



**ANC Nkangala
remembers
Ward 29
councillor
Lukhele**

Page 2



**Mahlalela
urges tourism
businesses
to embrace
digital
technology**

Page 4

**From taxi rank to big screen:
Middelburg drama series
Taxi Affair set for live launch**

Full Story on Page 4

**10 YEARS ON,
STILL THE
VOICE
FOR THE
VOICELESS**

RAMAPHOSA ANNOUNCES FOUR URGENT MEASURES TO COMBAT GBV AND FEMICIDE

**Victor Khanye urged to close gaps
in GBVF response**

Read More on Page 3

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Health department takes heart health message to Thembisile Hani

● EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

THEMBALETHU – Thousands of community members in the Nkangala District were urged to prioritise regular health screenings and “not miss a beat” as the Mpumalanga Department of Health commemorated World Heart Day in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality on Tuesday, 29 September 2026. The event, held in partnership with the National Department of Health and various health stakeholders, formed part of a global campaign to raise awareness



Mpumalanga Health MEC Sasekani Manzini engages with residents on heart health, the importance of regular screenings and ways to prevent cardiovascular diseases during the World Heart Day commemoration in Thembaletu, Thembisile Hani.

about cardiovascular disease, one of the leading causes of death worldwide.

This year's commemoration was held under the global theme, “Don't Miss a Beat”, encouraging people to prioritise their heart health, as heart disease can often go unnoticed due to a lack of obvious symptoms.

Speaking at the event, Mpumalanga Health MEC Sasekani Manzini said the campaign aimed to encourage communities to take responsibility for their heart health through prevention and early detection.

“We call on all members of the community to see the signs and protect their hearts, particularly because many cardiovascular diseases and their risk factors can be prevented or managed,” Manzini said.

She warned that many residents were living with undiagnosed high blood pressure, high blood sugar and high cholesterol, which are major risk factors for heart attacks and strokes.

“As the Health Department, we are taking this message directly to our communities: Let us normalise health checks. Do not wait until you are seriously ill before you visit a health facility. Know your blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol and other key health

indicators, and seek professional advice when something is not right,” she said.

Community members attending the event received free health screenings and education on healthier lifestyles, including regular exercise, healthy eating, avoiding tobacco and excessive alcohol consumption, and adhering to prescribed treatment.

Manzini emphasised that early detection was essential in preventing avoidable deaths, urging residents to make regular health checks part of their lives.

“A simple health check today can help identify a risk early, create an opportunity for timely intervention and ultimately save a life. Let us make prevention a way of life, let us protect our hearts and keep the beat,” she said.

Residents welcomed the initiative, saying it had helped them better

understand the importance of monitoring their health.

Jabulani Hlatswayo (44), from Thembaletu, said the event had changed his understanding of regular health screenings and encouraged him to take his health more seriously.

“I've been fearing going to check my health status because I always thought that health status is only for HIV and other transmitted diseases, not knowing that it also concerns me to know about my health. Therefore, now I will start taking my health seriously and make a point of quitting smoking because it is not good for my lungs, kidneys and heart,” he said.

The World Heart Day commemoration in Thembisile Hani formed part of the department's ongoing efforts to bring primary healthcare services closer to rural communities in the Nkangala District and across Mpumalanga.



Thembisile Hani residents listen attentively and take notes as MEC Sasekani Manzini addresses them on the importance of regular health checks and maintaining a healthy lifestyle during the World Heart Day commemoration.

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



Even as the Enemy Blasts, God Builds

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination. (Nehemiah 6:9)

Sanballat's weapon of choice was rumor, which has at least two distinctive characteristics. First, a source is never declared. Note the vague reference, “It is reported among the nations” (Nehemiah 6:6 NASB). This lends an air of credence to both the story and the storyteller. It suggests that the story is widely reported and, therefore, credible. Second, rumors usually involve exaggeration and inaccuracy. A rumor builds upon a kernel of truth, which gives gullible people—or people with a motive—just enough reason to swallow the lie whole. Then it's passed from person to person as the exaggeration compounds itself, almost like magic. Nehemiah found himself on the horns of a dilemma. If he refused to go to Ono, it

would be tantamount to saying, “I'm afraid to let the truth be known.” But if he went to Ono, he would leave the work on the wall and play into the hands of the enemy.

People who spread rumors invariably lack wisdom. Discernment causes a person to ask such searching questions as, “Is it necessary to say this? Is this confidential information? Is it even true? Do I have any right to pass this on?” Wisdom prompts the reply, “Don't open your mouth because God hates those who sow discord among His people” (see Proverbs 6:16–19).

Nehemiah was confronted with an open letter containing accusations built upon a lie. And he responded beautifully. First, Nehemiah calmly denied the charge: “Nothing like these things that you are saying has been done” (Nehemiah 6:8 NASB). Second, he put the blame where it belonged: “You are inventing them in your own mind” (6:8 NASB). Third, he took his case before the Lord: “But now, O God, strengthen my hands” (6:9 NASB).

“So the wall was completed” (6:15 NASB). Such sweet, satisfying words. And what a magnificent accomplishment! Even as the attacks continued, the final bricks were laid in place. With the completion of the wall, the tables turned: “When all our enemies heard about it, and all the nations surrounding us saw it, they lost their confidence” (6:16 NASB).

That has to be the most thrilling experience in the world—to see God come to the rescue when you have been helpless. In the middle of the incessant assault of the enemy, in spite of the endless verbal barrage, the wall was built! Even as the enemy blasts, God builds.



ANC Nkangala remembers Ward 29 councillor Lukhele

● LUCAS SHONGWE

EMALAHLENI – The African National Congress (ANC) in the Nkangala Region has described the death of eMalahleni Ward 29 councillor Bafana Timothy Lukhele as a great loss to the organisation and the community he served.

ANC Nkangala Regional Spokesperson Clarence Maseko said the party would have to continue its work following Lukhele's passing.

“It is a great loss to the entire ANC family. We will have to pick up the pieces and move on to service our people,” Maseko said.

He urged ANC members to honour Lukhele's legacy by working hard ahead of the upcoming local government elections.

“Speaking of service, we want to urge ANC members to work hard ahead of the local government elections to ensure that the ANC wins the elections convincingly because this is what Cde Lukhele would have loved to see if he was still alive,” Maseko said.

He described Lukhele as a dedicated and hardworking public servant who was committed to serving his community.

“He was of service to his people, loved by his community and was very hard working,” he said. The ANC confirmed that Lukhele, who also served as an ANC branch chairperson, passed away this week while serving as a ward councillor. Maseko said the region was deeply saddened by his death and extended condolences to Lukhele's family, comrades, friends and the community he served.

Born on 3 January 1980 in Elandsdoorn, Dennilton, Limpopo,

Lukhele began his schooling at Mathole Primary School in Tafelkop before attending Mang Le Mang Secondary School in Ramogwerane village.

Before entering local government, he worked at Duvha and Kusile power stations.

According to Maseko, Lukhele began serving on the eMalahleni Council in 2011 after being elected as a ward councillor. He was re-elected in 2016 and served until midway through the 2018/2019 financial year, when he resigned.

He returned to the council after being elected again in 2021, serving in the sixth administration until his death.

Lukhele also held the position of ANC branch chairperson during his political career.

Burial arrangements had not been confirmed at the time of publication.



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Ramaphosa announces four urgent measures to combat GBV and femicide

Victor Khanye urged to close gaps in GBVF response

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS – Victor Khanye Local Municipality has been urged to strengthen its response to gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), with civil society raising concerns about delayed responses to cases, a lack of local survivor services and limited after-hours support.

The concerns were raised during a GBVF Rapid Response Team meeting held at the Simon Gondwe Sport Centre on 30 September 2026.

The meeting brought together stakeholders involved in responding to violence against women and children. It followed President Cyril Ramaphosa's address to the nation the previous day on the killings of women in Ekurhuleni and the broader GBVF crisis.

In his address, Ramaphosa announced four urgent measures to strengthen the national response to GBVF. These include reviewing unresolved cases involving women and children, reducing forensic backlogs, conducting women's safety audits in every municipality and introducing measures to address alcohol-related violence.

He directed that the national case review and municipal safety audits identify outstanding cases and local safety risks within 60 days. A funded plan to reduce forensic backlogs and a coordinated package to address alcohol-related

violence must also be developed within the same period.

The President said progress on these measures would be reported publicly every quarter, emphasising that government could not wait until violence had occurred before taking action.

“We cannot police our way out of gender-based violence alone,” he said.

Victor Khanye Civil Society Forum Chairperson Nhlanhla Florah Siteo said the municipality continued to face challenges in addressing GBVF.

