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COALITION TALKS INTENSIFY AHEAD OF COUNCIL SITTINGS



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Agricultural support panel assesses Nkangala projects

EMMANNUEL N MTHIMUNYE

NKANGALA – A national assessment panel for the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) visited two government-supported farming projects in Nkangala District on Monday, 9 November, to assess their progress and the impact of government support on emerging farmers.

The panel, from the national Department of Agriculture, visited Raks Milling in Seabe, under Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, before proceeding to Eggsellent by Lebo Layer Project in Kwaggafontein, under Thembisile Hani Local Municipality.

The visits formed part of the panel's monitoring and evaluation programme to assess the performance of CASP-funded projects, identify challenges and determine where further support is needed.

Raks Milling owner Dr Thabang Marakalla welcomed the visit, saying it gave him an opportunity to raise concerns about the gap between primary producers and agro-processors.

"This visit to us is extremely important in a sense that I got to have a chance to give them a sense of the problems that exist, in terms of the gaps that exist between primary producers and agro-processors in the country," Marakalla said.

He expressed hope that the engagement would encourage government to invest in connecting black agro-processors with primary producers.

At Eggsellent by Lebo, Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) Chief Director for Engineering Services Nobuhlobo Mafu-Shongwe said the project had two environmentally controlled poultry houses, each capable of accommodating 15 000 birds.

The farm supplies eggs to local and formal markets.

Project founder and chief executive officer Lebogang Mashigo thanked the National Empowerment Fund and the provincial agriculture department for their support, saying the investment was helping her grow the business and create employment opportunities.

Mashigo said the farm was already supplying retailers, including Spar and Roots at Phola Mall, as well as other markets in Siyabuswa.

She hopes to expand operations and create lasting economic opportunities for communities in Thembisile Hani, Dr JS Moroka and the wider province.

Reflecting on her journey, Mashigo encouraged young people to pursue their dreams, regardless of how small they start.

"I started selling eggs using a wheelbarrow. Today I am supplying big markets. It shows that nothing is impossible as long as you strive to make it work," she said.

The visits formed part of a national assessment process, with provinces scheduled to present their CASP progress reports in Pretoria during the week.

The reports were expected to cover achievements during the first two quarters of the year, challenges and outstanding work.

Through CASP, government aims to strengthen agricultural production, agro-processing, infrastructure and market access while creating sustainable opportunities for emerging farmers and rural communities.



Members of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) national assessment panel engage with entrepreneurs and stakeholders in Kwaggafontein.

The Front that lost its people

LUCAS SHONGWE

MIDDELBURG – Five years ago, the Middelburg and Hendrina Residents Front (MHRF) entered the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality council with seven seats. Today, the party is left with just one after suffering a major defeat in the 2026 Local Government Elections.

The party secured only 1,404 votes, representing 1.09% of the vote, leaving its leader, Jomo Segage, as its sole representative in council after topping the party's proportional representation (PR) list.

Segage makes no excuses for the party's poor performance and admits that internal divisions contributed to its downfall."The voters have turned their backs on us," he said.

But Segage believes the party's defeat was not only about losing support at the ballot box. He said problems within its own structures had also played a significant role.

"Our own internal problems also dragged us down and contributed heavily to this poor showing," he said.

According to Segage, the party made the mistake of opening its doors to anyone who wanted to join without properly understanding their intentions.

"We opened our doors to everyone, believing they all wanted what was best for the party," he said.

However, he said some members joined with personal ambitions rather than a commitment to representing the interests of residents.

"Some joined to chase their own agendas, while others, desperate for work, saw a chance to become councillors," Segage said.

He said the party eventually found itself dealing with people who did not share its vision of becoming a trusted voice for communities in Middelburg and Hendrina.

Although the leadership recognised these challenges, Segage said it struggled to address them while trying to fulfil the mandate given to the party by residents.

Despite the electoral setback, he believes the MHRF made a difference during its five years in council.

"The party left a real mark in council by refusing to support budgets that would have pushed up rates and taxes. We spoke out strongly against corruption and poor administration, against joblessness and the employment of outsiders over locals, and we fought for residents to receive services without interruption," he said.

However, Segage acknowledged that the party could not blame voters for its decline, saying the responsibility rested with its own leadership and members.

"We cannot fault voters for penalising us for what we failed to do. We brought this on ourselves," he said.

The MHRF, which was formed in 2020 following growing frustration among residents over local issues, now faces the task of rebuilding its structures and regaining the support it once enjoyed.

Segage said the defeat had given the party an opportunity to return to communities, reflect on its mistakes and rebuild with members who genuinely wanted to serve residents.

"This defeat also gives us a second chance to return to the ground and start rebuilding. That rebuilding process matters because it will show us who truly joined the MHRF as activists determined to bring change to their communities, and who simply wanted a job as a councillor," he said.

Having entered the council as a significant local political force in 2021, the MHRF now finds itself with only one seat and the difficult task of rebuilding its support base.

For Segage, the challenge is no longer just about winning seats, but restoring the trust of the communities that gave the party its first opportunity to serve.



Middelburg and Hendrina Residents Front (MHRF) leader Jomo Segage acknowledges internal problems within the party following its decline from seven council seats in 2021 just one in the 2026 Local Government Elections.

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

SPIRITUAL CIRCLE

Being a Giver —Is Worth It?

By Pastor Chuck Swindoll

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don'tgive reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. (2 Corinthians 9:7–8)

Shortly after World War II came to a close, Europe began picking up the pieces. Much of the old country had been ravaged by war and was in ruins. Perhaps the saddest sight of all was that of little orphaned children starving in the streets of those war-torn cities.

Early one chilly morning an American soldier was making his way back to the barracks in London. As he turned the corner in his jeep, he spotted a little lad with his nose pressed to the window of a pastry shop. Inside, the cook was kneading dough for a fresh batch of doughnuts. The hungry boy stared in silence, watching every move. The soldier pulled his jeep to the curb, stopped, got out, and walked quietly over to where the little fellow was standing. Through the steamed-up window, he could see the mouth-watering morsels being pulled from the oven, piping hot. The boy salivated and released a slight groan as he watched the cook place them onto the glass-enclosed counter ever so carefully.

The soldier's heart went out to the nameless orphan as he stood beside him. "Son . . . would you like some of those?"

The boy was startled, "Oh, yeah . . . I would!"

The American stepped inside and bought a dozen, put them in a bag, and walked back to where the lad was standing in the foggy cold of the London morning. The soldier smiled, held out the bag, and said simply: "Here you are." As he turned to walk away, he felt a tug on his coat.

He looked back and heard the child ask quietly: "Mister . . . are you God?"

We are never more like God than when we give. "God so loved the world, that He gave" (John 3:16 NASB).

Let me encourage you, in spite of the high cost of giving and the small number of servant-models you may see around you, to determine to be different. God tells us He "loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7 NASB), and He promises us that the one "who is generous will be blessed" (Proverbs 22:9 NASB). Let's believe Him!

Deep down inside most Christians I know is a deep-seated desire to release instead of keep . . . to give instead of grab. It is worth whatever it takes to let that start happening. Moms, dads, singles, kids, teachers, preachers, businessmen, professionals, blue-collar workers, students—it is worth it!

Become a giver . . . and watch God open the hearts of others to Himself. We are never more godlike than when we give.

BE A GIVER

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ANC seeks coalition partners in 14 hung councils as Victor Khanye talks intensify

LUCAS SHONGWE AND RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

MPUMALANGA – The African National Congress (ANC) has approached several opposition parties in a bid to form coalition governments in 14 of Mpumalanga's 17 local municipalities after failing to secure outright majorities in the 2026 Local Government Elections, the Highveld Chronicle can confirm.

Among the parties approached are the Democratic Alliance (DA), MK Party (MKP), Service Delivery Party (SDP), Our Last Hope (OLH), Lekwa Community Forum (LCF) and Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).

