

HIGHVELD CHRONICLE

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Nyiko Mashego finds her voice through leadership programme

● NODICAH FUNDAMA

EMALAHLENI — For 17-year-old Nyiko Mashego, winning two Miss Integrity titles is more than an achievement. It marks a journey of personal growth, confidence and leadership.

The eMalahleni-born learner was crowned Miss Integrity Public Choice 2026 and Senior Miss Integrity 2026 and received the Future Leader Award during the Stellar School of Integrity (SSI) crowning and graduation ceremony at Gateway Church International in Witbank on 10 October 2026.

A Grade 11 learner at Hoërskool Generaal Hertzog and former Robert Carruthers Primary School pupil, Mashego enjoys writing, poetry, music and the arts.

Her journey with SSI began in 2025 after her sister introduced her to the programme. Watching participants at a crowning ceremony inspired her to join. “I had always wanted to become someone who could confidently stand before people, express herself well and step into leadership roles,” she says.

For Mashego, joining SSI was about personal development rather than winning titles.

“My motivation was therefore not simply to win a title, but to invest in myself and develop the qualities of a good leader. Winning was an honour, but personal growth was the reason I wanted to begin,” she says.

Mashego competed alongside six other participants in the SSI Seniors group,

comprising four girls and three boys. The programme included performances, speeches on personal growth and questions about participants' experiences and aspirations.

Having already won the Public Choice title, she was surprised when her name was announced again. “When my name was announced for the Senior Miss Integrity title, I was shocked and filled with joy. I had already been called for the Public Choice title, so I was not expecting to hear my name again,” she recalls.

She says the programme taught her discipline, emotional intelligence, time management and servant leadership, while the titles brought greater responsibility.

“The journey has taught me that growth takes time and that you do not have to feel completely ready before taking an opportunity,” she says.

Mashego believes integrity means honesty, accountability and doing what is right even when nobody is watching.

“I am still learning to practise these values consistently because integrity is a lifelong commitment,” she says.

Beyond pageantry, Mashego has explored her talents through Artium, participating in writing, poetry, singing, instrumental music and visual arts. She is particularly proud of the

recognition she received for her writing, including her poem Identity. Looking ahead, she hopes to pursue higher education, with interests in leadership, law and public service. Although open to modelling opportunities, education and personal development remain her priorities. She also hopes to use her titles to inspire young people, particularly girls, to believe in themselves and embrace opportunities for growth.

Her advice to girls struggling with confidence is to take the first step despite their fears.

“Courage does not mean having no fear. Sometimes, it means choosing to move forward despite that fear,” she says.



Sheroes Women's Expo invites women entrepreneurs to exhibit in eMalahleni

● LUCAS SHONGWE

EMALAHLENI — Women entrepreneurs, small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and youth-owned businesses are invited to showcase their products and services at the Sheroes Women's Expo 2026, scheduled for 24 October.

The event will begin at 09:00 at Gateway Church International (GWCI), on the corner of Arras and Elizabeth streets in eMalahleni, under the theme “WOW – The Next Level and Elevation”.

Organisers expect more than 1,000 women from the business, leadership and entrepreneurship sectors to attend.

Exhibition spaces are limited, with awards planned for Best Stall, WOW Effect and Best Dressed Staff. Businesses interested in exhibiting can contact info@gwci.org.za or Ayanda on 013 656 2211.

The Sheroes Women's Forum says it has spent more than a decade bringing together women and young people through its annual conference and expo, promoting entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.

Forum member Nomagugu Mvelase told the Highveld Chronicle that high unemployment among women and young people was among the reasons behind the initiative.

She said the forum encouraged women and young people to establish their own businesses rather than rely solely on formal employment opportunities.

Mvelase said financial independence could empower women to make better decisions about their lives, including leaving abusive relationships.

“When women work and are able to create their own income, they are able to make better choices,” she said.

She added that the forum had organised health outreach

programmes, including free health screenings and mobile clinics, while helping women-owned businesses access new markets.

Mvelase also highlighted outreach initiatives in Jellicoe Street, where the forum assisted women facing difficult circumstances with employment opportunities and documentation.

She said her own business, which she started with support from the forum, now employs 15 people.

The advertised speaker line-up includes Mpumalanga MEC Leah Moriti Mabuza, Wilhemina Ngcobo of Rio Tinto RBM, PRASA Chief Executive Nwabisa Gqamane-Ntiyane and SUM Sales Director Tshepiso Phosa.

The programme will feature keynote sessions, masterclasses and an exhibition where businesses can promote their brands, sell products and network with potential customers, investors and government agencies, including the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA) and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA).

Mvelase said the initiative aimed to support women affected by abuse, aspiring entrepreneurs, unemployed graduates, young people and people living with disabilities.

She called for improved access to funding and markets, urging government and the private sector to create more opportunities for entrepreneurs to reach customers.