The forum identified domestic and intimate-partner violence, alcohol and drug abuse, child abuse, teenage pregnancy, statutory rape and elderly abuse among the problems affecting local communities.

Siteo said that although the Rapid Response Team attended to some cases, limited resources and poor coordination continued to hamper its effectiveness.

“The Rapid Response Team exists on paper but is not fully effective. It does respond when called, especially through Social Development and the Transversal Office, but response is delayed due to lack of transport, after-hours

staff and coordination,” she said.

One of the forum's main concerns is the absence of a Thuthuzela Care Centre in Delmas, forcing survivors to travel outside the municipality to access critical services.

“We do not have a Thuthuzela Care Centre at Delmas Police Station. Victims must be referred to Witbank, and many give up on the way,” Siteo said.

She said establishing a centre at Delmas Police Station remained the forum's main demand, as survivors should not have to travel to another municipality to receive assistance.

The forum is also calling for a safe shelter or safe house in Victor Khanye to accommodate survivors who cannot safely return to their homes.

Siteo stressed the need to make the Rapid Response Team more accessible to residents by clearly defining its responsibilities and making contact details available across all wards.

“We need to strengthen the team, formalise it with clear roles and have a contact list in all wards. Civil Society, the Men's Sector and Traditional Leaders must be fully included,” she said.

The forum wants a 24-hour response system involving civil society, the

South African Police Service (SAPS), Health, Social Development, Education and traditional leaders.

It is also calling for victim-friendly training for frontline police officers and a dedicated municipal budget to support GBVF programmes throughout the year.

The forum raised further concerns about victims withdrawing cases because of family pressure or financial dependence. It also highlighted allegations of cases failing to reach court because of lost dockets, delays and victims not being informed about court dates.

Ramaphosa similarly warned that government services needed to function effectively when survivors sought assistance.

“Institutions and programmes mean little if they do not work when a woman needs them.”

He also called for greater involvement from men and boys in challenging behaviour that contributes to violence against women.

In Victor Khanye, civil society believes this requires moving beyond awareness campaigns and ensuring that survivors can access immediate assistance when they need it.

The forum is calling for a functional GBVF Forum, a 24-hour local Rapid Response Team, a Thuthuzela Care Centre in Delmas, a safe shelter and sustained funding for prevention programmes.

Ramaphosa concluded his address with a call for commitments to be translated into action.

“Not simply to mourn. Not simply to condemn. But to act.”



Premier Ndlovu hands over new home to Senotlolo family

EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

SENOTLOLO – Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu has handed over a newly built house to Selina Mahlodi and her family in Senotlolo Village, Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, through a partnership with Absa Bank aimed at restoring dignity to vulnerable families.

The handover took place on 25 September 2026, bringing relief to Mahlodi, a member of the Mandla family, who was identified as one of the most vulnerable families in Senotlolo Village to benefit from housing assistance outside the government's Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) housing system.

Before the intervention, Mahlodi had been living in unsafe and undignified conditions with her children and grandchildren.

The house is the second to be handed over through a partnership between the Mpumalanga Provincial Government and Absa, established following the Premier's first 100 days in office.

Speaking during the ceremony, Ndlovu said the initiative was about more than providing shelter, as it sought to restore dignity and improve the lives of vulnerable families.

“Today, we gather here not merely to hand over a house, but to restore hope, dignity and a sense of security to a family,” he said.

Ndlovu explained that the partnership followed discussions with Absa, during which he shared his vision for the province and appealed to the bank to assist families who fell outside the government's RDP housing system.

“What you see here today is the fruits of that meeting. I told them my vision for the province and I appealed to ABSA to assist me in building houses for families outside of the government RDP system,” he said.

According to Ndlovu, Absa committed to funding the construction of five houses over two financial years, with an investment of R1.2 million per annum.

The Premier had handed over another house to the Mashigo family in Bushbuckridge two weeks earlier under the same initiative.

“Kancani, kancani, we are touching our people's lives,” Ndlovu said.

Absa leadership, led by Thabo Ledwaba, welcomed the partnership, highlighting the

impact that collaboration between government and the private sector could have on improving people's lives.

“At ABSA we are proud to partner with the Mpumalanga Provincial Government to restore dignity to families,” Ledwaba said.

He reaffirmed the bank's commitment to funding five houses over two financial years following the Premier's appeal during his first 100 days in office.

An emotional Mahlodi expressed

her gratitude as she received the keys to her new home, describing the handover as a life-changing moment for her family.

“I have no words to thank Premier Ndlovu and ABSA. For many years I was struggling without a proper and safe home for my children and grandchildren. Today my dignity has been restored. This house is a blessing, it will keep us safe and give my children hope for a better future.

Ngiyabonga kakhulu,” she said.

The newly built, fully furnished house is also equipped with solar power, providing the family with a safer and more comfortable living environment.

The handover was attended by the Executive Mayor of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, councillors, traditional leaders, faith-based leaders and community members from Senotlolo.



Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu officially cuts the ribbon to hand over a new home to Selina Mahlodi (wearing a yellow doek) in Senotlolo Village. The house is the second to be delivered through the partnership between the Mpumalanga Provincial Government and Absa, following the handover in Bushbuckridge.

LEFT: The newly built, fully furnished house handed over to Selina Mahlodi and her family in Senotlolo Village, Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality. The solar-powered home was delivered through a partnership between the Mpumalanga Provincial Government and Absa, which has committed R1.2 million per annum to the initiative.

Mahlalela urges tourism businesses to embrace digital technology

Mpumalanga Tourism Expo hailed a resounding success as it brings Tourism Month to a close

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DULLSTROOM – Tourism businesses in Mpumalanga have been encouraged to embrace digital technology to attract more visitors, expand their markets and create economic opportunities, particularly in townships and rural communities.

Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) chairperson Fish Mahlalela delivered the keynote address on behalf of MEC for Economic Development and Tourism Jesta Sidell during the Provincial Tourism Awareness Day held at Sakhelwe Community Hall in Emakhaseni on Saturday, 26 September 2026.

Held under the theme “Growing South Africa's Tourism Sector in the Digital Era”, the event focused on domestic tourism, heritage and the growing importance of technology in promoting local destinations.

Dullstroom, renowned for its fly-fishing, mountain scenery and rich history, was highlighted as an example of how tourism can stimulate economic activity beyond major cities.

“Tourism is not merely an industry; it is a bridge connecting communities, preserving cultures, and generating sustainable livelihoods,” Mahlalela said in the MEC's prepared address.

He said digital platforms had transformed how travellers discover, plan and experience destinations, creating opportunities for small tourism businesses to reach broader markets.

“Today, many journeys begin on a screen. Someone sees a destination on TikTok. Someone watches a travel content creator. Someone searches for a restaurant online.”

He encouraged tourism operators, including small businesses and homestays, to use social media, digital platforms and online booking systems to promote their services.

“Local businesses, micro-enterprises, and homestays must leverage digital platforms, social media, and online booking engines to reach broader markets.”

Mahlalela also called on young people, particularly women, to use technology and social media to promote Mpumalanga's attractions, including the Blyde River Canyon, Pilgrim's Rest, wildlife experiences, cultural villages and locally produced crafts.

“We need new voices, new ideas, if we are to transform our sector and build a better tourism for all.”

He said integrating digital platforms into local tourism businesses could help extend the benefits of visitor spending to surrounding townships and rural communities.

The address highlighted tourism's contribution to Mpumalanga's economy, with research by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism indicating that the sector contributes approximately 3.5% directly to the province's gross domestic product and supports about 60,000 jobs.

Mpumalanga welcomed approximately 2.74 million international visitors in 2025, accounting for 26.1% of all international arrivals to South Africa. International arrivals increased by 29.1% compared with 2024.

During the same period, international visitors spent approximately R8.5 billion in the province, while domestic overnight visitors contributed a further R11.8 billion.

“Tourism continues to be one of the

great success stories of the Mpumalanga economy,” Mahlalela said.

He emphasised that tourism's contribution extended beyond accommodation establishments and major attractions, as visitors also supported restaurants, transport operators, local shops, tour guides and other small businesses.

“Every visitor who comes to Mpumalanga brings opportunities into our economy.”

With the provincial unemployment rate at 36.6% in the second quarter of 2026, Mahlalela said tourism remained an important sector for creating jobs and expanding economic opportunities, particularly for young people and rural communities.

“For far too long, many communities living alongside world-class tourism assets have watched opportunity pass them by.”

He highlighted the Mpumalanga Tourism Youth Fund, launched in 2024 in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), as one of the initiatives aimed at increasing youth participation in the sector.

According to the address, R12 million has been disbursed to support 52 youth-owned tourism businesses operated by people aged between 18 and 34.

The department has also supported the star grading of six tourism establishments in Gert Sibande District through the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa.