The ANC secured outright majorities in only three municipalities, Bushbuckridge, Chief Albert Luthuli and Nkomazi, leaving it needing coalition partners to govern in the remaining 14 hung councils.

However, negotiations are already facing challenges, particularly with the MKP, which is reportedly demanding that the mayoral position be given to a coalition partner other than the ANC.

An ANC insider told the Highveld Chronicle that the MKP appeared unwilling to compromise on its demand.

"They appear steadfast on that demand, or they would rather stay on the opposition benches," the insider said.

"The MKP also appears uncomfortable with the DA being our biggest coalition partner."

The ANC's coalition challenge is further complicated by the absence of proportional representation (PR) councillors in eight municipalities, raising questions about how the party intends to identify mayoral candidates.

ANC provincial secretary Muzi Chirwa said the party would reopen its internal selection process to identify suitable candidates.

"In those municipalities where we don't have PR candidates, we will reopen a process to identify a candidate who will be interviewed for the mayoral position," Chirwa said.

"The process will be reopened so that we can identify a suitable candidate, interview them, and present them for the mayoral position."

Victor Khanye coalition talks take shape

In Victor Khanye Local Municipality, negotiations are continuing as political parties seek partners to form the next administration.

The SDP emerged as the largest party following the elections, securing six ward seats and one PR seat, giving it seven seats in the council.

Despite its electoral gains, the party does not have enough seats to govern alone and has approached other political formations, including the DA, for possible coalition arrangements.

SDP municipal coordinator in Victor Khanye, Sibusiso "Maloya" Mkhawane, confirmed that the party had requested a meeting with the DA.

"Yes. SDP has taken the initiative to open formal engagements with other political formations, including extending a request for a meeting with the Democratic Alliance to explore possible coalition arrangements," Mkhawane said.

He said the discussions were aimed at establishing whether the parties shared common ground and could work together to govern the municipality.

"These engagements are exploratory, and we will communicate developments as discussions progress. We are approaching this process with the seriousness it deserves because the municipality cannot afford prolonged political uncertainty," he said.

DA provincial leader Jane Sithole confirmed that the party was engaging with different political formations across Mpumalanga, including the ANC and SDP.

Sithole, who leads the DA's provincial coalition negotiating team, said meetings had already taken place with the provincial leadership of both parties.

However, she stressed that participating in negotiations did not mean the DA had agreed to form a coalition.

"Our mandate is to engage all political parties. Participation in discussions does not constitute an agreement to govern together. Any prospective partnership must be underpinned by a shared commitment to clean and accountable government, rooting out corruption, service delivery for all, the rule of law and non-racialism," Sithole said.

She confirmed that no coalition agreements had been concluded and that any proposed arrangement would still require approval from the DA's Federal Executive.

Meanwhile, OLH president Robert Khaya Segone claimed that his party had reached an agreement to work with the ANC and DA in Victor Khanye.

"As OLH, we have reached an agreement to work with the ANC and DA, which we believe is the coalition that will bring stability in the municipality and service delivery for our people," Segone said.

He added that the party was waiting for the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) to publish its coalition guidelines before proceeding.

Segone's claim, however, contrasts with the DA's position that no formal coalition agreement has been reached.

The different positions leave the municipality's future leadership uncertain, with the SDP seeking an arrangement with the DA while OLH is pursuing a coalition involving the ANC and DA.

Pressure mounts ahead of council sittings

The coalition negotiations come as municipalities prepare for their inaugural council meetings, with the first sittings in Nkangala District expected to begin on 17 November.

For the ANC, the immediate challenge is securing enough support to participate in governing the 14 hung councils while resolving its internal mayoral candidate selection process in eight municipalities.

In Victor Khanye, the outcome of negotiations will determine which parties form the next administration and who takes control of the municipality.

With political parties still negotiating, residents will be watching whether the new councils can put their differences aside and focus on improving service delivery.



Premier Ndlovu, SAPS commend peaceful conduct during Mpumalanga elections

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

MPUMALANGA – Mpumalanga Premier Mandla Ndlovu and Provincial Police Commissioner Lieutenant General Apaphia Modise have commended political parties, law enforcement agencies and voters for their role in ensuring that the 2026 Local Government Elections were conducted peacefully across the province.

Modise, who also chairs the Provincial Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (PROVJOINTS), praised the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), State Security Agency (SSA), PROVJOINTS members and other law enforcement agencies for working together to maintain safety before, during and after the elections.

In a statement issued on 9 November, the South African Police Service (SAPS) attributed the peaceful elections to careful planning, coordinated deployments and the discipline and professionalism demonstrated by security personnel.

Through PROVJOINTS, law enforcement officers were deployed across all districts to secure voting stations, protect election materials, escort Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) officials and monitor identified hotspots.

The deployments were also aimed at maintaining public order and ensuring that voters could cast their ballots without fear or intimidation.

Modise commended officers for maintaining a visible presence at voting stations, responding quickly to incidents and working closely with the IEC to maintain stability during vote counting and the announcement of results.

She also thanked residents for their cooperation and responsible behaviour throughout the election period, saying their contribution played an important role in maintaining peace.

"The peaceful manner in which the elections were conducted in Mpumalanga is a reflection of what can be achieved when law enforcement agencies work together with a common purpose," Modise said.

She further thanked officers for their sacrifices, dedication and commitment to serving the people of Mpumalanga.

Meanwhile, Premier Ndlovu also commended political parties for their peaceful conduct during the elections, saying their behaviour demonstrated respect for the democratic process and the Electoral Code of Conduct.

In a statement issued on 6 November, Ndlovu praised the IEC, law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders for their efforts in ensuring the smooth running of the elections and maintaining stability across the province.

He also acknowledged voters for exercising their constitutional right to vote, saying their participation demonstrated the importance of active citizenship in strengthening democracy.

Ndlovu urged incoming municipal leaders to prioritise service delivery and establish responsive, effective and accountable local governments that address the needs of communities.

However, despite the elections proceeding peacefully in most parts of the province, one fatal shooting was reported outside a voting station in Boikhutso, Bushbuckridge.

A 57-year-old man was shot multiple times in the upper body shortly after midnight on Thursday. He was rushed to hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.



Premier Mandla Ndlovu at the IEC Mpumalanga Results Centre

SACP draws red line in coalition talks: No DA

LUCAS SHONGWE

MPUMALANGA – The South African Communist Party (SACP) has ruled out forming coalition governments with the Democratic Alliance (DA) or any political party planning to govern alongside it, as coalition negotiations continue across Mpumalanga following the 2026 Local Government Elections.

The SACP, which contested the local government elections independently for the first time since 1994, secured 80,975 votes, representing 3.68% of the provincial vote.

In Nkangala District, the party won two council seats each in Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka, and one each in Steve Tshwete and Emalahleni.

Speaking to the ***Highveld Chronicle*** on Thursday morning, SACP Mpumalanga provincial secretary Lucky Mbuyane welcomed the election results, saying the party had performed well despite the competition.

"Very few parties could make such an achievement in the highly contested local government elections," he said.

Mbuyane said the SACP was open to coalition discussions with other political parties, but would not enter into any arrangement involving the DA.

He explained that the party's participation in coalition governments would depend on whether potential partners shared its position on economic policies and service delivery.

"This is because we will go to any coalition having demands that are against neoliberal policies, capitalism, budget cuts, privatisation of municipal services and outsourcing, and austerity agenda. We are also against corruption and patronage," Mbuyane said.

"For us, going to municipalities is not about positions, it's about responsive municipalities focused on basic needs like water, electricity, waste removal, and sanitation."

The SACP's position could influence coalition negotiations in hung municipalities such as Steve Tshwete and Emalahleni, where the party holds one seat in each council.

Its refusal to work with the DA also means it would not join any coalition involving parties that intend to govern alongside the DA.