“Government is an enabler. We need access to finance and access to market. From private sector, we are saying give us access to market,” Mvelase said.

The expo aims to strengthen women-owned and youth-owned businesses by providing a platform to showcase their products, build networks and connect with potential customers and business partners.



WILHEMINA NGCOBO
FORUM PANELIST

Speakers advertised for the Sheroes Women's Expo 2026 include Mpumalanga MEC Leah Mabuza, Rio Tinto RBM Chief Operating Officer Wilhemina Ngcobo, PRASA Chief Executive Nwabisa Gqamane-Ntiyane and SUM Sales Director Tshepiso Phosa. The expo will take place at Gateway Church International in eMalahleni on 24 October 2026.

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



God's Major Objective in Your Life

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Romans 8:28–29)

Our world has become a large, impersonal, busy institution.

We are alienated from each other. Although crowded, we are lonely. Pushed together but uninvolved. No longer do most neighbors visit across the

backyard fence. The well-manicured front lawn is the modern moat that keeps barbarians at bay. Hoarding and flaunting have replaced sharing and caring. It's like we are occupying common space but have no common interests, as if we're on an elevator with rules such as: “No talking, smiling, or eye contact allowed without written consent of the management.”

Painful though it may be for us to admit, we're losing touch with one another. The motivation to help, to encourage, yes, to serve our fellow human beings is waning. People have even observed crimes in progress but refused to help so as not to be involved! Our foundational values are getting lost in these confusing days. And yet, it is these things that form the essentials of a happy and fulfilled life.

Remember that grand declaration of biblical assurance etched in the rocklike truth of Romans 8? I'm referring to verses 28–29, which read:

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren. (NASB 1995)

Maybe you've never before stopped to consider that God is committed to one major objective in the lives of all His people: to conform us to “the image of His Son.”



Couple arrested as 200 people found at unregistered rehab centre

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO AND EMMANUEL N. MTHIMUNYE

SIYABUSWA — A 59-year-old man and a 58-year-old woman have been arrested after approximately 200 people were found at an alleged unregistered rehabilitation facility operating from church premises in Waterval B, Siyabuswa.

The arrests followed a multi-agency operation on Thursday, 15 October 2026, involving the Mpumalanga Department of Social Development, environmental health officials and the South African Police Service (SAPS).

According to the department, the pastor and his wife initially told officials they were accommodating about 60 people. However, an inspection reportedly found approximately 200 residents, including more than 30 women, an 11-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl.

Some residents had reportedly travelled from Rustenburg, Soweto, Springs, Mamelodi and other areas.

Officials raised concerns about overcrowded rooms, inadequate ablution facilities and locked water taps. One room reportedly accommodated 37 people, while some residents had sores. Allegations also emerged that some residents had been chained together.

Gift Skhosana, who said he spent seven months at the facility, described his experience as inhumane.

Speaking to the *Highveld Chronicle*, Skhosana said he and his family had agreed that he should

seek help for drug use after hearing about the facility, unaware of the conditions inside.

“I was admitted for using drugs. My family and I agreed that it was the best thing for me to do because we had been hearing about this place, but we had no idea what was going on there,” he said.

Skhosana alleged that residents endured poor conditions and that some were chained as part of practices the operators believed would help people detoxify.

“What I experienced was inhumane,” he said. He added that although he had access to a bedroom and received food, breakfast was frequently missed.

Comfort Ngobe, from the department's Communication Directorate, confirmed that the facility was not registered to provide substance-abuse rehabilitation services under the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008.

Ngobe said the operators had presented the premises as a church where they prayed for people experiencing witchcraft-related and other spiritual concerns.

He said accommodating more than 150 people in one yard also raised concerns about water supply, environmental health requirements and municipal by-laws.

The department further alleged that residents paid R3,000 a month, while people who brought them to the facility, described as

“scouters”, received R1,300 per person monthly through an arrangement involving the church.

Following the operation, officials profiled residents and arranged transport to help them reach safe destinations after contacting parents or caregivers. Ngobe said at least four minibus taxis were procured to assist.

The department said 11 people showing signs of mental-health challenges were admitted to Mmamethlake Hospital for assessment and care.

At least 15 others required temporary shelter after their parents or guardians could not be located. Some residents came from North West, Limpopo and Vosloorus.

Police separately confirmed that 14 people were taken for medical treatment during Thursday night's operation. It remains unclear whether they were among those later reported by the department as having been admitted to hospital.

In a statement issued on Friday, 16 October, the SAPS Office of the Provincial Commissioner confirmed that the couple had been arrested that morning.

They face charges including kidnapping, operating an unregistered treatment centre in contravention of the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008, and failing to comply with applicable environmental health and safety requirements.

Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General

Apaphia Modise has assembled experienced detectives and specialised units to investigate the matter.

Police said further arrests and additional charges were possible.

The couple is expected to appear in the Mdtjana Magistrate's Court in Siyabuswa on Monday, 19 October 2026.



