



Councillor Djiana remembered as a 'dedicated servant'

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DELMAS PRINCIPAL APPEARS IN COURT OVER SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS

Khangela Primary parents raise concerns following principal's arrest

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ISSUE: 392 | 23 OCTOBER 2026



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Couple granted bail after 200 people found at alleged unregistered rehab centre

EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE
SIYABUSWA B — A couple accused of operating an unregistered rehabilitation centre after approximately 200 people were found at church premises in Waterval B, Siyabuswa B, have been granted bail. The couple appeared in the Mdtjana Magistrate's Court in Siyabuswa on Monday, 19 October 2026, where they were each granted bail of R1 000. They are expected to appear in court again on Wednesday, 25 November 2026, as investigations continue. Their arrest followed a multi-agency inspection involving the Mpumalanga Department of Social Development, environmental health officials and the South African Police Service (SAPS). According to the department, an initial inspection was conducted on Thursday, 15 October, after officials received information about a possible unregistered rehabilitation facility. During the inspection, the couple reportedly told officials they were accommodating about 60 people. However, officials found approximately 200, including more than 30 women, an 11-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl. Some of those found at the premises 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 were found

with sores. There were also allegations that some residents had been chained together. Following the inspection, the couple were arrested on Friday, 16 October. 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.

Department confirms facility was unregistered
In a formal response to the Highveld Chronicle, the Mpumalanga Department of Social Development, through Kanego Thete, confirmed that the facility was not known to the department and was not registered. "The Department was not aware of the church as a rehabilitation Center. The Center is not registered in terms of the Prevention of and Treatment of Substance Abuse Act No 70 of 2008," the department stated. The department said it had not inspected the facility before 15 October because it was unaware that it was operating. "The purpose of the visit on the 15th was to share information with the owners. However, the

objective was not achieved upon the discovery of the people who were kept in inhumane condition. That took precedence over the intended purpose of the visit," the department said. Following the operation, 11 people showing signs of mental health challenges were admitted to Mmamethake Hospital, while 15 others required temporary shelter. Another 14 people were taken for medical treatment.

Defence says matter is before court
The couple's legal representative, Mr Maswangani, said the defence would not release detailed information while the matter remained before the court.



The couple pray outside the Mdtjana Magistrate's Court in Siyabuswa after being granted bail of R1 000 each.

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



Genuine Humility

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God. (1 Corinthians 2:3–5)

When we think of what the great apostle Paul was like, the idea of humility isn't the first one that jumps into our minds. Consider his own admission:

My message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. (1 Corinthians 2:4–5 NASB 1995)

Now for a preacher, that's quite a comment. The man comes up front and

declares not only his lack of persuasiveness but his reason why—that they might not be impressed with his ability but rather with God's power.

There's something very authentic in Paul's humility. Over and over we read similar words in his writings. I'm convinced that those who were instructed face-to-face by the man became increasingly more impressed with the living Christ and less impressed with Paul.

When people follow image-conscious leaders, the leader is exalted. He is placed on a pedestal and ultimately takes the place of the head of the church.

But when people follow leaders with servant hearts, the Lord God is exalted. Those people speak of God's person, God's power, God's work, God's name, God's Word . . . all for God's glory.

Let me suggest a couple of revealing tests of humility:

1. A nondefensive spirit when confronted. This reveals a willingness to be accountable. Genuine humility operates on a rather simple philosophy:

Nothing to prove.
Nothing to lose.

2. An authentic desire to help others. I'm referring to a sensitive, spontaneous awareness of needs. A true servant stays in touch with the struggles others experience. There is that humility of mind that continually looks for ways to serve and to give.

In short, when it is genuine, humility becomes a conduit for the power of God.



Residents report dry taps as Rand Water warns of supply pressure

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO
DELMAS — Residents in Victor Khanye and Thembisile Hani local municipalities say they are struggling to access reliable water as Rand Water warns that high consumption among municipal customers is putting its bulk supply system under pressure. In a media statement issued on 20 October 2026, Rand Water warned that rising water consumption among several municipal customers was putting its bulk supply system under pressure, despite the utility pumping at maximum capacity. The utility urged municipalities to reduce consumption in line with their allocations and warned that it could curtail supplies to customers that continue to overconsume. According to Rand Water's published figures, Victor Khanye Local Municipality was consuming 15 megalitres per day (ML/day), against a temporary licensed volume of 19 ML/day. Thembisile Hani Local Municipality was consuming 30 ML/day, against a temporary licensed volume of 35 ML/day. Rand Water's table also lists gradual-reduction targets of 2 ML/day below current consumption for Victor Khanye and 1 ML/day below current consumption for Thembisile Hani. In Victor Khanye, Sibusiso Gregory Mkhawana said some communities along the N12 had gone months without running water. "Our taps are dry. For the past six months, we have not seen water in some areas of N12," Mkhawana

said. Pieter Senekal warned against further supply cuts, claiming that Victor Khanye receives only about half of the water its community needs from Rand Water each day, contributing to years of water shedding. "With due respect to Rand Water, it will be unfair to cut the water any further. It will be inhuman to do so," Senekal said. Senekal argued that Rand Water should focus on improving its water-treatment capacity rather than reducing supplies further. His estimate of the gap between supply and community demand has not been independently verified. In Thembisile Hani, resident Sibusiso Kekana raised concerns about leaking infrastructure while households continue to struggle with water shortages. "In Thembisile it leaks everywhere but the taps are dry," Kekana said. Rand Water's published figures show municipal consumption against temporary licensed volumes, but do not establish the causes of the reported local shortages, total community demand or the amount of water lost through distribution networks. The *Highveld Chronicle* sent media inquiries to Victor Khanye Local Municipality and Thembisile Hani Local Municipality seeking comment on the reported shortages, Rand Water's warning and the measures being taken to improve supply. Neither municipality had responded by the time of publication.