MHRF cooperation remains uncertain

The party's position comes as questions remain over possible cooperation with the Middelburg and Hendrina Residents Front (MHRF), which approached the SACP before the elections.

During a consultative conference of the left held in Middelburg on 20 September 2026, the MHRF proposed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at formalising cooperation between the two organisations after the elections and beyond.

MHRF leader Jomo Segage said at the time that the proposed agreement would outline the pro-poor policies the parties would support, how decisions would be made and how they would protect each other's interests as partners.

However, the MHRF suffered a major electoral setback, losing six of the seven seats it held in Steve Tshwete following the 2021 elections.

Asked whether the proposed cooperation would still go ahead, Mbuyane said no formal arrangement had been reached.

"There is nothing substantial, we are not in a position to form that collaboration with the MHRF. We thought they were going to do well in Steve Tshwete but we will see as time goes by for any future collaborations," he said.

His response leaves the possibility of future cooperation open, although the two parties have not reached an agreement.

DA responds to SACP's position

The publication also approached the DA for comment on the SACP's refusal to enter coalitions involving the party.

DA Mpumalanga provincial leader Jane Sithole dismissed the position, saying: "It is entirely their problem and their choice."

Sithole also referred the publication to a video in which DA federal leader Geordin Hill-Lewis addressed political parties that had ruled out working with the DA.

"It doesn't offend me in the slightest that there are parties who ruled out working with us. That is entirely their right and they are more than welcome to do that," he said.

With coalition negotiations continuing across Mpumalanga, the SACP has made its position clear: it is willing to engage with other political parties, but will not form part of a municipal government that includes the DA.

Nkangala municipalities confirm dates for first council sittings

LUCAS SHONGWE

NKANGALA – All six municipalities in Nkangala District have confirmed dates for their first council sittings following the 2026 Local Government Elections, with Steve Tshwete and Emakhazeni set to lead the way on 17 November.

The meetings come as political parties across Mpumalanga continue coalition negotiations after 14 of the province's 17 local municipalities failed to produce outright majorities.

Mpumalanga MEC for Cooperative Governance and Human Settlements, Speed Mashilo, said municipalities had 14 days to constitute their councils, with his department having issued guidelines outlining the deadlines.

Mashilo said municipal managers would issue invitations to elected councillors once the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) had provided municipalities with the official lists of elected representatives.

"By Wednesday, the law says the Electoral Commission (IEC) must have provided municipal offices with the list of elected councillors with addresses," he said.

He added that the first council meetings had to take place before 20 November, in line with the prescribed 14-day period.

Nkangala's first council sittings

The following dates have been confirmed for the inaugural council meetings, where speakers, executive mayors and chief whips are expected to be elected:

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality:
17 November 2026
Emakhazeni Local Municipality:
17 November 2026
Thembisile Hani Local Municipality:
18 November 2026
Victor Khanye Local Municipality:
19 November 2026
Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality:
19 November 2026
Emalahleni Local Municipality:
19 November 2026

What happens if parties fail to agree?

With most municipalities in the province heading for coalition governments, political parties face pressure to reach agreements before their first council sittings.

Mashilo said the department would consider mediation where parties failed to agree on forming municipal governments.

"In events they can't come to a particular conclusion, even after the mediation, that's where we will activate the law," he said.

He warned that continued deadlocks could lead to further legal processes, including the possible dissolution of a council and fresh elections where permitted by law.

However, Mashilo said the department remained hopeful that political parties would reach agreements and focus on serving their communities.

"We believe all political parties are mature enough to make sure that they now deliver services to communities," he said.

With the first sittings scheduled for 17 November, political parties in hung municipalities, including Steve Tshwete and Emalahleni, have limited time to conclude negotiations and establish new municipal leadership.



Mpumalanga MEC for Cooperative Governance and Human Settlements, Speed Mashilo, says municipalities have 14 days to constitute their councils following the 2026 Local Government Elections.

Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka set dates for inaugural council meetings

LUCAS SHONGWE

MPUMALANGA – Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka local municipalities are among the first in Mpumalanga to announce dates for their inaugural council meetings following the 2026 Local Government Elections, as municipalities race to meet the 20 November deadline to establish new councils.

Thembisile Hani Local Municipality will hold its first council meeting for the seventh administration on Wednesday, 18 November, at Thembalethu Community Hall, starting at 12h00.

Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality will follow on Thursday, 19 November, at its council chambers in Job Skosana Street, Siyabuswa B, also at 12h00.

The meetings will mark the beginning of the 2026–2031 council terms, with newly elected councillors expected to take their oaths of office and elect municipal leadership.

For residents, the meetings will also provide an opportunity to learn who will lead their municipalities over the next five years.

Lungile Mahlangu, a resident of Vezubuhle in Ward 18, Thembisile Hani, said she was looking forward to the inaugural meeting as residents wanted to know who would be representing them.

"We want to know the people who are going to be governing us in our local municipality so that we can know when we want to deliver our memorandums or raise our issues, we will know where we are going," she said.

Mahlangu expressed disappointment that outgoing executive mayor Lesetja Dikgale would not be part of the new administration, saying she had hoped he would continue leading the municipality.

"It is a pity because we were still looking forward to being guided and to be led by Lesetja Dikgale due to the things that he has done for Thembisile in these five years. But this is politics. There is nothing we can do," she said.

Despite her disappointment, Mahlangu said residents were ready to work with the incoming leadership and hoped the new administration would bring improvements to the municipality.

The inaugural meetings come at a time when political parties across Mpumalanga are negotiating to form new municipal governments. The 2026 elections left 14 of the province's 17 local municipalities without an outright majority, forcing political parties to seek coalition partners to govern.

Mpumalanga MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Speed Mashilo, has warned that all inaugural council meetings must be held within the legally prescribed 14-day period, with 20 November 2026 identified as the deadline.

Mashilo said the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) was expected to hand over the official lists of elected councillors to municipalities by Wednesday, after which municipal managers would issue notices for the inaugural meetings.

He added that district municipalities were also expected to meet the required deadlines.

Mashilo said the provincial government would intervene through mediation where political parties failed to reach agreements on forming municipal governments.

Should negotiations remain deadlocked, further legal processes could follow, including the possibility of fresh elections where permitted by law.

He urged political leaders to put their differences aside and prioritise the needs of communities rather than political positions.

With the deadline approaching, attention now turns to whether political parties in municipalities without outright majorities can reach agreements and establish functioning administrations.

For residents, the expectation is that the new councils will move beyond political negotiations and focus on improving service delivery over the next five years.



Nomsa Mtsweni of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality is expected to return as executive mayor for another term.

EMALAHLENI
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INAUGURAL COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 29(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act 117 of 1998), that the inaugural meeting of the Emalahleni Local Council will be held as follows:

DATE:	Thursday, 19 November 2026
TIME:	10:00
VENUE:	City Hall, Civic Centre, Mandela Street, eMalahleni

The meeting will be held to constitute a new Council for the **2026–2031** term.

Members of the Public, Media Representatives and all interested stakeholders are invited to attend.

Issued by
H.S. Mayisela
Municipal Manager

Steve Tshwete
Local Municipality

NOTICE OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 29 (2) of the Local Government Municipal Structures Act, of 1998 that the first meeting of the newly elected Council of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality will be held as follows:

MEETING	DATE	TIME	VENUE
First Meeting of the Newly Elected Council	17 November 2026	09:00	Sydney Choma Banquet Hall, Middelburg.

Please note that the above meeting is open for the public however only a number of seats are available and once the meeting has commenced no entrance to the meeting will be allowed.

Furthermore public is requested to note that the above-mentioned meeting is not a Mayoral Outreach therefore only Councillors takes part in discussions.