MHRF councillor disputes fresh expulsion after court ruling

LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG — Middelburg and Hendrina Residents Front (MHRF) councillor Cindy Mashabela is considering contempt of court proceedings against the party, alleging that it has failed to reinstate her despite a High Court order declaring her earlier expulsion unlawful.

The Mpumalanga Division of the High Court, Middelburg Local Seat, ruled on 20 August 2026 that Mashabela's expulsion in May was unlawful, irregular and invalid. The court ordered her immediate reinstatement as an MHRF member and councillor in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, with retrospective effect.

Mashabela, who also served as the party's treasurer, was expelled on 13 May following her suspension on 6 January 2026.

The charges against her included alleged insolence over language used in a party WhatsApp group, gross misconduct and gross insubordination for refusing to return a party laptop.

According to documents seen by the *Highveld Chronicle*, Mashabela was invited to a disciplinary hearing on 18 March 2026. The court found that the party's Municipal Executive Committee (MEC) had breached the MHRF constitution and the principles of natural justice.

The ruling followed an earlier disciplinary committee decision that upheld Mashabela's procedural objection and recommended that her suspension be lifted.

Despite the court ruling, Mashabela maintains that she has not been reinstated and is preparing to pursue contempt of court proceedings against the party.

The MHRF, however, disputes her claims, maintaining that it complied with the judgment by correcting shortcomings in its disciplinary procedures.

The party claims Mashabela failed to attend a second disciplinary hearing, which subsequently resulted in another decision to expel her.

Mashabela disputes the party's account, saying she is still awaiting the outcome of the second hearing that the MHRF claims took

place.

MHRF chairperson Jomo Segage said the party interpreted the judgment as requiring it to address procedural irregularities in its disciplinary process.

“The court said we did not follow our constitution. There was a gap between the MEC and the chairperson of the disciplinary committee in the previous hearing. We then resolved to follow what the court was saying in terms of the disciplinary process within the MHRF,” Segage said.

He said the party convened a second disciplinary hearing to give Mashabela an opportunity to present mitigating circumstances.

According to Segage, Mashabela did not attend the hearing, and the party subsequently decided to expel her again.

Segage added that Mashabela could appeal the decision to the MHRF chairperson rather than the chairperson of the disciplinary hearing.



Middelburg and Hendrina Residents Front (MHRF) councillor Cindy Mashabela is considering contempt of court proceedings against the party, accusing it of failing to comply with a High Court order reinstating her after her earlier expulsion was declared unlawful.

Photo: Supplied

South Africans lead in Nkangala spaza ownership figures, but 604 shops remain unexplained

LUCAS SHONGWE

NKANGALA — South African-owned spaza shops outnumber those owned or operated by foreign nationals by 51 in Nkangala District Municipality's reported ownership figures.

However, inconsistencies in the data leave hundreds of registered shops unaccounted for.

The *Highveld Chronicle* examined spaza shop registration and compliance figures across the district's six local municipalities following complaints that foreign-owned shops outnumber those owned by South Africans.

The concerns came to the fore during marches in Thembisile Hani and Steve Tshwete local municipalities on Thursday.

According to the district municipality, it has received 2,360 spaza shop registration applications since President Cyril Ramaphosa ordered the registration of spaza shops in November 2024. Of these, 1,337 have been registered, while 161 shops have been shut down for non-compliance.

The municipality's figures list 392 shops as South African-owned and 341 as owned or operated by foreign nationals, a difference of 51.

However, the two ownership categories account for only 733 of the 1,337 reported registrations, leaving 604 registered shops without an identified ownership category.

The breakdown across the six local municipalities also reveals discrepancies, with some ownership totals exceeding the number of registered shops.

In Steve Tshwete, 182 shops were registered, but only 21 were listed as South African-owned and 65 as foreign-owned. Seventeen shops were closed.

eMakhazeni received 156 applications and registered nine shops. However, its ownership figures list nine South African-owned and 24 foreign-owned shops, exceeding the reported registrations. Five shops were closed.

Thembisile Hani received 413 applications and registered 184 shops. Its ownership figures list 184 South African-owned and 150 foreign-owned shops, while 15 closures were reported.

Dr JS Moroka received 460 applications and registered 93 shops. However, its ownership figures list 103 South African-owned and 90 foreign-owned shops, with 34 closures recorded.

Victor Khanye received 411 applications and registered 159 shops. Its figures list 33 South

African-owned and 12 foreign-owned shops, while 13 closures were reported.

eMalahleni received 710 applications and registered all 710 shops. However, only 42 were listed as South African-owned, with none recorded as foreign-owned. The municipality reported 77 closures, the highest number in the district.

Across Nkangala, the figures indicate that 1,023 of the 2,360 applications had not been registered at the time of reporting.

District Municipal Manager Mandla Mahlangu attributed the delays to incomplete applications and difficulties contacting applicants.

