

Nkangala District launches podcast to strengthen two-way government communication



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New R67m Rockdale school cuts Thando's transport costs, opens door to home WiFi

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Water shortage leaves Mandela Section residents relying on unsafe alternatives

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LET HER GROW CREATES SPACE FOR WOMEN TO RISE, CONNECT AND BECOME

[Full Story on Page 3](#)

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eMakhazeni women explore new paths to economic independence

● LUCAS SHONGWE

WATERVAL BOVEN – Women from eMakhazeni Local Municipality gathered at the Emgwenya Heritage and Tourism Information Centre on Wednesday, 26 August 2026, for a seminar aimed at helping them access business, employment and economic opportunities.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted the Women Entrepreneurial Empowerment and Cooperatives Seminar under the theme “Empowered Women Empower Nations” as part of Women's Month activities. For some of the women attending, the seminar provided an opportunity to access information about government services in one place.

“I gathered a lot of information and I feel uplifted as a woman. I now know where to go from here,” said Nomfundo Nkosi, a student at Nkangala TVET College. “As a young person studying, I now know what I am going to do going forward.”

Meisie Groenewald, another attendee, said the seminar provided practical information she could use.

“I enjoyed the Women's Day seminar and found it very educational. They gave us tips we can actually use, and numbers we can call when we need help,” she said.

Representatives from several government departments and agencies used the seminar to explain services and opportunities available to women in the area.

Lewis Mokhasi from the Department of Employment and Labour explained how young women can register on the department's database for jobs and learning opportunities. He also outlined free services such as CV writing,

interview preparation and work ethics training.

Sezanele Zondi from the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) urged women not to use middlemen when seeking funding, home loans of up to R2 million, and trade and investment support.

Tourism was another focus of the seminar, with Isaac Sambo from the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) outlining

plans to revive Emgwenya as a tourism destination, including its historic tunnels and new waterfront viewing sites.

“We believe revitalising Emgwenya will create job opportunities for the people of Emakhazeni, attract more visitors and grow the local economy,” Sambo said.

Safety was also discussed, with Mandla Nxumalo from SAPS Waterval Boven addressing gender-based violence and femicide, drug

abuse, cable theft and infrastructure damage. He urged residents to report crime on 10111.

GCIS Nkangala Regional Communication Coordinator Patricia Matsila said the programme forms part of Women's Month activities commemorating 70 years since the historic women's march.

“This is about honouring the resilience of South African women and continuing the fight for economic inclusion,” she said. “We want the women of Emakhazeni to leave here with practical information they can use to improve their lives and grow their businesses.”



Women attend the GCIS Women Entrepreneurial Empowerment and Cooperatives Seminar at the Emgwenya Heritage and Tourism Information Centre in Waterval Boven on Wednesday, 26 August 2026. The seminar was held under the theme “Empowered Women Empower Nations.”



Workers raise concerns over leave and employment at Shweta Agro Farms

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DEL MAS – Formal correspondence from traditional authorities, employment records and worker testimonies have raised questions about how Shweta Agro Farms (Pty) Ltd handles leave, employment status and workplace responsibilities.

Documents reviewed by Highveld Chronicle show that traditional authorities formally approached the farm seeking leave for workers to attend Ingoma, while workers described separate disputes over medical leave and their employment status.

The evidence reviewed does not establish that workers were dismissed for attending initiation school. Instead, the records and interviews raise questions about what happened to workers' employment arrangements following periods of traditional or medical leave, and whether workplace procedures and responsibilities are clearly communicated.

A letter from the Ndzundza Mabhoko Royal Kraal, dated 31 March 2026, requested special leave for worker Sibusiso Masuku to attend Ingoma, referring to an initiation period from 30 January to 24 July 2026.

A second letter from the Ndzundza Somphalau Traditional Council, dated 30 March 2026, requested leave for Gugulethu Mbonani from 15 May to 16 July 2026.

The letters show that traditional authorities formally notified the employer of the workers' cultural obligations. However, the documents reviewed do not show whether the requests were approved or rejected.

Mbonani described a separate dispute relating to medical leave. He said he submitted a doctor's note to HR before leaving and understood that he could return if a position became available.

When he returned, Mbonani said

he was told there was no available position and that he would have to register again as a job seeker, despite what he said was ongoing recruitment.

“Why look for someone else when she knows there is someone here who knows the job?” he said.

His account of the employment arrangement remains disputed.

Workers also raised concerns about how roles and responsibilities are structured. They allege that some employees regarded as permanent continue performing broad general-worker duties without clearly defined job descriptions.

Worker Fezile Mtimande questioned whether employees are adequately informed about their specific roles and responsibilities. He also raised concerns about workplace communication and the role of Industrial Relations, alleging that toolbox talks can focus on individual workers rather than safety and operational issues. These allegations could not be independently verified.

Highveld Chronicle sent questions to Shweta Agro Farms on 20 August 2026 regarding the workers' concerns, including traditional leave, employment arrangements, job descriptions and workplace management.