Delmas principal appears in court over sexual assault allegations

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — The principal of Khangela Primary School appeared in the Delmas Magistrate's Court on Friday, 23 October 2026, following his arrest on allegations of sexually assaulting an 11-year-old Grade 6 learner. The matter was postponed to 29 October for a formal bail application.

The arrest sparked concern among community members, some of whom gathered at the school following the allegations. The learner's mother told the *Highveld Chronicle* that her daughter, now 12, had disclosed that the principal called her into his office, touched her and instructed her to remove her trousers before allegedly sexually

assaulting her. She said the family became concerned when the child began behaving differently, crying and refusing to speak about what had happened. According to the mother, the child eventually disclosed the alleged incident after repeated attempts by the family to find out what was troubling her. The learner was taken to a clinic for medical attention. However, the results of any medical examination have not been independently verified by the Highveld Chronicle. The newspaper also received accounts from other learners alleging that the principal had touched female learners' breasts. These additional allegations have not been independently verified, and the number of learners potentially involved remains unclear. In a statement issued on 22 October, the Mpumalanga Department of Education confirmed that the principal had been placed on precautionary suspension following his arrest. The department said the suspension was necessary to protect the investigation and ensure that learners could continue their education in a safe environment.

Arrangements were also being made to appoint an acting principal while the matter was being investigated. The department has launched an internal investigation and plans to refer the matter to the South African Council for Educators. It also intends to provide counselling and other support to the learner, her family and members of the school community affected by the incident. School Governing Body (SGB) chairperson Paul Jiyane told the publication that the governing body was deeply concerned about the allegations. Jiyane also described an incident in which the school secretary intervened and referred parents to the police. He said the education department's circuit manager later stepped in to assist the parents. The department has urged the community to remain calm and allow the legal process to take its course. It also warned against sharing information that could reveal the learner's identity. The principal's suspension remains a precautionary measure, while the allegations against him are subject to the legal process. The department said it would not comment further on the matter while it is before the court.



Angry parents and community members protest outside Khangela Primary School in Delmas following allegations of sexual assault against the principal.

R10 million eMakhazeni brick plant set to boost local economy

LUCAS SHONGWE

BELFAST — The eMakhazeni Brick Manufacturing Plant will officially open on Tuesday, 27 October 2026, marking a milestone in local economic development in the Nkangala District. The opening is expected to bring together district and local leaders, business stakeholders and community members from eMakhazeni Local Municipality and surrounding areas. Situated in Ward 3, Siyathuthuka, the plant has been fully refurbished and is now producing bricks for housing and infrastructure projects across the region. The Nkangala Economic Development Agency (NEDA) told the Highveld Chronicle that the refurbishment had reached 100% physical completion. Practical completion was achieved on 6 July 2026, with all outstanding work finalised on 24 July 2026. The project is currently within its Defects Liability Period, which runs from 24 July 2026 to July 2027, during which the contractor is responsible for rectifying any defects. NEDA Chief Executive Officer Prince Mangani clarified that the R10 million represents the overall project budget, while R7 million was spent on Phase 1. "The total approved budget for the eMakhazeni Brick Manufacturing Plant project was R10 million. However, the actual expenditure incurred during Phase 1, which

focused on the refurbishment of the existing facility, was R7 million, against a phase 1 budget allocation of R7.2 million," Mangani said. The refurbishment was fully funded by NEDA through a grant allocation from Nkangala District Municipality (NDM), the agency's sole shareholder. The project is being implemented through a formal Memorandum of Understanding between NEDA, eMakhazeni Local Municipality (ELM) and eMakhazeni Development Agency (EDA). According to NEDA, the refurbishment created 35 employment opportunities and benefited 12 local subcontractors as part of efforts to support local businesses and small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs). The plant is now operational, with a production capacity of approximately 4 000 bricks per day, and has recruited 12 local labourers to support manufacturing operations. "This contributes directly to local employment creation and skills development," Mangani said. The plant's products have also recently passed laboratory tests confirming compliance with quality requirements of the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBC) and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). Mangani said the results strengthen confidence in the quality and reliability of the locally manufactured bricks. The brick manufacturing plant forms part of NEDA's broader plan to establish Economic Stimulation Zones across all six local municipalities in the Nkangala

District. Other planned projects include a Water Treatment Chemicals Project in Thembsile Hani, which will begin with a distribution warehouse before expanding into manufacturing. In Steve Tshwete, NEDA is planning a renewable energy farm, with municipal approval and feasibility studies expected to be pursued during the 2026/27 financial year.

"Rather than replicating the same brick manufacturing model everywhere, NEDA intends to facilitate municipality-specific projects aligned to local economic potential," Mangani said. "NEDA aims to create Economic Stimulation Zones in all six municipalities to drive local industry, jobs and inclusive growth using local resources and investment."



The eMakhazeni Brick Manufacturing Plant in Siyathuthuka, Belfast, is producing approximately 4 000 bricks per day ahead of its official opening on 27 October 2026.



Steve Tshwete
Local Municipality

ERRATUM - TENDER. BS02/09/2026

Notice is hereby given of the changes made to tender requirements of the following project which was advertised on Middelburg Observer of the 25th September 2026:

APPOINTMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL TWO (2) SERVICE PROVIDERS TO THE PANEL FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR A PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS AS AND WHEN REQUIRED

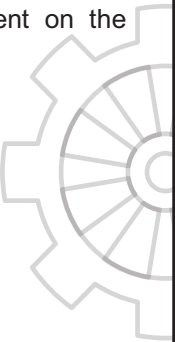
Removal of a **Professional Indemnity Insurance** requirement on the Tender notice (Page 11)

Replaced by a **Public Liability Insurance** requirement

Closing Date is 28 October 2026.