"Some of the applications received were incomplete without ID documents and the necessary documents were not attached. Others did not indicate the business address and contact details. Registrations are still being processed, the challenge is those with non-working contact numbers," he said.

Mahlangu said applicants had been advised to visit their local municipalities to check the progress of their applications, but many had not returned.

He said the 161 closed shops were being monitored, with owners issued compliance notices or spot fines. They were required to address the identified non-compliance before reapplying.

The registration drive followed President Ramaphosa's directive on 15 November 2024, requiring spaza shops to register within 21 days and submit personal and business details, including an affidavit.

Foreign nationals were also required to submit relevant passports or permits and valid work or business visas, where applicable.



Official figures show 392 South African-owned spaza shops compared with 341 owned or operated by foreign nationals in Nkangala District. However, the ownership figures account for only 733 of the 1,337 reported registrations, raising questions about the accuracy and completeness of the data

Photo: Steve Tshwete LM Facebook Page

Political parties demand stricter by-law enforcement in Thembisile Hani

EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

KWAGGAFONTEIN — Three political parties marched to the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality offices on Thursday, 15 October 2026, demanding stricter enforcement of municipal by-laws and inspections of local businesses.

The march, organised by the African Independent People's Organisation (AIPO), MK Party and Service Delivery Party (SDP), was held under the banner “March and March”. The parties handed over a memorandum raising concerns about drug abuse, business compliance, land occupation, immigration and local economic opportunities.

AIPO founder and leader Hotnot Masemula said the march was prompted by growing concerns about drug abuse among young people and unemployment.

“Our children have succumbed to drugs. Our children are school dropouts because of the influence that they consume in the streets,” he said.

Masemula also alleged that foreign nationals were taking over local spaza shops and economic opportunities. He called on the municipality to conduct inspections and verify whether businesses complied with legal requirements.

The memorandum called for inspections of shops and food products, action against suspected drug-related activities, lawful land allocation and stricter enforcement of municipal by-laws.

It also raised concerns about immigration, public services and employment opportunities. Concerned resident Lawrence Tibane said conditions in the area were affecting residents’

daily lives. He raised concerns about informal structures near shopping centres and questioned whether some traders had the necessary documentation to operate businesses.

Tibane urged the municipality to address residents’ concerns peacefully.

“We want the municipality to take this memorandum. Go through it. After going through it we want positive feedback. We don’t want to take drastic measures that will end up in looting or violence but we want a peaceful solution,” he said.

The memorandum was received by Thembisile Hani Local Municipality MMC for Technical Services and Infrastructure Development Eunice Malekane on behalf of the municipality. Malekane acknowledged residents’ constitutional right to raise concerns about municipal services and said the municipality had already introduced inspection operations targeting spaza shops.

She said the inspections were aimed at ensuring that food and other goods sold at local businesses were safe for consumption.

Malekane committed the municipality to providing feedback within seven days, as stipulated in the memorandum.

“We want to work with our residents because we are the municipality that serves its people,” she said.

Related march in Middelburg

Meanwhile, residents in Middelburg also participated in the “March and March” campaign on the same day, although no memorandum was handed over to the municipality.

According to information supplied, marchers

visited businesses they suspected of operating illegally and instructed foreign national-owned spaza shops to close.

The march reportedly moved from Tokologo to Malope Village before proceeding to the Middelburg industrial area.

March leader Sifiso Masemola accused local authorities of applying business compliance requirements inconsistently to South African and foreign national business owners.

“We want to put a stop to that and demand that local authorities verify whether these businesses are legitimate and comply with municipal health

and safety standards,” he said.

The marches in Kwaggafontein and Middelburg formed part of a campaign demanding stricter enforcement of municipal by-laws, safer neighbourhoods and the protection of local livelihoods.

However, allegations raised by marchers concerning immigration status, criminal activities and business compliance have not been independently verified. The circumstances surrounding the reported closure of spaza shops in Middelburg also remain unclear.



Marchers make their way through the streets of Kwaggafontein towards the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality offices to hand over a memorandum demanding stricter enforcement of municipal by-laws.



African Independent People's Organisation (AIPO) founder and leader Hotnot Masemula



Thembisile Hani Local Municipality MMC for Technical Services and Infrastructure Development Eunice Malekane signs an acknowledgement of receipt of the memorandum



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Municipalities across South Africa are expected to undergo significant reforms aimed at improving governance, strengthening accountability, fighting corruption and restoring reliable basic service delivery over the next five years. The commitments, outlined in the ANC's 2026 Local Government Election Manifesto, seek to address longstanding challenges, including deteriorating infrastructure, unreliable services, financial difficulties, corruption and weak municipal leadership. The 2026–2031 programme focuses on six priority areas: reliable basic services, economic development and job creation, safer communities, sustainable municipal finances, ethical leadership and greater community participation.