In response, the company requested the publication's email and physical address so that its legal team could respond.

“Good day, can you send me your email address and your physical address of your company you work for so that our legal team can respond.”

The publication provided the requested details but had not received a substantive response from the company's legal team by the time of publication.

The publication will publish any substantive response received. The allegations remain allegations and have not been finally determined by a court or other competent authority.

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



One Plus One Equals Survival

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:11–12)

After making the statement that “two are better than one,” Solomon spells out why. I covered the first reason yesterday, and here are the last two.

Mutual Support When We Are Vulnerable. “Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone?” (4:11 NASB). Here again, it's our tendency to take passages literally and miss the point of the whole idea. It's true that married partners, on a cold, windy, wintry night, find warmth from one another.

But let's not limit this to bedtime warmth. We need someone when there are elements that we can't change—when we can't make it hot if it's cold. That's the point. We're exposed. We are unguarded. We're vulnerable. It's better to have two than one, because the other person will support us when we're in a vulnerable spot.

Consider how you've felt on the first day in a new school or at a new job. Any time or place where you feel self-conscious and your major battle is “How am I going to make it through right now?” be reminded of verse 11—you are cold and you need help in keeping warm. Two are better than one.

Mutual Protection When We Are Attacked. “And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart” (4:12 NASB). All of us can identify with this. There is an adversary we all fight. He is relentless, determined, and clever. He's called the devil. There is also an entire demonic force that would intimidate us even more if we could see them at work. But even though we cannot see them, we sense their presence and we are aware of their attack.

Verse 12 concludes with “A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.” This is not simply a reference to Christ, who certainly is our Companion—the best of all—it's a reference to more than just one companion. It may be several—two or three. But the thought here is that a cord of three strands is held with comforting words, or arms around the shoulder, or visible presence so that the waters of your soul are calm.

If you hope to make it through days of disillusionment and times of trouble, the secret is friendship. Or, to repeat the terms of an equation, “One plus one equals survival.” There's no bridge quite like a friend, especially when you're forced to live on the ragged edge of troubled waters.

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Let Her Grow creates space for women to rise, connect and become

NODICAH FUNDAMA AND SHARON CHILOANE

EMALAHLENI – There are moments when a gathering becomes more than an event – when a room full of people becomes a reminder of what is possible when women choose to stand together. That was the spirit at the eMalahleni Civic Hall on 22 August, when women from different walks of life gathered for the Let Her Grow empowerment event, hosted by its founder, Mmasechaba Makua.

The event brought together influential women, professionals, leaders, entrepreneurs and community members around a common message: women must create opportunities for one another rather than compete to close doors. “Let her grow beyond the pain she never talked about. Let her grow beyond the fear that told her she's not enough. Let her grow beyond the past that tried to define her,” was among the messages shared during the event.

Mpumalanga Director-General Maggie Skosana challenged women to recognise the collective power they possess when united around a common purpose.

“When women unite around a common purpose, they become an unstoppable force of change,” Skosana said.

She highlighted the growing influence of women as leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, professionals and decision-makers, while calling for 50% women representation at senior management level.

“As women rise, we must build a culture in which one woman's success becomes another woman's opportunity,” she said.

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng urged women and young people to recognise and act when opportunities arise. “Opportunity doesn't announce itself,” Phakeng said.

She encouraged attendees to embrace education, initiative and entrepreneurship and recognise the value of their time, knowledge and skills.

“You don't have to have a degree to start a movement, to run with your idea,” she said.

For celebrated actress and entrepreneur Connie Ferguson, the conversation centred on identity, change and resilience.

Known for her iconic role as Karabo on Generations, Ferguson reflected on the different versions of ourselves that emerge throughout life.

“When women gather, we are simply not just gathering. We are carrying stories. We're carrying dreams. We're carrying disappointments,” she said.

Born in Kimberley, Ferguson moved with her family to Botswana at the age of six during the 1976 riots and later moved to Johannesburg at 19 in pursuit of new opportunities. Her father introduced her to karate, where discipline became part of her foundation.

Years later, she walked away from her 16-year career on Generations at the age of 40, stepping into uncertainty and a new chapter. Her journey through marriage, motherhood, divorce, finding love again, entrepreneurship and the loss of her husband shaped her understanding of resilience and

becoming.

“One of the most extraordinary things about being a woman is the fact that we are constantly becoming,” she said.

Ferguson now 56 encouraged women not to allow fear to make decisions on their behalf, saying resilience can sometimes mean having the courage to let go and begin again.

eMalahleni Speaker Millicent Shabangu addressed what she described as the “pull-down syndrome”, calling on women to support one another, challenge patriarchy and take their rightful space.

“As women, we face several challenges for generations and centuries. But one of our top failures and challenges is pull-down syndrome,” Shabangu said.

“We can only be great if we support each other because our power and strength is in our unity as women,” she said. The gathering also created room for conversations about healing and personal growth, encouraging women to read, learn, unlearn and heal.

“Your mind is your garden; what you water will grow,” one message shared at the gathering said.

