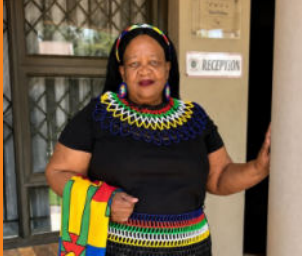


Four Delmas residents begin journey to recovery after drug abuse intervention



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10 YEARS ON, STILL THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS



NKANGALA'S R1,8BN INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH AS NGWENYA VOWS DECISIVE ACTION

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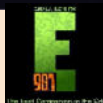
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Ramaphosa warns construction mafias after King Nyabela District Hospital delays

LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – President Cyril Ramaphosa has warned so-called construction mafias that intimidation and violence on public projects will not be tolerated after officially opening the long-delayed King Nyabela District Hospital in Middelburg on Tuesday, 04 August 2026.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Ramaphosa said criminal disruptions, payment disputes and legal challenges delayed the completion of the 220-bed hospital, which will serve more than 240 000 people in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

Awarded to Enza Construction in March 2017, work on the project began in January 2018 and was scheduled for completion in December 2019.

Instead, repeated work stoppages, payment disputes and delays in the delivery of equipment slowed construction. By 2024, the project had reached only 58% completion before gaining momentum during the final phase. It reached 98% completion by October 2024.

The transfer of services from the old Middelburg Hospital began on 30 October 2025, with the new facility becoming fully operational on 19 November 2025.

“It is significant that the community has been actively involved in this project, with over 1,100 work opportunities created, including more than 520 work opportunities for women,” Ramaphosa said. “But there were challenges during the early construction stages with so-called business forums who disrupted the work. There were also legal challenges with contractors.”

Ramaphosa said those responsible for disrupting public infrastructure projects

would face consequences.

“We must be clear, acts of intimidation and violence relating to the construction of public infrastructure will not be tolerated,” he said. “We cannot stand for the construction of hospitals, clinics, roads, dams or any public infrastructure being disrupted to advance some individuals' financial interests.”

Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi said the opening of King Nyabela highlighted the growing need for additional health facilities across the country. “The truth of the matter is that our populations are growing faster than our health facilities, and that's why we need to put up new health facilities. So this is just the beginning,” he said.

He said the Department of Health had already submitted plans to the National Treasury for 11 new hospitals “We in the Department of Health have already submitted to the Treasury 11 hospitals that must be built in the country. And here in Mpumalanga we are already targeting two. They don't have a central hospital. They don't have a mental health hospital. So all in all we need 11 brand new hospitals immediately.”

Motsoaledi described the old Middelburg Hospital as dilapidated and no longer suitable for serving the growing population.

“This facility is really going to come in handy.”

Ramaphosa said the project highlighted the need for stronger

accountability in public infrastructure delivery.

“As we open the King Nyabela Hospital, we are determined that all hospitals and clinics that have been commissioned must be completed to budget and on time,” he said. “There can be no space for corruption, fraud or waste in the procurement of health infrastructure, supplies or services.”

He said the government had recovered stolen health funds and prosecutions were under way.

“We will end the criminal actions of those who steal from the sick and vulnerable, who endanger people's lives.”

Built at a cost of R1,646 billion, King Nyabela District Hospital includes

surgical, medical, paediatric, maternity and high-care wards, a world-class accident and emergency unit, three operating theatres and comprehensive outpatient services, including TB and HIV management, mental health, physiotherapy and dentistry.

Named after King Nyabela Mahlangu, the hospital was described as a tribute to his legacy and commitment to his people.

“While hospitals and clinics are built with bricks and mortar, the heartbeat of our facilities is provided by the health care providers who diligently perform their duties, sometimes under difficult circumstances,” Ramaphosa said.



President Cyril Ramaphosa condemns construction mafias and vows a crackdown as the R1,646 billion King Nyabela District Hospital in Middelburg officially opens after years of delays.

Premier declares Mpumalanga NHI-ready

LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu said the province is ready to implement the National Health Insurance (NHI), saying progress made in upgrading public healthcare facilities has positioned the province for the rollout of the system.

Speaking at the official opening of the King Nyabela Hospital in Middelburg on Tuesday, 04 August, Ndlovu said the new facility marks a significant step towards improving access to quality healthcare and reducing the gap between public and private health services.

“We are preparing for National Health Insurance, and I think we are ready. Our aim is to provide our people with a fair and equal chance of accessing quality health care.”

The Premier said the latest General Household Survey highlights the need for NHI in Mpumalanga, with only 12.6% of residents covered by medical aid while 87.4% rely on the public healthcare system.

He said most healthcare resources remain concentrated in the private sector despite the majority of residents depending on public facilities.

“Eighty-seven point four per cent of our people rely on public health care because they are part of the medical uninsured South Africans. By opening this new Middelburg Hospital, we are pushing back the frontiers of unequal access to quality health care.”

The National Health Insurance is government's plan to provide universal health coverage through a single, tax-funded national insurance fund that will purchase healthcare services from both public and private providers. The aim is to ensure that all South Africans have access to healthcare regardless of their financial circumstances.

The NHI Act was signed into law in 2024, with the first phase focusing on strengthening healthcare facilities and systems before full

implementation.

Ndlovu said Mpumalanga has made significant progress in meeting the standards required for NHI.

According to the Premier, all 15 assessed healthcare facilities in the province have achieved Ideal Clinic Status, while 14 have been certified by the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC). The remaining facility is scheduled for reassessment.