First 100 days to focus on service delivery
A 100-day action programme will prioritise immediate service delivery challenges, including repairing streetlights, fixing potholes and water leaks, addressing sewer spillages, clearing illegal dumping sites and maintaining public spaces. Mayors in ANC-led municipalities will be expected to publish their 100-day

programmes, engage communities through public meetings and account for progress before the end of the period. Councillors will be required to hold their first ward meetings within 30 days, make their contact details available and develop ward programmes of action in consultation with residents. Within 60 days, municipalities will be expected to publish a State of the Municipality Report outlining their financial position, governance challenges and service delivery performance, accompanied by a costed recovery and delivery plan.

Professional leadership and accountability
Municipal administrations will be strengthened by ensuring that critical vacancies for municipal managers, chief financial officers and senior managers are filled within 120 days. Appointments will be based on qualifications, experience, competence and integrity, while municipal officials will be protected from inappropriate political interference. Councillors will also be required to

sign public performance agreements and pledges of ethical conduct, with regular assessments introduced to monitor their performance. Those who repeatedly fail to fulfil their responsibilities could face disciplinary action or recall.

Zero tolerance for corruption
Measures to combat corruption will include lifestyle audits for mayors, mayoral committee members and senior municipal managers, stricter procurement controls and action against corrupt or non-performing contractors. Municipalities will be expected to investigate allegations of corruption and maladministration, recover public funds lost through misconduct and act on Auditor-General findings within 12 months.

Financial recovery and discipline
Financial recovery measures will target the elimination of unfunded municipal budgets within the first two years of the new term. Other priorities include improving revenue collection, strengthening financial controls, reducing wasteful expenditure and ensuring that



compliant suppliers are paid within 30 days.

Greater transparency and community participation
Municipalities will be expected to publish budgets, procurement information, audit outcomes and corrective measures to improve transparency and public oversight. Residents will also have access to digital and in-person platforms to report service delivery problems, request assistance and track municipal responses.

Measurable targets by 2031
By 2031, municipalities are expected to publish annual performance reports detailing commitments made, achievements, outstanding challenges and corrective action. The proposed reforms place greater emphasis on measurable targets, responsible leadership and public accountability, with success ultimately depending on implementation and tangible improvements in services delivered to communities.

Mayoral bursary drive and school visits
motivate Class of 2026

EMMANUEL N. MTHIMUNYE
NKANGALA—As the Class of 2026 prepares for its final National Senior Certificate examinations, municipal leaders in Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka are encouraging matriculants to remain focused, pursue further studies and take advantage of educational opportunities. Thembisile Hani Local Municipality has opened applications for its 2026 Mayoral Bursary Scheme, aimed at assisting young people who wish to further their education after matric. Executive Mayor Cllr Lesetja Dikgale extended his best wishes to matriculants across the municipality and South Africa, urging them to approach their examinations with confidence and determination. “It is through your dedication, resilience and sacrifice that you have gotten this far, and as you sit for your examinations, remember that we are behind you. Your future starts now, study hard, and believe in yourself. Remember, education is the key that unlocks your future and the future of Thembisile Hani. Good luck to you all,” he said. As part of efforts to raise awareness about the bursary scheme, the municipality conducted a roadshow at five secondary schools, including Mphumelomuhle, Mkhephuli, Ziphakamiseni, Vukuzamel and Dumelani. The roadshow aimed to inform learners about available bursary opportunities, encourage them to plan for education beyond matric and motivate eligible candidates to apply. Prospective applicants have been encouraged to familiarise themselves with the bursary requirements and submit their applications within the stipulated period. Meanwhile, in neighbouring Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, Speaker and ANC

Nkangala Regional Chairperson Cllr Jonas Boshomane visited Sele Senior Secondary School in Molapoamogale/Kameelpoort on Monday, 12 October 2026, to motivate matriculants ahead of their final examinations. Boshomane encouraged learners not to allow their circumstances to limit their ambitions and urged them to continue improving their qualifications beyond matric. “Never give up on studying to advance your qualifications so that you can have a better future. Yesterday you knew me as a Speaker, but you can wake up tomorrow and find me promoted to another position with another qualification. As I speak, I am still willing to advance my own qualifications. I am not giving up,” he said. He emphasised the importance of lifelong learning, reminding learners that education does not end after completing matric. Boshomane also commended the learners for reaching their final examinations despite facing storms, heavy rain and other challenges throughout the year. He said reaching this stage was an achievement in itself, particularly as some learners had dropped out along the way. His message to the Class of 2026 was one of determination and hope, encouraging them to remain committed to their academic goals regardless of their circumstances. “Go out there and shine, make us and yourselves proud. Do not let your environment determine your destination.” Both initiatives highlighted the importance of education in creating opportunities for young people, with Thembisile Hani focusing on access to financial support for further studies and Dr JS Moroka encouraging learners to remain determined and continue advancing their qualifications.