Similar support is planned for Emakhaseni, where the department is working with the municipality, MTPA and the Local Tourism Organisation to identify establishments for grading. The

process is expected to be completed before September 2027.

Mahlalela said the initiative would help businesses improve their service standards and strengthen Mpumalanga's appeal as a tourism destination.

“The time for decisive investment is now.”

Responding to a question from *Highveld Chronicle* about the tourism opportunities presented by the upcoming 40th commemoration of the Mbuzini tragedy, Mahlalela said the event would take place on 19 October 2026 at the Samora Machel Monument and Museum in Nkomazi. He said the programme, led by the Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation in partnership with national government, would honour former Mozambican President Samora Machel and the other victims of the 1986 plane crash.

Mahlalela indicated that international delegates were expected to attend, presenting opportunities for local accommodation establishments and other tourism businesses.

Tourism Month activities also included the three-day Mpumalanga Tourism Expo at Riverside Mall, which brought together 64 exhibitors, including participants from Eswatini, 16 hosted buyers and 46 local hospitality and tourism students.

The expo provided opportunities for business networking while supporting hospitality, transport, entertainment and retail services.

Speaking on the sidelines of the expo, MTPA acting chief executive Pamella Ntuli said the agency was working to increase tourist arrivals and encouraged visitors to explore Mpumalanga's scenery, attractions and wildlife experiences.

Mahlalela concluded his address by encouraging tourism stakeholders, entrepreneurs and communities to work together to promote the province through innovation and digital technology.

“Let us use technology not to replace our unique stories, but to amplify them.”



MTPA chairperson Fish Mahlalela delivers the keynote address



MTPA acting chief executive Pamella Ntuli alongside Mpumalanga Tourism Expo founder Xolani Mthethwa

Thembisile Hani MSMEs learn to turn culture into business

● EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

KWAMHLANGA – Small businesses in Thembisile Hani are being encouraged to use the area's diverse cultural heritage and tourism attractions to create sustainable business opportunities, attract visitors and strengthen the local economy.

The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) hosted micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) at DA Village Villas Lodge in KwaMhlanga on Tuesday, 29 September 2026, for a Sustainable Tourism Development Workshop aimed at strengthening community-based tourism.

The workshop explored how homestays, kasi restaurants, artists, crafters and local tour guides could benefit from the tourism economy and transform Thembisile Hani from a place tourists pass through into a destination where visitors stay, experience different cultures, eat, explore and spend locally.

Businesses showcasing their products and services included Ibiza Sky Lounge Family Restaurant, Ibiza Sky Hair Studio, Mrhali Boutique Guest House, Da Rams, Voyage Perfumed Lotion, Room and Linen Mist Perfume, Luxe Auras and Ingwani Creations.

Speaking on behalf of MTPA, Phumeza Kalawe emphasised the importance of promoting local attractions and equipping entrepreneurs to participate in the tourism economy.

“Our mission as the MTPA is to grow tourism and manage biodiversity to stimulate sustainable economic growth that is inclusive. Through these workshops we are engaging local

businesses to strengthen the local economy by advertising and marketing their businesses through all platforms possible,” Kalawe said.

She said the agency aimed to promote attractions such as Solomon Mahlangu Stadium, Kgodwana Cultural Village and Museum, Mkhombo Dam and Loskop Dam to encourage visitors to explore the area and support local businesses.

Kalawe said collaboration between MTPA, the Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency, the Department of Tourism, local and regional tourism organisations and Nkangala District Municipality provided an integrated support platform for tourism businesses.

“This multi-stakeholder approach strengthened the capacity of MSMEs to operate sustainably, access information and support programmes, participate in the local tourism value chain, develop market opportunities and contribute meaningfully to inclusive local economic development,” she said.

The workshop also introduced entrepreneurs to green economy opportunities, waste management, resource efficiency, universal access and sustainable tourism practices.

“The workshop encouraged MSMEs to adopt environmentally responsible business practices, improve operational efficiency, collaborate within the local tourism

value chain, buying local, and align their businesses with government and destination-development priorities,” Kalawe said.

She added that MTPA would consolidate the workshop's outcomes and develop a targeted support approach based on the needs identified by participating businesses.

“MTPA will continue facilitating market-access opportunities, capacity-building, quality-assurance support, sustainability initiatives and stakeholder linkages, while working with the Department of Tourism, Nkangala District Municipality, local and regional tourism organisations and the Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency,” she said.

Follow-up engagements would also be held to monitor progress, identify remaining challenges and help businesses become more sustainable and competitive. Memento Skhosana, speaking on behalf of the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) and Thembisile Hani Local Tourism Organisation (THLTO), highlighted the role of tourism organisations in developing destinations across the Nkangala region.

“Our primary goal as the RTO is to inspire, validate and provide actionable steps to leverage regional tourism. We intend on giving tourists the full experience by showcasing attractions such as the Solomon Mahlangu Stadium, Kgodwana Cultural Village and

Museum, Mkhombo Dam, Zithabiseni Resort and Loskop Dam,” Skhosana said.

He explained that these attractions could stimulate the local economy and create jobs through activities such as fishing competitions at Mkhombo Dam, cultural experiences at Kgodwana, and traditional food and dance experiences at KwaNdimande in Mthambothini.

Major events such as the KwaNdebele Spin Fiesta and All White Party also form part of the area's tourism offering.

Department of Tourism representative Jeff Maluleke focused on business compliance and government support programmes, stressing the importance of collaboration and networking among local businesses.

“Our role is to teach our local business owners to work together and network, because tourism requires teamwork. If DA Village Villas are fully booked, they must contact Mrhali Boutique Guest House or Da Rams and share

tourists. By doing so they strengthen business relationships,” Maluleke said.

He added that collaboration between guesthouses, artists, caterers, transport operators and restaurants could help keep money circulating within the local economy.

Nomsa from Da Rams Boutique Guest House welcomed the workshop, saying it had highlighted the importance of networking.

“I am grateful to be part of this workshop because it taught me that in this tourism business you cannot work alone. It needs teamwork and networking,” she said.

Phindile Teffo from Luxe Auras said the workshop had helped small businesses understand how to grow, become compliant and position themselves to benefit from tourism opportunities. The workshop was supported by the Department of Tourism, Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency, THLTO, Nkangala District Municipality and the RTO.





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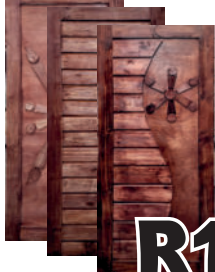
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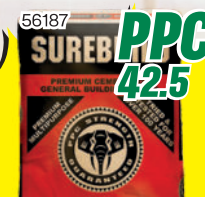
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56187
PPC 32.5
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56187
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10029
Common Bricks
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56279
Mampara Bricks
R2.69



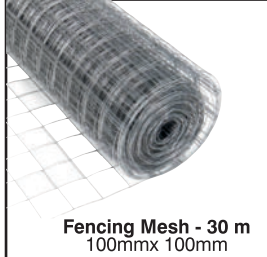
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ADVERTORIAL

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES THROUGH SERVICE DELIVERY

Water and sanitation: getting the basics right across Nkangala

Under the vision “Let Us Continue to Build Better Communities Together”, the ANC's 2026 Local Government Manifesto sets out a programme for building better communities towards 2031, guided by six action areas aimed at improving service delivery, strengthening local government and expanding economic opportunities.

At the centre of this vision is Action One: Quality Services and Infrastructure That Work for All, which prioritises reliable, quality and affordable water, sanitation, electricity, roads, refuse removal and well-maintained infrastructure as the foundation of dignity and development.

The other five action areas are:

Action Two: Driving Investment, Job Creation and Local Economic Development.

Action Three: Safe, Clean, Healthy and Resilient Communities.

Action Four: Sustainable and People-Centred Municipal Finances.

Action Five: Capable, Stable, Ethical and Accountable Local Government.

Action Six: Community Participation and Effective Communication.

Water and sanitation are central to the first action area. Reliable water and dignified sanitation are essential to the wellbeing of every household, yet ageing infrastructure, water losses and sewer spills continue to affect communities.

The ANC sets out commitments to improve the reliability, affordability and safety of water services while strengthening sanitation. Its priorities include renewing ageing infrastructure, improving water quality, reducing water losses and protecting free basic services for qualifying households.

Through the manifesto, a commitment is made to address water leaks and sewer spills in every ward within the first 100 days and to invest at least 8% of municipal asset value annually in infrastructure maintenance and renewal.

Across Nkangala, progress reports and municipal records show work under way to expand water supply, replace deteriorating infrastructure and improve sanitation. The focus is not only on extending services to more households, but also on ensuring that existing systems function effectively.