Another reminded women that brokenness does not take away their worth: “Broken soil is still soil. Flowers still grow there.”



Let Her Grow founder and visionary Mmasechaba Makua

For Makua, bringing these voices together created an environment where stories could meet stories, experience could speak to ambition and women could be reminded of their own possibilities.

Ferguson captured the message of representation: “You don't need a title, you don't need a platform or a microphone for your life to become evidence,” she said. For the women gathered in eMalahleni, the message went beyond one day of conversations. It was about creating space for women to support one another through ambition, healing, leadership and change.

Dr JS Moroka Mayor Mtsweni tables R1.07bn budget, 1,149 title deeds issued

EMMANNUEL N MTHIMUNYE

GA MORWE – Dr JS Moroka Executive Mayor Nomsa Mtsweni has tabled a R1.072 billion budget for the 2026/27 financial year and announced progress on housing, healthcare and job creation during her State of the Municipality Address at Ga-Morwe Hall on 26 August.

Mtsweni said the budget is mainly funded by national grants due to high unemployment and the rural nature of the municipality.

“Despite these challenges, we remain committed to ensuring that every cent entrusted to this municipality delivers value to our communities,” she said.

On land ownership, Mtsweni said the municipality had issued 1,149 title deeds in Siyabuswa A, B and C.

“Each title deed handed over represents a family whose constitutional right to property ownership has been realised, whose dignity has been restored, and whose future has been made more secure,” she said.

She said the formalisation of Ramokgeletsane Extension, with 850 stands, Makopanong with 350 stands and Ga-Phaahla had been completed. The formalisation of Moripe Gardens with 1,500 stands, Ga-Morwe Village with 2,500 stands and Borolo Extension with 1,500 stands is underway.

On healthcare, Mtsweni said Troya Clinic in Ward 21 is now open and will

serve 4,960 residents who previously had to travel more than 15km to access healthcare services.

Turning to economic development, Mtsweni said the municipality had set aside R2 million for an Economic Development and Cultural Show scheduled for March 2027.

“The municipality has set aside an amount of R2 million towards an Economic Development and Cultural Show scheduled to take place in March 2027,” she said.

Mtsweni said the event is expected to create about 100 temporary jobs for local residents.

The mayor also acknowledged that the municipality had received a qualified audit opinion and committed to addressing the findings raised by the Auditor-General.

“We take the findings and concerns raised by the Auditor-General seriously and remain committed to implementing corrective measures,” she said.

On governance, Mtsweni said the municipality wanted to leave behind an institution capable of continuing to deliver services effectively.

“We want our successors to inherit a municipality that delivers services effectively, cares for its citizens, and remains committed to good governance,” she said.

With the municipality approaching the next local government elections, Mtsweni called on residents to participate peacefully and respect the electoral process.

“We call upon all residents to participate peacefully and responsibly while respecting the independence of the electoral process,” she said.



Dr JS Moroka Executive Mayor Nomsa Mtsweni delivers the 2026 State of the Municipality Address at Ga-Morwe Hall on 26 August. IMAGE BY: Dr JS Moroka



Ms. Makhosazane Masilela
Speaker of the Mpumalanga
Provincial Legislature



The Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela invites community members of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, in the Nkangala District to take part in the Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) programme, which serves as a platform for members of the public to directly interact with both the Legislature and government, as part of meaningful oversight and public involvement. The event is scheduled to take place as follows: -

Date: 31 August 2026 – 04 September 2026

Time: 09:00 daily

Venue: Themba Senamela Stadium, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality

The TLP programme will also include oversight visits by various Legislature Committees to community projects around the municipality to ascertain if they are being accordingly implemented as per the plans and allocated budgets by government. There will also be public hearings and stakeholder engagements where-in community members will be given an opportunity to raise issues affecting them, with the Legislature and government.

The Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu will deliver the closing address on Friday, the 04th of September 2026 at the main venue, Themba Senamela Stadium, Mhluzi Location at 10 in the morning.

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Nkangala District launches podcast to strengthen two-way government communication

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – The Nkangala District Municipality has launched a new podcast studio, The Pulse of NDM, aimed at changing how the municipality communicates with communities by creating a platform that listens as much as it speaks.

Officially launching the studio at the Mayor's Parlour on Thursday, 27 August 2026, Executive Mayor Thomas Ngwenya said government communication should move away from simply telling stories about communities towards having conversations with

them. "For too long, government communication has sometimes consisted of stories told about communities instead of conversations conducted with communities. Today, as we launch 'The Pulse of NDM', we begin changing that relationship," he said. Ngwenya said the podcast was created to bring communication closer to the people, quoting the African proverb: "Until the lion learns to tell its own story, every account of the hunt will glorify the hunter." He said the name The Pulse was chosen deliberately because a pulse represents life, energy and connection, reflecting the living voice of Nkangala found in schools, farms, taxi ranks, churches and households across its six local municipalities. At the heart of the initiative, Ngwenya said, is the need for honest and understandable communication about service delivery. "The platform must translate complicated municipal terminology into language that residents can

understand" and "must progressively speak in the languages of our people," he said, citing author Ngugi wa Thiong'o: "Language carries culture." Ngwenya said the podcast must explain issues around water, sanitation, roads, budgets, progress

and delays truthfully, while connecting residents with the right institutions and creating a visible cycle of accountability where questions are acknowledged and followed up.