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused

MUNICIPAL MANAGER
S.M.Mnguni



Festive adventures await closer to home in Mpumalanga



The festive season is an opportunity to unwind, reconnect with loved ones and explore new places. For residents of Nkangala District and surrounding areas, enjoying a memorable holiday does not necessarily mean travelling long distances or spending heavily.

Mpumalanga offers a variety of destinations, from nature reserves and hiking trails to family resorts and outdoor entertainment venues.

Whether planning a day trip, family outing or weekend getaway, here are five destinations worth exploring this festive season.

Loskop Dam: A family getaway surrounded by nature



Situated approximately 55 kilometres north of Middelburg, Loskop Dam Nature Reserve, with its expansive dam and natural surroundings, is a popular destination for families, couples and groups looking to relax and enjoy outdoor activities.

Set along the Olifants River, the nature reserve boasts breathtaking scenery, comfortable accommodation and a range of outdoor activities for both day visitors and those planning an overnight getaway.

Activities and facilities include:

- Boat trips, fishing, and Watersport
- Swimming pools and children's play areas
- Hiking and birdwatching
- Picnics and family braais
- Wildlife viewing at the nearby Loskop Dam Nature Reserve
- Self-catering chalets, cabins, caravan and camping facilities
- Restaurant and convenience store
- 3km Walking Trails and 4x4 Drives



IMAGE BY WEWILD AFRICA



The nearby nature reserve is home to wildlife, including antelope, crocodiles, hippos and leopards.

Visitors planning overnight stays are encouraged to book early and confirm the availability of activities.

Zithabiseni Resort: Celebrate the New Year in style



Zithabiseni Resort and Conference Centre, situated in the Mabusa Nature Reserve area near KwaMhlanga and Groblersdal, offers a combination of outdoor recreation, accommodation and entertainment.

The resort is particularly appealing to families and groups looking for a place to relax or celebrate during the festive season.

Activities and facilities include:

- Family outings and social gatherings
- Accommodation in chalets and rondavels
- Conferences, weddings and private functions
- Outdoor entertainment and events
- Annual All White Picnic

One of the festive highlights is the **All White Picnic scheduled for 1 January 2027**, offering visitors an opportunity to welcome the New Year with music, food and entertainment.

SS Skosana Nature Reserve: Experience wildlife and natural beauty



experience, SS Skosana Nature Reserve near Bronkhorstspuit offers an opportunity to explore Mpumalanga's natural heritage.

Covering approximately 1,800 hectares, the reserve features granite outcrops, indigenous vegetation and wildlife, including zebras, wildebeest, kudus and tsessebe.

Activities and facilities include:

- Wildlife viewing
- Birdwatching
- Nature photography
- Exploring natural landscapes
- Relaxation in a peaceful bushveld environment
- Outdoor swimming pools
- Self-catering accommodation, subject to availability

The reserve also provides an opportunity to appreciate the area's natural and cultural heritage.

eMalahleni Recreation Resort: Family fun without travelling far



Situated along Witbank Dam, eMalahleni Recreation Resort offers residents an affordable option for enjoying outdoor activities without leaving the area. The resort caters for families, groups and visitors looking for recreational activities, while the neighbouring Witbank Nature Reserve offers opportunities to experience wildlife.



Enjoy a scenic boat cruise on Witbank Dam in eMalahleni through Steve's Place. For bookings and enquiries, contact 072 403 1300.

Activities and facilities include:

- Swimming pools and a children's pool
- Supertube
- Picnic and braai facilities
- Boating and fishing
- Family gatherings and private functions
- Hiking and birdwatching at Witbank Nature Reserve
- Wildlife viewing
- Self-catering chalets and camping facilities

Wildlife in the neighbouring reserve includes eland, wildebeest, kudu, waterbuck, impala and zebra.

The destination is suitable for day visitors and those planning an overnight stay, with activities subject to operating arrangements.

Wathaba Hiking Trails: Escape into the mountains



Located in the Skurweberg Mountains, approximately 20.8 kilometres from Machadodorp towards eManzana formerly known as Badplaas, Wathaba Hiking Trails offers an outdoor escape for hiking enthusiasts and nature lovers.

The destination is known for its mountain scenery, waterfalls, indigenous vegetation and peaceful surroundings.

Activities and facilities include:

- Hiking trails of varying difficulty
- Exploring waterfalls, including Rainbow Falls
- Visiting natural pools
- Birdwatching and nature photography
- Exploring indigenous vegetation
- Scenic mountain walks
- Self-catering cabins, cottages and group accommodation

The trails offer visitors an opportunity to enjoy fresh air, mountain views and the natural beauty of the surrounding environment.

Explore local and support tourism

You don't have to travel far or spend a fortune to enjoy a memorable festive season. Some of Mpumalanga's most exciting holiday destinations are right on your doorstep, offering everything from family fun and outdoor adventures to wildlife experiences and entertainment.

Whether it's enjoying water activities at Loskop Dam and eMalahleni Recreation Resort (Witbank Dam), exploring wildlife at SS Skosana Nature Reserve, celebrating at Zithabiseni Resort or hiking the scenic mountain trails of Wathaba, there is plenty to discover closer to home.

Beyond the fun and adventure, choosing local destinations also helps support tourism businesses, create employment opportunities and boost the local economy. So, before planning that long-distance holiday, take another look at what Mpumalanga has to offer. Your next unforgettable festive adventure could be just a short drive away.