At primary healthcare level, 285 of the province's 290 facilities have achieved Ideal Clinic Status.

Ndlovu said all 23 district hospitals have attained Ideal Hospital Status, while 18 hospitals have been certified compliant by the OHSC. In addition, 279 of the province's 290 healthcare facilities have been certified compliant.

“Our current performance demonstrates significant progress.”

King Nyabela Hospital is expected to serve thousands of residents in Steve Tshwete and surrounding areas, easing pressure on existing facilities and bringing specialist healthcare services closer to communities.

However, while the provincial government says its healthcare system is ready for NHI, concerns remain nationally over the funding of the scheme, corruption, staffing shortages and the readiness of public health facilities.

Although the legislative framework is in place, the NHI Fund has not yet become operational and further work is required before the system can be fully implemented.



Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu, joined by Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi and Mpumalanga MEC for Health Sasekani Manzini, says the province's public healthcare system is ready for NHI

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



More Than Entertainment

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. (Ephesians 4:3)

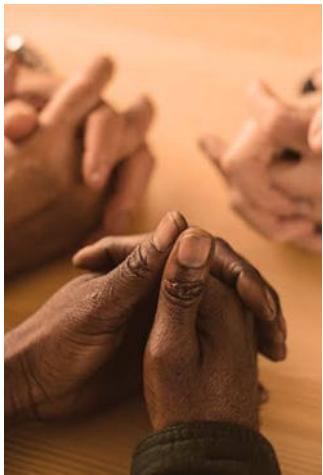
A typical American family was driving home from church on Sunday. Dad was fussing about the sermon being too long and sort of boring. Mom said she thought the organist played too loudly during the second hymn they sang. Sis, who was a music major in college, said she thought the soloist sang about a half note off-key during most of her song. Grandma said she couldn't hear very well—since they were sitting toward the back. As they pulled in the driveway, little Willie, who had listened to all of this, started to fuss about the woman who sat in front of him with that big hat. Then he paused, nudged his dad, and said, “But, Dad, you gotta admit, it was a pretty good show for a nickel!”

To more people than we would dare admit, attending church is a lot like watching a show. The better the entertainment, the more they enjoy coming. But the less they like what they see and hear, the more they grumble

and complain. Let the “show” get really bad, and there's no way most people are going to see it through. Yet, we've got to admit that the “price of admission” is still pretty hard to beat. Compared to what the public is willing to pay for live theater or a professional ball game, it's still “a pretty good show for a nickel.”

All of this is true, of course, until you get serious about this business of “the church.” Things change when you do. You feel less like seeking entertainment. You feel less freedom to fuss and complain. You feel more like investing your time, your treasure ... your very life.

As a matter of fact, it isn't long before you realize that this is one of the few involvements you mess around with that has eternal dimensions on earth. And when you really get hooked, you discover there is not one other single involvement more important than the Lord's whole-world outreach.



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Nkangala’s R1,8Bn infrastructure push as Ngwenya vows decisive action

LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – Executive Mayor Thomas Ngwenya said the Nkangala District Municipality invested R1,8 billion in capital infrastructure over the past five years while delivering the 2026 State of the District Address (SoDA) at the Sydney Choma Banquet Hall in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality on 05 August 2026.

He said the investment is aimed at improving service delivery, addressing infrastructure backlogs and supporting the district's six local municipalities. Delivering his final SoDA under the current council elected in November 2021, Ngwenya said this year's theme, 'The Year of Decisive Action to Fix Local Government and Transform the Economy', calls for agility, resilience and stronger partnerships to accelerate service delivery.

He said the administration remains committed to delivering reliable services, building safer communities, growing local economies and rooting out corruption.

Water infrastructure remains a major challenge

Ngwenya said municipalities are currently supplying 315,83 megalitres of water per day against a demand of 453,99 megalitres, leaving a daily shortfall of 138,16 megalitres. Thembisile Hani, eMalahleni and Dr JS Moroka remain the worst-affected municipalities.

To reduce the backlog, the district has implemented several bulk water projects. The flagship Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme in Thembisile Hani has a total budget of approximately R1,675 billion, of which R1,134 billion has already been spent. The project is scheduled for completion in November 2026. However, Ngwenya said the installation of an electricity line to the water treatment plant remains a challenge and has now been deferred to 2027. Other completed projects include the Siyathuthuka water reticulation project in eMakhazeni at a cost of

R4,247 million, the Moripe Gardens and Madubaduba Water Supply Project in Dr JS Moroka valued at R8,495 million, and the refurbishment of bulk water valves in eMalahleni at a cost of R3,218 million.

The district has also allocated R1,3 million to refurbish dysfunctional boreholes in wards 23 to 31 in Dr JS Moroka. Ngwenya said while water tanks and boreholes continue to provide emergency relief, they cannot replace permanent infrastructure. “They must not become permanent substitutes for sustainable bulk-water treatment, storage and reticulation infrastructure.”

Sanitation and refuse removal improve

Ngwenya also highlighted progress in improving sanitation infrastructure. Completed projects include sewer reticulation in eMakhazeni at a cost of R4,588 million, the Siyathuthuka outfall sewer line valued at R5,295 million and the upgrading and refurbishment of the Victor Khanye Wastewater Treatment Works at a cost of R11,869 million.

The district also completed the suction and desludging of VIP toilets and septic tanks in eMalahleni and Dr JS Moroka, while planning and design work for sewer connections at hostels in eMalahleni has been completed. Access to refuse removal improved from 48,3% in 2011 to 58,5% in 2022, Ngwenya said.