"The podcast must not become a place where questions disappear after the microphones have been switched off," Ngwenya said.



Nkangala District Executive Mayor Thomas Ngwenya and newly appointed MMC for Corporate Services Mpho Banda during the launch of The Pulse of NDM podcast studio at the Mayor's Parlour on Thursday, 27 August 2026.

Water shortage leaves Mandela Section residents relying on unsafe alternatives

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS – A water shortage in Mandela Section, Botleng, is forcing residents to seek alternative water sources, while children are being exposed to a dangerous water-filled area where residents say a child drowned about three years ago.

Highveld Chronicle observed children playing in and around stagnant water pockets close to residential shacks. Residents said some children also swim in the water, raising concerns about drowning and possible exposure to contaminants.

The water-filled area forms part of a wetland that residents say has been affected by illegal dumping, sewer overflows and rainwater runoff. Residents recall a child drowning at the site about three years ago, adding urgency to their calls for the area to be secured.

Mandela Section resident Zinhle Senamile Nxumalo said mothers were deeply concerned about the danger facing children.

"Our children swim over there, play there, and push each other there. If I'm not mistaken, three years ago a child passed away over there. And the situation there is serious," she said.

Nxumalo said residents want the dangerous area fenced off or drained.

"We were asking, as mothers of the children, if you could perhaps fence it off or install pipes to drain the water downward," she said.

But the danger around the wetland is only part of the problem, as residents also face unreliable access to water. The water challenge is now becoming a crisis, with residents in the upper section of the wetland reportedly digging out a small groundwater source, believed to be an underground leak or natural spring, to collect water for household use, including drinking. The source has not been tested or verified as safe for human consumption.

Mandela Section resident Nhlanhla Siteo said the community needs urgent assistance to secure reliable access to safe water and address the conditions forcing residents to seek alternatives.

Residents said municipal water tankers do not consistently reach the area and are calling for regular emergency water deliveries.

Siyabonga Ndebele, chairperson of Ukwanda Kwemvelo NPC, an organisation focused on environmental awareness and protection, said the situation should not be treated solely as a water-

service problem.

"When a community is forced to depend on an untested water source while children play in stagnant water, we are no longer dealing with a single environmental problem. We are looking at a failure of protection, basic services and environmental management that can put lives at risk," Ndebele told Highveld Chronicle.

Ndebele said authorities should address the environmental condition of the site while providing residents with safe water.

"The area needs to be assessed, the source of the pollution identified, the dangerous water pockets secured and the wetland rehabilitated. Environmental protection must happen alongside the provision of safe water," he said.

Residents are calling for the municipality to consider fencing off the most dangerous sections and installing pipes or targeted drainage channels to redirect trapped water towards a lower-lying stream.

They also want the wetland assessed and rehabilitated through cooperation between Victor Khanye Local Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, environmental organisations and nearby mining companies.

The proposed intervention would seek to identify possible pollution sources, protect the wetland and reduce risks to nearby households.

The publication approached Victor Khanye Local Municipality for comment on the reported water shortages, the alleged failure of municipal water tankers to consistently reach the area, safety concerns surrounding the water-filled site and the proposed drainage and rehabilitation measures.

The municipality had not responded by the time of publication.





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A REPOSITIONED MUNICIPALITY OR A BETTER AND SUSTAINABLE SERVICE DELIVERY FOR ALL

WOMEN IN TOURISM

Elizabeth Skosana: Starting with what she had and building a vision

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

EMALAHLENI – “Start with what you have and do not wait until everything is perfect.”

For Elizabeth Skosana, these are more than words of encouragement. They reflect the philosophy that has guided her entrepreneurial journey, which has seen an idea develop into a hospitality business with ambitions extending beyond its own doors. Skosana is the founder of Bedford Guesthouse, situated at No. 14 Bedford Street, Deljudor 1, next to Klipfontein. Through the establishment, she hopes to offer visitors a place where they can feel comfortable, safe and at home, while contributing to the local economy.

“I have always believed that entrepreneurship is about more than simply running a business,” says Skosana. “It is about identifying a need, finding a solution and creating something that can grow and make a difference.”

That belief drew her towards entrepreneurship and shaped her decision to enter the hospitality industry, where she saw an opportunity to serve visitors while building something sustainable for her family.

“My biggest achievement has been seeing Bedford Guesthouse grow from an idea into a real business that welcomes guests and creates value,” she says. “Building something from the ground up requires patience and perseverance, so being able to look at what we have created today and know that it came from a vision and a lot of hard work is something I am very proud of.” But the journey has tested her determination. As a woman in business, Skosana says she has had to work harder to have her ideas taken seriously and prove herself in spaces where women may not always receive equal opportunities. Balancing business responsibilities with family and personal commitments has presented another challenge.