SABC Mpumalanga Combo Business Manager Nkosinathi Ntuli, representing Ikwewezi FM and Ligwalagwala FM, addresses matric learners during the Mayoral Bursary Scheme roadshow in Thembisile Hani. Ntuli encouraged the Class of 2026 to work hard and pursue further education opportunities.



Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality Speaker and ANC Nkangala Regional Chairperson Cllr Jonas Boshomane, dressed in his graduation gown, during his visit to Sele Senior Secondary School. He used his academic journey to encourage matric learners to continue furthering their qualifications.

ISIKO LETHU

Our Story

ILIZWI

WITH SIPHO MAHAMBA

AmaKhosi namaKhosana azwakalise ukutshwenyeka ngokuvikeleka kwabo

EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

AmaKhosi kanye namaKhosana azwakalise ukutshwenyeka ngevikeleko lawo, amaKhosi athi akasazi boni aphephile ngendlela izinto sezenzeka ngakhona ngombana, sele kulula khulu ukusahlelwa kwabo.

Lokhu kuza ngemva koku sahllelwa kuka Mongameli weContralesa, obuye abe nguS'hlalo Wendlu yamaKhosi, ubuRholi beNdabuko kanye nestjhaba sama Khoi-San, eMpumalanga uKgoshi, Mathupa Lameck Mokoena.

U Kgoshi Mokoena usahlelwe botsotsi nge 8 ngeleSine, ebusuku kiyo inyanga ephezulu le ka Sewula. U, Kgoshi Mokoena, usahlelwa nje ubegade akwakhe, eMkhuhlu, endaweweni ye Malegeza eMpumalanga. Kukunje kuse ngakaziwa, unobangela uhlohlozele ukusahlelwa kwakhe, kodwana okuhle kukuthi akunamuntu ekubikwe bona ulimele namkha uhlongakele emndeninakhe, kodwana oku khona kukuthi, kuse ngaka bikwa bona bakhona ababanjiweko nofana njani, nanyana kunjalo amapholisa asayiphenya indaba le, begodu babawa bona nakukhona umuntu ongaba nolwazi ngendaba le angavela ngaphambili. Kikho koke lokhu, uKgoshi Mokoena, uveze

ukuthi ukhe wabikela amapholisa ngendaba yeen'gidi esele zizele enarhenezi zingaziwa bona zibuyaphi, yeke namhlanje naku upheze wabulawa njengoba umzakhe uthuthunjiswe ngeenkulenje.

Yeke amaKhosi namaKhosana athi akasa zizwa aphephile anamkha avikelekile ngombana sele ku bona kala ngasuthi sele kuyinjwayelo ukusahlelwa kwawo. Lokhu kuvezwa ngu ndabezitha HRH iKosi Magodongo Mahlangu we Ndzundza Mtshabi Traditional Authority enge Buhlebuzile village Kwamhlanga.

"Into yokusahlelwa kwama Khosi ibonakala yanda khulu begodu iyathusa, ngoba kungasikade kwa dutjulwa kabulawa umntwanekosi u Kosi Thugwana kanti beku ngasi kade kubulewe umntwane kosi u Johannes Mbagwa Mahlangu. Yeke lokhu kukodwa kuya khombisa bona amaKhosi akakavikeleki akakaphephi. Okubuhlungu kukuthi la ebukhosini kunzima ngoba kusegwa imilandu begodu kuphuma nezahlulelo, yeke lokho kukodwa kungaba nomthelela yokuthi amaKhosi abulawe ngoba akusuye woke umuntu othanda nowamukela iimisebenzi eyenziwa maKhosi, kungakho ivikeleko lethu

kufuzeke liqalelelwe njengoba kuqalelelwe iinkhulu zembusweni." Kutjho u Ndabezitha, HRH iKosi uMagodongo Mahlangu.

UNdabezitha urage wathi ezinye zezinto ezenza bona kube nezehlakalo ezi nje, kulwela ukuthatha iindawo zamaKhosi ngoku ngamthetho begodu ngekani

"Ipolotiki sele ingenelele khulu eendabeni neendaweni zamaKhosi ngombana nje uzokufunyanisaka ukuthi bakutjele bona indawo thizeni ngeya kamaspala, kodwana nawuthu uyatjheja leyo ndawo isendaweni yekosi, begodu kufunyaniseke bona ithiyelelwe ngekosi yaleyo ndawo. Yeke lokho kukodwa kunomthelela ngombana kususa inturhu phakathi kwaboso polotiki kanye namaKhosi ngombana kuletha ukunyazana, beseke kuqeda ibambiswano, yeke lokho akusiyo into ehle begodu esigayi jabulela kungakho umbuso kufuzeke ubambisane namaKhosi begodu usebenzisane nama khosi. Lokho kukodwa kuzoku letha ukuthula kanye nokuphilisana. Enye into esilila ngayo sima khosi kukuthi nathi kuyafuneka bona sibe nabo nogada njengabantu bembusweni nabosopolotiki ukuze siphephe ngoba nathi sisebenzela isitjhaba begodu siyasibusa."