Strengthening water supply in Thembsile Hani

The Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme is a major infrastructure development intended to strengthen water provision in Thembsile Hani Local Municipality.

The project includes bulk pipelines, pump stations, water treatment facilities and additional storage capacity. Together, these components are designed to improve the movement, treatment and distribution of water to communities.

By late September 2026, significant construction progress had been recorded across the scheme. Work Package 1 was reported to be 97% complete, while Work Package 2 had reached 91% overall progress, with approximately 27.5 kilometres of pipeline laid.

Two additional 10-megalitre reservoirs, intended to support supply towards Verena A, Verena D and Gembokspruit, were 99.7% complete.

These developments represent substantial progress towards strengthening the municipality's bulk water infrastructure. However, outstanding testing, mechanical and electrical work, and commissioning must still be completed before the relevant infrastructure can deliver its intended service.

The priority is to bring the different components together into a functioning system that provides communities with a more reliable water supply.

Expanding access in eMalahleni

In eMalahleni Local Municipality, the 2021–2026 progress account records the construction of package treatment plants with a combined capacity of 30 megalitres to augment water supply.

It also records 10 kilometres of water infrastructure pipe laying, 40 kilometres of reticulation pipeline in Empumelelweni and 3,500 household water connections in the area. These projects have expanded water infrastructure and household connections. However, the municipality continues to face challenges associated with ageing water and sanitation systems.

Sustained maintenance, infrastructure renewal and timely responses to faults remain essential to ensuring that expanded access translates into reliable services.

From construction progress to reliable services

Work across Thembsile Hani, Steve Tshwete, Victor Khanye, Dr JS Moroka, eMakhazeni and eMalahleni reflects different stages of infrastructure development, from completed pipe replacements and household connections to major bulk water projects approaching completion. Infrastructure maintenance, the reduction of water losses and improved wastewater treatment are identified as key priorities for the next five years.

The commitment remains to translate construction progress and policy commitments into improvements that residents can experience in their daily lives.

This means completing outstanding projects, testing and commissioning new infrastructure, maintaining existing networks and responding effectively when services fail.

Progress is ultimately measured not only by the kilometres of pipeline laid or reservoirs constructed, but also by whether households have reliable access to safe water and dignified sanitation.



Water project in Delmas set to improve water supply in Victor Khanye



Water reservoirs forming part of the Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme

Renewing infrastructure in Steve Tshwete

In Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, investment has focused on replacing ageing water pipes, expanding distribution networks and improving treatment and storage facilities.

The municipality's 2026 progress report records the replacement of 160.2 kilometres of ageing asbestos-cement water pipes in several communities, alongside the development of new water networks in Newtown, Rockdale North and Mhluzi Extension 2 industrial stands.

The refurbishment of the Vaalbank Water Treatment Plant and upgrades to the Graspan and Vliegsveld reservoirs form part of efforts to strengthen the municipality's water infrastructure.

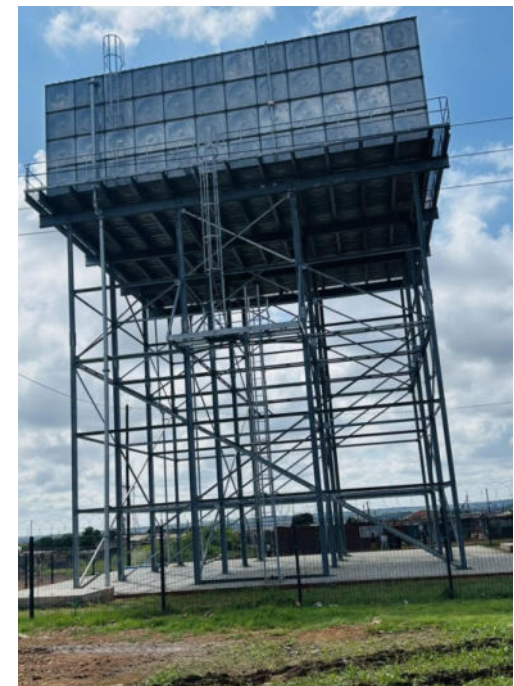
Sanitation has also received attention. Sewer lines have been replaced in several wards, while 787 biological toilets have been installed across Wards 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 28 and 29.

Upgrades to the Blinkpan and Komati wastewater treatment works remain in progress.

These interventions address both the need to extend services and the importance of maintaining infrastructure that communities already depend on.



Ensuring dignity through new ablution facilities and upgrades to existing sewer pipelines



DARDLEA applauds unsung heroes of agriculture

LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – Agricultural extension officers have been praised for their contribution to supporting farmers and strengthening food production in Mpumalanga, with the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) describing them as the “heart of agriculture” in the province. MEC Khethiwe Moeketsi made the remarks during the 2026 Provincial Extension and Advisory Summit and Awards gala dinner held at the Destiny

Exclusive Hotel in Middelburg, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, on Tuesday, 29 September 2026. Moeketsi said the awards aimed to recognise the contribution of extension officers and encourage them to continue supporting farmers across the province. Speaking under the theme, “Excellence in Extension and Advisory Services through Driving Innovation, Strengthening Food Systems and Building Resilience for Tomorrow”, she said practitioners often travelled long

distances without cameras or public recognition, yet their impact was reflected in improved agricultural production, new skills and more resilient communities. “The absence of applause does not mean the absence of impact,” she said, before asking extension officers, advisors and specialists to stand and receive a standing ovation from the audience. Moeketsi said changes in agriculture, markets and climate required extension services to evolve beyond production advice to include business development, market access, risk management and digital tools. She explained that the process began with extension

officers identifying farmers, including those farming in their backyards, and helping them become smallholder farmers through access to infrastructure and finance. Even after farmers progressed to commercial farming, extension officers continued to monitor their operations and provide training to help prevent their businesses from collapsing. Other speakers also emphasised the important role extension officers play in agricultural development. Dr Mmantoa Kgaphola described them as the link between government and farmers, saying they turned the MEC’s promise to “take good care of farmers” into a reality across the province. Dr Thabang Marakalla said farmers had become business people who required support beyond agricultural production. He explained that extension officers assisted farmers with access to markets, mechanisation and funding while supporting value-addition initiatives such as feed mills and egg production. Dr Ben Matiwane said extension officers prepared farmers for assessments, briefed adjudicators on projects and worked daily to make agricultural projects bankable and sustainable. Moeketsi urged officers to ensure that

programmes such as the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), Ilima/Letsema and LandCare translated into quality produce for markets, including the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market. The evening also recognised outstanding extension officers for their dedication and contribution to agricultural development. Awards were presented in the Candidate, Certificated and Professional categories, alongside the HOD Special Award, MEC Special Award and Overall Winner Award. Phillip Nkambule received the Candidate Award, while Rejoice Malamule and Wallace Mlotshwa won the Certificated and Professional Awards respectively. Thinavuyo Mudau received the HOD Special Award, Bhekiwe Shongwe won the MEC Special Award, and Rejoice Malumane was named Overall Winner. Concluding her address, Moeketsi quoted the late Burkinabe agricultural reformer Thomas Sankara, who said, “He who feeds you, controls you.” She said the statement highlighted the importance of a nation producing enough food for its people and reducing unnecessary dependence on imports.



MEC Khethiwe Moeketsi alongside Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Speaker Joseph Ngobeni and winners of the 2026 Provincial Extension and Advisory Summit and Awards at the Destiny Exclusive Hotel in Middelburg on 29 September 2026

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FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2026

09:30

ROME, DELMAS LAERSKOOL, VICTOR KHANYE

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CONSTITUENCY HEAD

JANE SITHOLE MP
PROVINCIAL LEADER

WILLIE AUCAMP MP
DA MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

BOSMAN GROBLER MPL
PROVINCIAL CHAIRPERSON

CLLR.SIMON SKOSANA
CONSTITUENCY CHAIRPERSON

BWIM masterclass opens doors to finance and mining opportunities for women

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

EMALAHLENI – Women-owned businesses in the mining sector have been urged to strengthen their compliance, prepare for funding and position themselves for higher-value opportunities across the mining value chain. The call was made during the Business Women in Mining (BWIM) Business Finance Masterclass, held in partnership with Absa at ANEW Hotel eMalahleni on 29 September 2026. The masterclass brought together women entrepreneurs and representatives from financial and enterprise development institutions to address challenges businesses face when seeking funding, contracts and opportunities in the mining sector. BWIM President Ntombi Mahlangu said many women possessed the skills and capacity to serve the mining industry but lacked access to the finance, business opportunities and networks needed to grow. “Many women have the skills, expertise