“I have overcome many of these challenges by remaining persistent and refusing to allow difficult circumstances to define what I am capable of achieving,” she says.

Her experiences have also changed the way she understands failure.

“Setbacks are not necessarily failures; sometimes they are lessons that prepare you for the next stage of your journey,” she says. For Skosana, being a woman in business is also about creating opportunities for others.

“Being a woman entrepreneur means having the courage to create your own path while opening doors for others,” she says.

Her advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is to start with what is available, continue learning and remain committed.

“Learn as much as you can about the industry you want to enter, understand your customers and be prepared to work hard,” she advises. “There will be setbacks, but do not allow them to convince you that you are incapable.”

Skosana believes women should look at tourism and hospitality not only as industries in which they can seek employment, but as sectors where they can establish and lead businesses. She says opportunities stretch across accommodation, food services, events, travel, marketing and tourism experiences.

“Women have the ability to create businesses that not only generate income but also create employment and opportunities for other women,” she says.

Her vision for Bedford Guesthouse is connected to that broader economic picture. She sees every guest as part of a wider tourism ecosystem, potentially

supporting local restaurants, transport providers, shops and attractions during their stay.

“We see ourselves as part of a much larger tourism industry that has the potential to create meaningful economic opportunities in the province,” says Skosana.

She also believes businesses should remain connected to the communities in which they operate by supporting local economic activity and working with local businesses and service providers.

As Women's Month provides an opportunity to reflect on the achievements and resilience of women, Skosana says women should encourage one another and create opportunities for future generations.

“It is an opportunity to celebrate women, but also to encourage one another, create opportunities for each other and ensure that the next generation of women has an even stronger foundation to build from,” she says.

When entrepreneurship becomes

challenging, Skosana reminds herself why she started.

“Do not underestimate yourself or wait for someone else to give you permission to pursue your dreams,” she says. “One woman's success does not take away from another woman's opportunity to succeed,” she adds.

For Skosana, the journey is still unfolding, but the principle that carried her from the beginning remains: start where you are, use what you have and keep building.

“Your circumstances may influence where you begin, but they do not have to determine where you end.”



Elizabeth Skosana, Bedford Guesthouse founder





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WHAT WE OFFER

Grocery provision included.

On notification R1,000; cow R5,000; bus R1,000; tent/chairs R500; airtime R200; hearse + family car; programmes, décor, teak quarter view and cash-back for deceased.

PLAN C – EXECUTIVE

No service: R8 000

FAMILY	18–64	18–74
1+5	R340	R370
1+9	R440	R470
1+13	R480	R540
1+17	R570	R640

WHAT WE OFFER

Grocery provision included.

On notification R1,000; goat R1,800; cow R5,000; bus R1,000; tent/chairs R500; airtime R200; hearse + family car; programmes, décor and teak quarter view.

PLAN C

No service: R7 500

FAMILY	18–64	18–74
1+5	R300	R330
1+9	R400	R430
1+13	R440	R500
1+17	R530	R600
SINGLE	18–64	65–74
Single	R80	R90

WHAT WE OFFER

Grocery provision included.

On notification R1,000; cow R5,000; bus R1,000; tent/chairs R500; airtime R200; hearse + family car; programmes, décor and teak quarter view.

PLAN D

No service: R5 000

FAMILY	18–64	18–74
1+5	R210	R260
1+9	R280	R310
1+13	R310	R380
1+17	R460	R500

WHAT WE OFFER

Grocery provision included.

Goat R1,800; Cow R5,000; bus R1,000; tent/chairs R500; airtime R200; hearse + 2 family cars; programmes, décor, Standard Dome and tea R1,000.

PLAN E

No service: R2 500

FAMILY	18–64	18–74
1+5	R180	R200
1+9	R220	R270
1+13	R270	R300

WHAT WE OFFER

Grocery provision included.

Removal within 100 km; airtime R200; hearse + family car; programmes and décor; standard coffin; On death notification R500 and tent/chairs R500.

PLAN G

No service: R5 000

FAMILY	18–74 ONLY
1+5	R250
1+9	R300
1+13	R350

WHAT WE OFFER

On notification R1,000; removal within 100 km; casket; delivery; hearse and family car.

TOMBSTONES

Standard & Premium

FAMILY	STANDARD	PREMIUM
1+5	R180	R200
1+9	R230	R250
1+13	R280	R300
1+17	R330	R350

WHAT WE OFFER

Standard tombstone

Premium tombstone

GENERAL CONTACT013 065 0126

EMERGENCY CONTACTS • ALL HOURS071 161 1497 • 079 490 5383

OUR OFFICES • GAUTENG & NORTH WEST

Bronkhorstspuit — Cnr Kruger & Botha Street, Shop No. 1

Kempton Park — Standard Bank Building, Office 134, West Street

Daveyton — 1462 Hlomela Street, Shabalala Building

Soshanguve — NAFCOC Complex, Office U31

Mamelodi East — Hector Peterson Main Road, Ext 8, Phase 5

Hammanskraal — Katlego Crossing, Shop No. 12, Harry Gwala Street

Rustenburg — La Chesa Mall, Shop No. 4

OTHER AREAS

MPUMALANGA

Bushbuckridge • Acomhoek • Tonga • Secunda • Hendrina • Kriel • Bethal • Witbank • Evander • Mkhulu • Hazyview • Nelspruit • Siyabuswa • KwaMhlanga • Kwaggafontein