SM MNGUNI
MUNICIPAL MANAGER
10 November 2026

www.stevetshwetelm.gov.za

New Gqeberha–Kruger Mpumalanga Airlink route to boost tourism

NODICAH FUNDAMA

MPUMALANGA – Travellers from Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape will soon have direct access to Mpumalanga's popular tourism attractions following the introduction of a new Airlink route to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA).

The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) has welcomed the new route, which is set to launch on Monday, 16 November 2026, with flights operating three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The agency said the direct connection would strengthen domestic tourism by making it easier for visitors from the coast to explore Mpumalanga's wildlife, scenic landscapes and cultural attractions.

It is also expected to boost the local economy through increased demand for accommodation, transport, hospitality and other tourism-related services.

MTPA Acting Chief Executive Officer Pamella Ntuli said the new route was an important step towards making the province more accessible to domestic travellers.

"We welcome this positive development by Airlink, which marks an important step towards improving accessibility to Mpumalanga, the Place of the Rising Sun. As a province, we are ready to welcome visitors from the coastal region to experience our world-class wildlife, breathtaking scenery, rich cultural heritage and diverse tourism attractions," Ntuli said.

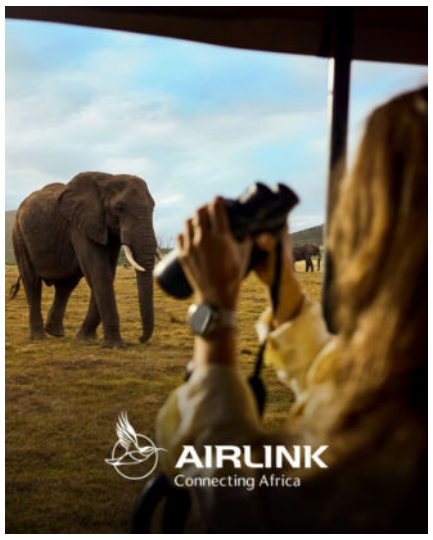
The agency encouraged tour operators, travel agencies and tourism businesses to take advantage of the route by developing attractive travel packages and itineraries that would encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more in the province.

"We will continue to work closely with the private sector to develop attractive tourism packages and experiences that will encourage visitors to stay longer, explore more of what our province has to offer and contribute to the growth of the local tourism economy," Ntuli said.

MTPA said it would continue working with airlines and tourism stakeholders to improve access to the province, support local businesses, create jobs and strengthen Mpumalanga's position as a competitive domestic and international tourism destination.



MTPA Acting Chief Executive Officer Pamella Ntuli



KENNISGEWING VAN AANSOEK OM OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING EN OPENBARE INSAE IN DIE KONSEP BASIESE ASSESSERINGSVERSLAG VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE KUSILE-SONFOTOVOLTAÏESE (PV) EN BATTERY-ENERGIEBERGINGSTELSEL (BESS)-AANLEG BINNE DIE VICTOR KHANYE PLAASLIKE MUNISIPALITEIT, NKANGALA DISTRIKSMUNISIPALITEIT, MPUMALANGA PROVINSIE.

Kennis geskied hiermee dat Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (Eskom) voornemens is om 'n sonfotovoltaïese (PV)-aanleg en battery-energiebergingstelsel (BESS) by die Kusile-kragstasie, binne die Victor Khanye Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, Nkangala Distriksmunisipaliteit, Mpumalanga Provinsie, te ontwikkel. Die voorgestelde ontwikkeling vorm deel van Eskom se verbintenis om Suid-Afrika se oorgang na 'n laekoolstof-energietoekoms deur die ontwikkeling van hernubare-energie-infrastruktuur te ondersteun. Die projek beoog om by te dra tot die diversifisering van die land se energiemengsel, die sekerheid van elektrisiteitsvoorsiening te verbeter en die doelwitte van die Regverdige Energie-oorgang (Just Energy Transition – JET) te ondersteun deur afhanklikheid van steenkoolgebaseerde elektrisiteitsopwekking geleidelik te verminder.

Die voorgestelde ontwikkeling sal bestaan uit 'n son-PV-aanleg met 'n geïnstalleerde opwekkingskapasiteit van ongeveer 360 megawatt (MW) en 'n BESS met 'n kragkapasiteit van ongeveer 120 MW, wat tussen vier en ses uur se energieberging sal bied. Die voorgestelde ontwikkeling sal binne 'n projekgebied van ongeveer 386 hektaar op die eiendom van die Kusile-kragstasie geleë wees. Ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998 (Wet No. 107 van 1998) (NEMA), en die Omgewingsimpakassesseringsregulasies (OIA-regulasies), 2014, soos gewysig, kan die voorgestelde ontwikkeling Gelyste Aktiwiteite 11, 12, 19 en 28 ingevolge Lyskennisgewing 1 (Goewermentskennisgewing R. 983 van 2021), Gelyste Aktiwiteite 1, 9 en 15 ingevolge Lyskennisgewing 2 (Goewermentskennisgewing R. 984 van 2021), en Gelyste Aktiwiteite 4 en 14 ingevolge Lyskennisgewing 3 (Goewermentskennisgewing R. 985 van 2021), waar van toepassing, aktiveer.

Die voorgestelde ontwikkeling is geleë binne die eMalahleni Hernubare-energie-ontwikkelingsone (REDZ), wat as Sone 9 geïdentifiseer is. In ooreenstemming met Goewermentskennisgewing No. 114 van 2018, gepubliseer in Staatskoerant No. 41445, is die voorgeskrewe omgewingsmagtigingsprosedure vir kwalifiserende grootskaalse sonfotovoltaïese ontwikkelings binne aangewese REDZ-gebiede van toepassing. Gevolglik word die voorgestelde aansoek om Omgewingsmagtiging (OM) deur middel van 'n Basiese Assesseringsproses (BA) onderneem. Verder kan die voorgestelde ontwikkeling aktiwiteite binne waterlope en hul gepaardgaande gereguleerde gebiede behels. Gevolglik sal magtiging vir watergebruike soos bedoel in Artikels 21(c) en 21(i) van die Nasionale Waterwet, 1998 (Wet No. 36 van 1998), vereis word, onderhewig aan bevestiging van die toepaslike Watergebruiklisensievereistes (WGL).

Die Konsep Basiese Assesseringsverslag (KBAV) en terreinspesifieke Omgewingsbestuursprogram (OBPr) vir die voorgestelde Kusile-son-PV- en BESS-projek sal vanaf 12 November tot 11 Desember 2026 vir openbare insae en kommentaar by die volgende openbare plekke beskikbaar wees: KwaGuqa-biblioteek, Lynville Openbare Biblioteek, Klipfontein-takbiblioteek, Witbank Openbare Biblioteek, eMalahleni Hoofbiblioteek, Klarinet Openbare Biblioteek, Bronkhorstspruit Gemeenskapsbiblioteek, Ogies-biblioteek, Phola Openbare Biblioteek en Delmas Openbare Biblioteek. Die dokumente sal ook elektronies op Zitholele Consulting se webwerf by www.zitholele.co.za/environmental/ onder die opskrif "Kusile Solar PV" beskikbaar wees.

Alle belanghebbendes wat aan hierdie proses wil deelneem, kommentaar op die Konsep Basiese Assesseringsverslag en die gewysigde Omgewingsbestuursprogram wil lewer, en deur die loop van die proses op hoogte gehou wil word, word aangemoedig om as 'n Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party (B&GP) te registreer deur hul kontakbesonderhede en belangstelling in die projek aan die Openbare Deelnameproses (ODP)-kantoor te stuur deur die onderstaande kontakbesonderhede te gebruik. Alternatiewelik kan 'n SMS met die woorde "Kusile BAR" na 45776 gestuur word.