Road backlogs put pressure on municipalities

The district purchased road maintenance equipment, including a Jet Patcher truck for Thembisile Hani, a motor grader, tipper truck and compactor for Dr

JS Moroka, and a TLB and dozer for eMakhazeni.

Despite these investments, Ngwenya acknowledged that major challenges remain. Thembisile Hani alone has approximately 2 071km of roads requiring surfacing. He attributed project delays to poor contractor performance and the late payment of workers, calling for stricter monitoring of contractors' cash flow and labour payments.

Energy and infrastructure investment continues

The district invested R10,184 million in solar power at municipal offices to reduce the impact of electricity supply interruptions and spent R23,384 million on electricity and energy programmes during the 2023/24 financial year.

For the 2026/27 financial year, the district has budgeted R723,557 million for operating expenditure, R3,157 million for capital expenditure and R308,944 million for transfers and subsidies.

Technical Services will manage infrastructure projects worth R282,424 million, including the refurbishment of bulk water infrastructure in eMalahleni, continued work on the Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme, the refurbishment of the Delmas Wastewater Treatment Works in Victor Khanye, and district-wide Jet Patcher and Rural Road Asset Management programmes.

Clean audit and municipal support

Ngwenya said the district continues to support all six local municipalities through information and communication technology (ICT) and supply chain management audit support.

To ensure uninterrupted service delivery where recruitment has been delayed, the district has seconded staff to the Finance, Technical



“By the next SoDA, residents must feel the difference in their taps, their toilets, their streets, and their jobs” – Executive Mayor Thomas Ngwenya during the 2026 State of the District Address.

Services, Corporate Services and Community Development departments.

He also announced that the district received a clean audit outcome for the 2023/24 financial year.

Land development and spatial planning

On land development and spatial planning, Ngwenya said 56 land development applications were received during the 2023/24 financial year, with 27 approved.

Completed projects include the establishment of a township in Kwa-Phaahla Village in Dr JS Moroka, the formalisation of Mabhoko Village in Thembisile Hani and the establishment of a cemetery in eNtokozweni in eMakhazeni.

Investing in youth development

Youth development remains a key priority for the district. Through the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA), 500 unemployed young people were recruited for learnerships in building, plumbing, welding and roadworks, with 360 successfully completing the programme.

The district also appointed 121 interns and reservists, of whom 32 secured permanent employment. A further 415 officials received training through the

Workplace Skills Plan.

Ngwenya said a caring municipality is measured by how it protects children, supports women and combats gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. Marking Women's Month, he honoured the women of the 1956 Women's March and quoted Charlotte Maxeke: “If you can rise, bring someone with you.”

Decisive action to improve residents' lives

Ngwenya said the District Development Model places the district at the centre of integrated planning, although stakeholder participation remains a challenge. With National and Provincial Champions now appointed, he expects additional resources to be mobilised to support the district's “one plan, one budget” approach.

“Infrastructure gives development its physical form, but people give development its purpose,” he said. Concluding his address, Ngwenya challenged the next council to ensure residents experience meaningful improvements in their daily lives.

“By the next State of the District Address, residents must feel the difference in their taps, their toilets, their streets, and their jobs.”

Four Delmas residents begin journey to recovery after drug abuse intervention

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS – Four people are set to begin their journey to recovery after they were identified for rehabilitation during the Nkangala In-Patient Treatment Centre Roadshow, held at Shamoya in Botleng Extension 3 under the “Sibalande” campaign.

The campaign aimed to raise awareness about substance abuse treatment, educate communities about available services and link people struggling with addiction to professional rehabilitation. The outreach brought together the Nkangala In-Patient Treatment Centre, Mpumalanga Department of Social Development, Department of Health, Victor Khanye Local Municipality, South African Youth Council (SAYC), Phemphetse Training Academy, Vusithemba Victim Support, the Victor Khanye Local Drug Action Committee (LDAC), the Mpumalanga Substance Abuse Forum, SANCA, community leaders and residents.

The Department of Health conducted medical and mental health screenings, while social workers and SANCA officials assessed prospective service users to determine their physical condition, mental wellbeing and readiness for treatment.

Victor Khanye Local Drug Action Committee Chairperson Tumelo Rashokeng said the campaign aimed to promote the Nkangala In-Patient

Treatment Centre and encourage people battling addiction to seek professional help.

“We are here today to popularise the Nkangala In-Patient Treatment Centre under the slogan 'Sabalanda'. We are here to fetch service users battling substance abuse and connect them with treatment. Victor Khanye continues to experience high levels of crystal meth, nyaope, rock and alcohol abuse,” Rashokeng said.

Mpumalanga Substance Abuse Forum Chairperson Marcus Masemola said the forum was established in terms of the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act (Act 70 of 2008) to coordinate government departments, NGOs, NPOs and the private sector in the fight against substance abuse.

“Our vision is to build a Mpumalanga that is free from substance abuse. We cannot work in silos. We need all stakeholders to work together to ensure that people receive the help they need,” Masemola said.

He said the campaign also seeks to educate communities about registered rehabilitation facilities. “There are unregistered rehabilitation centres charging

families large amounts of money, yet people do not receive the help they need. We want communities to know that there is a registered government-funded rehabilitation facility, the Nkangala In-Patient Treatment Centre, that can assist people battling addiction.”

Masemola said stakeholders visited known drug-use hotspots to engage directly with substance users and encourage them to seek assistance.

“Today we went to the hotspots, spoke to people using drugs and took down their details. Our aim is to remove them from the streets and connect them with rehabilitation services.”