and capacity to deliver services to the mining industry, yet struggle to access funding to purchase equipment, meet contract requirements or scale their businesses,” Mahlangu said. She said BWIM aimed to move beyond discussions about transformation and empowerment by providing practical solutions to the challenges facing women entrepreneurs. “Our goal is to empower women to move from simply running businesses to building financially sustainable, investment-ready enterprise companies that can compete and thrive in the mining value chain,” she said. Mahlangu encouraged women to look beyond traditional, low-value service contracts and pursue opportunities in technical, engineering, maintenance and other specialised areas of the mining industry. A key focus of the masterclass was

the importance of being financially prepared before approaching potential funders. Entrepreneurs were encouraged to ensure that their Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) registration, South African Revenue Service (SARS) tax compliance, B-BBEE documentation, relevant licences, business plans and financial records were up to date. Absa representatives outlined financing options available to businesses with secured contracts or purchase orders. They explained that contract financing could be considered for businesses with contracts from mining companies or government, depending on factors such as contract value, duration, payment terms, affordability, projected cash flow and the applicant's credit profile. The bank indicated that financing of up to 80% of a contract's value could

be considered, subject to its assessment and applicable requirements. Absa also outlined overdraft facilities designed to assist businesses with short-term working capital, including facilities linked to specific purchase orders and seasonal stock requirements. Procurement readiness was another key focus, with entrepreneurs encouraged to register on relevant procurement portals and ensure their listed products and services accurately reflected their expertise. An Absa representative emphasised that obtaining a vendor number did not guarantee a contract, as procurement decisions also depended on technical capability, pricing and the ability to meet tender requirements. The masterclass further highlighted support available through the Small Enterprise Development Finance Agency (SEDFA) and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). SEDFA provides qualifying small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) with financial and non-

financial support, including funding programmes, mentorship and market-access interventions. The NYDA outlined its support for qualifying young entrepreneurs, including business management training, mentorship, market linkages, business advisory services and grant funding. Entrepreneurs were also encouraged to specialise and develop a clear area of expertise rather than attempting to offer every type of service. For BWIM, the masterclass formed part of its efforts to create practical pathways for women to participate meaningfully in the mining economy. Mahlangu said the organisation wanted to see tangible outcomes, including businesses becoming funding-ready, women securing contracts, generating revenue, creating jobs and building capacity. The masterclass concluded with a call for entrepreneurs to prepare their businesses before opportunities arise



Three arrested over alleged R1.8 million SARS fraud in Mpumalanga

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

EMALAHLENI – Three people have been arrested in Mpumalanga and granted bail of R7,000 each following an investigation into an alleged tax fraud and money-laundering scheme that reportedly caused the South African Revenue Service (SARS) financial losses of more than R1.8 million. Thandiwe Patricia Mokwena (33), Thabiso France Motsoeneng (32) and Sfiso Doctor Mokwena (28) were arrested by members of the Hawks' Middelburg Serious Commercial Crime Investigation (SCCI) unit on Tuesday, 29 September 2026. The arrests followed an investigation into a complaint lodged by SARS. According to the Hawks, the case involves Maps Africa Holdings (Pty) Ltd, a company of which Thandiwe Mokwena is a director. Investigators allege that she colluded with Motsoeneng, Sfiso Mokwena and a fourth suspect, who remains at large, to submit fraudulent tax returns to SARS between 2019 and 2021. The company is also accused of submitting fraudulent value-added

tax (VAT) returns during the same period in an attempt to obtain VAT refunds from SARS. The Hawks said the alleged misrepresentation resulted in SARS suffering financial prejudice amounting to R1,806,252.95. Following the investigation, Hawks members executed warrants of arrest against the three suspects, who subsequently appeared before the Witbank Magistrate's Court. Each of the accused was granted bail of R7,000, and the matter was postponed to 28 October 2026. The investigation remains ongoing as authorities work to establish the full circumstances surrounding the alleged fraudulent tax and VAT submissions and apprehend the fourth suspect. The Hawks have not indicated whether further arrests or additional charges are expected. The allegations have yet to be tested in court, and the accused remain innocent until proven guilty.

MCCAIN FOOD SOUTH AFRICA (PTY) LTD NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND EXPANSION OF DIESEL STORAGE CAPACITY AT THE MCCAIN DELMAS PLANT, WITHIN THE VICTOR KHANYE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Notice issued in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended), and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended)

BACKGROUND AND LOCATION: McCain Foods (Pty) Ltd (McCain) proposes to construct a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and expand diesel storage at their Delmas Plant, located within the Victor Khanye Local Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province. The proposed developments will take place within the existing operational area of the McCain Delmas Plant. The proposed activities require an application for environmental authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (as amended) (NEMA), supported by a Basic Assessment (BA) process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014, as amended). The competent authority (CA) for the EA application is the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs. WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed by McCain to undertake the required BA process for the EA.

Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant: In line with McCain's strategy to making their food and agricultural systems more sustainable and resilient, the proposed WWTP will treat effluent that is generated from the manufacturing process. The plant will have a maximum treatment flowrate of 3 400 m³/day and will be located in the northeastern corner of the site, on McCain-owned property. The effluent will be treated to meet the quality requirements that would be suitable for discharge to municipal sewer or for plant use (potable water quality). Waste activated sludge from the treatment plant will be temporarily stored in hoppers on site and ultimately disposed of off-site. The plant will include an anaerobic digestion process for chemical oxygen demand (COD) containing wastes on site, such as fryer waste, slivers, and other materials that are collected in the main wastewater screen and oily-water screen. The anaerobic digester will convert the COD into biogas, which can be used to either generate power or displace natural gas in the processing plant's boilers. The digester feed flow will be approximately 385 m³/day, with a total digestion volume of 9 074 m³. The development footprint for the facility will be approximately 9 000 m².

Proposed diesel tank: McCain Delmas cumulatively stores 43.782 m³ of diesel in various tanks on site and proposes to install an additional 79 m³ diesel storage tank next to a current 30 m³ diesel storage tank. The proposed diesel storage tank will be a self-bunded (double wall) containerised tank.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT: The WWTP with associated infrastructure and the installation of the additional diesel storage tank will trigger activities contained within Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 327) of the EIA Regulations (2014, as amended) (GN R.326).

Listing Notice 1:
Activity 25 – The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, wastewater, or sewage with a daily throughput capacity of more than 2 000 cubic metres but less than 15 000 cubic metres.
Activity 51 - The expansion of facilities for the storage, or storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where the capacity of such storage facility will be expanded by more than 80 cubic metres.

INVITATION TO REGISTER AS AN I&AP TO COMMENT: Interested and affected parties (I&APs) are invited to register as stakeholders on the project no later than 02 November 2026. Registration and comment sheets as well as electronic copies of the draft BA report for the project are available for download at the link below.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Draft BA Report will be available for a 30-days public review and can be accessed during this period from the link and the public venues below from **02 October 2026 to 02 November 2026**. I&APs are invited to submit their comments to the Draft BA Report no later than **02 November 2026**.

Venue	Address
Delmas Public Library	Cnr of 3rd Street and Van Riebeeck Ave, Delmas, 2210
Botleng Library	Cnr Mlambo & Julies Street, Botleng Ext3, Delmas, 2210
WSP Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-za/services/public-documents

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Public Participation Office; WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd; Tel: 011 361 1300; E-mail: pp@wsp.com

WSP will be processing certain personal information about you as an I&AP for purposes of enabling your registration as an I&AP and for purposes of storing your details on our database if you consent for us to do so. WSP uses these details to contact you about other projects in the future. WSP will always process your personal information in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act 04 of 2013). You are entitled to exercise your rights as a data subject and let us know if you wish to be deregistered as an I&AP or if you no longer want your contact details to be included on our database.



