlathulule wathi sakhe isibaya wasiphwa boyisemkhulu aboMagodongo ebhudangweni bebamlayela nokuthi kufanele asakhe ngamatje. "ngithokoza ibhudango lami elangifikelako ukuthi ngakhe Isibaya seKosini. Omunye nomunye umuzi kufuzeke ube nesibaya ngoba koke kwenziwa esibayeni. Umntwana nakabelethwako, ukutjalwa kwenongo, ukubekwa kwefuyo, ukufihla abasitjhiyileko, indawo yokuhlanganela, indawo yokuphahlela, iNgoma koke lokho kwenzeka Esibayeni. Yeke isibaya sihlanganisa abezimu kanye sivikela nekhaya namkha umuzi ukuze uhlale uphephile ngasosoke isikhathi. Mina sami isibaya ngasiphwa boMagodongo ebhudangweni. Kungakho namhlanje yoke into

efuna ikambiso yesintu kanye nobukhosi ngiyiphethela ngesibayeni ngoba kuyindawo ethulileko begodu ehloniphekileko kumsamo wami" I rhubhululo lisihlathululela bona ngaphakathi kwendlu yesizwe esinzima kufuzeke kube nesibaya esizokwazi ukugqina amarharha amadala endaweni ethulileko

begodu ehloniphekileko ukwazi ukuthi akwazi ukusivikela ngasosoke isikhathi. Isibaya esinye nesinye siyahluka bona umnimni walelo khaya ufuna sakhiwe bunjani. Abanye bafuna sakhiwe ngemigaba, abanye bafuna iingodo kazi abanye bafuna sakhiwe ngamatje njengalelsi saka Ndabezitha uMagodongo bakhe abezimu bam'hlaziyele bona asakhe

ngamatje. Kodwana ekuqathekileko kukuthi ikhaya elinye nelinye lifuzeke libe nesibaya ukuze kugqineke amarharha walapho aphephile angazungezi nomoya azale inarha botjhophori. **Lesi kusigaba sokuthoma somtlolo, esigabeni ses'bili sizakuqalela bona eminye imihlobo isisebenzisela ini isibaya**



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NkAMA 2026 unveils nominees as excitement builds ahead of September awards

Sjava, Zama, DJ Mami and Bathabile Skhosana to headline NkAMA 2026

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

NKANGALA – The 2026 Nkangala Arts and Music Awards (NkAMA) has entered the next stage of preparations following the release of its list of nominees, with artists from across the district set to compete for honours in various music, dance and visual arts categories.

The announcement of the nominees marks a key milestone ahead of NkAMA, which will be held over two nights, 11 and 12 September 2026, at the Sydney Choma Banquet Hall in Middelburg. The first night will celebrate excellence in visual arts and performance arts, while also honouring living legends and paying tribute to artists who passed away without receiving the recognition they deserved. The second night will culminate in a major music celebration, where winners across the music categories will be announced and honoured. The awards,

proudly presented by the Nkangala District Municipality in partnership with Highveld Chronicle, continue to recognise and celebrate artists, performers and creatives who are making a meaningful impact across the district and beyond.

The 2026 entertainment line-up will feature award-winning musician Sjava, 2020 Idols SA winner Zama, DJ Mami, and award-winning radio presenter and gospel artist Bathabile Skhosana with others still to be added.

In the Best Afro Pop category, nominees include Envoy SA, Senzsation, Mind Voice Production, Brandon Dhe, Abahlanyeli Bengoma and Buhlebendabuko, showcasing a vibrant mix of artists who

continue to contribute to the growth of Afro Pop music in Nkangala.

The Best Amapiano category features DonSolo Afrika, Mculo Wama 2K, Senzsation, Dree de Percussionist, Gabisto, Pediboy and YooH Kwenzakalani, reflecting the continued popularity of the genre among local audiences.

Competing in the Best Gospel category are Mandlethu Gospel Singers, Pastor Wish, Enhle Mthombeni and uMakoti, while Beezy Sane, Ntando, Stoz Music, Dingos, Enhle Mthombeni and Brandon Dhe have earned nominations in the Best R&B/Afro Soul category.

The Best Hip Hop category features T3lyn, MK AKA MIKE and Crazy M competing for the title, while Londiwe Sibanyoni, Bhilibhili and the Vibes, and Shevu Kandaba have been nominated in the Best Male category in recognition of their contribution to the local music industry.

Artists preserving and promoting Ndebele culture through music are also recognised in the Best Ndebele Music category. Nominees include Angie "M", iinyamazana Zomango, Amal-Diketso, MK AKA MIKE and iimpeperembe.

Traditional dance remains an important part of the awards, with Achievers Super Buddies, Ubuhlebegatsha, Ubuhle Bemvelo, Amalanda Amhlophe, Hope of S a r a f i n a M a t h i p a , Igugulamatsshitshi, Ukukhanya United Dancers, Amajarha We Pungutsha and Amanono Amahle competing in the Best Traditional Dance category.