Die ODP-kantoor kan soos volg gekontak word: Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd; Me. Londolani Sitsula; Posbus 6002, Halfway House, 1685; Tel: 011 207 2060; Faks: 086 674 6121;
E-pos: kusileBAR@zitholele.co.za

ISAZISO SESICELO SOKUGUNYAZWA KWEZEMVELO KANYE NOKUBUYEKEZWA KOMPHAKATHI KOMB IKO OSALUNGISWA WOKUHLOLWA KWEMVELO (DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT) MAYELANA NEPHROJEKTHI EHLONGOZWAYO YOKWAKHIWA KWESIKHUNGO SOKUPHEHLA UGESI NGAMANDLA ELANGA (SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC – PV) KANYE NOHLELO LOKUGCINA AMANDLA KUMABHETHRI (BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM – BESS) ESIKHUNGWENI SIKAGESI SASEKUSILE, KUMASIPALA WENDAWO WASEVICTOR KHANYE, KUMASIPALA WESIFUNDA SASENKANGALA, ESIFUNDAZWENI SASEMPUMALANGA.

Ngalesi saziso, umphakathi uyaziswa ukuthi i-Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (Eskom) ihlela ukwakha isikhungo sokuphehla ugesi ngamandla elanga (Solar Photovoltaic – PV) kanye nohlelo lokugcina amandla kumabhethri (Battery Energy Storage System – BESS) eSiteshini Sikagesi saseKusile, esingaphansi kukaMasipala Wendawo waseVictor Khanye, kuMasipala Wesifunda saseNkangala, eSifundazweni saseMpumalanga. Le phrojekthi ehlongozwayo iyingxenye yokuzibophezela kwe-Eskom ekusekeleni uguquko lwaseNingizimu Afrika oluya ekusetshenziswini kwamandla akhiqiza ikhabhoni encane, ngokuthuthukisa ingqalasizinda yamandla avuselelekayo. Le phrojekthi ihlose ukwandisa izinhlobo zemithombo yamandla esetshenziswa ezweni, ukuthuthukisa ukuvikeleka nokuthembeka kokuphakelwa kukagesi, kanye nokweseka izinhloso zoGuquko Lwamandla Olunobulungiswa (Just Energy Transition – JET), ngokunciphisa kancane kancane ukuncika ekuphehlweni kukagesi ngamalahle.

Intuthuko ehlongozwayo izobandakanya isikhungo sokuphehla ugesi ngamandla elanga esinamandla okukhiqiza acishe abe ngu-360 megawatts (MW), kanye nohlelo lwe-BESS olunamandla acishe abe ngu-120 MW, olukwazi ukugcina amandla isikhathi esiphakathi kwamahora amane nayisithupha. Le phrojekthi izokwakhiwa endaweni ecishe ibe ngamahektha angu-386 ngaphakathi kwendawo yeSiteshi Sikagesi saseKusile. Ngokuhambisana noMthetho Kazwelonke Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo, ka-1998 (uMthetho No. 107 ka-1998) (NEMA), kanye neMithethonqubo Yokuhlolwa Komthelela Emvelweni (EIA) ka-2014, njengoba ichitshiyelwe, intuthuko ehlongozwayo ingase ibandakanye Imisebenzi Esohlwini 11, 12, 19 no-28 ngaphansi kweSaziso Sohlu 1 (GN R. 983 ka-2021); Imisebenzi Esohlwini 1, 9 no-15 ngaphansi kweSaziso Sohlu 2 (GN R. 984 ka-2021); kanye neMisebenzi Esohlwini 4 no-14 ngaphansi kweSaziso Sohlu 3 (GN R. 985 ka-2021), lapho kusebenza khona.

Intuthuko ehlongozwayo itholakala ngaphakathi kweNdawo Yokuthuthukiswa Kwamandla Avuselelekayo yase-eMalahleni (Renewable Energy Development Zone – REDZ), eyaziwa ngokuthi i-Zone 9. Ngokuhambisana neSaziso Sikahulumeni No. 114 ka-2018, esashicilelwa kuGazethi Kahulumeni No. 41445, inqubo ebekiwe yokugunyazwa kwezemvelo iyasebenza kumaphrojekthi amakhulu afanelekile okuphehla ugesi ngamandla elanga atholakala ezindaweni eziqokiwe ze-REDZ. Ngakho-ke, isicelo Sokugunyazwa Kwezemvelo (Environmental Authorisation – EA) senziwa ngenqubo Yokuhlolwa Okuyisisekelo Kwemvelo (Basic Assessment – BA). Ngaphezu kwalokho, intuthuko ehlongozwayo ingase ibandakanye imisebenzi ngaphakathi kwemifula, imisele yemvelo yokugeleza kwamanzi kanye nezindawo ezilawulwayo ezihlobene nayo. Ngenxa yalokho, kungase kudingeke ukugunyazwa kokusetshenziswa kwamanzi ngokweZigaba 21(c) no-21(i) zoMthetho Kazwelonke Wamanzi, ka-1998 (uMthetho No. 36 ka-1998), kuye ngokuqinisekiswa kwezidingo ezifanele zeLayisensi Yokusetshenziswa Kwamanzi (Water Use Licence – WUL).

Umbiko Osalungiswa Wokuhlolwa Okuyisisekelo Kwemvelo (Draft Basic Assessment Report – DBAR) kanye noHlelo Lokuphathwa Kwemvelo oluqondene nale ndawo (Environmental Management Programme – EMPr) lwePhrojekthi yaseKusile Solar PV ne-BESS kuzotholakala ukuze umphakathi ukubuyekeze futhi uphawule ngakho kusukela mhla ziyi-12 kuLwezi kuya mhla ziyi-11 kuZibandlela 2026 kulezi zindawo zomphakathi ezilandelayo: KwaGuqa Library, Lynville Public Library, Klipfontein Branch Library, Witbank Public Library, eMalahleni Main Library, Klarinet Public Library, Bronkhorstspruit Community Library, Ogies Library, Phola Public Library kanye neDelmas Public Library. Le mibhalo izophinde itholakale nge-inthanethi kuwebhusayithi ye-Zitholele Consulting ethi www.zitholele.co.za/environmental/ ngaphansi kwesihloko esithi "Kusile Solar PV".

Bonke ababambiqhaza abafisa ukuba yingxenye yale nqubo, ukuhambisa imibono noma ukuphawula ngoMbiko Osalungiswa Wokuhlolwa Okuyisisekelo Kwemvelo (Draft BAR) kanye noHlelo Lokuphathwa Kwemvelo oluchitshiyelwe (EMPr), kanye nokuthola ulwazi oluqhubekayo mayelana nale phrojekthi, bayakhuthazwa ukuba babhalise njengabantu Abanentshisekelo Nabathintekayo (Interested and Affected Parties – I&APs). Lokhu kungenziwa ngokuthumela imininingwane yabo yokuxhumana kanye nentshisekelo yabo kule phrojekthi ehhovisi Lenqubo Yokubamba Iqhaza Komphakathi (Public Participation Process – PPP) ngemininingwane yokuxhumana enikezwe ngezansi.

Kungenjalo, thumela umlayezo wombhalo (SMS) onegama elithi "Kusile BAR" enombolweni ethi 45776. Ihhovisi le-PPP lingathintwa ngale mininingwane elandelayo: Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd; UNksz. Londolani Sitsula; P.O. Box 6002, Halfway House, 1685; Ucingo: 011 207 2060; Ifeksi: 086 674 6121; I-imeyili: kusileBAR@zitholele.co.za

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KUSILE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) FACILITY WITHIN THE VICTOR KHANYE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

Notice is hereby given that Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (Eskom) proposes to develop a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Kusile Power Station, within the Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The proposed development forms part of Eskom's commitment to supporting South Africa's transition towards a low-carbon energy future through the development of renewable energy infrastructure. The project seeks to contribute to the diversification of the country's energy mix, improve electricity supply security and support the objectives of the Just Energy Transition (JET) by progressively reducing reliance on coal-fired electricity generation.