From taxi rank to big screen: Middelburg drama series Taxi Affair set for live launch

LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG — An everyday taxi rank in Mhluzi is set to become a film set as local drama series Taxi Affair prepares for its live launch, bringing township stories and Middelburg talent to audiences through social media. The series was created by Gustav Mhlanga, who says it draws inspiration from the characters and experiences found inside taxis. “What inspired me is everyday life inside a taxi. Each taxi carries different characters — the scholar, the gogo, the gaatjie, the driver in love — and each has a story to tell. There are always funny, painful and dramatic moments that happen in that 15-minute trip,” Mhlanga says. He chose the taxi rank as the centre of the production because he believes it reflects everyday township life. “I decided to centre it at the taxi rank because the rank is our real theatre in the township. There is too much drama, comedy and truth in one space. I wanted to put our own daily lives on screen,” he says. Mhlanga says taxi ranks are meeting points where people from different backgrounds encounter one another, creating opportunities to tell stories about drama, humour, love and everyday life. The project also aims to create

opportunities for local actors and revive the film sector in Middelburg. Mhlanga says the town has talented performers, but limited productions and development opportunities have caused some to lose interest. “Taxi Affair will revive that spirit because it gives them a platform again. We are shooting, acting and exposing local talent to the nation through social media. It shows that you don't have to wait for Johannesburg to come — we can start here at home with what we have,” he says. The production team is working with limited resources, with funding and equipment among its biggest challenges. “Our biggest challenges are lacking proper equipment and funding. Running a busy film set with no big company backing us takes a lot of hard work and teamwork,” Mhlanga says. He is calling on the community to support the production through donations, sharing videos online, helping manage crowds during filming or lending equipment. The team will not wait for a television deal before taking the series to audiences. Instead, the drama will be streamed for free on

Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. “Nowadays people live on their phones, watching reels and TikToks. Instead of waiting for people to come to theatre, we are taking arts directly to their phones,” Mhlanga says. He says the online launch will also help promote Middelburg's artists and creative sector. Mhlanga says Taxi Affair is not the first film made in Middelburg, but it is among the productions created by local artists for the community, using their own language and style. “This is just a starter. This is the beginning of a bigger collaboration of local artists. If the community supports this, more local movies and series will come,” he says. The live recording and launch will take place on 4 October at Mhluzi Extension 5 Taxi Rank from 10am. Mhlanga says audiences can expect to see the taxi rank transformed into a film set and meet characters including Sipho, Uncle Papi, Thandi, School Bo, Ma Radebe, Pastor K, Ex-Teacher and Lulu. “In the next few years, with the dedication I see in the team I am working with at Taxi Affair, I see us climbing from the taxi rank to big screens, to festivals and to national platforms,” he says.



Middelburg-born creator Gustav Mhlanga says his new drama series 'Taxi Affair', set to launch live at Mhluzi Ext 5 Taxi Rank on 4 October, will turn the taxi rank into a theatre of real township stories. Photo: Supplied

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L ekuyi mbizo yomnyanya waqobe mnyaka enyangeni ka Khukhulamungu njengoba kuyinyanga yama siko kanye nama gugu nemvelaphi yes'khabo lomuntu lembizo le yimbizo eyenziwa mrhatjho iKwekwezi FM ngoku bambisana no Masipala iThembisile Hani, nonyaka nje imbizo yomnyanya lo beyibanjelwe e Showground KwaMhlanga, nge 26 ngoMgqibelo

Ihloso ekulu yembizo le kuletha abantu ndawonye bona bazoku gidinga inyanga yama gugu ngokuledlha kanye noku khangisa imisebenzi yabo kungaba misebenzi yobu rhwari namkha yoku gwala nokuphothela kanye noku thengisa ukudla kwesintu.

Ngokuya komphathi wezamarhwebo ngoku hlanganyela emrhatjhweni iKwekwezi FM kanye neLigwalagwala FM ngaphasi kwe SABC u Nkosinathi Ntuli uthi ihloso yembizo yomyanya lo

kuhlumisa umnotho ngakwa ndebele kanye namaphethelo ngaphasi kwesiyingi se Nkangala. "Imbizo le sihlose ukuhlumisa umnotho wekhethu kanye nokwakha ubudlelwano neminye imihlobo kungakho singathi yimbizo yamandebele kodwana sithi yimbizo yoku zikhakhazisa nges'khenu lokhu kufaka woke umuntu kanye nawo woke umhlobo, yeke kungakho woke umuntu ombona lapha namhlanje uvunule is'khabo, uzikhakhazisa nges'khabo."

UNTuli urage wathi lapha kunaba vumi abahlukileko besintu kanye nebo mvumo wokujida. "Njengoba sazi bona abantu abatjha bathanda umvumo woku jida kunewe sintu, sibahleli silingile ukutswaka abavumi ukuze woke umuntu akghone ukuhlangela kamnandi ngoku

khululeka, si no Ndzungza ne Nkali zebhosa, sino Lilow NTK, sino Lwa Ndlunkulu nomvumi, womvumo wekoro ye Hip Hop u Casper Nyovest ekumvumi othandwa khulu babantu abatjha. Yeke silinga ukuhlumisa umnotho noku thuthukisa uburhwari esinabo ngakwandebele.

Kazi noso dorobha we kamaspala we Thembisile u Lesetja Dikgale ubengomunye wentatanyiswa ebezikhambele imbizo yomnyanya lo. Nayeke uwubukile umnyanyalo wathi umthangala s'sekelo omuhle ekuhlumiseni umnotho.

"Leminyanya, ekwazi ukuhlumisa umnotho kamaspala wethu nges'khatjhana esincani begodu lokho uqakatheke khulu kithi singu masipala ngoba, ngiyo into esiyifunako le nesiyi hlongozako. Ekhayapha, sinamakhaya wokuledlha ahlukileko engiqabanga

bona ayahlomula embizweni le, sine Mrhali Boutique Guest House, khona lakwaMhlanga, sine Da Village Villas nayo ikhona la, sine Da Rams ngeMabhoko, sibuye sibe nakwa Khuzi khona la ngakwaMhlanga ekuyindawo ehlwengekileko ethengisa ukudla kwesintu noku jwayele kileko. Yeke ngalokho zoke iindawezi ziyakwazi ukuhlomula ngaphasi kwembizo le kanye naba thengisa epateni nabo bayahlomula njengoba Thando Mahlangu abo gogo unoSinki nabanye abanengi, yeke kungiyi into esiyifunako leyo singu masipala sifuna ukubona umnotho udlobalaba ukhula ukuze kuvuleke amathuba womsebenzi.

Kazi nabantu abathengisa epateni bawuthabele umnyanyalo.

"Umnyanya lo udlala indima ekulu khulu emarhwebeni wethu kanye neempilweni zethu ngombana ukwazi ukusihlanganisa nabantu abanengi aba buya endaweni ezihlukileko, ngalokho ke sikwazi ukukhuluma

irhwebo kanye sakhe nobudlelwano kungakho sizi khakhazisa ngawo. Nje mina ngiya gwala, begodu ngithabe khulu ukubona eyenye yegwaani zami ithengwe nguso saziwako ephasini mazombe osemvumeni we Hip Hop u Casper Nyovest lokho kukodwa ku khulu khulu ngombana lapho zobe akhamba khona bazo mbuza bona uyithethephi ingwani le beseke uyaba hlathululela bona uyithenge kimi lokho, kukodwa kungikhulisela irhwebo lami begodu kuveza nobu rhwari bami ebaleni. Yeke umnyanyalo utjho litho likhulu kimi nabalingani bami ngokomsebenzi ngomyanya lo sikwazi ukulala sibuthethele iinthoro ezibonakalako" kutjho uSorhwebo o buye abem t j h o t j h o z e l i wesiNdebele, uThando Mahlangu.

Abantu babo nakale baku thabele khulu ukuba sembizweni yomnyanya omkhulu lo okwazi ukusihlanganisa imihlobo ehlikileko endaweni eyodwa bewu gidinge ngethabo lomoya munye wokuzwana.



Five accused in alleged murders of journalist Ndlovu and partner to stand trial

LUCAS SHONGWE

KWAMHLANGA – The case against five men accused of kidnapping and murdering journalist Aserie Ndlovu and his partner, Zodwa Mdluli, has been transferred to the Middelburg High Court for trial.



The late journalist Aserie Ndlovu

The KwaMhlanga Regional Court transferred the matter after the State served its indictment on the accused. The trial is scheduled to take place from 4 to 15 October 2027. The accused are Father Samuel Mogowe (40), Lucky Micheal Skosana (40), Sello Edward Uone (44), Thatho David Madisha (24) and Thabang Isaac Hlophe (30). They face two counts of murder, two counts of kidnapping and robbery. According to the State, Ndlovu and Mdluli were reported missing in February 2025. Following an investigation, their remains were discovered approximately three months later in Rust de Winter, near the Limpopo-Gauteng border.

The discovery led to the arrest of the five accused in May 2025. They have remained in custody since their arrests. The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) confirmed that the matter has been enrolled for trial in the High Court, where the State will present its case. “The National Prosecuting Authority remains committed to ensuring that all matters involving serious and violent crimes are prosecuted without fear, favour, or prejudice, and that justice is pursued on behalf of victims and their families,” the NPA said in a court update on 29 September 2026. The five accused remain innocent until proven guilty.