LIMPOPO

Giyani • Malamulele • Polokwane • Elim • Palaborwa • Tzaneen • Sekororo • Janefurse • Mokopane • Bochum • Botlokwa • Burgersfort

Payments can be made at the following outlets

CheckersHyper

SHOPRITE

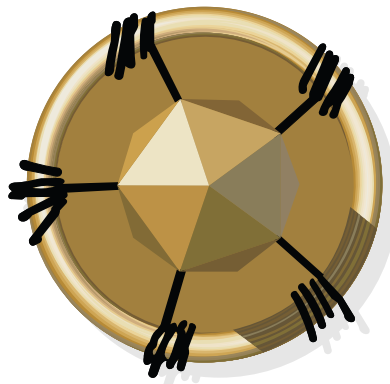
WOOLWORTHS

BOXEROKFOODS

Pick n Pay

Usave

IN ALL PLANS WAITING PERIOD IS 6MONTHS-FOR CATERING ADD R50.00-FOR AGES BETWEEN 75 AND 84 ADD R200.00- FOR AGES OF 85 YEARS AND UP YOU ADD R300.00



merSETA

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA



Driving Skills Development Forward: Our Renewed Vision, Mission and Values

VISION

Leading catalyst for innovative skills development.

MISSION

To drive transformative skills development and training in the mersector, empowering individuals and communities, addressing skills shortages, fostering employment and alleviating poverty. Through stakeholder collaboration and strategic funding, we aim to unlock potential, support sustainable industry growth, and contribute to the nation’s economic viability and social well-being.

VALUES



Integrity

Adhering to moral and ethical principles, demonstrated through honesty, fairness and consistency in actions and decisions, fostering trust and credibility in all interactions.



Accountability

Service excellence through taking responsibility for actions, decisions and outcomes while consistently delivering exceptional quality and value to stakeholders.



Innovation

Embracing creativity and technology as catalysts for creative problem-solving, leading to groundbreaking solutions that meet evolving industry and societal needs.



Collaboration

Working together across diverse backgrounds and perspectives, creating a culture where everyone feels valued, heard and empowered to contribute toward shared goals.



Respect

Recognising the inherent worth and dignity of individuals and communities, fostering an environment of honesty and reliability that strengthens relationships and cohesion.



Communication

Advocating transparency through listening, honesty and the timely exchanging of information in a way that ensures clarity, builds trust and enables informed decision-making.

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higher education
& training
Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

New R67m Rockdale school cuts Thando's transport costs, opens door to home WiFi

● LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – Twelve-year-old Thando Mahlangu no longer has to walk long distances or depend on expensive scholar transport to get to school after the Mpumalanga government officially handed over the new R67 million Extension 24 Primary School in Rockdale on Thursday.

For Thando, who lives in Rockdale Extension 2, the new school, built just a few hundred metres from her home, is more than just classrooms. The money her family will save on transport could now help them install WiFi at home to support her studies.

She previously attended a school at the entrance of Extension 24, far from home, forcing her parents to pay for transport every month.

“There I was suffering going to school because it is far and my parents were forced to pay for transport. They are not

going to pay now, that is why I want them to get WiFi,” she told Highveld Chronicle.

“I really need it at home to connect to the internet because Google has answers to most of the school-related questions we ask,” said Thando.

Thando is one of 1 135 learners who will benefit from the state-of-the-art school, which was handed over by MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Thulasizwe Thomo, together with Education MEC Lindi Masina, on 27 August 2026.

The school comprises 24 classrooms, two Grade R blocks, an administration block, library, computer centre, kitchen, six ablution blocks, guard house, fencing and gates, a soccer field and two combi-courts, as well as solar power and covered walkways.

Construction started in September 2024 and was completed in May this year in response to rapid population growth in Rockdale, one of Middelburg's fastest-growing extensions. During construction, 90 job opportunities were created for youth, women and persons with disabilities, while more than R11 million was spent on 31 local SMMEs and suppliers.

“This is the third school that we are opening. We are not just building schools, these are institutions of learning different from what you know as a normal school. We are building proper, state-of-the-art structures, something that you can find in well-urbanised areas,” said Thomo.

Masina said the school gives practical meaning to the Freedom Charter principle that the doors of learning and culture shall be opened

to all. “This school represents hope, dignity and the determination of the government to ensure that every child, regardless of where they come from, has access to a safe, conducive and quality learning and teaching environment,” she said.

She appealed to the community to protect the school as their own.

SGB chairperson Busisiwe Zitha said the school brings hope after years of overcrowding.