He explained that all prospective service users underwent screening by social workers, the Department of Health and SANCA to determine their readiness for rehabilitation.

“Not everyone who comes forward is immediately ready for rehabilitation. We first assess their state of readiness because successful recovery starts with a willingness to change.”

Following the multidisciplinary assessments, six people were identified for treatment.

“Four service users will first be admitted to Samuel Bernice Hospital for medical detoxification before being transferred to the Nkangala In-Patient Treatment Centre. Two

women will undergo detoxification at KwaMhlanga Hospital before entering rehabilitation,” Masemola said.

Mpumalanga Department of Social Development Director of Communications Kanego Thete said the roadshows are intended to improve public awareness of and access to treatment services.

“The main objectives of the roadshows are to create awareness of the services that are provided by public inpatient treatment centres, educate the public on the process of admission to inpatient treatment centres and discourage communities from utilising unregistered treatment centres.”

He said the department hopes communities will make use of registered facilities where professional treatment is available.

“Communities will be able to utilise registered treatment centres and refrain from using unregistered facilities.”

Thete said the department remains committed to long-term interventions.

“The Department will continue to render prevention and awareness campaigns, treatment services for persons affected by substance use disorder, and aftercare services to ensure continuity of care.”

Among those seeking help was 22-year-old Nkosi Majola, who said he

started using drugs in 2017 after experiencing abuse at home. “I started smoking in 2017 because I was physically abused by my uncle. I hoped all my problems would fade away. The community has always motivated me to stop smoking, and today my neighbour brought me here to get help. I am looking forward to getting help and changing my life,” Majola said. The roadshow concluded with stakeholders reaffirming their commitment to strengthening collaboration, preventing substance abuse and ensuring more people are linked to professional treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare services.



Mpumalanga Substance Abuse Forum Chairperson Marcus Masemola

Faith and hospitality drive Dinah Masango's journey to success

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

KWAMHLANGA – What began as a family's bold decision to turn their home into a guest house has grown into one of KwaMhlanga's respected hospitality establishments.
For Dinah Masango, founder and owner of Mrhali Boutique Guest House, the journey has been shaped by faith, perseverance and a passion for serving others.
Born on Geluk Farm in Witbank, Masango spent part of her childhood in Siyabuswa before settling in KwaMhlanga, where she would later establish a business that contributes to local tourism and job creation.

Faith and family shape her journey

A devoted Christian, mother and grandmother, she says her faith has guided every stage of her journey. “My faith comes before everything. It has carried me through every challenge and every success.”
Her passion for hospitality began long before she entered the tourism industry. Raised by her grandmother, after whom she was named, Masango grew up watching her create welcoming spaces through cooking, catering, decorating and gardening.
Although her grandmother never received a formal education, she inspired Masango's appreciation for caring for others and creating environments where people feel at home. Those early experiences laid the foundation for what would later become Mrhali Boutique Guest House.

Turning a family home into a business
The idea for the business emerged in 2015 after Masango identified a shortage

of quality accommodation in KwaMhlanga despite the growing number of people travelling to the area for weddings, funerals, business meetings and community events. Many visitors were forced to drive back to Pretoria late at night along the R573 Moloto Road.
Rather than seeing only a business opportunity, Masango saw an opportunity to serve her community.
“I wanted to provide visitors with a safe and comfortable place to stay while contributing to the local economy and promoting tourism in our municipality.”
Starting the business required courage and sacrifice. Without significant financial resources, Masango and her family converted their bond-free home into a guest house.

Overcoming challenges and reaching four-star status

Just as the business began to grow, the COVID-19 pandemic brought the hospitality industry to a standstill. She also faced the challenge of proving herself as a woman in an industry where she often felt underestimated.
“There were times when people underestimated me and believed I would not succeed simply because I was a woman. Those experiences only strengthened my determination to prove that women can build successful businesses.”
Masango credits organisations such as the Mpumalanga Tourism

and Parks Agency and Mpumalanga Women in Tourism, together with the support of her family and community, for encouraging her throughout the journey.
One of the business's biggest milestones came when Mrhali Boutique Guest House received its first tourism grading. Initially awarded a three-star grading, the establishment has since grown into a fully accredited four-star guest house through continuous investment in its facilities and customer service.
“It reminds me that every small step matters and encourages us to continue striving for excellence.”

Building a family legacy

For Masango, success is built on honesty, humility, consistency and treating every guest with dignity and respect.
“I believe in treating every guest like family. Listening to our guests, paying attention to detail and constantly improving our service have helped us build lasting relationships and earn their trust.”
Although balancing family life and business has required discipline and sacrifice, she describes her family as her greatest source of strength. Today, her children and grandchildren are actively involved in the business, helping to build what has become a family legacy.
As South Africa marks Women's Month, Masango hopes her story will encourage other women to pursue entrepreneurship with confidence.
“Believe in yourself. Start with what you have, work hard, stay focused and never be afraid to ask for help.

Every successful business begins with one courageous step.”

Creating opportunities and growing local tourism

Beyond providing accommodation, Mrhali Boutique Guest House contributes to the local economy by creating jobs, offering internship opportunities for young people and supporting local suppliers and community organisations.
Masango also believes KwaMhlanga has enormous tourism potential. She encourages visitors to experience the region's rich Ndebele heritage through attractions such as Kgodwana Cultural Village, the local wine cellar and the internationally recognised home and artwork of Dr Esther Mahlangu.
She believes stronger partnerships between government, tourism organisations and local businesses, together with improved tourism routes and signage, would help unlock even greater opportunities for the area.