The Best Group category recognises outstanding collaborations and vocal groups, with Movement Entertainment, Legacy Voices, Mpumalanga Youth Choir, Moeding and Legacy Group all nominated.

Mpumalanga adopts help desk, project tracker to unlock energy investment

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – Mpumalanga has adopted 12 resolutions aimed at removing obstacles to energy investment, including the establishment of a dedicated investment help desk and a digital project tracking system to speed up the approval of renewable energy projects.

The resolutions were adopted during the Mpumalanga Energy Investment Roundtable (EIR), hosted by the Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency (MGCA) at the Sydney Choma Banquet Hall in Steve Tshwete Municipality on Tuesday, 21 July 2026.

The roundtable, led by MEC for Economic Development and Tourism Jesta Sidell, brought together representatives from national, provincial and local government, state-owned entities, regulators, developers, development finance institutions (DFIs) and investors to address regulatory delays affecting renewable energy and Just Energy Transition (JET) projects.

One of the key resolutions was the establishment of the Mpumalanga Green Investment Help Desk within the MGCA. The help desk will serve as a central point of contact for investors, assist with regulatory processes, monitor project approvals, identify bottlenecks and provide regular progress updates. It will also work with the national Energy One Stop Shop and InvestSA to avoid duplication.

A Provincial Energy Project Delivery and Coordination Forum will also be established to improve cooperation between government departments, municipalities, Eskom, the National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA), the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) and other regulatory bodies. The forum will meet regularly to resolve delays and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.

To improve transparency, the MGCA will maintain a verified provincial pipeline of energy and industrial projects supported by a digital regulatory tracking system. The system will monitor projects from registration through to construction and operation while tracking approvals, responsible authorities, outstanding requirements and grid readiness.

In its closing statement, the roundtable reaffirmed Mpumalanga's commitment to converting investment interest into projects through coordinated government action, improved regulatory processes and practical support for investors.

MGCA Acting Chief Executive Officer Nkosinathi Nkonyane stressed that community participation would remain central to the province's energy

transition."It is imperative that communities are part of this. We have seen challenges where projects took place and communities were not properly consulted. We are a tool for the provincial government and a link to the private sector. We are also a tool for communities and academia to ensure that everybody is brought on board and that we are all moving in the same direction."

The remaining resolutions focus on simplifying regulatory processes, improving grid planning, strengthening municipal readiness, expanding community participation, developing green energy skills, promoting green industrialisation, improving project finance and strengthening accountability for implementation.

Beyond music and dance, NkAMA also honours artistic creativity through the Best Visual Art category. This year's nominees are THAT THING, Innocent Creatives Studio, Bhudsup' Art, Igadango Creationz, David M. Moima Art, LGM'S Magnificent Portraits, Umncamo Fashion, Noluthando M and Deon M Art Gallery, highlighting the diverse artistic talent found across the district.

As anticipation continues to build,

the 2026 Nkangala Arts and Music Awards promises to be a memorable celebration of local excellence, providing a platform for artists, performers and visual creatives to receive the recognition they deserve while inspiring the next generation of talent. The public is encouraged to support the nominees as preparations continue for the awards ceremony on 11 and 12 September 2026.



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NkAMA

Nkangala Arts & Music Awards

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23 July 2026

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF AN EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPR) PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 34 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED), PROMULGATED UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998).

Notice is hereby given that Liberty Coal - Optimum Coal Mine (Pty) Ltd has conducted external Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) Performance Assessment (MP30/5/1/2/2/2/267/MR) in accordance with Regulation 34 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

As part of the mine's statutory environmental compliance obligations, we hereby notify all potential registered and affected parties that the audit report has been completed and submitted to the Department of Mineral Resource and Energy on 17 July 2026.

All enquiries and/or additional information,contact:
Patrick Sibuyi on 013 110 4013
environmental.specialist@liberty-coal.com



N11, Hendrina Road
Pullenshope Road
Mpumalanga, 1096
Republic of South Africa

23 July 2026

ISAZISO SOKUHANJISWA KOMBIKO WOKUHLOLWA OKUZIMELE KOKUSEBENZA KOHLELO LOKUPHATHWA NOKUNAKEKELWA KWEMVELO (EMPR) OLWENZIWE NGOKUHAMBISANA NOMTHETHO 34 WEMITHETHO YE-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA), 2014 (NJENGOKUCHITSHIYELWA KWAYO), ESHICILELWE NGAPHANSI KWE-NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (UMTHETHO NO. 107 KA-1998).

Lesi isaziso sokuthi I-Liberty Coal – Optimum Coal Mine (Pty) Ltd isilwenzile uhlelo lwangaphandle lokunakekelwa nokuphathwa kwemvelo (EMPr) nokuhlolwa kokusebenza kwalo ngendlela efanele okuzimele (MP30/5/1/2/2/2/267/MR), ngokuhambisana nomthethowesi-34 em'qulwini wemithetho ye-Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), 2014 (Njengokuchitshiyelwa kwayo), eshicilelwe ngaphansi kwe-National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Umthetho No. 107 ka-1998).