“The new school gives us hope that we can invest in the quality education of

our learners in an environment that is conducive. We come from a situation where there was overcrowding and teachers could not pay attention to every learner. This school has many classrooms and facilities such as a computer lab and library, which will greatly assist our learners to get additional information for their projects and homework,” said Zitha.

For Thando, having a school closer to home means more than saving on transport. It could also give her the internet access she says she needs to improve her learning at home.



Nkangala District Acting Executive Mayor Cllr Lindiwe Mahlangu (far left), Mpumalanga Education MEC Lindi Masina (second from left), MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Thulasizwe Thomo (centre), SGB chairperson Busisiwe Zitha (second from right) and Steve Tshwete Executive Mayor Cllr Mhlonishwa Masilela during the official handover



EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY PUBLIC NOTICE

EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY EMBARKING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER AND SANITATION BY-LAW – ONSITE EFFLUENT MANAGEMENT MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE AUDITS

Emalahleni Local Municipality is a Water Services Authority (WSA) and a Water Services Provider (WSP) in terms of the Water Services Act (Act No.108 of 1997). Section 21 of the Water Services Act, Act 108 of 1997, provides a legal basis for the Municipality to develop and implement water services bylaws to ensure protection of public health, environmental pollution prevention, protection and safeguarding of Municipal Water Services Infrastructure, as well as providing efficient and sustainable services. To give effect to the above, the Municipality wishes to notify all water users about the commencement of the on-site effluent management monitoring and compliance audits for all water users, i.e., businesses and industries within the Jurisdiction of Emalahleni Local Municipality, to give effect to the implementation of the Municipality Water and Sanitation By-Law.

The programme will focus amongst others on the following:

Effluent generation onsite, Effluent Quality, Effluent Quantity, Effluent Containment, Effluent Treatment, Effluent Treatment Facility Availability and Status, Disposal and Management in relation to compliance with the Municipality Water and Sanitation By-Law.

The Municipality will conduct inspections of all industries and businesses that discharge wastewater into the municipal sewer system. During these inspections, officials will verify compliance with municipal by-laws and applicable environmental legislation.

The compliance audits will include:

1. Verification of Industrial Effluent Permits issued by the Municipality.
2. Inspection of wastewater pre-treatment facilities.
3. Sampling and laboratory analysis of industrial effluent.
4. Inspection of grease traps, oil separators and other pollution control infrastructure.
5. Verification of wastewater quality and discharge volumes.
6. Review of operational records and compliance documentation.
7. Enforcement of municipal water and sanitation by-laws where non-compliance is identified.

All industrial discharges will be authorized in accordance with the Municipal Water and Sanitation By-Laws: Chapter 5, Part 4 (Sections 80–86), effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions as set forth by the Water Services Act (No 108 of 1997), National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998), and National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998). Noncompliance with any term or condition of the prescribed water legislation shall constitute a violation of the ordinance and this notice, and shall subject the applicant to applicable enforcement actions.

Every business or industry discharging industrial, trade, process or medical wastewater into the municipal sewer system is therefore required to obtain a valid Industrial Effluent Permit from Emalahleni Local Municipality before any discharge may take place. Businesses currently discharging without a valid Industrial Effluent Permit are hereby granted 30 (thirty) calendar days from the date of this notice to apply for the required permit and commence with the compliance processes of the Municipality. After the expiry of this period, the Municipality will commence full enforcement of the applicable by-laws against businesses that have failed to comply.

The Municipality therefore calls upon all industries and businesses to cooperate fully during this programme, obtain the necessary Industrial Effluent Permit, comply with municipal by-laws and environmental legislation, and work together with the Municipality to protect Emalahleni's wastewater infrastructure, rivers and water resources for present and future generations.

Application forms can be obtained and downloaded on the municipal website, and all applications and inquiries should be directed to Industrial Effluent Inspectors for Scientific Services: Ms. KD Mabitsela, MabitselaKD@emalahleni.gov.za and Ms. M.M Silenge SilengeMM@emalahleni.gov.za

HS MAYISELA
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



PUBLIC NOTICE: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON THE DRAFT DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Emalahleni Local Municipality, acting in terms of **Section 53(1)(c) and (h) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), as amended**, read with **Chapter 4 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000)**, hereby gives notice of a public engagement process on the **Draft Disaster Management Plan**.

Members of the public, interested parties, and relevant stakeholders are hereby invited to participate in the public engagement process by providing their **comments, opinions, and views** on the Draft Disaster Management Plan.

The Draft Disaster Management Plan is available on the Emalahleni Local Municipality website:

www.emalahleni.gov.za

Hard copies of the Draft Disaster Management Plan will also be made available at **public libraries** within the municipal area for public review. Members of the public and interested stakeholders are encouraged to submit their comments through the municipal website or via **WhatsApp: 079 309 6222**.

All comments and submissions received will be considered as part of the public engagement process.