ADVERTORIAL

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES AND GROWING ECONOMY

ANC's renewed commitment and plan to grow businesses, create jobs and improve lives



MANIFESTO 2026



From township businesses and informal traders to tourism operators and young entrepreneurs, local economies depend on access to trading spaces, reliable infrastructure, investment and opportunities to earn a living. The African National Congress (ANC) has placed local economic development and job creation among its priorities for the 2026–2031 municipal term, outlining plans to stimulate business activity, attract investment and expand economic opportunities in towns, townships and rural communities. In its 2026 Local Government Manifesto, the ruling party proposes reducing barriers to doing business, revitalising neglected commercial areas and helping municipalities identify industries capable of driving local growth. The party also acknowledges that inadequate infrastructure, limited funding, administrative delays, corruption and weak municipal capacity have prevented many communities from realising their economic potential.

Cutting red tape for small businesses

For many entrepreneurs, securing suitable premises, obtaining licences and accessing finance remain significant challenges. The ANC proposes introducing more accessible municipal business services, reducing licensing backlogs and establishing clear turnaround times for building plans, rezoning and other approvals. A single point of contact for investors and entrepreneurs would also be introduced to help businesses navigate municipal processes.

The liberation movement further wants municipalities to expand affordable trading spaces, markets and ready-to-use business premises to accommodate small enterprises, cooperatives, informal traders and home-based businesses. Local Enterprise and Innovation Hubs would provide workspace, internet connectivity, shared business services, digital skills training and access to potential markets and funding opportunities. The aim is to create an environment in which emerging businesses can establish themselves, grow and contribute to employment.

Reviving town centres and township economies

The ruling party identifies the revitalisation of central business districts, township business areas and commercial precincts as an important part of its economic development programme. Proposed interventions include improving roads, lighting, cleanliness, public transport and safety while bringing unused municipal buildings and land back into productive use. Municipalities would also be expected to identify priority industries and economic opportunities based on their local strengths. These could include agriculture, agro-processing, manufacturing, tourism, fisheries, digital services, creative industries and green technologies. Under the ANC's proposals, each

municipality would establish clear economic priorities and measurable annual targets through its Local Economic Development Plan. The programme also seeks to use infrastructure grants, development finance and partnerships with businesses and non-profit organisations to attract investment and support job creation.

Tourism and creative industries offer growth potential

Tourism, heritage and cultural activities are also identified as important contributors to local economic development. The ANC proposes improving tourism infrastructure, installing signage and maintaining heritage sites, museums and other places of cultural and historical significance. Such investments could benefit accommodation establishments, restaurants, tour guides, transport operators, craftspeople, performers and other businesses that depend on visitors. Partnerships with communities and traditional leadership would form part of efforts to promote local attractions and preserve cultural heritage. Artists and creative entrepreneurs would also benefit from the proposed enterprise hubs, which are intended to improve access to workspace, digital resources, business support and markets. The approach recognises the economic contribution of cultural activities beyond entertainment, particularly their potential to support local producers and create

employment.

Work experience and digital access

Unemployment, particularly among young people, remains another challenge the party seeks to address. The ANC plans to expand the Expanded Public Works Programme and Community Work Programme in partnership with national and provincial government. These initiatives would be linked to infrastructure maintenance and service delivery, while graduates and young people would gain workplace experience in areas where municipalities face skills shortages. The programme aims to contribute towards one million work, training and enterprise opportunities, although this does not represent a commitment to create one million permanent municipal jobs. Digital inclusion forms another part of the proposals, with free public Wi-Fi envisaged at municipal libraries, clinics, community halls and customer-care facilities. The party also wants municipalities to negotiate with mobile network operators to make access to municipal service portals free of data charges. This would allow residents to report service delivery problems without using their own mobile data while improving access to information and digital services.

Opening opportunities to women and young people

The liberation movement has also outlined measures to improve economic participation among women, young people and persons with disabilities.

These include women's enterprise hubs, dedicated trading spaces, youth entrepreneurship programmes and disability-inclusive business support. By 2031, ANC-led municipalities would work towards procurement targets of 40% for women-owned businesses, 20% for youth-owned businesses and 3% for enterprises owned by persons with disabilities. Municipalities would also be expected to strengthen local supplier development, advertise procurement opportunities transparently and pay compliant suppliers within 30 days. The proposals seek to ensure that municipal spending contributes to local business development rather than leaving emerging enterprises struggling to access opportunities. However, the success of these commitments would depend on municipal capacity, available funding and consistent implementation. For communities facing unemployment, struggling businesses and declining commercial activity, the key measure will be whether the proposed interventions translate into functioning business facilities, increased investment and meaningful economic opportunities. The ANC's economic development programme sets out its priorities for the next five years, with municipalities expected to turn these commitments into measurable local development plans.

THLM launches Transport Month roadblock on R573, unveils new enforcement system

EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

THEMBISILE HANI — Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (THLM) launched Transport Month with a joint law enforcement roadblock on the R573 and unveiled a new traffic law enforcement system on Friday, 16 October 2026, as part of preparations for the festive season. The operation, led by Acting Executive Mayor Cllr Themba Ntuli, brought together the Mpumalanga Transport Inspectorate, Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), Department of Home Affairs Immigration Services and South African Police Service (SAPS). "Transport Month is not just a campaign, it is a call to action for all road users to prioritise safety. Our joint operation on the R573 demonstrates our commitment to ensure compliance, reduce accidents and save lives. We have also unveiled a new traffic law enforcement system that will strengthen our ability to monitor compliance and enforce the law," said Ntuli. Transport Month is observed annually in October to promote safe, efficient, accessible and reliable transport. The campaign focuses on road safety, law enforcement, public transport compliance and responsible road use. According to the municipality, the

campaign also marks the beginning of its festive season road safety preparations, ahead of increased traffic volumes and long-distance travel in December. "As we approach the festive season, we are intensifying our operations to ensure that our roads are safe. October is not only Transport Month but also the beginning of our festive season road safety plan. We want to make sure that taxis are roadworthy, drivers are compliant and pedestrians are safe before the peak period begins," Ntuli added. The joint roadblock focused on enforcing traffic regulations, checking vehicle compliance and strengthening cooperation among law enforcement agencies. During the operation, THLM traffic officers issued 59 fines for offences including speeding and failure to wear seatbelts. The Mpumalanga Transport Inspectorate inspected 80 minibus taxis, discontinued two from operating and issued one charge. Meanwhile, the RTMC issued two fines, while the Department of Home Affairs Immigration Services arrested six people. SAPS also searched 500 vehicles during the operation. "The 59 fines issued, the discontinuation of two unroadworthy taxis and the arrests made show that law enforcement is working. We will continue with these joint operations with