The guest house continues to expand, with facilities now including landscaped gardens, picnic areas, braai facilities, a swimming pool with a swim-up bar and a spacious boma. Plans are also under way to introduce a spa facility.

A legacy of service and perseverance

Despite these developments, Masango says her greatest achievement will never be measured by facilities or star gradings. She hopes to be remembered as someone who served others with

compassion, created opportunities for her community and showed that faith and perseverance can transform an ordinary dream into a lasting legacy.
For the guests who pass through the doors of Mrhali Boutique Guest House, that legacy is reflected in the warm welcome they receive.
“I believe in treating every guest like family.”



Entrepreneur and Mrhali Boutique Guest House founder Dinah Masango has turned her passion for hospitality into a growing four-star establishment in KwaMhlanga.

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Ritluka Resources drives sustainable change by uplifting local communities

At Ritluka Resources, business success and community development go hand in hand. Priding itself on giving back to the regions where it operates, the company remains dedicated to supporting and elevating high-impact initiatives that create lasting, positive change for local

communities. Through strong corporate partnerships and grassroots engagement, Ritluka continues to invest in health, safety, basic resources, and education which is the foundation of a bright and successful future.



Directly contributing to community empowerment and food security through the provision of seedlings to local schools.



Getting the job done – the Ritluka team and its corporate partners hard at work improving learning environments.



Strengthening school safety through the construction of a new perimeter fence at Mafa Max Motloung Secondary School



A partnership with Sasol driving community sustainability and strengthening food security.

Mandela Month: Partnerships That Make a Difference

In honour of the 2026 Mandela Day, Ritluka Resources joined forces with Exxaro and Sasol to make a tangible difference across local settlements. The joint effort focused on long-term sustainability and immediate relief, featuring sustainable food initiatives to foster long-term food security within the community. Delivering targeted care and assistance to vulnerable households across the operational footprint.

Creating Safer Learning Environments and Improving Literacy

Believing firmly that education is the ultimate key to empowering youth and securing a brighter future, Ritluka Resources has directed significant focus toward local educational infrastructure and safety. To enhance safety and security for students and staff, Ritluka supported the school with the erection of a new perimeter fence at Mafa Max Motloung Secondary School, ensuring a protected environment conducive to teaching and learning. Ritluka also spearheaded the donation of books to equip the Trichardtfontein Primary School library, sparking a love for reading and providing essential learning tools for pupils to build a strong foundation. Building on this commitment, Ritluka took on the critical task of revamping a school classroom at Sibongamandla Secondary School. The ongoing project includes replacing damaged ceiling boards to transform the space into a vibrant, safe environment for learning.

Promoting literacy and learning through the donation of books to the Trichardtfontein Primary School library

Empowering Communities Through Care, Skills and Wellness

Ritluka's community commitment is long-term, responsive to basic human needs, and focused on empowering individuals with practical skills: The company has maintained a dedicated partnership over the years to improve daily living conditions, donating a heavy-duty washing machine, a cooking stove, gas heaters, and warm blankets for residents at Siyanqoba Disability Center in Delmas. To encourage artistic expression and skills training, Ritluka donated beads, crochet and knitting needles, and wool to Zamokuhle Disability Centre in eMakhazeni. These supplies aim to enhance the creativity, therapeutic engagement, and self-reliance of the centre's beneficiaries.

Promoting Health and Wellness

Beyond infrastructure and care packages, Ritluka actively promotes community health and well-being. Partnering with Sasol

Syferfontein, the teams hosted a highly successful Wellness Marathon aimed at bringing workers and community members together through physical fitness. Ritluka took an active operational role by ensuring all runners and walkers remained well-hydrated throughout the course. Celebrating a proud internal milestone, Dick Kruger, Ritluka Site Manager, crossed the finish line in first place, taking top honours for the event. Collaborative social responsibility projects do more than just deliver material support; they build trust, camaraderie, and shared purpose. Ritluka Resources extends its sincere gratitude to its business partners for including us in such meaningful initiatives, creating strong, lasting bonds between the company and the local communities it serves. Together, Ritluka and its partners will continue to empower, support, and elevate local communities for years to come.



Empowering creativity and independence through the donation of arts and craft materials to the Zamokuhle Disability Centre.



ISIKO LETHU

Our Story

ILIZWI

WITH SIPHO MAHAMBA

Ukuvunulwa kwenaka

Umtloli: Emmmanuel N Mthimunya

Inaka yivunulo yes'khethu, inaka lenziwa nges'khumba seenyamazana. Lokha nakwenziwa inaka kuthonywa ngokutjhukwa isikhumba bonyana sibelula, sikwazi ukulawuleka. Kuthi lokha nasele sitjhukiwe bese siyasikwa ukuze sibe ngendlela ilungileko nemedekileko ngekambiso yakhina.

Inaka livunulwa lokha nakuneeminyanya ngokuhluka kwayo, kungaba mnyanya wobuhle namkha mnyanya wesililo nasikhuluma ngeeminyanya yesihle sitjho umnyanya wesintu yesikhuwa, nje nge mbizo ngeNgwenyameni, emasokaneni, equdeni namkha emtjhadweni begodu inaka liya vunulwa nalokha kulilwa njengalokha nakubulungwa ubaba ekhaya namkha kutjalwa ikosi nofana ingwenyama. Ngaleso s'khathi inaka livunulelwa ukuhlonipha umnimzana nakha loyo muntu osele akhunjulwe bobamkhulwakhe. Naku umzekelo, kungasikade nje kuMngwengweni isitjhaba besizelwe ngetatawini lebhola erarhwako kwaMhlanga (Solomon Mahlangu stadium) ukuzoku bhodla emswaneni njengoba

kukhothome iNgwenyama uMkhosoke II, yeke abo baba namaduna weNgwenyameni beka vunule amanaka, ukuzokuhlonipha iNgwenyama kwamawaphela lokho kukubhodla emswaneni ngesintu.