The proposed development will comprise a Solar PV facility with an installed generation capacity of approximately 360 megawatts (MW) and a BESS with a power capacity of approximately 120 MW, providing between four and six hours of energy storage. The proposed development will be situated within an approximately 386-hectare project area on the Kusile Power Station property. In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, the proposed development may trigger Listed Activities 11, 12, 19 and 28 under Listing Notice (GN R. 983 of 2021), Listed Activities 1, 9, and 15 under Listing Notice 2 (GN R. 984 of 2021); and Listed Activities 4 and 14 under Listing Notice 3 (GN R. 985 of 2021), as applicable.

The proposed development is situated within the Emalahleni Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ), identified as Zone 9. In accordance with Government Notice No. 114 of 2018, published in Government Gazette No. 41445, the prescribed environmental authorisation procedure for qualifying large-scale solar photovoltaic developments within designated REDZ areas is applicable. Accordingly, the proposed Environmental Authorisation (EA) application is being undertaken through a Basic Assessment (BA) process. Furthermore, the proposed development may involve activities within watercourses and their associated regulated areas. Consequently, authorisation for water uses contemplated under Sections 21(c) and 21(i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), will be required, subject to confirmation of the applicable Water Use Licence (WUL) requirements.

The Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) and site-specific Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the proposed Kusile Solar PV and BESS Project will be available for public review and comment from 12 November to 11 December 2026 at the following public locations: KwaGuqa Library, Lynville Public Library, Klipfontein Branch Library, Witbank Public Library, eMalahleni Main Library, Klarinet Public Library, Bronkhorstspruit Community Library, Ogies Library, Phola Public Library and Delmas Public Library.The documents will also be available electronically on Zitholele Consulting's website at www.zitholele.co.za/environmental/ under the heading "Kusile Solar PV".

All stakeholders that wish to be part of this process, provide comments on the Draft BAR and amended EMPr, and stay informed throughout the process are urged to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) by submitting your contact details and interest on the project to the Public Participation Process (PPP) desk at the contact details provided. Alternatively, SMS the word "Kusile BAR" to 45776. The PPP desk can be contacted as follows: Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd, Ms. Londolani Sitsula, P.O. Box 6002, Halfway House, 1685, Tel: 011 207 2060, Fax: 086 674 6121,
E-mail: kusileBAR@zitholele.co.za.

ISIKO LETHU Our Story

ILIZWI WITH SIPHO MAHAMBA

Ukuqakatheka kwamagwalo kanye nnenhlathululo zawo

EMMANNUEL N MTHIMUNYE.

Umgwalo namkha amagwalo ahlathulula ubukghwari bamandebele begodu amahle ahlathulula ubujamo bepilo, isikhathi, bethe kuthi amanye sengewoku rhabisa nje kwaphela bona kube kuhle.

Irhubhulu liveza bona kade amandebele abegade akwazi ukuhlathulula Abuja ubujamo bepilo namkha isikhathi, ngoku hlaziya imibala kanye nokugwala, njengokuthi umbala omhlophe, uhlathulula ukukhanya kanye nepumelelo, bese kuthi ohlaza ngasi bhakabhaka uhlathulula amanzi, kungakho nasi tjheja amagwalo amanengi, azele ngombala omhlophe ohlathulula ukukhanya.

Iye kuliqiniso omunye angadlumbana bona imibalale ayikhulumi, seyenzela bona kuqakaze kwaphela, irhubhululo liveza bona yoke imibala iyakhuluma begodu ineenhlathululo zayo. Okukhona kukuthi amatshwayo amanengi asetjenziswa emagwalweni ngiwo angakhulumiko sengewokwenza ubuhle khwaphela kodwana ingasi woke, sekufana namatshwayo we wemikhonto ahlathulula ipi, kuhluka kwaphela ngokuthi itshwayo lelo litholakala emgwalweni onjani.

Besekuthi amagwalo afana nala esiwazi ngabo Dr Esther Mahlangu, kumagwalo angahlathululi litho kodwana aveza ubuhle, nobukghwari bukandebele, njengama gwalo atholakala eKghodwana, kuma gwalo wobuhle begodu wokukhangisa isindebele njengoba u Dr Esther Mahlangu enza eminyakeni egadungileko wathengisa isindebele ephasini loke.

Lokhu siku khumbula khulu ngoku gwala kwakhe ikoloyi yakwa BMW, ekungiyo eyamthatha yambeka la akhona namhlanje hlangana nezinye iingorho zobukghwari besindebele. Kadesi sele babanengi abantu abazi philisa ngokugwala, ngibala uThando Mahlangu, uNqobile Masuku, uSkhumba La Masango, umma uNosinki kanye nabanye abanengi, lokhu kukukhombisa bona umuntu omunye nomunye angaphila ngobu kghwari bekhabo njengoba ingorho Dr Esther Mahlangu iphila ngabo ubukghwari nanamhlanje.

Amagwalo akwazinokubuthelela abantu ngokuhlukana kwabo, lokho kuginisekiswa kukuthi, kukwazi ukusuka iimbukeli zevakatjho zize enarheni yeSewula zizokubukela ubuhle bamagwalo esinawo enarheni, begodu ngamagwalo sikwazi ukuhlukanisa bona, lomhlobo webuRhole, namkha weMkobola namtjhana wamandzundza nofana aManala kungakho kuvela bona amagwalo ayakhuluma begodu ayahlathulula, ngamagwalo abantu bakwazi ukuzuza ilwazi elijulileko nelifaneleko.



Umma unoSinki Mahlangu uvunule ikumbese ayiphothele imigwalo







Amagwalo wes'khethu, iigwani ezingwale nguThando Mahlangu noNqobile Masuku



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NOTICE FOR BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR PROPOSED KENDAL SOLAR PV AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

Notice is hereby given that Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd is undertaking a Basic Assessment Process term of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the associated NEMA Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014, as amended.

Project Description: Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd is proposing to develop a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) with a 500MW capacity and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with 150mw capacity facility, the project will included Transmission sub-station of 400/132kv and 400kv loop in and loop out Overhead Lines at Kendal Power station. The project covers an area of 1160 hectares in extent.

Triggered EIA Listed Activities: The proposed project is situated within Renewable Energy Development Zone 9 (eMalahleni) and triggers the following listed activities; GNR 327;Listing Notice 1 (Activity 12 (ii)(a) and 19, GNR 325 Listing Notice 2 (Activity 1 and 9) and (Schedule 114 of 2018, GG 41445) No. 3

Project Location: The proposed site covers the following portions: Portion RE, 5, 6 10, 17,18, 22 and 36 of Leeuwfontein 219 IR and Portion 21 of Schoongezicht 218 IR, under the eMalahleni Local Municipality under Nkangala District of the Mpumalanga Province.

Public Participation: Parties wishing to formally register as interested and affected parties on the project are hereby requested to forward their full contact details to Ufefe Development Consultants on contact details below.

Draft Basic Assessment Report: The Draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available for a 30 days public review and comments period. The report will be available from 13 November – 14 December 2026, hard copies can be found at: Klipfontein Branch Library, Witbank Public Library, eMalahleni Main Library, Ogies Library, Kriel Library and Delmas Public Library, and can also be requested from EAP on contact details below or using our website: https://ufefe.co.za/reports/

Public Participation Meeting: Public Participation meeting will be held on 4th December 2026 at Ogies Community Hall from 10h00 – 17h00.