RTMC, SAPS, Home Affairs and the Provincial Inspectorate throughout October and right into the festive season," Ntuli said. The municipality said the newly unveiled traffic law enforcement system would strengthen its ability to monitor compliance, improve enforcement processes and support safer roads for motorists, passengers and pedestrians. The system forms part of efforts to improve traffic law enforcement ahead of the festive season, when increased traffic volumes place

additional pressure on the road network. "Through this Transport Month launch on the R573 and our new enforcement system, we are sending a clear message that road safety is non-negotiable in Thembisile Hani. We call on motorists, taxi operators and pedestrians to work with us to make our roads safe during Transport Month, the festive season and beyond," Ntuli said. THLM reaffirmed its commitment to continued joint operations and stronger traffic law enforcement to protect residents, commuters and other road users.



LEFT: Acting Executive Mayor Cllr Themba Ntuli, wearing an orange reflective vest, checks a driver's licence during the joint law enforcement operation on the R573.

ISIKO LETHU

Our Story

ILIZWI

WITH SIPHO MAHAMBA

Ubukhosi bakwa Ndzundza Fene buhlonyuliswe nge veni: IKosi uNdabezitha Vusi Mahlangu uhlonyuliswe nge nge veni ezokurhelebha ezokusebenza ekuphetha imisebenzi yes'tjhaba

EMMANUEL N MTHIMUNYE

Kube lithabo lodwa ebu Khosini bakwa Ndzundza Fene njengoba, iKosi uNdabezitha Vusi Mahlangu ahlonyuliswe ngesipho esiligugu esiyi veni uNdabezitha uMahlangu ubegade ahlangana nezinye iinkosi, ez'hlonyulisweko lokha uNdunakulu weSifunda seMpumalanga, uMnu. Mandla Ndlovu, anikela ngoku semthethweni ngee nthuthi zeemveni ezima-sumi amathathu nanne (34) eMkhandlwini yeze Ndabuko. Umnyanya lo ube ugade ubanjelwe ehloko dorobha yes'funda seMpumalanga iMbombela, etatawini lebhola erarhwako iMbombela Stadium, ngeles'hlanu, lokha amalanga nagade alisumi nes'thandathu (16)kiyo inyanga ephezulu le kaSewula. Kazi iinthuthezi zimkhomba ndlela yokusebenza ezibuya ku ngurhulumente wes'funda, ngehloso yokuqinisa indima edlalwa bukhosi bendabuko em'phakathini yeendaweni zemakhaya. UNdunakulu bekakhambisana noMEC wezokuBusa ngokuBambisana, nobuKhosi kanye nokuhlaliswa kuhle kwabantu, (CoGHSTA), uMnu. Speed Mashilo. UNdunakulu uMandla Ndlovu uthe iinthuthezi kufuzeke zisebenzele iintjhaba lakubusa khona amaKhosi la, ngoba nazi nje zilitshwayo loku khombisa bona urhulumente uzibophelele ekuthuthukiseni iintjhaba zamaKhosi. uNdunakulu uthe amaKhosi asabambebelele ekuhlonipheni nekurageni imisebenzi yamasiko, amagugu, kanye nokuthuthukisa iintjhaba zawo. Ngalo khoke bangurhulumente bazi bophelele ekutheni basekele amaKhosi ngombana lokho kuzoku qinisa ubudlelwano phakathi kwamaKhosi nombuso namkha norhulumente. “kumthetho ukuthi singu rhulumente sisebenzisane namakhosi ekuthuthukiseni iintjhaba zamaKhosi, siyazi bona kubanzima

khulu bona amaKhosi akwazi ukurhelebha emphakathini, kodwana lokha nasi sebenzisana nawo ngakelinye ihlangothi senza bona imisebenzi ibelula, yeke kungakho singurhulumente sasungula ihlelo loku hlomulisa amaKhosi ngeenyawo ezilula, lokhu akutjho bona sinjingisa amaKhosi kodwana kutjho bona sirhelebhana nawo ukuthuthukisa iintjhaba zawo. Nje singa kutjho kuzale umlomo bona lokha nakunemihlangano yamaKhosi, amaKhosekhethu azokwazi ukufika ngombana sele aneenyawo ezilula, begodu nalokha em'phakathini siyazi bona amaKhosi sele azokwazi ukurhelebha begodu afike neendaweni ezikude ngombana nje sele aneenyawo ezilula yeke kumsebenzi wethu loyo singurhulumente bona sisebenzisane namakhosi.” Kutjho uNdunakulu uNdlovu. UNdunakulu uhlathulule amaKhosi njenga balingani abaqathekileko emzabalazweni wokulwa netjhirho, ukutlhogeka, kwemisebenzi kanye noku ngalingani. Uthe amaKhosi ayazizwisisa iindingo zes'tjhaba, begodu akwazi noku hlangana iintjhaba bona zikwazi ukuhlaziya amano wezamahelelo wetuthuko. “amaKhosi amthangala woku vikelana nokuthuthukisa iintjhaba la abusa khona ngombana nakuba netuthuko eza emphakathini, kuthonywa kubikwe emaKhosini bona kuzokuba netuthuko ezukuba khona esitjhabeni, beseke kuthi ikosi ngokubambisana nomas'pala bakhiphe imodere ezokhamba imemezela esitjhabeni bona kunohlangano obizwa yikosi omayelana netuthuko yeke, leyomihlangano kufuzeke imenzezele ngeenthuthi ezibuya kurhulumente njenge veni le esiyinikela uNdabezitha bona ikwazi ukurhelebha esitjhabeni.” UNdunakulu uNdlovu ubuye wathi urhulumente uzokuhlola amathuba woku