Inaka lihluke ngeen'gaba ngeen'gaba begodu noku vunulwa kwakhona kuyahluka nakhona kune naka elivunulwa besana elibizwa bona mrebhe, kube nezezana lelo kulinaka elimbathwa lisokana elingakathathi, sibe nenaka elimbeswa umalukazana emendweni lelo naka libizwa bonayikotelo

Usofwazi ngesindebele ubaba u Elmon Pondo Mahlikihla usivezela bona iNgwenyama ayivunuli nofana ngiliphi inaka enjengo mununtu woke kodwana ivunula inaka elenziwe nges'khumba sengwe ephелеleko kwaphela bese kuthi abentwana bekosi namanye amambathangwe awayivunuli ingwe ephелеleko kodwana bayayi qarha, bayiqarha

ngeenkhumba zezinye iinyamazana ngombana ingwe ephелеleko ivunulwa yingwenyama kwaphela.

Ngokuya kosolwazi uMahlikihla ngeenginazi inkhumba ezenza amanaka, sikhumba sengolonyana, sikhumba seduba, sikhumba sekomo, sikhumba sembuzi, sikhumba senyathi, sengwe, sebhubezi, sembuduma, sehlangu, sepunzi, seliza, sengwes'lwana, sehlosi, seqina, sekghokgho, sebhlabhala sendlulamithi setjhiphu, sephagani, sethirhi, saka sodlhamenzwana, sebhoko, sephungutjha setjhagaruma sekamela nezinye iimbanda narha kodwa isikhumba sikadumbana namkha senja asilenzi inaka.

IsiNdebele asaleli umuntu bona avunule inaka kodwana kufanele umuntu avunule ngokuyelela nakuzwisisa isigaba akaso, lokhu ngokukhula lokhu kufaka hlangana ukuthi isokokana elingakathathi kufanele livunule izazana, bese kuthi umsana avunule umrebhe lokho kurhelelba khulu ekuhlukaniseni iingaba zevunulo kandebele nekambiso yesikopilo kandebele.



Mntwanekosi Lucas Fifi Mahlangu, imbongi uThulari nembongi uPondo



Umntwanekosi uSipho KaSenzangakhona kaMabusabesala oyikosi yakwaMabusa neMbongi uPondo kaSoBenzani kaKhosiwe kaSoNzimathe



Imbongi uThulari nembongi uPondo Mahlangu

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Eggsellent By Lebo Public Participation

Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process (PPP) in terms of the National (Act 36 of 1993) and specifically in terms of the regulations regarding the procedure requirement for water Use License Application (WU36224) of 13 November 2025. This constitutes a notification in terms of a Water Use License Application that was submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Background

Eggsellent By Lebo Farm 226 Hartebeesfontein JR in Kwaggafontein the application intends to extract ground water (borehole) from the farm, for the purpose of operating a 30 000 Poultry farm.

Project Details.

Project Name: Eggsellent By Lebo Pty Ltd

Applicant: Lebogang Jane Mashigo

Property Details: Farm 226 Hartebeesfontein Kwaggafontein E Mpumalanga 0458 **Coordinates:**

Eggsellent By Lebo Pty Ltd	Longitude	Latitude
	28_93916825466031	25_313028812474645

Competent Authority: Department of Water and Sanitation

Application Ref no: WU36224

Water Use: Borehole Licence

Application for: (Section 2 (a) Abstraction of Ground Water| Section 2 (b) storage of water.

Opportunity to Participate: Interested and Affected parties are invited to register and provide comments on the proposed Application. I & APS must provide their comments, together with their names, contact details through Eggsellent By Lebo WhatsApp Number on 061 502 2389 or

Email : Office@eggsellentbylebo.com and indicate any direct business, Finance, personal or other interest which they have in the application no later than **30 September 2026** a period of 60 days in terms of the NWA (Act 36 of 1998) to the person below.

Delmas student seeks R40,000 to represent South Africa at international youth forum

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS – A 22-year-old psychology student from Eloff near Delmas is appealing for financial support after earning a partial scholarship to represent South Africa at the Civic Youth Forum 2026 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Pelonomi Karabo Moselane, who is studying psychology through Emeris Online, was selected as a partially funded delegate following a competitive international application process. The Centre for Diplomatic Advancement (CDA) recognised her leadership potential and commitment to community development by awarding her the scholarship.

The forum, taking place from 17 to 20 September 2026, will bring together young leaders, policymakers, diplomats, researchers and civil society representatives from around the world to discuss leadership, democracy, civic participation, public policy, coalition-building and combating misinformation. For Moselane, the opportunity is about more than travelling abroad. She hopes to bring international knowledge and

practical solutions back to South Africa to empower young people in Delmas and surrounding communities.

“As an aspiring young leader, I've always been passionate about making a difference in my community. I believe young people should be at the centre of solving community challenges,” she said.

She said South Africa's high levels of youth unemployment and limited civic education inspired her to apply for the programme, which will expose participants to global best practices in youth civic development, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation and policy advocacy.