**Emalahleni Local
Municipality
Disaster Management
Section**



Boven Masters and Hidden Masters crowned NkAMA eMakhazeni champions

NODICAH FUNDAMA AND SHARON CHILOANE

BELFAST – Boven Masters and Hidden Masters were crowned the respective soccer and netball champions as the Nkangala Arts & Music Awards (NkAMA) Tournament brought sport, music and culture together at Siyathuthuka Sports Centre in Belfast on 23 August 2026.

The eMakhazeni activation delivered a full day of sporting action and entertainment, with teams competing for NkAMA honours while local artists used the platform to showcase their talent ahead of the 2026 NkAMA Awards. In the soccer competition, Boven Masters secured their place in the final after defeating Dullstroom Masters 3–1 in the opening Top 4 encounter. Machadodorp Masters booked the second spot in the final after edging Heineticer 1–0 in the other semi-final. Boven Masters maintained their momentum in the final, defeating Machadodorp Masters 3–1 to lift the trophy and be crowned the 2026 NkAMA eMakhazeni soccer champions. The action continued on the netball court, where Hidden Masters delivered a commanding performance to defeat Cherry Bombs 49–30 and claim the 2026 NkAMA eMakhazeni netball championship. Hidden Masters controlled the contest and maintained their advantage throughout the match, with the victory

sparking celebrations among players and supporters. While the sporting contests provided the competitive edge, performances by NkAMA nominees kept the atmosphere at Siyathuthuka Sports Centre vibrant throughout the day. The tournament featured performances by Ubuhlebegatsha and Amalanda Amhlophe, nominees in the Traditional Dance category, who brought traditional music and dance to the event. The crowd was also entertained by MK AKA MIKE, a nominee in the Ndebele Music and Hip Hop categories. The performances formed an important part of the NkAMA activation programme, giving nominees an opportunity to take their talent directly to communities, engage with

audiences and encourage public support ahead of the awards. NkAMA aims to identify and recognise emerging talent by providing artists with platforms to showcase their abilities, gain exposure and receive recognition for their contribution to the creative and cultural landscape of Nkangala. The Belfast tournament marked the final local municipality activation, bringing the NkAMA activation journey across the district to an end after combining sport, music and culture while providing communities with an opportunity to celebrate sporting and artistic talent. With the eMakhazeni champions crowned, the spotlight now shifts to Middelburg, where the programme will culminate with the NkAMA Awards on 12 September 2026 at the Middelburg Banquet Hall.



Hidden Masters



Amalanda Amhlophe



Boven Masters

Jaguars crowned Phola Mall Top 8 netball champions

EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

KWAMHLANGA – Jaguars from Mountain View, KwaMhlanga, were crowned champions of the Phola Mall Top 8 Netball Tournament after defeating Trojan 26–20 in the final at Phola Mall on Saturday, 21 August. The annual tournament brought together eight teams from Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, with supporters gathering at the mall to watch the day's matches. In the semi-finals, Jaguars defeated Team Mosha 35–17, while Trojan from Buhlebesizwe 2 beat Fire Birds 34–14 to book their place in the final. Fire Birds later secured third place with a 17–14 victory over Team Mosha. Jaguars led Trojan 13–7 at half-time in the final. Trojan fought back in the second half, but Jaguars held on to win 26–20 and lift the trophy. Speaking to *Highveld Chronicle* after the victory, Jaguars head coach Sibongile Mohohole praised her players for their determination. "It was not an easy game from the beginning. The girls were striving for a goal and they played with their hearts. They wanted to win from the start and fortunately they claimed victory. I am very happy for them because they have proven that they want this," said Mohohole. She said tournaments like these play an important role in keeping young girls away from social ills. "Such games help our children to develop through sport and shy away

from drugs and teenage pregnancy. Most of our girls are aged 10 to 18 and are most vulnerable. With initiatives hosted by Phola Mall, our girls stay active with a positive mindset," she said. Mohohole called for sponsors to help create more opportunities for young players, saying they hope to see some of the girls playing for national teams and pursuing sport as a career. Phola Mall assistant manager Linaka Ditsego said the tournament forms part of the mall's community outreach programme. "We believe sport empowers young girls and keeps them focused. We engage with different teams around Thembisile Hani and surrounding areas to host games as our way of giving back and improving lives. Our main objective is to promote youth development through sport," said Ditsego. Shopper Lindiwe Mkhabela welcomed the initiative, saying it keeps children busy and away from drugs and other negative influences while developing them through sport and recreation. Thembisile Hani Local Municipality Chairperson for Sports Council, Sarah Mnisi, also commended Phola Mall, the participating teams, coaches and parents for supporting the initiative. "As a local municipality, we try by

all means to protect our youth. Partnering with Phola Mall in such an initiative shows that we encourage sport in our area. This is how they practice Corporate Social Investment (CSI), giving back to the community and investing back as a big business," she said. Mnisi called for more sponsors to help young players compete beyond the municipality, saying some had recently travelled to Cape Town to represent the area. "We encourage everyone to take their children to participate in sport or any activity that will help them shy away from drugs and teenage pregnancy. Through sport we are able to gather children and instill positivity in their minds," she added.