APPLICATION FOR A WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE FOLLOWING A BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS TO INCREASE THE PERMITTED HEIGHT OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY AT THE KLINKERSTENE WASTE MANAGEMENT PARK, DELMAS – VICTOR KHANYE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE INVITATION TO REGISTER, PARTICIPATE AND COMMENT ON THE PROCESS

SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd (SRK) hereby gives notice of the application for a Waste Management Licence (WML) following a Basic Assessment (BA) process in line with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008), as amended (NEM: WA), National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) for the proposed height extension of the waste disposal cell footprint at the Interwaste Klinkerstene Waste Management Park (KWMP), Delmas, Mpumalanga.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

KWMP has an existing WML in terms of the NEMA: WA for its Waste Disposal activities (ref: 12/9/11/L200612095516/6/R, as amended by 12/9/11/L201026141747/6/V and 12/9/11/L220722102752/6/V). Interwaste intends to apply for the expansion of the waste management activities on site through means of a height extension of the licensed landfill disposal cell footprint from the currently authorised 25 meters above natural ground level to 75 meters above natural ground level. The proposed height extension will enable Interwaste to optimise the use of land for disposal purposes and to optimise long-term cost efficiency of airspace at the facility, thereby delivering broader societal benefits, as airspace costs are directly related to the volume of waste that can be accommodated within a given, appropriately lined, footprint area.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

The project triggers an activity listed under GN R 921 Category A (Activity 13) and therefore requires a WML from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): “The expansion of a waste management activity listed in Category A or B of this Schedule which does not trigger an additional waste management activity in terms of this Schedule”. A BA process will be followed as stipulated in the EIA Regulations, 2014. **PROJECT PROPONENT:** Interwaste (Pty) Ltd. **PROJECT LOCATION:** The proposed project will take place at the KWMP, located near Delmas, within the Victor Kanye Local Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. The site to which the application will apply includes the farm portions listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Affected Farm Portions

Farm	Portions	Proposed Activity
Weltevreden 227 IR	13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 41	Waste Disposal Cell Footprint Height Extension

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP): Interwaste appointed SRK as the EAP to undertake the required WML application as well as the associated public participation processes for the proposed project.

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS:

Stakeholders are invited to submit written comments and/or register on the project database. Submissions from stakeholders must include their name, contact details (specifying the preferred method of notification, e.g., e-mail), and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which they have in the application, to the stakeholder engagement officers. Only registered stakeholders will be kept informed of the process and notified of any future opportunities to participate. Hard copies of the Background Information Document and comment sheet can also be obtained and submitted at the KWMP entrance.

By registering as a stakeholder, you consent to SRK processing and, if necessary, disclosing your personal information which SRK undertakes to do in accordance with our Protection of Personal Information Policy.

TO SUBMIT COMMENTS, REGISTER, OR REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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SRK Project Number: 617397



AANSOEK VIR ’N AFVALBESTUURSLISENSIE DEUR ’N BASIESE ASSESSERINGSPROSES TE VOLG TEN EINDE DIE TOELAATBARE HOOGTE VAN DIE AFVALBERGINGSFASILITEIT BY DIE KLINKERSTENE-AFVALBESTUURSPARK, DELMAS – VICTOR KHANYE SE PLAASLIKE MUNISIPALITEIT, MPUMALANGA-PROVINSIE, TE VERHOOG. UITNODIGING OM TE REGISTREER, DEEL TE NEEM EN KOMMENTAAR TE LEWER

SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd (SRK) gee hiermee kennisgewing van die aansoek vir ’n Afvalbestuurslisensie (ABL), deur ’n Basiese Asseseringsproses (BA) te volg in ooreenstemming met die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur: Wet op Afval (Wet 59 van 2008), soos gewysig (NEM: WA), die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur (Wet 107 van 1998), soos gewysig (NEMA) asook die NEMA-omgewingsimpakbepaling (OIB) regulasies, 2014 (soos gewysig) vir die voorgestelde verhoging van die afvalbergingsfasiliteit-voetspoor by die Interwaste Klinkerstene-Afvalbestuurspark (KWMP), Delmas, Mpumalanga.

PROJEKBESKRYWING:

KWMP het ’n bestaande ABL kragtens die NEMA: WA vir hulle afvalhanteringssaktiwiteite (verw: 12/9/11/L200612095516/6/R, soos gewysig deur 12/9/11/L201026141747/6/V en 12/9/11/L220722102752/6/V). Interwaste beoog om aansoek te doen vir ’n uitbreiding van die afvalbestuursaktiwiteite op die terrein deur middel van ’n hoogteverlenging van die gelisensieerde stortingsterrein se afvalbergingsfasiliteit-voetspoor, vanaf die tans gemagtigde 25 meter bo natuurlike grondvlak tot 75 meter bo natuurlike grondvlak. Die voorgestelde verhoging sal Interwaste in staat stel om die gebruik van grond vir bergingsdoeleindes ten volle te benut en om die langtermynkostedoeltreffendheid van lugruimte by die fasiliteit te optimaliseer. Dit sal sodoende groter maatskaplike voordele lewer, aangesien lugruimte koste direk verband hou met die volume afval wat binne ’n gegewe, toepaslik gevoerde voetspoorgebied geakkommodeer kan word.

OMGEWINGSIMPAKBEPALING:

Die projek gee aanleiding tot ’n aktiwiteit wat onder GN R 921 Kategorie A (Aktiwiteit 13) gelys word en vereis dus ’n ABL van die Departement van Bosbou, Visserye en die Omgewing (DBVO): “Die uitbreiding van ’n afvalbestuursaktiwiteit wat in Kategorie A of B van hierdie Bylae gelys word en wat nie tot ’n addisionele afvalbestuursaktiwiteit ingevolge hierdie Bylae aanleiding gee nie”. ’n BA-proses sal gevolg word soos in die OIB-regulasies, 2014, uiteengesit word. **PROJEKINDIENER:** Interwaste (Edms.) Bpk. **PROJEKLIIGGING:** Die voorgestelde projek sal by die KWMP plaasvind, wat naby Delmas in die Victor Khanye plaaslike munisipaliteit in die Mpumalanga-provinsie geleë is. Die terrein waarop die aansoek van toepassing is, sluit die plaasgedeeltes in wat in gelys word.

Tabel 1: Geaffekteerde plaasgedeeltes

Plaas	Gedeeltes	Voorgestelde Aktiwiteit
Weltevreden 227 IR	13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 41	Hoogteverlenging van afvalverwydering-selvoetspoor

OMGEWINGSIMPAKBEPALINGSPRAKTISYN (OIBP): Interwaste het vir SRK as die OIBP aangestel om die vereiste ABL-aansoek asook die gepaardgaande openbare deelnameproses vir die voorgestelde projek te onderneem.

REGISTRASIE VAN BELANGHEBBENDE EN GEAFFEKTEERDE PARTYE EN INDIENING VAN KOMMENTAAR:

Belanghebbendes word uitgenooi om skriftelike kommentaar in te dien en/of op die projekdatabase te registreer. Voorleggings van belanghebbendes moet aan die belanghebbende-skakelbeamptes gestuur word en moet hul naam, kontakbesonderhede (met vermelding van die voorkeurmetode van kennisgewing, bv. e-pos), asook ’n aanduiding van enige direkte besigheids-, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belang wat hulle in die aansoek het, bevat. Slegs geregistreerde belanghebbendes sal op hoogte gehou word van die proses en in kennis gestel word van enige toekomstige geleenthede vir deelname. Harde kopieë van die Agtergrondinligtingsdokument en kommentaar vorm kan ook gevind en ingehandig word by die KWMP ingang. Deur as ’n belanghebbende te registreer, verleen u toestemming dat SRK u persoonlike inligting mag verwerk en, indien nodig, bekend maak, wat SRK onderneem om in ooreenstemming met ons Beleid oor die Beskerming van Persoonlike Inligting te doen.

OM KOMMENTAAR IN TE DIEN, TE REGISTREER, OF VERDERE INLIGTING TE VERSOEK, KONTAK ASSEBLIEF:

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SRK-projeknommer: 617397



ISICELO SELAYISENSI YOKUPHATHWA KWEMFUCUZA NGOKULANDELA INQUBO YOKUHLOLWA EKOKUSINGATHWA KWEZEMVELO OKUYISISEKELO UKUZE KUNYUSWE UKUPHAKAMA OKUVUMELEKILE KWENDAWO YOKULAHLA IMFUCUZA KLINKERSTENE WASTE MANAGEMENT PARK, E-DELMAS – UMASIPALA WASEVICTOR KHANYE, ISIFUNDAZWE SASEMPUMALANGA ISIMEMO SOKUBHALISA, UKUBAMBA IQHAZA NOKUPHAWULA NGENQUBO

I-SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd (SRK) lapha yazisa ngesicelo seLayisensi yokuPhathwa kweMfucuza (i-WML), kulandela inqubo yokuHlola okuyiSisekelo (i-BA), ngokuhambisana noMthetho kaZwelonke wokuPhathwa kwezeMvelo: uMthetho weMfucuza (uMthetho onguNo. 59 wezi-2008), njengoba uchitshiyelwe (NEM: WA), uMthetho kaZwelonke wokuPhathwa kwezeMvelo (uMthetho onguNo. 107 we-1998), njengoba uchitshiyelwe (NEMA), kanye neMithethonqubo ye-NEMA yokuHlolwa koMthelela kwezeMvelo (i-EIA), yowezi-2014 (njengoba ichtshiyelwe), mayelana nesiphakamiso sokunyuswa kobude kwendawo yokulahla imfucuza endaweni yokulahla imfucuza e-Interwaste Klinkerstene Waste Management Park (KWMP), eDelmas, eMpumalanga.