sebenzisa, ikambiso yobudijithali ukuthuthukisa uku khulumisana, ukugcinwa kwamarekhodi neendlela zokuphatha ema ofisini wemiKhandlo yezamaKhosi neNdabuko. uNdunakulu ukhuthaze khulu uku bambisana okuqinileko phakathi kwamaKhosi, amaKhansela wama wadi kanye naba phathi bakwamas'pala ukuze iindingo zomphakathi zilungiswe ngendlela efaneleko. uNdabezitha u Mahlangu uthokoze uNdunakulu Kanye nethimba lakhe ngoku tlhogomela amaKhosi, begodu nangoku qinisekisa bona imisebenzi yamaKhosi iyenzeke emphakathini “sibuKhosi bakwa Ndzundza Fene ngaphasi kweNgwenyama uMabhoko III silitokoza khulu isekelo lombuso, ngokuthi umbuso uqalele amaKhosi, Kanye nemisebenzi wawo, njenge Kosi yakwaFene ngiyathembisa bona lesi siphos, kusi siphos, ses'tjhaba, nje sele ubuKhosi buzo kwazi ukufika eendaweni ezikude, ukwazi ukuphetha amabanga wobu Khosi, kanye nes'tjhaba, ngiyaqinisekisa bona iveni le akusiyo yama banga wami kodwana ingeyama banga wes'tjhaba kanye nokuraga iimisebenzi yobu Khosi es'tjhabeni” Ama-ofisi womKhandlu wezeNdabuko waKwaFene kanengi athloga bona abasebenzi bakhamba amabanga amade bayokusiza amalunga womphakathi. Yeke, ukuba nes'thuthesi kuyo rhelebha uMkhandlo bona uphendule msinyana eendingweni zomphakathi begodu uhlale useduze nabantu obasebenzelako. uS'hlalo we Contralesa Kanye neziNdlu zamaKhosi Kanye nama Khoi-San eMpumalanga, uKghosi Lameck Mokoena: uveze ukuthi iMpumalanga isifunda sokuthoma so kuthenga iimveni zoku sebenza, ukusekela iimisebenzi weenkhlulu zob'Khosi bendabuko. UKgoshi uMokoena uthe iimvenezi zizokusiza khulu ama-ofisi

wemikhandlo yeNdabuko bona ikghone ukufinyelela eentjhabeni zamaKhosi ezimaqalanga. “kuligalelo lombuso elikhulu bona kuqalele amaKhosi ngombana adlala indima eqakatheke khulu eentjhabeni, yeke njengo s'hlalo weContralesa Kanye neziNdlu zamaKhosi eMpumalanga ngilamukela ngeezandla, ez'futhumeleko igalelo lokuqalelela amaKhosi ngoba lokhu kuzowa khuthaza bona, nawo azibophelele ngokuzimisela ekurageni imisebenzi yokutlhogomela iintjhabazawo, khulu kazi ngithabiswa bona nje amaKhosi anikelwe iimveni lokhu kuyakhombisa bona urhulumente ulenzile irhubhululo lakhe wabona bona, eendaweni zamaKhosi kufuneka iimveni ngombana ezinye iindawo azikhambeki, kodwana siyathemba bona, nayo leyo izoba semahlelweni karhulumente yokulungiswa kweendlela eendaweni zamaKhosi, njengoba namhlanje is'funda sethu senze itshwayamlando yokunikela amaKhosi iimveni." ukwamukelwa kweveni ebuKhosini bakwaFene kusithembiso sokuthi ubuKhosi bendabuko esiYingini seNkangala buzoku bonakala khudlwana. Begodu kadesi sele kuyoba lula khulu ukufika ebantwini khulu kazi eThembalethu laku nzinze khona ubuKhosi bakwaFene. Kazi hlangana nabantu ebebakhambele umnyanya lo begade ku khona nabo sodorobha babo mas'pala abahlukileko kubalwa uSodorobha we Mbombela uSibongile Makushe-Mazibuko, kanye no Sodorobha kaMas'pala weSiyingi se-Ehlanzeni, uMnu: Terrence Shabangu. Kazi iimvenezi ezima sumi amathathu nanne (34) ngezokuthoma ekuhlonyuliswe ngazo im'khandlo, yeeNdabuko, yeke kubikwe bona ezinye zazo zizokuthengwa enyangeni ezako le.



Ikosi uNdabezitha, Vusi Mahlangu womKhandlo weNdabuko wakwa Ndzundza Fene wamukela isitifiketi sakhe kuNdunakulu weMpumalanga, uMnu. Mandla Ndlovu, nges'khathi sokunikelwa kwe veni.



Ezinye zeemveni, ezitjha zakwa-Isuzu, ezinikelwe ngurhulumente weSifunda seMpumalanga em'khandlwini yeNdabuko, ngehloso yokuqinisa ukulethwa kwemisebenzi yesitjhaba eendaweni zemakhaya, zamaKhosi.



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BEKA LAKHO LOBUBODLHANA

UMTHETHOMLINGWA WESIKHIBELELO SEMITHETHO YEZAMAKHETHO
[I-B24 – 2026]

ISIMEMO SEEMPHAKAMISO NEMIBONO YOMPHAKATHI

IKomidi yesiBethamthetho seNarha yezangeKhaya imema ababambisani, abantu, neenhlango ezinetsisakalo bonyana bathumele imibono etlolve phasi ngomThethomlingwa wesiKhabelelo semiThetho yezamaKhetho [I-B 24 – 2026].