Applicant: Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
EAP: Ufefe Development Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Competent Authority: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Details of EAP: All registrations and any comments on the Environmental Impact Assessment Process can be submitted to the EAP, and details are as follows:

Contact Person: Mr Caiphus Mukwevho
E-mail: caiphusm@ufefe.co.za cc: eias@ufefe.co.za
Cell: 0822694524 | 0833936494
Address: 16 Shaw avenue, The Reeds, Centurion,0157

UFEFE Development Consultants Service Excellence

ISAZISO SOKWENZIWA KWE-EIA (UCWANINGO LOKUPHAZAMISEKA KWEZEMVELO) NGOHLELO LOKUGCINA AMANDLA LWASE-SOLAR PV NESIMISEBENZI SOKUGCINA AMANDLA EBHETHRI

Ngalokhu kukhishwa isaziso ngenqubo yoCwaningo lokuPhazamiseka kwezeMvelo (EIA) olwenzelwa umsebenzi ohlongozwayo endaweni. Lolu cwaningo lwenziwa ngokulandela uMthetho kaZwelonke wezeMvelo (NEMA, uMthetho 107 we-1998).

Incazelo yomsebenzi: I-Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd ihlongoza ukwakha indawo yokukhiqiza ugesi ngamandla elanga (i-Solar Photovoltaic noma i-PV) enamandla angu-500MW kanye nohlelo lokugcina ugesi emabhethrini (i-Battery Energy Storage System noma i-BESS) olunamandla angu-150MW; le phrojekthi izohlanganisa isiteshi esincane sokudlulisa ugesi esingu-400/132kV kanye nezintambo zikagesi eziphakeme (overhead lines) ezingu-400kV ezixhunywe ngendlela yokungena nokuphuma (loop-in and loop-out) esiteshini sikagesi i-Kendal Power Station. Le phrojekthi izothatha indawo engamahekthare angu-1160 ngobukhulu.

Imisebenzi Ebhalisiwe ye-EIA Eqalisiwe: Le phrojekthi ehlongozwayo itholakala ngaphakathi e-Renewable Energy Development Zone 9 (eMalahleni) futhi ibandakanya le misebenzi elandelayo esohlwini; GNR 327;Listing Notice 1 (Activity 12 (ii)(a) and 19, GNR 325 Listing Notice 2 (Activity 1 and 9) and (Schedule 114 of 2018, GG 41445) No. 3

Indawo yoMsebenzi: Indawo ehlongozwayo ihlanganisa lezi zingxenye ezilandelayo: Ingxenye RE, 5, 6, 10, 17, 18, 22 kanye 36 ye-Leeuwfontein 219 IR kanye ne-Portion 21 ye-Schoongezicht 218 IR, kuMasipala Wendawo yaseMalahleni esiFundeni saseNkangala esifundazweni saseMpumalanga.

Ukubamba iqhaza Komphakathi: Amaqembu afisa ukubhalisa ngokusemthethweni njengabantu abanentshisekelo nabathintekayo kule phrojekthi ayacelwa ukuthi athumele imininingwane yawo ephelele yokuxhumana ku-Ufefe Development Consultants ngemininingwane yokuxhumana engezansi.

Uhla Lwombiko Wokuhlola Okuyisisekelo: Lo mbiko uzotholakala ukuze ubuyekezwe futhi kuphawulwe ngawo umphakathi esikhathini esiyizinsuku ezingama-30. Umbiko uzotholakala kusukela ngomhlaka 13 Novemba kuya ku-14 Disemba 2026; amakhophi aphrintiwe angatholakala e: Klipfontein Branch Library, Witbank Public Library, eMalahleni Main Library, Ogies Library, Kriel Library and Delmas Public Library, noma angacelwa ku-EAP kusetshenziswa imininingwane yokuxhumana engezansi noma iwebhusayithi yethu: https://ufefe.co.za/reports/

Umhlangano Wokubandakanyeka Komphakathi: Kuzoba nomhlangano wokubandakanyeka komphakathi ngomhlaka 4 Disemba 2026 e-Ogies Community Hall, kusukela ngo-10:00 kuya ku-17:00.

Umenzi-msamo (Applicant): Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
Umhloli wezeMvelo ozimele (EAP): Ufefe Development Consultants (Pty) Ltd
Isiphathimandla Esinegunya: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Imininingwane yo Umhloli wezeMvelo ozimele (EAP): Konke ukubhalisa kanye nanoma yimiphi imibono mayelana neNqubo Yokuhlola Umthelela Kwimvelo kungathunyelwa ku-EAP, futhi imininingwane imi kanje:

Contact Person: Mr Caiphus Mukwevho
E-mail: caiphusm@ufefe.co.za cc: eias@ufefe.co.za
Cell: 0822694524 | 0833936494
Address: 16 Shaw avenue, The Reeds, Centurion,0157

UFEFE Development Consultants Service Excellence

Buhle celebrates graduates and emerging farmers

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

DELMAS – From learning how to grow vegetables and raise livestock to preparing for careers in agriculture, graduates of Buhle Farmers' Academy celebrated their achievements on Thursday, 12 November, as they completed their training and prepared to put their skills into practice.

The graduation ceremony, held at the academy's Delmas campus, brought together graduates, their families, staff and partners to recognise learners who completed courses in vegetable, livestock and poultry production.

Buhle Farmers' Academy chief executive Kingsley Nkwane encouraged graduates to use their skills to start farming businesses, create employment opportunities and contribute to food security.

Nkwane said the academy was also looking at ways to improve its training programmes through partnerships and modern agricultural technology.

He announced that Buhle had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to introduce training in drone technology, satellite imagery and precision farming.

The academy is also working with AFTRAK to introduce a solar-powered tractor into its practical training programme.

Nkwane said Buhle was finalising an agreement with Heineken, in partnership with Soufflet, to establish a model farm for barley production training, which could open opportunities for emerging farmers to enter commercial agriculture.

Graduates share their experiences

The ***Highveld Chronicle*** spoke to the top achievers in the three training categories about their experiences and what they had learned during their time at the academy.

Refentse Maluleka (20), from Hammanskraal, who took first place in livestock production, said completing the course was an achievement he was proud of.

"I had the best time here and I'm really proud of what I've achieved. The people and staff were welcoming, and I made some good friends, colleagues and business partners," Maluleka said.

He said his passion for agriculture helped him remain focused and committed throughout the training.

Poultry production top achiever Siyabonga Bongwe said the course had its challenges, particularly working through extremely hot and cold weather while caring for chicks.

He explained that learners had to ensure the chicks were properly fed, remained healthy and received attention whenever problems arose.

For Bongwe, staying focused on his own progress instead of comparing himself with other learners played an important role in his success.

Vegetable production top achiever Dina Noko said teamwork and determination helped learners overcome difficult conditions, including sleepless nights and freezing winter temperatures.

Noko thanked her family, academy staff and sponsors for supporting her during the training.

She encouraged young people interested in agriculture to remain patient and committed, saying farming required hard work and was not a way to make quick money.

From a small garden to a growing farming business

The ceremony also honoured Nora Mamba of Zimisela Junior with the Star of Buhle award.

Mamba started farming on a 15m by 15m home garden before joining Buhle in 2016. She later expanded into poultry farming in 2025.

With government support, she secured 7.18 hectares, currently using 3.25 hectares. Her business supplies Spar, Boxer, the Nkanyezi Group and local customers, while her poultry house accommodates 5,000 birds.

She also donates vegetables to vulnerable families and schools and provides practical training for students.

Mamba encouraged young people to start small, saying farming businesses can grow from home gardens or small poultry projects.





Man (45) arrested after alleged kidnapping of five-year-old girl

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

HENDRINA – A 45-year-old man has been arrested following the alleged kidnapping of a five-year-old girl in KwaZamokuhle, near Hendrina, on Monday, 9 November.

The girl was later found in an open field after family and community members launched a search for her.

According to the South African Police Service (SAPS) in Mpumalanga, the incident happened at around 16h30 while the girl was playing with another child a few metres from her grandmother's yard.

Her grandmother was preparing a fire at home when a neighbour alerted her that the child had been seen walking away with an unknown man.

She immediately went to look for the girl but could not find her.

The suspect allegedly told some family members that the grandmother had given him permission to take the child.

Family and community members joined the search, but when the suspect allegedly realised he was being pursued, he abandoned the girl and tried to flee.