INCAZELO YEPHROJEKTHI: I-KWMP ivele inayo i-WML ekhona ngokwe-NEMA: WA, ephathelene nemisebenzi yokulahla imfucuza (ireferensi: 12/9/11/L200612095516/6/R, njengoba ichtshiyelwe ngu-12/9/11/L201026141747/6/V kanye no-12/9/11/L220722102752/6/V). I-Interwaste ihlose ukufaka isicelo sokwandisa imisebenzi yokuphathwa kwemfucuza kule ndawo ngokunyusa ukuphakama kwendawo enelayisensi yokulahla imfucuza, kusukela ekuphakameni okuvunyelwe njengamanje okungamamitha angama-25 ngaphezu kwezinga lemvelo lomhlabathi, kuya kumamitha angama-75 ngaphezu kwezinga lemvelo lomhlabathi. Lokhu kunyuswa kokuphakama okuhlongozwayo kuzokwenza iInterwaste ikwazi ukusebenzisa kahle umhlaba ngezinjongo zokulahla imfucuza, kanye nokwenza ngcono ukusebenza kahle kwezindleko zesikhathi eside zesikhala sokulahla imfucuza esikhungweni, ngaleyo ndlela kuzoletha izinzu ezibanzi emphakathini, njengoba izindleko zesikhala sokulahla imfucuza zihlobene ngokuqondile nenani lemfucuza elingagcinwa endaweni enobukhulu obuthile, efakwe ulwelwesi olufanele noluhambisana nezidingo.

UKUHLOLWA KOMTHELELA ENDAWENI: Lo msebenzi uhlobene nomsebenzi obalulwe ku-GN R 921, Isigaba A (Umsebenzi 13), ngakho-ke kudingeka kutholwe i-WML) eMnyangweni Wezamalathi, Ezokudoba Nezemvelo (i-DFFE): “Ukwandiswa komsebenzi wokuphathwa kwemfucuza obalulwe eSigabeni A noma sale Shejuli, okungabandakanyi ukuqaliswa komunye umsebenzi owengeziwe wokuphathwa kwemfucuza ngokwale Shejuli.” Kuzolandelwa inqubo ye-BA njengoba kubekiwe kumiThethonqubo ye-EIA yezi-2014. **UMPHENYI WEPHROJEKTHI:** Interwaste (Pty) Ltd. **INDAWO YEPHROJEKTHI:** Iphrojekthi ehlongozwayo izokwenziwa e-KWMP, eseduze kwaseDelmas, ngaphakathi koMasipala we-Victor Khanye, esiFundazweni saseMpumalanga. Indawo okuzosebenza kuyo isicelo ihlanganisa izingxenye zamapulazi ezibalwe kuThebula

Ithebhula 1: Izingxenye Zepulazi Ezithintekayo

Ipulazi	Izingxenye	Umsebenzi Ohlongozwayo
Weltevreden 227 IR	13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 41	Waste Disposal Cell Footprint Height Extension

ISIKHULU SOKUHLOLWA KWENDAWO (I-EAP): Abakwa-Interwaste baqoke i-SRK njenge-EAP ezokwenza isicelo seWML esidingekayo kanjalo nezinqubo zokubandakanywa komphakathi ezihlobene nayo le phrojekthi ehlongozwayo.

UKUBHALISWA KWABANENTSHISEKELO NABATHINTEKAYO NOKUHANJISWA KWEMIBONO:

Ababambiqhaza bayamenywa ukuba bathumele imibono yabo ebhaliwe kanye/noma bahalise kusizindalwazi sababambiqhaza esihlobene nale phrojekthi. Imibono noma izethulo ezithunyelwa ababambiqhaza kufanele zifake igama labo, iminingwane yabo yokuxhumana (kuchazwe indlela abayikhethayo yokwaziswa, isibonelo, nge-imeyili), kanye nesitatimende esibonisa noma iyiphi intshisekelo eqondile ngokwebhizinisi, ezezimali, umuntu siqu noma enye intshisekelo abanayo mayelana nalesi sicelo. Lokhu kufanele kuthunyelwe kubaphathi bokuxhumana nokubandakanya ababambiqhaza. Ababambiqhaza ababhalisiwe kuphela abazogcinwa benolwazi mayelana nenqubekelaphambili yale nqubo futhi bazokwaziswa ngamathuba ezayo okubamba iqhaza. Amakhophi aqinile e-Background Information Document kanye nefomu lokufaka imibono ayatholakala futhi angahanjiswa emnyango wokungena e-KWMP.

Ngokubhalisa njengombambiqhaza, uyavuma ukuthi i-SRK icubungule futhi, uma kunesidingo, idalule iminingwane yakho yomuntu siqu. I-SRK izibophezele ekuphatheni nasekucubunguleni le mininingwane ngokuhambisana neNqubomgomo yethu yokuVikelwa kweMininingwane yomuntu siqu.

UKUZE ULETHE IMIBONO YAKHO, UBHALISE, NOMA UCELE ULWAZI OLWENGEZIWE, SICELA UXHUMANE NALABA:

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Inombolo yePhrojekthi yeSRK: 617397





Nomakanjani edge Young Guns to lift Heritage Day title

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS – Nomakanjani FC were crowned champions of the PJ Blue Fam Heritage Day Tournament after securing a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Young Guns in the final on 25 September 2026. The two-day tournament, held from 24 to 25 September, featured four teams: hosts PJ Stars, Young Guns, Nomakanjani FC and PSG Daveyton. The competition followed a round-robin format, with each team facing the other three sides once before the top two advanced to the final. Nomakanjani booked their place in the decider after an impressive group-stage campaign, beating Young Guns 3-0 in their opening match and PSG Daveyton 4-0 before playing to a 2-2 draw against PJ Stars. Young Guns recovered from their opening defeat to Nomakanjani, securing a 1-0 victory over PJ Stars and a 2-0 win against PSG Daveyton to reach the final. The two sides met again in the title decider, where Snethemba “Neymar” Masombuka scored the decisive goal to hand Nomakanjani a 1-0 victory and the championship. Despite the defeat, Young Guns coach Innocent Gift Mabena was encouraged by his team's performance, saying they had adjusted their tactics and controlled large parts of the match. “We tweaked the tactics a bit and dominated the game until our key defender pulled a muscle. Within that split second, they got an opportunity to capitalise and scored,” Mabena told Highveld Chronicle. He said his side created several scoring opportunities but failed to convert them. Mabena believes the performance was a positive sign, particularly against an experienced Nomakanjani side. “Looking at the squad we were playing against, we were playing against one of

the top teams we have in eKasi. To dominate that game through and through is a good positive,” he said. He added that Young Guns would focus on improving their finishing ahead of their league campaign. Nomakanjani coach Nhlakanipho Ngobese attributed his team's success to months of preparation, tactical discipline and commitment. He acknowledged the intensity and high pressing displayed by Young Guns but praised his defenders for withstanding the pressure. “Young Guns brought incredible energy and aggressive high pressing, but our backline remained completely unbreakable,” Ngobese said. He explained that Nomakanjani approached the tournament one match at a time and carefully managed the players' recovery periods between fixtures to maintain their competitiveness. Ngobese also commended the organisers for providing local teams and young players with an opportunity to showcase their talent. “I wish they can host more tournaments so that we can improve the standard of our location,” he said. For hosts PJ Stars, the tournament was about more than winning. Coach and organiser Blessing Panish Ngavi said the initiative aimed to unite the community and revive football activities in Extension 3. PJ Stars were eliminated after drawing against PSG Daveyton and Nomakanjani before suffering a 1-0 defeat to Young Guns.

Despite the early exit, Ngavi was pleased with his team's performance, particularly as approximately 70% of the squad consisted of players who had progressed through the club's development structures.

“We felt bad but at the same time happy with the performance of our boys since we used almost 70% of the players from our development,” he said. Ngavi said seeing younger players score for the senior team demonstrated the potential within the club, although finishing, pace and height remained areas requiring improvement.

“It is a learning curve for us,” he said. Looking ahead, Ngavi plans to strengthen the squad with experienced players while continuing to improve the team's finishing. He also hopes to secure sponsorship and attract more teams to future editions of the tournament, with the aim of increasing the prize money.



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