Umnqopho womThethomlingwa lo kukhabelela:

- UmThetho weKomitjhini yezamaKhetho, womnyaka we-1996, ukwenzela ukuqalelela ukususwa kokutoliswa okukatelelelako kweenhlango ezingakajanyelwa nezibhalelwa kuvuselela ukutoliswa kwazo kwaqobe myaka; ukuhlomelela isiqalelelo esimalungana nokufaneleka kweenhlango ezitolisiweko ukungenela amakhetho; kanye nokukhabelela ukwakheka kweKhotso yezamaKhetho.
- UmThetho wezamaKhetho, womnyaka we-1998, ukwenzela bonyana kukhitjelelwe iinhlathululo ezithileko; ukusula isiqalelelo; ukukhabelela iinqalelelo eziqalelela iimfuneko zokufaneleka ukufaka isibawo sokutoliswa njengomvowudi; ukukhawulela ukuphikiswa erhelweni labavowudi elihlanganiswe kwesikhatjhana kwaphela; begodu nokuhlathulula igunya leKomitjhini ekuqunteni ngokuphikisa okukhona; kunye
- NomThetho wezamaKhetho kaMasipala: uRhulumente weNdawo, womnyaka wee-2000, ukwenzela bonyana kukhitjelelwe ihlathululo; nokukhabelela umthetho ophathelene nokufaneleka kweenhlango ezitoliselwe ukungenela amakhetho, nokuqalelela iindaba ezihlobene nalokhu.

Ilanga lokuvala ukuthunyelwa kwemphakamiso kungomhla ka-30 kuSinyikhaba 2026 ngesimbi ye-16:00. Ikhophi lomThethomlingwa lo ungalithola ku-Parliament.gov.za ngaphasi kwelinki yemiThethomlingwa nofana ngokulibawa kuNobhala weKomidi ngokusebenzisa imininingwaneni yokuthintana engenzansi.

Iimphakamiso kufanele zinqotjhiswe kuNobhala weKomidi, uNom. Eddy Mathonsi, ngeposomoya ethi: ElectoralLawBill@parliament.gov.za. Ungamdosela umtato ku-083 709 8523.

Sikhutjhwwe ngumHlonitjhw. uMm. Chabane, iLunga lePalamende, usihlalo: weKomidi yesiBethamthetho seNarha etjheje zangeKhaya

IPalamende – Silandelela ukuzibophelela kwethu eBantwini – Ukwenza ingomuso lakho lisebenze ngcono

Councillor Djiana remembered as a 'dedicated servant'

LUCAS SHONGWE
EMALAHLENI — The eMalahleni Local Municipality and the African National Congress (ANC) in Nkangala are mourning the death of long-serving councillor Jerry Patric Djiana, who has been remembered as a dedicated public servant.



The late eMalahleni PR councillor Jerry Patric Djiana, who died on 21 October 2026, served in several municipal leadership positions, including MMC for Technical Services and Development Planning, and MPAC chairperson.

Djiana died on 21 October 2026, with the municipality announcing his passing in an official statement the following day. "eMalahleni Local Municipality is deeply saddened by the passing of councillor Jerry Patric Djiana," the municipality said. Born in 1971, Djiana served the municipality for more than a decade in various leadership positions. He was first elected as Ward 6 councillor in 2011 before becoming a proportional representation (PR) councillor in 2016. During that term, he was appointed Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Technical Services and also served as chairperson of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC). In 2024, he was appointed MMC for Development Planning, a position he held alongside his duties as PR councillor until his death. "He served in this position until he met his untimely death while serving as a PR councillor," the municipality said. Paying tribute to Djiana, the municipality described him as a dedicated public servant whose commitment to the community would be remembered. "Throughout these years of service, councillor Jerry Djiana demonstrated a strong commitment to representing the community and serving its people. His dedication and contribution will be remembered with deep

respect," the statement read. The municipality extended its condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and everyone who had worked with him. "Our thoughts are with them during this difficult time," it said. The ANC in Nkangala also paid tribute to Djiana, describing him as a comrade who remained dedicated to serving the people until his last day. "The ANC extends its heartfelt condolences to Cde Djiana's family, friends, colleagues, comrades and all who had the privilege of working with him," ANC Nkangala spokesperson Clarence Maseko said.

"Our thoughts and prayers are also with the ANC caucus in the eMalahleni Council and the wider community he served. May they find comfort in knowing that he remained dedicated to the people until he was called by his Creator. May the revolutionary soul of Comrade Jerry rest in peace," Maseko said. Djiana and former MMC for Technical Services Busi Hlumbane had previously been relieved of their official duties by Mayor Vusi Nhlapho following their arrest by the Mpumalanga Hawks on allegations of bribery and corruption. The pair was arrested on 16 April after allegedly being caught receiving a R20 000 bribe at Witbank Dam, reportedly part of a R500 000 demand linked to facilitating the extension of a lease agreement.



ANC Mpumalanga Deputy Chairperson Speed Mashilo, flanked by Nkangala Regional Chairperson Kabelo Boshomane and Regional Treasurer Millicent Shabangu, during a visit to the family of the late Jerry Djiana on Thursday. Picture: Supplied

Court relaxes bail conditions for Sibanyoni and co-accused, case postponed to April 2027

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO
DELMAS — The Delmas Magistrates' Court has relaxed the bail conditions of businessman Madoda Johannes Sibanyoni and his three co-accused, Mvimbi Masilela, Philemon Msiza and Bafana Sindani, who are facing allegations of extortion and money laundering. The court ordered the four accused to report to their respective local police stations and sign the register once a month instead of every week, following an application by the defence that was not opposed by the State. The accused were granted bail in early June 2026 when the case was re-enrolled. Their bail conditions required them to attend all court proceedings until the matter was finalised, refrain from interfering with witnesses, report to

a police station weekly and avoid committing any offence while out on bail. The latest ruling changes their reporting frequency from weekly to monthly. It has not been established whether any other bail conditions were amended. During the proceedings, the defence also raised concerns

about alleged threats against the investigating team, stressing the importance of ensuring the safety of everyone involved in the case. No individuals were identified as being responsible for the alleged threats in the information available.