Applicants were required to submit their CVs, academic records and motivational statements before advancing to a final round that included written responses and a virtual interview.

“A week after my interview, I

received an email informing me that I had been awarded a partially funded scholarship,” she said.

Moselane said representing South Africa internationally is both an honour and a responsibility.

“South Africa has a unique story of resilience, democracy and young people who continue to drive change despite many challenges. I want to represent the creativity, diversity and determination of South African youth.”

She believes the experience will complement her psychology studies by deepening her understanding of governance, culture, civic engagement and youth mental health.

After returning from Denmark, Moselane hopes to establish community outreach initiatives promoting mental health awareness and encouraging young people to participate in democracy and governance, particularly ahead of the 2026 local government elections.

Although the scholarship covers forum participation, shared accommodation, meals during the

official programme and visa assistance, she still needs about R40 000 for international flights, travel insurance, visa-related expenses, local transport and other travel costs.

Moselane must raise at least R20 000 by 20 August 2026 to confirm her flights and submit the required travel documentation before departing South Africa on 15 September.

She has approached businesses, organisations and government departments for sponsorship. Victor Khanye Local Municipality informed her that it is unable to provide financial assistance at this stage, but she remains hopeful that businesses and members of the public will support her.

Those wishing to assist can contact Moselane directly on 078 009 1205. A BackaBuddy campaign has also been created, although she said direct support is preferred because of the urgent deadline.

“This is a life-changing opportunity that will greatly benefit not only me as an individual, but South African youth,” she said.



Pelonomi Karabo Moselane is appealing for financial support to help her represent South Africa at the Civic Youth Forum 2026 in Copenhagen, Denmark. She needs about R40 000 to cover travel-related costs, with at least R20 000 required by 20 August to secure her trip.

Nkangala TVET College encourages men to prioritise mental health and financial well-being

NODICAH FUNDAMA

MIDDELBURG – Nkangala TVET College encouraged men to speak openly about their mental health and take control of their finances during its Men's Dialogue 2026, held at Pienaardam Resort in Middelburg on 7 August.

Held under the theme, Breaking the Silence: Building Mentally Strong and Financially Empowered Men, the dialogue brought together employees and stakeholders to discuss mental health, financial literacy, leadership and personal development.

Nkangala TVET College Council Deputy Chairperson Thabo Matabane said the dialogue was organised to address issues many men experience but rarely discuss.

“Men are going through a lot, and if these issues are not talked about and ventilated, they begin to affect our families and, in turn, our work environment.”

He said the discussions focused on mental health, financial management and understanding the root causes of challenges facing men.

“We also spoke about dealing with pain because when pain remains unresolved, especially among men who are often expected to remain silent, it creates unnecessary tension and conflict in our homes and workplaces. Today's dialogue gave us an opportunity to reflect on these issues and consider how we can approach them differently going forward.”

Deputy Director at the Department of Health William Mtambo said mental health should receive the same attention as physical health.

“Mental health is a critical component of a man's overall health and well-being, yet in many instances we place greater emphasis on physical health while neglecting mental wellness.”

Mtambo challenged cultural beliefs that discourage men from expressing emotion, saying men should be encouraged to seek support when dealing with workplace stress, emotional struggles and personal challenges.

“Men should never feel compelled to suffer in silence. They must be encouraged to speak openly, seek support and know that asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.”

The dialogue also explored alcohol abuse, unresolved emotional trauma, gender-based violence and responsible fatherhood. Men were encouraged to become positive role models, treat women with dignity and respect and remain actively involved in their children's lives.

Financial literacy was another key

focus, with Old Mutual financial adviser Lyson Baloyi urging delegates to take responsibility for their finances.

“If you fail to manage your money, your money will manage you.”

Baloyi encouraged participants to live within their means, prioritise their families' needs and make informed financial decisions. He also highlighted the link between financial well-being and mental health and encouraged couples to have honest conversations about household finances.

Using wildlife as an analogy, he shared five secrets of money management, encouraging men to be fearless like a lion, attentive like an elephant, determined like a rhino, focused like a leopard and committed to protecting their families' financial future.

The event concluded with participants encouraged to prioritise their mental well-being, strengthen their financial management and contribute to healthier families, workplaces and communities.



Men gathered at the Nkangala TVET College Men's Dialogue 2026 to engage on mental health, financial well-being, responsible fatherhood and personal development.

Nkangala TVET College marks Women's Month with call for financial independence and action against GBV

SHARON NTLOGELENG CHILOANE

EMALAHLENI – Women from Nkangala TVET College campuses gathered at the Portuguese Hall in eMalahleni on Friday, 07 August 2026, to commemorate Women's Month through a celebration that championed women's empowerment, financial independence and the fight against gender-based violence (GBV).

Delegates from campuses across the Nkangala District came together to reflect on the progress women have made and the challenges that remain. The programme featured talks on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, gender equality and women supporting one another.

Opening the programme, Council Chairperson Dr MJ Masalesa said Women's Month provided an opportunity to honour the resilience and achievements of women while encouraging conversations around equality and empowerment.

“Women's Month is more than a celebration. It is a reminder of how far women have come while recognising the work that still lies ahead. We want women to leave here feeling empowered to lead, grow and make a lasting impact in their families, workplaces and communities,” Masalesa said.

Old Mutual facilitator Nokuzola Ntiwane encouraged women to take charge of their financial futures through saving, investing and exploring entrepreneurial opportunities.

“Financial independence begins with the decisions we make today. Whether you are employed, running a business or planning for the future, investing in yourself and your finances is one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself and your family,” she said.