Nje ngoba indaba yoku sahllelwa kuka Kgoshi Mokoena, kube yindaba mlonyeni nje, UNGqongqotjhe weze lawulo, loku Busa ngoku

Bambisana, iiNdaba zoku Hlaliswa kwabaNtu kanye neze Ndabuko (CoGHSTA). ubaba ,u Speed Mashilo. ugandelele bona urhulumende angekhe avumele bona, iizenzo zobu lelesi ezimbi kangaka ziragele phambili emiphakathini begodu zisongele amaKhosi.

"Kulihlazo elithuwelelako ukuzwa noku bona amaKhosi ahlaselwa ngasuthi zintuthwana, lokhu kuya khombisa bona amaKhosethu akakavikeleki begodu asengozini ngombana kuna masela alinga ukuwa khahlumeza, yeke sele kufike emaphethelweni kadesi, simbuso, emyangweni wakwa CoGHSTA, siyazi bophelela eku sebenzisaneni namapholisa ukuze kutholakale abenzi besenzwesi, sifuna umthetho wenze ngambo umzekelo ukuze k'sasa bakwazi ukuhlonipha amaKhosi, namaKhosana kanye namaduna wawo, kafitj hazana woke umuntu." Kutjho u UNGqongqotjhe we CoGHSTA, u Speedy Mashilo.

uMashilo ukhuphe umlayelo oqinileko woku bana amaPholisa weSewula Afrika (SAPS) nawo woke ama-ejensi, amthangala woku phoqelela umthetho bona arhabe athathe amagadango msinyana, begodu azimisele ukulandelela noku bopha abantu abenze ubugebengobu, obumaphorodlha, boku sahlala u Kgoshi Mokoena.

Okwanje kusengakabi nabantu ababotjiweko kodwana iphenyo liyaraga.



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Mpumalanga MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation Leah Mabuza during the launch of the 11th Mpumalanga Cultural Xperience at Emnotweni Arena in Mbombela on 13 October 2026. Photo: DCSR



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NOTICE: ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION FOR MINE PLANT (PTY) LTD ON PORTION 2 AND PORTION 4 OF THE FARM BRAKFRONTEIN 264 IR

- **DMPR REF: MP 30/5/1/2/2/10503MR**
- **ECO ELEMENTUM REF: 24-3035-AUTH**
- **NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION DATE: 16/10/2026**
- **PPP NOTICE START DATE: 16/10/2026**

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act No. 28 of 2002) (as amended) (MPRDA) and its associated regulations, the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (as amended) (NEMA) and its associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA), and the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA), that Mine Plant (Pty) Ltd is applying for a Mining Right, a Water Use License and a Waste Management License for the mining of coal in an area of 471 ha, located on Portion 2 and Portion 4 of the Farm Brakfontein 264 IR, within the Magisterial District of Delmas, Mpumalanga Province.

Eco Elementum (Pty) Ltd (EcoE) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to manage the Environmental Authorisation (EA) process and to conduct the required Public Participation Process (PPP). Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register and participate.

The following applications and subsequent approvals are applicable:

- Mining Right Application (MPRDA): Section 22
- Environmental Authorisation (NEMA and EIA Regulations):
 - o GNR 983 – Activities 9, 10, and 24.
 - o GNR 984 – Activities 6 and 15, and 17.
 - o GNR 985 – 4 and 14.
- Water Use License Application (WULA) in terms of the NWA Section 21 water uses.
- Waste Management License (WML) Application
 - o Category B – Activity 10 and 11

Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR): Public Review Period: The Scoping Phase has been completed, and the Scoping Report (SR) has been accepted by the competent authority. The project has now entered the EIA Phase. The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (DEIAR), including the specialist studies and the draft Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), will be available for a 30-day review and comment period from **16 October 2026 – 17 November 2026 (excluding the 4th of November 2026)**. To access the DEIAR and appendices, please visit the www.ecoelementum.co.za under the Downloads Page. Alternatively, documents may also be shared electronically upon request.

Submitting comments: I&APs are invited to register and submit written comments on the DEIAR. When submitting comments, please:

- Quote the project title and Project Reference Number;
- Include your full name, contact details, and preferred method of communication (e.g., email, WhatsApp, or SMS).
- Comments may also be submitted by email, WhatsApp, telephonically or in person at the public meeting.