Sibanyoni and his three co-accused allegedly demanded more than R2.2 million in protection fees from a mining businessman. The allegations have yet to be tested in court. The matter was postponed to 20 April 2027 to allow for further investigations and the completion of outstanding disclosures.



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Notice is hereby given in terms of the Regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act 1937 of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of Deed of Transfer T 6143/2014 passed by VICTOR KHANYE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY in favour of MCC SECURITY AND PROJECTS CLOSE CORPORATION. (Registration Number.1996/022368/23) in respect of ERF 7628 BOTLENG EXTENSION 5, TOWNSHIP Registration Division I.R, Transvaal which has been lost or destroyed.

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Delmas festival gives artists a platform to grow

● RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS — More than 40 groups took to the stage at the Delmas Rising Art Festival on 17 October, transforming the Simon Gondwe Sport Centre into a platform for music, dance, theatre and other creative arts, as organisers sought to create opportunities for local artists beyond the stage.

The festival, held from 09:00 to 22:00, attracted hundreds of community members and brought together local performers under the theme, “One Stage for Different Dreams and Talents”.

Organised by Hope of Hopeless Youth Centre and Masakhane Youth Development, the event aimed to give young people an opportunity to showcase their talents, build connections and explore opportunities in the creative industry.

Speaking to the Highveld Chronicle, organisers Relebohile Ndebele and Simone Mohale said the festival grew out of a local talent initiative first held in 2025.

Initially known as the Delmas Talent Show, the event was organised by Hope of Hopeless Youth Centre in collaboration with Rise Mpumalanga Talent. It was attended by Patrick Mofokeng and other artists affiliated with Rise Mpumalanga Talent.

This year's festival marked a new chapter, with Hope of Hopeless Youth Centre joining forces with Masakhane Youth Development.

Ndebele and Mohale said the partnership was driven by their shared vision for youth development. Instead of hosting separate events with similar objectives, the organisations combined their efforts to create a stronger platform for local talent.

The festival featured a diverse line-up of performers and creative groups, showcasing the range of talent in and around Delmas.

Participating groups included Special Stars, Gondwe Stars, Mampara 038, Rising Young Stars, Amakgotsha Amnyama, LDM, V.com, Tamati Sauce, Sniper, The Healing Harmonies, Imbewu, Amanikiniki, Liz, L.L Imbongikazi Yemfihlakalo, B.C Imbongikazi, Drip Gang, Red Reyes, Thulebona Dah P, Lang'elingabukeki, Nicholas, Mbatha and Perth's Dah Poet.

Other participants included Home Boys, Hope on Sarafina, Gifted Theoretical Productions, Ntelezi Scathamiya, The Ascension of Christ, M.T.J Mr Full J, IMN 03 RSA, PRO-MISE,

Malume Uncool, King Marcus, C'GOO, V.X.T's, Lesedi Show Choir, T.Y.C, Kwaito Mantra, Semi Tone, Child of God, Black Force, Dimension, Normza Stiz, Mshengu, Art Khanye and Erubhini Art.

According to the organisers, entry and participation were free, with registration open to interested groups on a first-come, first-served basis.

The programme featured gwijo, pantsula, cultural performances, gospel, comedy and fashion, alongside music, dance, theatre and visual arts.

Organisers also provided lunch and selected a central venue to make the event more accessible to participants.

Beyond providing a stage for performers, the organisers want the festival to create lasting opportunities for young artists.

Ndebele and Mohale said participants benefited from business exposure, prizes for first and second place, and professional photographs and videos to help build their portfolios.

They are also compiling a database of artists to connect performers with future events and potential paid bookings.

Looking ahead, the organisers plan to introduce training in stage presence, personal branding and ways to earn an income through creative work. They also hope to connect promising performers with established artists for mentorship and assist them in securing paid gigs.

Future editions could also feature expanded prizes, including studio time and branding packages.

The organisers said the festival was made possible through partnerships and in-kind contributions rather than funding from a single major sponsor.

Partners included Delmas First, Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Sibiyangani Trading, LM Studios, We Are Jeel, Vezile Security Services and Perfectwater Delmas.

Their contributions helped cover venue costs, sound, prizes, lunch, printing and security.

Ndebele and Mohale said full financial information would be shared with partners and the municipality, while individual contribution amounts would remain confidential unless contributors consented to their disclosure.

They acknowledged several challenges in

organising the festival, including a limited budget, managing a full-day programme and rebuilding trust among young people who felt overlooked.

However, local partnerships, volunteers and direct community engagement helped them overcome these challenges.

To measure the festival's impact, the organisers plan to track new artist registrations, continued participation in creative activities, temporary jobs created during the event and paid bookings secured by performers afterwards.

They also intend to monitor the use of local service providers to assess the festival's contribution to businesses in Delmas.

Their long-term goal is to establish a sustainable platform where local artists can develop their skills, gain exposure and access opportunities in the creative industry.

For Hope of Hopeless Youth Centre and Masakhane Youth Development, the festival marks the beginning of efforts to build a stronger local arts community, expand their partnership and create more opportunities for young people in the years ahead.



Delmas Rising Art Festival organisers Simone Mohale (LEFT) and Relebohile Ndebele (RIGHT) share a vision of developing local talent, empowering young artists and creating opportunities for them to build sustainable careers in the creative industry.



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