Keynote speaker Sesi Mahlobogaane turned the focus to gender-based violence, calling on women to stand together against abuse, know their rights and continue advocating for equality.

She also encouraged women to invest in their education, careers and businesses, saying empowered women are better positioned to uplift their families and communities.

“Every woman deserves to live without fear. We must continue raising our voices against gender-based violence while building ourselves into strong, confident and independent women who know their worth,” Mahlobogaane said.

The day also celebrated unity and sisterhood through music and entertainment. Delegates participated in a karaoke competition, with Middelburg Campus emerging as the winner. The event concluded with a call for women to continue supporting one another, pursue financial freedom and stand together against gender-based violence beyond Women's Month.



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NkAMA reaches halfway mark as excitement builds for September awards

● LUCAS SHONGWE

EMALAHLENI – The Nkangala Arts and Music Awards (NkAMA) campaign has reached its halfway mark, with three of six district-wide activations completed as excitement builds towards the gala dinner on 11 September and the awards ceremony on 12 September 2026. Launched on 7 July 2026 by the Nkangala District Municipality and Highveld Chronicle, NkAMA aims to celebrate and promote talent in music, art, dance, poetry and sport across the district's six local municipalities. The activations began in Thembeisile Hani on 11 and 12 July before moving to Dr JS Moroka on 25 and 26 July. The latest activation took place in eMalahleni on 02 August, where community members gathered for sporting activities, including the NkAMA Masters Soccer Tournament. Maveli Masters were crowned eMalahleni champions after defeating

United Masters 3-1 on penalties following a goalless draw in the final at Sy Mthimunye Stadium. Maveli secured their place in the final with a convincing 3-0 victory over WVK Masters in the semi-finals, while United Masters edged Vosman Legends 1-0 to book their place in the decider. The victory saw Maveli Masters join Kingdom Masters from Thembeisile Hani and Eskom Masters from Dr JS Moroka as winners of the NkAMA Masters Soccer Tournament in their respective municipalities. Three activations are still scheduled before the main event, with Victor Khanye hosting on 09 August, Steve Tshwete on 16 August and eMakhazeni concluding the programme on 23 August 2026. The campaign will culminate in

the NkAMA Gala Dinner on 11 September, followed by the awards ceremony on 12 September, where artists, musicians, dancers, poets and other creatives from across the district will be recognised for their contributions. The event will also feature performances by Sjava, Bathabile Skhosana, Mami, Idols SA winner Zama and NkAMA Newcomer Artist Londiwe Sibanyoni, with additional performers expected to be announced. NkAMA forms part of a broader initiative to celebrate local talent, create opportunities for creatives and strengthen community pride across the Nkangala District. Speaking at the launch in July, Executive Mayor Thomas Ngwenya highlighted the important role artists play in society. “Artists are historians, teachers, healers, social commentators and nation builders.”



From setback to sketchbook: Surprise Magagula's art of starting over

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

EMALAHLENI – When Surprise Sbusiso Magagula lost his job in 2022, the future became uncertain. With no steady income and few opportunities, he turned to the one thing that had always given him hope – a pencil and a blank sheet of paper. Today, the charcoal and coloured pencil artist from Empumelelweni in eMalahleni is rebuilding his life one portrait at a time. Born and raised in Nhlazatshe, where he completed his matric, Magagula has been pursuing art professionally since 2018. He now earns a living through commissioned portraits and occasional jobs while steadily building a name for himself as a visual artist. Raised by his mother and grandmother, Magagula says his childhood shaped his resilience. “My mother worked while my grandmother sold sweets, snacks and peanuts. We didn't have much, but I had a good childhood,” he said. His passion for drawing began in primary school, where he spent his free time sketching cars and Goku from the popular anime series Dragon Ball. He also credits his older sister for inspiring his creativity. “I used to watch her draw flowers and design dresses, and whenever I saw artwork in newspapers or on the streets, I wanted to be able to create something like that.” Although art had always been part of his life, Magagula began taking it seriously in 2018 after meeting professional artist Thabo at a driver's licence testing centre. “He brought some of his artwork with him and I couldn't stop asking questions. He guided me and taught

me most of what I know today. He's my mentor.” Magagula specialises in charcoal portraits, a medium he believes captures emotion better than any other. Depending on the size and level of detail, a portrait can take between five hours and two weeks to complete. One of his proudest pieces is a 2024 artwork titled Time, which explores the idea of change. “It's difficult to explain because visual art speaks for itself. You have to see it.” Despite his growing portfolio, earning a living from art remains one of his greatest challenges. After losing his job, a loyal client helped him restart by paying upfront for a commission, allowing him to buy materials. “Since then, I've been getting clients here and there. It's enough to get me to the next month, but it's not easy.” Finding customers, he says, is often harder than creating the artwork, with some months passing without a single commission. Even low engagement on social media can

test his confidence. “I'll post a drawing and get only two or five likes. Sometimes it gets to me. But I can't stop creating.” His family remains his biggest support, while he believes the community is slowly beginning to recognise his talent. His ambitions stretch beyond Mpumalanga. In the short term, he hopes to win the NkAMA Award and gain wider recognition. Within five years, he dreams of owning a professional art studio and gallery, with his portraits exhibited and sold internationally. For aspiring artists hesitant to pursue their dreams, Magagula has simple advice. “First make it exist, then make it perfect later. We learn through our mistakes. The only way to find out what works is to start.” Every portrait he completes is another step towards rebuilding the future he imagined for himself.



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