Njengengxenywe yezibophezelo ezisemthethweni zemayini nokulandela imithetho yokuvikelwa kwemvelo, sazisa zonke izinhlaka ezibhaliswe ngokusemthethweni kanye nawo wonke umuntu nezinhlangano ezingase zithintke ukuthi umbiko ocwaningiwe walokhu kuhlolwa usuwethuliwe eMnyangweni Wezimbiwa kanye Nokuphehlwa Kwamandla (Department of Mineral Resources and Energy) mhla ziyishumi nesikhombisa kuNtulikazi2026 (17 July 2026).

Uma unemibuzo noma udinga olunye ulwazi, sicela uxhumane no-Patric Sibuyi kulemininingwane engezansi:
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Email: environmental.specialist@liberty-coal.com.

Umqulu walombiko uyatholakala kulemininingwane:

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THLM signs lease agreement with Casric Stars for Solomon Mahlangu Stadium

● EMMANUEL N. MTHIMUNYE

KWAMHLANGA – Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (THLM) has signed a lease agreement with Motsepe Championship club Casric Stars FC, allowing the team to use Solomon Mahlangu Stadium as its home ground for the 2026/27 season. The agreement was signed on Wednesday, 22 July 2026, during a ceremony at the municipality. The agreement marks a significant milestone for football in the region, providing Casric Stars with a permanent home base in KwaMhlanga. According to the municipality, Casric Stars will host 15 league and cup matches at Solomon Mahlangu Stadium during the season. Together with the five matches already secured by Betway Premiership side TS Galaxy FC, the venue is expected to host 20 professional football matches this season. The municipality said the partnership reflects its commitment to maximising the use of municipal infrastructure while promoting sport and local economic development.

"This agreement reflects our commitment to maximising the use of municipal infrastructure for the benefit of our communities. Hosting Casric Stars and TS Galaxy puts Thembisile Hani on the national football map and brings exciting football directly to our people." The municipality said the agreement will allow Casric Stars to play in front of home supporters in Mpumalanga while creating opportunities for local businesses, tourism and employment on match days. To support the partnership, the municipality has prioritised stadium upgrades and safety compliance to ensure Solomon Mahlangu Stadium continues to meet Premier Soccer League (PSL) standards. It added that community access to the facility will remain a priority, with grassroots programmes, including DStv Diski Challenge

(DDC) matches, continuing alongside professional fixtures. The municipality also expressed confidence in Casric Stars' ambition of earning promotion to the Betway Premiership by the end of the 2026/27 season. "No pressure, but it is now time for qualification." With 20 high-profile matches confirmed, the municipality expects increased visitor numbers, more opportunities for local vendors and renewed community pride as Solomon Mahlangu Stadium becomes a hub for elite football.



Casric Stars FC and Thembisile Hani Local Municipality officials during the signing of a lease agreement on Wednesday, 22 July 2026, allowing Solomon Mahlangu Stadium to serve as Casric Stars' home ground for the 2026/27 season. Picture: THLM Communication Team.



Solomon Mahlangu Stadium in KwaMhlanga, which will host Casric Stars FC home matches during the 2026/27 Motsepe Championship season.

NkAMA heads to Dr JS Moroka with soccer and netball activations

● LUCAS SHONGWE

KAMEELRIVIER – The Nkangala Arts & Music Awards (NkAMA) will bring soccer, netball and entertainment to Kameelrivier Stadium in the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality this weekend as part of the build-up to the 2026 awards ceremony. The two-day activation will take place on Saturday and Sunday, 25 and 26 July 2026, and aims to promote local talent while bringing communities together through sport, arts and entertainment ahead of the main awards, scheduled for 12 September 2026 at the Sydney Choma Banquet Hall in Middelburg. The programme begins on Saturday with a Top 8 soccer tournament featuring Babethu Legends, KwaNdebele Legends, Barcelona, Mementos, Mthambothini, John Vuli Gate, Liverpool and Eskom. Fixtures will kick off at 09:30, with Babethu Legends taking on KwaNdebele Legends, followed by Barcelona against Mementos at 11:00, Mthambothini versus

John Vuli Gate at 13:00, and Liverpool against Eskom at 14:30. The action continues on Sunday with a Top 4 netball tournament from 09:00, featuring Valsch United, Blue Birds, Young Stars and a fourth qualifying team. Organisers said spectators can expect entertainment throughout the weekend, with live performances by local artists and groups, as well as prizes up for grabs. The activations form part of NkAMA's programme to promote talent and strengthen community participation through sport and the arts across the Nkangala District. The programme is supported by the Nkangala District Municipality, the Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, media partner Highveld Chronicle and sponsor MTN. Following the Dr JS Moroka activation, the programme will move to eMalahleni on 2 August, Victor Khanye on 9 August, Steve Tshwete on 16 August, before concluding in Emakhaseni on 23 August.

Nkangala Arts & Music Awards

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