Please direct all correspondence to: Mr. Marcel Prinsloo and Mr. Lloyd Vermeulen (cc Ms Orinda Mafika) **ITel:** 012 807 0383 **WhatsApp:** 082 765 6080
Email: marcel@ecoe.co.za, lloyd@ecoe.co.za and orlinda@ecoe.co.za
Project Ref: 24-3035-AUTH (Mine Plant MR & IWULA)

Public Meeting Information: We welcome all I&APs to our Public meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to present the findings of the DEIAR and to allow I&APs to engage directly with the EAP. The meeting will be a seated session. The EAP will begin with an outline of the project and then take you through the proposed activities, the potential environmental and social impacts identified in the specialist studies, and the proposed mitigation measures. A question-and-answer session will follow, where I&APs can raise concerns, ask questions and comment on the project. All comments raised at the meeting will be recorded and responded to in the Comments and Response table, which will be submitted to the competent authority with the Final EIAR. Please take note of the meeting details below:

• **Date:** 29 October 2026 • **Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Venue: Delmas Country Lodge, Plot 39 Union Forest Plantations, Leeupoort, Delmas, 2210



Young football talent shines at eMalahleni tournament

SHARON CHILOANE AND
NODICAH FUNDAMA

EMALAHLENI — Young footballers from across the Emalahleni Football Association's development leagues showcased their talent during the 2026 Champ of Champs Tournament at Witbank High School on Saturday, 10 October 2026.

The tournament brought together teams from Ga-Nala, Phola, Ezinambeni and eMalahleni town, with champions crowned in five divisions, including Under-11, Under-13, Under-15, Under-17 and Ladies Under-17. Sports Wrap Academy claimed the Under-11 title, with Young Aces finishing runners-up. Zimu Hlelo was named goalkeeper of the tournament, while Thokgalang Mmaphere walked away with both the top goalscorer and player of the tournament awards.

In the Under-13 division, Highveld Young Loins emerged as champions, with African Stars finishing second. Thabiso Nkosi received the goalkeeper of the tournament award, Nkosinathi Mahlangu was named top goalscorer, while Siyabonga Nkosi claimed the player of the tournament award.

Phola Classic Academy secured the Under-15 championship, beating Young Aces to the title. Banda Siya received the goalkeeper of the tournament award, Jabari Jabril was named top goalscorer, while Shertton Mhlanga took home

the player of the tournament award.

Mighty Rangers were crowned Ladies Under-17 champions, with Emalahleni Rainbows Ladies finishing runners-up. Liyama Boya was recognised as goalkeeper of the tournament, Anele Nkosi received the top goalscorer award, while Samantha Matabestane was named player of the tournament.

In the Under-17 division, Blackburn FC claimed the championship, with Thushanang FC finishing second. Blessing Nkosi received the goalkeeper of the tournament award, while Njabulo Msibi scooped both the top goalscorer and player of the tournament awards.

The tournament provided young footballers with an opportunity to compete against teams from different development leagues while gaining valuable match experience.

It also highlighted the importance of grassroots football structures in identifying and nurturing emerging talent across eMalahleni.

The 2026 Champ of Champs Tournament formed part of the Emalahleni Football Association's ongoing efforts to promote youth football development and recognise outstanding performances in its local leagues.



Middelburg to host Steve Tshwete Boxing League launch

LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG — Middelburg is set to host the launch of the Steve Tshwete Boxing League on 21 November 2026, with Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture Gayton McKenzie expected to officially launch the national initiative aimed at developing amateur and professional boxing. The launch will take place at the Steve Tshwete Banquet Hall after the venue was moved from East London to Middelburg.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture has allocated R9 million to the project, with R1 million earmarked for elimination rounds in each of the nine provinces.

The competition is expected to feature 48 professional boxers and 54 amateur boxers affiliated with the South African National Amateur Boxing Organisation (SANABO). McKenzie first announced the initiative during the National Boxing Convention held at the International Convention Centre in East London on 20 and 21 February 2025.

The league aims to strengthen boxing development in South Africa by providing young boxers from villages and townships with access to organised, funded competitions and opportunities to compete at national level.

The initiative also honours the legacy of Steve Vukhile Tshwete, South Africa's first democratic Minister of Sport and Recreation, who died on 26 April 2002 at the age of 63.

Former boxer and Boxing South Africa (BSA) Mpumalanga Provincial Manager Oupa Lubisi said he persuaded the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to move the launch to Middelburg.

"We engaged the department and made a strong case for why the launch must be held here. Steve

Tshwete played a huge role in sport in this country, and hosting it here honours the legacy he left," Lubisi told the Highveld Chronicle.

The programme will begin with weigh-ins on 20 November, followed by fights on 21 November and the Last 16 stage on 22 November in Middelburg.

The quarter-finals are scheduled to take place in Durban on 23 December 2026, while the semi-finals will be held in Gauteng early in 2027.

The finals are scheduled for the Orient Theatre in East London in March 2027.



Former boxer and Boxing South Africa (BSA) Mpumalanga Provincial Manager Oupa Lubisi, pictured with Ilanga Boxing Promotion co-founder Jane Lubisi (centre) and Dickson Mpopu from the Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation (right). Oupa Lubisi said he persuaded the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to move the Steve Tshwete Boxing League launch to Middelburg.

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