The child was later found in an open field in an extension of KwaZamokuhle, while the suspect was apprehended near a river after police were alerted.

SAPS said the man sustained injuries during his apprehension, which involved community members. He is receiving treatment in hospital under police guard.

A kidnapping case has been opened at Hendrina Police Station, and investigations are continuing.

Mpumalanga Provincial Police Commissioner Lieutenant General Apaphia Modise commended the family and community members who helped ensure the girl's safe recovery.

However, Modise warned residents against taking the law into their own hands, urging them to report suspected crimes to the police and allow the law to take its course.

The suspect is expected to appear in court once he is medically fit.



Seventh suspect arrested, granted bail in Ogies illegal alcohol factory case

RODNEY HLATSHWAYO

OGIES – Seven people have been linked to an alleged illegal alcohol manufacturing operation uncovered at Kendal Plot 11 in Ogies, where police seized alcohol, brewing equipment, chemicals and packaging materials worth an estimated R600 000.

The operation was uncovered during a raid on 27 June 2026 by the South African Police Service (SAPS) in Ogies, working with the Middelburg Serious Commercial Crime Investigation (SCCI) unit.

Investigators allegedly found four 1 000-litre drums containing unlabelled alcohol, along with equipment and materials believed to have been used in the illegal manufacturing operation.

The seven accused face charges relating to alleged contraventions of the Customs and Excise Act and the Immigration Act.

Three of the accused, Jostino Kumbani (25), Heno Kumbani (19) and Nelson Makwakwa (22), all Mozambican nationals, were remanded in custody following their court appearance.

Three others were granted bail of R3 000 each. They are Destin Dumuza (22), a Malawian national, and two men both identified in the Hawks' statement as Cedric Helengwa, aged 31 and 22, who are Zimbabwean and Malawian nationals respectively.

Further investigations allegedly linked Anthony De Canha Franca (35), a Portuguese-born South African citizen, to the property as its registered lessee.

Although Franca was not present during the June raid, investigators allegedly gathered evidence linking him to the premises, leading to his arrest on 11 November.

He appeared before the Ogies Magistrate's Court and was granted R3 000 bail. Franca is expected to return to court alongside his co-accused on 27 November.

Meanwhile, the Hawks have warned residents against buying alcohol from unlicensed manufacturers and distributors, saying such products may contain dangerous substances, including excessive levels of methanol.

According to the Hawks, contaminated alcohol can cause serious illness, organ damage, blindness and even death.

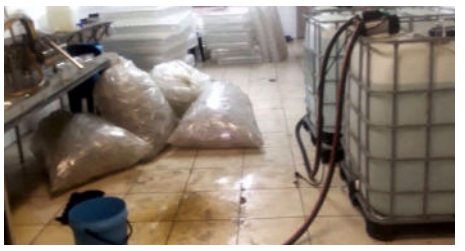
Acting Provincial Head of the Hawks in Mpumalanga, Brigadier Bruce Davenport, commended investigators for their work and warned that illegal alcohol manufacturing posed serious risks to public health.

"Illegal alcohol is not a victimless crime. Consumers are often unaware of the potentially harmful substances contained in such products and may suffer devastating health consequences," Davenport said.

He urged residents, business owners and people living on farms to report suspicious activities involving the production, storage or sale of alcohol at unlicensed premises.

Information can be reported anonymously through SAPS Crime Stop on 08600 10111 or at the nearest police station.

The Hawks said they would continue working with communities and other law enforcement agencies to tackle illegal alcohol manufacturing, protect consumers and bring those involved before the courts.



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Gogo Esther Mahlangu celebrates 91 years of art and inspiration

EMMANNUEL N MTHIMUNYE

MTHAMBOTHINI – Internationally renowned Ndebele artist Gogo Dr Esther Mahlangu celebrated her 91st birthday surrounded by family, artists, community leaders and well-wishers in Mthambothini on Wednesday, 11 November.

The celebration honoured a woman whose colourful Ndebele artwork has earned her international recognition while inspiring younger generations to embrace their culture and use their talents to make a living.

Among those attending were renowned television producer and playwright Duma Ndlovu, jazz musician Zodwa Mabena, representatives of the South African Gallery of Legends, Nkangala Region Tourism chairperson Memento Skhosana and Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality councillor Nomsa Mtsweni.

Born on 11 November 1935, Mahlangu began painting and crafting at the age of 11, learning the skills from her mother.

Her granddaughter and caretaker, Betty Mahlangu, reflected on her grandmother's journey from practising traditional Ndebele art as a young girl to becoming one of South Africa's most celebrated artists.

"She started painting and crafting when she was eleven years old, taught by her mother," Betty said.

According to Betty, Mahlangu's work began attracting international attention after a French tourist visited South Africa and was impressed by her talent. Her recognition grew further when she painted a BMW in 1991, opening doors to opportunities across the world.

Betty said her grandmother had taught the family the importance of using their skills to earn a living instead of waiting for opportunities.

"Never sit with your hands waiting for someone to rescue you, while you can make a living from doing anything using your hand," she said.

She added that Mahlangu now has an art studio, established through the support of Thungela, where she showcases her work while providing other artists with opportunities to display and sell their creations.

However, one of Mahlangu's wishes is to see a school established where children can learn arts and crafts and develop their creative talents.

Renowned television producer and playwright Duma Ndlovu recalled how he first encountered Mahlangu's work through the BMW in the early 1990s. He later came across her work again while scouting filming locations around KwaNdebele for his drama series KoMkhulu.

"It was important that we have something which says this is the culture of where Dr Esther Mahlangu comes from and Dr Nothembi Mkhwebane. Hence, you saw the art of Gogo was clearly visible. They had a huge influence in showing that this is the work of Ndebele culture and for Ndebele people," Ndlovu said, highlighting Mahlangu's influence on the drama series.

He described Mahlangu as a living icon whose contribution to art and culture had reached far beyond South Africa.

For young arts and crafts painter Nqobile Masuku, meeting Mahlangu became a turning point in her artistic journey.

Masuku recalled visiting Mahlangu with one of her handmade painted hats. The renowned artist admired her work and asked whether she had made it herself.

"She said, my girl, never sell yourself cheap and keep going, because this is what will give you more life at the end of the day. You will make a living out of this world through art painting," Masuku recalled.

Masuku, who sells handmade and painted hats along the R573, said the encouragement gave her confidence to continue developing her craft.

She said Mahlangu had shown young people that success did not always depend on formal employment, as creativity and practical skills could also provide a livelihood.

Nkangala Region Tourism chairperson and organiser of the birthday celebration, Memento Skhosana, praised Mahlangu for promoting Ndebele culture internationally and attracting tourists to Mpumalanga.

He said visitors who travelled to experience her artwork also supported local businesses, particularly guest houses and other tourism establishments.

"As a business person, she is also contributing to us because many tourists come here and book into our guest houses. That is economic development," Skhosana said.

Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality councillor Nomsa Mtsweni said Mahlangu's achievements had helped put the municipality on the international map.

She said the municipality appreciated her contribution to preserving Ndebele culture while creating economic opportunities through tourism.

Mtsweni also spoke about her contribution as a mayor, when she worked with Nkangala District Municipality on the construction of an access road leading to Gogo Mahlangu's home and the Ndzundza Royal House.

"She has put our municipality on the map. Not only our municipality, she has put South Africa globally on the map," Mtsweni said.

The celebration featured music, dance and messages of appreciation as guests reflected on Mahlangu's remarkable journey.

At 91, her legacy extends beyond the colourful patterns she paints. It lives on through the young artists she inspires, the opportunities she creates and the Ndebele traditions she continues to preserve.



Internationally renowned Ndebele artist Gogo Dr Esther Mahlangu alongside granddaughter Betty Mahlangu celebrates her 91st birthday in Mthambothini on Wednesday, 11 November 2026.

